

Governor Of Mizoram Reviews The Chite River Conservation Project In Aizawl City

Aizawl, Apr 28: Mizoram Governor General (Dr) Vijay Kumar Singh, PVSM, AVSM, YSM (Retd), held an interaction with members of the Save Chite Lui Coordination Committee and senior Public Works Department (PWD) officials at Lok Bhavan on Monday afternoon. As patron of the committee, the Governor was briefed on Phase 2 of the Save Chite Lui Action Plan, which focuses on the conservation and restoration of the Chite River. DigitalNews Platform During the meeting, the Governor emphasized the importance of collective and sustained action to rejuvenate the river. He proposed the installation of strategic check gates and small dams to systematically remove waste, coupled with extensive plantation drives along the river-



banks. He also urged stronger collaboration among communities, NGOs, and government departments, while advising that the Detailed Project Report (DPR) be simplified to ensure practicality and effective implementation. Reaffirming his full support, he offered suggestions to strengthen the project's success. Officials presented a detailed overview of ongoing

efforts through a PowerPoint presentation, highlighting the collaboration between the Department of Environment, Forests & Climate Change and the PWD in implementing Phase 2 of the action plan. The meeting was attended by Rochamlana, General Secretary of the Save Chite Lui Coordination Committee, Er. Lalrinnggheta, SE, along with other senior PWD officials.

Three Injured in Gunfight Between Armed Groups in Manipur's Ukhrul District

Imphal, Apr 28: At least three people were injured after a gunfight broke out between two armed groups in Ringui village of Ukhrul district, officials confirmed. The incident occurred under the jurisdiction of Luichong Maiphei Police Station. According to police sources, the exchange of fire began around 10:30 am between suspected village volunteers belonging to the Tangkhul Naga and Kuki communities. The gunfight continued for several hours, lasting until approximately 6 pm. Police said the three injured individuals, identified as Tangkhul Naga village volunteers, were evacuated to the district hospital in Ukhrul for treatment.

Ringui is a Tangkhul Naga village located about 36 km west of Ukhrul town and is accessible via the national highway connecting Ukhrul and Kohima. Tensions in the district have remained high since February, following a clash between youths from the Tangkhul Naga and Kuki communities. The unrest led to the burning of over 50 houses, including government structures, belonging to both communities. Violence has continued in recent weeks. On April 18, two Tangkhul Naga civilians were killed in an ambush while travelling from Imphal to Ukhrul, allegedly by suspected Kuki militants. On April 24, three armed individuals—two from the Kuki

community and one Tangkhul Naga—were killed in separate gunfights in Sinakeitheh village in the same district. Meanwhile, the Ringui Village Protection Committee (RVPC), a Tangkhul Naga body, strongly condemned what it described as an “unprovoked attack” allegedly carried out by Kuki militants operating under Suspension of Operations (SoO). The committee claimed that heavily armed militants targeted Naga Village Guards (NVG) monitoring the Ringui Horei area, causing widespread panic among residents. In a statement, the committee said repeated incidents of violence indicate a continuing pattern of hostility, forcing civilians—including women,

children, and the elderly—to live in fear. It warned of risks such as stray bullets, destruction of property, displacement, and threats to life, and called for peace and harmony in the region. On the other hand, the Kuki CSO Working Committee (WCKCSOs), a Kuki civil body, presented a different account. It stated that Kuki village volunteers were patrolling along the Kampa Mol (Mount Compass) ridges—considered shared cultivated land of nearby Kuki villages—when they encountered Tangkhul armed groups along the disputed boundary, leading to the exchange of fire. The committee added that while the Kuki community prefers peace, it remains

firm in defending its land, rights, and people. Conversely, the Kuki CSO Working Committee (WCKCSOs) offered a different account, claiming Kuki volunteers were patrolling shared cultivated land along the Kampa Mol ridges when they encountered Tangkhul armed groups. The committee stressed that while the Kuki community prefers peace, it will defend its land, rights, and people. The conflicting narratives highlight the deep mistrust between the two communities. With repeated incidents of violence, the district remains on edge, and calls for reconciliation grow louder as civilians continue to bear the brunt of the unrest.

Naga organisations allege atrocities by security forces

Kohima, Apr 28: Three Naga organisations have accused the security forces of meting out atrocities, brutalities, intimidations and threats to the Nagas in strife-torn Manipur. The Working Committee of the United Naga Council (UNC), the Naga Women Union (NWU) and the All Naga Students' Association, Manipur (ANSAM) issued separate press statements, alleging “heavy militarisation” of many Naga-inhabited areas in the state. The Working Committee of the UNC alleged that the Naga people living in the state of Manipur condemned the “atrocious activities” of a section of the Assam Rifles, committing series of “military atrocities” upon the Naga villagers who

have been struggling, vigilant peacefully to defend themselves from the external aggression. The UNC said it has been closely watching over the sporadic incidences of military excesses occurring in “our homeland”, especially in the villages of Tangkhul Naga community, who have been enduring the brunt of the persistent gun violence “orchestrated by armed Kuki mercenaries is very unfortunate and reprehensible”. The UNC then said the recent incident of ramming of Talui village check gate and indiscriminately firing upon the civilians at Hoomi village is not an isolated case of chilling “Indian Army repression in Naga hills”. It added that such “ugly and inhuman

actions” upon the unarmed civilians carried out by 18 Assam Rifles, posted in Ukhrul is a matter of alarming concern, putting the lives of innocent people at risk is reprehensible and should be condemned by all right-thinking individuals. The All Naga Students' Association, Manipur (ANSAM) also expressed strong condemnation of the alleged acts of brutality, intimidation, and excessive force perpetrated by the security forces against innocent civilians in Talui and Hoomi Village on April 25, 2026. It said such actions carried out against unarmed villagers are not only deeply disturbing but stand as a grave affront to justice, humanity, and democratic responsibility.

development priorities of Mizoram. They also deliberated on planning and implementation strategies for the state's development in line with Viksit Bharat (Developed India) 2047 under “Transformed Mizoram Vision 2047.”

After the meeting with senior government officials, the Union Minister visited the Mizoram Police Headquarters at Khat-

AHSEC HS Results 2026 Declared

Guwahati, Apr 28: The Assam Higher Secondary Education Council has declared the results of the Higher Secondary (HS) Final Examinations 2026, with an overall pass percentage of 81.54% across all streams. Among the streams, Science recorded the highest pass percentage at 89.79%, followed by Commerce at 81.13%, Arts at 79.54%, and Vocational at 74.20%. In the Arts stream, Baksa district topped with an impressive pass percentage of 94.29%, while Chirang district secured the second position with 92.99%. A total of 1,91,798 students passed in the Arts stream, including 54,755 in first division,

79,181 in second division, and 57,862 in third division. In the Commerce stream, 15,796 students cleared the examination, with 7,787 securing first division, 5,694 second division, and 2,315 third division. The Science stream saw 54,474 students pass, including 34,079 in first division, 17,777 in second division, and 2,618 in third division. In the Vocational stream, 1,465 candidates appeared for the examination. Overall, 3,22,723 students appeared across all streams. Authorities also reported that 190 candidates were expelled for malpractice, while 8,075 candidates were absent during the examinations.

Two Arrested With Heroin In Mizoram's Champhai



Aizawl, Apr 28: Assam Rifles, in a joint operation with Champhai Police, recovered 11.10 grams of heroin (No-4) valued at approximately ₹8.32 lakh from the general area of Zote in Champhai district of Mizoram on Tuesday. Online News Subscription During the operation, two individuals were apprehended in connection with the seizure. Officials stated that the recovered contraband along with the detained individuals has been handed over to the Excise and Narcotics Department in Champhai for further investigation and legal action. In a continuous and coordinated effort to dismantle narcotics networks along the international border, security forces in Mizoram successfully intercepted a significant shipment of contraband heroin in the Champhai district today. The operation, a collaborative effort between the Assam Ri-

gles and the Champhai District Police, led to the arrest of two individuals and the recovery of high-grade narcotics valued at approximately ₹8.32 lakh in the illegal market. Acting on specific and credible intelligence regarding the movement of drug traffickers in the border region, a joint team of the Assam Rifles and the local police established a strategic surveillance point in the general area of Zote, a village situated near the Indo-Myanmar border. During the tactical operation, the security personnel intercepted two suspicious individuals. Upon conducting a thorough search of their person and belongings, the team recovered 11.10 grams of Heroin No. 4. This particular grade of heroin is a highly potent, refined derivative of opium and remains one of the most sought-after and dangerous substances in the illicit drug trade.

Union Minister of State for Home Affairs visits Aizawl

Aizawl, Apr 28: Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar arrived in Aizawl on Monday ay on a two-day visit.

He was received at Lengpui Airport by Dr. Andrew H. Vanlalдика, Additional Secretary, Home Department and C. Lalremruati, Protocol Officer.

Kumar had a meeting with officials from various departments of the Government of Mizoram at MINECO Conference Hall. During the meeting, the Union Minister said that he had travelled from afar just to listen to the concerns and needs of the people, and then urged the senior government officials present to speak freely and frankly about their concerns and priorities for the development of Mizoram.

The meeting was chaired by R. Zarzosanga, acting Chief Secretary of Mizoram; David Lalthantluanga, Secretary, Home Department and Ramdinliani, Secretary, Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare Department delivered PowerPoint presentations explaining the Centrally Sponsored Schemes being implemented under their respective departments, highlighting not only their achievements but also the

challenges they face and the measures needed to address them. Following this, representatives from various government departments also presented in detail the initiatives undertaken by their respective departments, the challenges they encounter, the remedial measures for them and various other requirements of their departments. The Union Minister of State advised the officials to prepare comprehensive reports on their respective departments and submit them to him, assuring that necessary follow-up action would be taken accordingly.

The DIGs of BSF and 23 Sector Assam Rifles, who attended the meeting presented reports on border security management along Mizoram's international borders (Myanmar and Bangladesh), issues relating to border fencing and measures for the development of border villages under the Vibrant Villages Programme. Officials of the Government of Mizoram also discussed various other important matters, including steps to promote tourism, the need to resolve difficulties faced by foreign tourists regarding Restricted Area Permit/ Protected Area Permit, and sector-wise



development priorities of Mizoram. They also deliberated on planning and implementation strategies for the state's development in line with Viksit Bharat (Developed India) 2047 under “Transformed Mizoram Vision 2047.”

After the meeting with senior government officials, the Union Minister visited the Mizoram Police Headquarters at Khat-

la, where he was accorded a high tea reception by the Home Minister of Mizoram K. Sapdanga, at GS Arya Mess.

The Minister will hold a meeting via video conferencing (VC) with senior government officials of Siaha district on Tuesday. He will also interact, through VC, with representatives of local communities and NGOs of Siaha district.

Chewing Gum Used to Disable CCTV in Guwahati Jewellery Heist

Guwahati, Apr 28: In a rare and unusual burglary, thieves allegedly used chewing gum to disable surveillance cameras before breaking into a jewellery showroom in the Christian Basti area of Guwahati in the early hours of Tuesday, April 28.

The incident took place at the Giva Jewellery showroom, where the accused are believed to have carried out the theft with careful planning.

Preliminary findings suggest that the miscreants deliberately covered CCTV cameras with chewing gum, effectively blocking surveillance before entering the premises. Investigators suspect that a significant quantity of gold and diamond ornaments may have been stolen, although the exact value of the loss has not yet been confirmed.

A team from Assam Police, led by officials from Dispur

Police Station, arrived at the scene soon after the incident was reported.

The area has been secured, and forensic as well as technical teams are currently examining evidence and CCTV footage to identify the culprits. Police officials stated that more details are expected after a thorough inventory check and detailed analysis of the surveillance data. An investigation is ongoing.

Heavy Rain And Landslide Risk Force School Closures In Aizawl District

Aizawl, Apr 28: Authorities in Aizawl district ordered the closure of all schools on Tuesday after continuous heavy rainfall increased the risk of mudflows, landslides, and rock-falls. The directive, issued by the district administration, emphasized that the measure was taken to safeguard students amid worsening weather conditions. Online News Subscription The official release stated that the recent downpour posed significant hazards across multiple locations in the district, making it necessary to suspend classes in all institutions, including higher secondary schools, on April 28, 2026.

Meanwhile, in a separate development, the Union Health Ministry has urged states and union territories to strengthen preparedness against heat-related illnesses as the country braces for an unusually high number of heatwave days between April and June. In a letter addressed to chief secretaries, the Union Health Secretary advised operationalising dedicated Heat Stroke Management Units at health facilities, ensuring ambulance readiness, disseminating early warnings, and enabling real-time reporting of heat stroke cases through the Integrated Health Information Platform (IHIP). According to the India Me-



eteorological Department, maximum temperatures are hovering between 40 and 46 degrees Celsius across most regions, with exceptions in the western Himalayan belt, northeast Bihar, and parts of northeast India where temperatures remain below 36 degrees Celsius. Coastal states such as Odisha, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, and Andhra Pradesh are expected to be particularly vulnerable, while isolated areas in Gujarat, Maharashtra, and Karnataka may also experience severe conditions. The dual challenges of heavy rainfall in the Northeast and intensifying heatwaves across central and northern India underscore the need for coordinated disaster preparedness and public awareness to mitigate risks to life and infrastructure. On September 5, police submitted a 790-page chargesheet before the First Class Judicial Magistrate of Sohra subdivision, detailing the alleged conspiracy and evidence. The case accused.

IIT Guwahati Hosts National IDE Bootcamp to Promote Student Entrepreneurship

Guwahati, Apr 28: The Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati successfully concluded the five-day Innovation, Design and Entrepreneurship (IDE) Bootcamp 2026, aimed at fostering entrepreneurial skills among students. The programme was held from April 20 to April 24 at the institute's campus. Organised by the School of Agro and Rural Technology (SART), the residential boot-

camp brought together nearly 150 participants from 14 states across India. The initiative focused on nurturing innovation, design thinking, and entrepreneurial capabilities among young minds. The bootcamp was supported by the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), the Ministry of Education's Innovation Cell, and SBI Foundation. A total of 34 student teams participated

and engaged in activities centered on innovation and skill development. The programme featured expert-led sessions on design thinking, startup development, artificial intelligence, customer discovery, lean canvas modelling, and financial planning. Mentors from the Wadhvani Foundation also guided participants from idea generation to prototype development. A key highlight was the exposure

visit to the Technology Innovation Centre (TIC) and Design Innovation Centre, where students gained hands-on experience. The event also included a panel discussion with startup founders and industry experts.

