

Kohima DC orders strict compliance of noise pollution norms

Kohima, May 05: The Deputy Commissioner of Kohima has issued a directive for strict compliance of regulations on noise pollution across the district, in accordance with the Noise Pollution (Regulation and Control) Rules, 2000, and directives of the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and the National Green Tribunal (NGT).

The order categorizes areas into industrial, commercial, residential and silence zones, prescribing maximum permissible noise limits measured in dB (A) Leq. Industrial areas have been capped at 75 dB during the day and 70 dB at night, while commercial areas are limited to 65 dB during the day and 55 dB at night. Residential zones are restricted to 55 dB in the daytime and 45 dB at night. Silence zones, which include areas within 100 meters of hospitals, schools and courts, have stricter limits of 50 dB during the day and 40 dB at night.

Imposing restrictions on the use of loudspeakers and public address systems, the order stated that the use of such devices, including drums and amplifiers, is strictly prohibited between 10 pm and 6 am, except within closed auditoriums where sound does not escape. It further directed that all diesel generator (DG) sets must be fitted with acoustic enclosures.

The order also prohibits the bursting of firecrackers between 10 pm and 6 am allowing only “green crackers” during designated festivals. Holding venue owners accountable, the Deputy Commissioner stated that owners of marriage halls, hotels, community centres and open grounds will be jointly responsible for any violations occurring on their premises. They have also been directed to ensure that event organizers obtain valid noise permits from the district administration before using any sound systems. The order provides for penalties and environmental compensation for violations as per NGT-approved norms. Use of loudspeakers or public address systems in violation of the rules will attract a fine of Rs 10,000 along with confiscation of equipment. DG set violations may incur penalties ranging from Rs 10,000 to Rs 25,000, while large industrial DG sets may attract fines up to Rs 1 lakh, along with sealing of the equipment. Use of construction equipment beyond permissible limits will invite a fine of Rs 50,000 and seizure of machinery. Repeat violations at fixed premises may lead to penalties ranging from Rs 40,000 to Rs 1 Lakh, along with sealing of the premises.

Administrative Officers and Sub-Divisional Police Officers of respective circles have been designated as enforcing authorities. They have been empowered to seize equipment, seal premises and recover compensation from violators. The order came into force with immediate effect.

Lalduhoma Meets NITI Aayog’s V K Paul To Discuss Development And Tourism

Aizawl, May 05: Mizoram Chief Minister Lalduhoma met NITI Aayog member Dr. V. K. Paul in New Delhi on Monday to discuss the state’s development priorities and avenues for future collaboration. According to an official statement, Lalduhoma expressed appreciation for NITI Aayog’s continued support, noting tangible progress in sectors such as horticulture. He highlighted that Mizoram’s recognition as the “Ginger Capital of India” has begun to yield positive outcomes. DigitalNews Platform The chief minister emphasized Mizoram’s achievements, including being the first state declared fully literate, ranking among the cleanest and least corrupt states, and making significant strides in tourism promotion. He also emphasized Mizoram’s reputation as one of the most peaceful states in the country, pointing out that a peace agreement was recently reached with the last remaining armed group.

Dr. Paul commended the Mizoram government for its effective coordination with NITI Aayog and praised Lalduhoma’s leadership, noting that the state is widely regarded by others as a model of

peace and stability. State Tourism Minister Lalnghinglova Hmar, who joined the meeting, participated in discussions on upcoming joint initiatives, including a Tourism Conclave to be organised in partnership with NITI Aayog. Officials confirmed that a pre-conclave meeting will take place later this month in New Delhi to finalise plans. During the discussions, NITI Aayog officials outlined measures to strengthen Mizoram’s tourism policy, facilitate free training under the Institute of Hotel Management Ashok (IHM-A), and attract investors to the tourism sector, reinforcing the state’s agenda for sustainable development and growth. izoram Chief Minister Lalduhoma met with NITI Aayog member Dr. V.K. Paul in New Delhi on May 4, 2026, to discuss the state’s development and tourism roadmap. Highlighting Mizoram’s status as the “Ginger Capital of India,” the CM credited central support for boosting horticulture. Key discussions centered on a joint Tourism Conclave and enhancing the state’s tourism policy. Dr. Paul praised Mizoram’s peace and high literacy, pledging support for investor attraction and



free vocational training via the Institute of Hotel Management. Tourism Minister Lalnghinglova Hmar also attended, finalizing a pre-conclave meeting scheduled for later this month. Lalduhoma underscored Mizoram’s unique position as a stable invest-

ment destination, citing its status as a fully literate state with low corruption. He specifically noted the recent peace agreement with the last remaining armed group as a major milestone for regional security. Accompanied by Tourism Minister Lalnghinglova

Hmar, the CM discussed a joint Tourism Conclave to be organized with NITI Aayog. The initiative aims to modernize the state’s tourism policy and attract private investment. Dr. V. K. Paul pledged NITI Aayog’s support in facilitating specialized training

through the Institute of Hotel Management–Ashok (IHM-A) to skill the Mizo youth for the hospitality sector. Dr. Paul commended the Mizoram government for its effective coordination with the policy think tank, describing the state’s peaceful environment and literacy rates as a model for others to follow. A pre-conclave meeting is scheduled in New Delhi later this month to finalize the details of the upcoming tourism events.

During his two-day programme, the Union Minister held discussions with the Chief Minister and chaired a meeting at Lok Bhavan’s Mini Conference Hall, attended by senior officials from the Sericulture, Cooperation, Agriculture & Farmers Welfare Departments, the Eastern Zone Weavers’ Service Centre, and the Office of the Development Commissioner for Handlooms. In his address, Singh underscored Mizoram’s potential in sericulture and fibre-based industries, stressing the need for small, community-level machinery to improve fibre extraction and cocoon processing. He advocated decentralised infrastructure to boost production and empower rural communities.

Panel Proposed to Examine NRC Update Options in Manipur

Imphal, May 05: An intellectual exchange at Manipur University was on Monday organised by All Manipur Students’ Union and Manipur University Students’ Union on the topic, “Updating the National Register of Citizens (NRC): Collective Mobilisation and Demographic Governance in Manipur”.

The event drew participation from academics, students and members of the media.

Addressing the participants as a resource person during the programme, demographer R.K. Narendra Singh put forth a proposal to constitute a panel of experts to study options for updating or freshly implementing the National Register of Citizens (NRC) in Manipur.

Singh said concerns over



illegal immigration in the state were visible, pointing to instances of demographic imbalance and rapid expansion of settlements in certain areas.

He argued that either updating the NRC or initiating a fresh exercise was crucial in view of long-term impli-

cations for the state.

Referring to the Centre’s plan to conduct the Census in 2027, Singh described the exercise as essential for policymaking, welfare programmes and delimitation, while noting that census data alone would not suffice for carrying out an

NRC exercise.

He stressed the need for a dedicated panel to examine available records and determine whether the NRC should be updated from the 1951 register or conducted anew. Singh also called for strengthening the Manipur State Population

Commission and making it fully functional to address demographic challenges at what he described as a critical juncture. It may be mentioned that protests and campaigns for updating the NRC ahead of the next Census have intensified in the state in recent months.

Delimitation Redefined Assam Polls, Boosted NDA’s Landslide Victory

Guwahati, May 05: The 2023 delimitation exercise played a decisive role in reshaping Assam’s electoral map, significantly contributing to the BJP-led NDA’s sweeping victory in the 2026 Assembly elections, where the alliance secured a record 102 out of 126 seats.

The redrawing of constituency boundaries transformed the political landscape by restructuring several Muslim-majority seats and converting some into reserved constituencies for Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST). This shift reduced the traditional influence of minority vote banks, which had earlier been decisive in around 35 constituencies but were now limited to fewer than 25.

Election data shows that most of the 24 seats won by the opposition—including 19 by the Congress and two each by the AIUDF and Rajior Dal—came from constituencies largely untouched by delimitation. A significant number of these victories were secured by

Muslim candidates, indicating that opposition strength is now concentrated in select pockets.

While the total number of Assembly seats remained unchanged at 126, the number of ST-reserved seats increased from 16 to 19, and SC-reserved seats rose from 8 to 9. Constituencies such as Barpeta and Goalpara West, which had sizable Bengali-speaking Muslim populations, were converted into reserved seats—both ultimately won by the NDA. The impact was particularly evident in the Bodoland region, where reserved seats increased from 11 to 15. NDA ally Bodoland People’s Front (BPF) performed strongly here, winning 10 seats and reinforcing the alliance’s hold over tribal areas.

Both the Congress and the All India United Democratic Front (AIUDF) witnessed a steep decline in their traditional strongholds. The AIUDF, which had won 16 seats in the previous election, was reduced to just two seats. Despite efforts to expand its

footprint in minority-dominated regions—reportedly through allies like AGP—the NDA did not achieve major breakthroughs in those areas. The BJP itself did not field Muslim candidates, maintaining its focus on identity-driven electoral strategy.

Earlier, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma had suggested that delimitation would create favourable political conditions for the BJP. The 2026 election was the first Assembly poll held after the 2023 delimitation exercise, which was based on the 2011 Census.

In the final tally, the BJP won 82 seats, while its allies BPF and AGP secured 10 seats each. The Congress finished with 19 seats, while the Rajior Dal and AIUDF won two seats each, and the Trinamool Congress managed one seat. Political analysts believe that unless opposition parties reorganize their social alliances and political messaging, the NDA’s dominance in Assam is likely to continue in the near future.

Gaurav Gogoi Says Congress Accepts Result, Commits to Public Work

Guwahati, May 05: Assam Congress president Gaurav Gogoi on Tuesday (May 5) said that the party fully accepts the people’s mandate in the Assembly elections and will continue working for the development of Assam both inside and outside the Assembly.

Speaking to the media in Guwahati, Gogoi expressed gratitude to voters who supported the Congress and emphasized that the party would also reach out to those who did not vote in its favour. “We accept the people’s mandate. We thank those who voted for us and supported us. Congress will also reach out to those who did not vote for us,” he said.

He also acknowledged the efforts of grassroots party workers who stood by the Congress despite challenges during the campaign. “We have seen a new Congress,” he added.

Gogoi extended his gratitude to senior

leaders such as Mallikarjun Kharge, Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi, and Jitendra Singh for their support during the elections.

Admitting that the party fell short of expectations, he said Congress would continue to offer constructive suggestions for Assam’s development and remain committed to the people.

Commenting on the results, Gogoi noted that while the party had expected close contests in several constituencies, the final outcomes in many seats were surprising.

“People have not fully accepted these results. We expected a neck-and-neck fight, but the outcome in many seats is difficult to comprehend,” he said.

He also announced that a meeting of newly elected Congress MLAs will be held on May 9 to decide the party’s future course of action.

LNIFE NERC Guwahati Announces Month-Long Summer Sports Coaching Camp

Guwahati, May 05: The Lakshmbai National Institute of Physical Education (LNIFE), North-East Regional Centre (NERC), has officially announced the commencement of its Summer Sports Coaching Camp, scheduled to run from June 1 to June 30, 2026. The camp will be hosted at the LNIFE NERC Tepesia Sports Complex in Sonapur, offering professional coaching across a wide range of disciplines including Aerobics & Zumba, Badminton, Basketball, Football, Hockey, Handball, Judo & Self-Defence, Physical Fitness, Swimming, Track & Field, Tennis, Table Tennis, Volleyball and Yoga.

Dr Ramesh Chand Yadav, the Extramural In-charge for Sports, stated that the primary objective of this initiative is to encourage youth participation in physical activities and promote a healthy lifestyle during the summer break. The program is designed to provide expert guidance through qualified coaches who will focus on skill development, physical fitness, teamwork and sportsmanship. Training sessions are scheduled to take place daily during morning session from 6 am to 8 am and evening session from 4 pm to 6 pm. While many activities such as Football, Yoga and Basketball are open to youth for a fee of 1,000, specialized sports like Swim-



ming and Badminton have specific fee structures ranging up to 3,000 depending on the age category.

Interested participants must submit their completed application forms by May 29, 2026. Applications can be downloaded from the official

institute website at www.lnifeassam.edu.in or collected in person from the administrative office at the Tepesia Sports Complex. Applicants are required to attach a birth certificate, two passport-size photographs, and a medical fitness certificate.

NE/EAST

Mizoram CM holds talks with NITI Aayog on tourism and growth initiatives

Darjeeling, Apr 05: Mizoram Chief Minister Lalduhoma on Monday met outgoing NITI Aayog member V.K. Paul in New Delhi and discussed a range of issues related to the state's development priorities and future collaboration. During the meeting, the Chief Minister expressed gratitude for NITI Aayog's continued support to Mizoram and highlighted progress in sectors such as horticulture and tourism. Lalduhoma said the recognition of Mizoram as the "Ginger Capital of India" had started yielding positive results for the state's horticulture sector.

He also highlighted Mizoram's achievements in literacy, cleanliness and governance, stating that the state had emerged as the first fully literate state in the country and remained among the cleanest and least corrupt states. The Chief Minister further said Mizoram continued to remain one of the most peaceful states in the country and



noted that the government had recently reached a peace agreement with the last remaining armed group. Paul praised the Mizoram government for maintaining effective coordination with NITI Aayog and appreciated the leadership of the Chief Minister. According to the statement, the outgoing NITI Aayog member said the partnership between the state government and the policy think tank

had remained productive and noted that Mizoram was widely recognised by other states for its peaceful environment. State Tourism Minister Lalnghinglova Hmar, who was also present at the meeting, discussed proposed joint initiatives, including a Tourism Conclave to be organised in collaboration with NITI Aayog.

Officials said a pre-conclave meeting would be

held in New Delhi later this month to finalise plans for the event.

During the discussions, Paul and other NITI Aayog officials also outlined support measures for Mizoram, including strengthening the state's tourism policy, facilitating training programmes through the Institute of Hotel Management–Ashok (IHM-A), and helping attract investment in the tourism sector.

BJP alliance sweeps Lakhimpur; Congress secures win in Nowboicha

North Lakhimpur, Apr 05: The ruling BJP alliance (BJP+) registered a dominant performance in Assam's Lakhimpur district, winning all but one Legislative Assembly Constituency (LAC) as counting of votes concluded on Monday. The Indian National Congress (INC) managed to secure a lone victory in Nowboicha, preventing a complete sweep by the BJP-led alliance. Two incumbent BJP legislators from the district retained their seats with comfortable margins. In 76 Lakhimpur LAC, sitting MLA Manab Dekha defeated Congress candidate Ghana Buragohain by a margin of 25,656 votes. Dekha secured 67,186 votes, while Buragohain polled 42,530.

In 77 Dhakuakhana (ST) LAC, incumbent MLA Naba Kumar Doley continued his winning streak, defeating Congress rival Ananda Narah by a margin of 50,072 votes. Doley secured 92,123 votes compared to Narah's 42,051, marking his fourth consecutive victory from the constituency since 2011. In 73 Bihpuria LAC, BJP candidate Bhupen Borah emerged victorious over Congress nominee Narayan "Ram" Bhuyan by 8,866 votes. Borah, who had switched from Congress to BJP ahead



of the elections, received 73,050 votes against Bhuyan's 64,814.

Meanwhile, in the newly formed 74 Ranganadi LAC, BJP's Rishiraj Hazarika defeated Congress candidate Jayanta Khaund by a margin of 19,461 votes. Hazarika secured 82,105 votes, while Khaund polled 62,644. The Congress' only win in the district came from 75 Nowboi-

cha (SC) LAC, where its candidate Joy Prakash Das defeated Basanta Das of the Asom Gana Parishad (an ally of the BJP) by 13,262 votes. Joy Prakash Das secured 53,804 votes, while Basanta Das received 40,542. With this outcome, the BJP alliance won most seats in Lakhimpur district, while Congress secured one seat in Nowboicha.

NDA performance in Assam polls reflection of good governance, PM's focus on development: Himanta

Guwahati, Apr 05: Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Monday thanked the people for the NDA's stupendous performance in the assembly polls, and said it was a reflection of the "good work of the government" and Prime Minister Narendra Modi's thrust on development of the northeastern state. Addressing a press conference at the BJP state headquarters here, Sarma said, "It is an unprecedented victory for a ruling alliance. It is for the first time that the BJP has secured a majority in the state." The BJP won 62 seats and was ahead in 20 constituencies, while its ally Bodoland People's Front (BPF) bagged seven seats and was leading in three, and the other alliance partner Asom Gana Parishad (AGP) secured four constituencies and was leading in six, according to the Election Commission. On the Congress' performance, which is not likely to cross the 20-seat tally,



Sarma said, "People have punished them for politicising singer Zubeen Garg's death." He claimed that barring one or two, there will be no Hindu MLAs in the Opposition,

and urged "good" Hindu Congress leaders to join the BJP to secure the state's future and fight the "aggression" of "Bangladeshi Miyas". Sarma also asserted that India will

remain a Hindu nation till the Sun and the Moon exists. "Hat-trick with a century!" the CM said in a post on X, as the ruling alliance headed for a three-digit figure.

