

In Brief

Meghalaya gears up for the 100 Drums Wangala Festival's golden jubilee

Shillong: Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma convened a crucial meeting to discuss preparations for the Golden Jubilee of the 100 Drums Wangala Festival, a notable cultural celebration for the A'chik community. The focus was on organizing the 50th edition on a grand scale, emphasizing the cultural heritage, indigenous traditions, and the music and dance of the Garo community, while also promoting it as a significant cultural and tourism event for Meghalaya. Sangma expressed the government's commitment to collaborate with the Wangala Organising Committee to ensure the celebrations are successful and showcase the vibrant traditions of the A'chik community to national and international audiences. The 100 Drums Wangala Festival is renowned for its rhythmic drum performances and traditional thanksgiving rituals, attracting numerous participants and visitors each year.

After 188 years, a rare blueberry species was found again in AP

Itanagar: Researchers have rediscovered *Vaccinium piliferum*, a rare and endangered wild blueberry relative, in Arunachal Pradesh's Changlang district, nearly 188 years after its first documentation in 1836. This significant botanical achievement adds to India's biodiversity and highlights Arunachal Pradesh's ecological richness. The plant, part of the Ericaceae family, was originally believed to have disappeared due to its untraceable status for generations. The rediscovery involved finding only 16 individual plants, indicating its critically fragile population. This finding underscores the conservation importance and global scientific interest in the Eastern Himalayan ecosystem, vital for genetic research on climate resilience and crop improvement. State officials called this a remarkable chapter in the region's natural history, emphasizing the need for conservation efforts.

VPP postpones the secretariat march till after student exams are over

Shillong: The Voice of the People Party (VPP) has postponed its planned agitation involving a march and gherao of the Meghalaya Secretariat until after ongoing student examinations. This decision, made by the State Executive Committee, aims to prevent disruption of academic activities, considering concerns from students and their supporters. The party emphasized that this postponement does not reflect a weakening of its commitment to public issues and reiterated its dedication to protecting the interests of the people of Meghalaya.

The chief ministers of Assam and Meghalaya want a long-term solution to bilateral and border problems

Guwahati, May 31: Boundary demarcation was one of the many topics that the chief ministers of Assam and Meghalaya discussed today. The two chief ministers emphasized the importance of working together to resolve all bilateral problems in a long-term manner. Conrad K. Sangma, the chief minister of Meghalaya, visited Dispur today to meet Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma, the chief minister of Assam. The two chief ministers discussed ways to prevent further escalation while upholding law and order in the delicate border strip, as well as the mounting tension at the Lapangap border area. "We had an excellent discussion and have made some good progress on long-standing legacy issues," stated CM Dr. Sarma. We decided to speed up the ongoing pro-



cess and find a long-term solution to the boundary demarcation issue. Dr. Sar-

ma further stated, "Assam and Meghalaya are collaborating in various fields

and exploring synergies that will boost the growth trajectory of the Ashta-

lakshmi region." "I'm grateful to meet Himanta Ji for his assurance to joint-

ly address our concerns and work together towards de-escalating tensions in the future, in the best interest of the communities residing in the border areas," Sangma stated in reference to the results of today's discussions. We talked about the friction between the nearby villages and the issues that the people of Lapangap in the West Jaintia Hills, which borders the Karbi Anglong district in Assam, are facing. We had a productive conversation about ways to reduce hostilities and uphold law and order." In order to defuse the situation and guarantee long-term stability in the area, the chief minister of Meghalaya further urged the residents of the border regions to uphold peace and cooperate with the initiatives being carried out by both state governments.

Meghalaya intends to establish an emergency response center in the growing Umshyrpi corridor in Shillong

Shillong, May 31: In an effort to improve emergency response and law enforcement coverage in one of the busiest and fastest-growing areas of the city, the Meghalaya Government has proposed establishing a full-fledged police station and fire station along the Umshyrpi four-lane corridor as Shillong struggles with rapid urban expansion and increasing pressure on

civic infrastructure. In order to find suitable site for significant public infrastructure projects, Deputy Chief Minister Prestone Tynsong and top police officers jointly inspected the suggested places close to the Umshyrpi bridge on Friday. As part of a larger plan to increase administrative and public utility facilities in the state capital, the government is also looking at another lo-

cation along the corridor for a tourist information center and a community office for headmen from Upper Shillong. "The inspection today was only to identify the location," Tynsong stated. The Deputy Chief Minister stated that the government planned to build a fire station and a full-fledged police station on undeveloped property close to the Umshyrpi four-lane bridge. The

Assistant Inspector General of Police (Administration), the Superintendent of Police of East Khasi Hills, and the Superintendent of Police of Shillong City, among other top police officials, had determined that the site was practical and suitable for the planned amenities, he continued. Tynsong noted that the land associated with the four-lane development had previously been obtained

through cooperative efforts involving the Defence Ministry, the State Government, and the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways. He said that the State Government would approach defense authorities for assistance in facilitating the infrastructure projects. "The State Government, the Ministry of Road Transport, and the Defense Ministry worked together to secure this area

for the four-lane. We will make sure to engage the military authorities to support the State Government with regard to these infrastructural plots we propose, as this is for the public good rather than personal gain," he stated. In order to guarantee that the planned infrastructure projects at both locations go without hiccups, he added that he would personally pursue the issue.

Arunachal Pradesh would establish four panels on infiltration, ILP, and ST status

Itanagar, May 31: According to a recent evaluation by WWF-India and the state forest department, Arunachal Pradesh detected elephants at heights above 3,000 meters above sea level, which is the highest known elephant presence documented anywhere in the world. Wanglin Lowangdong published a report titled Managing Human Elephant Conflict in Arunachal Pradesh: A Strategy and Action Plan, which included the findings. Human-elephant conflict is still a serious worry in the state, according to Lowangdong, who called the report important and urgent. Elephant distribution, conflict hotspots, habitat pressures, and landscape connectivity throughout Arunachal Pradesh were all recorded during the evaluation, which took place between December 2024 and March 2026.

It was the first thorough investigation of the extent and patterns of interactions between people and elephants in



the state. Additionally, the report included baseline data on crop losses, property damage, and human mortality brought on by elephants.

Through forest department records and community contacts, information on conflict situations was gathered from elephant-bearing forest divisions.

The study found that habitat loss, degradation, and fragmentation were the main reasons why humans and elephants clashed. In order to foster safer coexistence, the research suggested ways to lessen human mortality, make up for crop losses, and encourage community-led projects. Dr. Aritra Kshetry,

the national lead for elephant conservation at WWF-India, emphasized the significance of preserving habitat connectivity, pointing out that fragmented landscapes frequently drove elephants into areas occupied by humans.

The action plan, according to State Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Head of Forest Force P Subhramanyam, would direct actions meant to lessen conflict and enhance human-elephant coexistence. In order to manage human-elephant interaction in the state, the report also emphasized the necessity of improved scientific understanding and evidence-based planning.

In Manipur, militants assault trucks carrying goods, killing a truck driver from Bengal

Imphal, May 31: According to police, suspected militants attacked a convoy of trucks carrying supplies in Manipur's Ukhrul district on Friday, killing a truck driver and injuring a Manipur Police officer. According to a police officer, a truck driver named Nitish Kumar (57), a resident of West Bengal's Hooghly district, was killed when suspected Kuki militants opened fire on the convoy of cars carrying commodities at Litan. According to reports, the firing started from hilltops with views of T.M. Kasom hamlet and Litan Bazar, frightening the locals. While the trucks carrying commodities were traveling along the Imphal-Dimapur National Highway (NH-2) under security escort, the civilian truck driver was struck by gunshots fired from the mountaintop. A brief gunfight broke out between security personnel and the insurgents as a result of their retaliation. Disingam Maringmei, a 35-year-old Manipur Police officer, was also hurt during the confrontation. A combined security team made up of the Border Secu-



rity Force (BSF), Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), Manipur Police's Rapid Action Force (RAF), and district police had earlier in the morning cleared the blockade at Shangkai Kuki village along the National Highway and escorted 15 to 20 commercial trucks carrying goods that were stuck between Yaingangpokpi and Mahadev.

After the incident, the situation in the Litan-T.M. Kasom areas is still tense. Yumnam Khemchand Singh, the chief minister of Manipur, strongly denounced the Ukhrul district event. According to an official statement from the Chief Minister's Secretariat, an ambush of a goods vehicle along National Highway-2 under Litan Police Sta-

tion in Ukhrul district was carried out by unidentified armed miscreants. The West Bengali truck driver died from gunshot wounds in the tragic tragedy, and the Chief Minister sent his sincere condolences. "Ambushing a goods vehicle and taking the life of a driver, who plays a crucial role in ensuring uninterrupted supply of essential items across the state, is one of the most cowardly acts and is intended to further aggravate the tense situation prevailing in the area," he stated. The Chief Minister went on to say that the ambush seemed to have been carried out by vested interest groups with malicious intent to thwart the state government's efforts to bring peace and normalcy back to the state. Singh also prayed for the police policeman who was shot in the knee during the ambush to recover quickly. In order to apprehend the offenders and punish them in accordance with the law, the Chief Minister reported that search and cordon operations are being conducted in the surrounding areas.

"Mission Queen Pineapple," a Rs 236 crore project, was introduced to increase Tripura farmers' earnings

Agartala, May 31: The 'Mission Queen Pineapple, Tripura', a revolutionary three-year project with an investment of Rs 236 crore, was unveiled in New Delhi on Wednesday with the goal of increasing Queen Pineapple production and assisting farmers in double their revenue. Tripura Chief Minister Manik Saha, the state's Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Minister Ratan Lal Nath, and Union Minister for Development of the North Eastern Region (DoNER) Jyotiraditya Scindia jointly introduced the project. Tripura is a land of hills and dales, with about 70% of the state's land covered by hills and

hills, known locally as "Til-la," and the other 30% being plain ground, according to Agriculture Minister Nath, who spoke at the launching ceremony. He said that Tripura is one of India's top pineapple-producing locations due to the state's distinctive agroclimatic conditions, with tribal growers predominantly growing the "Queen" and "Kew" kinds. "The state fruit of Tripura, Queen Pineapple, holds a Geographical Indication (GI) tag and is recognised for its distinctive aroma, golden-yellow colour, low fibre content, and superior taste, which differentiate it from other competing varieties," the Minister stated. Nath claims that smallhold-

er pineapple growers in Tripura still receive farm gate prices of between Rs 6 and Rs 10 per kg despite having such superior genetic qualities, while processed or export-grade Queen Pineapple sells for between Rs 80 and Rs 150 per kg in both domestic and foreign markets. According to the Minister, who also has the Power portfolio, Tripura is known for producing some of the greatest pineapples in the nation. The Queen Pineapple is a spiky, golden-yellow type that is prized for its sweet flavor, attractive scent, juicy flesh, and high nutritional content, according to Nath's description of the fruit's distinctive qualities. Along with

minerals including calcium, magnesium, potassium, and iron, it also contains vitamins A, B, and C.

The fruit has a balanced sweet-tart flavor with Total Soluble Solids (TSS), or sweetness, ranging from 13 to 17.2 degrees Brix and acidity levels between 0.6 and 0.8%. "On June 3, 2018, shipments of Tripura's Queen variety were made to Dubai, and then to Bangladesh, Qatar, and Oman. Additionally, the state sold canned pineapple to Russia and Germany, according to Nath. The Minister elaborated on the initiative, stating that the "Pineapple Cultivation and Value Chain Development" Detailed initiative Report (DPR) envisions a three-

year execution plan from FY 2026 to FY 2028. The project aims to methodically address any structural gaps that keep Queen Pineapple from reaching its premium market potential in Tripura. He stated that the Ministry of DoNER will invest Rs 145 crore and the Tripura government would contribute Rs 20 crore of the project's total cost of Rs 236 crore.

The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) would provide Rs 4 crore, the Ministry of Agriculture would contribute Rs 30 crore, and the Ministry of Food Processing Industries would contribute Rs 25 crore.

A Golaghat elephant calf perishes after falling into a tea garden ditch



Bokakhat, May 31: The escalating tension between humans and elephants in Assam has once again been brought to light by a tragic tragedy. On Thursday, a juvenile elephant at Letekujan Tea Estate in Golaghat perished after sliding into a deep drainage ditch excavated inside a tea garden. The district is seeing an increase in the number of wild elephant deaths. Elephants frequently fall into deep

ditches excavated inside tea plantations, and occasionally they die from electricity. The carcass was found almost seven days after the calf's death, according to sources. At the No. 10 part of Daigroong Tea Estate, which is under the Bokial Forest Range Office in the Khumtai constituency, a baby elephant calf perished after falling into a deep ditch. The calf most likely perished after being stuck in the ditch, according to forest officials. The mother elephant apparently became stuck in loose dirt and muck near the ditch while attempting to save her young, which resulted in the calf's untimely demise.

The 75th “Sundays on Cycle” event is organized by Assam Rifles in Lokra



Jamugurihat, May 31: Troops, families, and kids enthusiastically participated in the 75th edition of “Sundays on Cycle,” which was organized by the Assam Rifles’ Lokra Battalion on Sunday.

The theme of the event was “Commonwealth Games Day,” and the message was “Fitter India – Pedalling to 2030.”

All age groups enthusiastically participated in the early morning bike event. The program’s objectives were to encourage environmental awareness, healthy living, and physical fitness among Assam Rifles personnel and the local population.

Jagara in Nalbari is designated as an agricultural model village; Governor Acharya promotes scientific farming

Nalbari, May 31: Assam Governor Lakshman Prasad Acharya formally designated Jagara village as an Agricultural Model Village on Tuesday and launched the “Jagara Krishi Adarsha Gaon Project,” which encompasses the larger Jagara region in Nalbari district, in a major step towards bolstering the state’s rural agricultural economy.

Farmers, academics, public officials, and townspeople enthusiastically participated in the program, which was held at the Jagara Durga Mandir premises. Nearly 200 local farmers are currently



covered by the agricultural model village effort as part of the recently started project. In his speech, Governor Lakshman Prasad Acharya emphasized the value of agriculture-based rural development and the necessity of implementing contemporary scientific techniques to raise farmer livelihoods and production.

The center authorizes a fish selling facility with cold chain facilities

Aizwal, May 31: At the “Regional Review Meeting: North Eastern Region 2026” in Aizawl, Mizoram, the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, and Dairying introduced important fisheries and dairy projects to improve rural livelihoods and increase output in the area.

In the presence of State Minister George Kurian, Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying and Panchayati Raj Rajiv Ranjan Singh presided over the meeting. The Union Minister unveiled and set the groundwork for projects totaling approximately Rs 32.15 crore under PMMSY and FIDF, which are intended to boost the fishing industry in the Northeastern Region. Beneficiaries, including fisheries startups and co-operatives, also received Fisheries KCC cards and awards.

To support dairy cooperatives and improve rural livelihood possibilities throughout the Northeast, the Baseline Village Level Survey for Expanding Multipurpose Dairy Cooperative Societies (MDCS) was also initiated. In addition, an African Swine Fever (ASF) knowledge Film and a brochure titled “Good Husbandry Practices in Pig Farming” were released to encourage scientific pig husbandry, disease control, increased production, and knowledge of ASF.

The pathology department of Assam Medical College (AMC) receives the esteemed NABL certification

Dibrugarh, May 31: The National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL), one of India’s most esteemed laboratory quality assurance organizations, has accredited the Department of Pathology at Assam Medical College (AMC), a major accomplishment for the state’s healthcare and medical education sectors.



Testing and calibration laboratories that satisfy national and international standards of quality and competence are evaluated and accredited by NABL, an independent organization within the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India.

Many people consider NABL-accredited laboratories to be trustworthy and dependable for scientific testing, especially medical diagnostics. The Department of Pathology now has NABL certification, joining AMC’s already accredited Departments of Microbiology, Biochemistry, and Radiology. The accomplishment represents a new turning point in the organization’s continuous efforts to improve patient care and strengthen diagnostic services.

Assam: Golaghat district’s houses, agriculture, and safety are at risk due to the monkey danger

Bokakhat, May 31: The growing threat posed by wild monkeys has residents of Bordihingia hamlet in Komargao and numerous other regions of Golaghat district living in constant fear.



Currently, the region’s routine existence has been significantly affected by the unusual disruption and fright caused by vast numbers of monkeys. The villagers’ safety, livelihoods, and property are all under grave danger.

In Assam, the majority of rural homes are typically constructed with roofs made of tin sheets. The tin sheets are now severely bent, fractured, and destroyed when groups of one to two hundred monkeys climb onto these roofs, and the wooden and bamboo structures underneath also shatter. Because of this, water pours straight into dwellings with even little rainfall. These homes were erected by impoverished families as their main

source of income, and they are being destroyed right in front of their eyes. The average villager can no longer afford to replace the damaged tin sheets every year. Despite having abundant land for farming, the villagers of Bordihingia are unable to plant even simple vegetables in their own gardens due to their fear of monkey attacks. Monkey army quickly destroy any crops they try to grow, including potatoes, cabbage, brinjal, chilies, and more. In addition to vegetables, profitable crops including

bananas, jackfruit, mango, betel nut, and betel leaf are spoiled when they are still immature or just partially consumed. Even though the villagers own farms, they are compelled to purchase vegetables at exorbitant costs from marketplaces, which has become one of their worst misfortunes and has severely damaged the rural economy. The monkeys no longer fear people since they are now so fierce and aggressive. The monkeys show their teeth and pursue humans in an attempt to bite them if someone tries to drive them away by themselves. The fact that the monkeys mostly prey on young children and lone women is the most alarming. There is always a sense of terror because parents are not allowed to leave their kids alone in courtyards, not even for a short while. Every day, kids at schools and colleges travel with worry, fearing attacks at any time.

West Karbi Anglong pays tribute to Veer Savarkar on his 143rd birthday



Kheroni, May 31: The renowned liberation fighter Veer Damodar Savarkar’s 143rd birthday was solemnly commemorated at Prayash Senior Secondary School in Mailoo, West Karbi Anglong. The Subaltern Development Club (NGO) and MY BHARAT–Nehru Yuva Kendra, Diphu, which is part of the Government of India’s Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, organized the event. Before Savarkar’s painting, the occasion started with floral

tributes and the burning of a customary lamp.