On April 24, a Pitch Day was organised, where student teams presented their business ideas before a 12-member jury panel. Selected teams were awarded during the valedictory session.

● The Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati hosted the five-day Innovation, Design and Entrepreneurship (IDE) Bootcamp 2026 from April 20 to April 24.

The bootcamp was coordinated by Dr Sagar Surendra Deshmukh. Organisers said the initiative played a significant role in encouraging entrepreneurship and innovation among students.

Woman held for killing 4-year old daughter in Sivasagar

Dibrugarh, Apr 28: A 27-year-old woman has been arrested for allegedly killing her four-year-old daughter in Assam's Sivasagar district, police said on Monday. The incident occurred on Sunday morning at Khorahat Grant tea garden under Demow police station. According to police, the woman allegedly slit the child's throat with a sharp weapon before attempting to take her own life. Family members said only the mother and daughter were present at home when the incident took place. Both were rushed to a nearby government hospital with critical injuries, where doctors declared the child dead. The woman, who sustained severe injuries near her neck, was later referred to Assam Medical College and Hospital (AMCH) in Dibrugarh, where she is currently undergoing treatment in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) and

remains unconscious. Sivasagar Senior Superintendent of Police Papori Chetia said police received information around noon, following which a team from Demow police station reached the spot. The body of the child has been sent to AMCH for post-mortem examination.

A case has been registered against the woman under Section 103 (murder) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita. Police said further legal action will be taken once she recovers.

Family members said they were unaware of any reason behind the incident. Police added that the motive remains unclear and that statements of family members are being recorded. "We have recovered a sharp weapon believed to have been used in the incident. It will be sent for forensic examination," she said.

Tripura Police seize narcotic worth Rs 8.5 lakh near Indo-Bangladesh border



Agartala, Apr 28: Tripura Police seized a large consignment of narcotics worth around Rs 8.5 lakh during a routine patrol operation in Sepahijala district near the Indo-Bangladesh border. According to Tapas Das, the recovery was made during patrolling in areas including N.C. Nagar, Durgapur, Kukulbari, and the Srimantapur Border Road stretch. During the operation, police recovered 130 bottles of Eskuf cough syrup, 33 kilograms of dry cannabis (ganja), and 4,000 yaba tablets. Officials said the

seized contraband was found abandoned and remained unclaimed. All items were taken into custody after following due legal procedures. Police have launched an investigation to identify those involved in storing and transporting the illegal substances. Authorities said efforts are underway to trace both the source and intended destination of the narcotics. Tripura Police stated that the seizure reflects the force's continued crackdown on drug trafficking and smuggling activities in sensitive border areas of the state.

Karbi Anglong loses over 97,000 hectares of forest cover between 2001-2020

Guwahati, Apr 28: Karbi Anglong and West Karbi Anglong districts in Assam have witnessed extensive environmental degradation over the past few decades, with recent satellite-based studies highlighting a sharp decline in forest cover alongside growing human pressure on land resources.

Data from assessments conducted between 2001 and 2020 show that Karbi Anglong is among the worst-affected regions in the state, losing an estimated 97,400 hectares of tree cover, nearly 12% of its total forest area. Further analysis between 2013 and 2023 indicates a reduction of about 108.56 sq. km in forest cover. This decline has been accompanied by a rise in agricultural land by 26.69 sq. km and an expansion of built-up areas by more than 30 sq. km, reflecting significant changes in land-use patterns. Experts attribute these shifts partly to demographic growth. The population of Karbi Anglong has increased from around



9.5 lakh in 2011 to an estimated 11 lakh by 2025, placing additional pressure on forests for housing and cultivation. Illegal activities have compounded the problem. Reports point to large-scale timber smuggling and unregulated extraction of natural resources, including more than 8 million cubic metres of stone mined beyond permissible limits,

raising serious environmental concerns. Studies also indicate increasing forest fragmentation, with dense forest tracts gradually giving way to degraded and open landscapes due to encroachment and expanding human settlements. The ecological impact is visible in wildlife patterns as well. Habitat loss has intensified human-wildlife conflict across As-

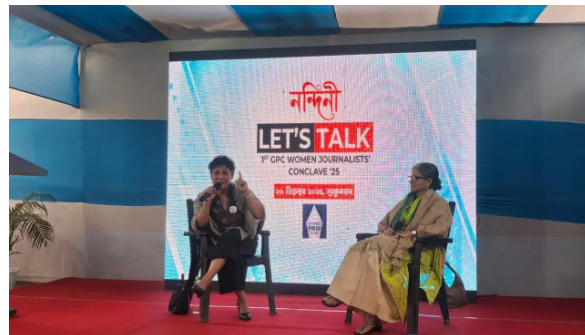
sam. Between 2000 and 2023, more than 1,400 human deaths and around 1,200 elephant fatalities have been linked to shrinking forest areas.

Environmental experts warn that if current trends continue, the region could face long-term consequences such as soil erosion, water scarcity and declining biodiversity. Despite ongoing conservation efforts, balancing development needs with environmental protection remains a major challenge. Local residents also point to visible environmental changes over time, noting that forests that were once dense have thinned considerably, while rivers that earlier flowed year-round have now diminished significantly, reflecting a steady ecological decline across the region.

The environmental changes in Karbi Anglong and West Karbi Anglong reflect the cumulative impact of sustained human activity since the 1970s on a once-rich ecological region.

Guwahati Press Club calls for steps to protect journalists and allocate land

Guwahati, Apr 28: A delegation from the Guwahati Press Club met Assam Chief Secretary Ravi Kota at Janata Bhawan in Dispur on Monday to discuss several long-standing concerns affecting journalists in the city. The meeting, which lasted around 45 minutes, focused on infrastructure, welfare, and safety issues faced by media professionals. One of the primary demands raised was the lack of a permanent office for the Press Club, despite its decades-long presence. The delegation requested the government to allocate at least 1 bigha 5 lechas of land at a suitable location in Guwahati to enable the construction of a dedicated press club building. In addition, the representatives submitted a memorandum seeking government assistance to improve facilities for journalists. These included better technical infrastructure, training initiatives, regular health check-up provisions, and spaces for rest and recreational activities. The delegation proposed the introduction of a health insurance scheme for eligible members, potentially in partnership with a public sector organization, to provide financial and medical support to



journalists. Safety emerged as a key concern during the discussion, with the delegation noting that many journalists operate without sufficient protection and the group urged authorities to take stronger steps to guarantee a safe and secure working environment for journalists. Responding to the concerns, Ravi Kota assured the delegation that the government would examine their demands and take appropriate steps toward addressing them.

Two injured in late-night motorcycle collision

Guwahati, Apr 28: Following a head-on accident between two motorbikes late on Monday, April 26, in the Guwahati neighborhood of Zoo Road, two people suffered significant injuries, according to police. The event happened next to a gas station on the main route, which still sees a lot of traffic even at night. Preliminary reports indicate that both injured people were transferred right away to a private hospital in the area for treatment. One of the victims is still in serious condition.

Draws, comebacks amid heavy rain disrupt big teams' dominance Meghalaya State League

Shillong, Apr 28: Dominant performances from Shillong Lajong FC, Nangkiew Irat SC and Khimusniang SC headlined match-day action on April 27 in the fifth Meghalaya State League, although several closely contested fixtures and adverse weather added intrigue across groups.

Persistent heavy rain across Meghalaya affected playing conditions, with one match in Group F between Lawbah SC and Mishon SSCC in Mairang postponed due to an unplayable pitch. Officials are expected to announce a revised date. Group H produced two goalless draws that tightened competition standings. In Mawkyrwat, Mawlarshong SC held Rangdajied United FC, the 2023 champions, to a 0-0 stalemate. The result follows a 1-1 draw in their earlier meeting, leaving Mawlarshong unbeaten against their higher-profile opponents this season. A similar scoreline in William-

nagar saw Janepih YSCA drop points for the first time after three straight wins, as Balmunduri FC secured a share of the spoils. A comeback in Group D provided one of the day's more dramatic moments. Thangskai Tiger SC overturned a deficit to defeat Jalaphet Moochut Pyrdung SC 2-1 in Khliehriat. After a goalless first half, Thomas Dkhar put Jalaphet ahead early in the second period, but goals from Wendi Markson Nongtdu and Solmon Sympli turned the match around late on.

Group C saw Amlarem SC maintain control with a 3-1 victory over Lamin XI SCC. Early pressure paid off through Iaid Da Kyrmen Jungai and Marshal Nongrum, who later added a second, while Lamin XI managed a late consolation. Heavyweights continued to assert dominance elsewhere. Shillong Lajong FC secured a 5-0 win over Iatylilang Lumsehkot CSC in Wahiajer, accelerating after the



break with four second-half goals. At the MFA Ground in Shillong, Nangkiew Irat SC matched that scoreline against Mawlum Tyrsad SCC, with a late hat-trick from substitute Wallams Nongkhaw sealing the result. The largest margin of the day came in Group A, where Khimusniang SC overwhelmed Umkaber SCC 9-0 at the SSA Stadium in Shillong. Primrose

Lamat's brace took his tally to nine goals in the competition, while multiple scorers contributed to a one-sided contest that underlined Khimusniang's attacking strength. With weather disruptions and unexpected draws reshaping the standings, the competition remains open across several groups despite the continued dominance of leading sides.

CM Lalduhoma praises voters as ZPM wins the Aizawl civic polls

Aizawl, Apr 28: Mizoram Chief Minister Lalduhoma on April 27, thanked the people of Aizawl after the ruling Zoram People's Movement (ZPM) registered a landslide victory in the Aizawl Municipal Corporation (AMC) elections. The ZPM secured 17 out of 19 seats in the AMC polls, while the main opposition Mizo National Front (MNF) and the Indian National Congress won one seat each. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which contested 11 seats, failed to open its account. Expressing gratitude in a Facebook post, Lalduhoma thanked both God and the people of Aizawl for enabling the party to form the municipal board. He also acknowledged the support of party workers and allies for their dedication throughout the campaign. The Chief Minister congratulated all newly elected corporators across party lines and wished them a successful tenure. He further appreciated the State Election Commission for conducting free and fair polls.

Senior MNF leader Lalruatkima also congratulated ZPM for its decisive win, calling the victory timely. Addressing a party meeting, he expressed hope that the new leadership would ensure effective governance in Aizawl. While acknowledging that the MNF had fielded capable candi-



dates, Lalruatkima admitted that the party fell short of its electoral expectations. He urged unsuccessful candidates to continue serving the people through the party.

The civic body has seen shifting political control over the years. The first AMC elections in 2010 were won by the Congress, while the subsequent polls in 2015 and 2021 were dominated by the MNF.

Khasi and Garo are recognized as official languages of Meghalaya

Aizawl, Apr 28: Meghalaya has accorded official language status to Khasi and Garo alongside English following the promulgation of the Meghalaya Official Languages Ordinance, 2026. The ordinance received the assent of Governor C. H. Vijayashankar and was published in the Gazette of Meghalaya (Extraordinary) on April 27.

Under the ordinance, English, Khasi and Garo will be used for official purposes of the state government. English, however, will continue to be the language of proceedings in civil and criminal courts, while the functioning of the Meghalaya Legislative Assembly will continue as per existing provisions.

The law also authorises the state government to specify the use of one or more official languages at different administrative levels and in particular regions. It provides for the use of English and Khasi in district, sub-divisional and block-level offices in the Khasi and Jaintia Hills, and English and Garo in similar offices in the Garo Hills.

The move is seen as a step towards



preserving indigenous languages and strengthening demands for the inclusion of Khasi and Garo in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution. The or-

inance repeals the Meghalaya State Language Act, 2005, while safeguarding actions already taken under the previous law.

The chairman of the ATASU group is accused of extortion threats by a BJP

Guwahati, Apr 28: A complaint alleging extortion, criminal intimidation, and financial misconduct has been filed against Milan Buragohain, president of a faction of the All Tai Ahom Students' Union, at the Sivasagar Sadar Police Station. The complaint was lodged by Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Lachit Gogoi, who alleged that Buragohain had borrowed Rs 15.50 lakh from him. According to the complaint, Rs 1.50 lakh was repaid initially, but the remaining Rs 14 lakh has not been returned despite repeated requests. Gogoi further alleged that the dispute escalated when he sought repayment of the outstanding

amount, claiming that Buragohain issued threats, including alleged death threats. He stated that a formal legal notice was served through his advocate seeking settlement of the dues, but no response was received. Following this, Gogoi approached the police and filed an official complaint seeking legal action. Based on the complaint, Sivasagar Police summoned Buragohain for questioning. Police sources confirmed that he was examined in connection with the allegations, and a detailed inquiry is expected to follow.

Responding to the allegations, Buragohain denied any financial transaction with Gogoi and described the

claims as "baseless" and "laughable." Speaking to reporters within the police station premises, he said no case had been registered against him and that he had only been questioned by the police. Buragohain also questioned the timing of the complaint, stating that if the alleged loan had been taken in 2023, the delay in raising the issue was unclear. He further claimed that there had been no communication between him and Gogoi since 2023, rejecting the allegations of threats. Police officials have not yet confirmed the registration of a formal case, and the matter remains under investigation.

Assam CEO Inspects Strong Rooms Ahead of Counting Day

Guwahati, Apr 28: Assam Chief Electoral Officer Anurag Goel has visited multiple districts to inspect the strong rooms and counting centres and assess the overall arrangements ahead of vote counting for the Assam Assembly elections on May 4.

During his visit, Goel reviewed the arrangements within the counting halls, assessed the overall security measures at the counting centres, and examined other critical aspects to ensure a smooth, transparent, and secure counting process.

Notably, a training programme for district election officers, returning officers and election officers was held here on Saturday in order to ensure smooth conduct of the vote counting process.

