

Security Forces Conduct Joint Operations in Manipur, Apprehend Cadres and Recover Arms

Imphal, Apr 27: Security forces carried out a series of intelligence-based joint operations across Kakching, Chandel, and Tengnoupal districts of Manipur between April 19 and April 25, 2026. The operations, conducted by the Indian Army and Assam Rifles under Spear Corps in coordination with Manipur Police, led to the apprehension of three cadres belonging to hill and valley-based insurgent groups and the recovery of arms, explosives, and other war-like stores. On April 19, Assam Rifles, along with the Kakching Commando team, launched an operation at Kakching Lamkhai Laipham Loknung, resulting in the apprehension of an active cadre of PREPAK (Pro). On April 21, during an operation in the jungle areas of T Bongmol in Tengnoupal district, security forces recovered one rifle, one carbine, two radio sets, and four Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs). On April 23, Assam Rifles and



Chandel Police carried out a joint operation in the dense marshy forests near Khumkot village under Khengjoi subdivision. The forces recovered four rifles, four pompi guns, seven bombs, three grenades with a detonator, and five ra-

dio sets. Local residents have expressed cautious optimism, noting that the visible presence of security forces and the dismantling of militant hideouts contribute to a sense of relief. However, officials acknowledged that challenges remain,

particularly in border areas where cross-border smuggling of arms and explosives persists. The week-long series of operations underscores the determination of security forces to restore peace and stability in Manipur.

Lalduhoma's ZPM dominates Aizawl civic polls, winning 17 of 19 wards

Aizawl, Apr 27: The ruling Zoram People's Movement (ZPM) on Monday secured a decisive victory in the Aizawl Municipal Corporation (AMC) elections, winning 17 of the 19 wards in the civic body. Vote counting was conducted at the office of the Aizawl Deputy Commissioner and concluded without incident, officials said. The results were subsequently declared by the Mizoram State Election Commission. The outcome marks a significant setback for the Mizo National Front (MNF), which had dominated the 2021 AMC elections with 11 seats but was reduced to a single ward this time. The Indian National Congress also secured one seat. For the ZPM, the result represents a sharp rise from its performance in the previous civic polls, where it had won six seats. The party's sweeping mandate consolidates its position in the state's urban political landscape. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which contested 11 wards, failed to win any seat. All three principal parties — ZPM, MNF and the Congress fielded candidates in all 19 wards. In total, 68 candidates, including 28 women, were in the fray. Six wards were reserved for women, all of which were won by ZPM candidates. According to the State Elec-



tion Commission, voter turnout stood at 62.77% in the April 21 polls, with over 2.39 lakh eligible voters. State Election Commissioner H. Lalthlangliana said counting began at 8 a.m. and proceeded smoothly, with early trends indicating a strong lead for the ZPM across several wards. The AMC, constituted in 2010 under the Mizoram Municipalities Act, 2007, comprises 19 wards. The inaugural civic polls were won by the Congress, while the MNF had swept the subsequent elections in 2015 and 2021.

he polling was held on April 21, and witnessed a voter turnout of over 61 per cent. Altogether 68 candidates, including 28 women, are in the fray for this year's Aizawl Municipal Corporation elections. Earlier, Chief Minister Lalduhoma had exuded confidence about ZPM's victory, saying that the party will win at least 16 seats or more.

In Brief

DoNER Secretary reviews Tripura project progress

Agartala: Secretary of the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region, (MDoNER), Sanjay Jaju held a high-level review meeting with Tripura Chief Secretary J.K. Sinha and other officials at the State Guest House in Agartala on Monday. The discussions assessed the progress of key infrastructure, tourism and other development projects backed by DoNER ministry's funding, underscoring the Centre's sustained commitment to accelerating growth and connectivity in the state. The review reflected a coordinated effort to translate policy support into on-ground impact across Tripura.

Interstate Liquor Smuggling Racket Busted

Itanagar: Enforcement Directorate's (ED), Guwahati Zonal Office has conducted search operations at nine premises of wholesale liquor entities spread across Arunachal Pradesh. The raids were conducted at Itanagar, Nahagarlagun, Seppa, Ziro, Daporijo, Namsai and Roing in connection with a case registered under Section 17 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002. ED initiated investigation on the basis of multiple FIRs registered by the Assam Police concerning illegal transportation/smuggling of liquor from Arunachal Pradesh into Assam, supplemented by a reference from the Assam Excise Department. An ECIR was recorded on 17.10.2024, and the scope has since been expanded through an addendum to include 173 additional FIRs.

Death Sentence in POCSO Case

Yupia: A special POCSO court in Yupia has sentenced a 44-year-old man to death for repeatedly raping his minor relative in 2019, calling the offence a "rarest of rare" case involving a grave breach of trust. Special Judge (POCSO) Dr. Hirendra Kashyap convicted Lakang Tallang under Sections 376(2)(f) and 506 of the IPC, along with Section 6 of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act. The court held that the accused, being the victim's maternal uncle, abused his position of trust to commit aggravated penetrative sexual assault. According to the prosecution, led by Special Public Prosecutor Kagam Bagra, the incident occurred on June 4, 2019.

Renovated Lunglei War Memorial Inaugurated Honoring 108 Martyrs

Lunglei, Apr 27: The newly renovated War Memorial at Chanmari in the heart of Lunglei town was formally inaugurated on Friday, marking a solemn tribute to the courage and sacrifice of India's fallen soldiers. The ceremony was led virtually by General Officer Commanding of 3 Corps, Lt Gen. Abhijit S. Pendharkar, UYSM, AVSM, YSM, while Brig. Puspendar Sorayan, Commander of 23 Sector Assam Rifles, represented him at the site and unveiled the memorial before laying a wreath in honour of the martyrs. City & Local Guides Wreaths were also offered by Lunglei Municipal Council Chairman Lalzuithanga, District Sainik Welfare & Resettlement Officer Maj. Rebecca L. Chhakchhuak (Retd), leaders of the Mizoram Ex-Services League, and family members of the fallen heroes. A two-minute silence was observed as ceremonial honours were rendered. In his address, Lt Gen. Pendharkar described the memorial as a lasting symbol of courage and unity, urging that the legacy of the martyrs be carried not



only in monuments but in the hearts of the people. Brig. Sorayan reiterated Assam Rifles' commitment to Mizoram's welfare, highlighting contributions in security, healthcare, education, and anti-drug initiatives. LMC Vice Chairman K. Lalrinawma noted the memorial's significance for the people of Lunglei, while Maj. Chhakchhuak recalled its origins on land allotted by the Mizoram government in 1977. She added that the renovated structure now consolidates the names of 108 martyrs, including 103 from World War II and five from post-Independence operations. Standing prominently in central Lunglei, the War Memorial embodies honour, remembrance, and the enduring gratitude of a community to its heroes.

DoNER Secretary reviews Tripura project progress Inspects under-construction rehab centre

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Jaju, who is on a three-day tour of the State, also inspected the ongoing con-



struction work of a government rehabilitation centre at Bishramganj in Sepahijala district.

Senior officials from the Public Works Department and the Health Department

were also present during the visit.

The rehabilitation centre is being constructed adjacent to the office complex of the Chief Medical Officer of Sepahijala district, with fi-

nancial assistance from the DoNER Ministry.

After the inspection, the Secretary directed officials to expedite the construction work to ensure its timely completion.

NNC/FGN opposes proposed IAF radar installation in Pfutsero

Kohima, Apr 27: Naga National Council and the Federal Government of Nagaland (FGN) under the leadership of Zhopra Vero have opposed the reported proposal by the Indian Air Force to set up a Mountain Radar System in Pfutsero in the Chakhesang region of Nagaland.

In a statement issued on Sunday, NNC/FGN leader Vepozo Chuzho said the proposed radar installation was unacceptable to the Naga people and alleged that the move had been initiated without proper consultation with local communities and stakeholders.

Gauhati University Launches Tai-Ahom Language Certificate Course

Guwahati, Apr 27: In a significant step aligned with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, Gauhati University has launched a "Six-Month Certificate Course in Tai-Ahom Language and Medieval Manuscriptology." The initiative, undertaken by the Centre for South East Asian Studies, aims to promote the Tai-Ahom language globally through academic engagement and contribute to meaningful research in the field.

The inaugural programme was held in a dignified atmosphere, with Padma Shri awardee and noted historian Prof. Jogendra Nath Phukan, former faculty of the Department of History at Gauhati University, attending as the chief guest. He underscored that the Tai-Ahom language and history are integral to cultural identity and that preserving and researching them is not just an academic exercise but a responsibility to safeguard heritage. Vice-Chancellor Prof. Nani Gopal Mahanta, while inaugurating the course, highlighted that language is the living identity of a community and its revival signifies



cultural resurgence. He stressed the importance of enriching indigenous knowledge systems (IKS) through scientific research and creative thinking. He added that manuscripts are not merely relics of the past but valuable reservoirs of knowledge that can guide future development.

The programme was also attended by Registrar Prof. Utpal Sharma, Academic Registrar Prof. Rajiv Sandikar, Prof. Dhruva Pratim Sharma, noted educationist Dr. Dayananda Borgohain, Dr. Biju Moran, Dr. Nityananda Gogoi, along with faculty members, researchers, and students.

Theft of Buddha Statues Shocks Residents in Dirang Monastery

Dirang, Apr 27: Several small Buddha statues were stolen by miscreants from the prayer wheel shed of Thupsung Dargye Ling Monastery in West Kameng district on Saturday morning, leaving the local community shocked. According to reports, at least 20 Buddha statues have gone missing.

Jikmey Rinpoche of the monastery stated that he had noticed for months that some statues were gradually disappearing. However, he suggested that the thefts might have been committed out of ignorance.

"These statues are placed for people to seek peace and offer prayers. They are not antiques," he said, adding that the act is unacceptable regardless of the intent.

The Rinpoche expressed concern that replacing the stolen statues would become increasingly difficult if such incidents continue.

"We never imagined that people could act in such a malicious manner. While CCTV cameras are installed within the monastery premises, the long rows of prayer wheels



outside the main courtyard are not covered," he added, emphasizing the need for additional surveillance. Senior Veterinary Officer Dr. Darge Tsering, who noticed the empty altars during his morning walk, urged visitors to respect religious places. "Such irresponsible acts not only hurt religious sentiments but also create suspicion towards all visitors," he said.

Local residents have expressed strong resentment over the incident and have raised concerns about tourists. They pointed to recent cases of theft and shoplifting in Tawang, along with complaints from resorts, hotels, and homestays about items being stolen by visitors.

Death Sentence in POCSO Case

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The accused, entrusted to escort her, allegedly diverted the vehicle to a secluded area near Kheel, threatened her with a machete, and raped her in a roadside jungle. The court observed that the accused assaulted the child twice—first in a jungle and later behind a bus stop—before abandoning her near Rono Hills and threatening her with severe consequences if she revealed the incident. The victim later informed her family, leading to an FIR being registered at Doimukh police station the same day. During the trial, the prosecution examined 11 witnesses, including the victim, her family members, medical experts, and the

investigating officer. The victim's statement under Section 164 CrPc was found to be consistent and reliable. Medical reports confirmed injuries consistent with sexual assault, including genital injuries. Forensic tests detected human semen on the victim's clothing and biological samples, supporting the prosecution's case. The accused's medical report also indicated recent sexual activity. The court concluded that the prosecution proved the case beyond reasonable doubt and that the accused exploited his familial relationship to commit the crime. Based on ossification tests, the victim was confirmed to be below 18 years of age at the time of the incident. While deciding the sentence, the court noted that the convict was a repeat offender who had previously been sentenced to life imprisonment in another POCSO case. It highlighted repeated assault, breach of trust, and threats, along with the absence of remorse.

Rejecting the defence's plea for leniency, the court ruled that life imprisonment would be inadequate and awarded the death penalty. "The convict poses a serious threat to children in society and deserves the strictest punishment," the court observed. The court also imposed a fine of ₹1 lakh. The matter has been referred to the Gauhati High Court for confirmation of the death sentence. Additionally, the District Legal Services Authority has been directed to provide compensation to the victim under the Arunachal Pradesh Victim's Compensation Act, 2011.

Interstate Liquor Smuggling Racket Busted by ED in Arunachal

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The raids were conducted at Itanagar, Nahagarlagun, Seppa, Ziro, Daporijo, Namsai and Roing in connection with a case registered under Section 17 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002.

ED initiated investigation on the basis of multiple FIRs registered by the Assam Police concerning illegal transportation/smuggling of liquor from Arunachal Pradesh into Assam, supplemented by a reference from the Assam Excise Department. An ECIR was recorded on 17.10.2024, and the scope has since been expanded through an addendum to include 173 additional FIRs. Earlier, during a similar search actions on the premises of three principal manufacturers of liquor in Arunachal Pradesh, alleged to be the kingpins of the network, had indicated that the syndicate exploits the inter-State excise-duty differential by using a chain of manufacturers, bonded warehouses and wholesalers, concealing beneficial ownership behind tribal partnerships and dummy licence holders, and diverting liquor meant for Arunachal Pradesh for illegal sale in Assam and other States. On-site managers of wholesalers confirmed kingpins' beneficial ownership, evidenced by routing of books, stock registers, and cash proceeds to their central offices. Approximately Rs. 40 lakh in unexplained cash was seized, along with 14 seals, including those of the "Excise Department, Government of Arunachal Pradesh", used to fabricate transport permits, indicating undocumented liquor smuggling into Assam.

Sericulture dept trains farmers in beekeeping, silk production

Pasighat, Apr 27: The department of Sericulture under the Directorate of Textile and Handicraft conducted trainings on Beekeeping and promotion of sericulture at Sericulture farm, Sille under Ruksin Sub-Division here in East Siang District recently in which more than 40 farmers took active participation. Registered farmers engaged in beekeeping and sericulture activities, along with interested individuals from nearby villages such as Remi, Tekang, Ruksin, Sika Tode and Sika Bamin, actively participated in the programme to gain first-hand knowledge on rearing bees and silkworms for income generation.

Officials and experts provided hands-on training to the farmers on beekeeping practices, cultivation of sericulture plants, silkworm rearing and silk production, Talong Tadeng, Zonal Officer (Zone-II), said. Talking to the farmers, Deputy Director of Sericulture, Dagmo Riba said that the selected farmers will be further trained on silkworm and bee rearing by providing support from the gov-



ernment on providing equipment and plantations of silkworm plants.

Both Talong Tadeng and Dagmo Riba urged the farmers to use the provided technological knowledge on pre-cocoon (sericulture) and post-cocoon (silk processing) part including bee keeping, to generate income and employment.

Ahmedabad Diary: Congress claims Gujarat local body elections have a BJP-AAP connection

Ahmedabad, Apr 27: During Gujarat's local body elections, Congress launched a fierce attack on both BJP and AAP, turning the campaign into a political showdown. At Congress headquarters, state chief Amit Chavda alleged that the BJP and AAP were "mocking democracy" while pretending to be rivals. He claimed AAP was created to weaken Congress and works as BJP's "B team." Chavda linked past anti-corruption movements to a larger political conspiracy against Congress. Rajya Sabha MP Shaktisinh Gohil also slammed BJP over corruption, inflation, potholes and unemployment. Congress urged voters to press the 'Panja' symbol and send BJP a strong message.

Major IAS reshuffle on the cards post polls

A big administrative upheaval is



set to hit Gujarat in May as the state prepares for a sweeping transfer drive after local body elections. Senior IAS officers, district collectors, DDOs, municipal commissioners and department heads are all in the reshuffle line. Officers posted at the

same place for over three years are likely to be moved first. Key posts currently handled with additional charge will now get full-time appointments. Political equations after the elections are expected to influence several prime postings. Mean-

while, lobbying has already begun, with some officers racing to secure commissioner posts in newly formed municipal corporations. According to sources, Gujarat's eco-tourism sector is set for a major makeover, with Principal Secretary Vinod Rao reportedly bieng handed a high-stakes mission. The Forest and Environment Department has fixed an ambitious target to raise the revenue from 48 eco-tourism sites from '45 crore in two years to a massive '150 crore. Officials are now studying South India's successful tourism models for inspiration. Kerala earns '3,600 crore from 300 sites, Tamil Nadu '1,200 crore from 80 sites, while Karnataka gets '280 crore from 35 locations. Gujarat has also begun drafting a fresh eco-tourism policy and identifying high-potential zones for rapid growth.

Pema Khandu visits Rajnath Singh while Arunachal requests Center push for border infrastructure

Guwahati, Apr 27: Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu met Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh in New Delhi on Sunday, April 26, where he raised the need for continued central assistance for infrastructure work in Arunachal Pradesh, especially in areas close to the border. Khandu noted that recent years have seen noticeable improvements in road connectivity, which have helped meet security needs and made life easier for people in remote border districts. Connectivity issues across different parts of the state were also discussed, including plans related to the Akajan-Likabali-Bame route. As part of this, a bridge over the Taro Tamak River is being planned to improve links between Assam's plains and interior districts such as Upper Subansiri and Shi-Yomi. Sources said much of the work on this route is being carried out by the Border Roads Organisation, which is responsible for projects in difficult



terrain. This road link is important not just for daily movement but also for defence purposes, as it connects interior regions with forward areas near the international border. During the interaction, Rajnath Singh said the proposals placed before him would be looked into, indicating that the Centre is open to supporting such projects.