Assistant Professor of Hindi at Udali College Dr. Shio Jee Chauhan honored Savarkar and gave a speech about his life, emphasizing how he became one of India’s most well-known independence fighters. Savarkar’s contributions to the liberation movement and his sacrifices for the country were discussed by Chhotelal Chauhan, an assistant professor of Hindi at Kapili College.

Savarkar’s literary talents and the organizations he formed were emphasized by Kapili College Vice Principal Jeetendra Harijan. The program was attended by a number of community members, youth workers, students, and officials.

The Assam Rail Passengers Association (ARPA) requests that the CM and NFR GM upgrade Kamakhya Junction

Guwahati, May 31: In an appeal to the Assam Chief Minister and the General Manager of Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR), the Assam Rail Passengers Association (ARPA) has demanded that Kamakhya Junction railway station be upgraded immediately with new infrastructure and contemporary passenger amenities.

According to ARPA’s petition, Kamakhya Junction, which is one of the nation’s main pilgrimage entry points because of its close proximity to the sacred Kamakhya Temple, is devoid of a number of crucial amenities needed to manage the massive flood of pilgrims and travelers. The association brought up a number of issues with the station’s current state, such as the lack of a suitable passenger underpass for safe railroad track crossing, the absence of ramps for passengers



who are elderly or disabled, the congested approach roads, and the challenges faced by travelers carrying luggage during rush hours. It also highlighted poor planning for passenger circulation, even though the station sees a lot of pilgrims every year. ARPA has called for the construction of a contemporary, wider underpass with ramps, the installation of lifts and escalators on all platforms, the establishment of pilgrim-only corridors, the expansion of approach roads, better traffic control outside the station grounds, and the creation of top-notch passenger amenities.

The group emphasized that Kamakhya should have infrastructure and amenities on par with those at other significant pilgrimage railway stations throughout the nation because it is a revered Shakti Peetha and a popular religious destination that thousands of devotees visit every day.

Pu Mangvung Paokholun Haokip’s Tribute

Chandel, May 31: Respected leader Pu Mangvung Paokholun Haokip, the hereditary chief of Longia village in Chandel district, passed away on May 27, 2026, at around 11.30 am at a private nursing home in Churachandpur, Manipur, following a protracted illness. The Thadou Inpi Manipur (TIM) expressed deep sorrow over his passing. Pu M. Paokholun Haokip was the grandson of Pu Ngulbul Haokip of Longia village, a Thadou war martyr, and the late Pu M. Sonjakup Haokip, Mangvung Bulpipa and leader of the Mangvung clan. Chief of Longia and the leader of the Mangvung clan, Pu Ngulbul Haokip served as a front-line commander in the Thadou War (1917–1919) and was killed in active action at the Battle of Lonpi Fort in 1918. For the Mangvung clan and the Thadou people, his sacrifice continues to represent courage and defiance. Pu M. Sonjakup Haokip, leader of the Mangvung clan, defended Thadou identity and unity, notably rejecting the divisive “Seldingluh” declaration by Chassadpa in April 2018. This declaration, criticized for its anti-Thadou and anti-Christian sentiments, included a ritual curse. Sonjakup emphasized the shared Thadou ancestry among related clans. His son, Pu M. Paokholun Haokip, continued efforts for Thadou unity, meeting with the Kipgen clan leader to revoke the curse. The leadership of the Mangvung chieftainship exemplified resilience and commitment to Thadou identity through generations. The Thadou Inpi Manipur offered condolences to the bereaved family and community during their mourning.

Elephant populations are highest in Arunachal Pradesh

Itanagar, May 31: According to a recent evaluation by WWF-India and the state forest department, Arunachal Pradesh detected elephants at heights above 3,000 meters above sea level, which is the highest known elephant presence documented anywhere in the world. Wanglin Lowangdong published a report titled Managing Human Elephant Conflict in Arunachal Pradesh: A Strategy and Action Plan, which included the findings. Human-elephant conflict is still a serious worry in the state, according to Lowangdong, who called the report important and urgent. Elephant distribution, conflict hotspots, habitat pressures, and landscape connectivity throughout Arunachal Pradesh were all recorded during the evaluation, which took place between December 2024 and March



2026. It was the first thorough investigation of the extent and patterns of interactions between people and elephants in the state. Additionally, the report included baseline data on crop losses, property damage, and human mortality brought on by elephants.

Through forest department records and community contacts, information on conflict situations was gathered from elephant-bearing forest divisions. The study found that habitat loss, degradation, and fragmentation were the main reasons why humans and elephants

clashed. In order to foster safer coexistence, the research suggested ways to lessen human mortality, make up for crop losses, and encourage community-led projects. Dr. Aritra Kshettry, the national lead for elephant conservation at WWF-India, emphasized the significance of preserving habitat connectivity, pointing out that fragmented landscapes frequently drove elephants into areas occupied by humans. The action plan, according to State Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Head of Forest Force P Subhramanyam, would direct actions meant to lessen conflict and enhance human-elephant coexistence. In order to manage human-elephant interaction in the state, the report also emphasized the necessity of improved scientific understanding and evidence-based planning.

Minister Gabriel D. Wangsu: The best defense against climate change is traditional ecological knowledge



Itanagar, May 31: The state’s best line of defense against climate change, according to Arunachal Pradesh Agriculture and Horticulture Minister Gabriel D. Wangsu, is traditional ecological expertise. Wangsu presented Keyi Panyor district as an example of “bio happiness-driven” development at the

Arunachal Pradesh Jaiv Vividhata and Beej Utsav 2026. According to him, the region’s topography necessitated solutions that weren’t adopted from the plains due to shifting climatic circumstances, such as unpredictable rainfall, shorter winters, and more severe floods. He emphasized the importance of

safeguarding native agricultural varieties as “living insurance” against the dangers posed by climate change. The MLA’s office, Krishi Vigyan Kendra Keyi Panyor, the Arunachal State Rural Livelihoods Mission, and the MS Swaminathan Research Foundation co-organized the two-day event at Yazali.

IAS Study Center Vajiram and Ravi Fined Rs 7 Lakh for Deceptive Advertising



New Delhi, May 31: On Saturday, the Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) said that Vajiram and Ravi IAS Study Center has been fined Rs 7,00,000 for engaging in deceptive advertising by purposefully hiding important information.

The CCPA, led by Chief Commissioner Nidhi Khare and Commissioner Anupam Mishra, issued the directive after noticing that the coaching center made exaggerated claims and prominently displayed the names, photos, and accomplishments of UPSC Civil Services Examination (CSE) 2023 winners while hiding crucial information about the particular courses these candidates chose. According to the CCPA, the ruling was issued in order to safeguard and advance the rights of consumers in general and to guarantee

that no deceptive or fraudulent advertisements are made regarding any products or services in violation of the 2019 Consumer Protection Act's requirements.

The consumer agency pointed out that the Interview Guidance Programme (IGP) doesn't start until a candidate has successfully completed the UPSC CSE's Preliminary and Mains stages on their own. These are two extremely tough levels where the institute didn't contribute academically. According to a statement from the CCPA, the institute gave the false impression that these candidates were graduates of its full-length coaching programs by prominently showcasing them alongside ads for comprehensive paid coaching programs without disclosing the particular course chosen.

To protect students' inter-

ests and promote openness in the coaching industry, the CCPA has so far sent more than 60 notifications to coaching institutions for deceptive advertising and unfair business practices.

The UPSC Civil Services Examination (CSE), IIT-JEE, NEET, RBI, and other competitive exams are among the exams for which the CCPA has levied fines totaling more than Rs 1.46 million.

According to the CCPA, failing to disclose the particular courses chosen by successful candidates—including whether they attended full-length classroom programs, optional subject coaching, test series, or a brief free interview guidance program—amounts to deceptive advertising under the Act since it prevents potential customers from making an informed decision.

In Silchar, Assam, a journalist was attacked and a media office was vandalized

Dispur, May 31: After a group of unidentified persons in Silchar allegedly attacked a young reporter inside a media office and vandalized the property, worries about the safety of journalists have reappeared in the Barak Valley of Assam. A group of individuals who had entered the office under the guise of having a chat allegedly attacked 25-year-old journalist Raju Das of the Bengali news platform Barak Bani on Thursday night in the town's Second Link Road district. One suspect has been taken into custody for interrogation after police filed a complaint. To find anyone else who might have been involved, investigators are also looking through local CCTV footage. The accused called the journalist before coming to the media office, according to the complaint submitted to Rangirkhari Police Station. The males allegedly came inside



and said they wanted to talk about a problem. They allegedly attacked the journalist once inside. After being hurt during the attack, Raju Das was saved by coworkers. According to family members, he was admitted to a hospital in Silchar after suffering head injuries. There, medical professionals performed tests, including a CT scan. He is currently in a stable state and has been in-

structed to be admitted to the hospital.

The media office is said to have sustained damage from the attack, with furniture and other objects being vandalized. According to Barak Bani's management, the journalist has previously been intimidated for reporting on alleged illicit activities, such as gambling and betting. Police haven't yet determined whether the attack was con-

nected to his line of work, though. Rajat Pal, Additional Superintendent of Police (Crime), Cachar, stated that investigators are interviewing the detained suspect and following up on other leads. Before identifying the attack's motivation, police officials stated they are seeking additional proof. Authorities added that after doctors give their approval, the journalist's official statement will be recorded. Journalists, members of civil society, and locals have responded strongly to the tragedy, calling for immediate punishment against those guilty. The region's media outlets voiced alarm over what they saw as increasing risks to press freedom and reporters' safety. The Silchar Press Club called for further protections for journalists operating in the area, denounced the incident, and announced plans to stage a demonstration.

Mukesh Singh, a former chief of Ladakh Police, will lead Manipur Police

Imphal, May 31: Mukesh Singh, a senior IPS officer who recently arrived in Imphal, will take over as Manipur's Director General of Police (DGP) on June 1.

This is a significant change in the state's police force's leadership despite continuous attempts to bring about peace and stability.

When Singh, an IPS officer from the 1996 batch, arrived at Imphal airport from New Delhi, senior police authorities welcomed him. During one of the most difficult times in Manipur's recent history, characterized by protracted ethnic violence, he will succeed Rajiv Singh, who has been the state's police head since June 2023. After serving in Manipur, Rajiv Singh, an IPS officer from the 1993 batch, was transferred by the Center and appointed as Secretary (Security) in the Cabinet Secretariat in New Delhi. Mukesh Singh was the Director General of Police in Ladakh before to being appointed to Manipur.

His three-year intercadre deputation from the AG-MUT (Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Mizoram, and Union Territories) cadre to the Manipur cadre was recently accepted by the Center. The Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) approved the appointment. His appointment coincides with a critical moment for Manipur, which is still dealing with the fallout from ethnic violence that broke out in May 2023.

Security organizations have been striving to uphold law and order, make it easier for displaced people to return, and establish the framework for enduring peace. According to officials, the incoming police chief is anticipated to prioritize bolstering security protocols, enhancing law enforcement agency coordination, and bolstering ongoing efforts to restore normalcy throughout the state. Mukesh Singh's entry is seen as a significant step in the government's efforts to resolve the security issues facing Manipur and expedite the process of peace-building in the state ravaged by conflict, given his vast experience in both administration and policing.

Large congregational prayers and a calm celebration of Eid-ul-Adha throughout Nalbari



Nalbari, May 31: Thousands of devotees gathered at Eidgah sites and mosques on

Thursday to offer prayers in an environment of love, unity, and fraternity as the Nalbari district peacefully celebrated Eid-ul-Adha. Ghograpar and the neighboring areas of Nalbari district saw fervent involvement in Eid prayers and celebrations, just like in other parts of Assam.

Eid prayers were held in Nalbari town at approximately 8 a.m. at the Nalbari Eidgah field, which is close to the Nalbari Jama Masjid. Devotees flocked there to take part in the congregational prayers.

AICTE Approves Tezpur University's Executive MBA Program for the 2026–2027 Session



Tezpur, May 31: The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has approved Tezpur University's MBA (Executive) Program, which is provided by the Department of Business Administration, for the 2026–2027 academic year. This noteworthy accolade represents a critical turning point in the university's ongoing dedication to professional development, industry-focused management training, and academic success. The program's compli-

ance with the required criteria and quality benchmarks for technical and management education in India is confirmed by the AICTE accreditation. Tezpur University's MBA (Executive) program was created specifically for working professionals who want to continue their professional activities while pursuing managerial growth, leadership development, and up-to-date business knowledge.

Participants from a variety of professional backgrounds can pursue higher education with flexibility and convenience thanks to the program's weekend and hybrid mode classes. Professionals from the corporate, public, and entrepreneurial sectors can improve their strategic thinking, managerial skills, and decision-making abilities with the program's industry-relevant curriculum and hands-on experience. The MBA (Executive) Program 2026–2027 is now accepting applications. Candidates may apply if they have at least five years of post-qualification job experience as of June 30, 2026, and a bachelor's degree with at least 50% of the possible points (excluding fine arts). Academic records, professional experience, Statement of Purpose (SoP), and Personal Interaction (PI) will all be taken into consideration when choosing students for the program.

Itanagar Prohibits Commercial Mithun Slaughter; Violators Will Be Fined rs. 20,000

Itanagar, May 31: On Wednesday, the government of the Itanagar Capital Region in Arunachal Pradesh forbade the commercial slaughter of Mithuns and threatened to punish anyone who disobeyed the directive. The ban order was issued by Deputy Commissioner Toko Babu of the Itanagar Capital Region, citing the Essential Commodities Act of 1955 and the Agricultural Produce Marketing (Regulation) Act of 1989.

Babu, who also serves as the chair of the Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC), declared that any unlawful slaughter would result in a fine of Rs 20,000.

The vice-chairperson of the APMC has been assigned to lead a group responsible



for keeping an eye on illicit Mithun slaughter. Additionally, the deputy commissioner instructed the Itanagar and Naharlagun police superintendents to deploy people as needed by APMC members. In a different order, the Itanagar Municipal Corporation (IMC) mandated that meat,

fruit, and vegetable vendors operating along the city's National Highway NH-415 be immediately removed because they were causing traffic jams and endangering the public's health. Vendors and store owners have been instructed to take down their buildings within ten days.

In Lucknow, Rajnath Singh opens the Nausena Shaurya Vatika Naval Memorial

Lucknow, May 31: In his parliamentary constituency, Union Defense Minister Rajnath Singh opened the Navy's memorial museum, the Nausena Shaurya Vatika, on Saturday. He described it as a symbol of military pride and patriotism, highlighting the illustrious history of the Indian Navy's valor, bravery, and service to the country. The vatika, which was constructed on two acres close to Ekana Cricket Stadium, honors the bravery, tenacity, and cutting-edge technical skill of India's maritime boundaries. It is the second phase of the Navy's memorial museum, Nausena Shaurya Sangrahalaya. The Indian Navy has been instrumental in safeguarding the nation's maritime borders and defending its interests, according to the defense minister. He praised the bravery and dedication of naval troops and added that these memorials help make the nation's military history accessible to all citizens.

He also declared that a submarine would soon be added to the naval memorial. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath spoke at the ceremony and suggested that tanks that aided the Indian Army in winning battles be placed at strategic crossroads throughout the state. He claimed that they would uplift young people and foster more public respect for the Army and its personnel. "Anyone traveling to Lucknow can take a tour of facilities associated with India's customs, history, and safety and feel proud of them." In that series, Nausena Shaurya Vatika has been positioned as a new center, he stated. He further mentioned that INS Gomti was decommissioned from the Navy in 2022 after serving India's maritime security for a considerable amount of time. It is currently situat-



ed on the banks of the Gomti River, which serves as Lucknow's lifeline. The website will educate young people in the state and nation about the Indian Navy and motivate them to overcome obstacles in life. Navy Chief Admiral Dinesh Tripathi stated that India's economic growth and future development depend on the oceans amid the world crisis brought on by disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz as a result of the continuous confrontation between Iran, the US, and Israel.

According to him, the Indian Navy guarantees the security of marine channels. Admiral Tripathi gave the following justification for establishing a marine museum in a landlocked state like Uttar Pradesh:

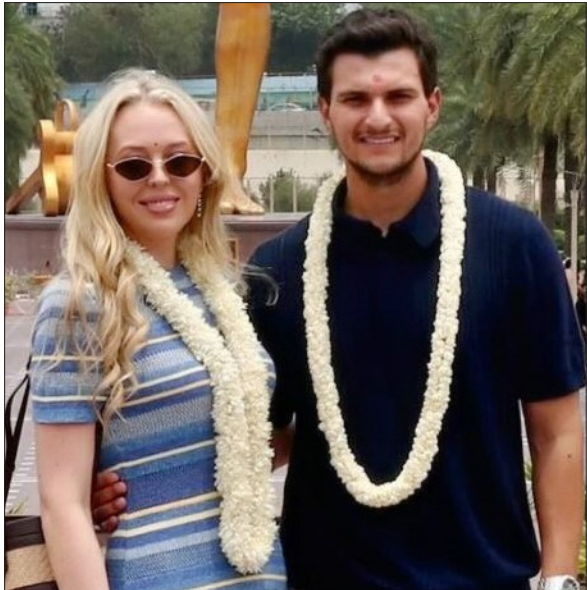
"First, centuries ago, even before trains, the region remained connected to the sea." This region was connected to the sea by rivers like the Gomti and Ganga. Second, UP's woods provided the wood used to build ships.

Third, Uttar Pradesh continues to produce the most number of officers, sailors, and Agniveers in the Indian Navy. Additionally, the state has the most number of veterans. The Gomti River, too. Even though Uttar Pradesh is far from the sea, the state has always been close to it, he continued. The Admiral also stated that a vessel constructed at Mumbai's Mazgaon Dockyard provided the equipment from INS Gomti that was put in Nausena Shaurya Vatika.