Organised under the aegis of the chief electoral officer, Assam, the programme

covered detailed planning and various aspects of implementation of the counting process, in line with the guidelines of the Election Commission of India (ECI). The Assam chief electoral officer, along with the additional chief electoral officer and joint chief electoral officers attended the programme as resource persons.

The chief electoral officer instructed all concerned officials to ensure that the counting process is carried out strictly in accordance with the guidelines of the ECI.Goel also highlighted the arrangements to be made in the counting halls and emphasised the need for special vigilance in the management of electronic voting machines (EVMs) and voter verifiable paper audit trail (VVPAT) machines during the counting process.

Assam–Madhya Pradesh Launch Landmark Wild Water Buffalo Relocation Initiative

Guwahati, Apr 28: In a landmark conservation effort, the Assam Forest Department and the Madhya Pradesh Forest Department have begun the translocation of the endangered Asiatic wild water buffalo from Kaziranga Tiger Reserve to Kanha Tiger Reserve, marking the longest wildlife translocation by road within India. The initiative aims to reintroduce the species to its historic range in Central India, where it has been locally extinct for over a century. These megaherbivores play a vital ecological role as “grassland engineers,” helping manage tall grasses and enhancing biodiversity in grassland ecosystems.The Asiatic wild water buffalo (*Bubalus amee*), listed under Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, is categorized as Endangered on the IUCN Red List. With a global population of fewer than 4,000



individuals—around 99% found in Assam—the conservation of this species is critical. A study by the Wildlife Institute of India identified Kanha’s grasslands as highly suitable for reintroduction, closely resembling Kaziranga’s habitat. The project plans to translocate 50 buffaloes over the next year to establish a viable population. The species was last recorded in Kanha in 1979. The project gained momentum

following directives from Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav in January 2026. Extensive surveys and planning led to the identification of suitable herds in Kaziranga, and specialized holding enclosures, known as “Bomas,” were constructed for acclimatization and safe release. In the first phase, 15 buffaloes were selected for translocation.Capture opera-

tions began on March 18, 2026, using safe chemical immobilization techniques under expert supervision. Between March 19 and April 10, seven sub-adult buffaloes were captured from different ranges of Kaziranga, along with one additional female from a rescue centre. The animals were kept in specially designed enclosures to ensure health monitoring and reduce stress before transport.

On April 25, 2026, the first batch of four buffaloes—one male and three females—was flagged off for Kanha. The convoy, equipped with veterinary support, fodder, and water, undertook a journey of over 2,000 km, reaching Kanha on April 28. The animals were received in the presence of Chief Minister Mohan Yadav and placed in a controlled enclosure for further acclimatization before their

eventual release into the wild. A second batch is scheduled to be transported by the end of April as part of the phased rewilding plan.This translocation stands as one of the most ambitious wildlife conservation efforts in India, not only because of the distance covered but also due to its goal of establishing a sustainable population of 50 individuals. Strict protocols have been followed to ensure animal safety and welfare throughout the process, even under challenging weather conditions. The operation has also highlighted the capability and coordination of forest teams in handling large wild animals.

As a gesture to strengthen conservation collaboration, Madhya Pradesh has also expressed willingness to provide Gharial for potential reintroduction in Assam in the future.

BJP Leader Claims Threats, Extortion by ATASU Leader

Guwahati, Apr 28: A political controversy has surfaced in Assam’s Sivasagar district after a Bharatiya Janata Party leader filed a complaint accusing a student body leader of financial misconduct, extortion, and criminal intimidation. The allegations, however, have been strongly denied by the accused, who has described the claims as false and politically motivated. The complaint was lodged at the Sivasagar Sadar Police Station against All Tai Ahom Students’ Union faction president Milan Buragohain by BJP leader Lachit Gogoi.

Statewide manuscript survey launched in Nagaland

Kohima, Apr 28: The Department of Art and Culture, Government of Nagaland has initiated a statewide manuscript survey under the Gyan Bharatam Mission, a national initiative of the Union Ministry of Culture.

The Gyan Bharatam Mission aims to identify, document and create a comprehensive national database of manuscripts and historically significant records across the country, with a view to preserving India’s documentary heritage and traditional knowledge systems for future generations.

The Mission recognizes that many valuable manuscripts and records are currently scattered across institutions, religious centres, community repositories and private collections, and that a large number of these remain undocumented.

In Nagaland, the nature of documentary heritage is distinct, as much of the State’s historical knowledge has traditionally been preserved outside formal archival

institutions. Such materials are commonly found in church archives, missionary records, village institutions, early translations, customary records and private family collections.

The ongoing survey seeks to systematically identify such materials and document their details through a national digital platform.

The Department has appealed to all institutions, organizations and individuals to extend their cooperation by sharing information regarding any manuscripts or old records in their possession.

It is emphasized that the survey is limited to documentation and recording of information only, and does not involve removal or transfer of materials from their custodians.The Department further stated that public participation is vital for the successful implementation of the Mission and for ensuring that Nagaland’s valuable documentary heritage is properly identified, documented and preserved.

Five Arrested for Vandalising Fertiliser-Laden Truck in Bishnupur

Imphal, Apr 28: Manipur Police arrested five individuals for their alleged involvement in vandalising a truck carrying fertiliser and destroying its consignment at Moirang Patlou under Moirang Police Station in Bishnupur district.

The accused have been identified as Laishram Avijit Singh (25) and Khwairakpam Dhaneshwor Singh (25), both from Thamnapi village; Alex Moirangthem (25) of Ngangkhalawai Awang Leikai; Phairembam Kaijer Singh (36) of Konjengbam Leikai; and Sanabam Chaoba Meitei (48), a resident of Churachandpur Mata Leirak currently staying at Moirang College Relief Camp.

According to police sources, the



group allegedly attacked and damaged a truck loaded with fertiliser bags and destroyed the consignment. The motive behind the incident has not yet been officially disclosed.

seized four two-wheelers believed to have been used in carrying out the act.

Officials said further investigation is underway to determine additional details and any possible links to other incidents.

Mizoram Governor stress on revival of Chite Lui river

Aizawl, Apr 28: Mizoram Governor General Vijay Kumar Singh has called for sustained, coordinated efforts to restore the Chite Lui river, as he reviewed the progress of the Save Chite Lui Action Plan and discussed the road map for its second phase at Lok Bhavan in Aizawl.

Chairing a meeting with the Save Chite Lui Coordination Committee and officials of the Public Works Department (PWD), the Governor, who is also the patron of the committee, was briefed in detail on Phase II of the initiative aimed at conserving and rejuvenating the river, which has long been under environmental stress.

Emphasising the urgency of intervention, the Governor stressed the need for a comprehensive and practical strategy to revive the river system. He suggested the installation of check gates and small dams at strategic locations to facilitate systematic removal of waste, alongside intensified plantation drives along the riverbanks to stabilise soil and restore ecological balance.

He also underscored the importance of stronger coordination among stakeholders, including government departments, local communities and non-governmental organisations, noting that collective ownership would be key to the success of the project.



Calling for a more pragmatic approach, he advised that the Detailed Project Report (DPR) be simplified to ensure that proposed measures are both achievable and effective on the ground. The Governor reaffirmed his full support for the initiative.

Officials from the PWD and the Department of Environment, Forests and Climate Change made a PowerPoint presentation outlining the ongoing efforts under the action plan and the proposed interventions for Phase II.

Among those present at the meeting were Save Chite Lui Coordination Committee general secretary Rochamlina and Superintending Engineer Lalrinngetha, along with other senior PWD officials.

The Chite Lui river, which flows through Aizawl, has in recent years faced severe degradation due to rapid urbanisation and unplanned development. Originating from the Bawngkawn range in north Aizawl, the river traverses nearly 20 km through the eastern part of the city before joining the Tuirial river in the south.

Encroachments along its banks and even on the riverbed have significantly reduced its width and depth. The river has also suffered from deforestation, leading to soil erosion and loss of natural vegetation, while unchecked dumping of urban waste has further deteriorated water quality, posing risks to aquatic life and biodiversity.

Schools in Mizoram's nine districts closed due to rain

Aizawl, Apr 28: The Mizoram government has ordered closure of all schools in nine districts of the state due to incessant rainfall.

The order has been issued keeping in mind the safety of the students in view of heightened risk of mudflows, landslides, and rockfalls due to continuous heavy rainfall. The directive, issued by the authorities, emphasized that the measure was taken to safeguard students amid worsening weather conditions.

School Education Director Angela Zothanpuui said administrations of nine districts, including Aizawl, Kolasib, Lunglei and Mamit, announced school closure on Tuesday as a precautionary measure for students’ safety.

However, schools in the southern districts of Hnahthial and Lawngtlai remained open following a slight improvement in weather conditions there, she said.

Development Hinges on Peace in Manipur, Says Chief Minister



Imphal, Apr 28: Manipur Chief Minister Yumnam Khemchand Singh on April 28 stated that peace is essential for the state’s development, emphasizing that the government is making every effort to restore normalcy through dialogue and discussions.

He made these remarks while attending the inauguration of the Ebudhou Phunal Ningthou Telheiba–Santhok Ningthou Apanba event, organized by the Lai Haraoba & Village Development Authority (LH-VDA) at Chanam Sandrok.

Referring to the recent Tronglaobi incident, where two children lost their lives, the Chief Minister said the tragedy had deeply affected people across all communities. He added that the government is working to ensure free movement on highways and to bring back peace through continuous dialogue.Singh also mentioned that the case has been handed over to the National In-

vestigation Agency (NIA), assuring that those responsible will be brought to justice.On the development front, he said that proposals previously submitted by the local MLA of Keirao Assembly Constituency would be fast-tracked. He also expressed his plan to revisit the constituency to review the progress of development works.

The Chief Minister felicitated five candidates from the constituency who successfully cleared the Manipur Public Service Commission (MPSC) examination, stating that dedication and hard work lead to success regardless of one’s background.

Keirao MLA Lourembam Rameshwar Meetei said that the Chief Minister’s visits to various districts, both in the hills and the valley, demonstrate the government’s commitment to restoring normalcy in the state.

The event was attended by members of the LHVDA and local residents.

Rare Fish Species Discovered in the Depths of Goralpara, Assam

Guwahati, Apr 28: In a significant addition to Assam’s biodiversity, researchers have discovered a rare species of fish from the deep underground waters of Goralpara district. The discovery has been described as unique due to the fish’s distinct physical characteristics and habitat.

The research was conducted jointly by scientists from Gauhati University, Cotton University, and Manipur University. According to the researchers, the fish does not inhabit regular rivers or ponds but survives in underground water systems, making it highly

unusual.

The newly discovered species lacks eyesight and pigmentation, features commonly associated with organisms adapted to dark, subterranean environments. Scientists noted that such species evolve over time to survive in complete darkness, leading to the loss of vision and coloration.

The research findings have been published in an international scientific journal, highlighting the global importance of the discovery. Experts believe that this finding opens new avenues for studying un-

derground ecosystems and biodiversity conservation.

Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma congratulated the research team and termed the discovery a proud moment for Assam. He appreciated the contribution of the scientists in bringing global recognition to the state’s natural heritage.Researchers further stated that the discovery underscores the need to protect fragile underground ecosystems, which remain largely unexplored. The finding is expected to contribute significantly to future scientific research and conservation efforts.

‘Zubeen Seuj Chapori’: Youths Turn Brahmaputra Sandbank into Green Tribute to Zubeen Garg

Jorhat, Apr 28: In a unique green initiative to honour the legacy of Assam’s beloved artist Zubeen Garg, a group of youths and local residents in Teok’s Jajimukh have transformed a vast sandbank of the Brahmaputra River into a growing forest, naming it “Zubeen Seuj Chapori.”

Carrying slogans such as “Joy Zubeen Da, may Zubeen Da remain immortal,” “Only if trees survive, humans survive,” and “One tree, one life,” the initiative aims to preserve the memory of the iconic artist while promoting afforestation and ecological restoration in the erosion-prone Sagunpara area.

The river island, shaped by the shifting course of the Brahmapu-

tra, was once known for its abundance of Seemul (Shimolu) trees and as a habitat for rare vultures—giving the locality its name, Sagunpara. Historical accounts from local residents suggest that during the British era, ships would anchor in the area, which hosted thousands of vultures and migratory birds due to its dense tree cover.

Over time, repeated floods, riverbank erosion, deforestation, and natural degradation disrupted the ecological balance, leading to the disappearance of the trees, birds, and wildlife that once thrived there.

Determined to restore this lost ecosystem, a group of youths led by Rupak Tayung initiated a plan-

tation drive across the sandbank. The programme began with the lighting of lamps before a portrait of Zubeen Garg and the planting of a Nahor sapling, followed by the plantation of nearly 10,000 Seemul saplings.

Organisers emphasised that the initiative is not merely symbolic but a long-term effort aimed at conservation, ecological balance, and wildlife restoration.

They noted that it reflects Zubeen Garg’s deep connection with nature and seeks to carry forward his environmental values for future generations.

Rupak Tayung said, “We officially named the area ‘Zubeen Seuj Chapori’ and began the plantation

drive after surveying the land. This place once had numerous Seemul trees that supported vulture populations since colonial times.”

He added that the trees were gradually lost due to erosion, causing the disappearance of vultures. “Our first goal is to replant Seemul trees and eventually restore it as a habitat for vultures and other wildlife,” he said.

Another participant, Ranoj Pegu, highlighted the broader vision of the initiative. “We aim to bring a green revolution through this afforestation drive while also honouring Zubeen Garg. Plantation here will not only revive biodiversity but also help reduce riverbank erosion,” he said.