After the meeting, Khandu said the Defence Ministry's support has helped speed up development work and improve connectivity in remote parts of the state.

Kangpokpi after CCTV captures arson attempt Three Kuki men arrested

Imphal, Apr 27: Manipur Police have arrested three Kuki individuals who were caught on CCTV pouring diesel on the walls of a house in Daili village in Kangpokpi district on Saturday night. The suspects were apprehended on Sunday from a hideout in the district, police reported on Monday. Following an investigation into an FIR registered at Kangpokpi Police Station regarding an attempt to burn a tyre workshop in Daili village, police identified the suspects by scanning CCTV footage installed at the location. They were later identified as Mangminhao Lotjem, Satgoulal Sitlhou, and Seigunlal Lhanghal, all belonging to the Kuki-Zo community. According to the FIR, the individuals arrived in a Mahindra Bolero with Nagaland registration numbers, halting along the national highway on April 24 at around 10 pm. CCTV footage captured them pouring diesel on the walls of a house adjacent to the highway in a deliberate attempt to set



it ablaze. The Daili Village Council, Mao Council (MC), and Mao Students' Union (MSU), in separate statements, condemned the incident and urged the administration to take immediate measures to ensure residents' safety and prevent future occurrences.

Every Indian has stake in Bengal polls

Kolkata, Apr 27: Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma highlighted that every Indian has a stake in the ongoing West Bengal assembly elections, as Bangladeshi infiltrators were creating demographic change in the State and nearby States. Sarma said the BJP will win over 100 of the 126 seats in Assam, and will bag 110 of the 152 seats that went to polls in the first phase of polls in West Bengal. "It would not be surprising if the BJP won over 200 seats in West Bengal. The around 93 per cent voter turnout in phase 1 showed that there is no atmosphere of fear which had earlier prevented people from openly backing the BJP," he said, while addressing a press conference in Kolkata. Sarma said the West Bengal assembly election was not a routine state poll but a contest with civilisational implications for the entire nation, particularly its eastern and northeastern states. "Every Indian has a stake in this election. The impact of infiltration is not limited to West Bengal and Assam. It is spilling over to Jharkhand, Sarma pointed to West Bengal's geography as the central factor, noting that the state shared 54 per cent of India's total border with Bangladesh, compared to Tripura's 21 per cent, Meghalaya's 11 per cent, Mizoram's 8 per cent and Assam's 6 per cent. Bihar and other states," he said, responding to the TMC's narrative of branding BJP leaders as outsiders. He said that if the BJP was not voted to power in West Bengal, the state risked becoming an 'extension of Bangladesh due to unchecked infiltration.

Pawan Khera moves Supreme Court HC rejects anticipatory bail

Guwahati, Apr 27: Congress leader Pawan Khera has approached the Supreme Court of India challenging an April 24 order of the Gauhati High Court that rejected his anticipatory bail plea in connection with a case registered by the Assam Police. The case arises from a First Information Report (FIR) filed by Riniki Bhuyan Sarma, who accused Khera of making defamatory statements during a press conference. In his remarks, Khera had alleged that she possessed multiple foreign passports and held undisclosed assets abroad.

Following the FIR, Khera sought anticipatory bail from the High Court, which



declined relief. He has now moved the Supreme Court seeking protection from arrest. The High Court order was passed by a single-judge Bench of Justice Parthivjiyoti Saikia after reserving judgment on April 21. Opposing the plea, Assam Advocate General De-

vajit Lon Saikia submitted that the case went beyond defamation and involved serious charges, including alleged fabrication of documents and title deeds. He argued that the offences invoked primarily relate to cheating and forgery. Appearing for Khera, senior

advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi argued that the proceedings were politically motivated and referred to alleged remarks made by Himanta Biswa Sarma. He contended that the case reflected political vendetta, particularly in the context of impending elections. Senior counsel

K.N. Choudhary echoed these arguments, describing the allegations as "scandalous" and asserting that their tone indicated deliberate malice. The defence maintained that, at most, the matter amounted to criminal defamation, which should be pursued through a private complaint.

Rati Bihu celebration in Doomdooma to showcase Moran traditions

Guwahati, Apr 27: In an effort to preserve and promote the cultural heritage of the indigenous Moran community, the All Moran Students' Union (AMSU), Doomdooma unit, will organise "Rati Bihu Udyapan-2026" on April 27 at the Doomdooma Town Field in Tinsukia district. The initiative comes amid growing concerns over the gradual erosion of traditional practices due to rapid modernisation. Organisers said the programme aims to provide a platform for younger generations to reconnect with their roots while reinforcing a sense of community identity. "Rati Bihu reflects our heritage and values. This effort is to ensure its continuity for future generations," an organiser said. The event is being jointly organised by the Assam Moran Sabha, Moran Jatiya Mahila Parishad, and the All Moran Art and Craft Development Centre, along with AMSU's regional committees, with support from local residents. The day-long programme will begin with flag hoisting at 10 a.m., followed by



cultural events, release of a Smriti Grantha, and a felicitation ceremony. The main Rati Bihu performance is scheduled to commence at 9:30 pm featuring traditional music, dance and rituals associated with the Mo-

ran community. Nobajyoti Moran, president of the AMSU Doomdooma organisational committee, said such initiatives play a vital role in preserving cultural identity and reconnecting the youth with their roots.

Dibrugarh toll plazas within 14 km comply

Dibrugarh, Apr 27: The National Highways & Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd. (NHIDCL) has clarified that the two toll plazas located within a 14-kilometre stretch in Assam's Dibrugarh district are in full compliance with the existing rules and guidelines of the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH). The clarification came in response to a public grievance filed by a resident, Arnab Handique, regarding the proximity of Khowang Toll Plaza on NH-37 and Bogibeel Toll Plaza on NH-15. "In the present case, Khowang Toll Plaza (NH-37) and Bogibeel Toll Plaza (NH-15) are part of different national highways and separate project stretches. Therefore, their establishment is in conformity with the applicable MoRTH rules and guidelines," the NHIDCL stated. The corporation concluded that no violation of norms has occurred and the placement of both toll plazas is legally valid. The communication was issued by Rupesh Kumar, General Manager (Projects), NHIDCL PMU, Dibrugarh, for the information of the complainant. According to an official communication issued by NHIDCL's Project Monitoring Unit (PMU) in Dibrugarh, the matter was examined by the Authori-



ty Engineer, M/s URS Scott Wilson India Pvt. Ltd., following instructions from the competent authority. A detailed report was subsequently submitted on April 23, 2026. The report noted that toll fee collection on national highways is governed by the National Highways Fee (Determination of Rates and Collection) Rules, 2008. As per these provisions, the minimum distance criterion between two toll plazas generally applies only when they are located on the same national highway and within the same project stretch.

However, NHIDCL clarified that this restriction does not apply in cases where toll plazas are situated on different national highways or are part of separate project stretches or contract packages, even if they fall within the same district.

Women's groups, police seize over 1,000 litre

Imphal, Apr 27: Manipur Police, with support from local organisations, including women's groups, carried out coordinated drives against illicit distilled indigenous country liquor (DIC) across parts of the state, officials said on Sunday. In one such operation, a large consignment of illegal liquor was seized and destroyed at Wanglee village in Kamjong district. According to sources, local women vigilante groups intercepted two vehicles transporting the contraband from Yairipok in Thoubal district around noon. Approximately 700 litres of illicit liquor were recovered during the operation. The seized consignment was later burned. The identities of those involved in transporting the liquor were yet to be established at the time of reporting. In a separate operation, Manipur Police arrested a 26-year-old man,



identified as Chingakhom Nilabir Singh of Andro Khunou Leikai in Imphal East district, at Mayang Imphal Thongkhong. Police said around 270 litres of DIC liquor, along with 80 half-bottles amounting to an additional 40 litres, were seized from his possession. The accused, along with the confiscated liquor, has been handed over to the Excise Department for further action.

Security Forces Conduct Joint Operations in Manipur

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On April 19, Assam Rifles, along with the Kakching Commando team, launched an operation at Kakching Lamkhai Laipham Loknung, resulting in the apprehension of an active cadre

of PREPAK (Pro).On April 20, acting on credible intelligence, Assam Rifles conducted a coordinated operation in Tengnoupal district and apprehended two cadres—one from PREPAK (Pro) and another from PLA.On April 21, during an operation in the jungle areas of T Bongmol in Tengnoupal district, security forces recovered one rifle, one carbine, two radio sets, and four Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs).On April 23, Assam Rifles and Chandel Police carried out a joint operation in the dense marshy forests near Khumkot village under Khengjoi subdivision.

The forces recovered four rifles, four pompi guns, seven bombs, three grenades with a detonator, and five radio sets.



Khandu seeks Rajnath’s support to strengthen Arunachal infrastructure

Itanagar, Apr 27: Arunachal Chief Minister Pema Khandu called on Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh in New Delhi on Sunday and sought continued support from the Centre for strengthening critical infrastructure in Arunachal Pradesh, particularly in strategically important border areas.

Detailed discussions were held on connectivity requirements across the state, with a specific focus on the strategic Akajan–Likabali–Bame corridor. The project includes the construction of a crucial bridge over the Taro Tamak River, which is expected to improve access between the plains of Assam and remote districts such as Upper Subansiri and Shi-Yomi in Arunachal Pradesh.

“Discussed key priority projects to enhance road connectivity, including the Akajan–Likabali–Bame corridor, along with the proposed bridge over the Taro Tamak River,” Khandu later took to social media to state.

“Grateful for his unwavering support towards development of border infrastructure and the transformation of forward areas in Arunachal Pradesh,” the Chief Minister stated.



Khandu noted that such developments have contributed to enhancing security along the state’s extensive international borders while also improving the quality of life for residents in remote regions.

Officials said most segments of the strategically significant road were being executed by the Border Roads Organisation, which plays a key role in developing infrastructure in difficult and sensitive terrains.The corridor is considered vital for both civilian connectivity and defence preparedness, as

Arunachal Chief Minister Pema Khandu met with Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh to request ongoing support for infrastructure development in Arunachal Pradesh, especially in border areas.

it links interior regions to forward areas along the international boundary.

The Defence Minister, in response to the proposals, assured that all infrastructure projects and development initiatives in Arunachal Pradesh would be given due consideration.

SC moved by Pawan Khera after Gauhati HC order

Guwahati, Apr 27: Congress leader Pawan Khera has approached the Supreme Court against Gauhati High Court’s rejection of his anticipatory bail plea in connection with an FIR filed by Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma’s wife, Riniki Bhuyan Sharma, over his allegations related to her holding multiple passports and properties abroad.

The SC, however is yet to assign his bail petition to a bench for hearing and therefore the matter is not yet listed.Vide the impugned order, the Gauhati High Court had denied Khera anticipatory bail, observing that he dragged an “innocent lady” into the controversy to gain political mileage. Prior to that, the Telangana High Court, on April 10, granted one week transit anticipatory bail to Khera and permitted him to move before the concerned court. The anticipatory bail was filed in Hyderabad, where Khera was stated to have a residence.

Aizawl municipal polls: ZPM wins 17 out of 19 wards

Aizawl, Apr 27: The ruling Zoram People’s Movement (ZPM) registered an emphatic victory in the Aizawl Municipal Corporation (AMC) election, the results of which were declared by the Mizoram State Election Commission (SEC) today. ZPM swept the polls by winning as many as 17 out of total 19 wards while the opposition Mizo National Front (MNF) and the Congress cut a sorry figure as they managed to win only one seat each. The situation was even worse for the BJP, which had fielded 11 candidates but failed to even open its account. The ZPM, the MNF and the Congress had nominated 19 candidates each. The counting of votes started at 8 am at Aizawl Deputy Commissioner’s office today and the final results were declared after the counting process was completed at 2 pm. The polling was held on April 21, and witnessed a voter turnout of over 61 per cent. Altogether 68 candidates, including 28 women, are in the fray for this year’s Aizawl Municipal Corporation elections. Earlier, Chief Minister Lalduhoma had exuded confidence about ZPM’s victory, saying that the party will win at least 16 seats or more.

River Management Awareness Spreads Among Students Through Arunachal School Events

Boleng, Apr 27: A comprehensive school exhibition focused on river conservation and sustainable infrastructure has engaged more than 330 students across Boleng Town in Arunachal Pradesh.

Concluding a robust three-day educational drive, the initiative sought to demystify complex regional development and ecological management for the local youth.

Commencing on April 20 at the Govt. Upper Primary School in Rengo, the campaign rapidly expanded its footprint across the municipality. It subsequently reached approximately 50 students at the PM SHRI Secondary School on April 21, culminating in a substantial turnout of 130 students at the Govt. Higher Secondary School on April 22.

The targeted outreach aimed to foster transparent dialogues regarding the developmental trajectory of the Siang Upper Multipurpose Project (SUMP).

Eschewing monotonous classroom lectures, the educational drive deployed a dynamic 12-zone visual walkthrough. On-ground educators personally guided students through the intricate journey of the Siang



River, translating complex paradigms such as flood mitigation, clean electricity generation, and balanced growth into digestible, factual lessons.

A defining element of the campaign was the distribution of a bespoke, anime-style FAQ comic. Leveraging culturally resonant storytelling formats, the literature effectively countered local misinformation, equipping students with empirical data regarding the region’s infrastructure initiatives in a highly memorable

format.

“Integrating complex developmental science with relatable narrative structures is imperative for effective pedagogy,” stated a senior school administrator present during the drive.

“This visual and interactive approach has demonstrably ignited genuine inquiry.

It empowers our students to comprehend the factual realities of their region’s future rather than relying on hearsay,” the school administrator said.

ZPM Secures Landslide Victory In Aizawl Municipal Corporation Polls

Aizawl, Apr 27: The ruling Zoram People’s Movement (ZPM) has registered a sweeping victory in the Aizawl Municipal Corporation (AMC) elections, securing 17 of the 19 wards in the civic body. The results, announced by the Mizoram State Election Commission on Monday, mark a decisive shift in the city’s political landscape. The main opposition Mizo National Front (MNF), which had dominated the 2021 polls with 11 seats, managed to retain only one ward this time. The Congress also secured a single seat, while the BJP, which contested 11 wards, failed to win any. ZPM, which had won six seats in the previous election, emerged as the clear front-



runner in this year’s contest. All six wards reserved for women under the Mizoram Municipalities Act, 2007, were claimed by ZPM candidates. Established in 2010, the AMC has seen varied political control, with the

Congress winning the inaugural election, followed by MNF victories in 2015 and 2021. The civic polls, held on April 21, recorded a voter turnout of 62.77 per cent from a total electorate of 2.39 lakh. Counting was

conducted peacefully at the Aizawl deputy commissioner’s office. The Zoram People’s Movement (ZPM) has solidified its political dominance in Mizoram by securing a landslide victory in the Aizawl Municipal Corporation (AMC) elections. In a decisive mandate declared on Monday, April 27, 2026, the ruling party swept 17 out of the 19 available wards, effectively uprooting the opposition and taking full control of the state’s primary urban local body. The results represent a dramatic shift in the local political landscape. The Mizo National Front (MNF), which had held 11 seats following the 2021 elections and previously governed the corporation, was reduced single seat.

Tourists Flock to Butterfly Park at Pakke Tiger Reserve in Big Numbers

Itanagar, Apr 27: Visitors from Arunachal Pradesh and Assam are increasingly exploring the Butterfly Park inside Pakke Tiger Reserve at Sejosa in Pakke Kessang district, which is steadily emerging as a major tourist attraction in the region.

Established in 2024 and inaugurated by Arunachal Pradesh Health Minister Biyuram Wahge at the West Bank Forest Camp, the park is contributing to biodiversity conservation while also promoting eco-tourism.

Basang Wahge, Honorary Wildlife Warden, Pakke Tiger Reserve, Pakke Kessang district, said the area is home to more than 360 species of butterflies.

He said the park has been developed to conserve and showcase this rich diversity, while also creating awareness among visitors.

Wahge further said that annual butterfly meets are organised with

NFR RPF seizes ganja worth ₹29 lakh in crackdown



Guwahati, Apr 27: The Railway Protection Force (RPF) of Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) launched an intensive crackdown against trafficking of contraband goods over three days and seized ganja worth over Rs 29 lakh recently, NFR sources confirmed.

“During intensive checks and operations conducted from April 20 to 22, 2026, RPF teams recovered nearly 60 kg of ganja worth over Rs 29 lakh from different railway stations under NFR jurisdiction,” a statement issued by NFR on Sunday said.

“In addition, three persons involved in illegal transportation of ganja were apprehended and handed over to the respective GRP outpost for further necessary action to be undertaken,” it said.