Tiffany Trump, Trump's daughter, and her husband go to Akshardham Temple

New Delhi, May 31: The Akshardham Temple of New Delhi recently hosted Tiffany Trump and her husband, Michael Boulos, during their private visit to India. Tiffany described her experience at the temple as "incredible," reflecting her appreciation for the cultural significance of the site. Michael joined her along with friends for this special cultural exploration. Swaminarayan Akshardham confirmed the visit, stating, "A beautiful day of exploring culture and heritage," emphasizing the temple's role in welcoming the group. Tiffany Trump is the fourth child of former US President Donald Trump with Marla Maples, and she has four half-siblings from her father's other marriages. She obtained her Juris Doctor from Georgetown University Law Center in 2020. Michael Boulos, an American-Lebanese businessman, married Tiffany on November 12, 2022.

In a related development, an annual physical exam-



ination memorandum from Captain Sean P. Barbabella, the Physician to President Trump, indicated that the President is in "excellent health." The examination, conducted at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, included a thorough review of diagnostic studies and consultations with 22 specialty providers. It adhered to the recommendations of the US

Preventive Services Task Force and was part of a comprehensive health review. The medical summary affirmed President Trump's robust cardiac, pulmonary, and neurological health, reporting that both cognitive and physical performance are excellent. The findings indicated he is fully fit to fulfill the responsibilities of the Commander-in-Chief and Head of State.

North East Chronicle

JUNE 01 2026 VOL 02 NO. 97



The Need for Better Public Drinking Water Facilities

Access to clean drinking water in public spaces remains inadequate in many cities and towns. Travelers, workers, students, and pedestrians often struggle to find safe and accessible water facilities. The absence of public drinking water forces many people to depend on bottled water, increasing both financial burden and plastic waste. Existing facilities are frequently poorly maintained or non-functional, reducing public trust in their safety. Providing reliable drinking water in public areas is a basic civic necessity. Essential infrastructure should prioritise public health and accessibility over convenience alone.

Assam as a pillar of India-Bhutan relations

Bhutan’s Prime Minister Dashi Tshering Tobgay visited Assam, demonstrating the state’s strategic significance in strengthening India-Bhutan bilateral relations. Assam’s enormous economic potential is highlighted by the Bhutanese PM’s visit, which comes just over a year after King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck visited the state in April 2025. Deep sociocultural connections and exchanges between Bhutan and Assam have existed for generations, offering a strong basis for fostering interpersonal interactions and expanding trade and commerce between Bhutan and India. Economic activity on both sides of the international border might be advantageous because Assam shares the longest portion of the border between India and Bhutan. The Gelephu Mindfulness City project in Bhutan, which is situated just across the Assam-Bhutan border, has drawn attention from investors worldwide, and Assam is quickly emerging as a top choice for Indian and international investors. Additionally, the Kokrajhar-Gelephu rail link has established Assam as a

vital facilitator of cross-border expansion and economic development throughout the areas bordering Bhutan and India. The aspirations to turn the landlocked border regions into a well-connected economic zone have been rekindled by the neighboring countries’ push for infrastructure and cross-border connectivity. The Bodoland Territorial Region will become a major Assamese economic center once these connection initiatives are fully operational. When the Bhutanese King visited the state last year, he examined the Multi-Modal Logistics Park (MMLP) in Jogighopa and the Inland Waterways Terminal. The improved connectivity made possible by the port’s modernization and the MMLP has increased the Himalayan Kingdom’s confidence in making Assam a major location for high-level exchanges with India. The IWT port at Jogighopa is a crucial port for Bhutan’s exports to third countries, including Bangladesh. The state’s remarkable achievement in reestablishing and preserving total peace and normalcy in BTR, which runs the length of

the Assam-Bhutan border, has given Bhutan greater confidence to interact with Assam, opening the door for faster infrastructural development. Once a center of ethnic violence and insurgency, BTR was transformed into a center of economic growth thanks in large part to Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma. The importance of Chief Minister Sarma’s role in bolstering India-Bhutan relations and making every effort to establish Assam as a crucial pillar of India’s Neighbourhood First policy is demonstrated by his four-day visit to Bhutan in 2024 to discuss bilateral issues, including cooperation in the energy sector, trade and commerce, education, and healthcare. Just one month after Chief Minister Sarma took office for a second term, the Bhutanese PM visited the state and met with Assam Governor Lakshman Acharya. This meeting made it very evident how important it is for the Himalayan kingdom to promote Assam as a major international destination for investors and decision-makers. By approving the reservation of five seats in the state’s

medical colleges for Bhutanese nationals, the Assam Cabinet under Chief Minister Sarma during his previous term sent a clear message that Assam should be positioned as a major player in socio-economic engagement rather than merely a conduit for trade and commerce. The Bhutanese PM’s reiteration of their “shared commitment to further strengthening the close and enduring ties between Bhutan and Assam” has sparked renewed hope for advancing the partnership in a number of areas. Assam’s tourism industry might grow significantly if cross-border connection projects are completed quickly. Assam and Bhutan can also provide each other with specialized tourism products. In order to encourage more visitors from Assam to experience the stunning natural scenery and rich cultural legacy of the Himalayan monarchy, Bhutan is thinking about easing the sustainable development charge. In order for India and Bhutan to jointly address issues of environmental protection, wildlife conservation, climate change impact, and water resource management in

Railways: For children who are exploited, a point of transportation turns into a place of rescue



Global Missing Children Day, observed annually on May 25, highlights the pervasive issues surrounding missing children, encapsulating their terror and exploitation. Despite this grim context, it emphasizes the progress made within the child protection ecosystem in India, where previously, cases of missing children were often relegated to family matters or dismissed as runaways. Nowadays, law enforcement agencies treat these incidents with greater urgency, recognizing potential criminal activity.

In India’s railway system, child trafficking has been rampant for years, with platforms serving as discreet venues for traffickers to exploit children, concealing their activities behind seemingly innocuous appearances. However, a significant shift has occurred, primarily driven by the Railway Protection Force (RPF), which has transitioned from merely safeguarding goods and passengers to a proactive stance against child trafficking. The intervention led by the RPF is extensive, as exemplified by Operation “Nanhe Farishtey,” which from January

to October 2025, rescued 16,450 children, including 1,586 in October alone. This operation highlights the scale of the issue, as millions travel on the railway system daily, often accompanied by traffickers posing as guardians. Subtle signs, like a child’s fear or lack of engagement, have become critical indicators for identifying trafficking situations. The RPF has fostered collaboration with civil society, child rights organizations, and grassroots workers to dismantle organized trafficking networks through coordinated efforts, encompass-

ing training, sensitization campaigns, and operational strategies. Notably, the RPF’s partnership with the Association for Voluntary Action exemplifies practical intelligence sharing to combat trafficking effectively. This holistic intervention adjusts the focus towards early identification and intervention rather than merely reacting post-exploitation. The transformation of railway stations into active points of resistance marks a significant shift in combating trafficking, emphasizing proactive measures before exploitation occurs. This systemic change reflects a growing understanding that trafficking is not random but well-organized, necessitating a comprehensive response to protect vulnerable children throughout their transit. Ultimately, the move toward recognizing children in distress and intervening effectively shifts the narrative from passive acceptance to active rescue, thereby bringing the nation closer to safeguarding its children on both legal and practical fronts.

The Assamese Potato Paradox



A new narrative has emerged around the role of consumer packaged food multinational corporations in operationalizing buy-back agreements with Assamese potato growers, indicating a shift from viewing potatoes merely as a seasonal commodity to recognizing them as a vital component in the modernization of the local agricultural value chain. However, amidst this development, the state faces price instability linked to sourcing from other major potato-producing states, compounded by rising transportation costs due to fuel price increases. Alarmingly, Assam’s potato production meets less than 25% of its consumption needs despite an expansion of cultivation area exceeding one lakh hectares, indicating a paradox where productivity consistently falls below the national average. Addressing this productivity gap is cru-

cial, as enhanced yields would encourage growers to invest in improved seed varieties, contingent upon the assurance of profitable pricing. Though buy-back agreements provide a potential market for growers, they do not sufficiently mitigate the impact of unforeseen increases in labor and input costs. Therefore, it becomes critical for farmers, especially smallholders, to receive fair compensation which influences their decisions to expand crop acreage and invest in quality seeds. Since potatoes perish quickly, cold storage is indispensable in the value chain; however, while growers can rent storage facilities, the distance to these facilities further escalates transportation costs, adversely affecting profit margins. With only 49 cold storage facilities available in the state, totaling 2.45 lakh MT, establishing ad-

ditional cold storage backed by the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF), which offers soft loans, surfaces as a viable solution. Farmers must be encouraged to adopt innovative seed varieties and modern practices, which can be facilitated by safeguarding them against distress sales during periods of surplus production, such as winter months. The proximity of food processing units to potato-growing regions could elevate demand, minimize post-harvest losses, and sustain profitable pricing. Furthermore, the federal Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) aims to buffer distress sales by allowing state governments to procure perishable goods or compensate for price differentials. The recent advancements in digital technology facilitate the verification of claims and direct payments to farmers, enhancing their incentive to innovate in farming and sales strategies. In instances of acute market gluts, local governments can urge the federal administration to reimburse storage and transportation expenses for excess harvested potatoes, positioning them for sale in consumer states. Strengthening Assam’s agricultural base is paramount for rural economic stability; thus, increasing agricultural productivity, especially in potato cultivation, is essential for improving the incomes of farm households and fostering employment opportunities. Therefore, ensuring accessible cold storage and preventing market manipulation by wholesale traders is crucial for maximizing the state’s potato production potential and balancing supply with retail demand.

Putin’s group needs to be prosecuted for crimes committed in Ukraine. The globe can do that with this proposal

Vladimir Putin ought to be concerned. Not since the trials of the Nazis at Nuremberg and the Japanese war criminals in Tokyo have so many international leaders united to prosecute those responsible for crimes that have terrorized, killed, and tortured millions of defenseless people. This month, the Council of Europe and the European Union reached a historic resolution to prosecute Putin’s group for the crime of aggression. This decision offers hope in a time of instability and division. More than just a practical mechanism, this special tribunal is a declaration that those responsible for war crimes and the senseless deaths of civilians will never again have a place to hide. It will target those in the president’s inner circle – the generals, bureaucrats and functionaries – who have planned Russian aggression in Ukraine. Justice might have been delayed for the four years since Ukraine was invaded, but it is no longer being denied. And now the Russian war machine has to explain its culpability for the first war started by a major power in Europe since 1945, and its responsibility, as the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) has estimated, for the deaths of up to 100,000 Ukrainian soldiers. In April 2026 alone, more than 1,600 Ukrainian civilians

were killed or maimed. Schools, hospitals and other civic amenities worth half a trillion dollars have been wilfully destroyed. The Putin circle has also to explain why politicians and generals have been prepared to sacrifice almost half a million of their own troops, according to some estimates. And, unlike Putin himself, the cabal can be tried while in office and in absentia. Rules-based retribution is at the core of this. Even if anyone who plans, starts, influences, or shapes a conflict is guilty of the crime of aggression, a very high standard of proof is still required to prove the defendant’s guilt. In the framework of the Council of Europe, the special tribunal for the crime of aggression against Ukraine is currently adopting procedural rules and selecting seasoned judges and prosecutors, all of whom will examine the bombing of civilian targets and the indiscriminate killing of innocent people. It is the result of years of pressure, first spearheaded by Philippe Sands and a group of well-known international lawyers, then backed by Volodymyr Zelenskyy, the president of Ukraine, and currently by other governments. Things are happening quickly. Putin and Maria Lvova-Belova, Russia’s commissioner for children’s rights, already have arrest war-



rants from the International Criminal Court (ICC) for their involvement in the illegal deportation of thousands of children from seized territories of Ukraine into Russia. Additionally, judges have issued arrest warrants for Valery Gerasimov, the head of the Russian military’s general staff, and former defense minister Sergei Shoigu. Gerasimov is the brains behind the bombardment of Ukraine’s infrastructure, which left millions without energy and ravaged cities. However, the ICC cannot try Russia’s political and

military leaders for the crime of aggression, even though it has jurisdiction over potential war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide committed on Ukrainian soil. For this reason, a Nuremberg-style tribunal is required. This is due to the fact that Russia is not a signatory to the Rome Statute, which created the International Criminal Court, and that Russia’s veto power at the UN will always keep the Security Council from bringing the case before the court. The sole remaining option

is the special tribunal system, whose precedent dates back 85 years to the 1941 St. James’s Palace Declaration, also known as the “London Declaration,” in which a number of nations agreed that those guilty of aggression would not have a safe refuge. The prosecution of Putin’s foundational crimes—a conspiracy to organize, arrange, and carry out the invasion, occupation, and attempted annexation of Ukraine, beginning with the invasion of Crimea in 2014—is now justified by the same rationale that was applied

to the Nazis back then. Because that tribunal had jurisdiction over war crimes, crimes against humanity, crimes against peace or aggressiveness, and over 80 of the arguments made during that procedure had to do with aggression, there is a connection with Nuremberg. The Council of Europe was established in the wake of World War II, when a large portion of the continent was in ruins, and its duty includes prosecuting the Kremlin conspiracy in this manner. It is the perfect catalyst for this criminal process because of its mission to protect human rights and the rule of law. More significantly, though, its support for the procedure makes it clear that a rules-based system is still the most effective means of establishing a more secure and tranquil society. There is no question about the degree of resolve. According to Kaja Kallas, the EU’s high representative for international affairs, “unpunished crimes only encourage future atrocities.” This is a time, according to EU Commissioner for Democracy, Justice, and the Rule of Law Michael McGrath. “We are one step closer to putting principles into practice. Without justice, there can be no lasting peace, and justice cannot exist without accountability.” It is indisputable that powerful, moral, and well-coordinated action is

required. In fact, the sheer fact that this tribunal exists shows that, despite numerous violations of international law—from Sudan, Gaza, and Iran to the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Myanmar—we are still living in a world with laws and regulations. In fact, a new UN convention on the prevention and punishment of crimes against humanity is currently being supported by nearly 100 countries, and a record 23 cases are being brought before the international court of justice. The stakes are really high. On the one hand, growing authoritarianism that disregards established standards protecting human rights has eroded the rule of law, while on the other, international organizations have failed to address the transnational issues that no state can resolve on its own. Because of this, the fate of Putin and, more immediately, his murderous cabal is vital because, should the tribunal be successful in holding them accountable, we will once more be upholding the fundamental principles of international law and the vital realization that disobeying it has grave and dire repercussions. Let the despot and his followers know that they will be hunted down to the ends of the planet and that they will never be able to carry out such crimes.

Reduce on Meesho is retained by JM Financial; pre-IPO lock-in expiry risk is noted

New Delhi: Analysts at JM Financial have maintained a ‘Reduce’ rating on Meesho, an e-commerce platform, adjusting the target price to ₹180 amidst concerns over the upcoming expiration of the lock-in period for pre-IPO shareholders. Around 68% of these shares will be tradable from June 10, 2026, potentially leading to significant market volatility. Despite acknowledging Meesho’s strong market position in value commerce, the analysts note that the company has



not yet reached operational break-even and trades at approximately 45x FY29E adjusted EBITDA, which they consider expensive. Several pre-IPO inves-

tors may seek to monetize their significant unrealized gains, particularly as Meesho’s stock has surged over 75% since its IPO. The firm emphasizes that

operational challenges remain, as management has not provided clear timelines for achieving profitability, exposing investors to execution risks. Meesho’s shares were trading at ₹193 as of May 26, 2026, reflecting a decline of 1.67% from the previous close.

JM Financial also expressed concerns about potential overhang from significant future share supply due to the lock-in expiries, especially noting historical trends in similar companies in the sector.

For the fifth day, Coffee Day Enterprises is up 20% in the upper circuit



New Delhi: On Friday, Coffee Day Enterprises shares reached the 20% upper circuit at ₹34.78 on the National Stock Exchange (NSE), extending their winning run for a sixth straight session. Over the last five trading sessions, the stock has increased by more than 40%. Following Siddaramaiah’s (77) resignation as Karnataka Chief Minister, Coffee Day Enterprises shares have gained attention, opening the door for new leadership in the state. DK Shivakumar, the deputy chief minister of Karnataka, is reportedly the front-runner to replace Siddaramaiah

as chief minister. Through his oldest daughter, Aishwarya, who is married to Amartya Hegde, Shivakumar has familial ties to CCD. The late VG Siddhartha, who established CCD in Bengaluru in 1996, is the father of Amartya Hegde. Over the past few years, Coffee Day Enterprises shares have been under pressure and have underperformed the markets. The stock has down 3% so far in 2026, according to NSE data, while the Nifty 50 index has dropped 9%. While the benchmark index has dropped 4.1% over the last year, the stock has seen a slight

increase of 5%. Over time, shares in Coffee Day Enterprises have consistently produced negative returns. According to data, the stock has fallen 7% over the past three years and 6% over the past five, significantly underperforming the Nifty 50, which has increased 28% and 54%, respectively, over the same time periods. In contrast to a loss of ₹33 crore in Q4 of FY25, Coffee Day Enterprises recorded a net profit of ₹132 crore in Q4FY26. For the reporting quarter, the company’s operating revenue was ₹281 crore, up 5% year over year from ₹268 crore in Q4FY25. Ebitda increased by 68% year over year to ₹69 crore (excluding one-time write-offs and profits of ₹140 crore). After losing ownership of its subsidiary AC & C Hospitality LLP, the company declared a one-time gain of ₹58.89 crore. Additionally, it disclosed a one-time charge of ₹11 crore for Tangl’s corporate guarantee obligation in Developments Limited (a subsidiary).

Compared to ₹58 crore in the prior fiscal year, Coffee Day Enterprises reported a net profit of ₹203 crore for the entire fiscal year 2026. Ebitda increased 88% year over year to ₹420 crore, while revenue increased 4% year over year to ₹1,116 crore.

Wipro increases its ServiceNow partnership by 5% in order to scale agentic AI workflows

New Delhi: On the BSE, Wipro shares increased 4.7%, reaching an intraday high of ₹211.2 per share. The company’s announcement of an expanded relationship with ServiceNow to develop and scale agentic artificial intelligence (AI) processes across key enterprise areas, such as information technology (IT), human resources, procurement, and cybersecurity, preceded the buying on the counter.

