

In Brief

Mizoram CM chairs meeting on Ginger USP project

Aizawl: Chief Minister Lalduhoma chaired a meeting at the CM Conference Hall to discuss the implementation of the Ginger USP Project. The meeting was attended by PC Vanlalruata, Minister for Agriculture; F. Rodingliana, Minister for Industries; Prof. Lalnilawma, Minister for Rural Development; Advisers to the Chief Minister TBC Lalvenchhunga and Dr. KC Lalmalsawmzauva; along with senior officials. The Ginger USP Project will be implemented through convergence among around five departments. Under the project, the main ginger processing centre will be established at Mualkawi in Champhai district. In addition, three smaller processing units, or “Spoke Hubs,” will be set up at Tualcheng, Zotlang, and Vaphai to facilitate preliminary processing before the produce reaches the main centre.

Tigress with cubs spotted in Jonai reserve forest

Dhemaji: Forest officials of the Jonai Forest Range under the Dhemaji Territorial Forest Division have confirmed the movement of a Royal Bengal tigress along with her cubs in the riverine areas of the Poba Reserve Forest over the past few days. According to forest officials, multiple pugmarks of the tigress were spotted in the Oiramghat and Kobuchapori areas of the reserve forest, which lies adjacent to the Pasighat Reserve Forest and the Daying Ering Wildlife Sanctuary in neighbouring Arunachal Pradesh. Officials said the tigress had recently killed a domestic cow that had wandered into a forested grazing area near Oiramghat. Following reports of tiger movement in the area, forest authorities have alerted residents of nearby villages and advised them not to enter forest areas unnecessarily. Villagers have also been urged to keep their domestic cattle away from the forest zone.

Conrad Welcomes Initiation of NEHU VC Appointment Process

Shillong, May 26: Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma on Monday called on Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan in New Delhi to express his gratitude for his intervention to initiate the process for the appointment of Vice Chancellor for the North Eastern Hill University (NEHU). In a letter submitted to the Union Minister, the Chief Minister said, “This step has brought much-needed reassurance and has been widely welcomed across the University community. It is important that this momentum is now carried forward with both urgency and thoughtful care.”

Accident

Aizawl, May 26: Three persons, including a woman, died after their car skidded off the road and fell into a gorge in Mizoram’s Lunglei district. The incident occurred when the victims were returning from Lunglei, according to police. The deceased have been identified as K Lahlhipuia (25), Jerry Lalnunfela (40), and PC Lalrintluangi (24), all were residents of Hau-ruang. Jerry Lalnunfela is a constable of the 2nd Battalion of the Mizoram Armed Police (MAP). The vehicle reportedly fell into a steep ravine, killing all three occupants on the spot.

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“Equally important is the need to identify a candidate who brings not only strong academic and administrative credentials, but also the experience, judgment, and leadership required to guide NEHU through its current challenges,” he said in his letter.

He also took the opportunity to seek the Union Minister’s intervention on the five projects sanctioned under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJVK) for the North Eastern Hill University (NEHU), Tura Campus, Meghalaya, which are yet to be implemented. An amount of Rs 35 crore has been

Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying chairs regional review meeting of Northeastern states

Aizawl, May 26: Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Rajiv Ranjan Singh, who is currently on an official visit to Mizoram, chaired a regional review meeting of the eight Northeastern states in Aizawl to review the progress of the Northeastern states and the implementation of various Central schemes in the region.

The meeting was attended by Minister of State for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying (FAH&D) George Kurian, the Ministers in charge of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying from the Northeastern states, Joint Secretary of FAH&D Sagar Mehra, Chairman of the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) Meenesh Shah, members from

National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB) along with officials from the Central and State Governments.

Expressing gratitude to the Government of Mizoram for their hospitality and organizing the event, Rajiv Ranjan Singh stated that the Central Government aims to showcase the beauty and diversity of the Northeastern states and that he was delighted to witness the hidden beauty of Mizoram. Highlighting Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s vision for the development of the Northeast, the Minister said that the Central Government is committed to doing everything possible to realize that vision. He emphasized that development in fisheries, animal husbandry and dairy sectors could significantly

contribute to the economic development of the Northeast and added that these sectors would bring progress not only for individuals but for the entire region.

Speaking specifically on fisheries, the Minister highlighted various initiatives launched under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, including the Blue Revolution, the Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund (FIDF), and Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PM-MSY). The Minister stated that owing to these initiatives, fish production in the Northeastern region increased from 3.78 lakh tonnes in 2014 to 7.05 lakh tonnes in 2025. He further stated that over the past 12 years (2014–2025), the Central Government had provided

a total of Rs. 2,228 crore to the Northeastern states, which includes Assam (Rs. 614.11 crore), Arunachal Pradesh (Rs. 246.03 crore), Manipur (Rs. 236.41 crore), Meghalaya (Rs. 240.32 crore), Mizoram (Rs. 246.79 crore), Nagaland (Rs. 209.49 crore), Sikkim (Rs. 109.41 crore), and Tripura (Rs. 322.23 crore).

The Minister expressed his delight at attending the inauguration of India’s first Integrated Aquapark at Ziro in Arunachal Pradesh and announced that out of 11 more planned Integrated Aquaparks, 4 would be established in the Northeast region. He invited Mizoram to submit a Detailed Project Report (DPR) and complete the necessary land acquisition formalities to set up a similar facility in the State.



Rajiv Ranjan Singh also announced that the central government has approved the Mizoram government’s proposal to establish a Fish Marketing Center at an estimated cost of Rs 50 crore in the State. Additionally, he highlighted the immense potential for ornamental fisheries, coldwater fisheries, and inland fisheries in the Northeast. He noted that the central government wishes to promote cluster-based fish farming by setting up 8 notified clusters in the region, upgrade the existing National Fisheries Development Board facility in Assam, and digitally onboard all fish farmers in the area. The Minister further stated that the government is ready to invest Rs 200–300 crore under the Mission Amrit Sarovar in the Northeast. He promised that after the monsoon season, top officials from the NDDB, NFDB, and the central ministry would tour the northeastern states to assess their needs and potential first-hand. On animal husbandry, the Minister stated that the Northeastern states had achieved growth of 37% in milk production, 40% in egg production and 15% in meat production. However, he urged the states to use this progress as fresh momentum to unleash their true potential.

Containment Measures Imposed After ASF Case in Chümoukedima

Kohima, May 26: The district administration of Chümoukedima district has imposed a series of containment and preventive measures following the confirmation of an outbreak of African Swine Fever (ASF) at Toulazouma village.

Deputy Commissioner Polan John stated that the outbreak was confirmed by the office of the Chief Veterinary Officer, Chümoukedima.

According to the advisory, the area within a one-kilometre radius of the outbreak epicentre at Toulazouma village has been declared an “Infected Zone”, while areas within a 10-kilometre radius have been designated as a “Surveillance Zone”.

The administration has prohibited the movement and transportation of pigs, pork, pig products, animal feed and related materials within and outside the notified zones with immediate effect.

Authorities have also banned the slaughter, sale and distribution of pigs and pork products within the containment zones until further orders.

The advisory stated that the veterinary department and law enforcement agencies would carry out surveillance, monitoring and preventive measures in the affected areas.

All village councils, GBs, ward authorities, butchers, meat vendors and residents have been directed to strictly comply with the advisory and immediately report any unusual illness or death of pigs to the nearest veterinary office. The administration has further instructed pig farm owners to maintain strict biosecurity protocols, including proper disinfection and restricted access to farms.

Officials stated that disposal of pig carcasses must be carried out strictly according to veterinary department protocols and Government of India guidelines. The administration warned that any violation of the directives would invite legal action under relevant provisions of law.

Tigress with cubs spotted in Jonai reserve forest, locals alerted

Dhemaji, May 26: Forest officials of the Jonai Forest Range under the Dhemaji Territorial Forest Division have confirmed the movement of a Royal Bengal tigress along with her cubs in the riverine areas of the Poba Reserve Forest over the past few days. According to forest officials, multiple pugmarks of the tigress were spotted in the Oiramghat and Kobuchapori areas of the reserve forest, which lies adjacent to the Pasighat Reserve Forest and the Daying Ering Wildlife Sanctuary in neighbouring Arunachal Pradesh.

Officials said the tigress had recently killed a domestic cow that had wandered into a forested grazing area near Oiramghat.

Following reports of tiger movement in the area, forest authorities have alerted residents of nearby villages and advised them not to enter forest areas unnecessarily. Villagers have also been urged to keep their domestic cattle away from the forest zone.

Forest personnel said tiger pugmarks had occasionally been observed in the Jonai range earlier as well. However, they noted that the reserve forests in the area are generally not considered a regular tiger habitat, though tigers from distant locations are known to visit during the breeding season. In a recent development, wildlife officials from the Daying Ering Wildlife Sanctuary confirmed the presence of Royal Bengal tigers in the region after camera-trap surveys conducted earlier this month captured photographic evidence of tiger movement. Forest and wildlife officials expressed optimism over the return of tigers to the reserve forest areas after nearly two decades, describing it as a positive sign of successful conservation efforts.

Authorities have appealed to residents of fringe villages not to panic over the tiger sightings, stating that the arrival of tiger species in the area reflects improving environmental conditions and could also support future eco-tourism prospects.

Unregistered and illegal bike taxis ferrying passengers in Shillong warned

Shillong, May 26: Two-wheeler taxi aggregators must register with the District Transport Office and obtain licenses before operating, with the government warning of strict action against those running services illegally.

Commissioner & Secretary in-charge transport Sanjay Goyal on Monday said enforcement drives against illegal operators had already been carried out. “We have taken enforcement action against them and we have shut down their place of operation long time back and inspite of that, if some of them are operating illegally, I will request the public to come forward and inform us, let the companies fulfill all the legal requirements and then operate and the if we come across any such cases, the DTOs have been given very clear instructions to take action as per law,” he said.

He noted that the Cabinet has cleared the bike aggregator Rules, along with separate ‘rent a bike’ and ‘rent a taxi’ rules for tourists who prefer self-driven vehicles. “We have come up with the rules. The bikes aggregator is already there, the cabinet has already passed them, we have come out with other category of rules which is called ‘rent a bike’ ‘rent a 20 taxi’ rules, where mostly people who come from outside, especially the tourist, they want to ride a bike on their own, or they want to drive the vehicle on their own, for that also the rules are there,” Goyal said.



Morikolong Robbery Accused Killed in Police Encounter in Nagaon

Nagaon, May 26: An accused wanted in connection with the Morikolong robbery case was killed during a late-night gunfight between police and alleged criminals at Borkandoli in Rangalu under Nagaon district on Monday night.

The deceased has been identified as Khairul Ali alias Moni, a resident of Thana Road in North Lakhimpur town. Police said he was one of the prime accused in the Morikolong robbery case and had been absconding since the incident. According to police sources, Khairul had allegedly returned to Nagaon on Monday night with plans to carry out another robbery. Acting on specific intelligence inputs regarding the movement of the gang, a police team launched an operation and reached the Borkandoli area in Rangalu.

Police stated that when the suspected robbers came face to face with the police team, the gang allegedly opened fire targeting the personnel. In the retaliatory firing by police, Khairul Ali sustained bullet injuries. He was immediately taken to Nagaon Medical College and Hospital, where he succumbed to his injuries on the way, officials said.

During the operation, police recovered a 7.65 mm pistol and two empty cartridges from the possession of the deceased. Further investigation into the case is currently underway.



released by the Ministry of Minority Affairs for the development of infrastructure.

“These projects remain critically important not only for the University but also for the larger Garo Hills region, as they are integral to improving higher education infrastructure and fulfilling the aspirations of students and the community,” he said.

It may be noted that the Ministry of Minority Affairs had earlier suggested CPWD as the implementing agency during the review meeting held on October 14, 2025.

The Chief Minister also briefed the Union Minister on Captain Williamson Sangma State University (CWSSU), which is being developed as a greenfield development model, and has sought financial assistance for infrastructure creation,

academic expansion, laboratories, student hostels, faculty development, and professional education programmes.

He has submitted a request to the Minister for the sanction of financial assistance to CWSSU under the MERU (Multi-Disciplinary Education and Research Universities) vertical of PM-USHA, under which State Government Universities are eligible for grants of up to Rs. 100 crore each.

“Meghalaya could not avail support under this vertical earlier due to the absence of a State University. With CWSSU now operational, the State is hopeful of participating meaningfully in this important national initiative,” the Chief Minister said in his letter.

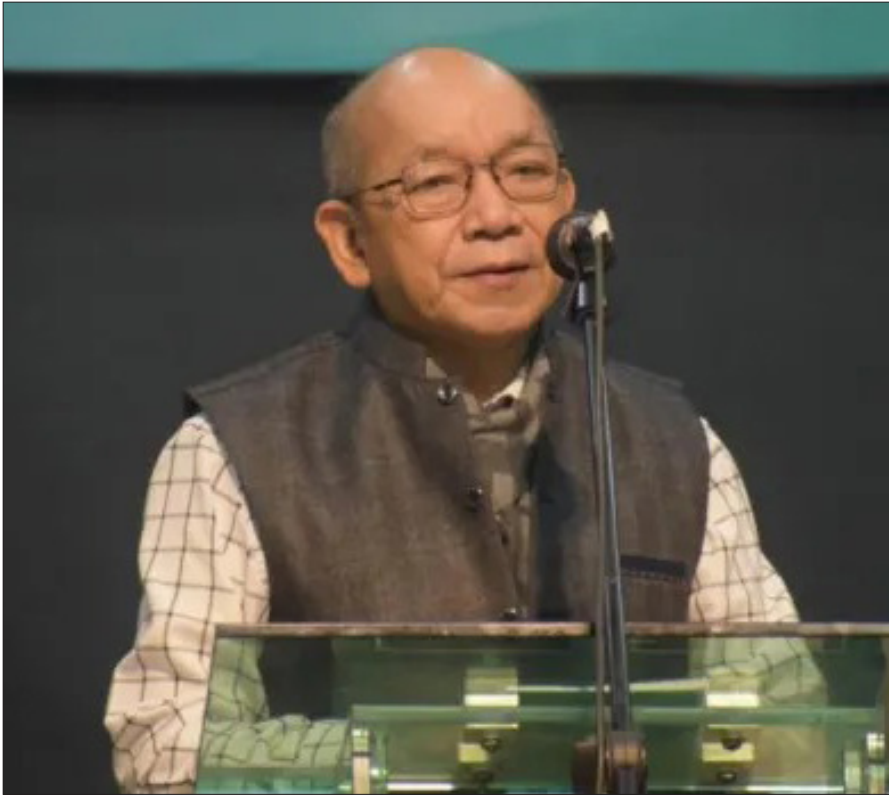
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Mizoram will start an urban safety project worth Rs 35 crore and hire 350 police officers

Aizawl, May 26: K Sapdanga on Sunday announced that the Mizoram government will soon begin recruitment for 350 police personnel and 94 home guards, while also launching a major urban safety project aimed at reducing landslides, drainage congestion and flooding in Aizawl. Speaking at a party programme in Aizawl on May 25, Sapdanga said the state government would recruit 150 unarmed constables and 200 armed police personnel through a transparent selection process similar to last year's recruitment exercise. The minister said the government had already issued a notification for the recruitment of 94 Mizoram Home Guard (MRHG) personnel. However, he clarified that the present recruitment process would be open only to male candidates as the

women's quota had already been filled. Sapdanga said the recruitment process would strictly follow merit-based selection and no candidate would receive preference through political recommendations or outside influence. "Selection will be based entirely on merit. Those wishing to help their preferred candidates should instead support them in their physical fitness training," he said. According to the minister, candidates applying for the posts must have passed Class 10 and should possess discipline and strong physical fitness. He further stated that the home guard personnel would initially be appointed for three years, with the possibility of extension or termination based on existing rules and performance. Apart from the recruitment drive, Sapdanga, who also



Union Minister Amit Shah holds the Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation portfolio, announced details of the government's "Mission Urban Drain" (MUD) project aimed at

improving urban safety infrastructure in the state capital. The Rs 35 crore project has been planned to address recurring landslides, urban flooding and drainage congestion, which remain major concerns in the hilly city during the monsoon season. Sapdanga said consultancy firms had already completed surveys for the project and development work was planned across 44 locations covering all 40 constituencies of Aizawl city. According to the minister, the project would first focus on vulnerable and landslide-prone areas before gradually expanding to other district headquarters in Mizoram. The government also plans to prepare a comprehensive master drainage map for Aizawl to avoid duplication of work and improve urban planning in the rapidly expanding city.