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Editorial

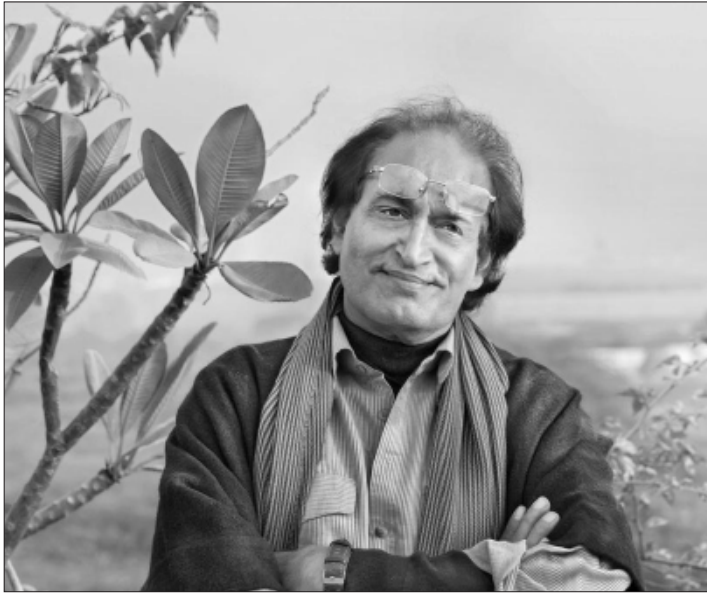
Stop Post-Election Violence — At Any Cost

Elections are democracy’s highest ceremony — a peaceful transfer of power through the sovereign will of the people. Yet in too many parts of the world, the announcement of results is not a moment of civic resolution but a signal for violence. Winning parties unleash mobs; losing factions turn to arson and assault. The ballot box, meant to replace the sword, instead sharpens it. This must end — unconditionally and immediately. Post-election violence is not a political dispute; it is a criminal act. It silences good-faith voters, terrorises minorities, displaces families, and corrodes public trust in democratic institutions. No electoral grievance, however genuine, justifies torching homes or targeting opponents. Governments must act with zero tolerance. Security forces should be pre-positioned, not reactive. Perpetrators — regardless of party affiliation — must face swift legal consequences. Simultaneously, electoral commissions must ensure transparent, credible counts so that results command legitimacy rather than provoke suspicion. Democracy is not just about who wins; it is about how we lose. A society that cannot accept an election result peacefully has, in truth, already lost something far more precious than any vote.

Recalling the spark that Raghu Rai left behind

February, 2016. India was in turmoil. Across universities, protests erupted over the tragic suicide of Dalit student Rohith Vemula. The streets were filled with voices demanding dignity and justice. At India Gate in Delhi, Rohith’s mother sat in a protest, surrounded by students and heavily guarded by police. We were in Delhi at that time. We arrived at the protest site with Raghu Rai, cameras hung from our shoulders. The air was tense and charged. Raghu Rai, with his tall stature, draped in a robe of sort, stepped out of the car. His presence alone shifted something in the air. The police parted slightly, making way. We had barely enough space to stand. Journalists pressed in from all sides. Ahead of us stood the renowned filmmaker Anand Patwardhan, camera in hand. “Anand, can we get a little space?” Raghu asked. A narrow opening appeared. He stepped forward. We were not there for over a minute. He took a few frames. Then he turned to us and said quietly, “Let’s go. It’s not safe to stay.” We walked a short distance and stopped in front of a small ice cream shop. There, he showed us the images—me, Naim, and Prem Kumar. It was astonishing. In that chaos and urgency, he had captured light, form, and emotion with a precision that felt almost otherworldly. A fleeting moment, transformed into something timeless. Raghu Rai was, in every sense of the word, a magician of light and composition. For over 50 years, he shaped a visual language

that defined the Indian subcontinent. From war to ritual and suffering to beauty, his lens revealed the poetry within the everyday life. Through him, the lives of millions became part of a shared visual history. He was born on December 18, 1942, in Jhang, Punjab, now in Pakistan. The youngest in his family, he was first guided toward engineering, even working briefly as a civil engineer in Delhi. But the calling of photography came through his elder brother, S. Paul. In 1962, he began learning, quietly and instinctively. By 1965, he joined The Statesman as a chief photographer, where his signature style of bold, intimate, and high-contrast images began to emerge. Bangladesh’s Liberation War in 1971 became a turning point in this photographic journey. Through his images of refugees, of war and surrender, he captured history with an honesty that resonated across the world. Those photographs brought him a much-deserved international recognition. He was awarded India’s Padma Shri in 1972. Decades later, in 2012, Bangladesh honoured him with the Friends of Liberation War Award. In 1971, the legendary Henri Cartier-Bresson, after seeing his work, invited him to join Magnum Photos, an international photographic cooperative. By 1977, Raghu Rai became a full member. From there, his journey expanded to India Today, global publications and a number of books. His photograph of a buried child from the Bhopal gas tragedy became one of the most haunting



symbols of industrial disaster in modern history. He captured not just events but essence: of people, cities, rituals, and silences. He published more than 50 books that carry his vision. I first interviewed him in 2004. We spoke about the intellectual void in Bangladesh left by the violence during the Liberation War. I was drawing parallels between this and state-sponsored violence on the Naxalite movement in India. Our conversation grew intense. He did not easily accept simplifications. He thought there was violence from both sides and considered the Naxalites terrorists and expressed that their movement could have been less violent. Yet, in the end, we agreed that both incidents left behind a deep emptiness that echoed across gener-

ations, especially in the 70s. In 2016, I visited him again at his photography school in Gurgaon. He had arranged fish for us. Smiling, he said, “I know Bengalis love fish and conversation.” When we arrived, he was watering plants and speaking softly to a dying tree. He seemed genuinely distressed, telling the gardener it needed care, and that it could still be saved. His connection to life extended beyond humans. He had gathered rare plants from across India, nurturing them with his own hands. He even published several books on trees. I once asked him how he saw Bangladesh after the Liberation War. He paused, then said, “Look, when it comes to wrongdoing, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh—we are all the same. So many years after indepen-

dence, we are still careless towards nature, towards life. Democracy has too often become a tool for corruption. I cannot give you a satisfying answer.” Whenever he came to Dhaka, he would rise early and go out to photograph. He preferred the outskirts, the quieter edges of the city, where he could mingle with ordinary people. As he had grown older, I would instinctively reach out to support him on uneven streets and roads. He, however, would burst out laughing. Gesturing me to watch, he would leap across potholes with ease and say, “I can still climb trees... can you keep up with me?” He was deeply devoted to his guru and held an unshakable faith in the creative and spiritual power within human beings. One of his most famous sayings, long displayed on Magnum’s website, was: “The picture comes from God.” Like his world-renowned photographs, he too seemed to fade into an eternal mystery. For many of us, it was his images that gave us the courage to step into photography—both as a discipline and as a profession. Through his work, he left behind a new visual language, one that will continue to shape how we see life, aesthetics, and spirituality of this region for generations to come. What remains are his images, a language of light, through which we continue to see ourselves. The eyes may have closed, but what it has seen and shown, will be luminous and live within us. May your onward path be lit with grace and golden light, maestro!

The warning about food insecurity in Bangladesh cannot be disregarded

The 2026 Global Report on Food Crises (GRFC) carries an uncomfortable message for Bangladesh. The country is not facing famine, nor is it experiencing a catastrophic food crisis per se. Yet it appears on a list no country would wish to be on: the top 10 countries and territories with the largest number of people who faced high levels of acute food insecurity in 2025. According to the report, around 1.6 crore people in Bangladesh faced crisis-level food insecurity or worse during the 2025 peak, including about 1.56 crore in “Crisis” and four lakh in “Emergency” categories.

These represented 17 percent of the analysed population, although the report also notes that the analysed population covered 59 percent of the total population, not the whole country. The report also says that Bangladesh saw an improvement compared with 2024, with 76 lakh fewer people facing high levels of acute food insecurity. The improvement was linked to the absence of major disasters in early 2025, a decline in food inflation, and increased remittance inflow. But that is exactly why the finding is so troubling. Even in a relatively better year, with fewer major disaster shocks and some relief from food inflation, Bangladesh still had one of the world’s largest absolute numbers of people in acute food insecurity. This indicates that Bangladesh’s food insecurity problem is not only about floods, cyclones, droughts, or sudden price spikes.

These shocks matter, of course, as they can push vulnerable households into immediate distress. But the persistence of food insecurity points to a more structural problem: low and unstable incomes, weak purchasing power, regional deprivation, climate exposure, inadequate nutrition outcomes, and gaps in social protection. For many households, the crisis is not that food is unavailable in



the market, but that food is unaffordable, diets are poor, and coping mechanisms are already exhausted. Food inflation in Bangladesh in recent years has not been a temporary inconvenience for the poor. It has changed household behaviour. Families have reduced protein intake, shifted to cheaper staples, postponed health spending, borrowed from informal sources, and cut back on children’s needs. When rice, edible oil, lentils, eggs, fish, and vegetables remain expensive for long periods, the damage happens on a nutritional level. Children suffer silently. Women often eat last and eat less. Elderly people in poor households become more dependent on irregular support. Remittances helped in 2025. That is encouraging, but it should not become a reason for complacency. Remittance inflows are unevenly distributed across regions and households. They support many families, but they cannot substitute for a national food security strate-

gy. A household without a migrant worker, a landless labourer facing seasonal joblessness, an urban informal worker paying high rent, or a woman-headed household with limited income does not automatically benefit from the remittance cushion. The food security challenge is, therefore, also a question of inequality. The Rohingya crisis adds another dimension. The GRFC notes that acute food insecurity worsened among forcibly displaced Myanmar nationals in two Bangladeshi districts amid the recent influx of Rohingya refugees, floods, and reduced humanitarian assistance. This is not only a humanitarian issue. It is also a local development issue for Cox’s Bazar and surrounding host communities. When aid declines, pressure rises on already fragile local labour markets, forests, public services, water resources, and community relations. Bangladesh has carried this burden for years. The international community must not treat it as a forgot-

ten crisis. The first policy implication is clear: food security policy must go beyond food availability. Bangladesh has done reasonably well in increasing rice production and maintaining staple supplies. But food security is also about access, nutrition, stability, and dignity. The policy lens must shift from “Is there enough rice?” to “Can poor households afford a nutritious diet throughout the year?” This requires regular monitoring of food baskets, not only headline inflation. Second, social protection must be made more responsive to shocks. Bangladesh has several programmes, but too many are fragmented, poorly targeted, and administratively slow. Food-insecure households need timely cash or food support when prices rise, floods hit, or seasonal employment collapses. Digital databases can help, but only if they are updated, inclusive, and protected from political capture. Urban food insecurity also needs more attention, since low-income urban house-

holds have to buy almost everything they consume. Third, market governance has to improve. Price volatility is often worsened by weak competition, information gaps, stock mismanagement, and sudden import decisions. A smarter food market policy would combine better public stock management, timely imports when needed, transparent market intelligence, and stronger action against collusive behaviour. Farmers must receive fair prices, but consumers cannot be left hostage to avoidable market manipulation. Fourth, nutrition must sit at the centre of food policy. The aim should not be calorie sufficiency alone. School feeding, maternal nutrition, child nutrition services, fortified foods, and primary healthcare all matter. Food insecurity and malnutrition are linked, but they are not identical. A family may eat every day and still be nutritionally deprived. Finally, climate resilience has to be treated as a food security policy. Flood control, salinity management, climate-resilient crops, crop insurance, storage facilities, rural roads, and early warning systems are not separate development projects. They are part of the architecture of national food security. The GRFC 2026 should, therefore, be read as a warning, not as a verdict of failure. Bangladesh has made progress, and 2025 showed some improvement. But 1.6 crore people facing high levels of acute food insecurity is far too large a number for a country aspiring to graduate from LDC status and move towards upper-middle-income ambitions. The real test is not whether Bangladesh can produce enough food in a normal year. It is whether every household can eat adequately, nutritiously, and consistently, even when prices rise, floods come, jobs disappear, or aid declines. For that test, the country still has much work to do.

A roadmap to boost foreign direct investment in Bangladesh

By improving the investment policy landscape, Bangladesh can attract more foreign direct investment (FDI) to catalyse the next wave of economic structural transformation, according to a key finding in the latest UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD) report on the implementation of the Investment Policy Review (IPR). While Bangladesh aspires to become a world-class manufacturing hub, the country’s absolute and relative FDI performance continues to lag behind that of several regional peers, including Cambodia, Indonesia, and Vietnam, as well as averages for the Association of South-east Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP)—regional groups Bangladesh aims to join. The UNCTAD report shows that several important milestones were reached since the last IPR in 2013. These include, inter alia, the establishment of the Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA), the creation and operationalisation of the Bangladesh Competition Commission, the strengthening of the Public-Private Partnership Authority, and, more recently, the establishment of a multi-disciplinary negotiators’ pool who are contributing to the formulation of preferential trade and investment agreements. Moreover, key regulatory and institutional reforms were implemented, including in labour, taxation, and intellectual property, as well as efforts to digitalise and rationalise investment facilitation platforms. The National Drug Policy was also updated to relax restrictions for foreign pharmaceutical manufacturers. Together, these reforms have contributed to improvements in the investment environment, against the backdrop of Bangladesh’s transition from least developed country (LDC) status.

The IPR implementation report was prepared through a partnership between UNCTAD and UNDP under the Transformative Economic Policy Programme, with financial support from the United Kingdom’s Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office. The report notes that despite improvements, much remains to be done, describing reforms as a



“work in progress.” In particular, the legal and institutional framework for investment requires further strengthening, including the review and updating of the Foreign Private Investment (Promotion and Protection) Act of 1980. Institutional fragmentation in access to land, the need for more integrated infrastructure planning, and capacity constraints in key institutions such as the Bangladesh Competition Commission are some of the major challenges. FDI inflows to Bangladesh peaked at over \$1.8 billion in 2019, before declining in subsequent years amid macroeconomic pressures, foreign exchange constraints, global crises, and domestic political developments. By 2024, inflows were approximately one-third lower than 2019 levels. Preliminary data for the first three quarters of 2025, however, point to a rebound, supported mainly by reinvested earnings and intra-company loans. Despite recent volatility in flows, the inward FDI stock has remained broadly stable at around \$18 billion since 2021, reflecting the continued presence of foreign investors. Textile and garment, finance, and the power sector account for the largest shares of FDI stock, while investment is gradually diversifying towards sectors such as pharmaceuticals, telecommunications, and information and communication technologies, with the digital economy emerging as a promising frontier.