On April 22, an RPF team of Agartala jointly with GRP apprehended one person at Agartala railway station and seized around six kilograms of ganja worth approximately Rs 3

lakh. The apprehended person along with the contraband item was handed over to GRP/Agartala outpost.

In another major operation on April 21, 2026, an RPF team of Agartala, in coordination with GRP, apprehended two persons at Agartala railway station and seized around 21.48 kg ganja worth approximately Rs 10.74 lakh from their possession.

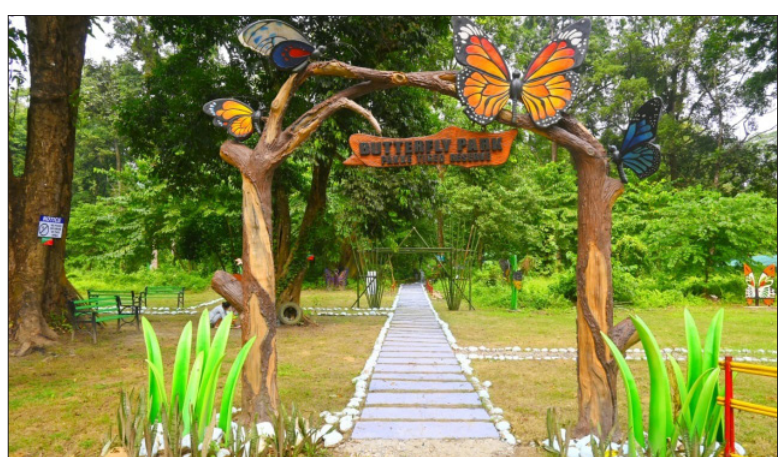
The apprehended individuals along with the seized ganja were handed over to GRP/Agartala outpost, for further necessary action.

Earlier on April 20, RPF personnel of New Jalpaiguri railway station recovered substantial quantities of unclaimed ganja in two separate incidents during routine checking and drives.

In the first case, approximately 18 kilograms of ganja worth Rs nine lakh was recovered, while in another similar operation, approximately 13.80 kg ganja valued approximately Rs 6.90 lakh was seized.

Army conducts mega rally to strengthen veteran connect

Likabali, Apr 27: Spearhead Division of Spearcorps organised a large-scale Veterans Rally on 26 April 2026, in close coordination with the State and District Administrations of Assam and Arunachal Pradesh. The event witnessed an overwhelming participation of over 1,500 veterans, Veer Naris, serving soldiers, Next of Kin (NOKs) and dependents, reflecting the strong bond between the Armed Forces and its veteran fraternity. The primary objective of the rally was to reach out to veterans and address key concerns, including pension disbursement anomalies, land and legal matters and other challenges faced by veterans and their families. The Hon’ble Governor of Arunachal Pradesh, Lt Gen KT Parnaik (Retd), graced the occasion as the Chief Guest and addressed the gathering. Representatives from Rajya Sainik Board Itanagar, Zila Sainik Welfare Offices of Dibrugarh and Lakhimpur, PCDA Guwahati, ECHS, Record Offices, along with officials from state and district administration, government agencies and various banks present at the venue actively assisted veterans in resolving grievances and provided necessary guidance and support. Veterans were also sensitised about resettlement schemes, second career avenues and reemployment opportunities facilitated by the Army Welfare Placement Organisation (AWPO). A comprehensive medical camp was organised to cater to the healthcare needs of attendees. On this occasion, Veer Naris, Veer Matas, Veer Putris, special children and distinguished veteran achievers were felicitated by the Chief Guest in recognition of their resilience and contributions. In his address, the Hon’ble Governor highlighted the invaluable contributions of veterans and the supreme sacrifices made by soldiers in service to the nation. He also spoke on pension-related issues, welfare schemes and lauded the wholehearted support of the civil administration in successfully conducting the rally. Adding vibrancy to the event, a cultural programme was presented by students of Sainik School Ruksin and NCC cadets, showcasing patriotic fervour and youthful energy. The rally proved to be a significant initiative in addressing routine challenges faced by veterans and Veer Naris. It provided a direct platform for interaction with authorities and reinforced the commitment of the Army and civil administration towards the welfare of the veteran community. The event concluded on a highly successful note, leaving a lasting positive impact on all participants and further strengthening the bond with the veteran fraternity.



the participation of local youth and NGOs to encourage community involvement.

According to him, the best time to witness butterflies in large numbers is during the spring season. The park is attracting a growing number of visitors and is helping raise awareness about butterfly species and their

important role in maintaining ecological balance. Facilities at the park include a butterfly information centre with detailed displays on various species, informative boards installed across the premises, designated selfie points and artistic installations, making it both educational and engaging for visitors.

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The Rise of Lifestyle Diseases

Lifestyle-related diseases such as diabetes, hypertension, and heart conditions are on the rise. Sedentary habits, unhealthy diets, and high stress levels are key contributors to this growing health concern. Unlike infectious diseases, these conditions develop gradually, often going unnoticed until they become severe. This makes prevention both critical and challenging. Urban lifestyles, long working hours, and lack of physical activity have created an environment where unhealthy habits are normalised. Addressing this issue requires awareness, behavioural change, and supportive infrastructure—such as access to healthy food and spaces for physical activity. Health must become a priority, not an afterthought.

Where justice initially fails

Justice does not collapse in the courtroom without warning. It is often weakened much earlier—during investigation, in the quiet discipline of recording facts. The written record, omissions, and ambiguities largely determine the direction of a case by the time it reaches trial. The outrage surrounding the Arnamai Bora rape and murder case is justified. But outrage, by itself, does not secure justice. Process does. At the centre of that process lies the case diary. Mandated under Section 172 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, it is meant to capture, day by day, the course of investigation—information received, visits made, evidence collected, and witnesses examined. It is not routine paperwork. It is the foundation on which prosecution stands or falls. When the case diary is strong, it lends coherence to the case. When it is weak, the case begins to unravel—often irreversibly. In Assam, the realities of investigation are demanding. Terrain delays access. Resources are stretched. Communities are closely knit, making witnesses cautious and evidence harder to secure. These constraints are real, but they make precision more necessary, not less. When conditions are difficult, the standard of documentation cannot afford to slip. The margin for error is small; the cost of error is high. Courts are not guided by sentiment. They look for consistency. Every step—from the crime scene to the courtroom—must form a clear and unbroken chain. Who arrived first? Was the scene secured? How was evidence handled? When were witnesses examined, and what did they say at the outset? These are not minor details; they are the structure of the case itself. The case diary must answer them. If it does not, doubt enters—and in criminal law, doubt tilts the balance in favour of the accused. This is decisive in cases of sexual violence and murder. Forensic evidence is often seen as conclusive, but it is only as reliable as the process behind it. A DNA report may be scientifically sound, yet its credibility can be undermined if the chain of custody is unclear or poorly recorded. Science cannot rescue a compromised process. Where documentation is weak, even strong evidence loses its force. India’s recent legal history offers enough reminders. The Aarushi Talwar case exposed how investigative lapses can cloud a prosecution. The Sohrabuddin Sheikh encounter case revealed how inconsistencies weaken a case over time. The prolonged course of the Malegaon blast case has again highlighted the cost of procedural gaps. These cases differ widely, but they underline the same principle: weak documentation creates strong doubt. Witness testimony only adds to the challenge. Memories fade. Statements change. Witnesses turn hostile. What often remains steady is what was recorded at the earliest stage. A precise case diary preserves that first account, allowing the prosecution to confront contradictions. Without it, the case begins to lose direction. This is where accountability becomes unavoidable. When a case ends in acquittal, it is recorded as a legal outcome. But the reasons—delays, omissions, inconsistencies—are not always examined with the seriousness they deserve. A failed investigation is not merely a lapse; it risks becoming a second injustice. The victim’s family suffers not only from the crime but also from the system’s failure. Discover mor Conviction rates in serious offences show gradual improvement, but they also reflect a fundamental reality: criminal law demands proof beyond doubt. Courts do not expect perfection, but they insist on coherence. When investigation is thorough and documentation disciplined, cases withstand scrutiny. When they are not, even grave charges fail to secure conviction. Public anger in cases like that of Arnamai Bora is natural. There is a demand for swift justice, and rightly so. But speed cannot substitute rigour. A hurried case that collapses on appeal does not deliver justice—it delays it. Justice must be built carefully, step by step, so that it endures. The solution does not lie in sweeping changes but in strengthening fundamentals. The case diary must be treated as a critical legal document, not an administrative formality. This requires better training, timely recording, wider adoption of digital tools, and stronger supervision. These are not abstract reforms; they are practical necessities. Ultimately, justice is not determined by dramatic courtroom moments, but rather by meticulous attention to detail. The case diary remains unseen, but it is decisive. It does not speak loudly, yet it carries the weight of truth. When it is strong, justice stands. When it is weak, justice does not fail in a moment—it slips away, quietly and permanently.

Energy crisis: worldwide issue, local failing

More than a month and a half has passed since the Middle East war began to affect Bangladesh’s energy sector. During this period, although the BNP government managed to import fuel oil and LNG from various sources, it has failed to ensure discipline in the distribution process across the country.

As a result, on the one hand, the government claims that there is sufficient stock, news reports highlight the arrival of successive fuel shipments, and there are accounts of Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC) depots overflowing with fuel. On the other hand, consumers’ suffering shows no sign of easing. Long queues of motorcycles and private cars can be seen at filling stations. Public transport operations have declined due to diesel shortages. Farmers and fishermen are not getting enough diesel to meet their needs. Consequently, farmers are unable to irrigate their fields on time, and fishermen cannot go to rivers or the sea for fishing. This means the fuel held by the government is not reaching people at the pumps. The government is failing to manage the fuel supply chain properly. A group is creating artificial scarcity and selling fuel at higher prices elsewhere, while ordinary people are deprived of access. Meanwhile, electricity generation has also declined due to the energy crisis. Against a demand exceed-

ing 16,000 megawatts, production stands at 13,000 to 14,000 megawatts. As a result, more than 2,000 megawatts of load shedding is being imposed daily, most of which is borne by rural populations. While load shedding is relatively lower in Dhaka and other cities, rural areas are experiencing 7–8 hours of outages.

Although the government had initially pledged not to raise fuel prices following the outbreak of war in the Middle East, it has recently done so for all types of fuel. Diesel prices have increased by 15 percent from Tk 100 to Tk 115, the highest in the country’s history. Prices of other fuels have also reached record levels: octane has risen from Tk 120 to Tk 140, petrol from Tk 116 to Tk 135, and kerosene from Tk 112 to Tk 130. According to economic principles, the demand for essential goods such as food, medicine, or fuel does not decrease even when prices rise, because they are necessary for survival. For example, life-saving medicines such as insulin have no substitutes; patients are compelled to purchase them regardless of price increases. In economic terms, the price elasticity of demand for essential goods is typically very low—this is known as inelastic demand. Since demand does not fall, hoarding persists even when prices increase. In fact, hoarders may intensify stockpiling in antic-



ipation of selling at even higher prices. Therefore, increasing the price of such essential goods does not reduce shortages unless supply is increased; rather, it fuels inflation. The same phenomenon is evident following the recent fuel price hike. Even before the increase, transport fares for goods carriers had risen due to the fuel crisis. After the price hike on April 18, fares have increased further. While diesel prices rose by 15 percent, field-level data indicate that truck and covered van fares have increased by up to 35 percent. In addition to higher transport costs, there is also a shortage of vehicles. As a result, the cost of transporting agricultural produce—including grains, vegetables, raw materials, seasonal fruits, and processed foods—has increased. Not only agri-

cultural goods, but also the cost of transporting industrial goods for import and export has risen. Diesel is also used in agricultural machinery, irrigation, electricity generation, and industry. Consequently, the cost of all goods and services, including agriculture and industry, will increase. While BPC may earn an additional Tk 700–800 crore per month due to the fuel price hike, the resulting increase in transport costs, commodity prices, and overall cost of living will amount to several thousand crore taka. However, BPC is not a loss-making entity. It could have continued operations for several more months without raising prices by utilising the funds accumulated from past profits. Over the past 11 years, BPC has earned approximately Tk 52,000 crore in profit—an annu-

al average of around Tk 4,500 crore. Employees have received substantial bonuses from these profits. This raises the question of whether BPC is behaving like a hoarder. Notably, following the price increase, BPC announced a 10–20 percent increase in supply. Moreover, the government earns substantial revenue from BPC each year through duties and taxes—over Tk 125,000 crore in the past 11 years. In other words, when global oil prices were low, both BPC and the government benefited, but during times of crisis, the burden is shifted onto the public. The government has cited examples of fuel price increases in other countries. However, in those countries, consumers benefit when international prices fall; unlike Bangladesh, where prices remain high to ensure prof-

it. The pricing formula used in Bangladesh is flawed as it incorporates VAT, taxes, and profit margins, ensuring that BPC makes a profit regardless of the price.

Therefore, the government should withdraw the price hike. The substantial profits previously earned by BPC should be used to create an emergency fund, which can be utilised to subsidise prices during crises. Rather than increasing prices, the solution to the fuel crisis lies in establishing discipline in the supply system. Fuel must be supplied to pumps according to demand. All pumps should remain open simultaneously, and fuel availability must be ensured. In urban areas, digital fuel pass systems should be rolled out to ensure transparent sales, preventing individuals from purchasing fuel more than once within a specified period. Records of fuel sales should be maintained at the pump level and audited to find irregularities. In rural areas, especially for farmers and fishermen, fuel distribution should be managed through manual fuel cards. Local government institutions and the Department of Agricultural Extension should be involved in this process.

While the global energy crisis lies beyond the government’s control, its failure to manage the domestic distribution of expensive imported fuel is not. Without addressing this failure, price hikes will only deepen public suffering.

Pakistan is at a perilous point due to Khan’s death rumors and Munir’s firm hold

Imran Khan is currently in jail serving a 14-year sentence on corruption charges related to the Al-Qadir Trust case, a charge he claims is politically motivated. He has been incarcerated since August 2023 and faces numerous other legal cases. Khan and his party, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), maintain that the dozens of cases against him are fabricated by the military establishment and the current government to keep him out of politics. The military denies these allegations. Relations between Imran Khan and General Asim Munir are widely reported as highly strained and defined by a deep personal and political animosity. There is a significant power struggle between the jailed former prime minister and the powerful army chief, who is currently the most influential figure in the Pakistani establishment. The animosity reportedly stems from General Munir’s brief tenure as head of the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) in 2019, during which he was dismissed by Khan, allegedly after bringing corruption findings involving Khan’s wife, Bushra Bibi, to his attention. Khan has repeatedly and publicly accused General Munir of being the “most oppressive dictator” in the country’s history and of orchestrating a vindictive political crackdown, his numerous arrests, and the mistreatment of him and his wife in custody.

Khan has explicitly stated that he will not engage in dialogue with the current government or the military establishment, asserting that all power lies with General Munir. The relationship is characterised by ongoing political and legal battles, with no signs of reconciliation. Imran Khan’s family members have voiced grave concerns over his safety and well-being, pointing to his total isolation, the denial of family and lawyer visits, and the lack of a “proof of life” as the basis for their fears amid death rumours. His sisters, Aleema Khan, Noreen Niazi and Uzma Khan, have been outspoken critics of the authorities’ treatment of Imran Khan. They state they



have been denied visits for several weeks despite court orders, keeping the family in the dark about his condition. They reported being “brutally assaulted” by police while peacefully protesting and demanding to meet him outside Adiala Jail. While they have used strong language about the general treatment, Aleema Khan has also been quoted as saying, “My brother’s life is not in danger,” and “No one can dare touch my brother,” suggesting a belief that public and international attention provides a level of protection, even as access is denied.

They have consulted lawyers to file a petition demanding Imran Khan be produced in court to ensure transparency. Imran Khan’s son, Kasim Khan, has made a direct appeal to the international community for intervention. He expressed deep concern over the “absolute blackout” of communication, noting the family has had “no phone calls, no meetings and no proof of life” for over a month. He highlighted that his father has been held in solitary confinement in a “death cell” with zero transparency, a deliberate attempt to hide his condition. Imran Khan’s ex-wife Jemima Goldsmith has also used social media to raise the alarm, emphasising that while she may disagree with him politically, the situation concerns human rights and her children’s father.