A group of Mizo students objects to a retired tourism official being hired again

Aizawl, May 26: Members of Mizo Zirlai Pawl (MZP), one of Mizoram's most influential student bodies, staged a protest on Sunday outside the office of the state tourism director, opposing the re-employment of a retired government official and demanding that the appointment order be withdrawn. The protest was held against the Mizoram government's decision to re-engage retired officer Lalrodingi in different official capacities after her retirement from service. According to official orders issued on April 24, Lalrodingi was initially appointed as Officer on Special Duty (OSD) in the Commerce and Industries and Geology and Mining departments. She was later appointed as OSD to the Chief Minister with effect from May 1. However, following criticism and growing opposition from student organisations and other groups, the government later revised the order and stated that Lalrodingi would continue only as OSD attached to the Chief Minister. The issue again triggered controversy after the government issued another order on May 22 directing Lalrodingi to take additional charge as Director of Tourism with immediate effect. The latest decision led to fresh protests by the MZP, which has been strongly opposing the re-employment of retired officials in government departments. Speaking during the protest, MZP president C. Lalremruata alleged that



Lalduhoma had earlier assured the organisation during a meeting held on May 13 that Lalrodingi would not be re-employed as tourism director. He claimed the assurance was expected to be formally communicated in writing, but the government later changed its stand. On Saturday, the student body had accused the chief minister of favouritism in the matter and warned that stronger agitation would be launched if the decision was not reviewed. The MZP clarified that it was not opposed to Lalrodingi's appointment as OSD, describing it as a political appointment. However, the organisation strongly objected to retired officials being re-employed in government departments. According to the student body, such appointments affect promotional op-

portunities for serving officers and reduce employment opportunities for educated unemployed youths in the state. The organisation maintained that priority should be given to existing government employees and qualified job seekers instead of extending service opportunities to retired officials. Meanwhile, Lalrinpui defended the government's decision and said Lalrodingi was re-engaged because of her administrative experience and expertise in the tourism sector. Lalrinpui, who previously handled the tourism department, said Lalrodingi had earlier worked under the North Eastern Council (NEC) in charge of tourism and had played an important role in securing central funds for the state before retirement.

Kuki-Zo Council seeks fair probe, sent letter to Shah

Imphal, May 26: The Kuki-Zo Council (KZC) has appealed to Union Home Minister Amit Shah to ensure a fair and impartial investigation into allegations levelled against Lalboi Vaiphei, the chief of Leilon Vaiphei village in Manipur's Kangpokpi district. In a letter addressed to the Union Home Minister, the KZC claimed that false allegations had been made against Lalboi Vaiphei in a representation reportedly submitted by certain Naga organisations to the Prime Minister's Office, the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Governor of Manipur and the Chief Minister of Manipur. The organisation alleged that the contents of the representation were widely circulated on social media, leading to defamation, hate speech and targeted attacks against the village chief. The KZC stated that Lalboi Vaiphei had no connection with the alleged abduction of civilians and claimed that he was out of station for medical reasons when the incident took place. The council further said the allegations and related propaganda had endan-



gered his personal safety and created an atmosphere of hostility. Seeking government intervention, the KZC urged authorities to conduct a fair probe and take steps to prevent the spread of what it termed as false accusations. The organisation also appreciated the initiative taken by N. Biren Singh in holding discussions with the United Naga Council (UNC) regarding

the prevailing situation in the state. However, it appealed to the government to also hold dialogue with Kuki-Zo leaders to ensure balanced engagement with all communities. The KZC further urged the government to intensify efforts to rescue the hostages linked to the ongoing crisis and stressed the need to prevent another ethnic conflict in the state. The council also expressed con-

cern that the killing of three senior Kuki-Zo pastors was being overshadowed by the hostage situation. It appealed to the authorities to identify and bring those responsible for the killings to justice. The letter was signed by Henlianthang Thanglet, chairman of the Kuki-Zo Council, and copies were forwarded to the Governor and Chief Minister of Manipur.

Assam announces Phase-I schedule for Census 2027; over 83,000 personnel to be deployed

Guwahati, May 26: The Assam government announced the schedule for Phase-I of Census 2027, which will be conducted across the state from August 17 to September 15, 2026. Self-enumeration through the official online portal will remain open from August 2 to August 16. The schedule was finalised following a high-level review meeting on Census preparedness, where officials assessed readiness related to field operations, training, digital infrastructure, supervision and public outreach ahead of the nationwide exercise. According to an official statement, Assam Chief Secretary Ravi Kota stressed the importance of coordinated preparation and public participation for the successful conduct of the Census. "The successful conduct of Census 2027 will require coordinated administrative efforts, public participation and timely preparedness at every level," he said. Officials stated that Population Enumeration under Phase-II in Assam will be conducted in February 2027 along with the rest of the country, with the reference date fixed as March 1,

2027. As part of preparations, two national trainers have been selected from the Directorate of Census Operations, Assam, to conduct cascade training programmes across the state. A total of 59 master trainers have also been designated, and their training is scheduled from June 9 to June 12, 2026. Additionally, the state government has finalised 1,109 field trainers, whose training is expected to begin from the third week of June. Officials said nearly 83,535 enumerators and supervisors, including reserve personnel, will be deployed during the Phase-I Census operations across Assam. The Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India highlighted the role of technology in the exercise, noting that digital interventions, self-enumeration and real-time monitoring systems would play a key role in ensuring accurate and transparent data collection. Chief Principal Census Officer of Assam Biswajit Pegu urged citizens to actively participate in the exercise and comply with provisions under the Census Act, 1948.

Officials added that the data generated through Phase-I would help both the state and central governments plan housing, infrastructure and delivery of essential services more effectively in both rural and urban areas. The review meeting was attended by Mrityunjay Kumar Narayan, senior officials of the Assam government, district commissioners, municipal commissioners and officials from the Directorate of Census Operations, Assam. Census 2027 will be India's first fully digital Census and will be conducted in two phases — House-listing and Housing Census (HLO) and Population Enumeration (PE). Phase-I will focus on houses and households rather than individuals, collecting details on housing conditions, amenities and assets possessed by households. The exercise will also provide the framework for Population Enumeration during Phase-II. Residents in Assam will be able to self-enumerate through the official portal before house-to-house verification by trained enumerators using digital devices.

The Northeastern states' regional review meeting is chaired by the Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, and Dairying

Aizawl, May 26: Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Rajiv Ranjan Singh, who is currently on an official visit to Mizoram, chaired a regional review meeting of the eight Northeastern states in Aizawl to review the progress of the Northeastern states and the implementation of various Central schemes in the region. The meeting was attended by Minister of State for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying (FAH&D) George Kurian, the Ministers in charge of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying from the Northeastern states, Joint Secretary of FAH&D Sagar Mehra, Chairman of the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) Meenesh Shah, members from National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB) along with officials from the Central and State Governments. Expressing gratitude to the Government of Mizoram for their hospitality and organizing the event, Rajiv Ranjan Singh stated that the Central Government aims to showcase the beauty and diversity of the Northeastern states and that he was delighted to witness the hidden beauty of Mizoram. Highlighting Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision for the development of the Northeast, the Minister said that the Central Government is committed to doing everything possible to realize that vision. He emphasized that development in fisheries, animal husbandry and dairy sectors could significantly contribute



to the economic development of the Northeast and added that these sectors would bring progress not only for individuals but for the entire region. Speaking specifically on fisheries, the Minister highlighted various initiatives launched under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, including the Blue Revolution, the Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund (FIDF), and Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PM-MSY). The Minister stated that owing to these initiatives, fish production in the Northeastern region increased from 3.78 lakh tonnes in 2014 to 7.05 lakh tonnes in 2025. He further stated that over the past 12 years (2014-2025), the Central Government had provided a total of Rs. 2,228 crore to the Northeastern states, which includes Assam (Rs. 614.11 crore), Arunachal Pradesh (Rs. 246.03 crore), Manipur (Rs.

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Census 2027 in Assam to Begin With Massive Personnel Deployment

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Phase-I will focus on houses and households rather than individuals, collecting details on housing conditions, amenities and assets possessed by households. The exercise will also provide the framework for Population Enumeration during Phase-II.

Annual Watershed Development Plan Approved in Assam

Guwahati, May 26: Assam Chief Secretary Ravi Kota on Tuesday approved the Annual Action Plan for 2026-27 for watershed development with a proposed outlay exceeding Rs 102 crore, with focus on sustainable natural resource management, livelihood generation, capacity building and climate-resilient agriculture.

Kota also approved the incentive framework under the Watershed Janbhagidari initiative to recognise high-performing watershed projects and encourage greater community participation and ownership.

The approvals were given during the State Level Steering Committee (SLSC) meeting held under the Watershed Development Component of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (WDC-PMKSY 2.0) to review implementation progress, approve key proposals and chart the roadmap for the next phase of watershed development in Assam.

Kota reviewed the status of 38 watershed projects with a total outlay of Rs 371.36 crore, of which Rs 273.03



crore (74 percent) has been utilised.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary noted that four projects have already been completed, while a majority have achieved over 80 percent financial progress.

The WDC-PMKSY programme has delivered significant outcomes in natural resource management and rural livelihoods. These include the treatment of over 14,750 hectares under soil and moisture conservation; development of more than 50,257 hectares of degraded

and rainfed land; creation and renovation of over 1,099 water harvesting structures; expansion of protective irrigation coverage and direct benefits to over 1.7 lakh farmers across project areas.

The meeting deliberated on preparatory measures for WDC-PMKSY 3.0, including DPR formulation through ASSAC, convergence with line departments and strengthening of monitoring and evaluation mechanisms.

The Chief secretary further reviewed cluster-based

Tripura Crime Branch Arrests 4 Cops in Phensedyl Case

Agartala, May 26: Four Tripura Police personnel were arrested by the Crime Branch in connection with a Phensedyl seizure tampering case, sources said.

All four accused, including Inspector Ajit Debbarma, SI Rajendra Reang, WSI Sampa Das and ASI Sachindra Debbarma, were produced before the Khowai District Court on Monday.

The Crime Branch has sought five days police remand from the court for further investigation.

The investigation of the case is being led by Crime Branch DSP Pousadhan Rupini, assisted by Inspector Raghulal.

According to police, during a mobile patrol on May 20, police personnel intercepted a white Eeco vehicle and recovered co-deine-based Eskuf cough syrup.

Subsequent CCTV review allegedly revealed that around 245 bottles of the seized cough syrup were removed from the GD Room before formal seizure and recordation.

The case has been registered at Teliamura Police Station as Case No. 025/2026 under Sections 305, 306, 316(5), and 61 of the BNS, along with Section 21(c) of the NDPS Act.

Speaking on the incident, Justin Joseph, Additional Superintendent of Police of Khowai district, said that Teliamura Police had earlier seized narcotic substances during an anti-drug operation.

Allegations later surfaced that the four accused police personnel had illegally sold a portion of the seized narcotics in the open market.

Following a preliminary inquiry into the allegations, legal action was initiated against the accused police personnel.

Nagaland University Study Reveals New Findings on Upper Disang Formation

Kohima, May 26: Nagaland University researchers have carried out an integrated geological investigation of the Upper Disang Formation in Nagaland, generating new insights into the origin, transport and evolution of ancient sediments deposited along the eastern boundary of the Indian tectonic plate.

The findings help improve scientific understanding of basin evolution, sediment dispersal and tectonic processes within the Indo-Myanmar sedimentary domain.

The study was supported by the Start-up Research Grant of Nagaland University. The research further enhances scientific understanding of sediment dispersal patterns and basin dynamics along the eastern margin of the Indian plate, which remains one of the most tectonically complex regions in South Asia.

While earlier geological studies on the Upper Disang Formation were largely concentrated in Upper Assam and other parts of Northeast India, limited geological information was available from this region of Nagaland.

The present research addressed this gap through an integrated approach combining petrography, heavy mineral analysis and studies of post-depositional changes in sediments.

The findings of the study have been published in Evolving Earth, a multidisciplinary, peer-reviewed, open-access journal that publishes research on Earth system science, planetary evolution and global environmental change.

The paper was co-authored by Dr. S. K. Srivastava, Dr. Amitava Patra, K. Swuro and V. Kirha from the Department of Geology, Nagaland University and Dr. Shyam Kanhaiya, Assistant Professor, Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences, VBS Purvanchal University, Uttar Pradesh. Elaborating on the study, Prof. S.K. Srivastava, Department of Geology, Nagaland University, said,

“Our study revealed that the Upper Disang sandstones were derived from multiple and compositionally diverse sediment sources, including igneous, metamorphic and sedimentary terrains. We also identified signatures of tectonically active depositional settings and drainage reorganisation during sediment accumulation.”

The findings provide a clearer understanding of how sedimentary basins evolved in tectonically active regions linked to the Indo-Myanmar ranges. The results can also be correlated with other Palaeogene siliciclastic sedimentary sequences deposited under similar geological conditions elsewhere.

Zubeen Garg Death Case Advances as Court Frames Charges Against Seven Accused

Guwahati, May 26: A fast-track court on Tuesday formally framed charges against all seven accused in the high-profile Zubeen Garg death case, with four of them charged with murder under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS).

The court, presided over by Sharmila Bhuyan, framed charges against all accused named in the chargesheet.

Speaking to reporters, special public prosecutor Ziaul Kamar said the court had framed charges against all accused persons in the case.

According to the prosecution, murder charges under BNS Sections 103 (murder), 3 (common intention) and 61 (criminal conspiracy) were framed against Shyamkanu Mahanta, Garg’s manager Siddharth Sharma, bandmate Shekhar Jyoti Goswami and co-singer Amritprabha Mahanta.

The prosecution said additional charges were also invoked against some of the accused. Shyamkanu Mahanta was additionally charged under Sections 308

(extortion), 318 (cheating) and 238 (destruction of evidence).

Siddharth Sharma and Shekhar Jyoti Goswami were also charged under Section 316 (criminal breach of trust), while Amritprabha Mahanta was booked under Section 238 for destruction of evidence.

The court also framed charges against three other accused. Sandipan Garg was charged under Section 105 (culpable homicide not amounting to murder), while personal security officers Nandeswar Bora and Prabin Baishya were charged under Sections 61 and 316. Kamar said the trial in the case would begin from June 8.

During the hearing, counsel for the accused sought bail before the court. Opposing the plea, Advocate General Devajit Saikia urged the court to reject the bail applications and presented arguments on behalf of the prosecution.

After hearing both sides, the court reserved its order and fixed May 29 for pronouncement on the bail pleas.

Kuki-Zo Council seeks fair probe, sent letter to Shah

Imphal, May 26: The Kuki-Zo Council (KZC) has appealed to Union Home Minister Amit Shah to ensure a fair and impartial investigation into allegations levelled against Lalboi Vaiphei, the chief of Leilon Vaiphei village in Manipur’s Kangpokpi district. In a letter addressed to the Union Home Minister, the KZC claimed that false allegations had been made against Lalboi Vaiphei in a representation reportedly submitted by certain Naga organisations to the Prime Minister’s Office, the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Governor of Manipur and the Chief Minister of Manipur.

The organisation alleged that the contents of the representation were widely circulated on social media, leading to defamation, hate speech and targeted attacks against the village chief.

The KZC stated that Lalboi Vaiphei had no connection with the alleged abduction of civilians and claimed that he was out of station for medical reasons when the incident took place.

The council further said the allegations and related propaganda had endangered his personal safety and created

an atmosphere of hostility.

Seeking government intervention, the KZC urged authorities to conduct a fair probe and take steps to prevent the spread of what it termed as false accusations.

The organisation also appreciated the initiative taken by N. Biren Singh in holding discussions with the United Naga Council (UNC) regarding the prevailing situation in the state. However, it appealed to the government to also hold dialogue with Kuki-Zo leaders to ensure balanced engagement with all communities.

The KZC further urged the government to intensify efforts to rescue the hostages linked to the ongoing crisis and stressed the need to prevent another ethnic conflict in the state.

Three die after car falls into gorge in Mizoram

Aizawl, May 26: Three persons, including a woman, died after their car skidded off the road and fell into a gorge in Mizoram’s Lunglei district.

The incident occurred when the victims were returning from Lunglei, according to police.

The deceased have been identified as K Lalhlimpuia (25), Jerry Lalnunfela (40), and PC Lalrintluangi (24), all were residents of Hauruang.

Jerry Lalnunfela is a constable of the 2nd Battalion of the Mizoram Armed Police (MAP).

The vehicle reportedly fell into a steep ravine, killing all three occupants on the spot.