Assam Election Results 2026

BJP sweeps all six assembly seats in Dibrugarh district

Guwahati, Apr 05: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Monday recorded a clean sweep in Dibrugarh district, winning all six Assembly constituencies in the ongoing Assam Assembly elections. The victory came from the Dibrugarh constituency, where four-time BJP MLA and state Power Minister Prasanta Phukan defeated Assam Jatiya Parishad's Mainak Patra by a margin of 72,043 votes, his fifth consecutive win from the tea city and his largest victory margin to date. "This overwhelming mandate is a reflection of the people's trust in the BJP government and Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma. I am humbled and will continue to serve Dibrugarh with the same sincerity," Phukan said after his win. In Tingkhong, sitting MLA and state Industries and Commerce Minister Bimal Borah secured a third consecutive win by defeating Congress candidate Bipul Gogoi by 49,026 votes.

"This victory belongs to the workers, the people of Tingkhong, and the leadership of

BJP wins all six seats in Dibrugarh district in Assam election results 2026, with strong victories across key constituencies.

Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma. We will accelerate development in the constituency over the next five years," Borah said. In Chabua-Lahowal, BJP candidate Binod Hazarika defeated Congress candidate Pranjal Ghatowar by 50,914 votes. In Dulaijan, BJP candidate and former Union Minister of State Rameswar Teli defeated Congress candidate Dhrubajyoti Gogoi by over 10,000 votes in a closely contested election in the district. The result from Khowang came from BJP candidate Chakradhar Gogoi, who defeated Assam Jatiya Parishad president Lurinjyoti Gogoi by 9,984 votes, ending the BJP's bid for a first electoral victory from the newly formed constituency.

In Naharkatia, sitting BJP MLA Taranga Gogoi defeated Congress candidate and former minister Pranati Phukan by over 60,000 votes.

Assam conduct joint border survey for of boundary pillars



Dibrugarh, Apr 05: Arunachal Pradesh Public Health Engineering and Water Supply Minister Mama Natung on Saturday informed that on April 30 (Thursday), a joint verification of geospatial coordinates was conducted along the East Siang boundary by a specialised team from the Survey of India, along with officials from both Arunachal Pradesh and Assam. On the first day, the survey team identified 19 locations for the installation of boundary pillars based on jointly verified KML/geospatial coordinates. The survey was carried out from the right bank of the Siang River towards the Oyan-Jampani area and will continue up to Depi village. Taking to X, Mama Natung wrote: "Our commitment to resolving long-standing border issues remains a key priority. On 30th April and 1st May, a joint verification of geospatial coordinates was

conducted along the East Siang boundary by a specialised team from the Survey of India, alongside officials from both Arunachal Pradesh and Assam."

The team successfully verified coordinates from Jampani to the Ruksin Check Gate. While minor technical gaps at Oyan Bridge are being addressed, the overall progress is highly encouraging. This scientific approach ensures that the upcoming physical erection of boundary pillars by the PWD will be accurate and undisputed. Our government remains committed to a peaceful and well-defined border for our people," he added. The entire exercise was conducted smoothly, with no issues reported from any side. Officials from both Assam and Arunachal Pradesh, along with Survey of India representatives, were present during the survey.

United Naga Council urges united Naga

Dimapur, Apr 05: United Naga Council (UNC) has issued "A call to solidarity" to apex Naga bodies over the situation in Southern Nagalim, alleging that Naga-inhabited districts were facing "direct hostility" and severe hardship. In a statement addressed to Naga Hoho, Global Naga Forum, Naga Mothers' Association, Eastern Nagaland Peoples' Organisation, Naga Students' Federation, Eastern Naga Students' Federation and Naga Students' Organisation, UNC said districts including Ukhrul, Chandel, Tamenglong and undivided Senapati were under pressure. The council alleged that the situation was not merely a breakdown of civic order but an "undeclared offensive" carried out by armed groups under the Suspension of Operation framework, with the alleged involvement

of sections of the Assam Rifles. It claimed that Naga communities were being coerced and their right to exist in their homeland was being challenged. UNC further stated that the developments also amounted to an attempt to distort Naga history and identity, warning that such narratives could weaken their claim over ancestral land and future.

Highlighting concerns over land, the council alleged that the aggression was aimed at exhausting Naga resolve to open territories for illegal immigrants, asserting that losing land would mean losing the Naga nation. Appealing for solidarity, UNC urged Naga organisations to stand united, give voice to the situation, uphold affected communities in prayer and extend support to village defenders and displaced families.



It cautioned that inaction could allow the crisis to spread across the Naga homeland, adding that future generations would question the present response if land and history were compromised.

Reaffirming its stand, UNC asserted that it would neither relinquish ancestral land nor abandon Naga history, and pledged to protect both for future generations.

Arunachal, Assam conduct joint border survey for installation of boundary pillars

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ensures that the upcoming physical erection of boundary pillars by the PWD will be accurate and undisputed. Our government remains committed to a peaceful and well-defined border for our people," he added.

Minister Satish Chandra Dubey Reviews Agriculture And Mining

Saitual, May 05: The Union Minister of State for Coal and Mines, Satish Chandra Dubey, visited Saitual District on Monday and convened a meeting with officials from multiple government departments. DigitalNews Platform During the discussions, the Minister underscored the importance of advancing farmer welfare and called for the establishment of infrastructure such as cold storage facilities to safeguard agricultural produce. He also Emphasized the need to address related requirements to strengthen the agricultural sector. Expressing concern over substance abuse among youth, Dubey urged proactive measures, including awareness campaigns, to counter the issue. He assured that the needs of the Mizoram Directorate of Geology and Mining would be carefully considered, with all possible support extended to the department.

The meeting was chaired by Saitual Deputy Commissioner Srinivas Sadi, while Lalthankima, Assistant Controller of Mines, presented an overview of the mining sector's



current status and challenges. Officials from the Geology and Mining Department and representatives from various district departments participated in the session. Following the meeting, the Minister visited Saitual District Hospital, where he was received by Dr. Zothanpari Chhakchhuak, Deputy CMO, Dr. Lalhmunmawii, DMS, Dr. V. Lalremruata, Senior MO, and other members of the hospital staff. MediaPlatform ConsultingThe Deputy Chief Minister said the new hostel will help the school accommodate more students and improve overall infrastructure. He added that the state government will continue to support institutions that contribute to education and youth development. Beyond mining and industry, the Minister.

KYKL cadre arrested in Imphal East

Imphal, May 05: Security forces have arrested an active member of the banned outfit Kanglei Yawol Kanna Lup (KYKL) during an operation in Manipur's Imphal East district, officials said on Tuesday. The arrest was made on May 4 as part of an ongoing investigation registered at Singjamei Police Station. The individual has been identified as Maibam Romio Singh (52), also known as Ronald, a resident of Singjamei Wangma Kshetri Leikai Mongkhang Lambi.

BJP wins bypolls in Nagaland and Tripura

Kohima, May 05: North-east after winning two key Assembly by-elections in Nagaland and Tripura. The results, declared on Monday, are being seen as an important boost for the party ahead of upcoming elections in the region. In Nagaland, BJP candidate Daochier I. Imchen won the Koridang (ST) seat. The bypoll was held following the death of senior leader Imkong L. Imchen. Imchen defeated Congress candidate T Chalukumba Ao, who had earlier contested the 2023 Assembly elections on a Janata Dal (United) ticket. The contest saw consolidation of support in favour of the BJP after party leader Imchainba Jamir withdrew from the race.

Jitendra Singh resigns as Cong's Assam in-charge

Guwahati, May 05: Senior Congress leader Jitendra Singh has resigned as the party's general secretary in charge of Assam with immediate effect, taking responsibility for the party's poll debacle in the state. In his resignation letter to Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, Singh said it is in the best interest of the organization that he steps aside to allow for fresh leadership and renewed direction. "I write to tender my resignation as General Secretary In Charge of Assam with immediate effect. The recent election results have been deeply disappointing, and I take full responsibility for my role in the outcome," Singh said. "Despite our best efforts, we were unable to meet the expectations of the people of Assam whom we sought

to serve. It is in the best interest of the organization that I step aside to allow for fresh leadership and renewed direction," he said. Singh said he is grateful for the opportunity to have served and for the trust placed in him during his tenure. "I thank the people of Assam, as well as the Congress workers and leaders of Assam, for the love and respect they have shown me." "I remain committed to the values and vision of the Congress party and will continue to support the party's efforts in any capacity deemed appropriate," he added. The ruling NDA is set to form the government in Assam for the third time in a row after securing a two-thirds majority, with the alliance winning 102 seats in the 126-member assembly on Monday.

Women MLAs in Assam Strong Mandate, Limited Representation

Guwahati, May 05: Women's representation in the 2026 Assam Legislative Assembly remains heavily skewed in favour of the ruling alliance. Of the six women elected to the 126-member House, five belong to the NDA, while only one sits on the opposition benches. Overall, women make up just about 4.8% of the Assembly, underlining their continued underrepresentation in state politics.

Among the ruling alliance, led by the Bharatiya Janata Party, five women MLAs have been elected. The BJP itself has three—Nilima Devi from Mangaldai, Rupali Langthasa from Haflong, and Ajanta Neog from Golaghat. Its allies, Asom Gana Parishad and Bodoland Peoples Front, have one woman MLA each—Diptimayee Choudhury and Sewli Mohilary respectively. In contrast, the opposition's representa-

Arunachal Dy CM Inaugurates Abhedananda Bhavan at Ramakrishna Mission

Itanagar, May 05: Arunachal Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Chowna Mein on Monday inaugurated the newly-constructed Abhedananda Bhavan, a four-storeyed boys' hostel, at Ramakrishna Mission, Narottam Nagar, in the presence of ministers and dignitaries.

The occasion marked a historic milestone for the institution, representing the first major step towards replacing the old NEFA-era hostel buildings. The new facility reinforces the Mission's enduring commitment to education, character-building, and tribal welfare in Arunachal Pradesh. In his address, Chowna Mein lauded the institution for its disciplined environment and its significant contribution to shaping generations of technocrats, entrepreneurs, doctors, and bureaucrats in the state.



Reaffirming the Government's commitment, he announced the sanction of the proposed 200-bed hostel for junior boys along with 64 staff quarters, a declaration that was warmly received by the gathering. "From humble beginnings in 1972, the school has grown into a centre of excellence, shaping young minds with discipline, values, and

knowledge. This institute has produced many brilliant minds who had excelled in NEET, JEE and national level competitions reflecting the strength of its foundation. Beyond education, the Mission has also played a vital role in healthcare and community service in Arunachal Pradesh," Mein said. "I extend my heartfelt grat-

itude to the revered monks of Ramakrishna Mission for their selfless service to the people of the State. The inauguration of this hostel marks another step forward in strengthening this legacy. The Government of Arunachal Pradesh remains committed to supporting such institutions that are building the future of our youth," he said.

New Hostel Inaugurated at Tirap Ramakrishna School by Dy CM

Itanagar, May 05: Arunachal Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Chowna Mein inaugurated a newly constructed boys' hostel at the Ramakrishna Mission School in Tirap district, marking a step towards strengthening residential facilities for students in the region. The hostel, named Abhedananda Bhavan, has been built to improve accommo-

dation for students, especially those coming from remote areas. With this addition, the institution is expected to expand its intake and provide better support to students pursuing education away from home. Addressing the gathering, Mein spoke about the school's journey since its establishment in 1972. He said the institution has grown steadily over the years and has become a

known centre for value-based education in the state. He noted that many students from the school have gone on to perform well in national-level competitive exams like NEET and JEE. He also highlighted the wider role of the Ramakrishna Mission in Arunachal Pradesh, pointing to its work in education, healthcare and community service. He said the efforts of the Mission's monks have played an important role in guiding students and supporting social development in different parts of the state. The Deputy Chief Minister said the new hostel will help the school accommodate more students and improve overall infrastructure. He added that the state government will continue to support institutions

that contribute to education and youth development. Ministers Pasang Dorjee Sona and Wangki Lowang, along with MLA Wanglin Lowangdong, were present at the event. Senior members of the Mission, including Swami Sarvalokananda and Swami Achyuteshananda, also attended the programme along with monks, students and local residents.

NHPC Sets COD for Unit 4 of Subansiri Lower Project

Itanagar, May 05: NHPC Ltd has announced May 8 as the commercial operation date of Unit 4 (250 MW) of the Subansiri Lower Hydroelectric Project (2000 MW) located across Assam and Arunachal Pradesh. The unit will officially commence operations at 00:00 hours on May 8, 2026, marking another major milestone in India's renewable energy expansion. With the latest commissioning, four generating units — each of 250 MW — will become operational, bringing the project's commissioned capacity to 1,000 MW. The remaining four units are expected to be commissioned in due



course. In an exchange filing, the company said, "it... declares commercial operation (CoD) of Unit 4 of Subansiri Lower HE Project from 00:00 hours on 08.05.2026".

NHPC is constructing the hydroelectric project (having eight units of 250 MW each) at about Rs 27,000 crore near North Lakhimpur on the border of Arunachal Pradesh and Assam.

Gaurav Gogoi says Assam Congress Accepts People's Verdict

Guwahati, May 05: Congress leader and Assam PCC chief Gaurav Gogoi on Monday conceded defeat in the Assam Assembly elections, accepting personal responsibility for the Opposition alliance's poll debacle. The Congress-led alliance in Assam could bag only 21 seats in the poll, the results of which were announced on Monday evening. On its own, the party could get only 19 seats, that too in minority-inhabited constituencies. "We humbly accept the verdict of the people and accept our defeat in this election. Also, thank you and gratitude to the voters who voted with faith in the opposition coalition candidates," Gogoi, who also suffered a heavy defeat in the prestigious Jorhat seat to former Assam Assembly Speaker and BJP candidate, Hitendra Nath Goswami. Congratulating the winning candidates of the election,

the Congress leader hoped that they would fulfil the hopes and aspirations of the people and work diligently for the sake of the state's progress, peace and prosperity. "We will learn from the experience of defeat and make the team stronger in the coming days by self-analysis and engage in service of the public with more determination and commitment. I have also taken the decision given by the people of Jorhat," Gogoi, who had won the Jorhat parliamentary seat in 2024, said. "As per the mandate of the people, we will perform our duties and duties as a responsible Opposition party. We will cooperate with the good work of the government and we will always stand by the people and oppose the government's anti-people policies," he said. "We extend our heartfelt thanks and deep gratitude to everyone for the genuine love, affection and blessings

given by the people of different parts of Assam over the past few months. Your steadfast belief, support and encouragement are our strength to move forward," Gogoi said in a statement. "Along with this, we extend our heartfelt thanks and deep gratitude to each and every worker who worked diligently for the party as part of the opposition alliance in this election. Your tireless hard work, sacrifice and steadfast faith are the main foundation of our strength," he said. "As the president of Assam Pradesh Congress, I have accepted the moral responsibility of this defeat. But, in this fight for ideals, we will always remain steadfast and continue the fight for the interest, rights and dignity of the people. Next time, I am ready to do the responsibility that the top leadership of the party allows to do," he said.

NDA Crosses 100 in Assam; Sarma Points to Earlier Prediction

Guwahati, May 05: Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Tuesday said he had correctly estimated the outcome of the Assembly elections, sharing an old handwritten note after the BJP-led alliance secured a sweeping victory in the state. In a post shared a day after the results, Sarma said he had written down his own seat estimate immediately after voting ended on April 9. "After voting concluded, as I do every time, I wrote down my estimate on paper. Time passed, results came, and the blessings of the people created a new history," he said. He added that the final outcome was slightly higher than what he had expected. "With more than a hundred seats—one more than expected—our estimate has been proven correct. This mandate is not just a number; it shows the trust and affection of the people. I remain grateful for this support," he said.