She has pointed out that all visits have been stopped and weekly calls to their sons have been cut off. She alleged that Pakistani authorities have threatened to arrest her sons if they visit the country to see their father. Thus, the family’s primary fear stems from the total lack of communication and access, which they believe is an intentional strategy by authorities to conceal his well-being and is a clear violation of his basic human rights. The Islamabad High Court had ordered that former Prime Minister Imran Khan be allowed biweekly access for meetings with his family, lawyers, and friends. However, recent reports indicate that jail authorities have repeatedly failed to comply with this order. The rumours of Imran Khan’s death triggered significant protests outside Adiala Jail, with thousands of his supporters from the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party demanding proof of life and the restoration of visitation rights. Khan’s sisters, who have been denied access for weeks, accused the police of brutal treatment during a protest, further escalating tensions. The Islamabad High Court had initially restored Khan’s visitation rights on March 24, 2025, and issued a subsequent directive on October 24, 2025, ordering Adiala Jail authorities to fully implement the approved meeting schedule. The agreed schedule

was for family and lawyers on Tuesdays and friends on Thursdays. Despite these clear court orders, Khan’s family members, including his sisters and lawyers, have been repeatedly denied access to meet him. As of late November 2025, the denial of access is ongoing, with his family and party members staging protests outside the jail. Concerns have been raised by his party (PTI) about his wellbeing and location within the jail due to the lack of access and transparency. Jail officials have cited security concerns and alleged violations of rules (such as making political statements after meetings) as reasons for restricting access. The court has mandated that visitors sign an undertaking not to speak to the media after meetings to address this. In essence, while the court has clearly mandated biweekly access, the implementation of this order remains a point of contention and is reportedly not being consistently followed by the jail authorities. Rumours of former Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan’s death in jail have been officially denied by Pakistani authorities. Pakistani prison officials and the Ministry of Information have repeatedly dismissed the claims as “baseless”, “fake”, and part of a social media misinformation campaign. They insist Khan is in good health and receiving full

medical attention at Adiala Jail in Rawalpindi. The United Nations (UN) has consistently called on Pakistani authorities to respect and fully uphold Imran Khan’s human rights and due process protections. In the most recent statements (as of November 2025), Farhan Haq, the Deputy Spokesperson for the UN Secretary-General, reaffirmed the UN’s position, following concerns and speculation about Khan’s well-being and reports that his family had been denied access to him. He stated, “We have called for his human rights and due process rights to be respected.” The statement serves as a call to Pakistan’s institutions to ensure justice is not only done but is seen to be done, in compliance with both domestic and international human rights norms. General Asim Munir was recently elevated to the rank of Field Marshal and granted extensive new powers, including authority over all three defence services and enhanced legal protections. Critics argue that the move consolidates his control over Pakistan’s military and political landscape, further marginalising Imran Khan’s Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), despite Pakistan’s setbacks and losses following India’s Operation Sindoor. Amid recent rumours about Khan’s health and safety in jail, he has instructed his party to hold General Munir accountable if anything happens to him, highlighting the extreme level of distrust. In conclusion, Imran Khan’s legal cases are indicative of deep divisions in Pakistani politics because they are widely seen as politically motivated tools used by entrenched elites and the powerful military establishment to sideline a popular opponent. The perception has in tensified the struggle between Khan’s populist movement and the state’s traditional power structures, resulting in extreme polarisation and public unrest. Ultimately, the cases are not just about legal technicalities but are a central front in a larger power struggle that has intensified political polarisation and brought the country to a critical juncture.

Q4 impact: IndusInd Bank shares jump 6%; RBL, Axis Bank tank 5% each Target prices

New Delhi: Shares of IndusInd Bank Ltd climbed 6 per cent, while RBL Bank Ltd and AxisBank declined 5 per cent, as the three stocks reacted to their March quarter earnings. IndusInd Bank reported a Q4 profit beat, driven by lower provisioning, whereas RBL Bank missed analyst estimates due to softer margins and fee income, along with sustained stress in the credit card segment. In the case of Axis Bank, a miss on operating profit hurt sentiment. Analysts said one-off tax benefit gain were used to shore up provision buffer by the lender. IndusInd Bank shares rose 6.12 per cent to hit a high of Rs 899.90 on NSE. RBL Bank shares fell 4.76 per cent to Rs 306.10. Axis Bank declined 4.83 per cent to Rs 1,299.90 apiece. ICICI Securities, India’s third largest broking firm in terms of active clients, said the worst is likely over for IndusInd Bank, with potentially better growth and credit costs ahead. Yet the path to loan growth normalisation appears arduous, given mix change at IndusInd Bank, foggy macro for vehicle/SME segments and competitive deposits mobilisation environment. For now, the brokerage suggested a target of Rs 900 on the stock. ICICI Securities said the lender’s reported strong growth but net interest margin (NIM) contracted sharply. Credit card stress may remain elevated in H1FY27, it warned. It suggested a revised target of Rs 390 on the stock.

Antique Stock Broking maintained ‘HOLD’ rating on the stock with a revised target of Rs 915 from Rs 930. Nirmal Bang Institutional Equities maintained a ‘HOLD’ rating on IndusInd Bank with a target price of Rs 899 against Rs 807 earlier. Nuvama Institutional Equities said it believes earnings and credit costs may improve for IndusInd Bank, but the trajectory towards normalised loan growth remains challenging. “The stock currently trades at 1x FY27E P/BV; retain ‘HOLD’ with an unchanged target of Rs 900/1x FY27E BV,” it said.HDFC Securities, the sixth-largest Indian broker in terms of active clients in FY26, said IndusInd Bank’s Q4 results beat its estimates on the back of lower-than-ex-

pected provisioning, even as the bank continued to de-grow credit book and improve its credit quality marginally. The growth was sub-par, it noted. HDFC Securities cited multiple handicaps around a sub-par deposit franchise, inadequate provisioning buffers, and stress in its unsecured book that still needs fixing to maintained ‘Reduce’ and a target Rs 760. Elara Securities said while strategic repair is underway, the current valuation of 1 times FY28E P/BV, following a 12 per cent outperformance in the past three months, largely captures the recent progress as well as residual risks. This brokerage wants greater consistency in earnings and return ratios before turning more constructive. “Our FY27/

FY28 earnings broadly remains unchanged, and we introduce FY29 earnings estimate. We retain Accumulate, with a target of Rs 345, based on 1.1x FY28E P/BV, as we roll forward to March 2028E,” it said.MOFSL said RBL Bank has continued to pursue calibrated expansion in the unsecured segment. Additionally, the capital infusion from Emirates NBD is expected to support stronger credit growth, it said.“On asset quality, slippages are expected to remain elevated in 1HFY27, primarily driven by credit cards, before moderating thereafter. We thus estimate RoA to recover to 1.3 per cent by FY28E. Reiterate BUY with a target of Rs 370 (1.3x Sep’27E ABV),” MOFSL said.

India Notifies SAF-Blended Jet Fuel Use for Aviation AI boom facing new risk shortage due to West Asia war is threatening chip production



New Delhi: The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has officially permitted the use of Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) blended with Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) for aircraft, aiming to cut emissions from international flights. The amendment to the ATF (Regulation of Marketing) Order, 2001, notified on April 17, 2026, expands the definition of ATF to include SAF co-processed in refineries and SAF blended to meet BIS standards. Officials said the move aligns India with global supply chains and prepares the aviation sector for stricter international emission rules. SAF, derived from renewable feedstocks such as crops, residues, and waste, offers significant greenhouse gas reductions and is fully compatible with aircraft engines. Recognized by the International Civil

Aviation Organisation (ICAO), SAF undergoes rigorous testing before approval. Under ICAO’s CORSIA scheme, mandatory emission offsetting begins in 2027, with India setting blending targets of 1% in 2027, 2% in 2028, and 5% in 2030.

The inclusion of SAF is expected to reduce offsetting requirements for international carriers operating from India. Globally, similar mandates are being introduced: the EU requires 2% SAF blending by 2025 and up to 70% by 2050, while the UK, U.S., Japan, and Singapore have set their own targets. The government said the amendment underscores India’s commitment to green fuel transition, strengthening domestic production capabilities, and positioning the country as a key player in the emerging clean energy ecosystem.

NTPC, Jio Financial, Apollo Hospital among top stock

Mumbai: Stock brokerages largely maintained ‘Buy’ rating on Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL), even as its consolidated Ebitda and profit missed their estimates due to weaker-than-expected oil-to-chemical (O2C), upstream, and other segment earnings. Despite trimming their FY27 and FY28 estimates by 3-6 per cent, analysts see upside potential for RIL, saying all eyes are on the upcoming initial public offer (IPO) by Reliance Jio Platforms. Emkay Global noted that the West Asia crisis disrupted refining as well as propane-butane diversion to LPG and HP-HT gas diversion to priority sectors and SAED. Petchem deltas weakened due to sharp rise in naphtha prices. Nuvama said the New Energy rollout is on track. At 10GW capacity, RIL could add 6 per cent to profit after tax, it said. Polysilicon, ingot/wafer and glass units is seen getting started by end-FY27 while BESS Phase-I 40GWh battery pack, containers and cells will start in FY27, Nuvama said captive power cost may fall 25 per cent, adding another 6 per cent to PAT, as per the management. This brokerage cut its FY27 and FY28 Ebitda estimates by 5 per cent and 3 per cent to factor in weak O2C and retail. It retained ‘Buy’ on the stock with a target of Rs 1,765.“RIL diversified sourcing (with



40-45 per cent of the ME supply impacted), while time charters insulated it from higher shipping costs. In Jio, 4-5 per cent ARPU growth may continue due to mix change, even without a tariff hike,” Emkay said adding that it slightly raised its O2C target multiple while cutting that for Upstream. The brokerage suggested a target of Rs 1,680 on the stock.The brokerage has cut its FY27 and FY28 Ebitda and PAT estimates by 5-6 per cent each, building in the lower Retail margin and reducing other segments and upstream earnings. Its O2C earnings remained largely unchanged, albeit with upside potential. MOFSL said RIL reported a subdued Q4, with consolidated Ebitda

declining 4 per cent QoQ or flat YoY, primarily driven by weaker profitability in Energy business due to the disruptions caused by the West Asia conflict. RIL’s consumer-facing businesses remained resilient, it noted while trimming our its FY27E Ebitda and PAT estimates by 3-4 per cent, due to challenges in the Energy business and delays in tariff hikes in RJio““We reiterate our Buy rating with a revised target of Rs 1,655 (earlier Rs 1,715). While the energy business weakness drives the near-term earnings downgrade, sustained mid-to-high teen growth in RR and a tariff hike, along with impending JPL IPO, remain the key triggers for RIL’s stock price,” it said.

New Delhi:When Iranian drones and missiles struck Qatar’s Ras Laffan Industrial City, one of the world’s largest LNG hubs, the immediate concern was disruption to LPG, LNG and other gas-to-liquids supplies. But a less anticipated risk is now coming into focus, a potential hit to global chip production due to helium shortages. Ras Laffan accounts for nearly a third of the world’s helium supply—a critical, non-substitutable input in semiconductor manufacturing. At a time when AI-driven demand for advanced chips is surging, any disruption to helium flows could have far-reaching consequences for the tech supply chain.While legacy chips use helium to a lesser extent compared to other advanced chips typically built on older process nodes (28nm and above), they power a large part of the real economy, where cutting-edge performance isn’t always necessary.In effect, the AI boom is not just boosting chip demand, it is also pushing up the cost of making them.

For an industry already grappling with supply chain shocks, helium is now emerging as an unexpected bottleneck. And as AI demand continues to surge, the question is no longer just about chips, but also about the critical materials that make them possible. Helium could be recycled but stock piling is a problem.To mitigate the risk, Wadhwa suggests that chip-makers will need to focus on a mix of operational and strategic levers. Building in helium recycling and reclamation systems in new fabs, improving process efficiency, and creating limited inventory buffers where feasible. Equally critical will be diversifying sourcing beyond concentrated geographies and securing long-term supply agreements. Beyond individual companies, the industry will need to collaborate



at a national level to identify alternate supply sources and more resilient trade routes, reducing exposure to geopolitical shocks.Speaking to Business Today, Ankush Wadhwa, Managing Director and Partner at BCG says that the situation have done more than disrupt helium supply, they have exposed a deeper vulnerability in global semiconductor supply chains, where both production and transport routes remain highly concentrated and fragile.As he explains, Helium is mission-critical and irreplaceable in key chip processes used across wafer temperature control, cooling, photolithography, vacuum environments, and cleaning. Now, with the supply chain disruption, this will cause problem as there are no easy substitutes. Companies like Micron, Samsung Electronics, TSMC, could face severe challenges. Business Today did

reach out to Micron but the company declined to comment.At the highest level, the Middle East conflict has exposed how vulnerable helium supply chains, and especially trade routes—really are. These disruptions are now visible across industries. Given the dependence on helium, near-term price increases are inevitable,” he says.More importantly, as AI adoption accelerates, it is driving up both chip demand and production costs. More computing is shifting to edge devices like smartphones, requiring more powerful chips, while AI data centres rely on GPUs with advanced packaging.Both processes are heavily dependent on helium, a critical input with limited supply and no easy substitutes. As demand rises and supply remains constrained, input costs increase, making semiconductors more expensive.

JSW Motors, Tata Elxsi to set up hub to drive next-gen mobility solutions

New Delhi: JSW Group’s automotive arm JSW Motors and Tata Group’s design and technology services firm Tata Elxsi on Friday signed a pact to jointly set up an engineering hub in Pune to support the development of next-generation software-defined, AI-powered mobility solutions, a statement said on Friday.

Under the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), the JSW Next-Gen Technology Centre (JNEXT Center) will enable close collaboration with JSW Motors’ R&D, manufacturing, and leadership teams, the company said.Tata Elxsi will lead the implementation of

the connected vehicle platform and unified customer experience app for JSW Motors’ upcoming vehicle programs, in partnership with a broader ecosystem, JSW Motors said.The strategic engineering hub will support the development of next-generation software-defined, AI-powered mobility solutions, aligned with the industry’s shift towards connected and electrified vehicles, it said.

The collaboration aligns with JSW Motors’ vision of building a technoogy-led, new-energy mobility ecosystem in India, supporting indigenisation and localisation across the vehicle value chain, it

stated. This partnership will enable intelligent solutions, spanning location-based services, cybersecurity, AI/ML/ analytics, 5G-enabled technology, and immersive technologies like AR/VR/XR to enhance customer experience across the ownership lifecycle.

“We have partnered with Tata Elxsi to establish the JNEXT-JSW NextGen Technology Center in Pune, which will serve as a strategic engineering hub for our upcoming vehicle programmes,” said Ranjan Nayak, CEO,

JSW Motors.Tata Elxsi’s proven expertise across software-defined vehicles, ADAS, electrification,

and digital engineering will help the company accelerate development timelines and raise the bar on quality, safety, and innovation, he said.Tata Elxsi will draw on its capabilities across automotive engineering, design, and digital technologies, it said.

“The future of mobility will be increasingly connected and software-defined, where vehicles continuously evolve through software, data, and intelligent systems. Our collaboration with JSW Motors reflects this shift, enabling scalable and adaptable vehicle platforms,” Tata Elxsi MD & CEO Manoj Raghavan said.

Tesla to expand supercharging network across major Indian cities: Official

New Delhi: Friday said it will expand its charging network, including superchargers, across major hubs in India as it looks to accelerate its journey in the countryThe company, which made its much-awaited entry into India, launching its Model Y, had on Wednesday launched its second model, a three-row six seater SUV Model YL priced at ₹61.99 lakh and is simultaneously intensifying charging network expansion to address range anxiety of customers. Stating that these have 99.95 per cent uptime, Agarwal said it “means that when you go to a Tesla charging station, you will always find it working. That’s the technology which we are also bringing to India”.He further said,“We are building the same super charging infrastructure in India to bring the same international experience, same ownership experience that we bring to our customers.”

Stressing on the importance of providing

home charging to enable EV adoption in India, Agarwal said, “We have to focus on this and today we have built the capability that we can install home charging in any city, in any state in the country.

Since the company started its journey in India last year in July with the launch of the first Tesla Experience Center in Mumbai, he said the company now has three experience centers in India -- Delhi, Mumbai and Gurugram.“

We have also expanded our service to two stations -- one in Gurugram and one in Mumbai. We also recently started our service and body shop center in Pune and in this quarter, we will also open service and body shop centers in Bangalore, Chennai.

Hyderabad and Ahmedabad.”

With Tesla adopting a direct to consumer model, it has delivered its cars across 21 states in India so far.“We already have five super charging

stations in India, which we have built around the lifestyle of our customers, where they go to work, shop, dine and travel,” Tesla India General Manager Sharad Agarwal told reporters here

He further said,“In the coming months, you will see that we will build charging infrastructure around the major hubs, which are Delhi, Chandigarh, Jaipur, Chennai, Hyderabad, Bengaluru, Mumbai and Pune.”

These are the cities where Tesla is going to build the charging infrastructure -- superchargers, as well as destination chargers -- to enable charging and reduce the range anxiety which people.

Agarwal added.Noting that Tesla is not just building cars but also built “the largest charging infrastructure in the world”, he said the company has “more than 8,100 charging stations, which also means that we have 80,000 plus super charges installed”.