Local sources from Hauruang said Lalnunfela and Lalhlimpuia, who were close friends and neighbours, had left the village in the car. Concern grew among family members after they failed to return home, only for news of the accident to emerge later. Police officials described the site as extremely inaccessible. “The terrain is so difficult that even an excavator which once rolled into the same gorge could not be recovered,” an official said.

Conrad Congratulates Hally War on Padma Shri Honour

Shillong, May 26: Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad Sangma has congratulated Hally War, a revered environmentalist and farmer from Siej village in Sohra (Cherrapunji) on being conferred the prestigious Padma Shri, one of India’s highest civilian honours, for his lifelong dedication to conserving and bio-weaving the Khasi people’s iconic living root bridges.

War, along with 65 other Padma Awardees were honoured by President Droupadi Murmu during the first Civil Investiture Ceremony at Rashtrapati Bhavan on Monday evening.

Notably, three other personalities from the Northeast, were conferred the Award during the ceremony at the national capital.

“Honoured to witness Shri Hally War being conferred the Padma Shri by the Hon’ble President of India, Smti Droupadi Murmu ji, today,” Chief Minister Sangma stated on social media.

“Bah Hally has devoted decades of his life to weaving and nurturing our iconic living root bridges. During my trek to Siej village, I had the privilege of witnessing these remarkable living structures and was deeply inspired by Bah Hally’s immense knowledge, quiet dedication, and profound respect for the environment,” he stated.

“His journey reminds us that true nation-building also lies in preserving our heritage, protecting nature, and passing on traditions that define who we are,” Sangma said.

“This honour is richly deserved. Congratulations, Bah Hally War. May your work continue to inspire generations,” he stated.



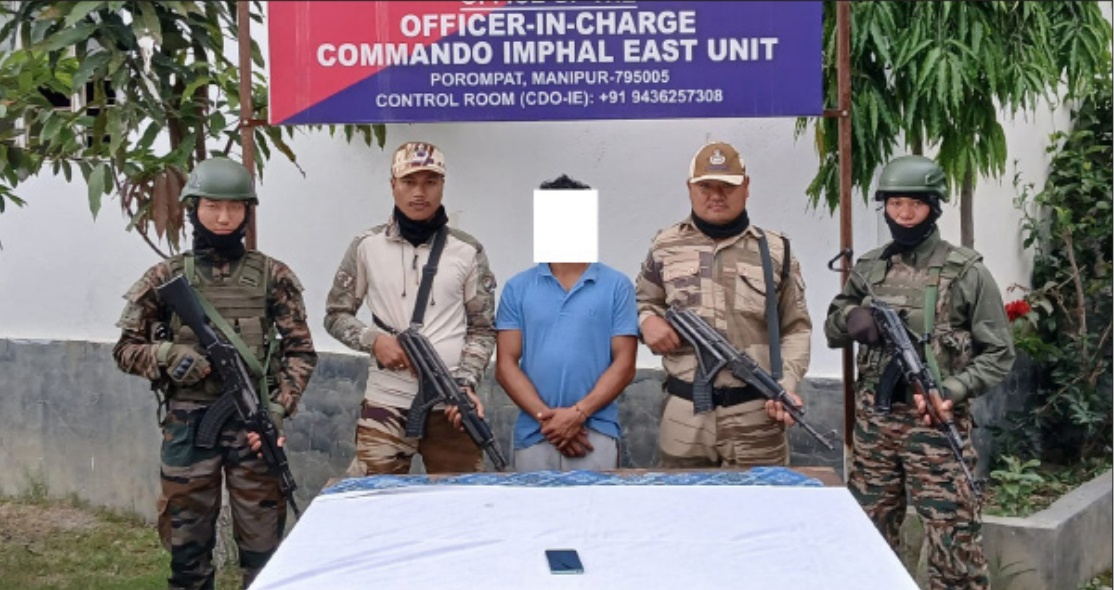
Four suspected armed cadres arrested in Kangpokpi abduction case; Kuki Inpi calls indefinite shutdown

Imphal, May 26: Joint security forces comprising the Manipur Police, CRPF and Assam Rifles apprehended four suspected armed village volunteer cadres during a search operation in Kangpokpi district on Sunday in connection with the abduction of six individuals earlier this month.

According to officials, the six persons were allegedly abducted from Leilon Vaiphei in Kangpokpi district on May 13, following which a series of operations were launched to trace the missing individuals and identify those involved in the incident.

During one such operation conducted on May 25 between P. Molding and Leilon Vaiphei inter-village road, security forces arrested Thangkhomang Khongsai (51) of Patbung village in Kangchup, Seikholet Khongsai (40) of Mongbung Tongneh in New Keithelmanbi, Lunminthang Dimngel (27) and Kamgoulal Khongsai (30).

Police said the arrested individuals are suspected to be active cadres of armed village volunteer groups operating in Kangpokpi district and are allegedly involved in anti-social activities, including extortion, criminal intimidation and illegal possession of arms and ammunition.



Officials further stated that the possible involvement of the four accused in the abduction case is under investigation and would be verified during the course of further inquiry.

Meanwhile, the Kuki Inpi has reportedly announced an indefinite shutdown in Kangpokpi district following the arrests.

In separate operations conducted across Manipur on May 24 and 25, security forces also arrested four active insurgent cadres linked to different militant outfits.

On May 24, two active cadres of the NRFM were apprehended from Pangei Nepali Basti in Imphal East district. The arrested individuals were identified as Moirangthem Samson Meitei alias Tonsana (28) and Chanambam Nabakumar Meetei alias Ebungo (22). Two mobile phones were recovered from their possession. In another operation, security forces arrested an active cadre of the KCP (PWG), identified as Md. Satibur Rahaman alias Boyai (34), from Khabeiso

Sabal Leikai under Heingang Police Station in Imphal East district. One mobile phone was seized during the operation.

On the same day, an active cadre of the KYKL, identified as Oinam Shelung Singh alias Amuton alias Naoba (30), was arrested from Seijang Awang Leikai under Yaingangpokpi Police Station in Imphal East district.

Security forces said further investigation into all the cases is underway.

EDITORIAL

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The Decline of Respect for Time

Punctuality and respect for others’ time appear to be weakening in many social and professional settings. Delays, last-minute cancellations, and habitual lateness are increasingly normalised. Such behaviour may seem minor, but it affects productivity, trust, and mutual respect. Time is one of the few resources shared

equally by everyone. In workplaces, poor time management creates inefficiency. In personal relationships, it reflects disregard for commitment and reliability. Respecting time is ultimately about respecting people. A disciplined society values punctuality not as rigidity, but as responsibility.

Assam’s drive toward AI governance

Artificial intelligence (AI) is increasingly being adopted by governments globally to improve public administration and provide citizen-centric services. In Assam, this initiative is part of a broader strategy towards AI-led governance, aiming for a digitally empowered state by 2047. The Chief Secretary, Ravi Kota, and the state administration acknowledge AI’s potential in transforming public service delivery across various sectors such as healthcare, agriculture, and disaster management. Recent state meetings have focused on integrating AI into governance, modernizing services, and training officials. AI is expected to address bureaucratic inefficiencies, speed up processes, and improve access to government services, especially in remote areas. In healthcare, AI systems can assist in monitoring patients and enhancing telemedicine access. In agriculture, AI can provide farmers with tools for real-time weather updates, crop monitoring, and market insights, thereby increasing productivity and sustainability amid challenges like erratic weather and pests.

Additionally, AI can revolutionize disaster management through predictive analytics and real-time data analysis, which is crucial given Assam’s vulnerability to floods. However, the success of these AI initiatives depends on workforce education, addressing the digital divide, and ensuring cybersecurity and data privacy. It’s vital to develop AI governance policies that consider the socio-economic context and foster collaboration with educational institutions and tech firms.

Assam’s transition to AI-driven governance poses challenges, including the risk of excluding vulnerable populations without proper digital access and literacy. To ensure accountability and public trust, governance frameworks must include human oversight and transparency. By responsibly implementing AI, Assam aims to enhance institutional transparency, reduce corruption, and foster inclusive growth, contingent on strategic investments and policies that prioritize innovation and equitable access.

Heatwaves are increasingly common, This is how Britain will appear in 2052

If you find today’s weather uncomfortable, allow me to transport you to the final day of July 2052, when the city is still scorching from the previous day’s heat. London seems like a massive camp for refugees from the air. The city’s citizens have spent yet another miserable night out from the heat traps that their homes and apartments have turned into, with tents and cobbled-together shelters lining the streets, gardens, and parks. Another scorcher is on the way after the temperature peaked at almost 40C six days ago. The majority of homes still have little barriers to the entering heat, and haphazard initiatives to improve insulation throughout the nation’s housing stock ran out of steam and funding decades earlier.

Although nearly all of the nation’s electricity now comes from renewable sources, which has reduced costs, the constant barrage of extreme weather has contributed to a global economic downturn. Nowadays, a lot of people have air conditioning, but they cannot afford to use it. Yawning and stretching, early risers wait for water at standpipes.

The south-east of England is experiencing water rationing due to a string of dry winters and a spring drought, which is making it more difficult for people to wake up from yet another restless night. Ironically, it’s raining a lot right now, and every day ends with a torrential downpour and an electric storm. The majority of this, however, flows straight into storm sewers that are unable to handle it, causing surface flooding in the capital’s lower-lying areas while leaving the lack of drinkable water unabated. Growing numbers of people congregate around state-run supermarkets that offer the necessities at reasonable costs. Bread and other basics have been rationed due to failed domestic

harvests over the past two years and drastically decreased food imports while other countries affected by severe weather hang onto what they have. Supermarkets still exist, but they mostly serve the affluent due to their inability to maintain low costs. As it has been sporadically since the beginning of the heatwave, power is off once more. Transmission is the issue, not generating; the high temperatures cause transformers to overheat and wires to droop and break. Even though the temperature hasn’t dropped below 29C, homes are opening their doors to let in the comparatively cold night air. Trailing cables link to computers that office workers who are stranded at home due to widespread transportation issues squat over and televisions that some people have moved outside to watch when the power is on. Rail and subway networks are in disarray due to the heat and prolonged power outages, and driving to work is a lottery due to road surface deterioration and broken traffic lights. Every hospital is overburdened as vulnerable individuals, the elderly, and the very young are negatively impacted by the unrelenting heat and humidity. Once the heat has subsided, the final death toll nationwide is probably in the tens of thousands. Few people today would consider the scenario I depict here to be a reality, but if we keep making unplanned mistakes in the face of a climate-challenging future, it is quite likely to come to pass. The hottest May day ever recorded has now passed, paving the way for much more intense summer heat that would not be feasible without global warming. During the sweltering summer of 2022, the temperature in the UK rose beyond 40C for the first time, leading to over 3,000 premature deaths.



At the height of the heat, thousands of houses in the country’s north lost power, and Network Rail issued a “do not travel” warning. Only because the National Grid paid record prices for electricity imported from Belgium did certain parts of London avoid blackouts. Imagine for a week or more that this degree of heat persists.

The average global temperature is currently rising at a rate that will result in a 1C increase every 28 years, having accelerated over the last ten years or so. This means that by the middle of the century, the globe will be more than 2C hotter than it was during pre-industrial times. By 2050, temperatures of nearly 43C will be achievable due to this degree of warming, making my scenario a real possibility.

In fact, three or four days in a row above 40C are possible even in the current environment. Our nation is not designed to withstand such heat and its widespread effects, as the UK Climate Change Committee noted this week in its most recent report to

the government. Over 90% of dwellings lack adequate insulation to keep out the heat, and a daily shortage of 5 billion liters of water is predicted by 2050. Between 2020 and 2025, the UK saw three of its worst harvests, which resulted in the loss of grain equal to a year’s supply of bread. We currently import 40% of our food, but we will no longer be able to depend on this as harsh weather is increasingly affecting other nations’ harvests. India, the second-largest producer in the world, recently imposed a four-month embargo on sugar exports. The “we hold what we have” mentality will only spread as the effects of climate change on agriculture around the world worsen. However, this isn’t finalized. Although we are powerless to alter the future, there are many things we can do to improve our coping mechanisms. The crucial necessity of adequately insulating our entire housing stock should be at the top of any to-do list in order to transform dwellings from possible death traps into havens from the heat.

Simultaneously, the widespread implementation of heavily subsidized rooftop solar power in conjunction with battery storage will significantly contribute to households becoming at least partially grid-independent and capable of running air conditioning during periods of extreme heat, even in the event of a power outage.

The anticipated water shortage will also be addressed by personal rainfall collection, which is already popular in Germany and other nations. Encouragement and incentives for as many people as possible to grow their own fruits and vegetables at home will help lessen the burden of unavoidable shortages, even though the nation’s overall food policy needs to be substantially rethought.

The impact of a failing climate on the global economy and the consequences for the UK will throw a shadow over our efforts, even though such steps will assist to prevent the worst. Several assessments predict large decreases in world GDP by the middle

of the century. Many UK citizens would inevitably experience more hardship as a result, making it more difficult for them to adjust to the new circumstances. At the same time, the government will have less money to develop the resilience the nation needs to prosper in a hotter world if the national economy is severely undermined. It is nearly impossible for emissions reductions to occur quickly enough to slow down the rate at which our world is warming, given that we continue to pump out CO2 equivalent to the weight of 800,000 Titanics annually and fossil fuel companies are actively planning to expand operations.

As a result, mid-century temperatures in the UK of 40C or more is now expected. Therefore, we must acknowledge that life will be significantly different in the 2050s than it is now and take immediate action. We will be better equipped to handle these massive challenges to our daily lives the sooner we acknowledge this and start preparing and adapting as a society.

This is Andy Burnham’s plan to save Labour: electoral change, a new election, and a new manifesto

The possibility of redemption, a second opportunity for Labour to begin anew, is here. Andy Burnham’s victory in the Makerfield byelection not only gives him access to No. 10, but it also enables him and Wes to run for leadership. Streeting to take a chance at last. Concepts that are presently securely imprisoned in a jail on Downing Street might be set free. Tax on land value? Wealth tax? No more kids living in makeshift housing? A national service for care? Why not? Not to be outdone, the government itself has accelerated a deal with the EU and children’s internet protection, as well as Rachel Reeves’s summer of fun. Alan Milburn’s ambitious ideas for nearly a million Neets (young people not in education, employment, or training) should be anticipated this week. Offerings from candidates for leadership may be met with some world-weary skepticism. Keir Starmer made ten promises during the hustings, some of which were broken: the elimination of tuition fees; shared ownership of energy, water, and mail; an increase in income tax for the top 5%; and the defense of “free movement as we leave the EU” (important promises, like workers’ rights and “no more illegal wars,” have been kept). Policies might be challenging to implement after they are inside that black front door. Time shifts, Treasury coffers run out, borrowing costs increase, Donald Trump launches a war that destroys the economy, and powerful financial bullies lay on the scare tactics: things



go wrong or people lose their cool. However, something is quite different this time. If Burnham wins this byelection, his greatest promise—which he has made for years—will permanently alter British politics. Early polling is quite close. This outcome is far more important than (yet another) prime ministerial transition or even the possibility of saving Labour from extinction. Burnham’s unwavering dedication to democratic reform has the potential to change the future. Our new five- or six-party system would be accommodated by substituting proportional representation (PR) for the

outdated first past the post system. Above all, though, it would prevent outright rule by a single party with a tiny minority of the vote from ever happening again. Under PR, which distributes seats according to votes, Labour could not have won 63% of seats in 2024 with just 34% of the vote. The Electoral Reform Society has long maintained that the majority of voters support PR, but the possibility of Nigel Farage receiving less than 30% of the vote is expected to spark fresh interest. Burnham is the only genuinely well-liked Labour leader who can stop it. albeit the fact that PR

is the only thing that can save British politics, Streeting has so far skirted the topic, albeit occasionally seeming somewhat in favor of it. Burnham told me about his experience as mayor of Greater Manchester, which employed a supplemental vote system in the past, giving voters a first and second choice. He claims that it “completely changes the way you discuss politics with voters.” When canvassing, he asks for a candidate’s second choice if they won’t be voting for him. This initiates a completely different dialogue that he referred to last week as “less point-scoring, more problem-solv-

ing.” The most unpopular candidates must broaden their perspectives and steer clear of extremes since they can never win. According to Burnham, a significant constitutional change like PR would require the legitimacy of being included in a manifesto. As more than 60 Labour MPs requested last week, he should promptly call a national commission if he gets to No. 10. There are ready-made PR possibilities left over from years of discussion and the previous Jenkins commission, so let a wise head like Sir John Curtice lead it to quickly choose a system.