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Editorial

The Loss of Open Spaces

Open spaces such as playgrounds, parks, and community grounds are steadily disappearing due to rapid urbanisation. Construction and commercial expansion often take priority over preserving common spaces. The loss of such areas affects both physical and mental well-being, particularly for children and the elderly. Recreational spaces are essential for community interaction, exercise, and environmental balance. Cities without adequate open spaces become increasingly congested and less liveable over time. Urban planning must recognise that open spaces are necessities, not luxuries. Sustainable development requires balancing growth with quality of life.

On the eve of section 21 being abolished, I was served an eviction notice. I was far from alone

You never welcome an email from your landlord, or in my case, my landlord’s agent. I happened to be in an airport waiting for a flight when something landed in my inbox that made my stomach drop. Two words popped out in the subject line: “Section 21”.

Miles from home, staring at my phone, I felt useless and despondent at being served a no-fault eviction notice days before the new Renters’ Right Act made them illegal at the start of May. Once a feature of England’s rental market, section 21s had allowed landlords to force tenants out of their homes with only a minimum of two months’ notice. Presumably not wanting the hassle of having to use a section 8 notice – citing one or more legal grounds to end a tenancy – my landlord evicted me at the 11th hour.

It turns out that I was one of many. In the buildup to 1 May,

solicitors reported thousands of people seeking advice after being served notices. People don’t come to expect charity from their landlords, but the fact that so many have slipped in section 21s at the last possible moment only emphasises the imbalance of power between landlords and tenants. For everyone involved – landlords, renters, solicitors – the sheer number of section 21s being served did not come as a shock. What is more surprising is that the government failed to put in any protections for renters during the transition period.

I’m now looking for somewhere new. I have the benefit of having a family that lives locally who would certainly let me stay in a spare room if push came to shove. I recently became a member of my local tenants’ union in Greater Manchester, so I have people ready to fight for my rights as a renter. But not everyone



has that support. There are so many people out there who will have had a section 21 slip through their letterbox in the past few weeks without any idea where they’ll go.

The new act is by far the best piece of legislation for renters’ rights in more than 30 years. It has killed fixed-term contracts; banned discriminatory policies including “no

kids” and “no DSS”; limited the amount of advance rent to one month’s; ensured tenants are able to appeal against excessive above-market rents that are purely designed to force them out; it’s even made it impossible for landlords to flat-out ban pets without good reason. Even now as I look for a new flat, I won’t have to engage in any bidding wars to secure a place. But what the last gasps of section 21 has proved is that the system still has a long way to go and we must never stop fighting for more rights to rebalance the power dynamic between renters and landlords.

As campaigners have rightly pointed out, the act doesn’t even begin to deal with the problem of ballooning rents. Market rate is still extortionate, with the housing charity Shelter reporting rises in excess of 10%, even 20%. The average monthly rent in Manchester is £1,347, according to

the Office for National Statistics. We need more affordable housing for those who would prefer to buy but are instead stuck renting because of extortionate rental costs (never mind the wider cost of living) eating at their savings. For those who would like to rent – for example, newcomers to cities or students – private renting should be affordable. And for those who are unable to afford private rental accommodation, there should be more social housing.

In 2024-25 alone, England lost 21,436 social homes, mostly through right-to-buy sales and demolitions. We’re undergoing a net loss in social housing; according to Shelter, England has 1.4 million fewer households in social housing than it did in 1980. The Renters’ Right Act is a victory for the 11 million private renters across the country, but don’t forget who still holds the power.

As a flood-prone country, Bangladesh needs stronger early flood warning systems

The world is going through times of high climatic insecurity, exacerbated by unchecked global warming. Low-lying countries, such as Bangladesh, find themselves to be especially susceptible to cyclones, floods, river erosion, and more. In Moulvibazar, recent heavy rainfall has caused flooding, leading to irrecoverable crop losses. Although timely adaptive measures have made Bangladesh adept at cyclone precautions, rescue efforts, and makeshift shelters, early warning and response systems for floods have continued to fall short of expectations. According to a World Bank report in 2020, Bangladesh tops the list of flood-prone countries globally, with an estimated 20 percent of its land area vulnerable to submergence. Additionally, around 60 percent of the country’s population is exposed to high flood risk, more so than in any other country in the world besides the Netherlands. The population density in Bangladesh is 1,319 per square kilometre, and as per the World Bank’s April 2026 Bangladesh Development Update, the country’s poverty rate increased to 21.4 percent in 2025 from 18.7 percent in 2022, adding 14 lakh more poor people in 2025. Meanwhile, Bangladesh’s Human Capital Index score of 0.46 reflects gaps in education, healthcare,

and skills, which also limit communities’ adaptation capacity. The northern areas of Bangladesh, such as Gaibandha, Kurigram, and Chilmari, are in close proximity to major rivers such as Brahmaputra, Teesta, and Jamuna. In 2022, the north and north-eastern regions of Bangladesh were hit by unprecedented flooding, leading to the loss of 12 lives and impacting more than 70 lakh people. In 2024, flash floods in the country’s east destroyed 339,382 hectares of crops and displaced over 500,000 people. According to a 2021 World Bank report, annual losses incurred by floods in Bangladesh amount to around \$2 billion. Despite extensive data on the issue, early warning systems are still not intensive or community-centric. As of now, demarcated gauge lines, handled by the water resource authorities, are in place to measure dangerous levels of water flow. When water levels threaten to reach or cross these lines, a warning goes out to state that flooding is possible in surrounding areas. What often goes unnoticed, however, is that these installations are sometimes quite far from the villages. Due to topographical diversity, there is hardly a way to discern when and at what speed the water level will hit the villages, located some distance away from the water level



gauges. In Bangladesh, hydrological models for an effective early warning system suffer from a lack of upstream data.

According to one study including respondents from Sirajganj district, during 2015-2020, 71.81 percent of households didn’t receive an

early warning for flooding. Of the 28.29 percent which received early warning, 82.99 percent households responded by taking preparedness measures. While early warnings are provided over radio and speaker announcements on regional and union scales, confirmed

information on a community or village level is still out of reach. Simply calling for evacuation is often not enough. The ultra-poor residents of these areas spend years saving up for their homes, fields, and livestock. When they hear of a possible evacuation plan, they think of

all the losses that await them. Savings and assets go underwater, and they become aid-dependent. However, when aid is discontinued, they do not have any source of income left. Even loans are hard to come by without any assets to show. More often than not, these victims are confused or in denial as to whether evacuation is indeed required. Decentralising early warning systemsA 2019 United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) report stated that investment in early warning systems could yield a tenfold return and help avoid losses, save lives, and enhance socioeconomic resilience. We need to look at our early warning systems through a tech-forward lens. Incoming cyclones or floods should be trackable using mobile phones, satellite images, and waterflow systems. Villages can be assigned colours to signal levels of danger and safety. Each union has a local government information centre that could serve as an early warning hub for that community. Instead of waiting to distribute aid during floods, disaster risk financing can be pushed for and demanded early on. This will not only reduce pressure on post-disaster aid but also help people innovate their own solutions to deal with the crisis. Effective multi-hazard early warning systems

Multi-hazard early warning systems are only effective if they actually reach and are actionable by those who need them. Early warning systems convey critical information on potentially hazardous events and can yield the highest benefit-cost ratio of any adaptation investment. As per a 2019 report by the Global Commission on Adaptation, a 24-hour warning for an imminent storm or heatwave can cut the resulting damage by 30 percent, and spending \$800 million on such systems in developing countries would avoid losses of \$3-\$16 billion per year.

It is evidenced that loss of life can be reduced if there is better uptake and understanding of necessary actions, as well as better flood forecasting. A community-based approach is cheaper than a centralised system. While a central system is crucial, balancing the approach with people’s engagement and the best technology available can make it all the more beneficial. An effective multi-hazard community-based early warning system with engagement from the community, civil society and private sector is needed. Finally, the benefits will accrue only if early warnings lead to early action, which can very much depend on the credibility and available lead time of the warning information.

The supreme court trusts America not to be racist. I don’t

Six supreme court justices handed down a ruling built, ostensibly, on the belief that the US has changed so much as to render the protections of the Voting Rights Act unnecessary. No one should be that gullible.

In 1901, the same year my great-grandfather was born, George H White rose to address the 56th United States Congress for the last time. He was a Republican congressman from North Carolina – the only Black member of the entire body. He was leaving because the state he represented had passed legislation making his re-election impossible. Reconstruction had already been undone. The powers that be had narrowed, then deferred, then erased the promise of multiracial democracy, written in the blood of Union soldiers and freed people alike.

White’s farewell was not defeat. It was prophecy. “This, Mr Chairman, is perhaps the Negro’s temporary farewell to the American Congress,” he said, “but let me say, phoenix-like, he will rise up some day and come again.” He was right. It took 64 years, a march across a bridge in Selma, and a president signing the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

White’s phoenix did not rise, though, because those in power could be trusted. It rose because our forebears forced America to act against its own instincts. The Voting Rights Act was not charity. It was the result of 64 years of forcing a country to honor promises it never intended to keep. On Wednesday, the supreme court removed that constraint.

The ruling in Louisiana v Callais did not formally strike down section 2 of the Voting Rights Act. The statute remains. What it can do does not. But strip away the procedural language and the ruling rests on a single premise: that America has changed enough that these protections are no longer necessary. Justice Alito wrote that “social change has occurred throughout the country and particularly in the South.” John Roberts has been making this argument since he was in Ronald Reagan’s justice department. It is the core of their position, and it deserves scrutiny.

Between 2012 and 2022, the racial turnout gap between white and nonwhite voters has widened, reaching 18 percentage points by 2022. The gap grew almost twice as fast in the very counties that section 5 of the Voting Rights Act once protected.

Louisiana has never elected a Black congressperson from a non-majority-Black district. Not once. The mechanism the court just destroyed is, more or less, the only reason Black representation in that state has ever existed. The court removed the umbrella and declared the storm over. The storm did not get the memo. The court has essentially ruled that unless a legislator records a confession of their own bigotry, the map is constitutional – making the only person allowed to define a racist act the person committing it. Congress understood the absurdity of this in 1982, which is why legislators wrote an effects-based standard into the law. Discrimination does

not announce itself. The intent standard is the cloak of the coward.

Roberts sealed the trap years ago: in Rucho v Common Cause, he ruled that partisan gerrymandering is beyond federal review. Now, any map that dilutes Black voting power hides behind partisan strategy, and the courts cannot touch it. The court has achieved something more perverse still: drawing districts to protect Black voters is itself the racial discrimination. Erasing them is not.

The court’s premise – that America can be trusted – lasted less than a day. Florida passed a new congressional map within hours of the ruling, engineered to deliver Republicans four additional seats. Louisiana announced it would delay its own primary elections – with mail ballots already in voters’ hands, with early voting days away – so lawmakers could redraw lines and eliminate the majority-Black district the VRA had required.

Civil rights groups including the ACLU and the NAACP filed an emergency challenge on Friday, arguing that the governor’s order was illegal and that votes already cast could not simply be erased. Tennessee and Alabama have signaled they intend to follow. Mississippi’s governor announced a special session to redistrict state supreme court seats. Trump’s former campaign manager posted openly that if states move aggressively, Republicans could hold a permanent House majority.

The cost will not be abstract. As many as 30% of the Congressional Black cau-



cus members could lose their seats before the next presidential election. Republicans could eliminate nearly 200 state legislative seats Democrats currently hold across the south, where half of the Black American population lives. The gerrymandering will not stop at Congress – it will reach state legislatures, county commissions, school boards, every level of government where Black communities have built political power, district by district, since 1965. In the exact states where voting discrimination has been most historically violent, there may soon be no Black congressional representation at all.

Democrats may well win a House or Senate majority in November, but it is no vindication after this ruling. Unless the party regards it as preparation for a longer civil rights struggle ahead to restore the Voting Rights Act, it will be a familiar phenomenon in this country: a substitution of the appearance of progress for the thing itself. November will not slow what they are already building behind the ruling. DHS agents have appeared unannounced at county election offices in my native Ohio, demanding voter records and registration data. Records show Doge personnel operating

under a secret agreement with outside election deniers, analyzing voter rolls to overturn results in specific states. Seventy per cent of the justice department civil rights division’s lawyers are gone – the administration cleared them out before the ruling came down. Taken together, these developments point in the same direction: weakened protections, weakened enforcement and more pressure on the machinery of elections. Trump was the first president in a generation elected without the full protections of the Voting Rights Act. Wednesday’s ruling ensures he will not be the last. There is a particular, bone-deep exhaustion in this moment that I must name here: the fatigue of the repetitive. Every generation of Black Americans that has clawed out a measure of progress has watched the next inherit the exact same fight, dressed in new, more polite legal jargon. We are not building upon the victories of our forebears; yet again, we must spend our lives defending and rebuilding them. It is a staggering waste of time.

George H White told the 56th Congress that the phoenix would rise. It did – not because America wanted it to, but because people spent 64 years forcing it to. That is what the Voting Rights Act was: not a gift, not a concession, but a constraint our forebears imposed on a country that would not do right without one. I don’t trust America in that regard. I doubt I ever will. Instead, I ask what we are prepared to do about a country that has never, on its own, done the right thing.

Why is CDSL under pressure71% slump in IPO activity is the big gamechanger

Mumbai: The share price of Central Depository Services (India) (CDSL) is down 1% in the early trade today. So far in 2026, the share price has plunged 15%. The brokerage firm Nuvama has revised its stance on the stock to a ‘Hold’ rating, with a target price of Rs 1,250. This implies limited upside from current levels.

Let’s take a look at the key reasons why the brokerage is cautious and what investors need to watch out for next –

Nuvama on CDSL: Revenue growth slows on a sequential basis

According to the brokerage report, the company did report growth on a year-on-year basis, but the quarter-on-quarter trend was weaker.

Nuvama in its report, pointed out that the revenue increased by 17.1% compared to last year but fell 13.6% compared to the previous quarter, reaching around Rs 260 crore, which was slightly below expectations. The report pointed out that this drop was largely due to weaker activity in areas like initial public offerings (IPOs) and corporate actions. Even though expenses were broadly in line with expectations, profitability came under pressure.As per the brokerage house, “Higher than estimated technology cost was offset by lower employee cost, taking total expense higher by 2.2% QoQ (in

line with our estimate), resulting in an EBIT margin of 37.6% (-473bp YoY/-965bp QoQ).”The impact was also visible in net profit.

The report added that lower other income pulled down profits. Adjusted profit after tax (APAT) came in at around Rs 80 crore, down 20% compared to last year and 39.8% lower than the previous quarter.Nuvama on CDSL: IPO activity and market trends play a role

A key factor behind the weaker

performance was reduced activity in the primary market.

According to the brokerage report, fewer IPOs impacted revenue. Furthermore, lower retail participation also hurt earnings from these segments. Even though overall market trading volumes were higher, investor participation remained weak.

At the same time, the report highlighted that the pipeline for future IPOs remains strong, which could support recovery in the coming quarters.

Increased fund-raising activity and a steady rise in demat account openings also indicate long-term structural growth.

Nuvama on CDSL: Rising costs continue to weigh on marginsAnother concern flagged in the report is the increase in technology-related spending.“Management continues to vest in capacity creation and process streamlining, driving technology expense by 41.1% YoY/12.0% QoQ,” added the brokerage house report.

Mumbai: Marico reported an 18.26% increase in its consolidated net profit to Rs 408 crore in Q4FY26, from Rs 345 crore reported in Q4FY25.Its consolidated revenue from operations stood at Rs 3,333 crore in Q4FY26 as compared to Rs 2,730 crore reported in Q4FY25.Total expenses in the quarter under review stood at Rs 2,889 crore against Rs 2,336 crore a year ago.Rs 4 dividend announced-Marico also recommended a final dividend of Rs 4 per equity share of Re 1 each. The record date to determine eligible shareholders is July 30. If approved, the dividend will be paid on or before September 5.PNB Q4FY26: Profit rises 14%, NPAs improve; Rs 3 dividend announcedMarico FY26 highlights

For FY26, its consolidated net profit was Rs 1,813 crore against Rs 1,658 crore in FY25. Its consolidated revenue from operations in FY26 stood at Rs 13,611 crore compared to Rs 10,831 crore in FY25. The India business recorded an 8% volume growth, the highest in seven



years, while the international segment delivered a 20% constant currency growth, marking a 14-year high. India business revenues surged 28% year-on-year (YoY), and international business revenues rose 20% in Rupee terms.