But by 11:10 AM, Wipro’s stock price had lost part of its gains, rising 2.11 percent to ₹205.85 per share. By contrast, the BSE Sensex was up 0.17 percent at 75,998.6. Through the relationship, Wipro will connect the ServiceNow AI Platform with Wipro Intelligence, its unified suite of AI-powered platforms and solutions, allowing enterprises to more efficiently initiate, orchestrate, and carry out work across enterprise systems. The integration is intended to promote accountability and operational governance while decreasing manual coordination, increasing visibility into job progression, and speeding up turnaround times. The ServiceNow AI Platform will be used by three Wipro Intelligence solutions:



Cyber Transform, which enhances security operations by strengthening vulnerability and incident response workflows throughout the cybersecurity value chain; Telco Autonomous Networks, which modernizes service operations by combining AI-enabled workflows with telecom-specific context to improve issue resolution; and SmartProcure, which streamlines procurement workflows and improves cycle times through standardized intake, approvals, and

execution. “Execution at scale, rather than aspiration, is the true challenge with AI for the majority of businesses.

Malay Joshi, chief executive officer of Wipro’s Americas 1 Strategic Market Unit, stated, “Our expanded partnership with ServiceNow is designed to bridge that gap through a consulting-led, AI-powered approach that translates business priorities into industry-aligned AI solutions.” While AI is not new to businesses, connect-

ed, controlled, and outcome-driven AI is. According to Amit Zavery, President, Chief Operating Officer, and Chief Product Officer of ServiceNow, “ideas start delivering real results and the agentic enterprise becomes possible when agentic AI runs inside secure workflows.”

“After a protracted corrective phase, Wipro is exhibiting signs of base formation near the long-term support zone around ₹200–202. The RSI has climbed over 55, suggesting a steady strength recovery on the daily chart, and the stock has recently recovered from lower levels with better momentum. However, the price continues to trade below significant long-term moving averages, indicating that evidence of a persistent rise has not yet surfaced, according to Virat Jagad, senior technical analysis analyst at Bonanza.

In the upcoming weeks, a strong move over ₹212–218 might lead to new purchasing impetus towards ₹235 and ₹250 levels, he continued. Positional traders may be able to maintain the recovery structure if they hold above ₹200, which continues to be an important support zone on the downside.

Sebi wants more stringent control over the use of market-raised equity funds

Mumbai: According to a copy of draft recommendations examined by Reuters, India’s markets regulator intends to strengthen control of how businesses use equity capital received from public markets.

At a time when fundraising activity has slowed due to a slowdown in Indian equities markets after the Iran conflict, the ideas are intended to increase investor confidence and issuer accountability. The draft suggestions will be sent by a panel of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) to the regulator, which would then ask the market for input before modifying the regulations.

There has been no prior reporting on the proposed regulations. Sebi did not respond to a Wednesday email inquiry. The plans would give monitoring organizations—usually credit rating agencies—more authority to hold companies responsible for the use of their cash. A lower threshold of funds raised to initiate mandatory monitoring, penalties for noncompliance, and direct reporting by rating agencies to stock exchanges are



among the proposed reforms. Sebi’s proposed framework is similar to the UK model, in which the regulator requires an investment bank or advising business to closely monitor IPO proceeds. Credit rating agencies in India are already required to keep an eye on how money received through public offers is used, but they are not required to make these reports public and frequently encounter a lack of information from businesses.

The proposed amendments would require credit rating agencies to flag non-compliant enterprises and send reports on fund utilization directly to exchanges. The purpose of monitoring agency reports is

to protect investment interests and improve accountability and openness. As a result, the proposed rules state that timely and sufficient reporting to exchanges is crucial to guaranteeing investor safety. Additionally, the panel of regulators is suggesting that issuers that block monitoring face fines of ₹50,000 (\$522) for each infraction. Additionally, the regulator intends to increase inspection of IPOs, rights offerings, preferential allotments, and qualified institutional placements by lowering the bar for required monitoring from ₹100 crore to ₹50 crore. Due to economic uncertainties brought on by the crisis in West Asia, only 15 firms have entered the market since the beginning of the year, despite the pipeline of approved initial public offerings (IPOs) awaiting regulatory approvals reaching a record high of ₹2.5 trillion across 190 companies. Tighter governance surrounding capital deployment would assist boost investor sentiment when companies return to the market to raise cash, according to a source with direct knowledge of the proposed regulation changes.

Wockhardt reaches a record high after the antibiotic Zaynich is approved by CDSCO

New Delhi: On the BSE, Wockhardt shares surged 18.1%, reaching a record high of ₹2,092.6 per share. The Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) authorized the company to import and commercialize Zaynich (Zidebactam/Cefepime), an indigenously discovered and produced first-in-class antibiotic, in India, which led to the purchase on the counter. But by 12:34 PM, Wockhardt’s stock price had lost part of its gains, rising 17.54 percent to ₹2082.4 per share. By contrast, the BSE Sensex was down 0.10 percent at 75,792.51. Adult patients with concurrent Gram-negative bacteremia and complex urinary tract infections (cUTI), including pyelonephritis, are covered by the approval. In cases of carbapenem-resistant infections, where existing treatments like colistin and polymyxins are constrained by severe toxicity and inadequate efficacy, zaynich is posi-

tioned as a potentially life-saving therapeutic option. One of the most common and difficult resistance mechanisms in India is metallo-β-lactamase (MBL)-mediated resistance, which is specifically addressed by the medication. Results from the ENHANCE-1 study, a multinational, randomized, double-blind Phase 3 clinical trial assessing the safety and effectiveness of Zaynich in comparison to meropenem in cUTI patients, support the approval. At the test-of-cure visit, Zaynich showed statistical superiority over meropenem for the primary composite endpoint of clinical cure and microbiological eradication, which was attained in 89% of patients treated with Zaynich compared to 68.4% in the meropenem arm, a treatment difference of 20.6% in favor of Zaynich. Composite response rates among patients with concomitant bacteremia at baseline were 89% in the

Zaynich arm compared to 44% in the meropenem arm, highlighting its potential in severe and high-risk infections. Zaynich was assessed in nine Phase 1 trials and a Phase 2 clinical research with patients who had meropenem-resistant Gram-negative infections prior to the Phase 3 program. Over 97% of serious infections, such as hospital-acquired bacterial pneumonia, ventilator-associated bacterial pneumonia, bloodstream infections, complicated intra-abdominal infections, and cUTI, showed clinical efficacy in the Phase 2 study, which was carried out in 15 of India’s top tertiary care hospitals. Cefepime/Zidebactam’s ability to treat highly drug-resistant Gram-negative bacteria in critically ill patients is supported by the Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute’s assignment of an experimental susceptible breakpoint of 64 mg/L.

Despite a strong Q4, Ashok Leyland is down 3.5%; experts see margin pressure

New Delhi: Ashok Leyland shares experienced a decline on the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) on May 29, with a fall of 3.5% to ₹157.75 per share during intraday trade. This drop coincided with a slight decrease of 0.22% in the benchmark BSE Sensex index. Analysts expressed concerns about potential near-term margin pressures affecting the commercial vehicle manufacturer, despite acknowledging the company’s robust Q4 results for the financial year 2025-26 (FY26). They warned of a possible decline in demand for commercial vehicles due to ongoing geopolitical uncertainties and rising fuel prices.

Analysts from Nomura noted that macroeconomic factors, including heightened fuel prices, inflation, and potential interest rate hikes, could hinder India’s GDP growth. They emphasized the sensitivity of medium and heavy commercial vehicles (MHCVs) to any slowdown in this growth.

Recent dealer surveys have also suggested a slowdown in inquiries, prompting Nomura to maintain a cautious perspective on Ashok Leyland’s CV cycle and reiterate their ‘Neutral’ rating for the company.

In terms of financial performance, Ashok Leyland reported an 18.9% year-on-year (Y-o-Y) increase in revenue for Q4FY26, reaching ₹14,160.5 crore, driven by a 17.4% Y-o-Y growth in volume and a 1.3% rise in average selling price (ASP). The company’s EBITDA grew by 15.3% Y-o-Y and 34.6% quarter-on-quarter (Q-o-Q) to ₹2,065.5 crore. However, the EBITDA margin did see a contraction of 46 basis points on a Y-o-Y basis to 14.6%, although it improved by 128 basis points Q-o-Q. The adjusted net profit was up by 11.5% Y-o-Y and 27.2% Q-o-Q, totaling ₹1,404.7 crore. For the full FY26, Ashok Leyland achieved revenue, EBITDA, and profit after tax (PAT) growth of 14%,

16%, and 19%, respectively, totaling ₹44,000 crore, ₹5,700 crore, and ₹3,800 crore.

The management stated that demand trends for commercial vehicles were strong in Q3 and Q4 of FY26, remaining stable into April 2026, with fleet operators continuing their expansion and replacement strategies despite facing short-term operational hurdles. However, the company opted not to provide volume growth guidance for FY27, citing geopolitical uncertainties and inflation-related concerns.

In response to rising costs, Ashok Leyland implemented price hikes of 1% in January and 1.5% in April of the same year, anticipating that fleet operators would pass these increases on. The management also highlighted that commodity inflation, particularly in steel, poses a significant challenge, projecting margin pressures due to escalating raw material costs in Q1FY27.

Following poor Q4 results, BDL shares fell 8%

New Delhi: The state-run defense manufacturer Bharat Dynamics’ near-term growth outlook has been clouded by a sharp miss on revenue and profitability in the March quarter (Q4) of the 2025–26 fiscal year (FY26). As a result, brokerages have lowered their FY27 and FY28 earnings estimates due to delays in important missile programs and persistent supply-chain bottlenecks. Due to massive volumes, Bharat Dynamics’ share price fell 8.4% to ₹1,175 per share on the BSE. At 9:50 AM, the stock had dropped 7.28% while the benchmark BSE Sensex index had increased by 0.11%. Approximately 2,27,000 shares have already been exchanged on the stock exchange counter, surpassing the average volume of 96,000 shares over the previous two weeks. In Q4FY26, BDL’s operating

revenue fell 72.9% year over year (Y-o-Y) and 10.9% sequentially to ₹488.6 crore, significantly falling short of Street estimates of ₹2,033.6 crore. Although it increased 112.8% quarter over quarter (QoQ), earnings before interest, tax, depreciation, and amortization (Ebitda) fell 81.5% year over year to ₹55.3 crore.

Additionally, the Ebitda margin fell 529 basis points year over year to 11.3%, much lower than the 22.9% that experts had predicted. In contrast, profit after tax (PAT) increased 55.3% sequentially but decreased 58.5% year over year to ₹113.2 crore. On the other hand, PAT margin increased by 802 basis points year over year to 23.2%. Revenue, Ebitda, and PAT decreased by 27%, 53%, and 24% year over year for the entire FY26.

For the sixth day in a row, Larsen & Toubro’s stock is up 2%

New Delhi: In an otherwise range-bound market, Larsen & Toubro (L&T) shares were trading steadily on Friday, up 2% at ₹4,128 on the BSE. For the sixth consecutive trading day, the large civil construction company’s stock price increased, rising 6% throughout that time.

L&T has beaten the market thus far in 2026, declining less than 1% while the BSE Sensex has dropped sharply by 11%. On February 24, 2026, the stock reached a 52-week high of ₹4,440.

L&T was up 1.5% at ₹4,105.70 at 12:06 PM, while the BSE Sensex was down 0.03%. The Defence Ministry’s invitation to bids from Tata Advanced Systems, L&T, and Bharat Forge for the ₹15,000-crore Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) program gave India’s defence manufacturing industry a significant boost. This was the first time a significant fighter jet project was made available only to private companies, excluding Hindustan Aeronautics (HAL). The AMCA will be a fifth-generation, 25-ton twin-engine stealth fighter with an internal weapons bay and 6.5 tons of fuel capacity.



The chosen business will collaborate with the Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA) of DRDO to create five prototypes. The more sophisticated AMCA Mk2 will be powered by a more powerful domestic engine, while the AMCA Mk1 will use the current 90 kN-class engine. With complete certification anticipated by 2032, the first prototype is anticipated by late 2026 or early 2027, highlighting India’s drive for independence and increased private sector involvement in defense aerospace. ICICI Securities claims that the AMCA possibility is strategically important for L&T since it improves the com-

pany’s standing in India’s quickly growing defense and aerospace industrial ecosystem. L&T is a strong candidate for such a complicated program because it already has extensive expertise in precision engineering, aerospace structures, missile systems, naval platforms, and defense electronics. According to a report from the brokerage firm, if chosen, the project may boost technology capabilities, increase L&T’s share of high-value defense production, and provide long-term revenue visibility over the next ten years. One of the brokerage firm’s top fundamental picks for the month is L&T. With a target price of ₹4,955 per share, analysts have given L&T a “BUY” rating. The largest engineering and construction firm in India, L&T has a broad presence in infrastructure, heavy engineering, defense engineering, electricity, hydrocarbons, and services, as well as EPC projects and high-tech manufacturing and services. According to the brokerage firm, the company anticipates a 10–12% year-over-year (YoY) increase in gross revenue for FY26, with a medium-term goal of 16–17% ROE.

To safeguard Indo-Pacific energy flows, Quad will establish a fuel security forum

New Delhi: The foreign ministers of India, Australia, Japan, and the United States met in New Delhi on Tuesday and sent a clear message: the Indo-Pacific will not be held hostage to the energy volatility reshaping the global economy, despite oil tankers navigating an increasingly dangerous Strait of Hormuz and fuel prices rising to multi-year highs throughout Asia. The Strait of Hormuz is specifically mentioned in the Quad’s joint statement on Indo-Pacific Energy Security, which was released at the end of the ministerial meeting. This is an unusually direct diplomatic signal that calls for “unimpeded freedom of navigation” and opposes “any restrictive measures hampering the flow of commercial vessels.” Concern over the disruptions caused by the escalating conflict in the Middle East, which has disrupted maritime channels that transport the majority of the region’s crude oil shipments eastward to Asia, is reflected in the phrase.

The timing is quite important. The cost of fertilizer, petrochemical supply chains, and household energy bills from Tokyo to Mumbai to Sydney have all been negatively impacted by the steep increase in Brent crude since the Middle East’s increased hostilities in recent months. The crisis has revealed structural weaknesses for Indo-Pacific countries that rely significantly on Gulf oil imports, which policymakers have long recognized but have yet to successfully



address collectively. It is noteworthy that India was at the center of the statement on Tuesday. Long defending its strategic independence in multilateral energy forums, New Delhi has emerged as a crucial component of the Quad’s response framework. The statement frames India as a regional stabilizing force alongside Australia’s participation in Southeast Asia and the Pacific, acknowledging India’s continued assistance for energy security in South Asia. India’s adoption of this approach represents a major change in how it portrays its economic interests overseas, given that it is both one of the world’s biggest importers of petroleum and a developing center for sustainable energy. The Quad Fuel Security Forum, a high-level coordination group intended to support crisis response, policy alignment, and market analysis during times of severe energy stress, was announced by the four countries. This is accompanied by a more comprehensive Quad Initiative on Indo-Pacific Energy Security, which will create an engagement strategy covering

emergency response drills, technology, and strategic petroleum system fortification. As proof of its Pacific energy security mandate, Australia presented tangible financial commitments, including its \$2 billion Southeast Asia Investment Financing Facility and AUD 30 million in budget support to Fiji. Japan, on the other hand, emphasized the Partnership on Wide Energy and Resources Resilience, or POWERR Asia, as a means of promoting regional energy diversification. The statement takes care to address both the immediate crisis and the structural injustice of energy disruptions, recognizing that vulnerable developing countries and small island states in the Pacific bear a disproportionate share of the burden, as even small supply shocks can cause severe economic hardship for them. While maritime security and technology supply chains have historically been the focus of Quad cooperation, analysts observing the meeting pointed out that Tuesday’s statement represents a significant expansion of the grouping’s economic security mandate, which is largely driven by the current crisis forcing the issue. The message from the Quad was clear as foreign ministers left New Delhi: the unrestricted flow of energy through the world’s most important chokepoints is not only a business issue. The four countries stated that it is crucial to the stability of the world economy and that they plan to protect it collectively.

WHO warns that the DRC’s Ebola outbreak is “outpacing” response efforts

Ethiopia: The World Health Organization has issued a warning, stating that neighboring nations of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) are highly vulnerable to the disease and that the Ebola outbreak is surpassing response efforts. The director-general of the WHO, Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, encouraged neighboring nations to act immediately, saying, “We are urgently scaling up operations, but at the moment the epidemic is outpacing us.” Speaking at an online meeting of the African Union over the outbreak, he also stated that the current Ebola outbreak had resulted in 220 suspected deaths thus far and that he and Chikwe Ihekweazu, executive director of WHO’s health emergency program, would go to the Democratic Republic of the Congo on Tuesday. Tedros’s statement was made at a time when the response to the outbreak was being hindered by attacks by locals on medical facilities in Ituri province. Residents of the DRC town of Mongbwalu attacked the Mongbwalu general referral hospital on Saturday and Sunday. The facility’s medical director, Dr. Richard Lokodu, told Reuters that 18 Ebola patients had left on Saturday after “unidentified individuals” set fire to tents set up by Médecins Sans Frontières for patient isolation. He claimed that on Sunday, the hospital was attacked in four waves by young people who were organized by the fam-



ily of a religious leader who passed away from Ebola. In order to restore order, Congolese military and police had to step in after seven more patients managed to flee. In the second attack, a suspected patient who was bleeding profusely and in serious condition perished while attempting to escape from his bed.

According to Lokodu, the attackers had wanted the Ebola victims’ bodies to be released for burial. A similar event occurred on Thursday when a group of people set fire to a treatment facility in Rwampara, close to Bunia, after the authorities refused to give them the victim’s body so they could bury it. In order to contain the sickness, authorities handle the burial of bodies, which can be highly contagious. However, some families prefer traditional burials, which involve touching and washing the body. This

has been demonstrated to be a major factor in the disease’s propagation in earlier outbreaks. Tedros declared the epidemic a “public health emergency of international concern” earlier this month following reports of over 300 probable cases, 88 fatalities in the DRC, and two deaths in neighboring Uganda. Uganda reported two more Ebola cases on Monday, bringing the total number of confirmed cases in the nation to seven. According to a statement from Uganda’s health ministry, the two new cases are Ugandan medical professionals working in a private hospital in the nation’s capital, Kampala. The uncommon Bundibugyo ebolavirus, which has no known cure or vaccine, is the cause of the outbreak. The hotspots are the areas of Rwampara, Mongbwalu, Nyankunde, and Bunia in the north-eastern DRC province of Ituri. This is a gold-rich region that serves as a commercial and migration hub. Since 1999, fighting between militias affiliated with the Hema and Lendu ethnic groups over land and minerals has killed over 50,000 people. Additionally, cases have been documented in the rebel-held city of Bukavu in South Kivu province, as well as Butembo and Goma in North Kivu province. Tedros stated on Monday that the lack of an approved vaccination and the insecurity in Ituri and North Kivu made it difficult to suppress the outbreak.