The prime ministerial honeymoons are getting shorter, therefore call an election as soon as possible. Burnham would gain personal authenticity and the power to reaffirm his policies if he wrote a fresh manifesto. He may reassure bond markets that he will adhere to Reeves’s borrowing guidelines, if not her exact tax ideas, even though electoral reform is by far the most urgent. He could not rule out a single market, a customs union, or alignment through the European Economic Area, leaving open the specifics of future relations with the EU. Given that Farage has destroyed all confidence in the barrier separating personal gain from political fundraising, it would be a timely trumpet call to remove money from politics. Because of his political standing, he has become accustomed to accepting large donations and making unimaginable side income. According to The Guardian, he personally received £5

million in 2024 from Christopher Harborne, the Thai cryptocurrency tycoon who has showered Reform UK with cash. Reform’s planned “cryptoassets and digital finance” law, which would lower the capital gains tax to 10%, require the Treasury to establish a bitcoin reserve fund, and permit taxes to be paid in cryptocurrency, doesn’t look good. Promoting the interests of your donors—in this example, possibly increasing the usage of cryptocurrencies—might not be against the law, but it stinks. The shock to the public doesn’t feel profound enough. Farage emulates the bold and avaricious tendencies of right-wing politicians like Silvio Berlusconi, Boris Johnson, and Donald Trump. Recall that Trump once declared, “I wouldn’t lose any voters if I stood in the middle of Fifth Avenue and shot somebody.” People either believe that all politics is corrupt in any case or that their preferred leader is made more glamorous by gold, or they believe that any undesirable behavior is a fabrication of the mainstream media. To ensure that Liberal Democrats and Greens are willing to vote tactically once more, electoral reform and pressure-washing money out of politics are key strategies. They will be aware that a PR future would lead to their inclusion in coalitions. They are aware that the right and left blocs represent the elemental split. They don’t have to believe Burnham is the messiah, but he is the only person who has a chance of saving Britain’s corrupt and distorted political system.

MW renewable energy agreement with SECI ACME Solar signs 300

Mumbai: ACME Solar’s wholly owned subsidiary, ACME Renewtech Sixth, has signed a 25-year Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) with Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) for a 300 MW Firm and Dispatchable Renewable Energy (FDRE) project. The project will include 1,200 MWh of energy storage capacity and will be connected to the Inter-State Transmission System (ISTS), the company said in an exchange filing. Under the agreement, ACME Solar will supply four hours of assured peak power during non-solar hours. The project will also have to maintain a minimum annual availability requirement of 85%.

The company said the project will utilise its existing night-time connectivity available at high irradiation zones to optimise power delivery. The project was awarded to ACME Solar under SECI’s FDRE Tranche-VII tender after the company received a Letter of Award (LOA) on February 10. The e-reverse auction for the tender was conducted on February 2, under tariff-based competitive bidding guidelines. The PPA has been signed for a contracted capacity of 300 MW at a tariff of Rs 6.28 per unit. The company clarified that the executed PPA capacity is lower than the 301 MW mentioned in the LOA due to “optimisation of project configuration and implementation” mutually agreed between the parties. The Scheduled Commencement of

Supply Date (SCSD) for the project is May 28, 2028. The agreement will remain valid for 25 years from the SCSD. ACME Solar’s PPA-signed portfolio rises to 6,570 MW. Following the latest agreement, ACME Solar’s total contracted portfolio stands at 8,070 MW, while its PPA-signed portfolio has increased to 6,570 MW.

The company said it currently has an operational contracted capacity of 2,990 MW and around 2.7 GWh of Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) capacity. It is also developing 5,080 MW of under-construction capacity, including around 18 GWh of BESS installations. ACME Solar Holdings is a leading integrated renewable energy player with a diversified portfolio of 8,070 MW spanning solar, wind, storage, FDRE and hybrid solutions.

The company has an operational contracted capacity of 2,990 MW and around 2.7 GWh of BESS capacity, along with an under-construction capacity of 5,080 MW, including around 18 GWh of BESS installations.

The under-construction PPA-signed portfolio stands at 3,580 MW. With an in-house EPC and O&M division, the company undertakes end-to-end development and O&M of plants, thereby delivering projects in a time- and cost-effective manner while ensuring best-in-class operating performance, evident in its industry-leading CUF and operating margins.

Rupee near 96: The currency shock creating winners and losers across 5 key sectors

Mumbai: The Indian Rupee has weakened sharply since the Iran-US conflict escalated, hitting a record low of 96.96 against the US dollar on May 20. On Tuesday, the rupee was trading at 95.43 against the US dollar in early trade. The depreciating rupee is increasing cost pressures for import-dependent sectors such as automobiles and jewellery, while export-oriented industries like IT, pharmaceuticals and textiles are expected to benefit from improved competitiveness and better dollar realisations.

Analysts said the weakening currency could support margins for exporters, but rising import costs of raw materials, electronics, precious metals and battery components may weigh on profitability across several domestic-focused sectors. IT services sector could emerge as one of the key beneficiaries of rupee depreciation due to its export-oriented business model. Depreciating Rupee can improve the IT sector margins. Sumit Pokharna, VP – Fundamental Research at Kotak Securities said, “We expect margins to remain resilient for most companies in FY27. One of the reasons is further rupee depreciation, along with tight cost control. That will partly compensate for weaker revenue growth. As a result, EPS may see upgrades in a few cases.” However, Pokharna said that it will also depend on their exposure



to different countries, because the cross currency also plays a key role. He noted that the extent of hedging by companies also matters.

Shashwat Singh, Fundamental Analyst, Bajaj Broking noted that this profits and margins windfall due to currency translation may fade over time. Singh said, “Indian software exporters are reaping an immediate revenue windfall, as a weaker rupee provides a lucrative cushion that instantly converts into expanded operating margins and short-term earnings upgrades. However, this currency party faces a clear expiration date; in the long run, macro-pressured Western clients will

inevitably hit the bargaining table to aggressively renegotiate pricing and claw back these benefits.” Pharmaceutical exporters with strong overseas exposure are also likely to benefit from rupee weakness in the near term. Shashwat Singh, Fundamental Analyst at Bajaj Broking said companies with global drug sales are witnessing immediate top-line gains due to better export realisations. Sunny Agrawal, Head of Fundamental Research at SBI Securities, believes that overall impact of rupee depreciation is Neutral to Positive as, “companies may pass on some of the currency benefit to clients to sustain the deal

momentum.” “However, the long-term catch, however, lies on the supply side, where prolonged currency weakness will heavily inflate the cost of imported raw Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs), squeezing margins under rigid global pricing caps,” Singh added. Sunny Agrawal, Head of Fundamental Research at SBI Securities also noted that companies with higher exposure to US generic exposure tend to see EBITDA tailwinds. “Overall, the sector remains a defensive outperformer during INR depreciation cycles, with exporters like large-cap formulations and CRAMS players likely to outperform.”

City Gas Distribution stocks rally on CNG price hike; IGL jumps 5%, MGL 3%

Mumbai: Shares of leading gas distributors, including Indraprastha Gas, Mahanagar Gas, and Adani Total Gas, were trading higher on Tuesday, May 26, after prices for compressed natural gas (CNG) were increased by ₹2 per kg. This is the fourth price hike in eleven days amid rising global energy costs.

Around 09:45 AM, shares of Indraprastha Gas were trading ₹5.15 per cent higher at ₹168.75, Adani Total Gas jumped 3.6 per cent to ₹683, and Mahanagar Gas shares gained 3.12 per cent to ₹1,108 per share. ONGC shares also gained over 1 per cent to ₹493.10. In comparison, the benchmark NSE Nifty50 index was quoting at 24,056.45 levels, up by a marginal 24.75 points or 0.1 per cent. Following the latest revision effective from 6 AM on May 26, the price of CNG in Delhi has increased to ₹83.09 per kg from ₹81.09 earlier.

The hike comes after a ₹1 per kg increase on May 23 and a ₹2 per kg revision on May 15, taking the total

rise in CNG prices in Delhi to ₹5 per kg over the period.

CNG prices were also revised upward across the Delhi-NCR region, with rates in Noida, Greater Noida and Ghaziabad reaching ₹88.70 per kg. In Mumbai, CNG now costs ₹84 per kg. Despite a more than 20 per cent decline from its peak, Brent crude continues to hover around \$98 a barrel amid the uncertainty around US-Iran peace deal. On Tuesday, Brent crude was up 2.07 per cent at \$98.13 per barrel, while US West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude was down 4.99 per cent at \$91.78. VK Vijayakumar, chief investment strategist at Geojit Investments, said even though negotiations are continuing for an end to the West Asia crisis, there are no indications of an imminent end to the conflict. The “self-defence strikes” by the US in Southern Iran have come as a dampener to the ongoing negotiations. But this is not viewed by the markets as the beginning of another round of military strikes.



“An interesting and important trend is the risk appetite in the market. Every time a positive development emerges, indicating an end to the conflict and followed by a dip in crude prices, the market has been rallying. This was evident in the 1073-point rally in the Sensex yesterday. This risk appetite is a reflection

of the resilience of the economy and the optimism of investors. A resolution to the conflict and a significant dip in crude prices have the potential to largely address the macro headwinds which the economy is facing now. This appears to be the message from the market,” he added.

Nuvama downgraded Suzlon Energy to ‘Hold’ 4 key reasons

Mumbai: The share price of Suzlon Energy is attracting attention today. In its most recent report, Nuvama Institutional Equities has lowered its rating for Suzlon Energy to ‘Hold’. The brokerage has maintained a target price of Rs 55, indicating limited potential for growth in the near future, despite the company’s robust order book and consistent execution. As per the brokerage’s analysis, Suzlon Energy is positioned as a significant beneficiary of India’s transition to clean energy. Nevertheless, Nuvama suggests that the wind energy sector may be nearing a short-term growth plateau due to increasing competition from solar and battery storage initiatives. Suzlon Energy delivered relatively stable operational performance in Q4FY26. The company executed around 830 megawatts (MW) of wind projects during Q4FY26, slightly below brokerage estimates of 875MW. Full-year execution stood at 2,456MW, marginally below the company’s own guidance of 2,500MW. According to the Nuvama report, quarterly revenue was largely supported by turbine product supplies, although management indicated that Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) activity also increased during the quarter. Operational profitability remained

broadly steady. Earnings Before Interest, Taxes, Depreciation and Amortisation (EBITDA) margin came in at 17.5%, almost in line with estimates, though slightly lower year-on-year. The report stated, “Q4 execution in-line; management non-committal on future.” That particular commentary appears to be one of the biggest concerns for the brokerage. While Suzlon continues to hold a strong order book of nearly 5.9 gigawatts (GW), which provides visibility until FY28, management refrained from offering growth guidance beyond that period. Another major issue highlighted by Nuvama is the deterioration in working capital conditions. As per Nuvama report, delayed project commissioning and increasing execution of Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) projects have put pressure on Suzlon’s cash conversion cycle. The brokerage stated, “WC deteriorates led by PSU order execution/delayed commissioning.” Operating Profit Margin (OPM) also moderated compared to last year because of a rising EPC mix within the company’s order book. Management is now targeting a future business mix of nearly 50% EPC and 50% product supply, compared to the current higher share of product-led execution.

A 10% increase in a robust fourth range has expanded to 50%

Mumbai: Shares of Campus Activewear, a sports and athleisure footwear company, surged over 10 per cent to hit an intraday high of ₹260.50 on the National Stock Exchange (NSE) after the company reported a strong performance for the January-March quarter of FY26. At around 11:40 AM, Campus stock was trading at ₹251, up 6.35 per cent compared to the previous session’s close of ₹238.50. In comparison, the NSE Nifty50 index was quoting at 24,078.15 levels, up by 46.45 points or 0.19 per cent.

On a year-to-date (YTD) basis, Campus shares have declined nearly 10 per cent, compared with an 8 per cent decline in the benchmark Nifty50 index during the same period. In the March 2026 quarter, Campus Activewear reported a revenue from operations of ₹455.6 crore, up 12.3 per cent from ₹405.7 crore in the year-ago period. The growth was driven by higher distribution channel sales. MOFSL expects revenue growth to remain healthy over FY26-28, led by a mix of volume growth and higher average selling prices, supported by premiumisation and recent product launches. It also expects margins to improve steadily over the period.

It reported a 10.6 per cent Y-o-Y increase in sales volume to 6.8 million pairs in Q4FY26. The company’s average selling price (ASP) also rose 1.5 per cent Y-o-Y to ₹668, compared with ₹658 in the corresponding quarter last year. The company’s earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortisation (Ebitda) rose 15.5 per cent to ₹88.5 crore as compared to ₹76.7 crore in the corresponding quarter of the previous fiscal. Ebitda margin expanded to 19.2 per cent from 18.7 per cent. The footwear manufacturer reported a profit after tax (PAT) of ₹44.1 crore, up 25.8 per cent from ₹35.1 crore in Q4FY25.

For the full FY26, Campus reported revenue from operations of ₹1,774.1 crore, up 11.4 per cent from ₹1,593 crore in the FY25. PAT jumped 23.8 per cent to ₹150.1 crore from ₹121.2 crore. According to Motilal Oswal Financial Services (MOFSL), Campus Activewear ended



FY26 on a strong footing, supported by healthy revenue growth, improving margins and continued traction in its sneakers portfolio. The brokerage noted that Q4 performance was driven by double-digit volume growth along with expansion in Ebitda margins. For the full year, the company delivered solid revenue growth alongside margin improvement, aided by a favourable product mix and strong momentum in direct-to-consumer (D2C) channels. MOFSL said calibrated price hikes across categories are expected to offset near-term raw material cost pressures while supporting profitability over the medium term as input costs stabilise. The brokerage noted that Campus continues to strengthen its market position through quicker product launches, higher in-house sneaker manufacturing capacity and better execution across marketplaces. Expansion into categories such as sneakers, women’s footwear and kids’ wear is also helping diversify the business beyond its core sports shoe segment.

Lloyds Metals surges 79% from its low in February

Mumbai: Share price of Lloyds Metals and Energy hit a new high of ₹1,867, gaining 4 per cent on the BSE in Tuesday’s intra-day trade on healthy outlook.

The stock price of the industrial minerals company surpassed its previous high of ₹1,862.90 touched on May 6, 2026. It quoted higher for the fourth straight trading day, surging 13 per cent during the period. The market price of Lloyds Metals has bounced back 79 per cent from its 52-week low of ₹1,044 hit on February 2, 2026. Total income for Q4FY26/FY26 stood at ₹4,977 crore/ ₹13,837.8 crore, registering a sharp 310 per cent year-on-year (YoY) growth in Q4 and 104 per cent YoY growth for the full year. EBITDA for Q4FY26/FY26 came in at ₹1,678.8 crore/ ₹4,673 crore, grew 498 per cent YoY in Q4 and 133 per cent YoY in FY26. EBITDA margins expanded to 33.73 per cent in Q4FY26 (+1,058 bps YoY) and 33.77 per cent in FY26 (+418 bps YoY), reflecting strong operating leverage, the company said. Growth was driven by higher iron ore Environmental Clearance (EC) limits, faster ramp-up of the pellet plant, and improved sponge iron volumes. Commissioning of the slurry pipeline enabled smoother evacuation of iron ore, improving throughput and over-

all asset utilization. The robust domestic demand for iron ore and pellets supported volume growth across segments. A richer product mix, with higher contribution from value-added products like pellets, led to meaningful margin expansion, Lloyds Metals said. “As downstream assets are progressively commissioned and the value chain deepens, an increasing share of the value embedded in each tonne of iron ore extracted will be captured. This margin curve progression is supported by our own infrastructure, power and logistics, rather than by market conditions alone. The Mine Development and Operations business further adds a layer of earnings predictability, reducing the overall cyclicalty of the portfolio.” Lloyds Metals said in its FY26 annual report. Choice Institutional Equities maintains a ‘BUY’ rating on Lloyds Metals and Energy with a revised SoTP-based target price of ₹2,075. Lloyds Metals is structurally shifting from a pure mining play to a higher-margin, integrated metals platform. The management has established a transparent and rapid roadmap, projecting FY27E production guidance of 26 million tonnes for Iron Ore and approximately 8 million tonnes for Pellets, thereby ensuring that top-line momentum remains robust.



With mine leases secured until 2057, Lloyds Metals represents more than just a trade; it embodies a 30-year annuity linked to India’s infrastructure development. Even at an ambitious run-rate of 26 million tonnes per year, the existing reserves offer around 15 years of operational capacity, safeguarded by the industry’s lowest cost-curve through the 85-kilometer slurry pipeline, along with advantages from legacy mines, according to the brokerage firm.