Marico expects India volume growth to sustain high single-digit levels in FY27, continuing its upward trajectory. The international business is also expected to maintain momentum, with mid-teen constant currency growth in FY27, supported by broad-based performance across markets.On the financial front, the company aims

to achieve double-digit consolidated revenue growth, targeting to cross Rs 15,000 crore by FY27. Additionally, consolidated EBITDA growth is expected to remain in the high-teens range, reflecting a healthy earnings outlook, subject to stable macroeconomic conditions.About MaricoMarico is a consumer products company operating in the global beauty and wellness categories. During FY25-26, Marico recorded a turnover of Rs 13,610 crore through its products sold in India and select markets across Asia and Africa.

Infosys completes acquisition of Optimum Healthcare IT

New Delhi: Infosys completed the acquisition of Optimum Healthcare IT, a digital transformation and consulting firm focused on healthcare providers. Infosys on Tuesday, May 5 said in its regulatory filing that the acquisition will help strengthen its healthcare business, especially in working with health systems and provider organisations. “This investment significantly enhances Infosys’ presence in the provider segment, adding new clients and relationships, expanding technology capabilities, and creating synergies across new buying centers.”

The company had first announced the deal on March 25, 2026. Optimum Healthcare IT brings strong expertise in the provider segment and a proven delivery model, aligning with Infosys’ healthcare growth plans. Infosys said the combined entity will focus on AI-powered cloud and data transformation initiatives



for healthcare providers. The goal is to improve patient experience through data-driven and personalised care, while also driving operational efficiency and cost optimisation. Optimum Healthcare IT is an Elite ServiceNow partner and has received the 2026 ServiceNow Partner of the Year Award. It is also a partner with AWS, Workday Services, and Microsoft

Azure.Optimum’s comprehensive service offerings include Enterprise Application Services, Digital Transformation, and Workforce Management, which features our skill development program, Optimum Career-Path®. Backed by a leadership team with extensive expertise, we deliver tailored healthcare consulting solutions to diverse organizations.

\$15 Billion space bet: SpaceX’s ‘Starship’ spend dwarfs Falcon as IPO horizon nears

New Delhi: Elon Musk’s vision of more sophisticated and simplified space travel comes with a price tag that is officially astronomical. According to a Reuters review of SpaceX’s IPO registration, the company has poured more than \$15 billion into developing Starship, its next-generation, fully reusable rocket system.As the company sprints toward a public market debut at a staggering \$1.75 trillion valuation, Starship has emerged as a key link between SpaceX’s current satellite dominance and its future as a multi-planetary logistics giant.Cost comparison: The evolution of a giantThe sheer scale of Starship’s development costs highlights a fundamental shift in how SpaceX operates. The \$15 billion figure reported by Reuters has massively eclipsed the roughly \$400 million SpaceX spent developing Falcon 9, which is arguably the world’s most frequently flown rocket. Falcon 9 has reportedly underpinned SpaceX’s commercial dominance, enabling rapid Starlink deployments and giving the company a wide lead over launch rivals. “We have continued to invest significantly in further increasing our lead by pursuing full and rapid reusability at scale, including investing over \$15 billion in our next-generation rocket, Starship,” SpaceX said in its confidential IPO registration accessed by Reuters. As per a Reuters report, the future of SpaceX’s most lucrative businesses rests on this towering two-stage system. Musk’s space X reportedly intends to launch its “V3” Starlink satellites in the second half of 2026. These upgraded satellites are too large for the workhorse Falcon 9; they require the massive payload

bay of Starship to be economically viable. Beyond the internet, Starship is also the vehicle intended to deploy thousands of AI computing satellites, a space-based alternative to power-hungry terrestrial data centers. The surge highlights how fundamentally different Starship is from Falcon and from any rocket that has come before it. As per reports published by Reuters and other agencies, this is how features and costs of Musk’s Falcon 9 and starship compare. Despite eye-catching milestones of Musk’s space tech giant including the recent mid-air “catch” of the Super Heavy booster with mechanical arms, the path to Musk’s goal of thousands of launches per year is paved with a long queue of logistical hurdles. According to a Federal Aviation Administration analysis, a single Starship launch requires about one million gallons of water for acoustic vibration suppression and the equivalent of 244 tanker trucks of natural gas to complete the launch.“There is not enough water in the water system to support the launch of Starship” at the scale Musk envisions, Chris Quilty, president of Quilty Space, told Reuters. Apart from the resource constraints, Musk’s vision of ‘In-Orbit’ represents Space X’s next most formidable challenge. The maneuver involves a risky and unproven process in which Starships dock with tanker versions of the vehicle to transfer fuel. The challenge is compounded by the propellant itself. Liquid oxygen must be kept at extremely low temperatures and tightly sealed to prevent it from seeping out into space. “In-orbit refueling is complex, and we have not yet demonstrated or attempt-



ed it,” SpaceX said in its filing as per Reuters. “We may not be able to develop, commercialize, scale, or successfully implement these or other strategic initiatives on the timelines we currently anticipate, or at all,” it addedVisualising the future: “Version 3” and beyondSpaceX is currently preparing for its first test flight since October, which will debut the Starship V3 prototype “Version 3 is basically a clean-sheet design of the ship,” Charlie Cox, Director of Starship Engineering, said in a video SpaceX posted on X on Friday.This version is critical for NASA’s Artemis moon program, which has funneled at least \$3 billion into SpaceX. As per a Reuters report, NASA’s Human Landing System (HLS) depends entirely on the success of this “Version 3” architecture.“That Version 3 is what HLS is going to be based on,” Kent Chojnacki, Deputy Manager of NASA’s Human Landing System program told Reuters. A lot’s gonna be dependent on this first flight,” he concluded emphasizing the importance of the upcoming launch.

RK Steel Manufacturing IPO gets SEBI nod issue size to objectives

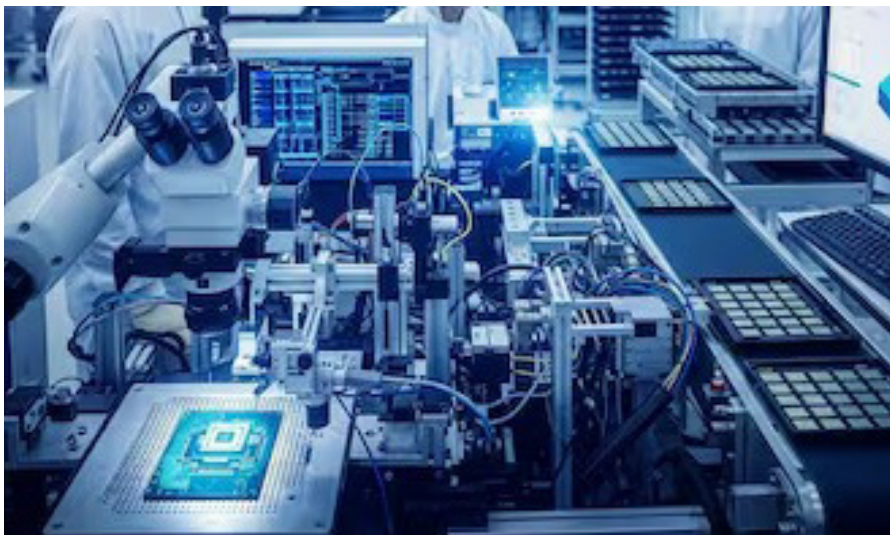


Mumbai: As Indian primary markets face pressure due to the prolonged West Asia conflict, market regulator SEBI has recently given its approval to a bunch of companies to move ahead with their IPO plans. One of them being steel and pipes manufacturer RK Steel Manufacturing Company. The steel manufacturer’s IPO comprises solely fresh equity of 2 crore shares, as the company aims to utilize the fresh proceeds for funding its capital requirements and repaying its borrowings. Here are some details on the RK Steel Manufacturing IPORK Steel Manufacturing IPO: Issue details and lead manager

The company will issue 2 crore fresh equity shares and has not disclosed the offer size yet, Other important details pertaining to share price band, lot size and listing dates too have not been announced. While the remaining proceeds will be used for funding general corporate purposes. The raised proceeds will also be utilized to meet issue related expenses, including, fee paid to BRLM, fees paid to regulator and stock exchanges etcAccording to its DRHP, the steel manufacturer will deploy upto Rs 76 lakh for funding its working capital requirements, and around Rs 43.23 lakh will be utilized for the repayment and pre-repayment of its borrowings.

Beyond the Fabs 3 critical input stocks powering India’s Rs 10 lakh crore semiconductor mission

Mumbai: India’s semiconductor market is booming. The foundation of this growth was laid with the approval of India Semiconductor Mission 1.0 by the Union Cabinet in December 2021.The Mission is supported by an incentive framework of ₹76,000 crore, offering fiscal support of up to 50% for silicon fabs, compound semiconductor facilities, assembly and testing units, and chip design. As of December 2025, 10 projects with a total investment of ₹1.60 lakh crore have been approved across 6 states.According to the Press Information Bureau, India’s semiconductor market size is estimated to reach USD 100-110 billion (₹9-10 lakh crore) by 2030, up from about USD 38 billion (2023) and USD 45-\$50 billion (2025). And this story is no longer confined to fabs and policy incentives.By 2029, India is expected to achieve the capability to design and manufacture chips required for nearly 70-75% of domestic applications. The Budget FY27 further reinforced these ambitions with the announcement of India Semiconductor Mission 2.0. The mission allocates Rs 1,000 crore for research, training, and chip manufacturing capabilities. But the semiconductor supply chain is vast, requiring raw materials, gases, and chemicals for manufacturing. This is where a few companies, beyond the big names like Tata and Murugappa Group, are establishing their footprint to capitalise on the semiconductor boom. Let’s take a look at these pick-and-shovel plays. Acutaas Chemicals is evolving into a diversified specialty chemical company. It operates through



two core traditional segments alongside two exciting emerging growth verticals: Advanced Pharmaceutical Intermediaries (API) and the chemicals segment.The CDMO Engine: Scaling Toward a ₹1,000 Crore Revenue Milestone

API is the core engine, delivering a massive ₹1,174 crore in revenue for FY26, up 38% from ₹854 crore in FY25. This exceptional growth is heavily driven by their Contract Development and Manufacturing Organization (CDMO) business.Management expects the CDMO business to contribute ₹1,000 crore by FY28. This is expected to be supported by a strong pipeline that includes four newly validated products, with revenue starting in FY27. Next is the Specialty Chemicals segment, which continues

to provide a solid, steady foundation. This segment’s revenue grew by 8% year-on-year to ₹165 crore in FY26. This segment maintains stable pricing and high-volume growth in commodity chemicals. This has recently helped offset some slight sluggishness in its older semiconductor subsidiary, Baba Fine Chemicals.Acutaas is India’s sole manufacturer of semiconductor-grade photoresist chemicals. These highly specialized chemicals require ultra-high purity, down to parts-per-billion levels, to meet the exacting standards of modern microchip fabrication. The company originally entered this high-barrier industry in FY23 by acquiring a 55% stake in Baba Fine Chem-

icals (BFC).

The Joint Venture with South Korea’s J& MaterialsTo expand its footprint internationally, Acutaas formed Indichem, a joint venture with South Korea’s J & Materials. Acutaas has already invested around ₹130 to ₹140 crores into this venture to supply value-added, advanced semiconductor chemicals to high-growth markets like South Korea, Japan, and Taiwan. The capital expenditure for the Indichem plant is expected to finish by the end of calendar year 2026, with the venture beginning to contribute to revenue the following year. Management anticipates that this semiconductor business will be highly lucrative with higher margins than the traditional pharmaceutical business.Management expects the semiconductor business to become an independent growth engine by FY28. To this end, the company is engaging with several clients in Japan, South Korea, and TaiwanEfficiency Gains: Analyzing the 122% Profit Surge and Margin ExpansionThe company’s financial performance has been stellar, closing out FY26 with record-breaking numbers. For FY26, total revenue from operations rose by 33% year-on-year to ₹1,339 crore, driven solely by the API business.Thanks to strong operating leverage, cost efficiencies, and an improved product mix, profitability soared. EBITDA more than doubled to ₹480 crore, and the EBITDA margin expanded to 35.9%, up from 23%. Ultimately, net profit more than doubled (up 122%) to ₹356 crore.

California demands millions of dollars in fines from State Farm for allegedly violating claims following wildfires in Los Angeles



Washington: Regulators announced on Monday that California is pursuing millions of dollars in penalties from State Farm after a probe revealed the insurance firm undervalued claims from the 2025 wildfires in the Los Angeles region and was hesitant to investigate.According to Ricardo Lara, the state’s insurance commissioner, State Farm broke the law hundreds of times in a sample of 220 instances. If State Farm is found to have violated state law in a “willful” manner, the highest penalty amount permitted by law would be around \$4 million. The company’s registration may also be temporarily suspended by regulators, which would effectively bar California’s biggest home insurer from issuing new policies for a year. The two terrible fires claimed 31 lives and destroyed almost 16,000 buildings.In a response, State Farm referred to the state’s insurance market as “dysfunctional” and denied any allegations that it “engaged in a general practice of mishandling or intentionally underpaying wildfire claims.” According to the corporation, it has settled 13,700 fire-related auto and home insurance claims for more than

\$5.7 billion. According to the statement, “the threat to suspend State Farm General’s ability to serve customers over primarily administrative and procedural errors is a reckless, politically motivated attack that could ultimately cripple California’s homeowners insurance market.”The lawsuit is filed in the midst of California’s current insurance crisis, where insurance companies are raising premiums, restricting coverage, or leaving areas vulnerable to wildfires and other natural disasters entirely. A number of significant insurance providers, notably State Farm, either halted or limited new coverage in the state in 2023. They claimed that as wildfires become more frequent and catastrophic as a result of the climate problem, they are unable to accurately estimate the risk to houses. The state now gives insurers more latitude to raise premiums in exchange for issuing more policies in high-risk areas. That includes regulations allowing insurers to consider climate change when setting their prices and allowing them to pass on the costs of reinsurance to California consumers.Lara last year also approved State Farm’s request to raise premiums

by 17% for homeowners to help the company avoid a financial crisis after the LA fires. State Farm also agreed not to cancel any new policies this year in an agreement with the department and a consumer group in March.Lara launched the investigation last June after survivors of the Palisades and Eaton fires said that State Farm was delaying and mishandling claims regarding damage to their homes and possible contamination from smoke.“Our investigation found that State Farm delayed, underpaid and buried policyholders in red tape at the worst moment of their lives. That is unacceptable, and we are taking decisive action to hold them accountable,” Lara said in a statement. The department looked at 220 random claims filed to State Farm and found roughly 400 violations. They included underpayment and slow or inadequate claim processing. State Farm handled about one-third of all residential claims filed after the fires, state officials said. The state’s department of insurance said thousands of people might be affected by the unlawful behaviors.In one case, State Farm waited nearly three months before starting to investigate a claim, according to the state. In another, the company delayed paying a customer for months while internally acknowledging the payment should have been approved. The company also caused confusion for a customer after assigning a dozen claim adjusters to the case within four months.State Farm also illegally denied payments for hygienic testing for toxins in smoke-damage claims, the legal filings said.State Farm is the second insurer to face legal actions from the state over its handling of LA fire claims. The department is also seeking remedies against the Fair Plan for denying smoke-damage claims. The plan is an insurance pool that all the major private insurers pay into, and the plan then issues policies to people who can’t get private insurance because their properties are deemed too risky to insure.

The state has its first post-pandemic surplus, but its financial situation is precarious as debt approaches \$200 billion

Australia: For the first time since the epidemic, Victoria has reported a surplus, but the state’s financial recovery is still dubious, with debt expected to approach \$200 billion in the upcoming years due to uncertainty across the world.The state recorded a \$727 million operating surplus in 2025–2026, according to the 2026–2027 Victorian budget, which was released on Tuesday. This is a minor improvement above the \$710 million pre-budget update from December and the \$611 million estimate from May of last year.According to Jaclyn Symes, the treasurer, it was Victoria’s first surplus in seven years and the only one of any state government “on the eastern seaboard” in 2025–2026. We are the only jurisdictions in surplus, along with South Australia and Western Australia. She told reporters on Tuesday, “Of course, South Australia’s is smaller than ours, and Western Australia can rely on things like royalties and the sweetheart GST deal that other states can only dream of.”