The current challenges faced by Bangladesh amid rapid changes in the global political and economic landscape call for greater engagement by both the government

and the private sector to better leverage FDI as a source of development finance. The importance of FDI in this regard was underlined at the Fourth Global Conference on Financing for Development (FfD4) held in Spain’s Seville last year. Cuts in official development assistance by traditional donors, a generalised slowdown in global FDI flows, and the gradual loss of preferential market access following LDC graduation underline the urgency for reforms to ensure that Bangladesh remains competitive in attracting higher levels of quality FDI aligned with strategic development objectives. Looking ahead, the report emphasises the need for developing a national investment policy and a consolidated investment law to reinforce investor confidence and policy coherence. As Bangladesh approaches LDC graduation, proactive engagement with key investment and trading partners will be required to secure the best possible terms under ongoing negotiations of preferential trade and investment agreements. Priority sectors that can enhance competitiveness and diversification should be further nurtured, including pharmaceuticals and the digital economy. Continued reforms are also needed to address persistent bottlenecks to investment, notably in relation to access to land and infrastructure. UNCTAD and UNDP remain committed to continuing the engagement with key stakeholders in Bangladesh to support the implementation of these important reforms and to ensure that FDI contributes effectively to inclusive growth, decent jobs, and sustainable development.

India’s tech deals reached \$3.9 billion in Q1, the most in almost four years

New Delhi: The technology sector of India has recorded deals worth \$3.9 billion in the first quarter of 2026, which is the highest quarterly deal value since Q3 2022 (around 4 years), even as overall deal volumes declined, a report showed on Monday. A report from Grant Thornton Bharat highlighted that a total of 68 transactions were recorded during the quarter, that also includes IPO and QIP activity.

However, volumes fell 8 per cent sequentially, deal value surged 43 per cent, driven by a few large-ticket transactions collectively valued at nearly \$3 billion that suggested a clear shift towards high-value, selective investments, it said.While excluding public market activity, the sector saw 66 deals worth \$3.4 billion, with volumes declining 7 per cent quarter-on-quarter but values rising 39 per cent, indicating increasing capital concentration in fewer transactions. Moreover, deal volumes dropped 26 per cent year-on-year, while total value more than tripled, rising 208 per cent.According to Raja Lahiri, Partner and Technology Industry Leader, Grant Thornton Bharat, domestic technology deal landscape is undergoing a structuraltransformation, with capital increasingly focussed on high-conviction opportunities.

He also noted that Artificial Intelligence (AI), particularly generative AI, is becoming central to invest-



ment decisions, driving capability-led acquisitions inareas such as AI, cloud, and digital engineering, while positioning Indian firms as global consolidators.

In the Mergers and Acquisitions (M&A) segment, deal volumes remained steady at 21 transactions, but values surged more than threefold to \$2.6 billion.In addition, outbound deals dominated M&A activity, contributing around 97 per cent of total value, while domestic transactions

accounted for the bulk of volumes but a marginal share of value. On the other side, inbound activity remained limited during the quarter. Additionally, private equity and venture capital activity moderated, with 45 deals worth \$848 million, a 49 per cent decline in value due to the absence of large-ticket investments.

However, a single deal accounted for nearly 71 per cent of the total PE value, highlighting continued concentration of capital.Despite the

moderation in values, PE/VC continued to dominate volumes, contributing around two-thirds of total deal activity, with sustained momentum in early and mid-stage investments, particularly in AI-driven and enterprise technology segments, according to the report.The report also pointed out that a two-speed market, with strong early-stage activity coexisting with cautious large-scale funding, as investors prioritise profitability and capital efficiency.

Peak power demand moderates to 238 GW

New Delhi: India’s peak power demand moderated to 238.15 GW on Sunday, down from the record 256 GW the previous day, as most commercial and industrial establishments remained closed. According to the Power Ministry data, the peak power demand met, or the highest supply in a day, was 237.21 GW, leaving a shortfall of 0.93 GW on Sunday. Thus, the peak power demand on Sunday was 238.15 GW.

The peak power demand soared to a record high of 256 GW on Saturday, eclipsing the previous high of 252.07 GW hit on the previous day. Last summer, the peak power demand was 242.77 GW, recorded in June, 2025, but stayed below the government’s estimate of 277 GW. In 2024, the peak power demand was 250 GW in

May, a record at the time and exceeding the previous all-time peak of 243.27 GW set in September 2023.

The IMD has projected harsh summers this year. Experts opined that power demand will continue to rise, especially in May and June, due to heat waves, which are driving increased use of cooling appliances like air conditioners and desert coolers to beat the heat.The country’s peak power demand has risen with the temperature in April. The highest electricity supply on April 22 was 239.70 GW, which rose to 240.12 GW on April 23, 2026.In the first fortnight of this month, the peak power demand met, or the highest supply of electricity in a day, remained lower than the 235.32 GW recorded in April 2025.

HyugaLife raises in Series A round led by IvyCap Ventures

New Delhi: Health and wellness e-commerce platform HyugaLife has raised ₹100 crore in a Series A funding round led by venture capital firm IvyCap VenturesThe funding round also saw participation from First Bridge Fund.The fresh capital will be utilised to strengthen the platform’s AI-powered personalisation capabilities, expand its dark store network for faster deliveries, and establish an offline retail presence, the company said in a statement.HyugaLife operates as a marketplace for proteins, supplements, and health foods.The platform sources directly from brands-eliminating third-party sellers-and conducts independent lab tests

for nutrition and heavy metals. The start-up, which counts Indian cricketer KL Rahul among its key investors, currently lists over 10,000 products from more than 450 brandsThe startup, which counts Indian cricketer KL Rahul among its key investors, currently lists over 10,000 products from more than 450 brands. ”India’s protein and supplements market has a trust problem, and HyugaLife was built to address it. We’re doubling down on our authenticity guarantee by expanding lab-tested offerings, while investing in AI-driven smart, personalised technology” said Sachin Parikh, Founder & CEO, HyugaLife.

Rupee falls for fifth straight session as oil trades over

New Delhi: The Indian Rupee has been under constant pressure due to surging oil prices. The currency opened at the 94.23 mark against the US dollar. While the opening was nearly unchanged from its Friday close, the domestic currency fell to the 94.27 mark against the greenback in early trade.Why is the rupee under pressure?The macro factors weighing on the currency remain the same, high oil prices, largely driven by the geopolitical turmoil between the US and Iran, and the closure of the trade route—the Strait of Hormuz. Pabari said that any dips are likely to be bought into, with the 92.80–93.20 zone acting as strong support. “On the upside, 93.50 to 94.50 is expected to define the near-term range,” he added.

This waterway passage

transits nearly 20% of global energy flows, and India is a net importer of oil, with the country relying on the Middle East to meet a large chunk of its fuel requirements. Brent crude futures continue to trade over the \$100/bbl mark, keeping the markets cautious. According to NSE data for April 24, foreign investors were net sellers of domestic equities worth Rs 8,827 crore.

The dollar index, a measure of the greenback’s strength against a basket of six major currencies, has been soft, trading near the 98/\$ mark. However, over the past sessions, it has risen by 0.07%.“The dollar reflected every twist in sentiment. It surged sharply toward 99.30 as fear drove investors toward safety. But the move didn’t last,” said Amit Pabari, manag-

ing director at CR Forex Advisors.So far this year, FPIs have withdrawn over Rs 187,439 crore from the Indian markets, while India’s forex reserves have crossed \$703 billion as of April 17.

Elevated oil prices put pressure on the local currency, as oil is predominantly traded in dollars. The currency has been on a losing streak, with today’s opening marking its fifth consecutive decline.

The RBI’s rollback of certain rupee derivative measures also added to the decline for the currency. “The rupee remains vulnerable to lower levels as buyers of \$ continue to do so, while the RBI keeps a tab on the fall in rupee value,” said Anil Kumar Bhansali, head of treasury, Finrex Treasury Advisors LLP, in a note.

Paytm: Why Goldman Sachs sees 22% upside potential after RBI cancels PPBL license

New Delhi: The share price of One97 Communications, the parent of Paytm saw a sharp reaction to the RBI scrapping the banking licence for Paytm Payments Bank. However, global brokerage house Goldman Sachs has rated the stock a ‘Buy’with a target price of Rs 1,400. This translates to a potential upside of about 22% from current levels. According to the Goldman Sachs report, while recent developments linked to Paytm Payments Bank Limited (PPBL) have raised questions, the core business of Paytm continues to show steady traction, especially in payments and merchant growth.Let’s take a look at the key reasons why the brokerage is bullish on the stock and the rationale behind it –Goldman Sachs on Paytm: RBI action on PPBL – What it means

A major trigger behind the recent spotlight on Paytm is the action taken by the Reserve Bank of India on PPBL. According to the brokerage report, “On 24 April, the RBI (Reserve Bank of India) cancelled PPBL’s (Paytm Payments Bank) license.” However, the brokerage noted that the direct financial impact on Paytm may be limited. This is be-

cause Paytm had already impaired, or written off, its investment in PPBL earlier and currently does not derive revenue from the bank.

As per the Goldman Sachs report, Paytm holds a 49% stake in PPBL, while the remaining stake is held by its founder. Even so, operational separation between the two entities has already taken place over time.

Goldman Sachs on Paytm: Shift away from PPBL already underway

The brokerage house further in its report noted that Paytm had started reducing its dependence on PPBL well before the latest regulatory action. It received a Third Party Application Provider (TPAP) license from the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), allowing it to migrate its Unified Payments Interface (UPI) operations away from PPBL.

Goldman Sachs further added in its report added that services have already been decoupled from PPBL, ensuring continuity for users and merchants. However, there are still some uncertainties. The brokerage added in the report that since Paytm and PPBL share the same brand identity, it remains to be seen whether the regulatory action could impact



customer or merchant sentiment in the short term.Goldman Sachs on Paytm: Growth in payments and merchant base remains strong

Despite regulatory concerns, the core business trends remain steady. Goldman Sachs added that Paytm has continued to gain market share in both consumer and merchant segments. As per the brokerage report, “we have seen continued gains in both consumer and merchant market share...translating into an acceleration in Paytm’s GMV growth to 26% YoY.” Goldman Sachs on Paytm: Revenue growth moderates, margins

still in focus

While transaction growth remains healthy, revenue growth is expected to slow slightly. According to the brokerage report, “the absence of PIDF (Payments Infrastructure Development Fund) incentives drives deceleration in our revenue growth forecast to 14% YoY in Q4.” At the same time, profitability remains a key area to watch. The brokerage expects Paytm to maintain stable earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortisation (EBITDA) margins, even though there could be some short-term pressure.

India-New Zealand FTA gains, sectors, impact



New Delhi: India and New Zealand on Monday will sign a free trade agreement (FTA) to boost two-way commerce in goods and services and promote investments.The pact will come into force on actually decided date agreed by both sides.Here are a few questions and answers to understand the main strategic gain of this deal:

FTA is an economic arrangement between two or more countries where they agree either to end or significantly reduce customs duties on the maximum number of goods traded between them, besides cutting down barriers which can hinder or promote two-way commerce and investments. New Zealand, whose average import tariff is just 2.3 per cent.New Zealand has committed to invest (FDI) \$20 billion over 15 years.India has secured commitments across a wide range of high-value services sectors, including IT and IT-enabled services, professional services, education, financial services, tour-

ism, construction and other business services. The FTA Opens Skilled Employment Pathways through a new Temporary Employment Entry Visa pathway for Indian professionals in skilled occupations, with a quota of 5,000 visas at any given time and a stay of up to three years.Duty-free wine and spirits exports from India, while wines from the Oceania country will enter the domestic market at a concessional duty, which will be reduced over a period of 10 years. India, following the template used in its trade agreement with Australia, has offered market access on 70 per cent of tariff lines (or product categories). The country will give duty-free access to 54.11 per cent of New Zealand exports from day one of the implementation of the free trade agreement, and these goods include sheep meat, wool, coal and several forestry and wood products, a move which is expected to make these items cheaper for Indian consumers.

India is downgraded to “Neutral” by JP Morgan for five reasons

New Delhi: JP Morgan has downgraded Indian equities to ‘Neutral’ from ‘Overweight’ in its latest Asia strategy report, citing elevated valuations, earnings risks, persistent equity dilution and limited exposure to next-generation technology segments. The brokerage said the shift reflects a less favourable near-term risk-reward even as the long-term growth case remains intact. The shift comes as JP Morgan adjusts its broader regional allocation, moving capital toward markets and sectors tied to artificial intelligence and structural growth while stepping back from India in the near term.Valuations remain elevated despite moderationJP Morgan says India continues to trade at a premium to other emerging markets, even after some cooling in valuations. The brokerage points out that the gap has narrowed from earlier highs but still remains significant relative to peers offering similar or stronger growth visibility. JP Morgan highlights sustained capital raising activity as another structural overhang. The report notes that while domestic inflows remain strong, the pace of equity issuance is diluting returns for existing shareholders. “Corporates raised \$64 billion through new listings and secondary sales. As companies issue more equity capital to fund growth, direct or indirect dilution impacts the prices of existing equities,” JP Morgan says. “We see better opportunities elsewhere in EM until valuations de-rate further or earnings visibility improves,” JP Morgan says.

ConclusionJP Morgan’s downgrade of Indian equities to Neutral is driven by a combination of valuation concerns, weakening earnings expectations and structural constraints such as ongoing dilution and limited exposure to high-growth technology sectors. The brokerage maintains that India’s long-term growth story remains intact but says current conditions call for a more cautious approach as other emerging markets present relatively better near-term opportunities. “Supply disruptions and elevated costs are expected to persist for a few months, despite the cease-fire,” JP Morgan saysThe brokerage adds that the impact is expected to be broad-based, with companies facing higher input costs, operational challenges and downstream effects on demand-Monsoon risks and rural demand concerns

Weather-related uncertainty is another element in JP Morgan’s cautious stance. The report refers to the India Meteorological Department’s forecast of below-normal rainfall and its potential impact on rural incomes and consumption. “Rainfed farming covers 51% of the net sown area and produces 40% of the total food output. While agriculture accounts for only 15% of GDP, it supports 46% of the workforce, making rural incomes highly sensitive to rainfall,” JP Morgan says.The brokerage notes that weaker rainfall could also add to food inflation risks. The brokerage believes this backdrop favours markets with stronger exposure to structural growth driv-



ers rather than cyclical themes.The brokerage adds that this dynamic contrasts with developed markets where share buybacks reduce supply and support valuations. In India, continued issuance is likely to keep upside capped in the near term. Limited presence in next-generation sectorsJP Morgan“Earnings in the June quarter are likely to face pressure from higher input prices and currency depreciation,” JP Morgan says.Sector analysts at the firm have already cut financial year 2027 earnings estimates by 2% to 10% across major segments, including consumption, automobiles, financials and oil-related businesses. The brokerage has also trimmed its broader earnings growth expectations for MSCI India, reflecting the same concerns around cost pressures and demand.