Lloyds Metals – Rationale from Crisil Ratings. Crisil Ratings has assigned a ‘Crisil A1+’ rating to the short-term bank facilities of Lloyds Metals and Energy, while reaffirming its ‘Crisil AA/Stable’ rating for the long-term bank facilities and non-convertible debentures (NCDs).

Dozens of drones crash into Sydney harbour light show



UK: Almost 90 drones fell from the sky over Sydney’s Darling Harbour during a popular winter light show, with footage showing devices splashing into the water, close to crowds. Organisers of Vivid Sydney, an annual three-week festival that features large light installations, said the malfunction on Monday evening, local time, was due to “unforeseen technical difficulties” and has cancelled several upcoming shows. Footage of Monday’s show captured dozens of drones as they tumbled out of the night sky, leaving bystanders confused by the aerial display. Skymagic, the UK company behind the show, blamed a change in radio frequency for the glitch and said none of the drones fell outside safety boundaries. “The sound of them crashing on the wharf was considerable even from probably 10 to 15 or 20 metres away; you could hear them physically crash and smash onto the cement marina,” a Darling Harbour worker named Robert told the national broadcaster ABC. A Skymagic spokesperson said: “During the performance on the evening of 25 May, Skymagic experienced a technical issue that resulted in 89 drones landing in the water around Cockle Bay,” referring to the wharf area in Darling Harbour. The main cause was “an unforeseen change in the radio frequency environment occurring after take-off.” Skymagic said, triggering some drones “to enact failsafe landing procedures in response to compromised positional accuracy”. A Vivid Sydney spokesperson apologised for the “disappointment and inconvenience caused to attendees” and said the drone operators cancelled the show “in line with standard safety protocols”. Festival organisers said Skymagic and government agencies will conduct a full assessment before it makes a decision on the remaining schedule of shows. Called Star-Bound, the drone show features up to 1,000 purpose-built drones in an aerial display lasting up to 12 minutes. The first shows started on Sunday and it was slated to host 22 shows over 11 nights over the next three weeks. Vivid Sydney debuted drone shows as part of its programme in 2024, with large crowds attending the displays. Last year, it decided not to host any drone shows due to overcrowding concerns. Vivid Sydney started in 2009 and bills itself as the “Southern Hemisphere’s largest festival of light, music, ideas and food” and features a free 6.5km walk with 43 light installations. Thousands of locals and tourists flock to events around Sydney Harbour and central Sydney, including colourful visuals projected onto the sails of the Sydney Opera House.

Russia threatens more Kyiv strikes and tells foreign nationals to leave



Ukraine: Russia has threatened to launch a fresh wave of “systematic strikes” against Kyiv, days after carrying out one of its largest attacks on the Ukrainian capital since the start of the war. The new strikes will target “decision-making centres and command posts”, alongside drone manufacturing facilities in the city, Russia’s foreign ministry said in a statement. Moscow has called for foreign nationals and diplomats to leave Kyiv “as soon as possible” and warned citizens to stay away from administrative and military buildings. Ukraine said Russia’s threats were “nothing short of shameless blackmail” and urged allies to increase pressure on Moscow. With its warning to foreign nationals, Moscow is “effectively admitting that its shelling is aimed, among other things, at intimidating the foreign diplomatic corps”, the statement continued. It said Russian strikes on Kyiv “have not ceased for virtually a single week” since the start of the war, and the overall security threat posed by Moscow “remains the same as in previous years or months”.

Large-scale Russian strikes on Saturday night killed four and injured about 100 people in Kyiv and other areas, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said. Ukraine also remains heavily dependent on foreign air defence systems for missile interception. In March, Zelensky warned that his country would face a deficit of such weapons due to the US and Israel’s war with Iran. Moscow said that barrage and threatened further strikes were in response to what it claims was a deliberate Ukrainian attack on a student dormitory in the town of Starobilsk on Friday, in which Russian officials said 21 people were killed. Ukraine’s military said its forces had struck an elite Russian military drone unit in the area, in Russian-occupied eastern Ukraine, and had not targeted civilians. Russia has launched several waves of deadly missile and drone attacks on Kyiv since a brief ceasefire, that coincided with Moscow’s annual Victory Day parade, expired earlier in May. Shortly after that, Russian strikes on Kyiv killed 24 people, including three chil-

dren, in a block of flats.

Days later, Russian officials said three people were killed in a large-scale Ukrainian drone attack on the Moscow region, with Zelensky saying the strikes were an “entirely justified” response to deadly Russian attacks. Kyiv then suffered one of the biggest aerial assaults of the war overnight on Saturday. Videos posted on social media showed explosions lighting up the sky throughout the night, and many Kyiv residents reported blasts rocking the city as numerous civilian targets were hit. Russia employed dozens of ballistic and cruise missiles and hundreds of drones to hit the capital, as well as firing a hypersonic, nuclear-capable Oreshnik missile on the area of Bila Tserkva, 90km south of Kyiv. Non-military targets such as the Chernobyl Museum in Kyiv’s historic district and the National Art Museum of Ukraine were damaged or destroyed. A shopping centre, a market and several residential buildings in the area of Lukaniivka were also destroyed. On Monday evening, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei

Lavrov urged US Secretary of State Marco Rubio to evacuate American diplomats from Kyiv in a phone call, Russia’s foreign ministry said. After that phone call, Rubio said major strikes from either Ukraine or Russia are a “reminder of why this is a terrible war” and “it needs to come to an end.” He continued: “The US stands ready and prepared to help do whatever we can to help facilitate the end of this war and hopefully the opportunity will present itself at some point.” Many are interpreting Russia’s warning for foreign nationals to leave Kyiv as a form of psychological pressure. Russia already carries out large-scale strikes on the capital, and has done so since it launched its full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022. But four and a half years of war have taught Ukraine to develop and ramp up a sophisticated and layered air defence system. It now intercepts a vast proportion of drones and missiles – although Russia often fires them in such great numbers they overwhelmed air defences and many do get through.

US launches new strikes on Iran, targeting missile sites and boats

Cuba: The US said it launched new strikes on southern Iran, targeting Iranian missile sites and boats attempting to place mines. The strikes were taken in “self-defense” and were designed “to protect our troops from threats posed by Iranian forces”, US Central Command said in a statement. Central Command spokesperson Capt Tim Hawkins said the US military “continues to defend our forces while using restraint during the ongoing ceasefire” between the two countries. Iran is yet to respond to the US attack. However, Iranian foreign ministry spokesman Esmail Baqai earlier said that while some progress had been made in talks to end the war, a deal “is not imminent”. It is unclear what impact the strikes will have on any potential peace agreement between the US and Iran. Following the strikes, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said a deal was still possible and pointed to talks on Tuesday between Iran’s top negotiator and foreign minister and Qatar’s prime minister. “We’ll see if we can make progress. I think it’s a lot of talking back and forth going on about specific language in the initial document, so it’ll take a few days,” Rubio told reporters during an official visit to India. He said President Donald Trump had “expressed his desire to make it” “He’s either going to make a good deal or no deal,” Rubio said. Asked again later about Monday’s strikes, Rubio said: “The straits have to be open. They’re going to be open one way or the other, so they need to be open. What’s happening there is unlawful, it’s illegal, it’s unsustainable for the world, it’s unacceptable.” Capt Hawkins said the US strikes targeted an area near Bandar Abbas, a southern port city and home of an Iranian naval base that sits on the Strait of Hormuz, according to the New York Times. Iranian state media had earlier reported that local officials in Bandar Abbas were investigating after explosions were heard. Earlier in May, a clash between Iranian and US naval destroyers in the Strait of Hormuz – for which each side blamed the other – led Trump to insist a ceasefire was still in place. At the weekend, Trump had suggested the sides were close to a deal, but later said he had instructed negotiators “not to rush into” one, while Rubio had said an agreement could possibly



be reached on Monday. But Baqai responded: “It is correct to say that we have reached a conclusion on a large portion of the issues under discussion... But to say that this means the signing of an agreement is imminent – no-one can make such a claim.” The memorandum of understanding being discussed reportedly involves a 60-day ceasefire extension, the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz and a plan for further negotiations over Iran’s nuclear programme. CBS News, the BBC’s US partner, has reported that US intelligence believes Iran’s Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei – who was injured in an Israeli strike on the first day of the war which killed his father and predecessor – is holed up in an undisclosed location, making communication with his envoys difficult and therefore delaying pace of talks with the US. According to US media, the discussions will not immediately lead to a final settlement. Contentious issues will likely be negotiated later, including details of Iranian sanctions relief, the release of frozen Iranian

funds, and US demands for Iran to curb its nuclear ambitions.

At the start of the war, Iran is thought to have had about 440kg (970 lbs) of uranium that was enriched up to 60% purity – a short process away from being enriched further to the weapons-grade 90%, which theoretically could allow it to create a nuclear bomb. On Monday night, Trump said the enriched uranium would either be “immediately” turned over to the US, or “preferably, in conjunction and co-ordination with the Islamic Republic of Iran, destroyed in place”. US and Iranian forces have observed a ceasefire since 8 April. Iran has maintained controls on Gulf shipping through the Strait of Hormuz and the US Navy has sought to blockade Iran’s ports. The US and Israel launched wide-ranging strikes on Iran on 28 February, sparking conflict across the Middle East. Iran responded by attacking Israel and US-allied states in the Gulf, and effectively closed the Strait of Hormuz. The move sent oil prices soaring globally.

China executes man for prominent gaming tycoon

Cuba: Chinese authorities have executed a man for murdering his associate, billionaire gaming tycoon Lin Qi. In 2020, a disgruntled Xu Yao poisoned Lin for sidelining him shortly after he helped him land a Netflix deal, local media reported.

Lin’s Yoozoo Games holds the film adaptation rights for the Chinese science fiction trilogy which Netflix made into the series 3 Body Problem. Xu was convicted in 2024 and his execution, which reportedly happened on 21 May, was confirmed on Tuesday by his company in a statement, adding “justice has ultimately been served”. “We deeply mourn Mr. Lin and extend our heartfelt condolences to his family,” the statement said. “As colleagues who fought alongside him,

all members of the company are grateful for the impartiality of the judicial process.” The science fiction trilogy 3 Body Problem is based on Chinese author Liu Cixin’s Remembrance of Earth’s Past. First published in Chinese, the books have been translated into nearly 30 languages and inspired multiple adaptations.

The Netflix adaptation in 2024, quickly became one of the streaming platform’s most-watched shows. Lin was posthumously credited as one of its executive producers. That same year, Xu was convicted of Lin’s murder, with the court describing his plot as “extremely despicable”. Lin’s death came as a shock to the gaming industry in China and beyond. Lin is the founder of Yoozoo Games,

the Shanghai-based developer best known for the Game of Thrones: Winter Is Coming strategy game. In 2018, Lin appointed Xu to lead Three-Body Universe, a subsidiary to manage projects related to the science fiction franchise. But they fell out in 2020 when Lin decided to put other executives in charge of business operations, local reports said. After that, Xu disguised lethal substances as probiotic pills and gave them to Lin. In December 2020, Lin went to the hospital after feeling unwell. He died nine days later, at the age of 39. At the time, he was believed to have had a net worth of around 6.8 billion yuan (£745m; \$941m), according to the Hurun China Rich List. Police arrested Xu days after Lin was hospitalised.

At least 19 people taken to hospital ‘strong smell’ reported at Tokyo mall

London: At least 19 people have been taken to hospital after a strong smell was reported at a shopping complex in Tokyo, according to media reports. A police spokesperson said a man had sprayed a substance at a cash machine on the ground floor of the building in the luxury Ginza 6 shopping centre on Monday. The substance is believed to have been an irritant spray, identified by authorities as likely containing capsaicin – which is found in chilli peppers. Police are still looking for the suspect, national broadcaster NHK reported. People near the scene reported feeling their throat become painful and itchy, with one 70-year-old woman telling AFP that it started “stinging and hurting” as she approached the ATM. “By the time I arrived, the commotion had already started, and I thought there might have been a small fire or something,” she said. The road in front of the centre was blocked off following the incident. Officials dressed in hazmat suits were seen bringing people out of the shopping centre. Photographs of the scene show cordons in place, with emergency workers hanging sheets of tarp around part of the mall. “Once I went into the ATM coner, my throat felt scratchy, almost numb.” A large emergency response was present at the scene, including police officers, firefighters and ambulance workers. Victims were left clutching their throats as the air turned suddenly toxic. Police say a man sprayed a substance at a cash machine on the ground floor before fleeing the scene. The attack triggered a major emergency response in the heart of the upscale district. The substance is believed to have contained capsaicin – the fiery compound found in chilli peppers. Witnesses described throats “stinging” and “itching” as confusion and fear spread rapidly through the building. One elderly woman told how her throat became painfully scratchy and numb as she approached the ATM area, unaware of the danger.



Emergency crews swarmed the scene within minutes, with police, firefighters and paramedics locking down the area and blocking off roads outside the complex. Hazmat-suited officials were seen escorting affected shoppers out of the building, while sections of the mall were hastily sealed off behind tarpaulin screens. Witnesses described throats “stinging” and “itching” as confusion and fear spread rapidly through the building. One elderly woman told how her throat became painfully scratchy and numb as she approached the ATM area, unaware of the danger. Emergency crews swarmed the scene within minutes, with police, firefighters and paramedics locking down the area and blocking off roads outside the complex. Hazmat-suited officials were seen escorting affected shoppers out of the building, while sections of the mall were hastily sealed off behind tarpaulin screens.

Attar versus perfume: Which option is more skin-friendly



As a lifelong enthusiast of luxury fragrances, I began to delve deeper into the world of attars and perfumes. I discovered that although both are crafted to deliver delightful aromas, they vary significantly in terms of their composition, production methods, durability, and cultural importance. What is Attar?

Attar is a natural fragrance oil extracted from plant sources such as flowers, herbs, spices, and woods. It is typically produced through steam distillation and mixed with a base of sandalwood or other natural oils. These perfumes are

Harmanpreet Kaur exchanges her cricket jersey for a modest ethnic suit while receiving with the Padma Shri

Harmanpreet Kaur was awarded the Padma Shri by President Droupadi Murmu during the Civil Investiture Ceremony at Rashtrapati Bhavan. This esteemed recognition followed a significant year for Indian women's cricket, as Harmanpreet captained Team India to their first ICC Women's Cricket World Cup triumph in 2025 on home ground, overcoming South Africa in the final match held in Navi Mumbai. For the special occasion, the Indian women's cricket team skipper kept her look elegant and understated. Known for mostly being spotted in jerseys or casual outfits, Harmanpreet chose a simple yet sophisticated traditional look that perfectly matched the grandeur of the occasion. Let's take a closer look at what she wore. What Harmanpreet Kaur wore to Padma Awards 2026

Her outfit featured a flowy ivory kurta set with a relaxed silhouette that exuded effortless charm and comfort. The ensemble was elevated with subtle golden detailing and delicate embroidery along the borders, adding just the right touch of festive elegance without overpowering the look. She layered it with a matching dupatta adorned with



soft stripes, intricate embroidered edges, and tassel detailing that brought movement and grace to the outfit. Harmanpreet paired the look with wide-legged palazzo pants in the same muted ivory tone, creating a coordinated monochrome aesthetic. Keeping accessories minimal, she let the simplicity of

clude rose attar, jasmine attar, oud attar, vetiver attar, musk attar, among others. Due to their concentrated nature, only a small quantity is required for the scent to persist throughout the day. How is Attar different from a perfume?

Perfume is a fragrance blend made using aromatic compounds, essential oils, solvents, synthetic molecules, and alcohol. Modern perfumes are produced commercially in various strengths such as Eau de Parfum, Eau de Toilette, and Cologne. Perfumes often contain synthetic ingredients along with natural extracts, allowing manufacturers to create a wide range of scents, from floral to woody and aquatic. Perfumes are usually packaged in spray bottles, making them convenient for daily use and are widely used across the world due to their versatility, variety, and easy application. Attar vs perfume: Which one should you choose?