“Given our structural revenue disadvantage in comparison to the other states, the fact that we’re delivering surpluses across the board in that regard is impressive.”Additionally, the budget projects surpluses of \$1.05 billion in 2026–2027 (down \$895 million from December’s estimate), \$1.86 billion in 2027–2028, \$1.94 billion in 2028–2029, and \$1.97 billion in 2029–2030. Similar to other governments, infrastructure and other capital expenditures are not included in Victoria’s reported operating surplus. When all is taken into account, Victoria’s cash deficit is predicted to reach \$7.7 billion in 2026–2027, which is \$400 million worse than the December estimate. It will then drop to \$7.12 billion in 2027–



2028 before growing to \$7.58 billion in 2023–2029 and \$8.07 billion in 2029–2030.Additionally, debt is expected to increase from \$165.3 billion in June 2026 to \$199.3 billion in 2029–2030, while as a percentage of the GDP, it stabilizes at 24.4%. Interest payments on state debt are expected to reach \$11.82 billion by then, or \$32 million every day. Another key expense for the government is its public sector wage bill, sitting at \$41.13bn in 2026-27 or 35% of total revenue, following confirmation in December of plans to slash 1,000 public sector jobs, including 300 executives, and merge several entities. The government will rake in \$41.52bn in tax revenue this year, growing to \$43.18bn in 2026-27 and then by an average of 5.1% over the forward estimates. But the revenue it collects from stamp duty is forecast to take a hit over the coming financial year due to a “decline in property market activity amid higher interest rates” before recovering in 2027-28.

The budget also forecasts poker machine revenue will decrease due to the introduction of mandatory carded play, though it will be offset by growth in lottery revenue, thanks in part due to a new deal with the Lottery Corporation announced on Tuesday. The operator of Powerball and Oz Lotto told the ASX it

received an unprecedented 40-year extension to its Victorian licence, allowing them to keep operating until 2068.The budget rests on several key assumptions, including that the state’s economy will continue to grow – by 1.5% in 2026-27, 2% in 2027-28 and then 2.5% in the last two years of the forward estimates, with inflation peaking at 3.5% this financial year and the next, before tapering to 2.5% in 2029-30.It also assumed the Reserve Bank of Australia would increase the cash rate to 4.35%, which occurred just hours later. It forecasts the rate will remain at that level throughout 2026-27 before gradually declining to 3.5% by late 2028. Symes defended the assumptions, telling reporters they weren’t “more rosy than anybody else’s” and that treasury was “quite conservative”. The budget warns Victoria’s economic outlook and forecasts are subject to “elevated” uncertainty amid a “highly uncertain geopolitical backdrop”.Named “Easier. Safer. More Affordable”, the budget funds \$13.8bn in new initiatives since December’s budget update, including \$750m to provide a 20% refund on car registrations and \$432m to extend free public transport until the end of May and then offer half-price fares for the rest of 2026. It also includes

\$2.4bn in funding over five years for Thriving Kids, a replacement program for NDIS recipients with autism who will be removed from the national scheme. There were just \$607.5m in new savings measures over four years, described in the budget papers as “back of house efficiencies” in the public service. Mitch Vandewerdt-Holman from the Community and Public Sector Union said the state’s surplus “was brought to you by public service job cuts” over three budgets.Ratings agency S&P said that while Victoria’s surplus was strong compared to other east coast states and its fiscal performance was “gradually improving”, its cash deficits “remain structurally large”. It warned the state’s AA rating could be at risk if the government embarked on additional spending not outlined in the budget, including election commitments.Opposition leader and shadow treasurer, Jess Wilson, said the government had “no plan” to drive down debt. She said a Coalition government would make “tough decisions” to bring the budget back under control, but did not provide details beyond a commitment to repeal Victoria’s treaty with Indigenous traditional owners, saying further measures would be outlined in her budget reply speech next week.

The operation of AI facial recognition in law enforcement and its potential drawbacks

London: Greetings for the morning. The Guardian has reported over the past few days that the UK is implementing face recognition technology at a rate that seems to be surpassing the regulations intended to control it. While shops are employing similar methods to identify suspected shoplifters, police departments are increasingly adopting live systems to scan members of the public in real time.The technology’s proponents contend that facial recognition is reliable and will continue to be used. Opponents caution that it runs the risk of establishing a system in which individuals are watched and occasionally mistakenly identified without any obvious protections. I spoke with Robert Booth, the UK technology editor for the Guardian, for today’s email about the technology’s operation, its current widespread use, and what happens when it malfunctions. First, the headlines from this morning. Five major talesMiddle East crisis | If Iran strikes US ships attempting to reestablish a route via the Strait of Hormuz, Donald Trump has promised to “blown off the face of the earth.”Delivery industry | In an effort to obtain improved work rights, such as the minimum wage and holiday pay, more than 7,000 Just Eat couriers are suing the food delivery company.Europe | As heads of state convened to debate the EU’s loan plan for Ukraine, Keir Starmer urged Europe to “face up” to problems with the Trump administration at the European Political Community summit in Yerevan, Armenia. UK news | Keir Starmer will urge society as a whole to respond to the growing antisemitism on Tuesday, stating that people “must show it” by their behavior in addition to merely denouncing the evil.Cost of living | According to study from the Energy and Climate Intelligence Unit, food costs are expected to increase by 50% by November in comparison to 2021. In-depth: “There’s a feeling that it’s developing gradually.” Robert Booth observed police officers testing the use of live facial recognition cameras one day in Croydon. The cameras were positioned far above the roadway and turned on for several hours at a time. Officers in uniform and plainclothes waited nearby. Officers’ phones received an alert when a person on a watchlist moved through the camera’s range of view. What followed was star-



ling.Robert describes it to me as “like a trap snapping shut.” Officers gathered on the person in a matter of seconds, “a kind of net closing,” frequently before the subject realized they had been discovered. In one instance, he witnessed multiple officers quickly take a man to the ground. “It all just happens in a flash,” he says. “That kind of thing happening in the public sphere, enabled entirely by technology, feels quite new.”How does it work – and why now?Live facial recognition systems, as Robert wrote in this explainer, scan faces captured on camera and compare them against watchlists compiled by police or private operators.If the system identifies a potential match, it alerts officers, who can then decide whether to intervene.Part of the appeal is clear: it can be effective. Police say it has led to arrests, and businesses claim it acts as a deterrent to shoplifting.But the rapid uptake of facial recognition reflects a broader pattern seen with other technologies, from social media to age verification, where adoption has outpaced the development of clear regulatory frameworks to govern it. And use is rocketing: so far this year the Metropolitan police in London has scanned more than 1.7 million faces, up 87% on the same period in 2025.

The ‘edge cases’ where concern arisesOn Monday, social affairs correspondent Jessica Murray reported on the case of Ian Clayton, a retired health and safety professional from Chester. He is one of a number of people who have spoken to the Guardian after being falsely identified as a thief by shops using Facewatch, a live facial recognition system. He described the experience of being thrown out of a store after his face was flagged as “very Orwellian”, adding “it was like I was guilty until proven innocent.”“These are straightforwardly difficult

and wrong situations. The question is how widespread those cases are,” Robert says. “The technology itself may improve, and the systems around how it’s used may improve, too,” he adds. Even so, a small error rate can easily become significant if the technology is deployed more widely.Beyond individual errors, there is a broader concern about the cumulative effect of the technology – that simply moving through public space increasingly involves being unknowingly monitored and checked against databases. What do the public think?Robert spoke to people in Croydon when he was observing the police using the system. “Some take the view that if you’ve got nothing to hide, there’s nothing to worry about,” he tells me.

“They also point out that our faces are already used in lots of different ways online and for unlocking our phones.”Others are more concerned. “They worry about the risk of mistaken identity, and the fact they may not even have noticed the cameras. There’s a sense that it’s happening in a creeping way.”There are also people who are very much opposed to its use. Robert says they consider hundred and thousands of faces being scanned in public as “a clear infringement of their liberties”. The campaign group Liberty have warned that, as the situation stands, police could use the tool as a means of intimidation at protests, retroactively on any image or footage they hold, and have used it to track children as young as 12. Data has also shown that systems are more likely to incorrectly include black and Asian people than their white counterparts in search results. What happens now?“The key question is whether regulators can make sure the downsides of the technology don’t happen – so that people can feel they’re getting the benefits without the harms,” Robert says.One

thing is clear – oversight is fragmented. Several bodies are involved, including the Information Commissioner’s Office and the Equality and Human Rights Commission. Watchdogs have warned that this patchwork approach is struggling to keep pace with the technology’s rapid development. The Home Office has said it is considering a new legal framework for the technology.For now, the direction of travel is clear. “The technology is clearly going to keep advancing,” Robert says. “The question is whether the rules around it can keep up.” The Guardian’s Arts editor, Alex Needham, ventured to Japan’s “art island”, Naoshima, guided by the avant garde creative, Lee Ufan. The Korean-born artist, whose retrospective opens in Venice next weekend, discusses finding inspiration in Duchamp – and why he once chased three enormous sheets of paper in Tokyo. Yassin El-Moudden, newsletters teamNobody likes a break-up or delivering bad news. Isabel Bekele looks at the people using AI chatbots to rehearse awkward conversations in advance. MartinCombining a pedal steel guitar with the Turkish saz, the third solo album by former Vampire Weekend member Rostam Batmanglij blends Americana with sounds from south-west Asia. It’s Batmanglij’s “best to date”, according to Shaad D’Souza, who spoke with the Iranian-American musician in this great interview. Yassin-My colleague Sammy Gecsoyler was sent to Birmingham to investigate the death of UK clubbing, asking: “Whatever happened to Saturday night?” Martin-This fascinating exclusive on Kenya’s AI-powered healthcare system follows months of investigations into how the technology is being used to means-test the amount of contributions patients are expected to make – with disastrous consequences for the poorest. Yassin.

Donald Trump dispatches warships to breach Iran’s blockade of the Strait of Hormuz

Iran: As Iran attempted to renew its blockade, the US launched Donald Trump’s effort to provide a way through the Strait of Hormuz for hundreds of ships stranded in the Gulf with their personnel. This action brought the region back to the verge of full-scale conflict. The US operation, which began on Monday after Trump referred to it as “Project Freedom” on his social media platform on Sunday night, significantly increased the stakes in a conflict that had been in unsettling limbo for a month. Adm. Brad Cooper, the director of US Central Command (Centcom), stated hours after the operation started that US forces had intercepted Iranian drones and cruise missiles in addition to destroying six Iranian small boats. He “strongly advised” Iranian forces to stay away from US military installations in the area, which include 15,000 soldiers, drones, over 100 land and sea-based aircraft, and guided-missile warships. Iran swiftly denied the claim. On a day of successive claims and counter-claims, it also denied Centcom’s assertion that two US-flagged merchant vessels had “successfully transited” the strait, while US navy guided-missile

destroyers had crossed in the opposite direction, travelling westwards, and had begun patrolling the Gulf. Late on Monday, the container shipping company Maersk said the Alliance Fairfax – a US-flagged vehicle carrier – exited the Gulf via the strait accompanied by US military assets.Speaking at a press conference as the standoff became more volatile and dangerous, Trump downplayed tensions, saying Iran had “taken some shots” but had caused no harm apart from damage to a South Korean cargo vessel, which reported an unexplained explosion and fire.“Other than the South Korean Ship, there has been, at this moment, no damage going through the Strait,” Trump said on his Truth Social platform as oil prices jumped over the renewed hostilities.In an interview on Monday, however, the US president heightened fears of a fresh escalation. Trump told Fox News that Iran would be “blown off the face of the Earth” if it attacks US vessels carrying out Project Freedom, while also claiming that the regime had become “much more malleable” in peace negotiations.Iran, where military central command had warned that any US naval vessel approaching the

strait would be fired on, earlier claimed to have hit a US frigate in the area with two missiles.Late on Sunday, after Trump’s announcement, a tanker reported having been hit by “unknown projectiles”. The United Arab Emirates (UAE) later said an oil tanker operated by the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company, the MV Barakah had come under Iranian drone attack off the coast of Oman. No one was injured, it said. The UAE defence ministry said it had intercepted three missiles fired from Iran over its territorial waters, with a fourth one crashing into the sea.More than 850 ships are estimated to have been trapped in the Gulf since the US and Israel launched their attack on Iran on 28 February. Iran imposed a blockade on foreign shipping using the strait of Hormuz soon afterwards and Trump imposed a counter-blockade of ships using Iranian ports on 13 April. A Pakistani-brokered ceasefire, announced by Trump in early April, stopped hostilities but failed to open the strait.An estimated 20,000 sailors are stuck on the tankers, bulk carriers, container ships and other vessels, and there are growing concerns for their welfare.

‘I’m Too Young for Cancer’: Why Age Is No Longer A Protective Shield

‘I never thought this could happen to me, I’m young, just in my 30s. It’s a line we hear quite often,” says Dr Chetan Anchan, Surgical Oncologist, Director, SSO Cancer Hospital.

Over the last few years, there has been a noticeable rise in cancers being diagnosed in younger individuals—cases that were once largely associated with older populations. “We are increasingly seeing breast cancer, colon cancer, thyroid cancer, and others in much younger patients,” notes Dr Anchan. What’s more concerning is the stage at which many of these patients present. “Unfortunately, many of them come to us with advanced disease. That’s when I often see them—when the cancer has already spread, sometimes even to the bones,” he explains.

Cancers in younger individuals can also behave differently. “It is well known that cancers in younger patients tend to be more aggressive. This makes early detection and timely diagnosis even more critical,” Dr. Anchan adds.

What’s Changed?

“The answer lies, to a large extent, in how we live today,” says Dr. Anchan. Modern urban lifestyles have reshaped risk factors in subtle but significant ways. Sedentary habits, processed food, chronic stress, poor sleep, and environmental toxins are all contributing to earlier onset of disease. “We are also seeing rising rates of obesity, early-onset diabetes, and hormonal imbalances, all of which create a biological environment where cancer can develop sooner than expected,” he explains.

As a result, conditions once considered age-related are now appearing much earlier.

The Dangerous Delay

This shift has created what Dr. Anchan calls a “perfect trap.” “Young patients often delay seeking medical attention because they don’t believe their symptoms could be serious,” he says. “They attribute warning signs to lifestyle issues, stress, or minor illnesses.”

Busy schedules and work pressures don’t help. “Many young people tend to self-diagnose or self-medicate, postponing proper evaluation,” he adds. Even healthcare providers can sometimes miss early signs. “These patients are often otherwise healthy and physically fit, with no alarming symptoms that immediately raise concern,” Dr. Anchan explains. “As a result, symptoms



may be attributed to more common, benign conditions.”

He highlights how easily warning signs are dismissed: “A change in bowel habits that doesn’t go away? It’s often brushed off as a simple digestive issue.”

“A small, painless lump in the breast? Many assume it’s benign because of their age. Unexplained fatigue or weight loss? It’s blamed on stress or lifestyle.”

The Silence Around Cancer

“There is still fear and stigma associated with the word ‘cancer,’” says Dr Anchan. “Patients don’t want to hear it, and understandably, doctors may hesitate to raise it too early.”

This silence can be dangerous. “Often, the conversation only happens when symptoms become too obvious to ignore and by then, the disease may already be advanced,” he warns.

What You Should Know

Dr Anchan is quick to clarify: “Not every lump, ache, or change in the body is cancer. In fact, most of these are benign and easily treatable.”

However, the overlap in early symptoms makes awareness crucial. “Cancer in its early stages often presents with very subtle,

painless signs. That’s exactly why it can be overlooked,” he explains.

“Being aware doesn’t mean being anxious, it means being attentive,” he adds.

What Needs to Change

“Awareness is the first step,” says Dr. Anchan. He urges young individuals not to dismiss persistent symptoms. “If something lasts for more than a couple of weeks and doesn’t resolve completely, it deserves attention.”

Key warning signs to watch for include:

- A small, painless lump or

- swelling
- Persistent, unexplained pain or ache
- Changes in bowel habits or appetite
- Unexplained fatigue or weight loss
- Pain at rest in any part of the body

“These symptoms may seem minor, but if they are new and persistent, it’s important to consult a doctor and get them evaluated,” he advises. “In most cases, the cause will be simple and treatable,” says Dr Anchan. “But occasionally, we may detect something significant and if caught

early, that can make all the difference.”

Despite advances in medical science, one factor remains unchanged. “The best outcomes in cancer treatment still depend heavily on early detection and accurate diagnosis,” he concludes.

Fillings Are Not Always The Answer To Cavities: What You Should Know About Dental Care

For years, most of us have grown up believing that a cavity automatically means a trip to the dentist for a filling. The familiar drill-and-fill approach has long been considered the default solution.

But modern dentistry is gradually moving away from this mindset. Today, experts emphasise that not every cavity needs to be treated invasively, especially when caught early. What Is A Cavity?