Over a thousand climbers reach the summit of Mount Everest before it closes in 2026

Kathmandu: With a record-breaking 1,008 climbers successfully reaching the summit during the spring 2026 window, Mount Everest has experienced its most historic climbing season to date. The Kathmandu Post reports that Nepal’s Department of Tourism announced on Friday that this number represents the most number of successful ascents ever documented since the start of expeditions to the highest mountain in the world. At the same time, the remarkable season achieved several firsts.

The Department of Tourism’s director general, Ram Krishna Lamichhane, claims that the spring 2026 window set records for both the total number of licenses granted and the total amount of royalties collected by the government, in addition to the number of successful climbers. High success rates were made possible by unusually favorable weather windows.

The government’s temporary field office coordinator at Everest Base Camp, Khim Lal Gautam, confirmed the final count on Friday morning, saying that precisely 1,008 climbers had reached the summit of the globe



as part of this year’s spring climbing program. A block of glacial ice blocked the path at the start of the season, raising concerns about delays. However, Nepali climbers have found a different route. The northern face of Tibet or Nepal can be used to climb the world’s tallest peak, which crosses the boundary between China and Nepal. However, this year China closed the passage. According to Guinness World Records, 872 ascents of Everest were made in a single season in 2019. This season, Nepal issued a record 494 Everest permits for

foreigners, and climbers and support personnel set up a city of tents at the base of the mountain.

Concerns of overcrowding on the mountain, especially in the low-oxygen “death zone” close to the peak, have been revived by the enormous numbers. Photographs showed climbers lined up on the snowy peaks, waiting to reach the summit. However, guides claimed that better technology and logistics, such as internet connectivity, made climbing safer. “Climbing has now become more comfortable... up to Everest Camp II, we can check

the weather conditions before ascending,” stated 30-year-old Dorchi Sherpa, an Everest guide. Weather is the primary risk factor and the main cause of accidents.

Warmer weather has also been beneficial, according to Lukas Furtenbach of Furtenbach Adventures in Austria. “Summit days were warm, and that helped to keep the number of frostbites low, because otherwise long traffic jams could have been deadly,” Furtenbach stated. However, he also pointed out that a longer-term threat was brought about by temperature increases brought on by climate change. “The effects of climate change were quite visible -- it was extremely warm even at the base camp,” he stated. The 56-year-old veteran Nepali climber Kami Rita Sherpa, who set a new record this year with his 32nd ascent, cautioned that conditions are becoming more crowded due to the increasing numbers. “The expedition this time felt a bit crowded because clients have increased compared to last year,” he stated. “The government should regulate this... They should let in only climbers of quality... There should be a limit.”

Iran, US Reach a Ceasefire Agreement; Trump Has Not Approved It

Washington DC: A preliminary agreement for a 60-day extension of the truce has been reached between the United States and Iran, but US President Donald Trump must still approve the memorandum of understanding. The two countries had agreed to extend the ceasefire and begin talks on Iran’s nuclear program, according to sources. Iran has not yet accepted the agreement, according to a report. The deal’s framework has been developed and “mostly agreed” to as of Tuesday, according to the report, but both sides’ high leadership still needs to approve it. According to a US official cited by Axios, Trump “wants a couple of days to think about it” and did not approve the deal right away despite being briefed on its specifics. Free shipping via the Strait of Hormuz will be part of the 60-day memorandum of understanding. As a result, ships traversing the strategic chokepoint would not be able to pay tolls to the Islamic Republic. The magazine was informed by a US official that there would be “no harassment” in the strait and that Iran would have to clear the canal of all mines within 30 days. According to the US official, the US

naval blockade will be removed in proportion to the amount of commercial shipping that is once again able to pass through the Strait of Hormuz. Sanctions are another crucial component of the framework agreement, and the US is prepared to waive some of them in order to allow Iran to freely sell oil. According to the report, Iran will pledge not to pursue a nuclear weapon as part of the agreement. The two parties will negotiate the course of action regarding Iranian enrichment and the disposal of Iran’s highly enriched uranium during the 60-day ceasefire. The United States will commit to discussing two topics during the negotiations: sanctions and frozen Iranian funds. According to a US official, “the more the Iranians are willing to give the more they will get.” Three months after the battle started with US-Israeli bombings on the Islamic republic, Washington and Tehran accused each other of breaking an ongoing truce after a gunfight. The temporary deal is noteworthy since it came just days after the most intense firefight since the ceasefire began in April, shaking continuing diplomatic attempts to put an end to the conflict.

The Delusion of an Israel-Lebanon Ceasefire: 1,600 Strikes, 500 Drone Attacks

Lebanon: Since April 16, there has been a truce between Israel and the terrorist organization Hezbollah in Lebanon; yet, even by the most liberal definitions, it cannot be considered a ceasefire. Israel and Hezbollah have engaged in intense gunfire since the US made the declaration, and Israeli forces have persisted in destroying communities in southern Lebanon. The Institute for the Study of War, a Washington-based think group, gathered statistics showing that between April 16 and May 27, 2026, the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) carried out about 1,600 strikes in various locations of Lebanon. The northern, central, and southern regions of Lebanon were the primary targets of the strikes. According to the data, Hezbollah also launched about 500 missile and drone operations against Israeli soldiers during this time. Residents were asked to relocate north of the Zahrani River after the IDF designated a large portion of southern Lebanon as a “combat zone” on May 27. From the Israeli border, the expanded battle zone now extends almost 40 kilometers into Lebanon.

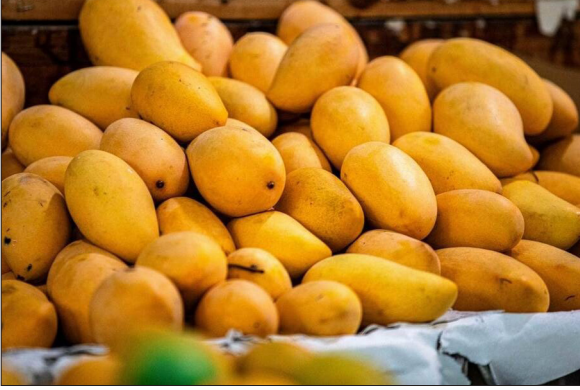
Similar to Gaza, Israel has already created a “buffer zone”—a ribbon of land about 10 km deep north of the Israeli-Lebanon border—which the IDF refers to as its “security zone.” Reports claim that Israeli forces have extensively destroyed homes and other civilian infrastructure in this area in an effort to prevent Hezbollah members from finding refuge. According to the Associated Press, an Israeli bombardment in southern Lebanon on the evening of May 27–28 killed at least 14 people, including in Tyre, the nation’s fourth-largest city. Beirut, the capital, also reported at least one airstrike.

Israeli forces have tightened their hold on southern Lebanon by crossing the Litani



River, which the military has long regarded as an operational boundary. Despite the April 16 truce mediated by Washington, significant areas of the territory are still under Israeli control. In the meantime, the Israeli military reported that a Hezbollah drone attack in northern Israel claimed the life of one of its soldiers. Citing Hezbollah’s use of fiber-optic guided drones that have targeted Israeli troops and reached villages along Israel’s northern border, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has declared an intensification of military operations in Lebanon. The IDF claimed to have launched hundreds of strikes against what it called the military infrastructure of Hezbollah. The first security meeting between Israeli and Lebanese officials is scheduled for this Friday in Washington. Hezbollah has categorically rejected the discussions and repeatedly urged Lebanon’s government to withdraw from them, claiming Beirut lacks the power to stop the war or force an Israeli departure. Ghassan Salame, Lebanon’s minister of culture, has cautioned that the Israeli strikes pose a “serious danger” to Tyre’s historical sites. “Bombings fell very close to the ruins of Tyre,” he said to AFP. “The intensification of the battles means that these sites are in serious danger.”

After 20 years, Japan has banned Indian mangoes



Tokyo: After quarantine inspectors discovered deficiencies in pest-control practices at Indian treatment facilities during inspections earlier this year, Japan has halted imports of mangoes from India. Premium Indian varieties like Alphonso, Kesar, Langra, and Banganapalli have been impacted by the action, which has hindered exports during the important summer mango season. This suspension is the first of its kind in almost twenty years. Due to worries about fruit flies, Japan had previously prohibited Indian mangoes; these restrictions were finally abolished in 2006 after India improved its treatment procedures. Concerns over whether Indian mango exports are adhering to Japan’s stringent plant health regulations have now been voiced by Japanese authorities once more. Fruit flies and other exotic pests that pose a serious threat to domestic agriculture are subject to a zero-tolerance poli-

cy in Japan. Japan dispatches quarantine officers to examine India’s Vapour Heat Treatment (VHT) facilities before to each mango export season. These facilities are in charge of disinfecting mangoes before to export.

VHT is a non-chemical method that kills pests and fruit fly larvae by subjecting mangoes to regulated hot, humid air. According to the two nations’ export agreement, the treatment is required. The VHT facility in Rehmanpur, Uttar Pradesh, hosted this year’s inspection in March. Japanese officials reportedly discovered flaws in the facility’s fumigation and disinfection protocols. The precise technical problems found during the examination have not been made public by either the Japanese or Indian authorities. The Yokohama Plant Protection Association in Japan declared following the visit that shipments of Indian mangoes bearing in-

spection certifications issued after March 25, 2026, would no longer be permitted. Although Japan isn’t India’s largest mango market, exporters claim the embargo is nevertheless a major setback due to the high prices Indian mangoes fetch there. India is the world’s largest producer of mangoes, producing close to 28 million metric tonnes annually. Although the majority of the food is consumed domestically, producers and traders make much more money from exports to upscale markets like Japan. Exporters now worry that the restriction may undermine trust in India’s agricultural quality-control systems and cause other importing nations to become concerned. Mango growers’ problems have been exacerbated by the suspension’s timing, particularly in the Alphonso belt in Maharashtra. Due to the intense heat and unpredictable weather associated with the El Nino climatic trend, farmers in the state have already reported significant crop losses this year. According to certain government-sponsored estimates, losses in some places could reach 85–90%. Exporters claim that the Japanese restriction might further hurt profits during one of the most crucial months of the mango trade season, since production has already drastically decreased.

Three People Dead in US Apartment Explosion, Including Child

Washington DC: A toddler and at least two other people were killed in an explosion and big fire at a Dallas apartment complex on Thursday, according to officials. The explosion rattled surrounding homes and occurred while firemen were racing to a suspected gas leak. According to Jason Evans, a spokesman for Dallas Fire-Rescue, at least five persons were admitted to hospitals with injuries. The number of occupants of the two-story complex in the Oak Cliff district south of downtown Dallas, where a towering column of black smoke could be seen for miles, was unknown. As workers continued to search through the burning remnants of the building, Evans did not rule out the possibility that other victims may be discovered. Less than half of the scene had been manually combed by firemen by late Thursday, according to Evans, and certain places would need to be excavated. Evans remarked, “This was enormous,” regarding the fire. Friends and family of some residents were concerned as scores of firefighters flocked to the area and made fruitless attempts to contact their loved ones. While colleagues continued to drench the charred debris, dozens of firefighters combed into the building’s smoking remains. According to Berry, an explosion oc-

curred while firefighters were responding to a report of a gas leak. Dallas Fire-Rescue Deputy Chief Mark Berry stated, “We had the cavalry coming.” “But the explosion had already taken place.” “Natural gas supplier Atmos Energy said in a statement that fire officials informed them that a pipeline close to the fire site had been broken by an unrelated construction group. The apartment building’s resident, Kacee Proctor, claimed that her mother had smelled gas inside a day before, but Proctor didn’t give it much thought at the time. She was horrified that her cat, Shirley, was trapped inside because she wasn’t home when the explosion occurred. “I’ve spent several hours sobbing while sitting over there. I have no idea what to do. “This is all I have right here,” Proctor remarked, pointing to her attire. She chatted with evacuated neighbors throughout the afternoon, including a teenager who was watching her younger sister at home and transported the youngster and their dog to safety. The area’s natural gas supply was still cut off, and company representatives were assisting on-site investigations, according to the firm. At a nearby high school, authorities established a family reunion center. Frances Rizo was still looking for her buddy who resided in the building several hours after the fire.

Nutritious Cookies to Satisfy Your Sugar Cravings

You don't have to give up everything you enjoy in order to improve your diet. With their clever substitutions and abundance of healthy ingredients, these cookies make it simple to indulge yourself while maintaining your objectives. Freshly baked cookies are the best, so why give them up just because you're trying to eat healthier? Don't get us wrong, we understand that maintaining your wellness goals requires paying attention to your body, eating in accordance with your instincts, getting adequate exercise throughout the week, and being mindful of portions or relying on healthy hacks (particularly when it comes to treats). However, there are many healthy and sweet recipes that can help you stay on track. These healthier cookies will fulfill your cravings for chocolate chip, oatmeal, or any of the delectably rich options in between. What is our own favorite? These delights are triple chocolate and delicious. They are the perfect healthy treat because they are created with cocoa powder and adorned with bits of milk and dark chocolate.

Cookies with Triple Chocolate
Ingredients:
1/4 cup butter, softened,
1/2 cup dark brown sugar,
1/4 cup granulated sugar,
1/4 cup canola oil,
1 egg,
1 teaspoon vanilla extract,
1/2 cup all-purpose flour,
1/2 cup whole-wheat pastry flour,
1/4 cup unsweetened cocoa powder (not Dutch processed),
1/4 teaspoon salt, optional,
1/3 cup coarsely chopped dark chocolate (2 ounces),
1/3 cup coarsely chopped milk chocolate (2 ounces),
2/3 cup chopped pecans.
Directions:
Set the oven temperature to 350 degrees Fahrenheit.

Using a fork, thoroughly mix the butter and sugars in a big basin. Beat the egg and oil together until creamy. Add the vanilla and stir. Mix the flours, cocoa powder, and salt in a medium-sized bowl. Mix thoroughly after adding the dry ingredients to the wet ingredients. Mix thoroughly after adding the pecans, milk chocolate, and dark chocolate. Spoon the batter onto

a cookie sheet that hasn't been buttered using a tablespoon. Bake for 12 minutes. Place the cookies on a cooling rack.
Peanut-Butter Banana Breakfast Cookies:
Ingredients:
3 large, ripe bananas,
2 1/2 cups rolled oats,
1 cup peanut butter (my family prefers chunky),
1/3 cup semisweet chocolate chips,
1/4 cup honey,
2 teaspoons cinnamon,
Pinch of salt.
Directions:
Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F. Line a parchment paper baking sheet.
Using a fork, mash the bananas in a big bowl. Stir together the oats, chocolate chips, peanut butter, honey, cinnamon, and salt. (The mixture could be difficult to stir due to its thickness.) Using a cookie scoop, scoop out the dough, then use your hands to make balls by firmly pushing the dough together. Put the balls on the baking sheet that has been prepared. Bake for 12 to 15 minutes, or until the sides begin to brown.
Gluten-Free Double Chocolate Chip Cookies:

Ingredients:
1 cup coconut oil,
1 1/4 cups evaporated cane juice,
1/3 cup applesauce,
1/2 cup cocoa powder,
1 teaspoon kosher salt,
2 tablespoons pure vanilla extract,
1 1/2 cups gluten-free all-purpose baking flour,
1/4 cup flax meal,
1 teaspoon baking soda,
1 1/2 teaspoons xanthan gum,
1 cup chocolate chips.
Directions:
Preheat the oven to 325 degrees F. Line two baking pans with parchment paper.
Combine the oil, evaporated cane juice, applesauce, cocoa powder, salt, and vanilla in a medium-sized bowl. Mix the flour, flax meal, baking soda, and xanthan gum in a separate medium basin. Gently stir the dry ingredients into the wet liquid with a rubber spatula until dough is formed. Just until the chocolate chips are evenly distributed throughout the dough, gently mix them in. Spoon the dough onto the prepared baking sheets, one inch apart, using a tablespoon or melon baller. To aid in their spreading, lightly

push each with the heel of your hand. Bake for 14 minutes on the center rack, turning the trays 180 degrees after 7 minutes. The cookies will have a soft middle and crispy edges.
After letting the cookies stand on the baking sheet for ten minutes, move them to a wire rack to cool fully before covering. Keep for up to three days at room temperature in an airtight container.
Soft Maple Cookies:
Ingredients:
1 1/4 cups (5 3/8 ounces) white whole wheat flour,
1 1/4 cups (4 3/8 ounces) old-fashioned rolled oats,
1 1/2 teaspoons baking powder,
1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon,
1/2 teaspoon fine sea salt,
1/4 teaspoon baking soda,
3/4 cup (9 ounces) pure maple syrup,
6 tablespoons (3 ounces) unsalted butter, melted,
1/2 teaspoon pure vanilla extract,
1 large egg,
1/3 cup (2 ounces) chopped bittersweet chocolate (60- to 70-percent cacao), 1/3 cup (1 1/2 ounces) chopped toasted pecans,
1/3 cup (1 1/2 ounces) raisins, Turbinado sugar, for sprinkling.
Directions: Mix 1 cup flour, oats, baking soda, cinnamon, baking powder, and salt in a big basin. The remaining 1/4 cup flour, maple syrup, melted butter, vanilla extract, and egg should all be combined in a medium bowl and whisked until smooth. Blend thoroughly after stirring the wet ingredients into the dry. Add the pecans, raisins, and chocolate, if using. Cover the bowl and refrigerate for one hour, or until extremely solid.
Preheat the oven to 350 degrees Fahrenheit



and place a rack in the upper and lower thirds of the oven. Use parchment paper to line two baking sheets. Using a 1-tablespoon measuring spoon, divide the batter into 15 evenly spaced cookies on each of the prepared baking sheets. If desired, top with turbinado sugar. Bake for about 12 minutes, being careful not to overbake, until the outside is gently golden but the centers are still little soft. After about five minutes of cooling on the baking pans, move the cookies to wire racks to finish cooling. Keep for up to a week in an airtight container.
Cookies with fruitcake:
Ingredients:
1/2 pound dried figs,
1/4 pound raisins,
2 ounces candied cherries, coarsely chopped,
2 ounces dried apricots, coarsely chopped,
1 tablespoon honey,
2 tablespoons dry sherry, 1 tablespoon freshly squeezed lemon juice,
6 ounces chopped pecans,
Kosher salt,
1/2 pound (2 sticks) unsalted butter, at room temperature,
1/2 teaspoon ground cloves,

1/2 cup superfine sugar,
1/3 cup light brown sugar, firmly packed
1 extra-large egg,
2 2/3 cups all-purpose flour.
Directions:
Using scissors or a small knife, cut off the hard stems of the figs and roughly slice them. The figs, raisins, cherries, apricots, honey, sherry, lemon juice, pecans, and a dash of salt should all be combined in a medium bowl. Place a plastic cover over it and let it sit at room temperature for the entire night. Cream the butter, cloves, superfine sugar, and brown sugar in the bowl of an electric mixer with a paddle attachment on medium speed until smooth, about 3 minutes. Add the egg to the mixer on low speed and stir until well combined. Add the flour and 1/4 teaspoon salt gradually while the mixer is still running on low, just until incorporated. Add the fruits and nuts, along with any liquid in the bowl, being careful not to overmix. Split the dough in half, then arrange each half on the long edge of a 12 by 18-inch sheet of waxed or parchment paper. Roll each half into an 18-inch-long log that is 1 1/2 to 1 3/4 inches thick. The dough should be refrigerated for a few hours to solidify. Turn the oven on to 350 degrees. Cut the logs into 1/2-inch-thick slices using a small, sharp knife. Slices should be placed 1/2 inch apart on ungreased sheet pans and baked for 15 to 20 minutes, or until they are just beginning to turn golden.