Choosing between attar and perfume depends on your personal preference, lifestyle, and skin type. If you prefer natural, long-lasting, and alcohol-free fragrances, attar may be the ideal choice. It is especially suitable for traditional occasions, meditation, or people with sensitive skin. On the other hand, if you enjoy experimenting with different scents and want something convenient for everyday use, perfume is a better option. Modern perfumes offer a wide range of fragrances suitable for every mood, season, and event. You can even use a combination of both, attars for special occasions and perfumes for daily wear. Both attar and perfume offer unique fragrance experiences. Attars are deeply rooted in tradition, valued for their natural ingredients and long-lasting aroma, while perfumes represent modern versatility with endless scent possibilities. Understanding the differences between the two helps you make an informed decision and select a fragrance that matches your personality and needs. Whether you choose the richness of attar or the freshness of perfume, the right scent can leave a lasting impression wherever you go.

ural sophistication. Harmanpreet shared a carousel of pictures from the prestigious ceremony along with a heartfelt note expressing gratitude after receiving the Padma Shri honour. "Today, my heart is filled with gratitude and pride as I receive the prestigious Padma Shri honour," she wrote. Reflecting on her journey, Harmanpreet shared that the recognition belonged equally to everyone who stood beside her through the years. "This recognition is not just mine, it belongs to my parents, family, coaches, teammates, friends and every single person who supported and believed in me throughout this journey," she added. The cricketer also spoke about fulfilling her childhood dream of representing India on the world stage, while thanking the President of India, the Government of India, Sports Authority of India, BCCI, media, journalists, and fans for their unwavering support towards her and women's cricket. Ending the emotional note on a patriotic note, Harmanpreet wrote, "Wearing the India jersey will always remain the greatest honour of my life, and I will continue giving my best for the country every single day."

Janhvi Kapoor modernizes the traditional Banarasi weave with a stunning strapless gown



Janhvi Kapoor's Peddi promotion diaries consistently showcase a series of remarkable ethnic outfits. Following her captivating appearance in a beautiful purple lehenga, the 29-year-old actress transformed the classic Banarasi saree into a glamorous strapless gown. By merging timeless elegance with a modern silhouette, Janhvi has once more demonstrated how traditional attire can be creatively reinterpreted with a contemporary flair. Let us analyze her breathtaking look and draw some style inspiration.

Janhvi Kapoor reinvents Banarasi saree into gown

Janhvi's hairstylist, Nikita Menon, took to Instagram and shared a stunning video of the actor looking no less than a princess. Giving the classic Banarasi weave a fresh haute couture spin, the actor stepped away from the traditional saree silhouette and trans-

formed it into a stunning strapless gown.

The outfit featured a structured corset-style bodice with a strapless neckline that beautifully highlighted her shoulders and collarbones. Crafted in soft pastel hues, the ensemble came adorned with intricate floral and vintage-inspired woven motifs in delicate shades of gold, mint, blush pink, and ivory. The luxurious Banarasi fabric brought depth and richness to the look, while the fitted silhouette enhanced its red-carpet-worthy appeal.

What elevated the outfit even further was the matching flowing dupatta that Janhvi carried effortlessly. Draped gracefully around her arms, the sheer pastel dupatta added softness, movement, and a dreamy regal charm to the structured gown.

How she styled her look

Accessorising minimally, Janhvi opted for state-

ment oxidised silver-toned jhumkas paired with an ornate ear cuff that instantly drew attention. She further elevated the styling with a delicate arm accessory. Her beauty game was equally flawless. Janhvi tied her hair into a sleek middle-parted bun that kept the attention firmly on the outfit and jewellery.

For makeup, she chose soft glam with radiant skin, rosy flushed cheeks, fluttery lashes, feathered brows, and glossy nude pink lips that perfectly complemented the muted pastel palette of her ensemble. Elegant, experimental, and effortlessly glamorous, Janhvi's latest look is a masterclass in how to reinvent traditional Indian textiles for the modern fashion lover. From the reimagined Banarasi fabric to the dreamy matching dupatta, every detail of the ensemble screamed contemporary royalty.

Do ice facials prove effective during the summer

The intense heat of summer can render your skin more susceptible, dehydrated, and tanned, significantly compromising the skin barrier. In an effort to safeguard their skin, numerous individuals resort to popular summer skincare trends they encounter on social media, including ice facials, DIY remedies, and the application of various active ingredients in layers. However, adhering to these trends without discernment may negate all your hard work.

Let's understand each of these viral summer skincare hacks one by one, which ones may actually help when done correctly, and which ones dermatologists want you to stop following before they can damage your skin barrier.

Dermatologist Dr Noopur Jain, founder and consultant at Skinzest walked Lifestyle through the various viral skincare hacks, explaining that

while some may be harmless when done correctly, others may not be safe or suitable for every skin type. In fact, recklessly following viral skincare trends may end up damaging your skin instead of protecting it. Speaking about this, Dr Jain noted, "As a dermatologist, I observed a lot of patients who have skin problems like irritation, pigmentation and sensitivity because they followed trends without thinking about what could happen in the long run."

Just because the hacks look simple online, it may appear easy and harmless, but jumping with trend without understanding skin type, frequency, product strength or existing concerns like acne, rosacea or sensitivity, they can disturb the skin barrier. The dermatologist pointed out three issues she observed:

1. Ice facials

To get relief from the brutal

summer heat, many people turn to ice facials. While ice may temporarily help with puffiness, rubbing ice cubes directly on the face has become a common skincare hack. But is it actually helpful, or can it harm your skin? Answering this, Dr Jain elaborated why it is not as simple: "One trend I see a lot is people using ice facials too much. Ice can help reduce puffiness or calm down inflammation for a little while, but rubbing ice on your skin for a long time can hurt your skin, make it red and even make conditions like rosacea worse. You should never put your skin in temperatures without protecting it." DIY skincare that breaks skin barrier

DIY skincare is all the rage, where people whip up ingredients found at home, such as lemon, baking soda, toothpaste or essential oils. However, the dermatologist expressed concern over the use of these in-

gredients to treat acne or pigmentation, especially when they are harsh, undiluted or not meant for direct application on the skin. These can disrupt the skin's natural balance, causing burns, irritation and sensitivity, particularly in hot and humid weather when the skin barrier is already weakened.

3. Using many active ingredients is not good

Another viral habit that many influencers on social media engage in is using multiple skincare products and piling them on top of one another. Dr Jain advised caution, noting, "Using a lot of active ingredients just because they are popular can also be very bad for your skin. Using acids, retinol, vitamin C and exfoliants all at once without a doctor's guidance can lead to breakouts, dryness and inflammation instead of healthy skin." Instead of giving in to every new skincare product trend, she urged people to



consult a doctor and seek professional advice on what skin actually needs this summer.

Summer skincare should be simple

Lastly, for those who are still confused about the appropriate skincare routine for the hotter months, Dr Jain shared a no-nonsense list of essentials,

"The important things for your skin are hydration, a gentle cleanser, a lightweight moisturiser, antioxidants and sunscreen." Since summer means dealing with heat, sweat, pollution and UV damage, so protecting your skin is even more important. So, to what extent should you follow social media

skincare trends? It is crucial to remember that they should not be treated as personal advice, as some trends may not be backed by scientific evidence. "My way of thinking is that healthier skin comes from understanding what your skin needs, not just following what is trendy," the doctor advised.

Cape fear OTT release: Amy Adams, Javier Bardem thriller sets premiere date

Agency: Amy Adams is set to headline Cape Fear, one of the most awaited psychological thriller series of 2026. Created by Nick Antosca, the upcoming miniseries is based on John D. MacDonald’s novel The Executioners, which also inspired the acclaimed 1962 and 1991 film adaptations. With its tense themes of re-

venge, guilt, morality and psychological terror, the series is expected to be a gripping watch for thriller fans. Cape Fear will premiere on Apple TV+ from June 4, 2026. The series follows a seemingly stable family whose life is thrown into chaos after a dangerous criminal is released from prison and returns with

revenge on his mind. The show is expected to explore fear, obsession, trauma and the fragile boundaries of the legal system, all through a chilling psychological lens. The upcoming series revisits the classic Cape Fear story for a new generation. At the centre of the miniseries is a successful married couple, both attorneys, whose peaceful life begins to collapse when a violent offender they once helped put behind bars is released. What follows is a dangerous game of vengeance, as the criminal targets the couple and pulls them into a terrifying battle of fear, guilt and survival. The story blends domestic tension with psychological dread,

using the family’s unraveling as the emotional core of the thriller. Cape Fear features Amy Adams in a central role. The series also stars Javier Bardem as Max Cady, Patrick Wilson as Tom Bowden, CCH Pounder as Noa Toussaint, Jullian Dulce Vida as Byron French, Anna Baryshnikov, Jamie Hector, Margarita

Levieva, Lily Collias as Natalie Bowden and Samantha Clifford, among others. The project has also generated major buzz because of the names attached behind the scenes. Martin Scorsese and Steven Spielberg are producing the series, adding further weight to the new adaptation of the classic thriller.



Hai Jawani Toh Ishq Hona Hai: Varun, Mrunal, Pooja’s chunnari chunnari song drops, fans react

Mumbai: The makers of Hai Jawani Toh Ishq Hona Hai recently unveiled the much-awaited song ‘Chunnari’, featuring Varun Dhawan, Mrunal Thakur and Pooja Hegde. While the vibrant visuals and energetic dance performances grabbed attention online, the track has also sparked a wave of mixed reactions from netizens. Several netizens took to social media to express disappointment, with many claiming that yet another iconic song had been “ruined.”

Tips Music released the song featuring Varun Dhawan, Pooja Hegde and Mrunal Thakur. The song is a remake of Chunnari Song which featured Salman Khan and Sushmita Sen. Well, looks like it was not liked much by the netizens. One of them wrote, “Rip an iconic song.” Another wrote, “Can never beat Salman and Sushmita energy.” Recently, at the event, while enjoying the fun vibe and



posing for the cameras, Salman Khan joked about Varun Dhawan recreating yet another iconic track of his and said, “Isne mera ek aur gaana uthaya,” referring to the recreation of one of his iconic songs. The playful remark left Varun blushing, who quickly said, “Bhai rehne do (please stop it, brother),” leaving Salman laughing out loud. Vashu Bhagnani said that

he is ‘hurt’ by the reuse of the song Chunari Chunnari and claimed that people from the music label are not ready to meet him over this issue. Bhagnani said, “At least he should have come to me and told me, since my son is in the film. How can you shoot the same song for another producer? There should be ethics in the industry.” He also spoke emotional-

ly about his long relationship with David Dhawan, saying, “David is like my brother. I have had lunch and dinner with him. I gave my life for him. Financially, it’s fine, but emotionally, the whole family is hurt.” Bhagnani claimed that an earlier trailer launch was not cancelled due to a technical problem, but because of concerns about the ongoing court case.

The trailer of Hai Jawani Toh Ishq Hona Hai seems to be aiming exactly for that space, bringing back the kind of family entertainer vibe that thrives on confusion, comedy, and larger-than-life moments. The newly released trailer has already set the tone for what looks like a loud, lively, and very familiar cinematic ride. It marks another collaboration between director David Dhawan and Varun Dhawan, their fourth project together, continuing a partnership known for high-energy comedy films designed for mass audiences. The film brings together Varun Dhawan, Mrunal Thakur, and Pooja Hegde in lead roles, supported by a packed ensemble cast including Rakesh Bedi, Chunky Panday, Jimmy Shergill, Mouni Roy, Rajesh Kumar, and Ali Asgar, all of whom appear to add to the film’s chaotic humour and layered storytelling.

BTS crowned artist of the year at 2026 American music awards

Agency: The 2026 edition of the American Music Awards concluded on Memorial Day at the MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas, with BTS emerging as one of the night’s biggest winners by taking home the coveted Artist of the Year award, according to Billboard. The globally popular K-pop group also won Song of the Summer for “Swim,” the lead single from their comeback album ARI-RANG, and opened the ceremony with a performance of “Hooligan.” Following the telecast, BTS was additionally named Best Male K-pop Artist. During the ceremony, BTS members also presented SZA with the award for Best Female R&B Artist. Another major winner of the evening was Sabrina Carpenter, whose album Man’s Best Friend won both Album of the Year and Best Pop Album. Carpenter also secured the Best Female Pop Artist title.



The award for Song of the Year went to “Golden” by the singing voices behind KPop Demon Hunters EJAE, Audrey Nuna and REI AMI. The track also picked up Best Pop Song and Best Vocal Performance honours, while KPop Demon Hunters won Best Soundtrack, according to Billboard. Singer-songwriter sombr had a breakthrough night, winning Best Rock/Alternative Song for “back to friends” and Best Rock/Alternative Album

for I Barely Know Her. He also made his AMAs performance debut with “Homewrecker.” Despite leading the nominations with eight nods, Taylor Swift left the ceremony without a win. Swift remains the most awarded artist in AMAs history with 40 trophies. The 52nd edition of the awards show was hosted by Queen Latifah, who had previously co-hosted the event in 1995 alongside Tom Jones and Lorrie Morgan.

Sunny Deol spotted with wife pooja at Mumbai airport, video goes viral



Mumbai: Bollywood star Sunny Deol and his wife Pooja Deol, on the morning of Tuesday, made a rare public appearance together as the couple was spotted at the Mumbai airport.

In the viral visuals, Sunny was seen stepping out of his luxury car wearing an olive green shirt paired with blue denims, white sneakers and black sunglasses, also carrying a small travel bag in hand. Pooja Deol, who has largely stayed away from the limelight over the years, kept it simple and elegant in a beige shirt layered over black pants with spectacles and minimal styling. Sunny was seen hurrying towards the airport security entry first before patiently waiting for his wife to catch up. As Pooja reached the security check area, the actor sweetly allowed her to walk ahead while he followed behind her. Sunny and Pooja have been

known for fiercely guarding their personal life, and have by far never made any joint public appearance except for once at their son Karan Deol’s wedding a few years ago. For the uninitiated, the women of the Deol household, have consciously stayed away from public glare and media attention for decades. Not just Pooja, Sunny’s father and legendary actor Dharmendra’s first wife Prakash Kaur has also largely maintained dignified distance from any let alone excessive media exposure over the years. Sunny’s sisters Vijeta Deol and Ajita Deol too have remained away from the spotlight and are rarely photographed or discussed publicly. Talking about the couple, Sunny Deol married Pooja Deol in the 1980s, long before he became one of Bollywood’s biggest superstars. Despite Sunny’s massive stardom, Pooja has hardly made public appearances or spoken to the media. In fact, one of the few major occasions where she was prominently seen was during their son Karan Deol’s wedding festivities a few years ago.

Director confirms film adaptation of Randeep Hooda’s Inspector Avinash

Mumbai: With OTT shows turning into massive pop culture hits, filmmakers are now increasingly looking at taking successful web series to cinema halls. After the buzz around Mirzapur getting a film adaptation, another popular streaming title is now making the jump to the big screen. Inspector Avinash, led by Randeep Hooda, is officially being turned into a theatrical film.

The crime drama, inspired by the life of encounter specialist Avinash Mishra, recently returned with its second season. Now, writer-director Neeraj Pathak has confirmed that the makers are moving ahead with a film version instead of directly jumping into season three. Speaking about the decision, Pathak told HT, “Yes, we have decided to make it into a film. We are overwhelmed and humbled with the response and demand for the third season. But now, we think that taking this to the cinema for a big-screen experience to the audience will be the next step, as real-life cop Avinash Mishra ki kahani bhi



badi hai aur humara (on-screen) hero (Randeep) bhi bahut bada hai!”

The makers have already started developing the story for the film and are currently working on multiple scripts at the same time. Since the series is based on real operations handled by Avinash Mishra during his time in the STF and ATS, the team believes there are still many powerful stories left to tell. “Avinashji has been part of several Special Task Force (STF) and Anti Terrorism Squad (ATS) operations. There are several major operations and stories that can be told, like the encounter of

(dread criminal) Shriprakash Shukla. So, we are working on three scripts parallelly and within a fortnight will zero in on which one can go first,” Pathak shared. Interestingly, the idea of adapting Inspector Avinash into a film is not new. According to the director, the team had discussed the possibility right from the beginning, but back then, the story felt too large for a single movie.

“The trio me, Randeep and Avinash ji have discussed the film possibility since the inception of the series and now we are excited for it,” he said. He also explained why the

project originally became a web series instead of a theatrical release. “Despite this being an OTT show, we made it a cinematic experience on a small screen and larger than life. In that period (2019) we saw big shows like Sacred Games, so we decided to make this into a series. A film was in consideration then too, but the canvas of the story and its characters – big STF team, family, politicians and criminals was so vast that we decided to make a season-based series. Now, it’s the right time for a film before season 3,” he added. Fans of the series may have already spotted a small hint about

the film in season two itself. After the Shriprakash Shukla encounter sequence, Randeep Hooda’s character says, “Ispe to puri film banni chahiye.”