A cavity does not appear suddenly. It is the result of a gradual process where bacteria in the mouth break down sugars and release acids. These acids slowly erode the enamel, which is the hard, protective outer layer of the tooth.

This process unfolds in stages. It typically begins with what dentists call demineralisation, where essential minerals like calcium are lost from the enamel.

At this point, you may notice faint white spots on the tooth surface—an early warning sign that often goes unnoticed.

If left unchecked, the decay can progress deeper into the enamel and eventually reach the dentin, the softer inner layer, where sensitivity and discomfort begin. In advanced cases, it may even affect the tooth pulp, leading to pain and infection.

The important distinction here is that decay is reversible in its earliest stage—before an actual hole forms.

When You Might Not Need A Filling

If a cavity is detected early, your dentist may not rush to treat it with a filling. Instead, the focus shifts to a non-invasive approach aimed at repairing the enamel naturally.

At this stage, the tooth hasn’t developed a physical cavity yet. There is no structural damage, no pain, and no deep penetration of decay. This is where remineralisation comes into play—a process that helps restore lost minerals and strengthen the enamel again.

Dentists may recommend fluoride-based treatments, which are known to reinforce enamel and make it more resistant to acid attacks. Alongside this, improving oral hygiene becomes crucial. Brushing twice a day with fluoride toothpaste, flossing regularly, and reducing sugar intake can significantly slow down or halt the progression of decay.

Regular dental check-ups also play a key role here. Monitoring the tooth over time helps ensure that the decay is not worsening and is, in fact, under control.

When a Filling Becomes Necessary

However, there is a point where a filling becomes unavoidable. Once the decay progresses beyond the enamel and creates a visible hole, the



damage can no longer repair itself.

At this stage, the tooth structure is compromised. You may experience sensitivity while eating hot, cold, or sweet foods, or even pain in more severe cases. If the decay reaches the inner layers, it can lead to infection, making timely treatment essential.

A filling works by removing the decayed portion of the tooth and restoring

its shape and function. While it is an effective solution, it is ideally used only when absolutely necessary.

Why Dentists Are Rethinking Fillings

One of the reasons for this shift in approach is that fillings are not permanent. Over time, they can wear out, crack, or need replacement. Each replacement may involve removing more of the natural tooth structure, gradually weakening the tooth. This cycle can sometimes lead to more extensive procedures like crowns or root canals in the future. To avoid this, dental care today is increasingly focused on minimal intervention—preserving as much of the natural tooth as possible and stepping in only when required.

Prevention Is A Better Option

Preventive care is still the most effective way to deal with cavities. Good oral hygiene habits, combined with a mindful diet, can go a long way in protecting your teeth.

Brushing regularly with fluoride toothpaste helps remove plaque and strengthen enamel, while flossing ensures that areas between teeth—where decay often begins—are kept clean.

Cutting down on sugary foods and drinks reduces the fuel that harmful bacteria thrive on. Staying hydrated also helps, as saliva plays a natural role in neutralising acids and protecting the teeth. Routine dental visits remain equally important. Early detection not only makes treatment simpler but can also help you avoid invasive procedures altogether.

Springtime spinach sponge cake with cream cheese icing – recipe

There is a particular green that belongs to spring: pale and luminous, it’s softer than the dark foliage of winter, and quieter than the glossy abundance of summer herbs. Spinach, the colour of new growth, captures this moment perfectly. Tender and almost impossibly vivid, this cake loses its metallic edge in the heat of the oven, leaving a gentle, vegetal brightness. Baked in a shallow tin and spread with cream cheese icing, it produces the perfect ratio of cake to icing and tastes uncommonly good.

A cake for spring, AKA spinach cake

Prep 10 min
Cook 50 min
serves 8-10

For the cake

- 120g baby leaf spinach, stems removed
- 120ml milk
- 200g plain flour
- 1½ tsp baking powder
- ¼ tsp bicarbonate of soda (baking soda)
- ¼ tsp fine sea salt
- 3 large eggs, at room temperature
- 180g caster sugar

Finely grated zest of 1 lime

120ml solid coconut oil, melted and cooled to tepid

1 tsp vanilla extract

For the icing

- 200g cream cheese
- 100g icing sugar, sifted
- Finely grated zest of 1 lime, plus 1 tsp juice
- 80ml double cream

Line the base and sides of a standard 23cm x 33cm x 5cm baking tin and heat the oven to 185C (165C fan)/360F/gas 4½. Put the spinach and milk in a high-speed blender and blitz to a puree. In a medium bowl, sift the flour, baking



powder, baking soda and salt.

In the bowl of an electric mixer fitted with the whisk attachment, beat the eggs, sugar and lime zest on medium-high for three to four minutes, until pale and slightly thickened. Turn down the speed to low, add the spinach puree, coconut oil and vanilla, and mix until just combined. Add the sifted dry ingredients and mix on low speed just until combined.

Srape the batter into the lined tin and bake for about 30 minutes, until a skewer inserted into the middle of the cake

comes out clean. Remove and leave the cake to cool in its tin for about 30 minutes, then transfer to a rack to cool completely. To make the icing, put the cream cheese, icing sugar and lime zest in the bowl of an electric mixer and beat with the paddle attachment on medium-high speed until smooth and creamy. Add the lime juice and double cream, and keep beating until the icing thickens and forms soft waves. Transfer the cake to a serving plate and spread the icing generously on top. Slice into squares to serve.

Karan Johar, Tara Sutaria, Aishwarya Rai Bachchan, and Alia Bhatt are probably going to walk the red carpet



Mumbai: India is scheduled to have a significant presence at the 2026 Cannes Film Festival, which will take place in France from May 12 to May 23 and feature a variety of regional films, directors, and performers. With his film Chardikala, actor-singer Ammy Virk will visit Cannes for the first time, marking a significant milestone for Punjabi cinema. His co-star Roopi Gill will accompany him, making it a noteworthy worldwide appearance for the Punjabi cinema industry. As a member of India's official delegation, filmmaker Ashutosh Gowariker will also participate in the festival. As the director of the International Film Festival of India (IFFI), he

will speak on behalf of the nation. This year, Marathi films will also be screened at Cannes. Producer Kedar Joshi, actress Prajakta Mali, and veteran actors Ashok and Nivedita Saraf are anticipated to be present. According to a statement, the group intends to showcase its regional identity at the international

event by dressing in traditional Marathi clothing. Actor-producer Mansi Parekh, together with singer and producer Parthiv Gohil, will represent Gujarati cinema. Their presence is indicative of Gujarati cinema's increasing desire to expand its audience. Filmmaker Chidambaram, who works in the Malayalam film business, will bring his movie Balan: The Boy to Cannes.

This follows the current attention Malayalam films have earned on a global scale. Bollywood will be heavily represented during the festival as well. L'Oréal's worldwide spokesperson, Aishwarya Rai Bachchan, will be back. Alia Bhatt, an actress, is also anticipated to be present. The event will also feature actors Tara Sutaria, Mouni Roy, and Pooja Batra, as well as filmmaker Karan Johar.

Missile strikes in the UAE caused Ameesha Patel's trip from New York to Mumbai to be rerouted

Mumbai: Actor Ameesha Patel expressed her anguish after recent missile attacks in the United Arab Emirates caused her connecting flight from New York to Mumbai to be diverted to Muscat. The actor, who was stranded at Dubai International Airport for hours due to this problem, posted updates about her circumstances on her X account on Monday night. Ameesha posted, "On my way back to MUMBAI from NEW YORK on Emirates!" on her X account. Due to new missile attacks, UAE airspace was closed as we were ready to arrive! We are now awaiting more updates after being redirected to MUSCAT! When will this war stop (emotions of folded hands)? praying. A few hours later on Tuesday morning, she posted a photo taken inside the Dubai airport as part of another update. "I've been at the airport in Dubai for hours! And the wait goes on. 'I am eager to return home to Mumbai,'" she wrote in the description. The star posted a second photo of herself and two other team members from the airport lounge. They were all seated around a table. We left New York City 24 hours ago, and we're still counting down the hours till we get to Mumbai. Unlimited time in the airport lounge According to a senior US admiral on Monday, the US destroyed six of Tehran's small boats



and shot down other Iranian missiles and drones that were aimed against US Navy and commercial ships. As part of an initiative known as "Project Freedom" that President Donald Trump unveiled on Sunday, American soldiers are attempting to allow commercial maritime movement through the Strait of Hormuz. "The Ministry of Defense says that the sounds heard in different regions of the country are the result of the UAE air defense systems intercepting ballistic missiles, cruise missiles, and drones. The UAE's air defenses are now dealing with missile assaults and incoming drones from Iran. Threats from missiles and UAVs

are being actively addressed by UAE Air Defense systems. The Ministry of Defense stated on X that "MOD asserts that the sounds heard across the country are the result of ongoing engaging operations of missiles and UAVs." Iran closed the Strait of Hormuz, a crucial route for the export of gas and oil, when US and Israeli forces began fighting the country on February 28. American forces then began to embargo Iranian ports. Earlier on Monday, Iranian state media reported that the country's navy had fired combat drones, rockets, and cruise missiles close to US destroyers passing through the strait in what it called a "warning shot."

Vidya Balan and Irrfan Khan's unreleased movie At last, The Last Tenant is available on YouTube

Mumbai: The Last Tenant was quietly released on YouTube on the sixth anniversary of Irrfan Khan's death, bringing a rare piece of cinematic history back from the archives. A young Irrfan and Vidya Balan appear in the movie, providing a unique look into their early roles. Sarthak Dasgupta wrote and directed the movie, which was shot about 25 years ago. Neena and Sarthak Dasgupta produced it. The Last Tenant is a rare and important turning point in Vidya Balan's career since it is said to be one of her first works, potentially even her first following her brief television appearance. Additionally, it is the only time she and Irrfan Khan have worked together on screen. The film, which honored the late actor and gave viewers a moving look into a long-lost era of Indian cinema, was eventually released on April 29 after being unreleased for almost 25 years. After its initial footage was lost, The Last Tenant was put on hold for more than 20 years, leaving it in limbo. The project's director and producer, Sarthak Dasgupta, had all but given up until a recent find. He was able to retrieve a VHS copy of the movie, which at last allowed for the restoration and public release of this long-lost effort. He remarked, "I was a novice with everything



to learn," in reference to the film's protracted releasing process. I hadn't helped anyone. I had never attended film school. Books could not be ordered from Amazon. You can't watch tutorials on YouTube. I had set out on a trip driven solely by intuition, but I wasn't sure if it would turn into a job. This film is made much more poignant by its current release as a tribute to Irrfan. It's like going back to a dream you've forgotten. Additionally, the movie is Dasgupta's directing debut, which is a pivotal moment in his career. His decision to pursue filmmaking instead of a

corporate career after completing his engineering and MBA degrees ultimately influenced his artistic path. Later on, he directed the Music Teacher and 200 Halla Ho, which starred Rinku Rajguru and Amol Palekar. He expanded into long-form storytelling and produced a number of online series, including Dharavi Bank. The film, which is now available to viewers everywhere, provides an engaging glimpse into the early years of two performers who would later revolutionize acting in Indian cinema. Alongside the early indications of Vidya Balan's captivating on-screen appeal, one can see the beginnings of Irrfan Khan's modest yet profoundly expressive screen presence even in its raw, unpolished stage. The story revolves around a distraught musician who, before departing the nation, takes sanctuary in an abandoned home. Memory, music, and longing eventually start to blend together in its eerie, quiet corners. Nothing goes as planned for the protagonist when he embarks on his adventure. Dasgupta's unique vision, which brought together a bunch of young actors to create something subtle yet subtly enchanting, was the only source of funding and assurances when the film was conceived in 2000.

Mom-to-be Deepika Padukone will not attend the 2026 Met Gala for the same reason as Priyanka Chopra

Mumbai: Deepika Padukone, a Bollywood actress, is quite busy. While filming two movies, she and her husband, Ranveer Singh, are expecting their second kid. Thus, it makes sense that she might not be able to make it to this year's Met Gala in New York, USA. The same has now been confirmed by a source. There was back and forth on Deepika's attendance at the Met Gala, but it turns out that she won't. This occurs one day after a fan shared a blue, AI-generated photo of the expectant actor purportedly attending the pre-Gala dinner. "Films have always been and continue to be her priority," the person says. Her top focus right now is finishing the filming of King, which will be released at the end of this year, and Raaka, which will be released next year. Deepika

was recently seen in Cape Town filming King, directed by Siddharth Anand, alongside Shah Rukh Khan. The director had to ask fans not to post the images and videos of them when they became viral on social media. In the images, Shah Rukh was even seen kindly assisting her in climbing the steps. Deepika has a Telugu movie planned in addition to King, which would be released this Christmas. She has already completed an action scene for Atlee's Raaka, which she is filming alongside Allu Arjun. In 2017, 2018, and 2019, Deepika went to the Met Gala three times. For her debut, she donned a Tommy Hilfiger slip dress, then a pink Zac Posen gown and a red Prabal Gurung gown. The actor recently made headlines when she shared a cute photo of her

first kid, daughter Dua, holding a positive pregnancy test to reveal her second pregnancy. British Vogue reports that Priyanka is also working on Varanasi, her next movie starring Mahesh Babu and Prithviraj Sukumaran and directed by SS Rajamouli. On the first Monday of May, she is said to be busy filming in Antarctica. The actor remarked, "I mean..." in reference to this year's Met Gala theme, Fashion is Art. What? With that, you can accomplish anything! To be honest, watching can be just as enjoyable. The star-studded event is scheduled for Monday, May 4. Beyoncé, Nicole Kidman, and Venus Williams are co-chairs this year, while Jeff and Lauren Sánchez Bezos are the main sponsors. As the event's official co-chair, Anna Wintour is in charge.

Nauheed, an actor, talks about missing parts because he declined a kissing scene

Mumbai: When it comes to discussing the harsh reality of the acting industry and what really goes on behind the scenes, actor and influencer Nauheed Cyrusi isn't holding back. The Anwar actor has mostly avoided on-screen jobs in recent years, but she is finally speaking up and addressing the reasons behind it after fans have questioned her absence on numerous occasions. In recent years, Cyrusi's popularity on Instagram has increased, and on May 4, she posted a video explaining why she hasn't been in the big screen. The actor-turned-influencer talked candidly about how some of the expectations associated with working in the profession made her feel really uneasy. Nauheed opened her video with a skincare routine and responded to a commonly asked question about her upcoming projects, addressing various challenges within the film industry. Although she acknowledges the excitement of being part of the industry, she expressed discomfort regarding unspoken expectations around intimate scenes, which are often considered a norm in contracts. She mentioned that signing a contract too frequently implies consent to engage in kissing or intimate scenes, a situation she finds unsettling. Nauheed criticized the trend of adding unnecessary intimacy in films, stating, "Even now they keep adding kissing scenes. I just don't think we look good on screen kissing."



Her refusal to participate in such scenes has come with professional repercussions, as she revealed that she has been rejected for roles due to her discomfort with filming intimacy. She explained that her discomfort leads her to be passed over even before she can formally accept or decline roles. Additionally, she called attention to issues with producers regarding unpaid dues, noting that a significant portion of her payments is often withheld under various pretexts. "They would say, arre picture acchi nahi hui, chali nahi," she recounted, underscoring the challenges actors face when trying to hold producers accountable. While applying skincare products,

Nauheed voiced her frustrations over contracts not being honored, stating that producers might hold back as much as 25% of her payment, claiming poor performance of the film as justification. She reflected on not feeling part of the elite circles within the industry, suggesting this lack of connection may have shaped her career. As a result, she has often been relegated to smaller roles, which she prefers to avoid. Emphasizing her evolving identity, she acknowledged finding purpose as an Instagram influencer, stating, "Insta is truly my calling." This newfound role has provided her a platform where she feels more authentic and connected to her audience.