The Most Well-liked Indian Traditional Foods



In addition to its enormous variety of deep-fried appetizers, pastries, curries, gravies, sauces, rice meals, tandoor-cooked meats, vegetable dishes, chutneys, breads, and desserts, traditional Indian cuisine is well known across the world for its amazing use of herbs and spices. Indian food reflects a 5000-year history of cultural fusion, resulting in a variety of tastes and regional specialties. Fusion and variety were further enhanced by the entrance of the Portuguese, British, and Mughals. However, even if regional and state-specific specialties differ, most are based on similar flavors and spices. The two main categories of Indian food are North Indian and South Indian. Many of the most creative vegetable recipes come from the northern parts of India because many of these areas are vegetarian. Rice, tomatoes, potatoes, lentils, chickpeas, onions, and yoghurt are staple ingredients in Indian cooking. Turmeric, cumin, coriander, mustard seeds, cardamom, chili, garlic, cloves, saffron, fennel, nutmeg, star anise, and fenugreek are the most frequently used spices in authentic Indian cuisine. Indian cuisine has spread abroad, just as gastronomic influences have moved to India. Certain meals have gained popularity and have found their way into cuisines across the globe, but for

the most genuine tastes and eating experiences, these foods are best enjoyed in their original location. Here are a few of the most well-liked Indian foods to try while on vacation in India:
1. Pakora:
Chunks of vegetables, such as potatoes, cauliflower, and eggplant, or any type of meat, are dipped in chickpea flour, seasoned with turmeric, salt, pepper, or other spices, then deep-fried in ghee to create pakora, a savory, deep-fried Indian snack. It is a typical Indian snack that can be found on many street corners and is especially well-liked in the spring, when the inhabitants eat fried delicacies to commemorate the monsoon season.
2. Chaat:
A wide range of Indian street foods, snacks, or small meals that typically blend salty, spicy, sweet, and sour characteristics are together referred to as chaat. They are typically small and can be eaten as a snack on their own or as part of a larger meal. Chaat can be found all over India at chaatwallas, which are street vendors offering a variety of foods such deep-fried pastries with dipping sauces and stuffed bread.
3. Vada Pav:
A popular sandwich-style snack in Mumbai, vada pav is named from its ingredients: pav, or white bread

rolls, and vada, or spicy mashed potatoes deep-fried in chickpea batter. According to legend, Ashok Vaidya, a street vendor who operated close to the Dadar train station in the 1960s and 1970s, invented this famous street dish as a means of satisfying the ravenous workers.
4. Idli:
Although it is available all across the nation, idli is a traditional, savory Indian cake that is a favorite breakfast food in many South Indian homes. It is prepared by steaming a batter comprised of rice and fermented lentils. These flavorful cakes are typically served hot and eaten either by themselves, dipped in chutneys or sambar, or seasoned with various spices.
5. Paratha:
Paratha is a golden-brown, flaky, layered Indian bread that is usually eaten for breakfast. It comes in round, triangle, square, or hexagon shapes and is made of whole wheat flour cooked in ghee, or Indian clarified butter.
Foods like boiling potatoes, cauliflower, garlic, ginger, chili, paneer, or radish are frequently put into parathas. They are occasionally offered as a side dish to curries of meat and vegetables, and they are sometimes served with pickles, yogurt, and handmade chutneys. Lassi, a famous yogurt-based beverage, is

consumed with paratha in Punjab.
6. Naan:
A popular flatbread with a chewy texture is naan. It is prepared in a tandoor oven using white flour, yeast, eggs, milk, salt, and sugar. The way the dough droops while cooking on the tandoor walls gives it its distinctive teardrop shape.
7. Aloo Gobi:
Potatoes



(aloo), cauliflower (gobi), and Indian spices make up the vegetarian dry curry known as aloo gobi. Turmeric gives it a warm, yellow-orange hue. Kalonji, curry leaves, garlic, ginger, onion, coriander stalks, tomato, peas, and cumin are additional typical components.
8. Butter Chicken:
A meal of soft chicken in a tomato sauce with a hint of spiciness. Traditionally, a tandoor—a cylindrical clay oven—is used to cook it. The first step in making the gravy is always to boil fresh tomatoes, garlic, and cardamom until they are a bright red pulp. After cooling, this pulp is pureed. Next, khoa (dried whole milk), butter, and a variety of spices are added. Delhi is where the dish first appeared in the 1950s.
9. Dal Tadka:
The northern regions of India are the birthplace of this traditional lentil-based cuisine. Toor dal (split yellow peas), garlic, ginger, onions, tomatoes, garam masala, red chili peppers, ghee, cumin, coriander, turmeric, and fenugreek leaves are

typically used to make the dish, though there are several variations. Dal tadka is typically served hot with jeera rice and roti on the side after being made and garnished with coriander leaves.
10. Masala Dosa:
Popular across the nation, masala dosa is a traditional southern Indian meal made from a batter of soaked rice and black lentils, which are pounded into a paste and combined to make a thick batter that is typically allowed to ferment overnight. A handful of fenugreek seeds are added to the dough, giving the dosa its unique golden-brown hue and mouthwatering crispy texture. After being baked into a thin pancake on a hot, greased griddle, it is frequently filled with potatoes, onions, and mustard seeds before being topped with chopped coriander and shredded coconut. Although it can be eaten for breakfast,



it is typically eaten as a quick snack.
11. Sambar:
Sambar is a tamarind-based broth made with veggies and lentils. Although it comes from Tamil Nadu, it is widely consumed in South India. Traditionally, the meal is eaten with several Indian flatbreads or steaming rice.
12. Dal Makhani:

Dal Makhani, an Indian lentil dish that originated in Punjab, has become a national favorite. It is made up of entire black lentils, known as "urad," and either red kidney beans or black beans. The meal is cooked gently in a rich, tomato-based sauce with lots of ghee and flavors including chile, garlic paste, and ginger. The addition of cream and a drizzle of melted ghee or butter gives this traditional dish its characteristic velvety flavor, hence the name makhani, which means butter.
13. Chana Masala:
This North Indian specialty is a zesty chickpea stew that is typically consumed as a snack, main course, or breakfast. It is likely the most popular vegetarian food in India and is frequently found at school cafeterinas and on train platforms. Usually served with rice or Indian flatbreads like roti or naan, the chickpeas are cooked in a blend of spices and herbs and topped with yogurt.
14. Shahi Paneer:
Shahi paneer is a delicious, filling, and nutrient-dense cheese dish that comes from Mughlai cuisine in India. It is made with paneer cheese, onions, almond paste, and a creamy, spicy tomato-cream sauce. The dish is usually topped with coriander leaves and served with Indian breads like naan, roti, or puri.
15. Rogan Josh:
A mainstay of Kashmiri cooking is rogan josh. It is composed of braised lamb chunks simmered in a gravy made with yogurt, garlic, ginger, caramelized onions, and flavorful spices. A traditional rogan josh, renowned for its vivid crimson hue, makes extensive use of dried Kashmiri chilies.
16. Tandoori Chicken:
One of the most well-known Indian meals is tandoori chicken. It is prepared by marinating chicken flesh in yogurt, seasoning it with nutmeg, cumin, and tandoori masala, and then skewering it. Traditionally, it is cooked at extremely high temperatures in tandoors, which are cylindrical clay ovens that produce smoky, luscious meat.

Jagapathi Babu describes how Prabhas assisted him in overcoming depression



Mumbai: Veteran actor Jagapathi Babu recently discussed Prabhas and the humility with which the superstar carries himself. Babu has worked on some of the biggest movies, including Pushpa 2, Salaar, and Gun-tur Kaaram. He will next be seen in Ram Charan’s Peddi. The seasoned actor also related a time when the Baahubali actor supported him during a period of sadness. “I was going through depression and wanted to speak to him,” he stated in an interview with Money-control. Prabhas was filming in Georgia at the time.

“Darling, I am there,” he said to me. It gave me a lot of confidence to say, “Tell me your problem, and I will solve it.” I was inspired and given courage by his words. Despite being younger than me, he has a huge heart. Everyone is loved and cared for by him. Jagapathi talked about how Prabhas gave him self-assurance during a trying emotional time in his life. In order to keep him positive and inspired, the actor disclosed that Prabhas even paid him a personal visit while he was coming from a shoot. Jagapathi Babu also

discussed S.S. Rajamouli, a renowned Telugu filmmaker whose humility is frequently discussed. Speaking about the director, Jagapathi revealed that Rajamouli and his family are still modest and grounded despite their enormous success. Additionally, he disclosed that Rajamouli always selects actors based on their suitability for the part, thus personal ties have no bearing on his casting choices. “Rajamouli maintains his modesty and groundedness despite receiving numerous honors. His entire family is the same, and he has no

ego at all. They show compassion and love to everyone. Rajamouli chooses the actors not because they are close to him, but rather because they fit the role.” Prabhas has a number of well-known releases under his belt. His next appearance is in Kalki 2898 AD: Part 2, which is the follow-up to Nag Ashwin’s dystopian science fiction epic from 2024. Dulquer Salmaan also appears in the movie. Kamal Haasan will portray the enemy Supreme Yaskin, while Amitabh Bachchan will return to his formidable role as the immortal warrior Ashwatthama. Prabhas will reprise his role as Bhairava, the main character. Santhosh Narayanan wrote the soundtrack for the movie. Additionally, Prabhas is working on Sandeep Reddy Vanga’s Spirit. Triptii Dimri plays a major part in the movie as well. The much awaited movie, which is being produced by Bhushan Kumar and Vanga’s label, is scheduled for a global release on March 5, 2027.

Hema Malini Receives the Padma Vibhushan Award Regarding Dharmendra



New Delhi: On Monday in Delhi, Dharmendra’s wife, Hema Malini, accepted the posthumous Padma Vibhushan, India’s second-highest civilian honor, on his behalf. The award acknowledged the legendary actor’s long-term cultural influence on the country and his decades-long contribution to Indian cinema. At a ceremony in Delhi, President Droupadi Murmu gave Hema Malini the posthumous Padma Vibhushan. Dharmendra’s career and his significant body

of work spanning more than 60 years in the cinema industry were honored with the award. Hema Malini looked elegant in the pink saree she chose for the occasion. While Hema Malini was accepting the award, Ahana Deol was observed crying. Hema Malini gave a speech before to the event, describing the award as a long-overdue acknowledgement of Dharmendra’s contribution to Indian cinema and the nation. “Dharamji has received the country’s second-highest honor.

She told , “And he truly deserves it, maybe much earlier, but never mind. Dharamji is not just a legendary actor alone.” In Indian cinema, he is a living legend. Thinking back on his six-decade career in movies, she remarked, “He has reached the nation with his timeless performances, with simplicity, dignity, and cultural values.” Beyond film, she continued, Dharmendra represented the nation’s emotional and cultural fiber. “Beyond his films, he represents the soul of India, its emotion, tradition and humanity,” she stated. As Hema Malini thought back on their years together—first as co-stars and then as a married couple—the discussion became intimate. “I have been fortunate to be his co-star in many popular and memorable films and later his life partner,” she stated. On May 2, 1980, Dharmendra and Hema Malini tied the knot. On November 24, 2025, Dharmendra passed away at his Mumbai residence. He had previously been admitted to Breach Candy Hospital due to breathing difficulties, but he was released on November 12. The veteran actor was laid to rest at Mumbai’s Pawan Hans Crematorium. The Deol brothers later arranged a prayer gathering in his honor at the Seaside Lawns of Taj Lands End in Bandra. In Delhi, Hema Malini also organized a different prayer gathering.

Pooja Bhatt Discusses Her Love For Bobby Deol

New Delhi: Recently, Pooja Bhatt talked candidly about her relationship with Bobby Deol, calling it a “magical time.” After her first movie, Daddy, she was questioned about why she did not collaborate with her father, Mahesh Bhatt, on Aashiqui. She said that her ex-boyfriend’s lack of support for her career was the cause. The actress said that he arrived considerably later when asked if the online rumors that he was Bobby Deol were accurate. “What’s not to fall in love with him?” Pooja Bhatt remarked. However, our paths of growth diverged. He was a wonderful person to be with, and it was a great time in my life. However, I don’t think it’s appropriate to sit down now and discuss the reasons behind my breakup with him. It was what it was. We never denied it. He is currently married, has grown children, and is experiencing a fantastic new phase in his professional life. In Animal, I adored him. He did the movie for me, and I’m thrilled for him.” “I am not going to trivialize that equation—the time I have spent with somebody,” she

continued. by discussing what went wrong or why it didn’t work. Up until it stopped working, it worked. That’s all. Maintaining dignity and grace for the moment is crucial, not just for your own life but also for the people in your life and the people in theirs.” In 1996, Bobby Deol wed Tanya Deol, an interior and fashion designer. Aryaman Deol and Dharam Deol are their two sons. Eleven years after their 2003 marriage, Pooja Bhatt and Manish Makhija divorced in 2014. The next film starring Bobby Deol is Bandar, directed by Anurag Kashyap. The movie, which will be released in theaters throughout India on June 5, is the director and actor’s first joint venture. Bobby Deol plays Samar Mehra in the teaser, a fading TV star who battles loneliness, stardom, and a flirty public persona. Pooja Bhatt’s most recent appearance was in the 2024 season of Big Girls Don’t Cry on Prime Video. She has made appearances in the movie Chup: Revenge of the Artist (2022) and the reality show Bigg Boss OTT 2 (2023).

Ranveer Singh Spends Kantara Row Day at the Chamundeshwari Temple in Mysuru



New Delhi: A day after the Dhurandhar star received a non-cooperation directive from the Federation of Western India Cine Employees (FWICE) after leaving Farhan Akhtar’s Don 3, actor Ranveer Singh prayed in Mysuru’s Chamundeshwari Temple on Tuesday morning. The director reportedly lost over Rs 45 crore as a result of the action. The Karnataka High Court ordered the actor to visit the temple after Ranveer Singh submitted his amended affidavit in April and tendered an unconditional apology in the Kantara mimicking case. The court directed him to offer prayers at the Chamundeshwari Temple within four weeks after observing that the dispute was likely to be resolved. In compliance, Ranveer Singh went to the shrine and offered Goddess Chamundeshwari special prayers. Most of his stay was kept under wraps. The actor, who was seen arriving at the Mumbai airport early on Tuesday morning, entered the garbhagudi for prayers after donning a mask until he arrived at the sanctum sanctorum. At the International Film Festi-

val of India (IFFI) closing event in Goa on November 30, 2025, Ranveer Singh performed an imitation of Kantara’s Daiva scene, which starred Rishab Shetty, the film’s director. After his video of himself imitating the famous scene from the historical drama went viral on social media, the actor faced a great deal of criticism from the Kannadiga community. Eventually, Ranveer Singh apologized for his lapse and addressed the criticism in an Instagram post. I wanted to draw attention to Rishab’s outstanding performance in the movie. I have the highest admiration for him because, as an actor, I am aware of how much it takes to portray that specific scenario the way he did. “I have always had a great

deal of regard for all of our nation’s cultures, customs, and beliefs. “I truly apologize if I’ve offended anyone,” the actor posted on his Instagram Stories. Following the controversy, Rishab Shetty indirectly addressed Ranveer Singh’s Kantara row at an event. “I feel uneasy about that. The Daiva element is delicate and sacred, even though a large portion of the movie is cinema and performance. Everywhere I go, I ask people not to make fun of it or put it on stage. We have a strong emotional connection to it,” he had stated. After a formal complaint was made against him for using mimicry to offend the sensibilities of the Kannadiga people, Ranveer Singh moved to the Karnataka High Court in February to request relief. At the time, authorities were instructed by the Karnataka High Court not to use coercion against the Bollywood actor. Ranveer Singh’s visit to the Chamundeshwari Temple coincides with the actor and the FWICE’s impasse over unresolved Don 3-related concerns. Ranveer Singh sent a statement through his spokesman shortly after the film workers’ association announced its decision, directing FWICE members and technicians to refrain from working with him until the problem is properly resolved. The statement said: “Over the years, a number of stories and theories have emerged, but Ranveer has never felt the need to publicly address them or add to speculation. His work and upcoming obligations continue to be his primary priorities. He genuinely hopes the franchise continues to succeed and still has a great deal of regard and goodwill for everyone involved.” He continued, “It has always been a conscious decision on his part to choose restraint and grace in moments like these, and he will continue to maintain the same stance.”