Kyiv explains how “Russian satellites help Iran in war”

Ukraine : According to a Ukrainian intelligence assessment, Russian satellites captured precise images of military installations and important locations throughout the Middle East, including US bases and other targets that were shortly struck by Iran. According to Reuters, the evaluation referenced at least 24 assessments conducted between March 21 and 31 in 11 Middle Eastern nations, encompassing 46 “objects,” such as US and other military installations, airports, and oilfields. Iranian ballistic missiles and drones targeted military bases and headquarters within days of being scanned, according to the assessment. The Ukrainians claimed that Russian satellites were actively monitoring the Hormuz Strait. According to Reuters, a different regional security agency

and a western military source supported the allegations with their own intelligence. The Russian defense ministry did not reply to a request for comment, according to Reuters, while the Iranian foreign ministry had no immediate response. Days before Iran attacked the Prince Sultan airport in Saudi Arabia on March 27, a sophisticated US E-3 Sentry airborne warning and control system aircraft was struck by a Russian satellite, according to Reuters’ regional security source. According to the assessment, a Russian satellite returned the following day to evaluate the damage. The Ukrainian report also alleges Russian and Iranian hackers were collaborating in the cyber domain. Russia’s Ust-Luga oil station in the Leningrad area was hit on Tuesday, according to the Ukrainian



military. The general staff reported on Telegram that they had preliminary evidence of damage to three Transneft-Baltika corporate storage tanks. Following a significant drone attack and a fire, crude oil exports from Russia’s Sheskhari terminal in the Black Sea port of Novorossiysk were halted, two sources told Reuters on Tuesday. Russia’s main oil outlet in the Black Sea is the port, which normally loads 700,000 barrels of crude oil per day. The ongoing attacks on Russian infrastructure will be made worse by its suspension. Oleksandr Ganzha, the governor of the eastern Dnipropetrovsk region, stated on Telegram that two buses were targeted by Moscow’s military. He said that a bus in Nikol’s city center was struck by a drone as it approached a stop, and that an-

other bus was later struck in a nearby neighborhood. According to officials, there were at least 16 injuries and four fatalities in Nikolopol. According to Oleksandr Prokudin, the regional governor, four elderly persons were killed and seven others were injured in a 30-minute Russian attack on a residential area in the southern city of Kherson. According to Ukrainian sources, additional lethal Russian strikes occurred in the Sumy and Zaporizhzhia oblasts. Ukrainian drone strikes killed five civilians including a 12-year-old boy and his parents in Russia and Russian-occupied parts of Ukraine, Russian officials said on Tuesday. Reuters could not independently verify the officials’ statements, and Ukraine denies deliberately targeting civilians.

The Albanese government warns that a ceasefire in the Iranian war will not result in lower fuel prices



Australia : As the administration cautions that the US ceasefire with Iran would not result in lower fuel prices, gasoline prices are rising once more and diesel wholesale prices have reached all-time highs. Fuel tankers increased their pricing on Wednesday, causing the average unleaded prices at service stations to rise in certain locations for the first time since late March. As traders speculated that the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz would aid in the resumption of gasoline supply, oil prices dropped. However, Chris Bowen, the energy minister, warned reporters that Australians should “not get ahead of ourselves.” Bowen stated, “People shouldn’t take today’s progress and expect prices to fall.” “I don’t think we can say the [strait of Hormuz] is now open, but we welcome progress.” Bowen said the governments’ temporary 32-cent a litre cut to fuel tax would stay in place until July even if petrol prices fall

before then, leaving the door open to extending it further. “We will assess the situation closer to the end of that three months ... we hope things improve by then,” he said. “Fuel prices will come down when this war ends.” Unleaded prices rose to 227 cents a litre in Perth, 225.7 cents in Hobart and 223.9 in Canberra on Wednesday, according to MotorMouth. Diesel prices have surged to average about 319 cents a litre around the country. Costs at the service station have increased in tandem with the price of crude oil, which has driven up fuel tanker rates. According to figures from the Australian Institute of Petroleum, diesel wholesale prices jumped 20 cents to a new high of 320 cents per litre on Wednesday morning. According to AIP statistics, unleaded wholesale prices increased by 4 cents per litre on Wednesday. Due to the excise cut, unleaded gasoline had dropped by 40 cents per litre in late March, while diesel had dropped

by 12 cents. According to Bowen, exceptionally high fuel purchases continued into April, with demand over the Easter weekend in 2026 being 30% higher than in 2025. “Fuel is going out the door at rapid rates, I mean, massive increases to demand, especially for diesel,” he stated. According to him, agreements under the government’s plan to insure fuel imports through Export Finance Australia will shortly be disclosed, and fuel supply was still guaranteed through May. The prime minister, Anthony Albanese, will travel to Singapore on Thursday to meet the country’s prime minister, Lawrence Wong, with fuel expected to be high on the agenda. Singapore is Australia’s largest source of refined fuel. The Albanese government has been engaging with partners through Asia and beyond to shore up fuel supplies, with reports Japan’s prime minister could visit Australia in coming weeks and expectations Albanese may soon visit other re-

gional fuel exporters. The government is understood to be leveraging Australia’s supplies of natural gas, which are important to partners through Asia, to ensure oil and fuel supplies continue to flow. “One of the things about Australia is that we are a reliable supplier of energy, particularly for north Asia, for Japan, for South Korea, but also supplying LNG to Singapore, to Malaysia. And we expect reciprocal arrangements,” Albanese said on Sky News. “And what is occurring at the moment is we’re reaching out to our partners in the region, making sure that that is emphasised, our common interests that we have. This issue, a global crisis, is impacting economies right around our region and around the world. And it’s important that partners continue to work together and that’s what we’re working towards.” Albanese welcomed news of the ceasefire, saying the effects of America’s military offensive on Iran were hurting Australians. “We’re already seeing a substantial impact of a war which is on the other side of the world, but is having an impact on Australians here, like it is on citizens throughout the world,” he said on Sky. “This is very positive, and we hope that it leads to a permanent de-escalation and an end to the conflict, and a resolution that allows the world to go forward.” In a written statement on the ceasefire, Albanese and the foreign affairs minister, Penny Wong said “the longer the war goes on, the more significant the impact on the global economy will be, and the greater the human cost”.

Following Trump’s announcement of a conditional ceasefire with Iran, oil prices fall and markets rise



Iran: After Donald Trump postponed his warning to bomb Iran into the Stone Age on Tuesday night and Iran’s foreign minister said that travel through the Hormuz Strait will be permitted for the next two weeks under military control, oil prices fell by over 15%. The US president announced that he was delaying planned attacks on Iran unless Tehran agreed to a two-week ceasefire and the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz, barely over an hour before his ultimatum was set to expire. Iran’s national security council soon said that it has agreed to a two-week truce in exchange for an end to attacks on Iran. Tehran said that on Friday, peace talks with the US would start in Islamabad. Although markets welcomed the news on Tuesday, it is still unclear how the US-Iran negotiations would turn out and how the strait will be handled beyond the two-week grace period. The worldwide benchmark, Brent crude oil, fell 14.4% to \$93.48, while US crude oil futures fell 14.7% to \$96.27 a barrel. Prices are still significantly higher than they were at the beginning of the conflict. Japan’s benchmark Nikkei 225 gained more than 5%, Australia’s S&P/ASX 200 jumped 2.55% and South Korea’s Kospi soared by 7.5%. Elsewhere, Hong Kong’s Hang Seng soared 3.1%, while China’s CSI300 index gained 3.2%. European stock markets were set to rally strongly when trading begins on Wednesday, with Germany’s Dax index up 5.3% in the futures market and Britain’s FTSE 100 up 2.9%. “Investors will be breathing a big sigh of relief that an off-ramp out of the war is being taken even as there’ll be various elements to watch to see whether this leads to sustained de-escalation,” said Jim Reid, a markets analyst at Deutsche Bank. “Will the ceasefire hold? We saw some strikes by Israel and Iran overnight, though these may have been in the works before the conditional ceasefire. We’ve also seen conflicting commentary on whether the ceasefire will extend to Israel’s action in Lebanon. Can talks lead to a permanent cessation of hostilities?” In the bond market, Treasury yields eased on word of a potential ceasefire. The yield on the 10-year Treasury fell to 4.24%

from 4.30% earlier on Tuesday. Gold prices rose more than 2% to \$4,812 an ounce. Cryptocurrencies also rallied, with bitcoin advancing 2.9% to \$71,327, and ether climbing 5.6% to \$2,234. Saul Kavonic, the head of energy research at MST Financial, said the two-week pause provided “an off-ramp for Trump’s overly bombastic ultimatum, but not yet an off-ramp for oil markets or the war.” He told Reuters it was unlikely the shut in oil and LNG production would resume until there was more confidence in a lasting ceasefire. Kavonic said: “A two-week ceasefire would enable a release of some oil and LNG tankers from the strait of Hormuz to market, providing some market pressure relief in May. This does not result in more production, just a release of storage on water.” The crucial test, according to Charu Chanana, chief investment strategist at Saxo, was if talks continued and whether tanker operators and insurers felt confident enough to allow traffic through Hormuz to resume as usual. “That will determine whether this stays just a relief rally or starts to look more like a durable de-escalation,” she stated. A new escalation cannot be completely ruled out, according to Prashant Newnaha, senior strategist at Singapore-based TD Securities, “but markets are treating this ceasefire as the real deal and all parties involved will sell the ceasefire as a major win.” “Looking further out, oil prices are not returning to pre-war levels. This will leave inflation persistence as a key theme for markets to ponder,” he said. Earlier on Tuesday, US stocks swung sharply during regular trading. The S&P 500 fell as much as 1.2% but stocks rallied at the end of trading after Pakistan’s prime minister urged Trump to extend his deadline for another two weeks and asked Iran to open up the strait for the same amount of time. Oil prices have soared since the US and Israel struck Iran at the end of February, unleashing a conflict that has run for more than five weeks. Tehran has largely closed the strait, through which a fifth of global oil and liquefied natural gas is transported, causing a global energy crunch.

The US issues a warning about cyberattacks on vital infrastructure around the nation by Iran

Iran: On Tuesday, top US security agencies warned of cyberattacks on vital US infrastructure that could be connected to Iran. The authorities stated in a joint statement that local governments should be alert for any unexpected activities, particularly in the water and energy sectors. According to a statement from Jeffrey Hall, an assistant administrator for enforcement and compliance assurance at the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), “cyberattacks on drinking water and wastewater systems directly threaten public health and community resilience.” “A single breach can damage equipment, undermine public trust, interfere with treatment, or introduce contaminants.” The notification did not specify whether any damage had been done or whether particular facilities had been targeted. The National Security Agency, the Department of Energy, the FBI, the EPA, the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, and the US Cyber Command are among the organizations that released the joint advisory. The warning coincided with Donald Trump’s increased use of harsh rhetoric toward Iran. On Tuesday morning, he posted on social media that “a whole civilization will die tonight, never to be brought back again” if the Middle Eastern nation refused to comply with his demands. The US and Iran reached a temporary ceasefire shortly before Trump’s deadline



on Tuesday night. Tehran promised to reopen the Strait of Hormuz in exchange for the US stopping its strikes. Iran has been accused for years of carrying out cyber-attacks on various countries, including a massive power outage in Turkey in 2015 and several possible breaches of Israeli government websites in 2022. The US alleged an Iran-affiliated group known as “CyberAv3ngers” carried out a campaign against it in 2023 that compromised at least 75 devices in multiple infrastructure sectors. Iran has also accused the US and Israel of carrying out several

cyber-attacks against it, including on its nuclear centrifuges and its weapons systems. Tuesday’s advisory alleged that the hackers are backed by Iran’s Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps. It said the attacks were focusing on a widely used device called a “programmable logic controller” that’s specifically made by the company Rockwell Automation. Siemens, which also makes these devices, was not named. The government agencies urged any municipalities using these devices to make sure they are not connected to the internet.

“Hormuz Is How Iran Wins the Aftermath, Not a Tool to End the War”

Iran: We have a conversation with two Iranian academics before the 8 p.m. President Donald Trump has given an ET deadline for Iran to reopen the Strait of Hormuz or risk having all of its power plants, bridges, and other civilian infrastructure destroyed. “A whole civilization will die tonight, never to be brought back again,” the president wrote on social media twelve hours before the deadline. Although I hope that doesn’t occur, it most likely will. Since the beginning of the U.S.-Israeli conflict, Iran has stopped the majority of marine trade via the Strait of Hormuz, which has caused oil and gas prices to soar globally. Zeynab Malakouti, a senior fellow at the Global Peace Institute at the National University of Singapore, and Mohammad Eslami, a research fellow at the University of Tehran, predict that Iran would likely retain long-term sovereignty over the strait even after hostilities cease. “While Donald Trump

and the U.S. Army and the Israeli army are focused on the battle, Iranians are thinking about the war,” says Eslami, adding that Iran has prepared for “at least three months of war,” while rising oil prices will make it increasingly difficult for the U.S. to sustain the fighting. “Iran sees the Strait of Hormuz as a longer-term strategic lever, especially for the postwar period,” adds Malakouti, speaking from Shanghai. Amy Goodman President Trump has reiterated his threats to target Iran’s civilian infrastructure, stating that if the Strait of Hormuz is not completely reopened by 8 p.m., all of Iran’s key bridges and power plants might be destroyed. Tonight is Eastern time. “Very little is off limits,” Trump said, dismissing concerns about dangers to civilians while addressing reporters at the White House on Monday. Additionally, he claimed that Iran, a nation of over 90 million people, could

be “taken out in one night.” PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP: They have ‘til tomorrow. ... Now, we’ll see what happens. I can tell you they’re negotiating, we think, in good faith. We’re going to find out. We’re getting the help of some incredible countries that want this to be ended, because it affects them also. A lot of people are affected by this. But we’re giving them — we’re giving them ‘til tomorrow 8:00 Eastern time, and after that, they’re going to have no bridges, they’re going to have no power plants. ... Very little is off limits. PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP: I don’t want to tell you that. We’re going to have a — we have — we have a plan, because of the power of our military, where every bridge in Iran will be decimated by 12:00 tomorrow night, where every power plant in Iran will be out of business, burning, exploding and never to be used again.