The upcoming movie will continue to stay rooted in Uttar Pradesh, where most of the series has been shot so far. The makers plan to return to locations like Lucknow and Ayodhya once the script is finalised. “Avinash ji is from UP and this has been his major action ground. We have majorly shot in Lucknow and Ayodhya. In fact, the series started from Saryu River in Ayodhya where we shot the opening episode including at the Hanuman Garhi Temple for which we got special permissions. So, once the script will lock we will surely shoot in UP once again,” Pathak revealed. Apart from Randeep Hooda, the series also stars Urvasi Rautela, Amit Sial, Abhimanyu Singh, Rajnesh Duggal, Freddy Daruwala and Adhyayan Suman. While several actors from the show are expected to return, the director hinted that the film could also introduce some new characters and faces.

Smriti Irani with Sakshi Tanwar



Mumbai: Actress-turned-politician Smriti Irani, on Monday night, shared a heartfelt post reminiscing about television superstar and good friend Sakshi Tanwar and praising how she makes hard things easy. Taking to her social media account, Smriti posted a beautiful selfie with Sakshi lauding her for being effortless. In the picture shared by Smriti, both the actresses looked elegant in traditional sarees paired with classic bindis and minimal jewellery. Smriti wore a red and green saree in a traditional Gujarati style, while Sakshi looked graceful in a black saree with red detailing. Both the superstars were seen posing and smiling for the picture, which seemed to have been clicked on the sets of Smriti’s show Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi, where Sakshi played a special appearance a few months ago.

Sharing the nostalgic picture, Smriti captioned the post, “There are days and then there are people you remember forever because they made the hardest things look effortless. One such day .. remembering that one person. #Sakshi #effortlessly #elegant #manicmonday.” For the uninitiated, Smriti Irani and Sakshi Tanwar are known as television’s two most iconic matriarchs. Through their respective characters, Tulsi Virani and Parvati Agarwal, the ladies went on to rule the Hindi GEC space for years.

Nick Jonas’ adorable phone wallpaper featuring Priyanka Chopra and daughter Malti



Agency: Nick Jonas, also popularly called Jiju no 1 by fans for being a very lovable and caring husband to Priyanka Chopra, has now added another reason to the list, leaving fans in total awe! Recently, a small detail from his latest vlog has gone viral online after eagle-eyed fans noticed the wallpaper on his phone, which immediately took over the internet. According to a report

from Hindustan Times, the singer, who was on a two-week tour with his band Jonas Brothers across Argentina, Chile, Brazil, and Mexico, recently shared a vlog from the concerts. In one of the behind-the-scenes moments, Nick briefly flashed his phone on camera, and fans were quick to spot his adorable wallpaper featuring himself, Priyanka, and their daughter, Malti Marie. The vlog also

showed Nick talking to Priyanka and Malti over a video call, with fans gushing over their sweet voices. The picture Nick has set as his wallpaper was earlier shared by him on Instagram in a heartfelt Mother’s Day post dedicated to Priyanka. In the photo, Priyanka was seen affectionately leaning on Nick while their daughter Malti sat on his lap. A fan shared the clip on Instagram and wrote,

“Sweet, the last Jonas Brothers vlog reminds me of a very Jonas Christmas movie. Malti and Priyanka’s voice and Nick’s wallpaper.” Another user commented, “Lots of blessings to this beautiful family.” A third fan wrote, “Love the wallpaper.” In the now-viral image which was seen on his wallpaper, the singer can be seen to be seated between his two girls, with Priyanka Chopra

affectionately leaning onto him while his little daughter Malti sits comfortably on his lap. This image was taken on the occasion of Mother’s Day as a tribute to Priyanka by Nick himself, which he shared last month. Posting the same family photo at the time, the singer had written, “You are the wind beneath our wings. Happy Mother’s Day my Jaan. We love you so much@priyankachopra.”

‘Everyone hates us, don’t they?’: Mo Hunt on why England won’t tire of dominating women’s rugby

Agency: Mo Hunt came into this season cresting perhaps the highest peak of her career. The scrum-half had added a second World Cup medal to her collection when England defeated Canada in front of a record home crowd in September, carrying that form into Premiership Women’s Rugby, where Gloucester-Hartpury are chasing a fourth consecutive title.

Gloucester secured a home semi-final before the league paused for the Women’s Six Nations and have not lost in the competition since November 2024. But just as another trophy-filled season looked within reach, Hunt’s campaign came to a sudden halt. Not long after coming off the bench in England’s opener against Ireland in front of a record crowd of 77,000, she pulled up injured. The knee problem ended her season.

“It is my medial collateral ligament,” the 37-year-old says. “It’s three months recovery so I will miss the end of the season.”I don’t know if I have processed it properly yet. I have always been a person to always push boundaries so I don’t know if I have fully accepted that is the case. That is a work in progress I would say.”Hunt says she is making slow progress in her recovery, but thoroughly enjoyed watching England as a fan. The Red Roses won their eighth consecutive Six Nations title and fifth grand slam in a row by defeating France in Bordeaux with Lucy Packer in the No 9 shirt.

“The better Luce plays, the better it makes me because we are both competitors and we are pushing each other,” she says. “I have so much love and respect for that girl and it has always been the same. We have always helped each other through anything we have needed, and that isn’t going to change now she has the starting shirt.”That was my role going into the tournament, I was going to be



on the bench for Luce. So happy to support and see her thrive. It is almost like changing [the] guard, but I am still there pushing.”

Hunt watched the grand-slam decider against France at home alongside her Gloucester teammate and World Cup-winning captain Zoe Stratford.“It was incredible, it always is when England play France. There is so much history there, such a massive rivalry, especially more so from their side than ours. Everybody gets up for playing England, everyone hates us don’t they? It was pretty cool to see.”France away is one of my absolute favourite places to play because the crowd is so hostile and they really try to get on top of you and force errors, but the way the girls dealt with it, managed it and marshalled it later in the game was sick.”

England contended with more than just Hunt’s injury in the tournament with more than 10 players unavailable. The Red Roses managed to evolve and

adapt to continue their winning streak and Gloucester can take inspiration to do the same in the PWR. Hunt is one of a few players unable to take to the pitch. Nel Metcalfe and Tatyana Heard are just back in training after injuries and Alex Matthews had shoulder surgery a few weeks ago.

Hunt believes the key to the club’s success over the past few years has been their strength in depth. “When people aren’t available there are people waiting in the wings that are ready to take an opportunity,” she says.“I think you will see that when we go through the next few games. I would love to be out there competing with the girls, but I have no doubt the squad will go on to achieve great things. I am excited to be a fan girl for the next couple of weeks.”I have been super lucky with injury over the last few years that I haven’t experienced it [being in the crowd at Kingsholm] too often. I have been involved in the matchday squad lots. It will be different for sure, I am not sure how I feel about it at the moment. I will probably be in The Shed with the girls, that is where we like to watch.” Hunt is fully focused on her recovery with the next matches she could be available for coming in England’s WXV fixtures in September and October. While the PWR 2026-27 season begins in November, the scrum-half has another target in mind with the inaugural women’s British and Irish Lions tour of New Zealand in 2027.

“I am really enjoying my rugby,” she says. “I am still going all right at it so why wouldn’t you try and put your hat in the ring for something like that? Some of my favourite memories playing was in the GB sevens squad.”To be within a potential chance of going to New Zealand [is in] the back of my head. I will do everything I can this year to put myself forward.”

Trading scalpel for golf irons: Indian-origin golfer Manav Shah’s stirring journey to US Open

New Delhi: Born into a Gujarati family where medicine was considered the natural career path, Indian-origin golfer Manav Shah chose fairways over medical school and will, now, tee off at his maiden US Open after grinding on public courses and global qualifying circuits for years. The California-born Shah, whose parents migrated from India in the 1980s, said reconnecting with his roots through the Asian Tour and the Indian Golf Premier League strengthened the self-belief, eventually carrying him into golf’s toughest major.

“The players on the tour and all the guys I’ve met from India have been very welcoming to me. It kind of was a full circle moment for me and brought me closer to my roots, closer to my culture,” during an interview.“I’ve always spoken Gujarati, but now, we all speak in Hindi. Just being more connected to my roots, I think it, honestly, gave me that sort of belief and confidence, that I could achieve things that maybe weren’t expected prior.” Shah said his Indian identity was never distant despite being born and raised in the United States.

“I’ve always been tied to the motherland. My dad’s from Gujarat, my mom is from Bombay. We always went back every year to visit



my grandparents in Gujarat and Bombay. India is obviously very home to me and it’s amazing to be able to represent my culture at the US Open.” The 34-year-old earned his spot in next month’s US Open after finishing overall 5-under-par at the demanding 36-hole final qualifying event held at the Dallas Athletic Club earlier this month.However, the sport entered his life almost accidentally. He began his time at UCLA as a pre-med major but eventually pivoted away to manage the rigorous demands of collegiate golf with the UCLA Bruins.”My extended family are in medicine. That was always kind of the Gujarati line of work in our household, we go to med school, become a doctor, make the world a

better place, save lives. That was always the route chosen for me,” Shah said.“But I realised medicine probably wasn’t going to be my thing when everyone after class went to the library and I was going to the golf course to tee off,” he laughs.Shah honed his game by grinding on the local public and municipal courses of his hometown, Bakersfield, far away from the elite golf’s glamour.He said those difficult beginnings shaped his resilience and creativity.

“I didn’t have the facilities a lot of other players had but growing up at a public course honestly was a blessing. It made me creative, built resilience and also gave me gratitude for where I came from.” Shah, who graduated from the Uni-

versity of California with a Bachelor’s degree in Political Science and International Relations, believes Indian-origin golfers are finally beginning to break barriers globally because the talent pool has deepened considerably over the last decade.

“When I was growing up there still weren’t that many Indian-origin players in college golf,” he said.“Over the last five or six years there’s been a huge influx of golfers around the world and now you’re seeing more Indian-origin players hone their skills and come on to the global stage,” he said referring to the likes of Aaron Rai, Sahith Theegala and Akshay Bhatia.Sport must avoid preserve global pathways for emerging professionals

Gukesh, Praggnanandhaa earn hard-fought Armageddon wins in Norway Chess

Oslo: D Gukesh emerged victorious after a bruising, nerve-jangling marathon battle against Vincent Keymer, and R Praggnanandhaa outplayed Alireza Firouzja but world No. 1 Magnus Carlsen suffered a rare opening-round defeat at Norway Chess, which began amid towering bookshelves at the historic Deichman Bjorvikka public library here. Thanks to his Armageddon triumph after a draining 144-move slugfest that lasted nearly five hours, Gukesh pocketed 1.5 points, while Keymer settled for one after the classical game had ended in a stalemate.

The marathon encounter saw the Indian world champion visibly rattled in the closing stages, even seeking clarification from the arbiter over the move count as the game drifted towards an inevitable draw despite Keymer being a pawn up.

The German, however, remained ice-cool throughout the classical battle, continuing to press on before eventually losing the Armageddon decider. But the tie-break itself ended swiftly, with Gukesh unleashing the decisive 15.Bh6, a move that sealed Keymer’s fate.

Praggnanandhaa and American Grandmaster Wesley So produced a hard-fought classical draw in a finely balanced contest before the Indian No. 2 prevailed in the Armageddon tie-break with a sharp attacking



display to pocket the extra point. However, the biggest talking point of the day was defending champion Carlsen suffering a rare defeat in classical chess to Firouzja, who

claimed all three points. The Frenchman, confined to a wheelchair after recently injuring his ankle at the Superbet Chess Classic Romania and with his foot firmly strapped in

a protective “moon shoe”, showed remarkable grit and composure to stun home favourite and world No. 1 Carlsen on his own turf.

Carlsen looked in control for large parts of the contest, but crippling time trouble led to a costly blunder that handed the initiative to Firouzja. The French grandmaster capitalised with clinical precision, securing a statement victory over the hometown favourite and surging to the top of the standings. With three points, Firouzja grabbed the early lead in the 10-round tournament, while Gukesh and Praggnanandhaa were joint second with 1.5 points apiece. Wesley So and Keymer trailed on one point each, while Carlsen is yet to open his account.

In the women’s section, the tournament also began with fighting chess and an early upset as Bibisara Assaubayeva scored an impressive classical victory over Indian No. 1 Humpy Koneru.The Kazakh star handled the complications confidently, capitalised on her middlegame chances and converted her advantage with precision to make an excellent start to the tournament.

Defending champion Anna Muzychuk and Zhu Jiner played out a closely fought classical draw before Zhu prevailed in the Armageddon tie-break to secure the extra half point.

Saraswati corridor at Bhojshala is announced by the chief minister

Bhopal: Madhya Pradesh chief minister Mohan Yadav on Monday announced that the state government will construct a grand Saraswati Lok (temple corridor) at the historic Bhojshala complex and establish a Raja Bhoj Research Institute in Dhar. During his visit to Bhojshala, Yadav performed a special pooja of Goddess Vagdevi, whose idol was recently installed in the sanctum sanctorum following the Madhya Pradesh high court’s ruling that the site is a temple of Goddess Saraswati. He carried out rituals in accordance with old age tradition.

Expressing gratitude to the high court decision, the CMYadav said, “A struggle spanning 750 years has finally met with success. A new era has dawned Dhar. The government will ensure strict and literal compliance of the verdict delivered by the High Court regarding the historic Bhojshala. A magnificent Mata Saraswati Lok will be constructed at this site.”

He added that Bhojshala—established by Raja Bhojpal has, for centuries, stood as a preeminent center for knowledge, science, research, and the Sanskrit language. “It serves as an enduring sym-



bol of our ancient Indian intellectual tradition. Students and scholars from far and wide would flock here to acquire knowledge and engage in scholarly discourse on the scriptures. The state government pledges to undertake every necessary effort to revive this glorious past of the Bhojshala. A new wave of holistic development will now flow across this sacred land of Raja Bhoj (Dhar). The research institute will be established to serve this purpose,” said the CM.The state government has announced a financial assistance of ₹5 lakh each for the families of three people—Bansingh, Antarsingh, and Lakshman Singh—who died during the Bhojshala move-

ment.

A moment of silence was observed in their honour, an official statement said. CM Yadav emphasised that all developmental projects in Dhar will be executed in close coordination with the department of archaeology.

Yadav remarked that Raja Bhoj’s legacy includes invaluable sites of archaeological significance and preserved Bhojpatras (birch-bark manuscripts).

The announcement came during the state-level event of the Jal Ganga water conservation campaign in Dhar. The CM also pointed out that a museum dedicated to Raja Bhoj is under construction in Bhopal.

AP will form a task force to clean up Godavari

Hyderabad: The Andhra Pradesh government on Monday announced constitution of a special task force to curb pollution in the Godavari River and implement a comprehensive river-cleaning action plan ahead of the upcoming Godavari Pushkarams, a once-in-12-years spiritual event to worship the river. Disclosing this at an official meeting at Rajamahendravaram, Andhra Pradesh deputy chief minister Pawan Kalyan, who holds environment and forests portfolio, said the dedicated inter-district task force would function under the auspices of Andhra Pradesh Pollution Control Board (APPCB) to monitor pollution across the six Godavari basin districts.

“The task force will include officials from multiple government departments and will focus on identifying ground-level problems and recommending permanent solutions. A separate monitoring committee will also be constituted to ensure swift implementation of the task force’s recommendations,” he said.He ordered officials to begin implementing an action plan immediately and ensure visible improvements in river conditions within the next six months.

Kalyan, who had a boat ride all along the Godavari River course in Rajamahendravaram on Monday morning, expressed serious concern over increasing pollution levels in the river.

He directed officials to immediately launch field-level inspections to identify major pollution sources, including drains, canals and tributaries discharging waste into the river. The deputy chief minister announced an allocation of ₹100 crore through the APPCB for pollution-control measures in the six districts through which the Godavari flows.

He said the task force would maintain strict surveillance over industries allegedly releasing chemical waste directly into the river and its distributaries. Water samples would be collected from critical pollution zones and sent for laboratory testing, while pollution audits would be conducted in heavily con-

taminated stretches.“Mission for Clean Godavari should not remain confined to signboards alone,” he remarked, stating that previous initiatives had failed to deliver the desired results due to lack of effective ground-level implementation.

Pawan Kalyan cautioned officials against hurried and substandard construction works ahead of the Pushkarams. He said temporary ghats and structures built without quality standards could collapse and endanger devotees’ lives. “We have witnessed such incidents in the past. Andhra Pradesh should not earn such a disastrous reputation,” he said, stressing the need for planned and sincere execution of works

well in advance.