Amid criticism, Chunky Panday stands up for Ananya Panday



Mumbai: Bollywood star Ananya Panday recently encountered criticism after a video of her doing a Bharatanatyam fusion dance in Chand Mera Dil went popular on social media. While some Bharatanatyam artists called the performance “catastrophic,” many commentators criticized her dance skills. Actor Chunky Panday, Ananya’s father, has now spoken up for her in the face of criticism. In response to criticism of Ananya’s dancing performance in Chand Mera Dil, Chunky stated in an interview, “I think people completely misunderstood it.” Pure Bharatanatyam was never intended. It was a fusion performance, a type of experimental dance frequently performed by college students during social or cultural gatherings. People began evaluating it based on the assumption that it was traditional Bharatanatyam. “But pure Bharatanatyam requires years and years of rigorous training, nearly 20 years of discipline and precision,” he continued. Its movements and expressions are nearly robotic, and it is very structured and technical. This combines aspects of traditional dancing with cutting-edge, futuristic dance forms. It’s not a classical presentation, but rather a unique blend. Before responding, I would advise people to watch the movie and comprehend its context. Ananya portrays Chandni, the daughter of Charu Shankar’s Bharatanatyam performer, in Chand Mera Dil. Instead of giving a typical recital, the scene that is making the rounds online has her character opting to

perform a fusion act that combines hip-hop, locking, and Bharatanatyam. Nonetheless, a lot of online users thought the performance did not go as planned. In her critique of Ananya’s performance, renowned dancer and Sangeet Natak Akademi Award winner Anita Ratnam stated, “Bharatanatyam is built on technique, control, tradition, geometry, musicality, and emotional depth.” This video treats it as if it were a wedding sangeet captured during a small earthquake. The choreography seems to bulldoze past “centuries of sophistication, training, dedication and devotion,” according to her subsequent criticism. The moves were also criticized on social media by a number of other Bharatanatyam dancers. Chand Mera Dil, directed by Vivek Soni and supported by Dharma Productions, takes place in an engineering institution. The movie tells the tale of two students, Aarav and Chandni, whose romance unexpectedly changes as they become adults and take on responsibilities too soon. Both critics and viewers gave the movie mixed reviews when it first came out, which also affected how well it did at the box office. The movie has made over ₹13 crore at the box office in just five days, but it is having trouble sustaining its momentum. Chunky is waiting for his next movie, Hai Jawani Toh Ishq Hona Hai, to come out. Varun Dhawan, Mrunal Thakur, and Pooja Hegde play the main roles in this David Dhawan-directed movie. It is slated to open in theaters on June 4 and also stars Jimmy Shergill, Mouni Roy, and Rakesh Bedi in significant parts.

On the anniversary of Father Sunil Dutt’s passing, Sanjay Dutt becomes emotional



New Delhi: In a touching Instagram post on Tuesday, actor Sanjay Dutt honored his father, renowned actor and politician Sunil Dutt. The actor posted an old black-and-white picture of himself with his father along with a very intimate comment about their relationship. “I love you and I will always miss you, Dad. Sanjay Dutt stated, “You are and have always been a rock in my life; I am honored and grateful to have a dad like you.” Several celebs sent notes in the comments area of the heartfelt post, which immediately attracted notice on social media. Among others who responded to the

tribute were Shilpa Shetty, Jackie Shroff, and Ayesha Shroff. Actor Jackie Shroff shared a series of red love emoticons in the comments section, while Ayesha Shroff wrote, “The best person ever.” Priya Dutt, Sanjay Dutt’s sister, also paid tribute to her father on the anniversary of his passing by sharing a heartfelt social media post honoring his principles and legacy. Memories are left behind by certain individuals. Some people leave a legacy. Then there are a select few, like my father, Sunil Dutt, who leave behind humanity as their greatest gift to the world,” Priya Dutt stated. “On your death anni-

versary, I don’t just remember the actor or the leader people respected and admired,” she continued, recalling him as a kind parent and public person. I recall the father whose compassion impacted everyone in his path, whose presence gave us a sense of security, and whose power was always clothed in kindness.” Additionally, Priya Dutt posted a film montage that included unseen moments from Sunil Dutt and actress Nargis’s lives, rare family photos, and snippets from award ceremonies. Sunil Dutt, who acted in classic films like Mother India, Waqt, Padosan, and Sadhna, is widely recognized as one of the most renowned figures in Hindi cinema. As a Congress MP for Mumbai North West for five terms in a row, he made noteworthy contributions to politics and public service outside of the film industry. Alongside Sanjay Dutt, he made his last on-screen appearance in Munna Bhai M.B.B.S., a movie that viewers still adore.

In the midst of Don 3 film body action, Ranveer Singh’s Pralay is on track

Mumbai: In the midst of the continuing controversy surrounding FWICE and Ranveer Singh, industry talk has turned to an important question: would the actor’s ambitious Rs 300 crore zombie movie, Pralay, experience delays before filming starts? The rumors came after Ranveer Singh abruptly left Don 3 on May 25 and the Federation of Western India Cine Employees (FWICE) issued a non-cooperation directive against him. Although discussions concerning the actor’s future endeavors were spurred by the revelation, insiders suggest that worries over Pralay might be premature. Pralay is now in pre-production and won’t be on floors until August of this year. Pre-production work, which includes screenplay, design planning, VFX preparation, location scouting, and other preparations necessary to mount a picture of this magnitude, cannot be halted by a non-cooperation edict, according to industry insiders. As of right now, the movie is proceeding according to schedule. Furthermore, this project is not typical. Bollywood has seldom ventured into the post-apocalyptic zombie survival thriller genre, but Pralay is hailed as one. The film, which was directed by Jai Mehta, a rookie and the son of Hansal Mehta, has already created a lot of attention due to its scope and idea. Applause Entertainment, Ranveer Singh’s brand Maa Kasam Films, and Hansal Mehta’s True Story Films are supporting the film. According to reports,

the movie is reportedly being produced on a budget of about Rs 300 crore, and international crew members and professionals are anticipated to contribute to the creation of its expansive zombie universe. Jai Mehta and Lootere star Vishal Kapoor wrote the screenplay. According to reports, Ranveer is enthusiastic about exploring survival horror, a genre that is still mostly unexplored in mainstream Hindi cinema, and is completely committed to the movie. According to reports, the actor would drastically change his appearance for the part. The greater impasse between FWICE and Ranveer Singh is the cause of the uncertainty surrounding Pralay. The actor’s sudden departure from Don 3 allegedly caused schedule disruptions and financial setbacks for producers, which prompted the federation to issue the directive. Although the FWICE move is not legally equal to a formal prohibition, many in the business think it could cause logistical issues once a movie starts to be made, especially when worker engagement and coordination are involved. Pralay seems unaffected for the time being. There is still optimism in the industry that the deadlock will be broken with several months until filming starts. Filmmaker Hansal Mehta and the producers are expected to do all in their power to make sure Pralay handles the controversy before it fights zombies on screen because the production is so ambitious and costly.

Movement at Bengal’s Hakimpur Border Increases Following Immigration Crackdown

Kolkata, May 31: Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari has made several important choices for the state since the BJP-led administration took office in West Bengal, including the introduction of the “detect-delete-deport” system targeted at undocumented immigrants.A new wave of infiltrators erupted at the Hakimpur border in the North 24 Parganas district after it was announced that “holding centers” would be opened in the districts along the state’s border with Bangladesh. Since Monday, between 100 and 200 people have congregated at the Hakimpur checkpoint. “During the SIR, many illegal residents returned to Bangladesh every day through the border areas of North 24 Parganas,” an officer stated. Bangladeshi immigrants living in the Newtown, Dum Dum, and Dankuni regions were returning home over the Hakimpur border for nearly two months after the SIR was announced in October. This activity decreased during



the election season about two months later. The closest town, Basirhat, is 35 kilometers away from Hakimpur Checkpost. Immigrants are selecting the Border Security Force (BSF) checkpoint to enter Bangladesh due to its porous border and topographical benefits. Many of the people who had arrived through the same Hakimpur as early as 2015 were employed in odd occupations on Kolkata’s outskirts, including as ragpickers and domestic workers. A resident of North 24 Parganas claimed that since the poll revision procedure,

there has been a greater scarcity of daily wage workers in the brick kilns of Basirhat and Sandeshkhali.

Adhikari has issued a warning amid the border crossing, saying, “Bangladesh should accept these people.” We have told the police that we do not want to put them in jail. They will steal clothing and medications and deplete our national coffers. They are not our sons-in-law. Khagen Murmu, a BJP MP from the Malda district, stated that illegal immigrants will be detained in holding facilities while the Center determines how to deal with them. “Government and parties are not the same.

The BJP would not obstruct the government’s efforts, in contrast to the Trinamool Congress. Ensuring the nation’s safety and security is the Center’s top concern. For this reason, the fencing project that has been on hold for the previous fifteen years is currently underway along Bengal’s borders.

Low Pressure, Dry Taps: Delhi’s Water Crisis Despite Haryana Supply



New Delhi, May 31: Despite Haryana releasing 979.50 cusecs of more water into the Munak Canal, residents in numerous sections of Delhi still experienced water shortages on Friday. Many colonies reported dry taps, low pressure, and reliance on tankers during the hottest portion of the summer.

Because operations at two of Delhi’s most important water treatment facilities, Wazirabad and Chandrawal, are still impacted by declining Yamuna levels, the crisis has continued. Following talks between the Delhi government and Haryana authorities, the extra water was given; however, officials warned that it would take some time for the supply to return to normal because the water levels at the Wazirabad pondage region are still extremely low. The Yamuna’s raw water supply has drastically decreased over the past few days, according to officials, causing the Wazirabad and Chandrawal water treatment plants to run below maximum capacity.Around 134 million gallons per day (MGD) are supplied to parts of north and central Delhi by the Wazirabad plant, while nearly 98 MGD are produced by the Chandrawal plant, which serves the city’s north, northwest, and central regions. According to sources, authorities were compelled to divert water from the Haiderpur canal system in order to maintain supply in several areas after production at both plants was impacted. The impact on Delhi’s supply network is anticipated to be modest, according to officials, even if Haryana released more water through the Munak Canal. This is because pondage levels at Wazirabad are still much below the typical operating mark needed for treatment plants to run smoothly.The summer months of Delhi also see a substantial increase in water use, particularly during heatwaves, which exacerbates the shortfall between supply and demand.

To mark PM Modi’s 12-year term, the BJP will launch a massive campaign throughout Gujarat

New Delhi, May 31: In Gujarat, the BJP is preparing a large public outreach effort to commemorate Narendra Modi’s successful twelve years as prime minister. A number of humanitarian and developmental initiatives will be held around the state from June 5 to June 21, according to Gujarat BJP Chief Spokesperson Dr. Anil Patel. The key motto of the statewide campaign will be “twelve years of continuous development, trust, and public welfare.” According to Dr. Anil Patel, the party would follow PM Modi’s straight report card style while interacting with the public. In accordance with this strategy, party employees and officials will address the people directly to provide a clear and comprehensive description of the numerous historic accomplishments and developmental projects carried out by the central government during the previous ten years.The public outreach campaign will begin on June 5, which is World Environment Day, and end on June 21, which is the International Day of Yoga. The ruling party



will carry out a variety of projects during this two-week period, such as organized conferences under the Viksit Bharat initiative, cleanliness campaigns, and specialized public welfare camps. In order to get input and create a more comprehensive community consensus, party representatives will also actively engage with notable and powerful individuals from a variety of backgrounds. During this magnificent festival, rural development and environmental sustain-

ability will continue to be major themes. The party intends to launch focused awareness initiatives to encourage Gujarat’s rural areas to adopt natural and organic farming methods. Additionally, as part of the statewide Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam project, party members and residents will plant trees in fifty thousand voting places around the state as part of a large plantation push that combines environmental responsibility with the celebration of democratic administration.

In the UEFA Champions League Final, Arsenal hopes to unseat PSG, who are chasing dynasties

New Delhi: By defeating the reigning Champions League champions, Paris Saint-Germain, who are also aiming for back-to-back titles in Budapest on Saturday, Arsenal hopes to ultimately win Europe. With heavyweight attackers Lionel Messi, Neymar, and Kylian Mbappe gone, Luis Enrique’s French champions are the favorites to defend the trophy and usher in a period of domination in their post-superstar era. The Asturian cleaned house after joining in 2023 and built a coherent, diligent, and talented PSG team in his image, all while aiming for a career third Champions League triumph as a coach. After 14 years and well over 1 billion euros (\$1.2 billion) spent since Qatar Sports Investments took over the club, Luis Enrique led them to the semifinals in his debut season, defeated Arsenal in the last four last year, and crushed Inter Milan to win the Parisians their first European Cup.In contrast, Mikel Arteta has slow-cooked



Arsenal’s team for almost seven years since they lack the financial might of PSG or their domestic rivals, Manchester City.They realized last summer that their growing club was at last prepared to win, and the Gunners made important reinforcements. After losing to Barcelo-

na in the 2006 final in Paris, it handed them their first Premier League triumph in 22 years and a return to the biggest stage in Europe after 20 years away.Due to their disparate playing styles, both teams have varying reputations when they arrive in Hungary.With 44 goals, PSG leads the tournament in scoring, while Arsenal has only given up six goals and is undefeated. Ballon d’Or winner Ousmane Dembele is expected to be fit following a calf injury, while Khvicha Kvaratskhelia and Desire Doue lead an exciting attacking cast for PSG, who defeated Bayern Munich 6-5 in the semifinals. Beyond the skill of winger Bukayo Saka, Arsenal is more notable for their defensive discipline and tenacity, thanks to midfield stalwart Declan Rice and center-back duo Gabriel and William Saliba.Arteta’s team will accept the underdog position, relying on their better set-piece quality to keep the champs at bay.

Three crucial individual games between PSG and Arsenal could determine the Champions League final

New Delhi: rday, PSG will play Arsenal in the Champions League final in Budapest. Arsenal has the best defensive record in the competition, while PSG has the most potent assault in Europe going into the final. The Gunners are now among Europe’s most disciplined tactical units.As usual, Mikel Arteta and Luis Enrique’s tactical struggle will be key. It will be intriguing to watch how Arsenal handles PSG’s fluid style of play. However, player-to-player matchups will also be crucial. It will be fun to witness Ousmane Dembele and William Saliba engage in combat. Dembele, who

combines speed, inventiveness, and intelligence, has been PSG’s most valuable attacker during their UCL campaign. He is challenging to mark since, in contrast to conventional strikers, he goes over the front line. He has the ability to accelerate into spaces, drop deep, and gain possession.Saliba, meanwhile, is currently among the top center backs in the world. His poise, positioning, and speed of recovery form the foundation of Arsenal’s defensive cohesion. It would be intriguing to watch if Saliba maintains Arsenal’s defensive form or follows Dembele when he strays from the penalty area. PSG



might take advantage of a single poor choice. However, if he keeps Dembele silent, Arsenal will have a

better chance of winning their first UCL championship. The most crucial element of this final will be the

fight in the midfield. With his vitality, leadership, and intellect, Declan Rice has emerged as Arsenal’s midfield’s mainstay. He has the ability to thwart enemy strikes and propel his squad ahead.However, Vitorinha is now Europe’s most formidable midfield opponent. The midfielder is very inventive and has the ability to control tempo calmly under duress. With sharp passes, he can breach defenses.Vitorinha must be prevented from controlling possession by Rice. Arsenal can put PSG in difficult circumstances if he is successful. The battle between Nuno Mendes and Bukayo Saka on the flanks could add

excitement to the match. With just one dribble, pass, or finish, Saka, Arsenal’s most potent offensive option, may alter the course of the game. He enjoys confronting defenders and is straightforward.However, Mendes is among the world’s top left-backs. He is powerful and swift. He has technical talent as well.

This season, he has neutralized numerous outstanding wingers, and he intends to do it once again. Arsenal will create more opportunities if Saka continually outperforms Mendes. PSG can stop Arsenal’s greatest attacking threat if Mendes prevails.

SC declares that electoral integrity cannot be jeopardized and validates national SIR

New Delhi, May 31: On Wednesday, the Supreme Court affirmed the legitimacy of the special intensive revision (SIR) carried out by the Election Commission of India (ECI), holding that the exercise advanced the constitutional requirement of free and fair elections and that the poll panel’s measures were reasonable, appropriate, and supported by sufficient procedural safeguards. A bench made up of Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant and Justice Joymalaya Bagchi ruled that the SIR conducted in accordance with Section 21(3) of the Representation of the People Act, 1950 and Article 324 of the Constitution was neither in violation of the legal framework governing electoral rolls nor an unlawful assumption of citizenship adjudication powers by the ECI.The SIR was started to protect “the integrity of the elec-



toral process and ensure free and fair elections” because “substantial changes in the electoral rolls had occurred on account of demographic variations, urbanization, and large-scale migration,” according to CJI Kant, who read out the operative portion of the ruling. The court upheld the Election Commission of India’s (ECI) authority to conduct a Special Inquiry Report (SIR) exercise, asserting that it aligns with the constitutional mandate under Article 324 and does not violate the statutory framework established by the Representation of the People Act and the Regis-

tration of Electors Rules, 1960. The ruling emphasized that the SIR process is crucial for ensuring free and fair elections, as it relates directly to the integrity of electoral rolls.

Despite objections from petitioners—including the Association for Democratic Reforms and opposition leaders—who alleged that the SIR could disenfranchise voters and turned the ECI into a citizenship verification authority, the court found that the measures taken by the ECI were reasonable and proportionate. It clarified that the requirement for voters to provide evidence of citizenship was

not a blanket negation of existing voter presumption.

The court further noted that citizenship inquiries for electoral purposes do not equate to a final determination of citizenship. Cases suspected of non-fulfillment of citizenship criteria are to be referred to the appropriate authority for adjudication, with the possibility for wrongfully deleted names to be reinstated if residency can be proven.