Percona’s Fast-Impact Database Services Aim to Speed AI Readiness

Open-source database software support firm Percona is refocusing its business on structured, services-led engagements aimed at solving performance and AI-readiness challenges for enterprise database teams.

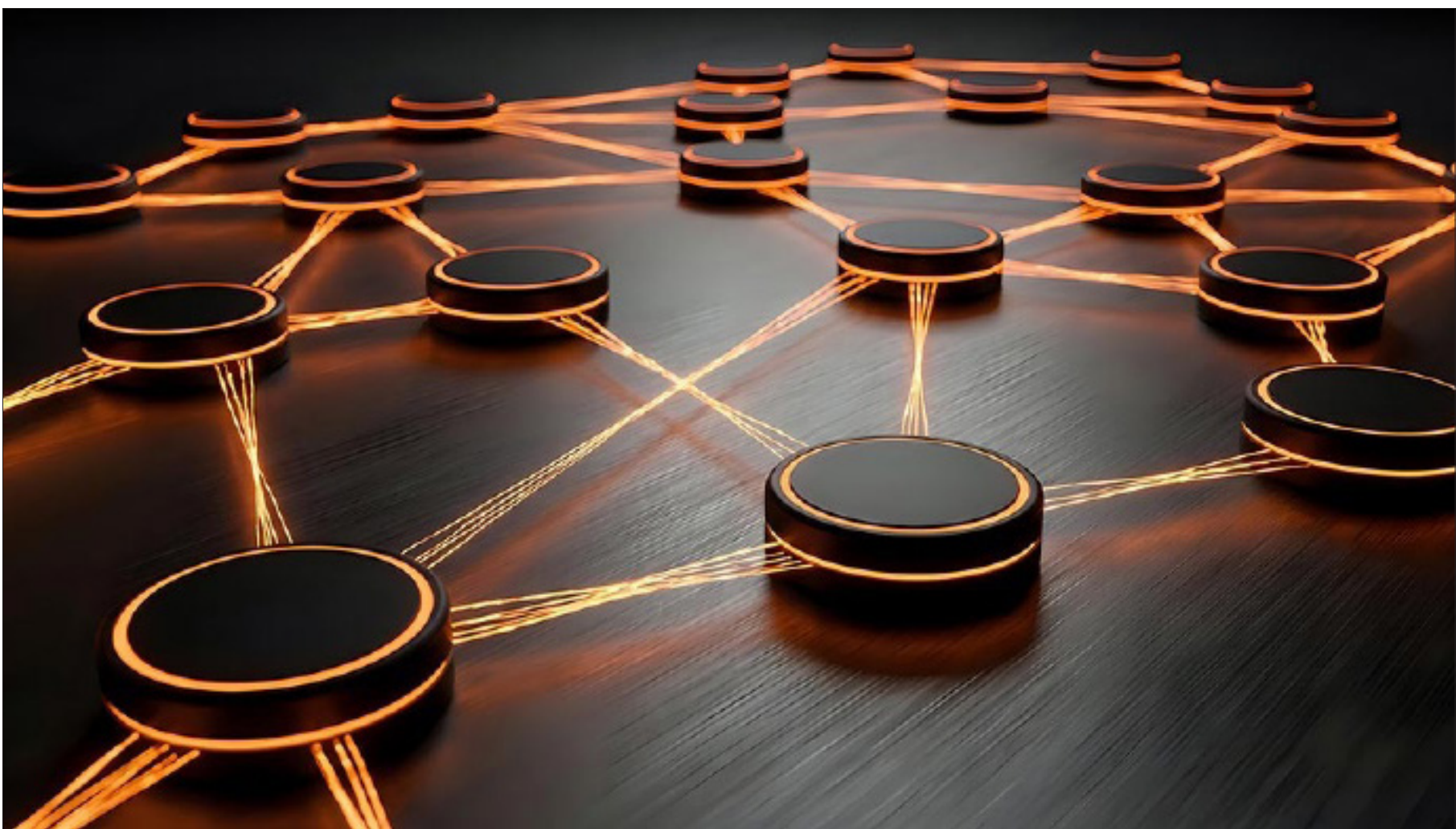
Last month, the company announced the launch of Percona Packages, a suite of structured consulting and support offerings for enterprise IT and DBA teams. The initial offerings — Quickstart, Performance Optimization, and AI Readiness — target critical database challenges with structured, time-bound engagements.

The new packages address the accelerating adoption of AI as enterprises face a critical talent bottleneck. McKinsey reports that 77% of companies lack the data engineering, architecture, and data management skills required to scale data transformations. Meanwhile, IDC estimates that the IT skills gap could cost organizations \$5.5 trillion by 2026, driven by shortages in data management, cloud, and AI talent.

According to Percona, this talent crunch leaves teams overstretched, slowing database modernization and increasing the risk of costly downtime, inefficient operations, and stalled AI initiatives. The company’s latest release helps database users eliminate performance roadblocks through optimization and future-proofs

databases with AI readiness. Percona’s new Packages release returns the company to its roots of empowering organizations with database services, CEO Peter Farkas noted. “Our goal is to be a one-stop shop for open-source database technology, providing support across MySQL, PostgreSQL, MongoDB, Valkey/Redis, and beyond. These packages tackle the most urgent database challenges while delivering fast, measurable results, so our customers can focus on innovation, not infrastructure headaches,” he explained. One of the primary benefits is the specific, measurable results customers see within the first 30 days, depending on the package and the business problem being addressed, according to Nick Herring, SVP of global services at Percona. Fast results apply to scalability, performance, AI readiness, and overall environmental stability.

“In all cases, these engagements are designed to deliver fast, actionable outcomes,” he told Linux Insider. Herring reported that a SaaS provider joined Percona last year due to long-standing performance issues stemming from instability. The company’s staff worked on the problem independently and with other vendors for months without resolution, resulting in a significant impact on customers. Within 30 days, Percona identified a specific bug and solved a recurring issue that others had failed



to resolve. Performance Optimization does not lend itself to a single, universal percentage reduction in query latency. Instead, improvement depends on the customer’s goals, workload characteristics, architecture, and how the application interacts with the database layer, according to Herring. It can address a wide range of performance issues, including slow queries, recurring outages, and failover instability.

“We have eliminated or significantly reduced these

problems for customers across on-premises and cloud environments, spanning all major verticals,” he said. One core challenge is insufficient tuning of the underlying database infrastructure before introducing AI workloads, which compounds the problem. A second hurdle is a lack of familiarity with AI database tooling that leads to configuration problems at the critical intersection of AI workloads and the data they depend on, he explained. “Our AI Readiness package is designed

to proactively address both challenges, helping customers move faster while avoiding costly rework and downstream performance issues,” Herring added. However, the AI Readiness package is currently limited to PostgreSQL and the pgvector extension. He sees customers most often using PostgreSQL for AI workloads. Thus, Percona is meeting customers where they are. “We don’t have anything to share yet about our future roadmap to bring AI-ready packages to MySQL or MongoDB.

We will continue to evaluate our customers’ and potential customers’ needs, as well as the success of the PostgreSQL AI offering, to inform future plans,” Herring said. Well-known AI companies, gaming companies, financial institutions, and SaaS providers come to Percona to assess the health of their environment after experiencing difficulty scaling with their customer base and new application functionality. Such scaling trouble puts additional strain on their database en-

vironment. “This is where Percona shines, and after these initial engagements, most ultimately become long-term customers of our various services,” he said. Herring shared that some customers plan to handle their own cloud-to-on-premises migration, a MySQL 5.7-to-8.0 upgrade, or a new Valkey deployment. They look to Percona to reduce risk through expert guidance and validation. “In these cases, Quickstart is a good fit. However, if customers want a turnkey solution

for an upgrade, migration, or new deployment, all but the simplest scenarios demand a greater level of hands-on execution and customization,” he advised. Except for the PostgreSQL AI Readiness package, the other Percona Packages apply to all technologies Percona supports: MySQL, PostgreSQL, MongoDB, MariaDB, and Valkey/Redis. These packages were specifically designed to solve common business challenges our customers face, regardless of technology.

Logitech Takes Aim at Bulky Boardroom Gear With AI Cameras

Logitech is positioning its new Rally AI Camera and Rally AI Camera Pro as lower-profile alternatives to bulky conference room video systems.

Instead of traditional video bars, the devices use smaller camera units built around one-inch imaging sensors and automated features designed to support both video quality and room management. They also function as room sensors, combining imaging with AI-based tracking and analytics capabilities.

That approach places Logitech in direct competition with established all-in-one video bars and modular conferencing systems, shifting AI typically embedded in those systems into a dedicated camera format. AI-powered tracking is already common, but Logitech is emphasizing mounting flexibility and pricing. Most enterprise-grade dual-camera systems for large rooms often exceed \$5,000 to \$10,000. The Rally AI Camera Pro is priced at \$2,999, while the Rally AI Camera is priced at \$2,499.

“Rally AI Cameras are designed to power the hybrid-first office, where the tech fades into the background to let the digital and physical worlds blend,” said Henry Levak, VP of product at Logitech for Business. “From small walls to town halls, they provide a cinematic experience for meeting attendees while quietly solving problems that IT managers, facilities teams, and workplace experience professionals face every day.” Logitech combines features from its existing Rally systems with AI-based video capabilities typically found in larger devices. According to Logitech, compact multi-camera views capture every perspective in boardrooms, classrooms, and town hall spaces. They can work in tandem for setups like Zoom Intelligent Director and Microsoft Teams. The setup is designed to create more dynamic meeting views through multi-camera coordination, with both cameras featuring a custom-designed



lens with a one-inch imaging sensor and a 115° field of view, enabling wide room coverage and individual close-ups, even in low-light conditions. The cameras can be mounted on the ceiling, TV display, on a wall, or recessed within a wall. An automatic shutter indicates when the camera is off. According to Nathan Coutinho, global head of strategy at Logitech for Business, the in-wall mounting and sleek design suggest a move toward invisible technology. Historically, conference room technology did not integrate into the room. It occupied it. But workplaces, especially executive spaces, boardrooms, and customer-facing environments, increasingly prioritize clean sightlines, minimal visual noise, and flexibility in multi-use spaces. “Ultimately, this isn’t just about aesthetics, though that’s a big plus for architects and workplace designers, but about removing

distractions. Visual noise, like a camera protruding, can be a real productivity killer. In that sense, moving toward nearly-invisible technology makes sense for the industry, and we do expect that trend to continue,” he told TechNewsWorld. Coutinho added that a plug-and-play camera priced under \$3,000 lowers the entry barrier to professional video meetings. This shift enables organizations, regardless of budget or technical expertise, to deploy more advanced video setups without costly installations or specialized staffing. “One goal of the Rally AI Cameras is to democratize access to sophisticated yet simple video capabilities to more organizations,” he offered. Both cameras use RightSight 2 AI framing to adjust the view based on participants in the room, adapting in real time to frame the group, individual speaker, or arrange participants in a grid.

They support multiple mounting options, including wall and in-wall installation, allowing them to blend into a range of room designs. With a one-inch imaging sensor and RightSight 2 AI, the camera automatically focuses and frames participants in the room. It is designed to integrate with a range of room layouts, with options to mount the camera on the wall or recess it into the wall for a truly subtle presence. Large mechanical PTZ systems traditionally signaled capability through sweeping pans, audible motors, and visible hardware. Logitech’s one-inch sensors and hybrid AI-driven zoom may be reaching a tipping point, Coutinho suggested.

“When you have abundant pixels and intelligent reframing, dramatic mechanical motion becomes less necessary. In today’s meeting room environments, the highest standard isn’t visible movement.



It’s invisible intelligence,” he said. Coutinho agreed that this data-driven approach changes the ROI calculation for office footprints. Room usage data may change how organizations evaluate office space utilization. They detect when, how many, and how often people use

rooms and feed that data into Logitech Sync. The process provides workplace managers with the information needed to plan spaces more effectively, he explained. For example, one of the biggest drains on corporate real estate budgets is the ghost meeting — booked rooms

but no one shows up. Rally AI Cameras can detect whether people actually show up, and if not, automatically release the room so others can use it. “In a way, this increases the amount of square footage you can use without leasing more space,” he suggested. “You’re not just buying an enterprise conference camera. You’re buying visibility into how your spaces are actually being used.”

The Rally AI Camera Pro is a pan-tilt-zoom (PTZ) camera with powerful optics and smart features for larger, complex spaces. It delivers crystal clear video with an advanced dual-camera system and 15x hybrid zoom.

AI-based RightSight 2 technology intelligently focuses and frames people in meeting rooms as if they were up close. Simple integration with conference audio systems makes it easy to deploy intelligent video and pro audio together, while occupancy insights can drive workplace automation. Coutinho noted that Logitech’s Rally AI Cameras combine hardware, software, and analytics into a single platform. The platform includes occupancy analytics, environmental sensing from Logitech Spot, and AI-powered capabilities updated through CollabOS.

“Another key product differentiator is our easy integration with popular platform-specific features. Rally AI Cameras integrate with Zoom Rooms and Microsoft Teams Rooms, enabling natural, equitable framing across multiple perspectives in multi-camera setups,” he offered. These capabilities position the Rally AI cameras as art of a broader move toward more flexible, data-aware meeting room systems. The Rally AI cameras highlight growing demand for smarter, more adaptable meeting room technology. As hybrid work evolves, systems that combine video, analytics, and seamless integration are becoming central to how organizations rethink their spaces.

Shora, Nawazuddin Siddiqui’s daughter, has requested that he refrain from dancing

Mumbai: In an open admission regarding his private life, actor Nawazuddin Siddiqui revealed that his daughter Shora doesn’t particularly enjoy his dancing.