He noted that devotees visiting the Pushkarams should not return with complaints of bathing in polluted water, calling it an embarrassment for the government. Calling for “revolutionary decisions” to protect living rivers, the deputy chief minister proposed a year-long ban on plastic usage across all six Godavari districts. He said single-use plastic should disappear entirely from riverbanks by the time Pushkarams begin.He also announced that another special environmental task force would work over the coming year to eliminate plastic waste and promote eco-friendly alternatives, he said.

Launching the “Plas-

tic-Free Rajamahendravaram” awareness campaign, Pawan Kalyan appealed to citizens of both East and West Godavari regions to actively participate in protecting the river ecosystem.The Andhra Pradesh government estimates that nearly 10 crore devotees may attend the upcoming Godavari Pushkarams — more than double the 4.6 crore pilgrims who visited during the previous edition.To manage the anticipated influx, the government plans to expand preparations beyond Rajamahendravaram and develop Pushkar ghats in villages along the river course.Officials have identified 285 gram panchayats across the six Godavari districts for infrastruc-

ture development. Special funds will be allocated for beautification of ghats and related facilities. The government also plans to introduce homestay facilities in villages to accommodate visiting pilgrims, generating employment and boosting rural economies. Later, during a separate meeting with industrialists, Kalyan urged industries to cooperate in preventing river pollution and contribute to the successful conduct of the Pushkarams as part of their social responsibility.He clarified that while the coalition government would support industrial growth, industries must strictly comply with pollution-control norms and ensure proper functioning of effluent treatment plants.

“There are regulations prohibiting industries from discharging untreated waste directly into river waters. Every industry must mandatorily maintain treatment plants and scientifically process waste before release,” he said.

He also announced that the Pollution Control Board would conduct mandatory quarterly audits of industries and classify them under red, yellow and green categories based on environmental compliance.

The review meetings were attended by ministers Nadendla Manohar and Kandula Durgesh, Pollution Control Board officials, district authorities, legislators and senior Panchayat Raj department officials.

AC Milan Fires Head Coach And CEO After Horrific Italian Season

New Delhi: AC Milan have launched a dramatic overhaul after a disastrous end to their Serie A campaign, sacking head coach Massimiliano Allegri and CEO Giorgio Furlani following the club's failure to secure Champions League qualification. The Rossoneri confirmed the sweeping changes a day after their crushing 2-1 home defeat to Cagliari, a result that saw them miss out on a top-four finish by a single point. Milan had taken the lead but collapsed under pressure, with frustrated fans booing the team off the pitch at full-time. In a strongly worded statement, owners RedBird described the campaign as "an unequivocal failure" and announced a major restructuring of football operations.

The club's American ownership group made the decision after a dramatic late-season implosion that derailed what had once looked like a promising campaign. Milan spent much of the season in the top two and were in contention for the Serie A title before a miserable run of form saw them stumble out of the Champions League places. Just two wins in their final eight league matches proved costly, with Sunday's defeat sealing their fate. RedBird con-



firmed the immediate departures of CEO Giorgio Furlani, sporting director Igli Tare, head coach Massimiliano Allegri, and technical director Geoffrey Moncada. Former Milan striker Zlatan Ibrahimovic, currently serving as a special adviser, is the only senior football figure to retain his position. Allegri had returned to Milan last year with the task of restoring the club to Europe's elite after they finished eighth in Serie A the previous season. However, the experienced Italian failed to deliver consistency when it mattered most. Across 42 matches in charge, Allegri recorded

22 wins, 10 draws and 10 defeats, but Milan's collapse in the closing weeks overshadowed the earlier promise. RedBird managing partner Gerry Cardinale is now expected to work closely with Ibrahimovic to rebuild the club's football structure ahead of next season. That process will include appointing a new head coach, CEO and sporting director as Milan look to quickly recover from a campaign that ended in disappointment. The club said further announcements on replacements would be made in due course, with preparations already underway for the next season.

New York Knicks Storm Into NBA Finals After Sweeping Cleveland Cavaliers



Ohio: The New York Knicks clinched their first NBA Finals berth in 27 years with a commanding 130-93 victory over the Cleveland Cavaliers in Game 4 of the Eastern Conference finals on Monday night. The emphatic win completed a 4-0 series sweep for New York, which has now won 11 straight games in the playoffs and moved within four victories of a first NBA title since 1973, according to Olympics.com. Led by captain Jalen Brunson, the Knicks dominated from the outset in front of a jubilant home crowd, ensuring New York

will host NBA Finals games for the first time since 1999. Brunson, who was later named the Eastern Conference finals MVP, continued his outstanding postseason run by averaging 27.8 points and 6.7 assists across the playoffs. "It means a lot, but I wouldn't be here without my teammates," Brunson said after the game. "The belief they have in me, this coaching staff, this organization and this fan base -- without them, none of this is possible." Karl-Anthony Towns led a balanced Knicks attack with 19 points and 14 rebounds as six New York

players finished in double figures. The Knicks seized control early and never allowed Cleveland back into the contest, stretching their advantage to as many as 45 points. Facing a daunting 3-0 deficit entering Game 4, the Cavaliers struggled to match New York's intensity and appeared out of rhythm throughout the contest. Donovan Mitchell fought hard with 31 points, but received little support as Cleveland's season ended in disappointing fashion. The Knicks will now await the winner of the Western Conference finals between the San Antonio Spurs and defending champions Oklahoma City Thunder, with that series currently tied at 2-2.

The NBA Finals are scheduled to begin on 3 June, with New York aiming to complete a remarkable playoff campaign by ending a championship drought spanning more than five decades. Priya initially drained a 10-foot birdie putt on the closing hole to force a playoff

with Rajasthan's Ojaswini Saraswat, who shot a gritty three-under 69 on the final day. On the first playoff hole, Priya reached the green in two and sank a five-foot putt for birdie, while Ojaswini managed only a par to settle for the second spot on Friday, according to a press release.

Both Priya, who shot a two-over 74 on the final day, and Ojaswini finished with a three-day aggregate of even-par 216. Priya's five-shot cushion over Ojaswini dwindled to just one at the turn following a double-bogey seven on the ninth. Ojaswini, who made a brilliant final-day charge, drew level when Priya dropped a shot on the 15th hole. The Rajasthan youngster then birdied the 17th to take the lead for the first time. Unaware the lead had changed hands, Priya birdied the 18th to draw level with her challenger. In the playoff, Priya's 6-iron second shot set up a five-foot birdie, which she converted to secure the trophy.

RCB Versus GT: Why Qualifier One Is IPL 2026's Real Battle Of Equals

Dharamshala: The IPL's marketing team and fan pages on social media, honestly could not have asked for a better storyline for Qualifier 1. Kohli arrives in Dharamshala chasing another IPL title with defending champions Royal Challengers Bengaluru, while Gill walks in carrying the weight of being Indian cricket's next great captain and the face of Gujarat Titans' future. But once the edits, posters and 'future versus present' conversations settle down, this match feels far bigger than just Kohli against Gill. Because RCB and GT have reached this stage looking like the two most complete sides in the competition. One team trusts depth and late-over firepower, the other trusts structure, consistency and the calmness of its top order. Both have elite pace attacks.

Both have batting groups capable of scoring 220 without looking reckless. And both know that in Qualifier 1, one good evening buys you a direct ticket to the final. Even GT assistant coach Vijay Dahiya admitted before the game that there is very little separating the two sides. "The moment you say 'battle', yes, it is going to be a battle," Dahiya said. "We have already played each other twice this season and it is 1-1. Both are really good sides. You can definitely say they are evenly matched." And honestly, the deeper



you go into the match-up, the more it starts feeling like a proper heavyweight contest rather than just another IPL playoff. Dharamshala might be famous for sixes disappearing into the mountains, but this Qualifier could very well be decided by whichever pace attack owns the powerplay. Because the HPCA Stadium has quietly become one of the best venues for seamers this season. Nearly three-fourths of all wickets here have gone to pacers, the highest percentage across IPL venues in 2026. The mountain breeze, extra bounce and early movement with the new ball make batting uncomfortable initially before the pitch flattens out later in the innings. That is exactly why both teams suddenly look perfectly built for these conditions. RCB's attack starts with Bhuvneshwar Kumar, who



has quietly turned back the clock this season. The Purple Cap holder, with 24 wickets, has once again become one of the best new-ball bowlers in the league, swinging it both ways while still maintaining to stay economical in a season where bowlers have mostly been reduced to spectators. Alongside him is Josh Hazlewood, whose hard-length bowling becomes even nastier on surfaces offering bounce, while Rasikh Salam Dar's emergence has given RCB another reliable death-over option capable of handling pressure. GT, meanwhile, probably arrive with the more intimidating overall pace attack. Kagiso Rabada also sits on 24 wickets this season and looks tailor-made for Dharamshala with his hostile back-of-length bowling. Mohammed Siraj has rediscovered rhythm at exactly the

right time, Prasidh Krishna's bounce adds another awkward angle and Jason Holder's arrival has quietly fixed many of GT's middle-over issues. Dahiya even compared Siraj and Rabada's chemistry to a batting partnership.

"Usually we talk about partnerships in batting, but they have built a very strong bowling partnership," he said. RCB captain Rajat Patidar, meanwhile, made it very clear how his side plans to approach the contest. "Our strength is bowling and the way we bowl in the powerplay will be very crucial," Patidar said. "We are not here to defend, we are here with the mindset of attacking." That one line probably explains RCB's season better than any tactical breakdown. This might quietly become the most important battle of the night. Because while Gill versus Kohli is the glamorous rivalry, Rabada steaming in with the new ball at Kohli under Dharamshala lights feels like the kind of contest that can decide a playoff within three overs. Rabada has dismissed Kohli five times in 16 T20 innings and has consistently managed to keep him quieter than most bowlers do. The South African quick has been relentless this season — not just quick, but properly hostile quick. His lengths have become harder, his bounce nastier and his rhythm almost impossible to disrupt once he gets going.

Virat Kohli Key But RCB Must Avoid One Man Dependence In Crucial Playoffs

New Delhi: Sanjay Manjrekar has said that Royal Challengers Bengaluru must avoid the danger of becoming overly dependent on Virat Kohli during the IPL 2026 playoffs. On Tuesday, May 26, RCB will take on Gujarat Titans, led by Shubman Gill, in Qualifier 1 at the HPCA Stadium in Dharamshala. Kohli has enjoyed a sensational season for RCB, scoring 557 runs from 14 matches at an average of 50.63. He also boasts an outstanding record against the Titans, having amassed 460 runs from eight matches at an average of 76.66. Manjrekar warned that if Kohli tries to shoulder too much responsibility during the playoffs, it could push RCB into dangerous territory. "The approach of RCB must remain the same. Virat Kohli is a key player, but everything does not hinge on him, that is how they have become such a good team," Manjrekar said in a Sportstar podcast. "It is important for



Virat to keep playing in the same fashion, because he has a tendency in the final stages to take too much of the onus on himself, and if he does that, that is dangerous territory for RCB to be in. So, I think they should keep the same template," Manjrekar added.

Despite being one of the IPL's greatest batters, Kohli has struggled to dominate in the playoffs. In 17 innings, he has scored 396 runs at an average of 26.4 and a strike rate of 121.1, with only two

half-centuries and a highest score of 70 not out. Kohli has once again been the heartbeat of Bengaluru in IPL 2026, producing one match-winning performance after another to guide the franchise into the playoffs. His most memorable knock of the season came against Kolkata Knight Riders, when he smashed a vintage unbeaten 105 off 60 balls during a high-pressure chase of 193. The century against KKR was particularly special as it came immediately after

two successive ducks, highlighting Kohli's remarkable ability to bounce back from setbacks. He also shared a crucial 92-run partnership with Devdutt Padikkal in that match, expertly pacing the chase with a blend of aggression and composure. Beyond the numbers, Kohli's energy, intensity and leadership have played a huge role in RCB's consistency this season. With the playoffs now underway, the franchise will once again look towards their talisman to inspire another deep run and potentially deliver yet another memorable IPL campaign. Speaking on the Talk with Manvendra podcast, the 28-year-old revealed that the decision to stay away from IPL 2026 was taken by the authorities and not by him individually. Dayal also admitted that watching RCB matches from home has been emotionally challenging, adding that he misses being around the team and the dressing room atmosphere.

Five Red Lights: Lessons Learned From A Wild Canadian Formula One Grand Prix

Dramatic Canadian Grand Prix Ignites Season

Ohio: After a frustrating, stop-start beginning to the 2026 Formula 1 season, the Canadian Grand Prix felt like the championship finally hitting top gear. Montreal delivered everything the new era had promised: unpredictable strategy calls, wheel-to-wheel combat, shifting team fortunes and a title fight that suddenly feels very alive. What made the weekend especially compelling was the sheer variety of storylines unfolding at once. Mercedes' teenage prodigies continued his stunning emergence, McLaren found fresh ways to undermine themselves, and Formula 1's old guard reminded everyone why class is permanent with a thrilling scrap that stole the show.

Further down the grid, the development race is already beginning to reshape the competitive order, suggesting the pecking



rounds may not hold for much longer. Most encouragingly for the sport, the racing itself finally looked like the version Formula 1 had hoped these regulations would create. Cars followed closely without immediately destroying their tyres, battles lasted across multiple laps, and overtaking felt earned rather than artificial. If Montreal was any indication, the 2026 season may just have found its spark. Here are five key talking points from a chaotic Canadian Grand Prix weekend. After retiring from the race lead

and watching his teammate win his 4th race on the go, a glum George Russell claimed that 'the gods didn't want him to win' and that the championship was now 'Antonelli's to lose'. While it's tempting to put that remark down to the Brit being naturally downbeat post his DNF, the fact remains that a 43-point deficit (while substantial) is certainly not insurmountable given that there are at least 17 races to go.

After all, Lando Norris came back from a 34-point deficit after his retirement at the 2025 Dutch GP to

win last year's championship, while Max Verstappen came agonisingly close to overturning a whopping 100-point-plus gap in the last few races.

Rather, the more astute reading of Russell's remarks is that it's a psychological ploy aimed at putting pressure on his 19-year-old teammate whose dominance in the early part of the season has surprised everyone up and down the paddock — including even his team at Mercedes. But rather tellingly, this indicates that Russell himself is facing the heat with the realisation that Antonelli, in his sophomore season, is no longer a pliant rookie eager to follow the lead of his more experienced teammate — a fact that was made abundantly clear from the duo's scintillating duels on track during both the sprint and the main race. Yes, Antonelli did make races.

PV Sindhu And Satwik-Chirag Return As India Prepares For Singapore Badminton Open 2026



New Delhi: Olympic medalist PV Sindhu and Asian Games doubles champions Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty are set to make their return for India at the 2026 Singapore Badminton Open, which begins on Tuesday. After skipping last week's Malaysia Masters, Sindhu and the Sat-Chi duo will return to action at the BWF Super 750 Singapore Badminton Open at the Singapore Indoor Stadium, where crucial ranking points will be up for grabs, as per Olympics.com. Sindhu will spearhead a three-member Indian contingent in the women's singles main draw, alongside Unnati Hooda and Malvika Bansod. Having managed just one semi-final

finish on tour this season, Sindhu faces a stern opening-round challenge against Indonesia's world No. 6 Putri Kusuma Wardani, who holds a 3-2 head-to-head advantage over the Indian star. Sindhu won the Singapore Badminton Open in 2022 when it was a Super 500 event. Following first-round exits in Malaysia, Paris 2024 semi-finalist Lakshya Sen and HS Prannoy will both look for a deeper run in Singapore. Kidambi Srikanth and Ayush Shetty return to the Indian setup after missing the Malaysia meet. Fourth seeds Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty will lead India's challenge in the men's doubles main draw, alongside the duo of MR Arjun

and Hariharan Amsakarunan. In women's doubles, Treasa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand remain sidelined, with Treasa still recovering from injury. In their absence, Kavipriya Selvam and Simran Singh will spearhead the Indian campaign. Rutaparna Panda/Swetaparna Panda and Ashwini Bhat K/Shikha Gautam are also part of the Singapore Open entry list. Olympian Tanisha Crasto, Dhruv Kapila and Rohan Kapoor/Ruthvika Shivani Gadde are the two Indian pairs in mixed doubles. The Italian top seed cruised into the fourth round of the final grand slam of the year by thrashing Australia's Christopher O'Connell 6-1, 6-4, 6-2 in a comfortable third round victory.

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