The US Department of Justice files to reverse the convictions of members of far-right groups on January 6



Washington: Members of the far-right organizations Proud Boys and the Oath Keepers were convicted guilty of seditious conspiracy in connection with the violent siege of the US Capitol in 2021. The US Department of Justice has asked a federal appeals judge to reverse these convictions.On Tuesday, Jeanine Pirro, the US attorney for the District of Columbia appointed by Donald Trump, signed separate motions to overturn convictions for a number of people, including Stewart Rhodes, a former lawyer who founded the Oath

Keepers militia, and Ethan Nordean and Joseph Biggs, leaders of the Proud Boys. The documents are the most recent action taken by the Trump administration to clear the January 6 rioters, who stormed the US Capitol in a last-ditch effort to overturn Joe Biden’s victory over Trump in the 2020 election. The rioters were mostly Trump supporters. Following their attempts to prevent a peaceful transfer of power, a number of members of the two far-right factions received prison sentences. Enrique Tarrio, the former chair-

man of the Proud Boys, received the longest prison sentence—22 years. However, Tarrio was released from prison in January 2025, when Trump, on the first day of his second term, issued sweeping pardons and commutations to roughly 1,600 people who had been charged related to the Capitol mob attack. Several Proud Boys and Oath Keepers’ leaders were granted clemency as part of that action.Tuesday’s filing would erase the convictions from their records. The move to abandon the convictions represented a stunning reversal from

the Biden administration, which hailed the guilty verdicts as a crucial victory in its bid to hold accountable those responsible for what prosecutors described as an attack on the heart of American democracy. The Trump administration has sought to re-write the history of that attack, portraying the rioters as patriots and peaceful protesters, being used as pawns by his political rivals, and repeating baseless claims of widespread election fraud.“In truth, it was the Democrats who staged the real insurrection by certifying a fraud-ridden election, ignoring widespread irregularities, and weaponizing federal agencies to hunt down dissenters,” reads a paragraph from the White House’s web page on January 6.Over 100 law enforcement officers were injured during the attack, including one who suffered a heart attack after being tased by a stun gun and one who was stabbed with a metal fence stake, according to a 2021 bipartisan Senate report examining the January 6 security response. Four officers who responded to the attack later died by suicide.

Why apartheid victims’ families are still looking for answers

Africa: On June 27, 1985, darkness descended as Fort Calata, Matthew Goniwe, Sicelo Mhlauli, and Sparrow Mkonto began the 150-mile journey back from an anti-apartheid gathering in Port Elizabeth, now known as Gqeberha, South Africa. They were never able to return home. Three white security police officials stopped the four guys about an hour into their trip as the route curved north from the coast towards their hometown of Cradock (now known as Nxuba). After being handcuffed, they were driven back to Gqeberha. Following a scuffle with one of the officers, Mkonto was shot. The other three took a blow to the head from behind. To create the appearance of a vigilante attack, three black officers joined their colleagues and repeatedly stabbed their bodies. At last, the bodies were burned. One of Mhlauli’s hands was absent when his body was discovered.The deaths of the four men, who came to be known as the Cradock Four, served as a metaphor for the brutality and callousness of apartheid. In 1994, democracy was established, but it did not provide the families with the justice they were looking for or information regarding whether the murders were approved by the highest authorities.The families are still fighting more than 40 years later, and their battle has come to represent the shortcomings of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC), whose hearings started on April 15, 1996, 30 years ago.The purpose of the TRC, which was headed by the late Nobel Peace Prize winner Desmond Tutu, was to expose human rights abuses by the apartheid government and the organizations that opposed it. It either granted or refused amnesty to those who admitted their crimes. Successive governments led by the African National Congress liberation movement failed to pursue hundreds of cases referred to state prosecutors by the TRC. Victims’ families have accused the former presidents Thabo Mbeki and Jacob Zuma of striking a deal with apartheid generals to bury the cases in exchange for atrocities committed by ANC members during the struggle not being pursued in court.Mbeki, who was president from 1999 to 2008, has denied stopping the TRC cases. He and Zuma, who was president from 2009 to 2018, have tried to halt a judicial inquiry into whether there was political interference with prosecutions. In the case of the Cradock Four, a 1987 inquest concluded they were killed by “unknown persons”. A second inquest in 1993 said “members of the security forces” were responsible but did not name any specific perpetrators. It was only at the TRC that the three white police officers admitted to the murders, in an attempt to evade prosecution, and another three admitted to



planning or ordering them. All were denied amnesty by the TRC and all have since died. The three black police officers were killed by security forces in a car bombing in 1989 amid fears that they would reveal the truth about the murders.A third inquest into the Cradock Four killings opened in June last year, after the families had put the government under sustained pressure for years. Their question remained: why, when they had been denied amnesty by the TRC, were the killers not prosecuted decades earlier? The TRC’s first hearings were in East London (now KuGompo City), 180 miles up the coast from Gqeberha. For many victims and their relatives, this was their first chance to speak publicly about their suffering. On the second day of hearings, Nomonde Calata, the widow of Fort Calata, broke down. Her cries of anguish were watched by millions via the national broadcaster SABC.After her husband’s death, aged 28, Calata had stopped herself from crying. “[I thought] the enemy will laugh at me when they see my sadness,” she said in an interview on 22 March, sitting with her son Lukhanyo in a Gqeberha hotel before a week of hearings in the third inquest. “So when I went to the TRC, I just couldn’t hold the cry in me and the pain.”The National party came to power in 1948, enforcing racial discrimination and segregation and pushing white Afrikaner nationalism. But the TRC only covered 1960 to 1994. Nonetheless, it took the testimonies of about 21,000 victims, of whom 2,000 testified publicly. In dozens of hearings that lasted until June 1997, they spoke of torture, abduction, disappearances and killings. The process gripped South Africa.So too did the appearances of some apartheid security police, who admitted to violations in an attempt to escape prosecution. They included Eugene de Kock, who led the Vlakplaas assassination squad and was known as “Prime Evil”.In October 1996, De Kock was convicted of six murders and sentenced to 212 years

in prison. A year later, he testified at the TRC, expressing bitterness that apartheid generals and politicians had not also taken responsibility. The hearings for amnesty continued until 2000. 849 of the more than 7,000 amnesty petitions were approved.The SABC’s weekly Sunday evening TRC Special Report was hosted by Max du Preez. As the editor of the progressive weekly Vrye Weekblad, an Afrikaner himself, he had revealed many of the atrocities of apartheid during its final years.After 1994, we anticipated a denial of apartheid. However, we never had it. And I believe it was greatly influenced by witnessing the amnesty seekers confess to all of these offenses,” he stated. “You couldn’t later deny that apartheid was a brutal, evil system if you were any kind of sensible person. That was crucial, in my opinion. However, Yasmin Sooka, a TRC commissioner and human rights lawyer, said the commission did not properly expose the systemic nature of apartheid. “The politicians, from the outset when they appeared, made it clear, particularly Mr De Klerk [FW de Klerk, the last apartheid president], that he was not going to take responsibility for their actions,” she said. “That did mar the process. It certainly affected the questions of disclosure.”The TRC provided powerful moments of catharsis, truth-telling and accountability. But, as disappointment with the ANC has grown in the 32 years it has led South Africa amid persistent inequality, poverty and corruption, so too have criticisms of the TRC’s scope.Zanele Mji was just eight years old when hearings began, absorbing an idealised version of reconciliation as promoted by Tutu. But as she grew up, becoming an investigative journalist, she realised the TRC’s limitations. “The violence was how [apartheid] was enforced,” she said. “But what it actually was, no one was ever tried for that. Land, education, housing – all these things that still really hold South Africa back today.”

According to a think organization, Cuba could overcome the US energy blockade by investing \$8 billion in renewable energy



Cuba: With just a \$8 billion investment in renewable energy, Cuba could permanently overcome the US’s crushing energy blockade. And it should be paid for by the rest of the globe.These are the audacious assertions of a think tank examination of the troubled communist republic’s energy program, which asserts that Cuba may lead its neighbors in the Caribbean to a sustainable energy future.According to the analysis, about \$8 billion (£5.9 billion) could be used to build out enough renewable energy to meet 93.4% of Cuba’s electricity generation needs. Cuba has the potential to become the first Caribbean nation with a fully renewable energy grid for less than \$20 billion. The ideas coincide with the United States’ weeks-long

energy boycott on Cuba and its communist government, which Washington says has a “malign influence” on the area.After Donald Trump imposed an executive order imposing trade tariffs on any countries that delivered oil to the island nation, Cuba has only received one cargo of oil from Russia since January.Ten million people were subjected to frequent blackouts as a result of the failure of the country’s electric grid by March.As Trump proclaimed, “I do believe I’ll be... having the honor of taking Cuba,” transportation and industry came to a complete stop and hospital intensive care units lost power. Analysis by the Common Wealth thinktank’s Transition Security Project (TSP) outlines how Cuba could gain complete energy inde-

pendence from its volatile neighbour by transforming its grid to run from renewable energy, which would not only eliminate its vulnerability but also serve as a model for the region.“The US’s energy dominance strategy seeks to entrench dependence on fossil fuels, stall the green transition and strengthen US power,” said Kevin Cashman, a researcher with TSP, who wrote the analysis. But increasingly cheap and scalable solar power and battery storage weaken such a strategy.“For countries like Cuba – with enormous renewable potential, but suffering blackouts and widespread suffering under a cruel and illegal US-imposed energy blockade – a transition to green electricity would reduce US leverage and provide a shining example to the world.” Modelling four different scenarios, the TSP analysis found that a fully renewable grid for Cuba would cost \$19.2bn, but an \$8bn investment would be sufficient to end the country’s reliance on imported fossil fuels. Even a \$5bn rollout would reduce Cuba’s reliance on fossil fuels to just a fifth of electricity generation. Under the most ambitious proposal, three-quarters of electricity generation would be provided by solar, with a

fifth coming from wind and the remainder provided by hydropower and bioenergy. Cheaper scenarios would have greater reliance on bio-energy and wind.“Electricity is cheaper in every renewable investment scenario than in business as usual: the cost per unit of energy falls from 14.3¢ per kWh in the baseline scenario to 12.1¢ with \$1bn of investment, 7.3¢ with \$5bn, 6.5¢ with \$8bn, and 9.9¢ in the fully renewable case,” the report said.The transition would require a society-wide transformation, but Cuba has managed that before: after the collapse of the Soviet Union in the 90s, the country rapidly transformed its agricultural system towards agroecology and self-sufficiency.In the past year, the Cuban government has already brought more than 1,000MW of solar online with Chinese financing and assistance. This raises the question of who would foot the bill. According to the paper, “financing this transition should... be understood as reparative climate finance.” The change “would set an important example of a rapid energy transition under conditions of external constraint,” in addition to allowing Cubans to repay investments through savings on less expensive electricity.

Sheinbaum, incensed with Trump for the deaths of migrants, promises to “defend Mexicans at every level”

Americas: Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum has expressed opposition to the Trump administration’s intention to enforce an energy blockade on Cuba, and the Mexican government has expressed concern over the deaths of its citizens in US custody.In an attempt to counter threats of tariffs and US military action against gangs, the progressive Mexican leader has been walking a delicate line with Trump for more than a year, responding to provocations with a measured tone and complying with US requests to crack down on cartels more so than her predecessors.However, Sheinbaum has adopted a tougher stance in response to the growing number of Mexican nationals dying while in the custody of immigration officials and the United States’ blockade of Cuba, a crucial ally of Mexico. Sheinbaum’s latest rebuke came on Tuesday, a day after 49-year-old Mexican citizen Alejandro Cabrera Clemente died in an Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agency detention centre in Louisiana. The incident was the fifteenth death of a Mexican citizen in US custody in little over a

year.Mexico’s government quickly called the deaths “unacceptable” and the ICE detention centres “incompatible with human rights standards and the protection of life”.Sheinbaum said on Tuesday that she requested investigations into the deaths of the 15 migrants, and instructed Mexican consulates to visit detention centres daily.Her government would raise the deaths in detention centres to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, and was considering appealing to the UN, she said. “We are going to defend Mexicans at every level,” Sheinbaum said, adding that “there are many Mexicans whose only crime is not having papers”. The White House offered no comment on Tuesday about Sheinbaum’s tougher stance, nor did it comment on the rising number of deaths of Mexican nationals in ICE custody. Sheinbaum has maintained what she has described as a “cool head” to provocations by Trump, who has exerted more pressure on Latin America than any US leader in decades. In just a few months, the Trump administration deposed Venezuela’s president, imposed

an oil blockade on Cuba and threatened military intervention against Mexican cartels.She has had to balance maintaining a strong relationship with Trump while repeatedly stressing Mexico’s sovereignty to appease her own base. Her government has come down harder on cartels than her predecessor and bolstered trade relations ahead of renegotiations of the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement, or USMCA, free trade agreement. While Trump has taken public jabs at Sheinbaum – at one point suggesting cartels have greater control over Mexico than her government – he’s also regularly made nods to their amicable relationship. “She is really a nice person, I like her a lot,” he said last month.The main point of contention between the two governments has been Cuba. Solidarity with the US adversary has been a cornerstone of Mexico’s political ethos since the Cuban revolution.The relationship hit a hurdle in late January, when Trump announced he would slap tariffs on any country that sends oil to Cuba. The move directly affected

Mexico, which for years has shipped oil to Cuba. While Sheinbaum reluctantly paused oil shipments to Cuba, she has continued to challenge the Trump administration’s push for regime change.“Mexico has every right to send fuel, whether for humanitarian or commercial reasons,” Sheinbaum said earlier this week. She has accused the US administration of “suffocating” Cubans with sanctions and called Trump’s energy blockade of Cuba “unjust.”According to Carin Zississ, vice-president of content strategy for the Council of the Americas, Sheinbaum’s recent bolder tone suggests a calculation that her administration can push back on some politically significant fronts as long as they are also making progress on strengthening trade and satisfying Trump administration requests on security and migration.She and other observers noted that the US has become more reliant on Mexican partners as a result of rising energy prices brought on by the Iran War, which has caused Washington to reconsider any extreme actions against Mexican cartels or Cuba, at least temporarily.

A UN watchdog says that North Korea is quickly developing its nuclear weapons capabilities

North Korea: The chief of the UN’s nuclear inspector has stated that North Korea has made “very serious” progress in producing more nuclear bombs, which is another indication that the dictatorship is attempting to utilize its arsenal to secure its survival.Although some experts doubt North Korea’s assertions that it can miniaturize nuclear warheads to attach them to long-range ballistic missiles, the country is believed to have constructed approximately 50 of them.Rafael Grossi, the president of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), confirmed allegations of a sharp increase in activity at North Korea’s main nuclear site, Yongbyon, during a visit to Seoul, the capital of South Korea, on Wednesday. According to Grossi, Yongbyon is thought to have several dozen nuclear warheads, and development at its 5MW reactor, reprocessing facility, light water reactor, and other facilities has accelerated.The Pyongyang dictatorship has developed what some observers believe is a feasible nuclear capability, including intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs) that may reach the US mainland, since executing its first nuclear test in 2006.In spite of UN sanctions, North Korea has advanced its nuclear weapons program under Kim Jong-un, who took office in 2011. This is seen by analysts as an effort to lessen the possibility that the US could one day target the country for regime change. Grossi’s comments came as a US thinktank said North Korea appeared to have completed a building intended for uranium enrichment at Yongby-

on.Beyond Parallel, at the Washington-based Center for Strategic and International Studies, said this week that satellite imagery indicated the new facility was nearing operational readiness, South Korea’s Yonhap news agency reported.The thinktank said the suspected new enrichment facility at Yongbyon and another at a site in Kangson near Pyongyang had not been declared to international nuclear authorities.It said production of enriched uranium “would significantly increase the number of nuclear weapons North Korea could possess”. The report matched an assessment issued by the IAEA in June last year in which it said Pyongyang was building an enrichment facility at Yongbyon that could be used to produce weapons-grade material. In March, Grossi said there was no evidence of “significant change” at the North’s main nuclear testing site at Punggye-ri, but added that it was still capable of supporting nuclear tests.He called North Korea’s nuclear programme a “clear violation” of UN security council resolutions, and the agency “continues to maintain its enhanced readiness to play its essential role in verifying [North Korea’s] nuclear programme”. North Korea has not conducted a nuclear test since 2017, but it has demonstrated advances in its missile technology and increased its stockpile of weapons, in line with Kim’s vow last August to pursue a “rapid expansion of nuclearisation”.

Exploring Siena, Tuscany’s other artistic masterpiece

This warren of narrow streets, some so tight that only the noon sun shine penetrates all the way down to the cobbles, is part gothic, part romanesque, and all beautiful. It’s blessed with an embarrassment of architectural riches and wrapped up in wonderfully preserved medieval walls that hug the city tightly, an enchantingly compact tangle of sandstone and terracotta perched on a hill overlooking a quintessentially Tuscan landscape of olive groves and vineyards and winding gravel roads. In any other corner of the world, Siena would be the only show in town.

Around here though, there are several noisy neighbours. And none makes more of a racket than Florence, 50 miles north, famously the birthplace of the Renaissance and home of the Medici, Michelangelo, Giotto and Leonardo da Vinci. These days, it’s also famous for tourist tuk-tuks and newspaper stories about €25 ice-creams, as over-tourism slowly erodes the city’s appeal. Which is why it’s better to avoid the roped-off processions of the Uffizi and choose Siena for an art lovers’ city break instead. (And for anyone who can’t make it to Chianti, the National Gallery in London will begin an extensive exhibition, Siena: The Rise of Painting, 1300-1350, in March. It will showcase the city’s importance to European art and its vital role as a catalyst of change.) Given Florence’s touristic pre-dominance, it is not obvious to many that for a long time these two great Tuscan city-states were rivals. Neither on the coast or a great river, Siena was not the most obvious place for a prosperous city-state, but its strategic location on the route from Rome to the rest of Europe made it both economically and culturally important. Siena became one of the great urban centres of Italy, cementing its status with an unlikely military victory against the more numerous forces of Florence in 1260.