The decision holds significant implications for upcoming assembly elections in several states, including West Bengal, where many names were removed from the electoral rolls based on the SIR process initiated in Bihar. The ECI’s original requirements for documentation and subsequent inclusion of Aadhaar were highlighted in the controversy surrounding the exercise, which has affected millions of voters.

After a record Rs 27 crore deal, Rishabh Pant resigned as captain of the Lucknow Super Giants after two seasons

New Delhi: After the Lucknow Super Giants finished last in the 2026 Indian Premier League, Rishabh Pant resigned as captain. Pant’s desire to relinquish his leadership position was approved by the team administration, the IPL team revealed on social media. LSG had a terrible IPL 2026 season, finishing last with 8 points from 14 games and winning just 4 games. Pant scored 312 runs with a strike rate of 138.05 in 14 games, but his batting performance was likewise lackluster. In the IPL 2025 auction, he was purchased for a record Rs 27 crore, however since then, LSG has finished seventh and tenth in the previous two seasons. “Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) wish to formally announce that Rishabh Pant has requested to be relieved of his captaincy duties with the franchise, and the franchisee has accepted his request with immediate effect,” the team said in a statement on Friday. Tom Moody, the director of cricket at LSG, said that Pant’s resignation was “never easy.” “Rishabh approached the franchise with this request and we have respectfully accepted it.” “These choices are never simple,” Moody stated in an



LSG statement. “As captain, Rishabh has contributed much to this dressing room, and for that we are thankful. We are now concentrating on the group as a whole, rebuilding and reorganizing to meet the highest standards,” he continued. The identity of Pant’s successor as captain was not disclosed by LSG.The official announcement from the team stated, “With an eye on mak-

ing a positive comeback in the upcoming season, the new Lucknow Super Giants captain will be announced in due course.”Over the course of two seasons, LSG has won ten games and lost eighteen under Pant’s leadership. Once regarded as one of the nation’s most explosive players, the wicket-keeper batter was only able to score 581 runs with a strike rate of 135.74.

Bengali Actor in 2021 Post-Poll Violence Case Receives No Relief

New Delhi, May 31: In a case involving comments made following the results of the 2021 West Bengal Assembly election, the Calcutta High Court permitted the inquiry against actor Parambrata Chatterjee to proceed even though he was granted temporary protection from coercive action on Friday. Following the announcement of the Assembly election results in May 2021, the actor was accused of inciting violence, and a formal complaint was filed against him at the Gariahat Police Station. Chatterjee filed a request to have the FIR quashed with the Calcutta High Court. After hearing the case, Justice Ajay Kumar Mukherjee ordered that the actor not be subjected to coercion for the following four weeks. The court, however, refused to halt the investigation and ordered it to proceed. Additionally, the judge ordered Chatterjee to assist investigators throughout this time.At the following session, Justice Mukherjee further requested that the state government present an inquiry report to the court.Chatterjee is accused of



making remarks on social media following the announcement of the West Bengal Assembly election results on May 2, 2021. On May 21, a formal complaint was filed at the Gariahat Police Station in response to the comments.Ma-yukh Mukherjee, the actor’s attorney, stood in court and urged that the proceedings should be quashed. The case has been filed under Indian Penal Code Sections 153A and 109.

Argentina worries about Lionel Messi's injury ahead of the World Cup



Miami: Less than three weeks before Argentina's FIFA World Cup title defense, Lionel Messi has made them wait anxiously after the Inter Miami captain was substituted during his team's last game before the tournament break due to what appeared to be a left-leg issue. Messi appeared to clutch the back of his left thigh and was substituted in the 73rd minute of Inter Miami's 6-4 victory over Philadelphia Union on Sunday.

Following his early exit, the injury scare was initially reported by The Guardian, and Inter Miami coach Guillermo Hoyos' thorough post-match explanation was later published by Reuters. The incident occurred during a rain-soaked Major League Soccer game at Nu Stadium in Miami, when circumstances were already challenging due to the thick pitch. Lionel Messi had participated in the game before to the scare, but following a free kick in the 70th minute, he appeared uneasy and quickly gestured to the bench. After leaving the pitch, the 38-year-old headed straight into the tunnel. But the early warning signs weren't totally concerning. Although Messi did not appear to be limping significantly and left with-

out assistance, the timing of the incident is enough to make Argentina wary. After the game, Inter Miami coach Hoyos stated that the team did not yet have a complete medical report, but he presented the substitution as a precautionary measure related to exhaustion rather than a definite injury. Hoyos stated, "As far as I know, we don't have a report on that yet, but we will have one shortly." In that sense, he was truly experiencing exhaustion—it is fatigue. The pitch was heavy, he was exhausted, and it's customary to avoid taking any chances while in doubt. Argentina is in a delicate situation at the

time of the scare. Messi was included in Lionel Scaloni's preliminary team earlier this month; before FIFA's June 1 deadline, the list must be reduced to the final 26. Before starting their World Cup campaign against Algeria in Kansas City on June 16, Argentina is slated to play pre-tournament friendlies against Honduras on June 6 and Iceland on June 9.

Although Messi has not officially stated that this will be his last World Cup, it is generally accepted that this will be his final performance on the largest football stage. If he participates, he will tie the record for the most player appearances in the World Cup finals. Since Messi's arrival in 2023, Inter Miami has carefully controlled his activity; hamstring and muscle problems have already limited him at several points.

Argentina should not be alarmed by this past, but it should also not disregard the warning. Even yet, a fatigue-related substitute might just be a minor occurrence. But for the time being, Argentina's World Cup countdown has taken on its first anxious turn.

Diego Maradona made talent and scandal inseparable that afternoon

God's hand, the feet of fire

Mexico : Forty years later, a scandalous, magnificent, and completely amazing afternoon in Mexico City still exemplifies what football can be. Weeks remain till the largest World Cup in history. With 48 countries, 104 matches, and three host nations—the United States, Canada, and Mexico—the competition has grown to such an extent that it can hardly support its own aspirations. Matches will once more take place at Mexico City's Estadio Azteca. This means that the world's game will once again take place on the grass of a stadium that saw the most talked-about eight minutes in football history. Forty years ago, on a sunny June afternoon at the same Azteca, a stocky Argentine with a number 10 on his back combined brilliance and cunning in one half, scored two strikingly different goals, and propelled his nation to victory in the World Cup final. The mythology of the sport has never been more formed by a single afternoon. Even then, the stage needed background. An important aspect of the fierce rivalry between Argentina and the United Kingdom was the Falklands War, which took place four years prior to the game. The Falkland Islands, also known as Las Malvinas, a British overseas territory located about 300 miles off the coast of Argentina, were



invaded by Argentina; your allegiance depends on the name you choose. On both sides, hundreds had perished. The wound was still raw after four years. This was more than a quarterfinal. June 22, 1986 was the date. Tension was high in the Estadio Azteca when Argentina and England squared off. Nothing had been resolved in the first half. Then, six minutes into the second half, English midfielder Steve Hodge lobbed the ball back at Diego Maradona, who had started an attack. His left hand deftly flicked the ball past Peter Shilton, the goalie, rather than his head making contact. The English players were shocked when the referee missed the handball and let the goal stand. In the annals of football history, Diego Maradona's performance during the 1986 World Cup remains unparalleled, especially his infamous "Hand of God" goal against England. After

the match, he recounted feeling abandoned by his teammates when he scored, prompting him to call for their embrace, fearing the referee might disallow the goal. Maradona's quip about that moment—"A little with the head of Maradona and a little with the hand of God"—has since become iconic, reflecting both the controversial nature of the goal and his acknowledgment of the illegal handball. This moment held a deeper significance for Maradona, symbolizing a form of revenge for Argentina following their defeat in the Falklands War.

As England players, still seething with anger, lamented the incident, Maradona soon dazzled them again. He initiated a breathtaking solo run, covering 60 yards in just ten seconds, skillfully evading four defenders before leaving goalkeeper Peter Shilton out of position to slot the

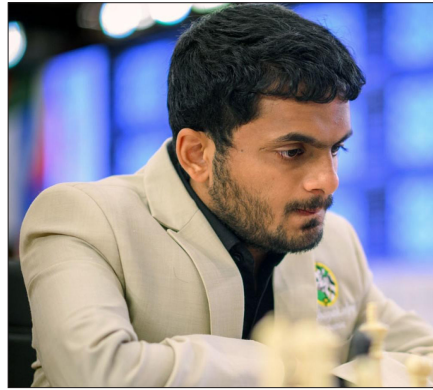
ball into the net. His brilliance on the field rendered England's fury irrelevant; even the usually combative players could only watch in awe. Argentine commentator Victor Hugo Morales famously encapsulated this moment by asking, "What planet did you come from?" Garry Lineker, a member of the opposing team, admitted to feeling compelled to applaud the sheer beauty of Maradona's goal, which FIFA would later recognize as the Goal of the Century. By the end of the tournament, Maradona's influence was undeniable. He played a pivotal role in securing Argentina's victory over West Germany in the final, where he assisted Jorge Burruchaga in the winning goal to clinch the 3-2 match. Maradona's tally for the tournament stood at five goals and five assists, earning him the Golden Ball award as the tournament's best player. His single-handed dominance over the World Cup elevated him onto a pedestal that few, if any, have approached since.

As the World Cup returns to North America, where Maradona made his mark, a new generation of players aspires to replicate such moments of magnitude. Yet the standard has been set exceptionally high, with Maradona's legacy looming large—a benchmark that remains, to this day, virtually unreachable.

Nihal Sarin advances to the chess competition of the Esports World Cup

New Delhi: Through the Champions Chess Tour leaderboard, Mumbai, Indian Grandmaster Nihal Sarin, representing esports and gaming content company S8UL, has earned a spot in the chess competition of the forthcoming Esports World Cup in Paris. Together with colleague Aravindh Chithambaram, he is now the second Indian player to earn a spot in the esteemed competition. The EWC chess tournament this year will take place from August 11 to August 15, with a prize pool of USD 1.5 million. Over 2,000 players from 200 clubs in more than 100 nations will compete for a record-breaking prize pool of USD 75 million during the EWC, which is scheduled to take place from July 6 to August 23. The Speed Chess Championship 2025 and the Chess.com Open 2026 were the two main tournaments of the CCT season.

Nihal finished fourth, just one spot short of qualifying, but he still earned 100 vital leaderboard points from the competition, narrowly missing out on direct qualification through the CCO. His steady efforts throughout the TTGP circuit, which included one point in the Autumn Split and four points in the Winter Split, helped him earn more points. He eventually earned 34 points and finished with a total of 139 points in the standings to guarantee his spot at the EWC 2026 thanks to an impressive second-place performance in the Spring Split. The top three players from both SCC and CCO qualified directly for the EWC, while those who placed fifth through ninth in SCC and the other CCO competitors received points for their efforts toward the CCT standings. The Titled Tuesday Grand Prix circuit, which was broken into Autumn, Winter, and Spring divisions with 13 Titled Tuesday tournaments each, was another way that players earned points in addition to these events. Throughout the season, players received leaderboard points in each Titled Tuesday event. With the exception of players who had previously qualified, the top nine players in the final CCT leaderboard rankings at the end of the season were guaranteed spots at EWC 2026. "I'm glad that the effort paid off because



this season demanded consistency over several months in a variety of styles and events. According to a press release, Sarin stated, "Last year's experience at the EWC gave me a real understanding of how competitive and intense the event is, and it has only motivated me to come back stronger this time." Representing India and S8UL on such a global stage is always special, and I'm looking forward to competing against some of the very best players in the world once again."

Nihal qualified in the Last Chance Qualifier, making him one of just two Indians competing in the EWC 2025. He advanced to the quarterfinals before losing to Magnus Carlsen, the eventual winner. Praneesh M, another S8UL Grandmaster, advanced to the quarterfinals of the India Rising qualifier and finished just four places behind the final qualifying spot in the CCT Leaderboard standings. Four more players will qualify for the tournament from the forthcoming LCQ, and he is still in the running to qualify for the EWC.

A revamped two-phase format will be used for this year's EWC Chess competition. Eight players that qualified through the LCQ and DreamHack Atlanta will fight in a double-elimination bracket with two-game matches in the tournament's recently added Play-In stage. This stage will be contested by Aravindh, who qualified through DreamHack Atlanta earlier this year. The Play-In stage's top performers will move on to the Group Stage.

The optimistic Indian women's hockey squad is prepared for the series opener against Australia

New Delhi: Perth: When the Indian women's hockey team plays Australia in a four-match series that begins here on Tuesday, they hope to get off to a good start in their FIH Nations Cup preparations. Prior to the important FIH Hockey Women's Nations Cup, which will take place in Auckland from June 15 to 21, the Salima Tete-led team will try to gain significant momentum.

The visiting squad is confident going into this tour after an encouraging performance in Argentina earlier this year, where India tied the four-match series 2-2 against the world No. 2 team after losing the first two games. Under the close supervision of chief coach Sjoerd Marijne, the team has spent the last few weeks



honing their skills, structural play, penalty corner variations, and general match fitness through intense

tactical drills at the national training camp in SAI Bengaluru. The players are optimistic about the tour,

according to India captain Salima. "Everyone on the team is eagerly anticipating this tour. It's always diffi-

cult to play against Australia, especially on their home ground, and that's precisely what we need at this point in our preparations.

For us, each game in Perth will be vital," she stated. "We want to have confidence and momentum going into the Nations Cup in Auckland. Australia will test us to the utmost, and we want to take advantage of that to grow as a team." With burgeoning talent Sonam, Hina Bano, and Lalthantluangi patiently awaiting their chance, the 22-member Indian squad boasts a fascinating blend of youth and experience. The Indian team, which is now rated ninth in the FIH World Rankings, is prepared to go above and beyond to defeat its opponents, who are ranked eighth.

Coco Gauff, reigning champion, advances to the French Open 3rd round

New Delhi: Coco Gauff advanced in her French Open title defense with a convincing straight-sets victory over Egyptian qualifier Mayar Sherif, winning 6-3, 6-2 at Court Suzanne Lenglen. As the American fourth seed dominated the match against the world number 129, she emphasized the physical challenge it posed, stating, "It was a physical match, a tough match, my patience was really tested today." Despite not being at her peak performance, Gauff maintained control throughout and showed resilience, as she has consistently reached at least the quarter-finals at Roland Garros for the past five years. Looking ahead, Gauff's next opponent will be either the inform Austrian 28th seed Anastasia Potapova or Britain's Katie Boulter in the last 32. She maintained a positive and relaxed mindset, asserting, "No expectations...I'm just having fun," when questioned about her title hopes after last year's triumph.

Cartoons Off, Carnage On: Vaibhav Sooryavanshi Is Actually 15



New Delhi: Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, a young player for the Rajasthan Royals, has everything at his disposal. His exemplary knocks in the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026 have seen chatter for an early India call-up intensify. With more than 600 runs scored this season, Sooryavanshi is the leading run scorer and also has the Orange Cap. Despite his success against world-class bowlers like Pat Cummins, Jasprit Bumrah, and Josh Hazlewood at the age of 15, he is still a child at heart and enjoys watching cartoons in his room, despite the fact that the world has begun to view him as an elite cricketer. Sooryavanshi, who has been dubbed the "fearless prodigy" for his batting approach, talked about how he enjoys watching cartoons and said that even winning against the world's best bowlers doesn't give him the same sense of calm as spending an hour or two in front of the TV. "I used to watch cartoons anytime I had free time at home when

I used to remain at home two or three years ago and play matches or practice there. I truly enjoyed it. Even now, I still watch cartoons anytime I need some calm or relaxation. I watch whichever cartoons I choose while lounging in my room. In a conversation with JioStar, he remarked, "It feels really nice and reminds me a lot of home." The Rajasthan Royals acquired the 15-year-old prior to the IPL 2025 auction. He talked about how he got a bid of Rs 1.10 crore from the franchise during the conversation. However, the young man is far from finished and wants to keep up his momentum and shape. "The team manager, Romi Bhinder sir, gave me the initial call. The auction was happening in Dubai, where I was. I spoke with him after the trials, and he assured me that they would support me. We then had a two to three-minute phone conversation during which he complimented me. I hit a six off the opening ball in my first game, so it was a memorable and amazing event. Then, I scored a hundred in the same season, which made my family and I really proud. During the conversation, Sooryavanshi said, "It was only my third match, so it felt great to have such a good start to my IPL career, and I am just carrying that momentum forward now." Sooryavanshi would be eager to maintain his impressive form against the Gujarat Titans in Qualifier 2 following a game-winning 29-ball 97 against Sunrisers Hyderabad in the Eliminator.

Lamine Yamal is ready for his first FIFA World Cup

New Delhi: It should seem very impossible to replace Lionel Messi on FC Barcelona's right wing and in its assault. The fact that Spain's Lamine Yamal assumed the role of that player as a teenager and is now one of the most recognizable faces in international football is a testament to his extraordinary talent, mindset, and quality. Lamine is expected to play a major part at the 2026 FIFA World Cup in North America, where he will lead the line for a revitalized



Roja team looking to win their second trophy after their 2010 success. Lamine was already the driving force behind

Spain's 2024 run to the Euro Championships. The week before the Final, Lamine will celebrate his 19th birthday at MetLife Stadium. Being a player destined for greatness, he will want to give himself the best birthday present possible.

Although Lamine's skill and skills are nearly miraculous in and of themselves, what truly makes him stand out is the superstar attitude he was born with when he entered the senior leagues.

Even the greatest players in the world find it difficult to be the team's standard-bearer, yet being the best in the world requires a certain amount of boisterous cockiness. Lamine Yamal, just 18, is quickly becoming a football superstar, known for his flair and creativity on the field. With an impressive record of 22 goals and 15 assists for Barcelona this year, he demonstrates an innate ability to create scoring opportunities, including memorable moments like his

wonder-strike against France in the Euros semifinal. As he approaches the World Cup, concerns about his fitness linger, but the slower pace of international football may suit his style well. His chemistry with teammates, particularly midfielder Pedri, will be crucial as he carries the weight of expectations to unlock their potential in attack. Lamine thrives under the spotlight, positioning him as a key player to watch in the upcoming tournament in North America.