As Ayushmaan's girlfriend Samiksha moves in with them, Archana Puran Singh applauds

Mumbai: Parmeet Sethi and Archana Puran Singh's family welcomed a new addition months after their older son Aaryamann Sethi moved in with his fiancée, actor Yogita Bihani. This time, Samiksha, the fiancée of their younger son Ayushmaan Sethi, moved home, and Archana greeted her with enthusiastic applause. Samiksha's momentous relocation into her boyfriend Ayushmaan's house was revealed in Aaryamann's most recent vlog. In the video, Samiksha was seen holding a big coffee maker as they gathered the rest of her possessions from her home. She said, "This is dahej (dowry)," while jokingly displaying it to the camera. "My father really needs this coffee maker," Aaryamann continued, laughing. When they got to the house, Ayushmaan took Samiksha in his arms and carried her inside. Archana exclaimed, "Look at this, oh my God," as she clapped and grinned at the lovely moment from the balcony. "He brought me all the way up to



the sofa because he was saying when mom and dad got married, he picked mom up four floors," Samiksha later told Parmeet about the experience. "You do all kinds of idiotic things when you're young," Parmeet joked in response. The touching gesture thrilled fans. "Such a sweet gesture towards his girlfriend," someone said. incredibly charming. The way to handle apni pasandida aurat (favorite woman) is exemplified by Parmeet Sir. "Ayushmaan picking up his girl took my heart," wrote another. "I always liked Ayushmaan for his cute-

ness, and now look at the romantic gesture he pulled off," said a third. "So cute," said another commenter. What a lovely pair. Ayushmaan wants to be an actress. In his vlogs, he disclosed that he obtained an offer from an Ivy League university and placed among the top 100 students worldwide in his Class 12 exams. He declined it, nevertheless, in order to pursue his love of performing. Additionally, Archana revealed that her son has been turned down for several auditions but has persisted. "I want to make my parents' name more famous, and I want to make good movies and do good work," Ayushmaan said in an interview with Instant Bollywood. This is my objective. In 2024, Archana Puran Singh started her YouTube career by posting videos on food challenges and family vacations. After her content became well-known, Aaryamann launched his own vlogs to provide viewers a glimpse into his personal and professional life.

Alia Bhatt will make a comeback to the Cannes Film Festival

Mumbai: The names of Indian celebrities who will walk the red carpet and attend the Cannes Film Festival, the largest celebration of cinema, have begun to surface. The festival starts later this month. And many will return, even though some of the biggest celebrities from Bollywood and beyond are scheduled to attend Cannes 2026. Once again, Aishwarya Rai, who has been a mainstay at the event for more than 20 years, will walk the red carpet. Additionally, Alia Bhatt, who made a remarkable debut at the festival last year, will be returning. This year's Cannes

will feature a diverse cast of performers and filmmakers from various regional-language film industries, highlighting India's rich cinematic heritage. Aishwarya Rai Bachchan, who frequently attends Cannes, comes back this year as a worldwide spokesperson for L'Oréal. Alia Bhatt, who is also scheduled to participate on the red carpet, will accompany her. Tara Sutaria will make her Cannes red carpet debut this year, ahead of the release of her film Toxic later this year, according to a recent HT article. Among the well-known Bollywood actors who are anticipated to at-

tend are Karan Johar, Mouni Roy, and Pooja Batra. As the recently appointed director of the International Film Festival of India (IFFI), filmmaker Ashutosh Gowariker will represent the official delegation from India.

There will also be a number of prominent figures and mainstays from local film. This year, Ammy Virk and Roopi Gill's film Chardikala will make its first appearance at Cannes. Ashok Saraf and Nivedita Saraf, two seasoned Marathi actors, will also be there. They will be wearing traditional Marathi clothing on the Cannes red carpet alongside

Prajakta Mali and producer Kedar Joshi. Actor-producer Mansi Parekh, along with her husband, singer and producer Parthiv Gohil, will represent Gujarati cinema. Filmmaker Chidambaram, who is best known for Manjummel Boys, will bring his forthcoming film Balan: The Boy to the Cannes market this year, showcasing the finest of Malayalam cinema. With performers from various film sectors from all over the nation, this is arguably the most varied group of Indian actors to attend Cannes at the same time. Every summer, Cannes, arguably the most presti-

gious film festival in the world, takes place on the French Riviera and draws hundreds of up-and-coming actors and directors in addition to some of the biggest movie stars. While some films vie for showing at the film market run concurrently, many compete in the main parts. A number of high-profile premieres from European film titans and Hollywood studios are also held at the festival. However, this year's list of films vying for the highest prize, the Palme d'Or, noticeably lacks major Hollywood companies. The dates of the 2026 Cannes Film Festival are May 12–23.

Trinamool Does Nothing in Nine Bengal Districts, From Hills To Jungal Mahal

New Delhi, May 05: In order to paint the state saffron in the historic election, the BJP defeated the Trinamool Congress in nine of West Bengal's twenty-three districts, winning all 68 seats available in these areas. The mandate in these nine districts, which range from the hills of north Bengal to the central region of the south, demonstrated that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had accurately predicted during his campaign trail that the TMC would fail to open its account in several districts as the party marched to power in the state for the first time.

The TMC's 15-year hegemony came to an end as the BJP gained 206 seats to secure more than a two-thirds majority in the West Bengal assembly elections. The TMC was reduced to about 80 seats in the 294-member Assembly. The outcome completed the BJP's saffron arc spanning "Anga, Banga, and Kalinga" (Bihar, Bengal, and Odisha) and sig-



naled the party's conclusive breach of its final significant eastern stronghold. The Purba Medinipur district, where the BJP's most notable poll achiever, Suwendu Adhikari, made sure the party's domination was complete, is at the top of the party's performance list. BJP improved on its previous poll performance of 15 to 1 by winning all 16 of the district's seats. The TMC continued to hold a lead in the Patashpur assembly segment, according to the

results of the 2024 general elections. Since Adhikari defected to the BJP in 2020, observers believe his influence has grown in the backyard of his hometown of Kanthi, and the results of the state elections in 2026 revealed that he now has complete control over the district. In the four districts with eighteen seats in the hills—Darjeeling, Kalimpong, Jalpaiguri, and Alipurduar—the TMC, or even its allies, were unable to make an impression. In all

of north Bengal, the BJP won 40 of the 54 assembly seats, reducing the number of seats held by the Trinamool from its previous 23 to just 14. With the BJP winning all hill seats, discussions regarding the Gorkha Territorial Administration (GTA) have intensified. Union Home Minister Amit Shah's statement about a "permanent solution" to hill problems has been interpreted as a potential move to dismantle the GTA.

TMC's ally, Bharatiya Gorkha Prajatantrik Morcha, faced defeat, and its leader Anit Thapa blamed anti-establishment sentiments. In central Bengal's Jungal Mahal region, TMC suffered a significant loss partly due to shifts in tribal community support to BJP candidates. The TMC's internal issues and perceived arrogance contributed to its poor performance, while former TMC members joining the BJP framed the election result as a call for reindustrialization and job creation in Bengal.

Following Bengal's victory, a BJP worker makes PM Modi a silver lotus



New Delhi, May 05: In honor of the party's historic victory in West Bengal, Rinku Chauhan, a jeweler and BJP employee from Jammu, created a silver lotus to present to Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Chauhan claims that he waited for the "lotus to bloom in Bengal" for fifteen years. He spent two months painstakingly sculpting three kilograms of silver into

the BJP's party emblem, working through the night to commemorate the occasion. "This silver lotus symbolizes the tenacity and commitment of BJP workers like me," Chauhan remarked. Since PM Modi has been the driving force behind this win, we wanted to give him something unique. "The party symbol is the best," Chauhan continues. Anjali Chauhan, his wife, remembers the passion

that went into creating the masterpiece. He frequently neglected to eat dinner. She remembers, "He was so engrossed in creating this silver lotus, putting his heart into every detail." The end product is an exquisitely detailed silver lotus that was created by hand. As a reminder of the party's incredible victory in West Bengal, Chauhan now hopes the homage ends up at either the Prime Minister's home or the BJP's Delhi headquarters.

The All India Trinamool Congress, led by Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, one of Prime Minister Modi's most outspoken detractors, ruled West Bengal for more than 15 years. The majority mark in the Assembly, which has 294 members, is 196. Results for 293 constituencies were released on Monday. The Election Commission of India said that the Falta seat in the South 24 Parganas district would be polled again on May 21, with counting for that seat due on May 24. The BJP easily defeated the Trinamool Congress, which only achieved 81 seats, with 206 seats in the announced results. The AISF and the Aam Janata Unnayan Party won one and two seats, respectively, while the Congress won two and the CPI(M) one.

After suing his parents for pressuring him into politics, Vijay had a change of heart



New Delhi, May 05: In the 2026 Tamil Nadu assembly elections, Vijay's Tamilaga Vetttri Kazhagam (TVK) outperformed numerous predictions and became the state's largest party.

The actor-turned-politician has a good chance of becoming Tamil Nadu's next chief minister. According to results released on Monday, the TVK, which was founded in 2024, secured 107 seats in the 234-member Tamil Nadu assembly. The NDA got 53 seats, whereas the DMK coalition, which is currently in power, won 74. This indicates that, although falling short of the majority threshold, the actor's newest party is in a strong position to become the government. However, there was a period of time when Vijay had no interest in going into politics. He had even filed a lawsuit

against his parents for encouraging him to follow suit. In 2020, Vijay's father, SA Chandrashekar, turned the actor's already-existing fan club into a political organization by founding Vijay Makkal Iyakam (VMI). Shobha Chandrashekar, Vijay's mother and Chandrashekar's wife, became the party's treasurer, while Chandrashekar was appointed general secretary. However, it seems that they had not discussed the matter with their kid.

Vijay sued 11 individuals, including his parents, in September 2021 to prevent them from exploiting his name, photos, or the name of his fan club for political purposes. Declaring that he had no direct or indirect affiliation with the party his father founded, Vijay legally disassociated himself from his father's political endeavors.

Vijay formally founded TVK in February 2024, following his father's advice. In September of that year, the party registered with the Election Commission.

The party claims that TVK upholds the values of Dr. BR Ambedkar, Periyar, and K Kamaraj and is in line with secular social justice and egalitarianism. Vijay had tested the waters in the state's local body elections through his fan club, but the 2026 Tamil Nadu assembly elections marked his first direct entry into political politics. Additionally, he won the constituencies of Perambur and Tiruchi East after making an outstanding debut. His party fell short of the majority threshold of 118 with 107. However, he broke the DMK-AIADMK duopoly that had existed in Tamil Nadu since 1967.

The Mumbai Indians Explain the Real Cause of Hardik Pandya's LSG Match Absence

New Delhi: Just before their Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026 match against the Lucknow Super Giants began on Monday, the Mumbai Indians pulled off a huge surprise. Captain Hardik Pandya was absent from the game, leaving fans perplexed when Suryakumar Yadav left for the toss. Remarkably, Ryan Rickelton, Hardik's MI teammate, was unaware of the captain's injuries until Monday afternoon. Rickelton disclosed what had truly transpired after the game. Rohit Sharma's return to the team was made possible by Hardik, who has been heavily criticized during Mumbai's dismal campaign. Corbin Bosch took Trent Boult's place on the side, but the rest of the



lineup stayed the same. When questioned about Hardik's absence, MI's stand-in captain Suryakumar

Before their match against CSK, the Delhi Capitals speak out about Lungi Ngidi

New Delhi: Delhi Capitals are set to benefit from the return of Lungi Ngidi ahead of their pivotal match against Chennai Super Kings on Tuesday. Ngidi, who was sidelined due to a head injury sustained while attempting to catch a lofted shot from Priyansh Arya during a previous match against Punjab Kings, will bolster the bowling lineup. After being stretched off the field and requiring hospital treatment, his recovery has been swift, and both he and the team's bowling coach, Munaf Patel, express confidence in his reintroduction to the squad. The addition of Mitchell Starc, who recently joined the team and made an immediate impact with three wickets against Rajasthan Royals, further strengthens the bowling unit. Patel emphasizes the critical role of wicket-taking

bowlers during the PowerPlay, highlighting their ability to shift momentum and enhance the team's overall performance. He states, "Starc's presence is bound to make a difference," emphasizing that having a strong bowler can prevent high totals from becoming chaseable.

Patel stresses the urgency of winning all remaining matches to secure playoff qualification, pointing out that without early wickets during PowerPlay, even significant totals remain attainable. He reiterates the necessity of pushing for victory, implying that confidence is a byproduct of winning, and alludes to the proficiency of the team's spinners. He asserts, "We are not going to see too many changes in the wickets," signifying a steady reliance on their current strategies.

Raghav Chadha meets President Murmu with other MPs

New Delhi, May 05: Along with six other Rajya Sabha MPs, Raghav Chadha recently defected from the AAP to the BJP. He said that his former party was engaging in retaliatory politics and that he would be the "next target." Chadha met with President Droupadi Murmu on Tuesday alongside MPs Sandeep Pathak and Ashok Mittal. They expressed concerns about the conduct of the AAP-led Punjab government against certain MPs. In an interview with the media, Chadha stated, "We told the President about the way the Punjab government has been using state machinery for dangerous vendetta politics against the MPs who left AAP to join the BJP." "Sources claim that I will be their next target. Chadha went on, "The Punjab government hired agencies to threaten us on social media." His accusations against the AAP followed reports of two FIRs against MP Sandeep Gupta in the state and searches by the Punjab Pollution Control Board (PPCB) on a textile major's unit connected to MP Rajinder Gupta in Dhaula.

On May 9, the anniversary of Tagore's birth, the BJP government in Bengal will take an oath



New Delhi, May 05: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is expected to take the oath of office to create the new government in West Bengal on May 9, which falls on Rabindra Jayanti, the anniversary of Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore's birth, in a gesture full of cultural and political symbolism. This date is regarded as a new beginning in the state, according to sources close to the party and government formation process. Sa-

mik Bhattacharya, the president of the BJP State, also verified the date. "The oath-taking ceremony of the new Chief Minister of West Bengal will take place on 9th May..." Bhattacharya stated. This timing was clearly indicated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at his last campaign event in Barrackpore. "I am going back with the confidence that after the results on May 4, I will come back here to attend the BJP's oath-taking ceremony," he said. Speaking to party workers at the BJP headquarters in New Delhi after Bengal's historic verdict on Monday, Prime Minister Modi cited Tagore's principles, stating that the BJP is determined to establish a Bengal "where the mind is without fear and the head is held high" reflecting the everlasting vision of Gurudev. Principal Secretary S B Joshi and Secretary Sujit Kumar Mishra of the Election Commission of India will travel from Delhi to Kolkata today (May 5) in order to deliver the official gazette notice of the election results to Chief Electoral Officer Manoj Kumar Agarwal.

On May 6, the Governor will ask departing Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee to submit her resignation in accordance with constitutional tradition after the CEO formally briefs Governor RN Ravi. In order to ensure smooth administrative continuity in the state, Governor RN Ravi is then anticipated to ask Mamata Banerjee to serve as interim Chief Minister until the new administration is sworn in. According to reports, this proposed date on Pochishhe Boishakh (May 9) not only fits with typical post-election schedules but also has strong emotional resonance in a state that honors Tagore, the author of our national song. This day, which is observed with great reverence throughout the state on the 25th of Baishakh, is a celebration of Bengali-ness itself rather than just a birthday. From morning recitations in homes and schools to cultural events that fill the air with his ageless verses, Tagore's poetry, music (Rabindra Sangeet), literature, and humanist philosophy comprise the very core of Bengali culture.

As Pant struggles through a season that never really took off, Langer holds the line



New Delhi: Under Gautam Gambhir's guidance, the Lucknow Super Giants have changed significantly from their first two IPL seasons. Their campaign failed in 2025, as they placed eighth in the standings. They are facing down the barrel a year later in the hopes of avoiding the wooden spoon in the 2026 Indian Premier League. Lucknow is currently on a six-match losing streak after managing six wins in 14 games the previous season.

This year, they have only managed two victories. After securing the big signing

at the mega auction prior to the 2025 season, owner Sanjiv Goenka boldly declared that Rishabh Pant was the "next MS Dhoni and Rohit Sharma." However, Pant, who was once hailed as the next big thing in Indian cricket, has fallen short of those expectations both as a batsman and as a captain.

Pant has taken the brunt of LSG's demise, and criticism of him has only grown with each game and loss this season. His captaincy has been questioned by many, his form has been questioned by oth-

ers, and some have even questioned his presence in the team, let alone his leadership role. However, head coach Justin Langer, who coached Australia during the 2020-21 Border-Gavaskar series and saw Pant's red-ball heroics, has stood his own, attempting to protect the India star from the growing criticism this season.