That coup instilled the city with a confidence and a sense of identity that can still be seen

nearly 800 years later. Funded by merchants, Siena’s craftsmen and artists transformed the city with audacious public buildings and groundbreaking works of painting and sculpture in what would become known as the Sienese School. It isn’t as widely appreciated these days as that which came after it, unfortunately, perhaps because it ended all too suddenly. After a period of prosperity and pre-eminence in the 13th and 14th centuries, Siena’s luck ran out in 1348 when the Black Death arrived, eventually wiping out half of its population, including most of its artists and craftsmen. While work on its four miles of fortified walls – extended on a regular basis until then – was stopped in its tracks, its great rival, Florence, went on to dominate Tuscany and the late Renaissance. But it’s no exaggeration to say that without Siena’s influence, that great period of artistic revival would have

looked very different. The

best place to get a sense of the Sienese School’s importance is the



Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City. The cathedral is worth a visit for its facade alone, with its emphasis on contrast and verticality, and its mixture of gothic ideals

and classical influence. It is, like much of Siena, an antecedent to the coming Renaissance, especially in terms of its sculptural elements. The work of Giovanni Pisano, who has been referred to as the first modern sculptor, incorporated an expressive naturalism that was pioneering for the time. Inside, the cathedral’s vaulted ceiling is dizzying, while its stunning mosaic floor is almost overwhelming in its intricacy. It took almost 200 years to complete, and the 16th-century painter and art historian Giorgio Vasari called it “the most beautiful that ever was made”. But, as every self-respecting art fan will know, the cathedral’s main attraction – what was once its altarpiece – now lies in the Museo dell’Opera Metropolitana. Duccio di Buoninsegna’s Maestà is a double-sided work of impressive scale, both figuratively and literally. It epitomises the Sienese School, infusing the gothic tradition with new ideas about expressionism and narrative and moving it away from

the rigid symbolism of the past. In Duccio, you can see so much of what was to come – bold colours, imaginative composition, emotion. Given how influential art historians now hold him to be, it seems very unfair that Duccio di Buoninsegna isn’t a household name. A couple of hundred metres from the Duomo, the Pinacoteca Nazionale di Siena (National Gallery of Siena) provides the most thorough overview of the city’s artistic heritage, from the early days of the Sienese School and the transformation of the Renaissance to later works from the restrained, devout Counter-Reformation (or Catholic Reformation). It is the world’s largest and most important collection of the era: Duccio features, of course, as do his contemporaries Simone Martini and the Lorenzetti brothers, Pietro and Ambrogio. It’s an ideal place to compare and contrast the Siena style against the more familiar naturalistic, scientific approach of the Florentine Renaissance. Because for all their innovation, the Sienese masters always retained a strong connection to

the byzantine and gothic. Their goal was never a realistic ideal, it was an elegantly stylised narrative meant to transcend daily life and inspire faith. Seeing so many masterpieces of the era in one place gives a fresh perspective on the developments, and motivations, that drove European art in that period. But even after all that, the most enchanting part of Siena’s artistic appeal is the city itself. It is, in effect, an open-air museum, a maze of hidden frescoes, exquisitely carved fountains and crumbling arches, shaded alleys and sunny piazzas. In the busier months, Siena’s main square, the Piazza del Campo, will be bustling with activity, but unlike so many of Italy’s historic public spaces, it never feels cramped. Such is the scale of it – after all, they do use it to host a horse race, the Palio Di Siena (2 July and 16 August in 2025) – that you will always find a sunny spot to pitch up. For the all-important postprandial coffee, leave the piazza and head one street over to the Via di Città, where you will find the Torre-fazione Fiorella. Torre-fazione means roaster in Italian, and they still roast their own selection of beans here, despite it being one of the smallest premises in the city. Suitably energised, and perhaps in need of a little variety after all that gothic goodness, a trip to one of Siena’s Contrada museums is an excellent way to delve a little deeper into the city’s history and culture. The 17 contrade are Siena’s historic neighbourhoods, today most famously known for competing in the Palio horse race. Each has its own museum, full of quirky artefacts, local curiosities and, more importantly, a hall of victories where the contradas display their colourful trophy flags from the Palio. It’s the ideal way to explore Siena’s neighbourhoods with a little context – and along the way it will be almost impossible not to stumble upon a few artistic and architectural surprises. Siena is a place that can almost seem frozen in time. There are modern buildings, of course, but it’s so incredibly intact, architecturally, that its 20th-century apartment buildings seem to blend into the gothic surroundings unnoticed. And if you squint hard enough, or wear dark enough glasses, you may not even notice the other tourists.

A Royal Escape Between Ahmedabad And Udaipur

Not all weekend plans have to be hectic or chaotic. Sometimes, one only needs time and space to live with nature, feel it and enjoy it before we come back to our ‘Meeting at 10 am’ routine. And if you are in Ahmedabad or near the city and are still struggling to find where you should visit next, we have it sorted for you. Pack your bags because we are heading to Dungarpur.

Tucked away in the serene landscapes of Rajasthan, Dungarpur offers a perfect blend of luxury, heritage and tranquillity. Located strategically between Ahmedabad and Udaipur, the resort is emerging as an ideal weekend getaway, especially for travellers from Ahmedabad looking to escape the city rush without venturing too far.

Why Should One Visit Dungarpur? Dungarpur is one of Rajasthan’s lesser-explored gems, offering a quieter and more authentic experience compared to crowded tourist cities. It is known for its rich royal history, scenic lakes and heritage architecture. The town gives travellers a chance to witness Rajasthan beyond the usual palaces of Jaipur and Udaipur. Its slow

pace, clean surroundings and cultural depth make it ideal for those seeking relaxation with a touch of history. For travellers from Ahmedabad, it is also conveniently located, making it perfect for a short, refreshing getaway. **What To Do In Dungarpur?** If you are in Dungarpur, a visit to the Udai Bilas Palace is a must to experience the grandeur of the region’s royal legacy. The palace complex also houses a fascinating collection of vintage cars that reflect the lifestyle of the former rulers. You must not miss this! History lovers should also explore Juna Mahal, an old fort known for its intricate murals and unique architecture. It is a massive 7-floor fort which also offers a scenic view of the entire city. Apart from heritage sites, visitors can enjoy peaceful walks around the town’s lakes, soak in the natural beauty and spend time unwinding at luxury properties like WelcomHeritage Akashganga Heritage Hills Resort & Spa. **Where To Stay?** If you are visiting, book yourself a stay at the WelcomHeritage Akashganga Heritage Hills Resort &

Spa. Surrounded by lush hills and scenic beauty, the resort stands out for its peaceful ambience and premium hospitality. The property reflects a heritage aesthetic, with architecture and interiors inspired by Rajasthan’s royal past. Spacious rooms, well-maintained lawns, and a calming spa experience make it a complete relaxation destination. The resort is easily accessible, located approximately 2 hours and 15 minutes from Maharana Pratap Airport, Udaipur, and 2 hours and 45 minutes from Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport in Ahmedabad. At present, the property is operational with 41 rooms categorised as 16 spacious Forest Studios and 25 charming Ellwood Cottages, each designed to offer a perfect blend of traditional charm and modern convenience. Guests can enjoy Thikree (Coffee Shop), an all-day multi-cuisine café offering an eclectic mix of global dishes from Asian to European, and indulge their sweet tooth at DEE-LISH (Patisserie), which serves artisanal pastries and fine sweet indulgences. For authentic Indian flavours, the now-open Nirvana (Speciality Restaurant)



focuses on vibrant Rajasthani, North Indian, and South Indian coastal fare. For evening entertainment, MIRAGE (Discotheque) provides a perfect spot

with its breathtaking ambience, panoramic views, crafted cocktails, and fine wines. Additionally, guests can anticipate the launch of Verandah, an open

dining area combining fresh air and fine dining with warmth and breezy elegance. Ashutosh Chhibba, CEO, WelcomHeritage Hotels, stated, “The open-

ing of WelcomHeritage Akashganga Heritage Hills Resort & Spa marks a significant milestone in our expansion across Rajasthan. We are confident that

this property will become a landmark destination for travellers seeking luxury, wellness, and unforgettable experiences amidst the heritage hills of Ratanpur.”

Dhurandhar’s Hamza was harder than Padmaavat’s Khilji, according to Ranveer Singh

Mumbai: Bollywood star Ranveer Singh captured hearts in 2018 when he played Khilji in Sanjay Leela Bhansali’s Padmaavat. Now, in 2026, he has once again won over viewers with his performance as Hamza in Aditya Dhar’s Dhurandhar: The Revenge. Nikunj Biyani, the actor’s business partner, recounted a conversation with Ranveer in a recent podcast with MensXP, stating that acting Hamza was even harder than playing Khilji. “I saw Dhurandhar on the first day, first show for both the films,” Nikunj said in the interview, complimenting Ranveer Singh’s performance in the movie. I adored it. In my opinion, Dhurandhar 2: The Revenge is the greatest movie ever made. Although I also liked part one, part two was quite different. Even to urinate, I didn’t want to get up from my chair. I thought, “Look at him, it’s crazy. I won’t even blink.” “We were chatting with



him once, and we asked him if he would do something as demanding as Khilji,” he added, recalling an exchange with Ranveer regarding the demands of the position. “This character (Hamza) has been way more challenging for me as an artist; it has taken so much more out of me,” he remarked. It has been quite tough; I had to delve deep and give

it my all. You ask yourself, “What was this?” when you see it. He has established himself as the greatest of all time. He is insane; that much is true. Ranveer disclosed that in order to completely inhabit the role of Khilji in Padmaavat, he spent 21 days alone and went to a dark place in his mind. His performance was widely praised by both critics and

viewers, and the movie went on to become a huge box office success, earning ₹585 crore worldwide. Aditya Dhar’s two-part film immediately became the talk of the town. The plot of the spy thriller centers on Hamza, an Indian agent who enters Pakistan’s underworld in Lyari and works his way up the political ladder to destroy terror networks that endanger India. Dhurandhar has made over ₹3,000 crore at the movie office internationally as a franchise. With ₹1,300 crore in global sales, the first installment, which was released in December 2025, became an all-time hit. The second half turned out to be even more successful, making over ₹1,700 crore globally and more than ₹1,000 crore in India, making it the first Bollywood movie to do so. The movie is still doing well even though its enthusiasm has somewhat subsided.

Sunita Ahuja Summarizes Her Forty-Year Marriage

New Delhi: Sunita Ahuja’s 40-year-old marriage to actor Govinda has given her new insight. Sunita stated in a recent interview that Govinda was a great father and son but not a good husband. She continued by stating that she had always preferred Govinda to be her “son” rather than her “husband.”Sunita Ahuja discussed her marriage in an interview with Abhishek Vyas Insights: “I’ll say it again. Govinda is a decent brother and son. I adore going to parties, meals, and holidays, but as a husband, he became so consumed with supporting his family that he never took pleasure in it. Despite being sixty, he has never lived for himself. “This makes me feel bad,” Sunita continued. What have you witnessed in life that makes you such a big star? Nothing. I constantly remark that rather than a husband, what I want is a son like Govinda. I can’t leave him now, so there’s no point in even regretting it. It would be illegal to even consider it after forty years.Since last year, Sunita and Govinda’s marriage has dominated the news. Sunita went so far as to accuse Govinda of having extramarital affairs, which prompted the celebrity to provide an explanation. Sunita responded, “When you are confident in your husband... if there is a hero and you listen about his



affair, it used to be fine at that time (90s),” when asked if she is envious of the superstar’s female followers. I’m not referring to today.”People who gossip are all doing it on social media.” Sunita went on. They talk garbage. We need to see what’s happening in our home instead of concentrating on it. Govinda was excellent up till his mother’s passing. He has also done well after her. Sunita has accused Govinda of having an extramarital affair on several occasions during the past year. In a recent statement, Govinda described it as a “conspiracy” against him. According to Govinda, he decided to speak up now since remaining silent would make him seem “weak” and add to the “problematic” perception that people were developing of him. The actor described what he thinks is going on behind the scenes as a “big conspiracy” and asserted that even his loved ones are being “used” without their knowledge.

Ameesha Patel claims that her parents’ wedding date was set by Indira Gandhi

Mumbai: The Gandhi family has a close relationship with the family of well-known actress Ameesha Patel. In fact, former Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi set the date of her parents’ wedding. She even paid the infant Ameesha’s first visit at the Breach Candy Hospital in Mumbai. Ameesha’s grandpa, a well-known lawyer who served as Indira Gandhi’s main counselor, started the relationship. “Barrister Rajni Patel, my grandfather, was a well-known attorney. After that, he entered politics. Jawaharlal Nehru was his boyhood mentor. He started out in politics by joining the Communist Party before switching to the Congress. Indira Gandhi was his closest associate while he was in the Congress. He served as her main counselor. He has also held the positions of president and treasurer of Congress. Indira Gandhi never made a significant decision without consulting my grandfather or getting his advice. Additionally, my grandfather raised money for numerous Indian chief ministers. The family is heavily involved in politics, Ameesha told Bollywood Bubble.She further disclosed that Indira Gandhi scheduled her parents’ wedding according to



her schedule. “My parents’ wedding date was also set by Indira Gandhi. Since their horoscopes didn’t match, she was asked when she was free, and my parents’ wedding day was decided based on her dates.” Indira Gandhi was the first person to see me at Breach Candy Hospital when I was born,” she continued.”My grandfather built the Nehru Planetarium in Worli as a tribute to his mentor Jawaharlal Nehru,” she continued, discussing her grandfather’s legacy. A close relationship with the Gandhi family exists. Ameesha has previously discussed their lengthy relationship with the Gandhi family. Ameesha talked about the same situation that helped make her parents’ wedding a reality during her last appearance on Ranveer Allahbadia’s podcast.”My parents’ wedding date was

set by Mrs. Indira Gandhi,” Patel disclosed. Their wedding date could not be determined by a kundali match. “Indira, when are you free?” inquired my grandpa, Barrister Rajni Patel. “Rajni, I’m free on July 4th,” she added.” The Fourth of July was the scheduled date. It was reserved at the Taj Mahal Palace in South Bombay, Colaba. My parents were married in this manner. Ameesha Patel recalled seeing notable figures at her grandparents’ house as a child, including politicians Rajiv Shukla and Praful Patel and artist M. F. Husain. Alongside Hrithik Roshan, Ameesha Patel made her big screen debut in Kaho Naa... Pyaar Hai in 2000. The actress recently surprised her role in the 2023 smash Gadar 2, which went on to become an enormous hit.

Mehreen Pirzada, an F2 actress, marries Arsh Aulakh



New Delhi: Mehreen Pirzada, an actress, has now wed. In a small wedding on Sunday in Chail, Himachal Pradesh, the actress married Arsh Aulakh. In front of close friends and family, they exchanged vows. Through a joint social media post that included a number of wedding photos, the F2 actress informed her admirers of the news. For the ceremony, the couple harmonized their blush-pink costumes. Mehreen accessorized her elaborately sequined lehenga with a mangtika, matching earrings, and a tiered stone necklace. She chose to wear her hair loose under a veil and

apply little, gentle make-up. The groom’s matching attire enhanced her appearance. Mehreen posted pictures of the momentous occasion online with the remark, “26.04.26,” followed by emoticons for infinity, a crimson heart, and an evil eye. Celebrities sent their congrats shortly after the announcement. Sonal Chauhan remarked, “Omg. Congratulations,” while actress Srinidhi Shetty wrote, “Congratulationsssss babe... love n only loveee.” Mehreen’s most recent professional appearance was in the historical murder thriller Sultan of Delhi, which was released in 2023. Tahir Raj Bhasin, Mouni Roy,

Anjum Sharma, Vinay Pathak, Anupriya Goenka, Nishant Dahiya, and Harleen Sethi were among the ensemble cast members of the Suparn Verma-written and Milan Luthria-directed series. The program debuted on Disney+ Hotstar and was produced by Namit Sharma under Reliance Entertainment. She also costarred with Vasanth Ravi in the Tamil movie Indira, which was helmed by Sabarish Nanda, a new director. Sunil, Anikha Surendran, Rajkumar, Sumesh Moor, and Kalyan were among the actors in the movie.Mehreen, who is most known for her work in Telugu and Tamil cinema, made her acting debut in the Telugu film Krishna Gaadi Veera Prema Gaadha. Since then, she has acted in other productions in a variety of industries. Gurfateh Pirzada, her brother, is an actor as well. In March 2021, the actress became engaged to Bhavya Bishnoi; however, the engagement was called off in July of the same year.

At the Kara event, Dhanush prevents a fan from touching his feet

Mumbai: When Dhanush traveled to Coimbatore to promote his next movie, Kara, he saw an amazing reception. In order to catch a glimpse of the actor, fans flocked to the event site from the airport.An incident involving a fan during Kara’s Telugu pre-release event went viral. A female admirer walked up to Dhanush and bowed down in front of him. The actor handled the situation with composure and humility, asking her to get up right away before posing for a photo. On social media, the video elicited a range of responses, with some users voicing worries about celebrity worship. One commenter said, “Do not worship celebrities, no matter how popular or powerful they are,” in response to the video. “Why do people start worshipping actors?” said another, and “Why should actors be treated like gods?” asked a third.Dhanush received a bike number plate that alluded to his movie Polladhavan, adding another sentimental element to the occasion. The actor grinned as



he held it up and discussed its significance for his career, describing it as a turning point. Dhanush gave a motivational speech to the crowd, urging young admirers to have confidence in themselves and remain committed to their objectives. He discussed the power of self-belief and manifestation, citing a passage from the Bhagavad Gita. He recalled how he had once imagined receiving a National Award long before it actually happened.In Kara, Dhanush plays a dacoit who robs banks

in broad daylight, and the plot explores the fallout from his crimes. Positive responses to the film’s compelling trailer have already been seen on social media. Mamitha Bajju and Suraj Venjaramoodu play important roles in it as well. Vels Film International is supporting the film, which is directed by Vignesh Raja. GV Prakash Kumar wrote the music, Theni Eswar handled the cinematography, and Srijith Sarang handled the editing. On April 30, Kara is scheduled to open in theaters.

In a upcoming web series, Richa Chadha will portray a detective for the first time

Mumbai: After becoming a mother in July 2024, actor Richa Chadha is returning to the spotlight for the first time, and she is eager to surprise her admirers. The actor will be portraying a detective for the first time in an upcoming web series, as we have exclusively learned. Floors for the crime thriller program have already been completed.Richa’s character has shot half of the episode and is reportedly at the center of an ongoing mystery. The series, which has not yet been given a title, is reportedly a multi-layered storyline. According to a source, “Richa read the story and liked it because it was powerful and different and something that she hasn’t done before.” This was the kind of keen persona she was searching



for. To fully grasp the genre and subtleties, she even viewed a number of great detective thrillers.The insider went on to say that Richa was drawn to this script because it allows the actor to explore the zone of sharp, restrained, and cerebral area. Richa was last seen in Sanjay Leela

Bhansali’s 2024 film Heeramandi. The series’ creators hope to release it in 2027. On July 16, 2024, Ali Fazal and Richa Chadha welcomed a daughter, Zuneyra Ida Fazal. The couple has talked positively about their experience as parents, but they haven’t yet disclosed the identity of their daughter.In a previous interview, Ali stated, “I am not able to manage time (laughs).” Abhi main Bhagun Ghar (Mumbai). However, that’s life! A significant shift has occurred. Pehle bhi hota tha ki ghar jaana hai, but ab woh feeling aur intense ho gayi hai. I have more reasons now. Now that our baby is here and Richa (Chadha, actor-wife) is also constantly at home, there’s greater motivation to stay at home.

Bollywood should cease paid publicity, according to Karan Johar, since no one is aware of the truth

Mumbai: The tradition of sponsored publicity in Hindi cinema ought to end, according to filmmaker Karan Johar, since it is getting harder to predict audience response. Karan stated that Bollywood should “let their work do the talking” and cut less on marketing and publicity during a recent event.Karan recently attended an industry conversation hosted by The Week, where a participant discussed how performers like Janhvi Kapoor and Shanaya Kapoor used “method marketing” for their most recent films, Param Sundari and

Tu Yaa Main, respectively. When she questioned whether Bollywood could adopt this PR approach, Karan said, “I think Bollywood should stop doing PR.” It would be far superior. Unfortunately, all PR is now “paid PR,” therefore they should let their accomplishments speak for themselves. You only need to spend if you want to claim that you appear stunning. You have to pay if you claim to be the greatest performer on the planet. When it comes to PR, I believe we are operating at full capacity. Therefore, it

doesn’t matter if they use method marketing or not; they should quit promoting themselves and allow their work do the talking. The director stressed that he was discussing the pattern in general rather than any particular performer, saying that it has been challenging to determine the audience’s natural response due to paid publicity. “I’m not referring to the individuals you mention. I refer to everyone in general. Marketing and publicity are crucial job categories, and they must be handled as such.

A glimpse of Golmaal 5 with the boys from Ooty is revealed by Ajay Devgn



Mumbai: Ajay Devgn shared a humorous behind-the-scenes video from the ongoing filming of Golmaal 5, giving fans a new look at the movie. The video, which was uploaded on X (previously Twitter) on April 27, shows the main cast in addition to the well-known five-seater bike, one of the franchise’s most recognizable aspects. The film, which was shot during the Ooty schedule, instantly evokes nostalgia by bringing the cherished

group back in a vibrant environment. The usage of the iconic Golmaal theme music enhances the allure by bringing viewers back to the show’s trademark turmoil and humor.”Iss baa sawaari badi hai, aur entertainment usse bhi zyada bada hoga Golmaal5 Ooty schedule with the boys,” Ajay wrote after sharing the video. While adhering to the franchise’s signature insanity, his caption alludes to a larger scope

for the next film. The re-introduction of the famous bike, which has come to represent the series, particularly delighted fans. Filmmaker Rohit Shetty, in the meantime, uploaded the same video montage while considering the franchise’s path. Since the first movie’s debut in 2006, he said, the crew has been riding high. He wrote, “Riding through positive vibes since 20 years Golmaal 5 | Ooty Schedule.”The update was released a few weeks after

Rohit formally revealed the fifth installment on March 14, 2026, his birthday, with a teaser confirming the start of filming. With several sequels, such as Golmaal Returns (2008), Golmaal 3 (2010), and Golmaal Again (2017), the franchise continued to grow, each of which built on its distinctive comedy and ensemble cast.Ajay Devgn, Arshad Warsi, Tusshar Kapoor, Sanjay Mishra, Vrajesh Hirjee, and Mukesh Tiwari are among the actors who have consistently starred in the films; Shreyas Talpade has acted in three of them, and Kunal Kemmu and Johnny Lever in two. Akshay Kumar will also be joining the franchise in the fifth movie. He was seen wearing a startling new appearance in the announcement video. Ajay Devgn added a lighthearted touch by making a joke about his co-star, saying, “Koi franchise nahi chhodta hai ye” (He doesn’t leave any franchise), alluding to Akshay’s talent for appearing in well-known movie franchises.

100 Shatabdi and Jan Shatabdi trains will be upgraded by Indian Railways



New Delhi, Apr 27: With the Railway Board ordering all zones to create comprehensive action plans, Indian Railways has announced plans to modernize its Shatabdi and Jan Shatabdi trains with greater passenger amenities, better interiors, and enhanced comfort across over 100 services.”To provide enhanced aesthetics,

passenger comfort, and service levels in Shatabdi and Jan Shatabdi rakes, it is imperative that these be maintained in good fettle, and upgrades be carried out in items affecting the passenger interface,” stated an official order dated April 23. The Railway Board instructed general managers of all railway zones to con-

duct thorough rake inspections and create an all-encompassing response plan. About 100 of these services will be upgraded, according to Railways, as soon as the designs are finalized. Improvements to restrooms, covering doors, engagement locks, washbasins, flushing systems, passenger amenities, and drainage systems will all be part of the exercise. Additionally, the Board requested that zones improve seat upholstery and related passenger amenities such as magazine pockets, snack tables, armrests, footrests, roller shades, and mobile charging connections. An official with knowledge of the development stated, “Overhead panels will also be upgraded, along with prevention of jerks in coaches, vestibule, and gangway areas.”

The official continued, “Coach interiors, panels, flooring inside coaches and areas near restrooms, digital passenger information systems, and CCTVs are also said to be improved.”Indian Railways would also enhance the external appearance of coaches, window glasses, and destination panel boards in accordance with the directive. According to a second official, “the focus is on modernizing the flagship trains and continuing to meet rising expectations in terms of cleanliness, reliability, and modern amenities.” The April 16 directive stated, “Zonal Railways are advised to carry out detailed audits to identify deficiencies in Shatabdi and Jan Shatabdi rakes, and prepare a short-term action plan with timelines for rectification & monitoring.”

Voting is prohibited for three years for 529 candidates who failed to file accounts: ECI



New Delhi, Apr 27: 529 candidates, including four from West Bengal, who ran as independent candidates in the Lok Sabha and assembly elections but failed to submit their expenditure reports were barred from voting and running for office in Parliament and state legislatures for three years by the Election Commission of India (ECI). According to Section 10A of the Representation of the People Act (RPA), 1951, the disqualification

ruling deprives them of their ability to cast a ballot and run for office in elections held under the RPA, 1951. On March 16, the order was issued. Every candidate running for office is legally obligated under Section 10A to provide a thorough report of all election-related expenses within 30 days of the results being announced. This covers every rupee spent on everything from printing banners and posters to renting cars and attending

campaign rallies. The Commission has the authority to disqualify the candidate for three years if they violate this criterion.”Independent candidates, who lack the organizational backing of political parties, are particularly prone to missing the filing deadline – either due to ignorance of the requirement or inability to compile the necessary documentation within the stipulated window,” stated a senior ECI official. However, panchayat and municipal elections, which are held by the State Election Commissions (SEC) rather than the ECI, would not be disqualified. Elections covered by different state statutes are not automatically disqualified by Section 10A because it works under the RPA, 1951. Karnataka (59), Madhya Pradesh (39), Chhattisgarh (36), Tamil Nadu (33), Bihar (28), Telangana (27), Punjab (27), Uttarakhand (27), Andhra Pradesh (25), Haryana (22), Kerala (16), Assam (14), Rajasthan (12), Goa (3), Gujarat (9), Himachal Pradesh (9), Odisha (8), Delhi (4), West Bengal (2), and Jharkhand (2).

Odisha Teachers Pass Away During Census Work: Two “Heatstroke” Deaths in Two Days

Bhubaneswar, Apr 27: Officials stated on Monday that two school teachers working on the census died in two days in separate incidences in Odisha, presumably from sunstroke. The districts of Mayurbhanj and Sundargarh, where temperatures have risen over 37 degrees Celsius, are where the occurrences took place. This is the state’s third instance of this kind. Rajkapur Hembram, a teacher at Baidyanath High School in the Betnoti block, passed away on Sunday night while receiving treatment at a hospital in Baripada, according to a report from Betanati in the Mayurbhanj district. According to his nephew Laxmikant Hembram, he was transported to the hospital after becoming unconscious upon returning from the census door-to-door survey. “Rajkapur Hembram complained of discomfort after returning from census work,” stated Mamata Das, the school’s headmistress.



After being admitted to the hospital, he passed away. He was given three communities to count in the census. According to the deceased teacher’s family, he had previously told co-workers that he was under pressure from authorities to continue performing census responsibilities in spite of

his illness. Anurag Ekka, a teacher at Jarada Government High School in the Gurundia block, too became unwell while on census duty on Saturday and passed away that same day, according to another source from the Sundargarh district. After his condition deteriorated, he was transferred from

the Gurundia Community Health Center to the district headquarters hospital. The district collectors in question were investigating the situation, according to officials at the Special Relief Commissioner’s office here. After receiving reports from local authorities, the precise reason of their deaths will be determined. An official letter to district collectors stated on April 21 that an enumerator working in the Sonepur district had purportedly died of a heart attack after returning from census duty. For census personnel working in hot and muggy conditions, the state government has already established a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP). Because of the rising temperatures, they are not allowed to be in the sun between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. Additionally, they are instructed to drink plenty of water and carry Oral Rehydration Solution (ORS) with them when they go on field work.

Nicholas Pooran-Super Over Gamble and Rishabh Pant’s Reaction

New Delhi: In a notable moment in T20 cricket history, there has only been one maiden Super Over, executed by Sunil Narine against Nicholas Pooran in the 2014 Caribbean Premier League (CPL). Recently, during a Super Over against the Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR), the Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) opted for Pooran and Aiden Markram, with Pooran facing Narine again. However, Pooran was bowled on the first delivery, drawing criticism towards LSG captain Rishabh Pant on social media for seemingly disregarding their previous encounters.

Upon inquiry, LSG coach Justin Langer justified the decision, emphasizing the importance of backing players even in challenging scenarios. He recalled Pooran’s track record against Narine, explaining that despite Pooran’s recent struggles, he believed Pooran had the capability to face Narine effectively. Langer praised Pooran as potentially the best T20 player in the world over recent years, while acknowledging his lack of confidence at the moment. He highlighted that confidence stems from proper processes and underscored the team’s efforts to support Pooran in regaining his form. Langer remained optimistic about LSG’s position in the league despite their tenth-place standing, stressing the necessity of maintaining hope as they approach a seven-day break before their next match. He indicated that this period could be used for critical evaluations and adjustments, emphasizing positivity as key to their potential success in the remaining games of the season.

30 Years Later, Rinku Singh Answers Virender Sehwag’s Challenge



New Delhi: Rinku Singh, recognized as a super finisher in cricket, has often faced limited opportunities but has made significant impacts when given the chance. Notably, three years ago, during a match against Gujarat at the Narendra Modi Stadium, he astounded fans and experts alike by scoring five consecutive sixes off bowler Yash Doyal, securing a remarkable victory for Kolkata with one ball remaining. This mo-

ment was so unprecedented that former cricketer Virender Sehwag remarked that it might never happen again in cricket history. Recently, during a match against Lucknow, despite a shaky start with Kolkata losing four wickets early, Rinku demonstrated his resilience and skill, stabilizing the innings and scoring an impressive unbeaten 83 runs off 51 balls, including seven fours and five sixes. He particularly excelled in the 19th over against seasoned bowler Mohammed Shami, hitting three boundaries, and later launched into a formidable assault on leg-spinner Digvesh Rathi, smashing four consecutive sixes. Despite the challenges of the current IPL season, including the passing of his father in February, Rinku has shown unwavering commitment to his team and continued to perform well, having previously scored an unbeaten 53 against Rajasthan. Rinku’s ability to finish games effectively positions him as a crucial player for Kolkata, and he continues to evoke comparisons to legends like MS Dhoni and Sachin Tendulkar, as noted by Sehwag.

Vaibhav Sooryavanshi is charged with utilizing an AI chip in his bat

New Delhi: Growing success is accompanied by criticism. However, it’s one thing to be skeptical of someone’s shortcomings; it’s quite another to purposefully point out shortcomings, as Pakistan’s cricket expert Nauman Niaz has done. Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, the fastest emerging batting prodigy in Indian cricket, is the target of Niaz’s provocative and extravagant remarks. Niaz accused Sooryavanshi of foul play hours after the 15-year-old bludgeoned his second Indian Premier League (IPL) century, implying that the young player employs an AI chip in his bat to produce power. In a discussion on the show ‘SmashHit’, analyst Niaz expressed astonishment at the exceptional performance of 15-year-old cricketer Sooryavanshi. Highlighting suspicions about the legitimacy of his abilities, he humorously suggested that Sooryavanshi may have used advanced technology, likening it to performance-enhancing measures such as WADA’s dope tests. Niaz noted that while



Sooryavanshi possesses impressive technique, he lacks the traditional power game typically seen in older players. Sooryavanshi, who has been gaining recognition in world cricket by breaking batting records, narrowly missed achieving the fastest IPL century, scoring 78 off 26 balls against the Royal Challengers Bengaluru. However, after facing challenges in two subsequent games, he bounced back to make a remarkable century off just 37 balls against the Sunrisers Hyderabad. Sooryavanshi is providing elite players like Abhishek Sharma, Virat Kohli, and KL Rahul. Sooryavanshi, with two fifties and a hundred, is now ranked second

with 357 runs from eight games, followed by Rahul in third, Heinrich Klaasen in fourth, Shubman Gill in fifth, and Kohli in sixth. Indians have dominated the Orange Cap competition, and Klaasen is currently the only foreign player in the top 10. Sooryavanshi has accomplished more in a year or so than any up-and-coming Indian artist in recent memory. After winning the Under-19 World Cup in January of this year and scoring hundreds in England, Australia, and South Africa, Sooryavanshi has become the talk of the country. All that’s left is an India call-up, and given his current trajectory, keep an eye out for June.