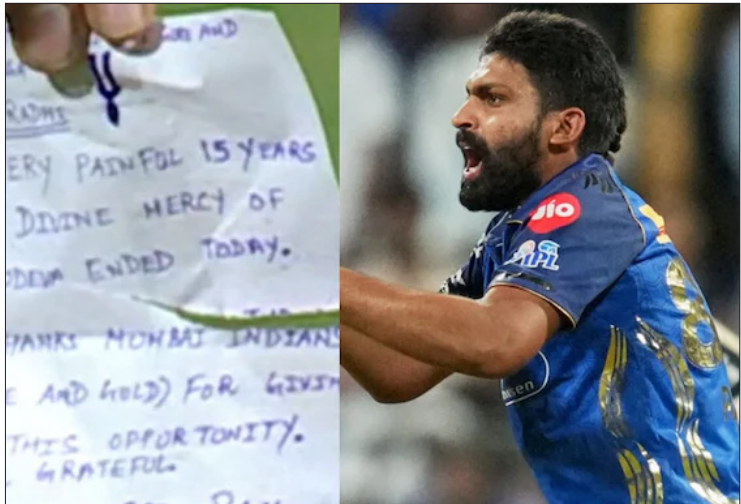
After LSG's defeat to the Mumbai Indians on Monday, where Pant was dismissed for 15 off 10, Langer remarked, "It's funny, we played a practice game here two days ago, and Rishy, I think, got maybe 95 off 40 balls or 30 balls or something, and you're just looking at that game and going, 'Oh my god, that's Rishabh Pant at his very best.'" In addition to his poor form, Pant has had trouble settling on a batting position. In the eighth game of the season, he went back to his typical No. 4 position after starting as an opener and falling to No. 3. Nicholas Pooran, who returned to No. 3 and shot a 21-ball 63, benefited from the shift, but Pant's case has not improved as a result of the ongoing movement. "He's a very good player," Langer stated, noting the potential of Rishabh Pant after a seven-day break. Pant selflessly moved down the batting order, displaying his commitment.

Critics have pointed to his dip in form as a burden of captaincy and expectations; in 2025, he managed 269 runs over 14 games, with 118 in a dead rubber, and only 204 runs in 2026 at a strike rate of 128.30.

Watch: MI's Raghu Sharma Shares An Emotional Message After Claiming His Maiden IPL Wicket

New Delhi: Raghu Sharma made an emotional celebration after taking his maiden IPL wicket for Mumbai Indians in their match against Lucknow Super Giants on Monday, May 4 at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai. In his second IPL match, Raghu opened his account by dismissing debutant Akshat Raghuwanshi. The 33-year-old got Raghuwanshi with a clever flighted delivery that induced a mistimed push, as a pad-and-bat deflection lobbed back for a simple caught-and-bowled. Thereafter, Raghu pulled out a note from his pocket and celebrated by displaying it as his teammates gathered around him. The note read, "A very painful 15 years. By divine mercy of Gurudev ended today."

Thanks Mumbai Indians (Blue and Gold) for giving me this opportunity. Ever grateful." The message captured the essence of his long struggle in domestic cricket and his delayed arrival on the IPL stage. Having debuted late and spent years outside the spotlight, the wicket symbolised the culmination of perseverance, faith, and patience. Raghu Sharma delivered a steady outing with the ball against the Super



Giants, finishing with figures of 4-0-36-1. The leg-spinner made an early impact dismissing Raghuwanshi. He mixed his pace and lengths effectively, troubling batters with drift and subtle variations.

He kept things tight through the middle overs, even as Rishabh Pant and Aiden Markram looked to accelerate. While he was taken on for a couple of sixes, Raghu showed composure, maintaining control and forcing bat-

ters into risks. His spell reflected both promise and discipline, marking a confident step forward in his IPL journey. Raghu has endured his share of struggles over the years, having played only 30 matches across first-class, List A and T20 cricket since making his debut back in 2017. Born in Jalandhar, the leg-spinner represented Punjab and Puducherry, making his first-class debut in the 2017-18 Ranji Trophy. He impressed in red-ball cricket, picking

up 57 wickets in 12 matches, including multiple five-wicket and ten-wicket hauls. In limited-overs formats, he gained attention during the 2024-25 Vijay Hazare Trophy, claiming 14 wickets in eight matches. His breakthrough came in 2025 when Mumbai Indians signed him as a mid-season replacement.

Having earlier served as a net bowler with the franchise, Sharma's steady progress and exposure to top-level cricket earned him recognition and a continued role within the setup. Raghu Sharma, a relatively lesser-known but steadily rising name in Indian domestic cricket, has carved his journey through persistence, late recognition, and consistent performances in the domestic circuit. Born in 1993 in Jalandhar, Punjab, Sharma is a right-arm leg-break bowler who also contributes as a lower-order right-handed batter. Sharma's cricketing foundation was built in domestic cricket, where he represented Punjab and later Puducherry across formats. He made his first-class debut during the 2017-18 Ranji Trophy season and gradually established himself as a dependable spinner.

Neymar Accused of Assaulting Santos Teammate After Heated Training Clash

New Delhi: Neymar has landed in controversy after an alleged altercation with teammate Robinho Jr. during a Santos training session. The incident has led to serious accusations and forced Santos FC to step in. The clash is reported to have taken place during Sunday's training, with tensions escalating after an on-field moment between the two players.

While Neymar has not commented publicly, the matter has quickly gained attention after formal complaints were made. Santos have since confirmed that an internal investigation has been launched into the incident. With Robinho Jr. reportedly accusing Neymar of physical misconduct and even considering his future at the club, the situation has taken a serious turn ahead of Santos' upcoming fixtures. According to ESPN, the incident began after Robinho Jr. dribbled past Neymar during training, which reportedly did not sit well



with the senior player. Neymar is alleged to have reacted by tripping the youngster, leading to a heated exchange between the two. The situation escalated quickly, with teammates stepping in to separate them as tensions boiled over. Robinho Jr. has accused Neymar of using offensive language, tripping him, and delivering a slap during the altercation.

The 18-year-old is said to have been deeply upset by the incident. Sources also suggest Neymar later attempted to calm things down by reaching out to Robinho Jr. and his family with an

apology, though the matter remains unresolved. Santos have initiated an investigation through their legal department into the events of May 3.

The club has stated that the matter is being reviewed and that appropriate action will follow based on the findings. Robinho Jr.'s representatives have also sent an extrajudicial notice to the club, demanding action and raising concerns over player safety. There are also reports that Robinho Jr. could consider terminating his contract if the situation is not handled adequately.

Karthik Says Kohli Backed Him To Take On RCB Coaching Role

Kohli's Support Led Karthik To RCB Coaching Role

New Delhi: Former Indian wicketkeeper-batter Dinesh Karthik has credited Virat Kohli as a key reason for taking up the role of batting coach and mentor at Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB), a year after announcing his retirement from all formats of international cricket. Karthik revealed how RCB's Director of Cricket, Mo Bobat, first planted the idea of him joining the franchise as part of the support staff during IPL 2024, and how a final push from Kohli helped seal the decision.

The 40-year-old eventually became a crucial part of the setup as RCB lifted their maiden IPL title last year, defeating Punjab Kings in the final in Ahmedabad. "It all began when, as I was finishing up in 2024, Mo asked me if I would be interested.



I was in the middle of the tournament, and it was a very different IPL season. We had lost six out of seven or seven out of eight games, I don't remember exactly, and had a mountain to climb. To be fair, nobody gave us a chance," Karthik said on the RCB podcast. He explained that the decision wasn't easy, as he discussed it at length with his wife, Mo Bobat, and Malolan Rangarajan, RCB's Head of Scouting

and Fielding Coach, to better understand the opportunity. "Mo was very confident I would be useful to the team. I trust him a lot; I've grown very fond of him and share a very good equation with him. He didn't try to convince me, but instead showed me exactly what the role would look like and told me it was a good place to be, considering where I was in my career. I completely trusted him, and I took the plunge," he added.

Karthik further revealed that Kohli encouraged him to seriously consider the offer, suggesting it would be a good fit. He also mentioned that head coach Andy Flower was keen to have him on board. "Towards the back end of the season, I spoke to Virat for a while, and he was very encouraging.

He said, 'Think about it, I think it's good,'" Karthik continued. "When the offer officially came at the end of the season, after I hung up my boots, Mo called to say they were keen. He also mentioned that Andy was very happy and that they felt having a couple of Indian coaches would help." In the end, Kohli's words, "You should do it. You would probably fit in quite nicely", proved to be the final push Karthik needed before making his decision.

FIFA Rejects Reliance-Disney Bid Leaving World Cup Telecast In India Uncertain

New Delhi: For Indian football fans, the countdown to the 2026 FIFA World Cup has come with an unexpected twist, there might not be a broadcaster yet. With barely weeks to go before kickoff, the biggest sporting event on the planet is still searching for a home in one of its fastest-growing markets. It's a strange spot to be in. Usually by now, promos are everywhere and fans know exactly where to tune in. This time, it's all quiet. No confirmed TV partner, no streaming giant locking it in, just a lot of waiting. At the centre of this uncertainty is a deal that didn't quite land.

The Reliance-Disney joint venture, which many expected to walk away with the rights, saw its bid rejected by FIFA. What followed is a rare standoff between global football's biggest body and India's biggest media players. And now, with the tournament kicking off on June 11, the clock is ticking. Fast. What makes this even more unusual is the scale. FIFA has already locked in broadcast deals across more than 175 territories. India, along with China, is one of the few major markets still hanging in uncertainty, something that almost never happens this close to a World Cup. At its core, this is a valuation mismatch. FIFA initially wanted around \$100 mil-



lion for the India rights package, later bringing that number down significantly. But even then, broadcasters weren't convinced. The Reliance-Disney joint venture reportedly offered around \$20 million. For FIFA, that was too low. For broadcasters, going much higher didn't make business sense. The reasons are pretty straightforward. Most matches will be played in late-night to early-morning slots for India (12:30 AM to 7 AM IST), which hurts viewership and ad revenues. And in a market still dominated by cricket, investing heavily in football rights remains a calculated risk. At this point, it's still up in the air.

There's no confirmed broadcaster yet, but that usually doesn't stay unresolved for long, especially with a World Cup this close. Most signs point towards a late deal rather than a complete black-out, but until something is signed, it's a bit of a waiting game. The valuation mismatch in the FIFA-Reliance-Disney deal centered on a significant gap between FIFA's asking price and the joint venture's offer for the 2026 World Cup broadcast rights in India. While FIFA initially sought approximately \$100 million for a package including both the 2026 and 2030 tournaments, the Reliance-Disney round \$20 million.

Virat Kohli Leads RCB's Emotional "Family" Tribute To Evan Speechly

Bengaluru: Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) paid a heartfelt tribute to former Head Physio Evan Speechly, who served the franchise for 18 years from 2008 to 2025, marking the end of an era for one of the team's longest-standing members. Speechly, a key figure behind the scenes through RCB's journey across seasons, returned to Bengaluru for a special farewell organised by the franchise, bringing together players and support staff to celebrate his contribution, according to a release. Leading the tribute, Virat Kohli spoke about the bond he shared with Speechly over the years: "I've probably spent the most amount of time with you in the RCB setup. You're one of the OGs. Apart from your hard work and professionalism, the thing that will always stand out is your kindness, care, and integrity. That's something I'll always carry with me. To say that you'll always be a part of this family, you always have been, and you always will be. We'll remember you fondly forever." Reflecting on Speechly's impact, Director of Cricket Mo Bobat said: "Evan has been



our lead physio for a huge amount of time. We wanted to bring him back to recognise his contribution, spend some time with him, and celebrate everything he's done for RCB." Moved by the gesture, Evan Speechly expressed his gratitude and deep connection with the franchise: "When I walked into the hotel yesterday, it felt like coming home. So many of us have been here a long time, and RCB has always felt like family. Everyone in world cricket would love to spend even one season here, I've been fortunate to have had 18. I'll always feel a part of RCB." Speechly's tenure with

RCB spanned nearly two decades, during which he worked closely with players across generations, becoming a respected and trusted figure within the squad. As the franchise continues its journey, the farewell served as a reminder of the people behind the scenes who shape its culture and legacy.

RCB will be aiming for their seventh win in the tournament, consolidating their hold in the top two, while the Shubman Gill-led Titans will be aiming to get back on track, with four wins and four losses in the tournament so far. They are at the fifth place in the tournament. In their all-time seven matches

against GT, Virat has scored 432 runs in seven innings at an average of 86.40 and a strike rate of 149.4, including a century and four fifties. His last outing against GT saw him score 81 in 44 balls at a scorching strike rate of over 184 in a run-chase of 206 runs. As things stand, Virat is the fifth-highest run-getter in the tournament so far, with 351 runs in eight innings at an average of 58.50 and a strike rate of 162.50, with three fifties and a best score of 81.

Rabada has dismissed Virat four times in 15 innings, with Virat having made 90 runs at an average of over 22 against him, at a strike rate of 126.76, including eight fours and three sixes. Krishna enjoys a better match-up with Virat, having dismissed him thrice in eight innings. The veteran batter has scored 69 runs against him at an average of 23, with a strike rate of over 168, including nine fours and a six. "It all began when, as I was finishing up in 2024, Mo asked me if I would be interested. I was in the middle of the tournament, and it was a very different IPL season. We had lost six out of seven or seven out of eight games, I don't remember exactly.

Anjali Shekhawat Secures Gold Medal In 10m Air Pistol At Shooting Championship

New Delhi: Rajasthan's Anjali Shekhawat claimed a gold medal in the 10m air pistol women's event at the 24th Kumar Surendra Singh Memorial Shooting Championship, being held at the Dr. Karni Singh Shooting Range here in the national capital. Shekhawat, who had earlier qualified fourth with a score of 576-23x, stepped up impressively in the final to shoot 240.5 and finish on top of the podium. Haryana's Kanak Budhwar clinched the silver medal with a score of 238.7, while Punjab's Agam Ranjit Kaur Grewal secured the bronze with 216, as per a press release. The qualification round saw Olympian Esha Singh of Telangana top the field with 582-20x, followed by Agam Ranjit Kaur Grewal (579-15x) and Muskan Chahal of Haryana (577-21x).

However, Esha Singh and Madhya Pradesh's Mahima Turhi Agrawal, who had qualified seventh with 575-20x, did not start in the final. Kanak qualified for the final in sixth place with 576-13x. In the final, Railways' Yuvika Tomar finished fourth with 196.1 (576-15x), while Muskan Chahal placed fifth with 174.8. Another Haryana shooter, Muskan, ended sixth with 154.8 (575-19x). Women's event silver medalist Kanak Budhwar continued her fine form in the 10m air pistol junior women category, securing the gold medal with a score of 238.4. She was closely followed by Haryana's Priyanshi Purva, who claimed silver with 237.5, while Ketan, also from Haryana, completed a clean sweep for the state by taking bronze with 216.8. In the 10m air pistol youth women's event, Kanak once again stood out with a dominant performance,



clinching gold with an impressive 244.3. Haryana's Navya secured the silver medal with 237.7, while Army's Anjali Mahendra Bhagwat finished third with 215.3. Haryana emerged victorious in the team event, with the trio of Priyanshi Purva, Navya, and Surbhi Rao combining for a gold medal-winning total of 1718.0-48x. Railways, represented by Yuvika Tomar, Sakshi Anil Suryavanshi, and Riya Shirish Thatte, claimed silver with 1710.0-40x, while Uttar Pradesh's Vanshika Chaudhary, Sanskriti Bana, and Anjali Chaudhary secured bronze with 1709.0-50x. Manipur sit atop Group B after these results, with six points from two matches, while Chhattisgarh are second with four points from as many games.

The two sides face each other in the Group B decider on May 6. A draw will be enough to take Manipur through to the quarter-finals as the top team, while the hosts need a victory to progress to the last eight. Over in Group E, Karnataka opened their account, defeating

Odisha 4-2 on Ground 1 at the RKM. Karnataka led 2-1 at the break. Her campaign at the 2026 Australian Open Asia-Pacific Elite 14 & Under Trophy was dominant throughout. Kanabar topped Group A with a flawless 3-0 record, defeating Shivali Gurung, Jinyu Zhou, and Jocelyn Ke in straight sets. She then produced a composed 7-6(3), 6-2 win over Aoi Yoshida in the semi-final. Kanabar capped off a stellar week with a fighting comeback to clinch the historic title. Her achievements include winning the GSPDP Asian U-14 Championship in Manila and the ITF J30 Ahmedabad title on debut. She also clinched the prestigious Fenesta Open U-14 crown. At just 14, Kanabar made a strong impression on the ITF Women's circuit, showcasing maturity, consistency, and the ability to compete at higher levels. Her campaign began in a dominant fashion with a 6-1, 6-1 victory over Jaya Kapoor in the Round of 32. Carrying that momentum forward, Kanabar combined fearless maturity.