Raghav Chadha and fellow AAP dissidents’ BJP merger is accepted by the Rajya Sabha chair



New Delhi, Apr 27: Along with six other individuals who departed the AAP last week, Rajya Sabha Chairman CP Radhakrishnan has accepted the BJP merger announced by MP Raghav Chadha. With the addition of Raghav Chadha, Ashok Mittal, Sandeep Pathak, Vikramjit Singh Sahney, Harbhajan Singh, Swati Maliwal, and Rajinder Gupta to the party’s list, the BJP now has 113 members in the Rajya Sabha. Union minister Kiren Rijiju announced the Rajya Sabha chair’s approval of the merger on X. Rijiju stated, criticizing the AAP, “Welcome to nation building NDA under

the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji and good bye to Tukde-Tukde INDI Alliance.”Rijiju praised the recently admitted BJP members and claimed they have never engaged in unparliamentary behavior. Rijiju posted on X, “I’ve noticed for a long time that these 7 Honb’le MPs have never used abusive language and have never created any indiscipline and Un-Parliamentary conduct.” The AAP suffered a severe blow on April 24 when Raghav Chadha, Sandeep Pathak, and other Rajya Sabha MPs announced their exit from the party. The

move drastically altered the AAP’s Rajya Sabha math, bringing the party’s number in the House down to just three. Six of the seven MPs that left the party were from Punjab, leaving only Balbir Singh Seechewal as an AAP lawmaker. On Monday, Raghav Chadha released a new video outlining his reasons for quitting the AAP, which he co-founded and has been affiliated with for years, as part of his ongoing assault on the party. “I dedicated fifteen years of my best years to this celebration... But this party is no longer the same. You are prevented from speaking in Parliament and from carrying out your duties. A crooked handful who operate for their own interests have now taken control of this party. Chadha remarked, “I felt like I was the right person in the wrong party.” Chadha added that before deciding to work with the BJP, he considered various options, such as quitting politics entirely or remaining in the AAP and attempting to “fix it.” Chadha questioned, “One or two people can be wrong, but can seven people be wrong?” He also asked respondents what they would do in a hazardous job.

Under Mamata Banerjee’s rule, women and the Matua minority suffered the most: PM Modi

New Delhi, Apr 27: On Sunday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi intensified his criticism of the ruling Trinamool Congress (TMC) in West Bengal, claiming that women and the Dalit Matua minority suffered the most during Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee’s 15-year term. His remarks came on the penultimate day of campaigning for the second phase of the West Bengal assembly elections, focusing on the remaining 142 constituencies that will vote on April 29. Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the Dalit Matua community for the first time during this election season, weeks following the controversial delisting of hundreds of community members from electoral rolls during a special intensive revision (SIR) exercise. Modi highlighted the enthusiasm of women in attendance, stating they suffered under the 15-year rule of the Trinamool Congress (TMC). He claimed the high turnout in the first-phase polling reflects a decline in TMC’s dominance and urged voters to support the BJP to

ensure a government change in Bengal. He accused the TMC of abandoning its foundational slogan ‘Ma Mati Manush’ (“Mother, Land, People”) and asserted that the current situation has brought suffering to the people, emphasizing economic despair and loss of opportunities. Throughout his rally in Thakurnagar, Modi reiterated key BJP promises, including free rice, clean drinking water, financial aid for solar power installations, and business loans facilitated through banks, tailored especially for women. He described the Matuas, part of the Dalit Namasudra community, as historical refugees from Bangladesh, driving their voting support for the BJP since 2019, noting by the assurance of citizenship under the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA). However, he acknowledged that many are still awaiting citizenship documentation despite having applied. Modi invoked the legacy of Dr. Shyama Prasad Mookerjee in his address, reaffirming the BJP’s commitment to securing citizenship for the Matua Namasudras. He

made a strong statement about expelling illegal infiltrators from the region, which he claims have been enabled by the TMC. Furthermore, he reassured them that his government would ensure they receive the same rights and documents as other citizens. Meanwhile, Soma Thakur, a BJP candidate and wife of a leader in the All India Matua Mahasangha, is contesting against a TMC candidate in the Bagdah constituency. In response to Modi’s promises, Mamata Bala Thakur from the TMC criticized the BJP for what she termed false assurances regarding the SIR exercise and the delisting of Matuas. Modi also made a visit to the Matua Thakur Temple, reflecting on its cultural significance before participating in a roadshow in north Kolkata, where the BJP further intensified its campaign efforts. Union Home Minister Amit Shah echoed similar promises regarding the treatment of women voters in Matua-dominated areas, asserting that the BJP would restore order to the region and guarantee fair agricultural prices.

Rishabh Pant Suggests Lucknow Super Giants Need Break After Super Over Loss

Lucknow: Skipper Rishabh Pant conceded Lucknow Super Giants “definitely need a break” after they succumbed to a Super Over loss to Kolkata Knight Riders in the Indian Premier League here on Sunday. A faltering LSG slumped to the bottom of the points table with a fifth loss on the trot, six overall in eight matches. “We definitely need a break; I think we are going to get refresh. There is always pressure and it is going to be (a) pressure game always, but at the same time, we have to look for answers inside, not outside and just keep it simple,” said Pant at the post-match presentation.

LSG had KKR on the mat at 93/7 when Rinku Singh rescued the latter with a brilliant 83 not out. Later on, chasing 156, LSG stumbled but a last-ball six from Mohammed Shami pushed the game to Super Over where they scored the lowest ever score of 1/2. Just take accountability, each and every guy; it can’t be about one or two guys. It has



to be about the whole unit and a lot of people will take accountability for that for sure.” “We had a discussion as a group and the name (that) came up was (of) Nicholas Pooran’s (for Super Over). He might not go through the best form of his life, but at the same time, you will trust your player in a hard situation like this,” Pant added. Pant reiterated

that a break would help LSG. “There might not be enough positives right now, but I think after the break, there will be a lot of positives for sure,” he said. KKR captain Ajinkya Rahane said the experience of having played at the Ekana Stadium here in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy made them believe their total of 155 for seven was challeng-

ing. The way we played after the 16 overs, Rinku’s innings was amazing. That last over and getting the momentum to our side was amazing,” he said. We played Syed Mushtaq Ali (T20) Trophy here and the soil was similar, we thought 160-170 would be a good total,” Rahane said. Rahane praised his bowlers for leading their fight in the

contest. “We knew one wicket would change the game for us. Sunil Narine was the option and hitting spinners to the long boundary was not easy. (Kartik) Tyagi has been really good, Vaibhav (Arora) as well,” he added.

Rinku not only starred with a first-innings 83 not out (51 balls; 7 fours, 5 sixes) but also took four catches and hit the winning runs in the Super Over: “When I went into bat four wickets had fallen, so I kept thinking how I can go about and I have to take the game till the end. Since we had lost four wickets, it was about keeping the scoreboard moving and put the loose balls away,” Rinku said. “What stood out was the quality of the delivery that he bowled to dismiss Nicholas Pooran and the calmness with which Sunil Narine executed it. To do this consistently over the years, especially in pressure situations like a Super Over, is remarkable. He has faced challenges in his career, but he’s always found a way to he said.

Virat Kohli Homecoming Highlights RCB Effort to Defeat Wounded Delhi Capitals Kohli Returns to Delhi as RCB Visits



New Delhi: Every time Virat Kohli walks out at the Arun Jaitley Stadium in Royal Challengers Bengaluru colours, it feels less like a homecoming and more like a reminder—of what might have been, and what slipped away. For Delhi Capitals, the story loops back to the league’s earliest days, when a teenage Kohli was there for the taking, but the franchise chose Pradeep Sangwan instead. The years since have turned that decision into

folklore. Kohli, meanwhile, has written his own legend elsewhere. Fresh off guiding RCB to their long-awaited title last season, he returns to Delhi not just as a visitor, but as a figure who continues to haunt the franchise’s what-ifs. Against Delhi, he has piled up 1149 runs in 32 matches at an average of 47.88—numbers that read like a slow, persistent echo. And at this ground, his ground, the numbers swell further: 534 runs in 11 innings,

averaging 66.75. Each visit is less about rivalry and more about remembrance—the runs piling up like a quiet, unrelenting question Delhi still cannot answer. The best thing about Kohli this season has been how he has adapted to the modern way of T20 cricket, and showing that he can still hang around with the likes of Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, Priyansh Arya and Abhishek Sharma among others. He reassesses his game every RCB.

Manchester City Claim Premier League Top Spot While Burnley Suffer Relegation Today



Burnley: Manchester City edged ahead of Arsenal at the top of the Premier League as a 1-0 victory at Turf Moor condemned Burnley to relegation on Wednesday. The defeat confirmed the Claret’s third Premier League relegation in five seasons, consigning them to the Championship alongside Wolves next season. Erling Haaland scored the only goal as Pep Guardiola’s men ended the day top of the table for the first time since August, but the City boss was frustrated at his side’s inability to win by a greater margin. City go ahead of the Gunners only on goals scored, with five games left for both the title contenders.

“The chances were there. We created a lot. We made a fantastic game,” said Guardiola. “We did everything after a demanding game three days ago.” However, City have on paper the tougher run-in as they aim to snatch a seventh league title in nine years. Fresh from beating Arsenal 2-1 in what was billed as a title decider on Sunday, the visitors roared out of the blocks. A stunning save by Martin Dubravka turned Rayan Cherki’s shot onto the woodwork. Haaland was then set free by Jeremy Doku and coolly chipped over the advancing Dubravka with just five minutes on the clock. City continued to pepper Dubravka with ef-

forts from distance, but Guardiola grew visibly angry as they let the tempo drop in their pursuit of more goals. Burnley could even have been level by half-time as Zian Flemming dragged a glorious chance wide. Haaland hit the post after the break, but City’s failure to rack up a more convincing scoreline leaves the title race tantalisingly poised. At the other end of the table, Burnley have to rebuild once more in the second tier. A return of just 20 points from 34 games has left Scott Parker’s men 13 adrift of safety with only four games remaining. “We’ve fallen a bit short.

The facts are we had to overachieve this year and we’ve not managed to do that,” said Parker. In certain moments we’ve lacked a certain quality about us and not managed to get enough points.” It is the fifth consecutive season that Burnley have either been relegated or promoted as they oscillate between the riches of the Premier League and the Championship. Three wins from their opening nine games offered hope that they could join Sunderland and Leeds in bucking the trend of promoted sides being immediately relegated back to the second tier. However, just one win in their 25 matches since has sealed their fate. Parker has become a Championship specialist, also winning promotion in the past with Fulham and Bournemouth.

PV Sindhu Joins Global Badminton Governance Following Her Election to the Key BWF Council

Horsens: One of the most accomplished athletes in the history of badminton now steps into the global governance of the sport. Olympic medallist and World Champion P. V. Sindhu has assumed a full voting position on the Council of the Badminton World Federation (BWF) following her election as Chair of the BWF Athletes’ Commission, according to a release. After completing the formal vetting process, Sindhu officially entered the BWF Council at the end of 2025. She made her first appearance before the global badminton membership during the BWF Annual General Meeting in Horsens, marking the beginning of her tenure within the sport’s highest governing body.

The BWF Council plays a central role in guiding the strategic direction and governance of badminton worldwide. As a voting member of the Council, Sindhu will participate in discussions and decisions on matters that shape the future of the sport, bringing the perspec-



tives and experiences of elite athletes directly into the heart of global badminton leadership. Her presence within the Council is particularly significant as it remains rare for an active athlete competing at the highest level of the sport to simultaneously hold a voting position within badminton’s global governance structure. In this role, Sindhu will help ensure that the voices, experiences and priorities of players are represented at the highest levels of decision-making.

Over the past decade, Sindhu has established herself not only as one of badminton’s most successful players but also as one of its most respected global ambassadors. Her elevation to the BWF Council reflects the trust placed in her leadership, experience and understanding of the sport at its highest level. Speaking on the occasion, P. V. Sindhu said, “It is a true honour and privilege to take on this responsibility within the Badminton World Federation and to represent

the voices of athletes from around the world. Badminton has given me so much, and I feel deeply grateful for the opportunity to contribute to the sport in this capacity. I am especially grateful to BWF President Khunying Patama Leeswadtrakul for her warmth and encouragement, and I look forward to working closely with the Council and the wider BWF community as we continue to strengthen and grow this wonderful sport across the world.

Staff Sabotage Bengaluru IPL Surveillance

Bengaluru: A major security scare unfolded at Bengaluru’s M Chinnaswamy Stadium during the IPL 2026 clash between Royal Challengers Bengaluru and Gujarat Titans, after nearly 240 CCTV camera feeds were allegedly disabled. The breach raised immediate concerns around surveillance at one of the league’s busiest venues. Despite the scale of the disruption, authorities acted quickly to put alternate arrangements in place, ensuring the match went ahead without any untoward incident. Officials confirmed that real-time monitoring was restored through backup measures soon after the issue was detected. The development comes at a time when RCB are playing an away fixture against Delhi Capitals, even as their home g The breach significantly impacted real-time monitoring during the match, leaving critical zones without surveillance. However, officials said that alternate arrangements were immediately put in place once the issue was detected, ensuring that security was not compromised during the game.

Rodrigue Kwizera and Selah Niyonkuru Claim Victory at Bengaluru World 10K



Bengaluru: The TCS World 10K, a World Athletics Gold Label Race, has become a social fabric of the city and that was evident on its 18th iteration on Sunday evening. Over 35000 participants, across various categories, came together as a collective to embrace the challenge. An event that has increasingly seen a world-class athletes showcase their talents, it was the turn of Rodrigue Kwizera (International men’s) and Florence Niyonkuru (international women’s) as they won first place. Niyonkuru, the immensely talented Rwandan touted to vie for global glory in the years to come, took the tape with the

clock reading 30:45. While Niyonkuru destroyed the leading group as she surged to the finish line, there was drama to in the men’s finish. Kwizera, who was part of the minor podium placings in 2023, had vowed to come back and be champion. He lived up to that prophecy on an increasingly hot Sunday morning. The man from Burundi, who finished seventh in the final of the 10000m at the 2023 World Championships, had been involved in a ding-dong battle for top spot with the leading pack for the first seven or so kilometres. Once he found additional energy in his legs, he used that as a platform to zoom

towards the finish line. It helped that he knew he was well inside the event record when he had less than a kilometre to go. With an enthusiastic early morning audience willing him on, he powered through to stop the clock at 27:31, almost seven seconds faster than Kenya’s Nicholas Kipkorir (a few hours after Kwizera’s golden moment, the 2023 winner, Sebastian Sawe, became the first man in history to dip below the two hour mark in the men’s marathon). The challenge was the heat,” Kwizera said in the post-race press conference. “I have been training in Spain and it’s much cooler this time of the year there. I told myself after 5K I will push. And then again in the final 1K. Yes, I wanted to go for the event record, so I am glad that I did it”. Results: International men: 1. Rodrigue Kwizera (Burundi) 0.27.31; 2. Harbert Kibet (Uganda) 0.27.39; 3. Gilbert Kipkosgei Kiprotich (Kenya) 0.27.43. International women: 1. Florence Niyonkuru (Rwanda) 0.30.45; 2. Brenda Jephchirchir (Kenya)

0.30.59; 3. Chaltu Dida Diriba (Ethiopia) 0.31.03. Indian women: 1. Sanjivani Jadhav 0.35.01; 2. Soniya 0.35.31; 3. Bhagirathi 0.35.32. Indian Men: 1. Harmanjot Singh 0:29:13; 2. Shailesh Kushwaha 0:29:21; 3. Deepak Bhatt 0:29:52. “The victims in this case came to Dallas to conduct legitimate business and they were met with firearms and violence,” Ryan Raybould, the U.S. attorney for the Northern District of Texas, where the complaint was filed, said at a news conference Thursday. Publicists for Gucci Mane didn’t immediately respond to emailed requests for comment. The alleged confrontation happened Jan. 10 after the three victims flew to Dallas for what they thought was a business meeting at a music studio, according to the affidavit. Prosecutors said Pooh Shiesty, whose legal is name Lontrell Williams Jr., arranged the meeting, allegedly to discuss the terms of his contract with 1017 Records. Once these three men were inside the recording studio, Williams Jr.

Xavi Simons Ruled Out of World Cup and Spurs Relegation Fight



London: Xavi Simons is out of Tottenham’s Premier League relegation fight and this summer’s World Cup with a knee injury, wrote on Instagram. “My season has come to an abrupt end and I’m just trying to process it. “Honestly, I’m heartbroken. None of it makes sense. “All I’ve wanted to do is fight for my team and now the ability to do that has been snatched away from me, along with the World Cup. Representing my country this summer, just gone.” Simons’ injury is a major blow to new Spurs boss Roberto De Zerbi, whose side are two

several months. “They say life can be cruel and today it feels that way,” Simons, who has played 34 times for his country, wrote on Instagram. “My season has come to an abrupt end and I’m just trying to process it. “Honestly, I’m heartbroken. None of it makes sense. “All I’ve wanted to do is fight for my team and now the ability to do that has been snatched away from me, along with the World Cup. Representing my country this summer, just gone.” Simons’ injury is a major blow to new Spurs boss Roberto De Zerbi, whose side are two

points from Premier League safety with four matches remaining. He would also have played a key part for the Netherlands at the World Cup in North America starting on June 11. Erling Haaland scored the only goal as Pep Guardiola’s men ended the day top of the table for the first time since August, but the City boss was frustrated at his side’s inability to win by a greater margin. City go ahead of the Gunners only on goals scored, with five games left for both the title contenders. “The chances were there. We created a lot.