The actor revealed that she has regularly called out his “poor” motions and advised him to completely refrain from dancing.In an interview, Nawazuddin discussed his 16-year-old daughter’s aspirations to pursue acting and was questioned about her fame on social media.”We’ll see after she finishes her studies. However, Nawazuddin stated, “She is passionate about acting.”

The actor disclosed in the interview that Shora has only seen a few of his movies and is not very impressed by his dancing, frequently criticizing his “poor” skills. Nawazuddin responded, “All daughters are direct with their fathers.” She hasn’t seen many of



my movies. She may have secretly watched Gangs of Wasseypur. However, Mom continues to berate me for my dancing. She requests that I refrain from doing it. I’m not very good at dancing. My confidence has been crushed by her. I don’t feel confident enough to dance right now.

I’ll give it another go. Some individuals just want to have fun, so everything doesn’t have to be flawless. Nawazuddin and his estranged wife

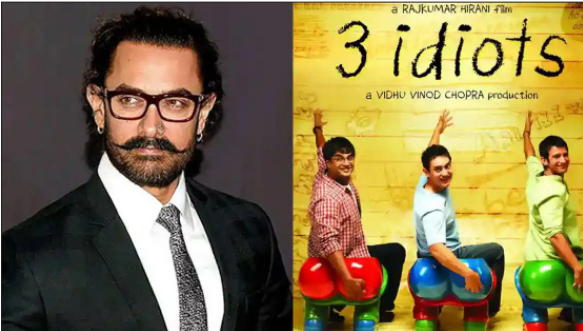
Aaliya are the parents of Shora Siddiqui. The actor talked candidly about his daughter’s desire to be an actress in an earlier interview with Film Companion. “My daughter is currently undergoing training,” he stated. “I want to learn acting,” she stated, “haath jod ke teacher ke saamne” (folding her hands in front of her teacher) after being accepted into the performing arts faculty. Indian actor Nawazuddin Siddiqui

is well-known for his roles in Hindi films. A National Film Award, an IIFA Award, two Filmfare Awards, and an International Emmy nomination are just a few of the accolades he has garnered.He started his career with little parts in movies like Sarfarosh (1999), Shool (1999), and Munna Bhai M.B.B.S. (2003). He graduated from the National School of Drama.

His act in the Gangs of Wasseypur duology (2012) brought him global acclaim after he first gained notoriety with Anurag Kashyap’s Black Friday (2004).

His next films are Noorani Chehra and Main Actor Nahi Hoon. Additionally, he has been cast as the antagonist in the Tumbbad sequel. He reprised his role as Inspector Jatil Yadav in Raat Akeli Hai: The Bansal Murders and played Yakshasan in Aditya Sarpotdar’s Thamma in 2025.

Aamir Khan and Rajkumar Hirani have finally confirmed a sequel to 3 Idiots



Mumbai: For a while now, there has been talk about a sequel to 3 Idiots that would feature Aamir Khan, R Madhavan, and Sharman Joshi. Aamir has now confirmed that the sequel is in fact in the works, putting an end to all rumors. He also disclosed that Rajkumar Hirani will once again be directing the film.Ten years after the events of the first movie, the sequel is anticipated to advance the plot. Aamir Khan, Kareena Kapoor Khan, R. Madhavan,

and Sharman Joshi are anticipated to return for the movie, which is being produced by Vidhu Vinod Chopra and directed by Rajkumar Hirani. Aamir said that he is working on the sequel in an interview with Amar Ujala, calling it a lovely tale. He went on to say that he thought Rajkumar Hirani and scriptwriter Abhijat Joshi had written and imagined it really effectively. He also revealed information regarding the follow-up.Raju is currently working on 3 Idiots

2, according to Aamir. The story is amazing, and I’ve heard it. The story itself is excellent; it’s unique and has the same humor as the first movie, but the script still needs some improvement. It picks up ten years later with the characters from Three Idiots. Aamir expressed his enthusiasm about returning to the part of Phunsukh Wangdu in the follow-up. Raju and Abhijat came up with this lovely tale.

The actor, who returned to the big screen with Sitaare Zameen Par following Laal Singh Chaddha’s flop in 2022, stated, “I’m looking forward to it and to playing Phunsukh Wangdu again.”Aamir, Sharman, and Madhavan played three pals in Rajkumari Hirani’s film 3 Idiots, while Boman Irani played a college principal and Kareena played Aamir’s romantic interest.

Omi Vaidya played a crucial part in it as well. 3 Idiots, which is partially based on Chetan Bhagat’s book Five Point Someone, centers on the societal constraints that three students at an Indian engineering college encounter while pursuing their friendship.One of Bollywood’s most recognizable and highest-grossing movies, 3 Idiots was premiered in theaters on Christmas Day in 2009. As the first Indian movie to earn ₹400 crore globally, it established a standard for box office success abroad. For a considerable amount of time, it was India’s highest-grossing movie.

Due to frequent TV broadcasts and over-the-top streaming, it has also developed a cult following over time. The movie, which was made under Vinod Chopra Films, took home three National Awards.

Isha Ambani shares the key to her radiant, perfect skin

New Delhi: Isha Ambani, the eldest daughter of Indian billionaire Mukesh Ambani, is renowned for her amazing fashion choices, which span from fashionable Indian clothing to handcrafted ensembles created by traditional Indian artisans to straight-off-the-runway haute couture looks. But many are impressed not just by her sense of style but also by her perfect skin.Isha is a strong proponent of a makeup-free style and is frequently spotted wearing little to no makeup. This is what she disclosed when asked about her skincare regimen in an interview with Vogue in June 2024. When asked about her skincare regimen, Isha revealed that she believes in using no products and that she has nothing to conceal. Isha doesn’t use any products in her skincare routine in a world where people are readily influenced by the glitzy new items that are introduced daily in the beauty industry.”My beauty secret is that I have no beauty routine or regimen, much to the disappointment of many,” she said to the journal. I don’t



do anything to my skin. No SPF, no moisturizer, no face wash, nothing. “Isha Ambani proving you don’t need fancy skincare to glow” was said on a fan page that shared a clip of the interview on Instagram on April 27 and complimented Isha for her impeccable beauty. A survey claims that all moisturizers are beneficial for dry skin for a very straightforward reason: they provide the skin with a small amount of water and contain a fatty material that keeps it in.According to a Johns Hopkins Medicine study, using sunscreen is among the best and simplest ways to safeguard the health and beauty of your skin at

any age. Regular use of sunscreen helps against sunburn, skin cancer, and early aging. The wealthiest man in India, Mukesh Ambani, and his wife, Nita Ambani, have an eldest daughter, Isha Ambani. Akash Ambani and Anant Ambani are her two brothers. Isha wed Anand Piramal, the son of billionaire Ajay Piramal, in December 2018. Beyoncé sang during their pre-wedding festivities, which also included a star-studded guest list that included Hillary Clinton, Nick and Priyanka Chopra Jonas, and more. In November 2022, four years later, Isha gave birth to twins Krishna and Aadiya.

The relationship between Ranveer Allahbadia and his girlfriend Juhi Bhatt is launched

Mumbai: By posting a number of romantic images from Kenya’s Maasai Mara National Park on Instagram, content producer and podcaster Ranveer Allahbadia, better known online as BeerBiceps, has formally acknowledged his relationship with Juhi Bhatt. After months of conjecture on the pair’s relationship status, the post finally appears. Ranveer commented, “Sun, moon, stars & everything in between,” alongside photos from their trip. Have you ever seen someone whose light has the power to eradicate all negativity in the world? I have. He further confirmed their relationship by using the hashtag “HardLaunchFromTheMara.”Friends and other creators took notice of the post right away. Sargun Mehta responded with heart emoticons when Ashish Chanchlani, who was also recently in the news because of the scandal surrounding India’s Got Latent, remarked, “Jaldi ab kar shaadi (Get married soon).” Orry joined in as well, congratulating Ranveer on going public with his romance. With the remark, “Manifested this for so long; didn’t think it would feel this surreal when it actually happened,” Juhi Bhatt also posted a video from the Maasai Mara trip. You were worth the wait, Kenya.Relationship rumors were further fueled by the couple’s earlier sighting at the Mumbai Indi-



ans’ IPL 2026 match at Wankhede Stadium.Around October 2025, rumors about Ranveer and Juhi started when they shared similar Diwali celebration photos with matching décor, but neither of them included their faces. Actor Nikki Sharma and Ranveer were allegedly romantically involved prior to this, and Ranveer frequently shared photos with her while hiding her name with a sunflower symbol. After he unfollowed her on Instagram, rumors about their breakup began to circulate. Ranveer was recently in the news due to outrage for a contentious remark he made on India’s Got Latent. He asked a contestant a provocative “would you rather” question about parents and sex, which

resulted in FIRs against him, Samay Raina, and other panelists.With more than 471,000 Instagram followers, Juhi Bhatt is an actor and digital creator from Mumbai. Juhi started her career in cinema marketing before transitioning into acting. She was trained in Kathak and contemporary dance. Since then, she has frequently worked with FilterCopy and made appearances in digital ventures including the online serial Tumse Na Ho Paayega. In terms of movies and music, she recently starred opposite Karan Tacker and Kalki Koechlin in the paranormal thriller series Bhay: The Gaurav Tiwari Mystery. She also appeared in the song Ve Fukrey from Fukrey 3.

Priyadarshan and Akshay Kumar collaborate on two new movies

Mumbai: The well-known actor-director pair of Priyadarshan and Akshay Kumar, who have recently collaborated on several films, has now added two more to their list. Ramesh Taurani will produce both of these films.”The first film, a comedy, will go on floors in January 2027,” said a person familiar with the project. In addition, Akshay has joined the cast of Priyadarshan’s Bhoot Police 2. The second male lead who would work alongside Akshay is being sought after by the team. Only lately have all the details for both films been finalized, despite the fact that talks had been ongoing for the previous two months. ”Yes, we are producing both the films with Akshay and Priyadarshan,” Taurani said when asked.It’s interesting to note that the only thing that the original Bhoot Police and its sequel have in common is Taurani. Saif Ali Khan, Arjun Kapoor, Jacqueline Fernandez, Yami Gautam, and Javed Jaffrey acted in the 2021 movie, which was directed by Pavan Kiralani and produced by Taurani and Akshai Puri.

Hera Pheri (2000), Garam Masala (2005), Bhagam Bhag (2006), Bhool Bhulaiyaa (2007), De Dana Dan (2009), and Khatta Meetha (2010) are just a few of the hits that Akshay and Priyadarshan collaborated on.

In addition to these projects, Akshay and Priyadarshan are working on Haiwaan and Hera Pheri 3, though the latter’s status is still unknown. They also cooperated on the newly released Bhoot Bangla. Akshay recently revealed this information during a conversation with Sonal Kalra, Chief Managing Editor, Entertainment and Lifestyle at HT City Stars In The City.

Priya Banerjee criticizes Bollywood’s lack of originality and claims it has lost its path



Mumbai: Priya Banerjee, a notable actor in the Bollywood industry, has expressed significant concerns regarding the creative stagnation plaguing mainstream Hindi cinema, particularly its reliance on formula-driven narratives. In a detailed interview with Hindustan Times, she illustrated her perspective that the industry is ensnared in repetitiveness, contrasting it with the adventurous storytelling found on OTT platforms, which she believes are fostering innovative and unconventional ideas.

Throughout her career, Banerjee has consciously chosen to avoid conventional roles, instead opting for characters that challenge

her and which she finds exciting, often embracing the unconventional.Banerjee candidly reflected on her journey, stating that she did not enter acting with a calculative approach or with aspirations to achieve stardom. She was unfamiliar with Bollywood due to her upbringing outside of India, which shaped her view that acting should be enjoyable, rather than merely a path to fame. She often finds herself disinterested in traditional romantic comedies, suggesting that her focus has always been on roles that allow her creativity to flourish, stating, “I was getting all the attention, making money... I have always picked unconventional characters which

Smiles, selfies, and adorable family moments are the highlights of Mira Rajput’s weekend report

Mumbai: Recently, Mira Rajput caught up with her mother-in-law, Supriya Pathak, and sister-in-law, Sanah Kapur, sharing a touching family moment. The three appeared to have a laid-back gathering, as evidenced by Mira’s happy selfie that showcased their strong relationship. “Weekend recap,” she wrote as the caption for the photo. Fans can get a glimpse of their unguarded moments by swiping to discover Monday’s motto and realization. The simple grins and affection in the photo said a lot about their relationship, even though Mira didn’t say when or where they met. She has frequently revealed glimpses of her connection with her in-laws throughout the years, demonstrating that their link is based on true friendship rather



er than official familial ties.The three have previously been spotted enjoying time together.

Mira had previously posted photos from a cozy coffee date with Supriya and Sanah. Sanah had playfully said that their mother appeared to adore Mira more than her own daughter, adding a lighthearted spin to the situation. Mira re-posted the photo with the

caption, “Coffee and gup shup,” while Sanah wrote in jest, “If there was any doubt about who mom loves more... here is clear proof!” Please take note of the person she is loyal to.

In addition to her friendship with Supriya and Sanah, Mira is well-known for having a close bond with Neelima Azeem, the mother of actor Shahid Kapoor, and frequently discussing their. For those who don’t know, Mira and Shahid were married in a small ceremony in Delhi on July 7, 2015. Their spiritual guru and family helped plan their marriage.

The pair has developed a solid relationship over the years and are now proud parents of two children: a son named Zain, born in 2018, and a daughter named Misha, born in 2016.

In a previous video, Sara Arjun refers to Deepika Padukone and Alia Bhatt as her inspiration

Mumbai: With Aditya Dhar’s Dhurandhar, actor Sara Arjun recently entered a new stage of her career as a leading lady in Bollywood. Her portrayal of Yalina resonated with viewers and won her significant acclaim, and the movie went on to become a huge hit. An earlier video of Sara has surfaced online, exposing her Bollywood inspiration as she continues to enjoy the popularity of her breakout performance. The video, which appears to have been taken by her mother when she was younger, shows a young Sara answering a question from a fan regarding her role model. “My role model, I adore Alia Bhatt’s appearance and behavior, and I truly adore Alia Bhatt and Deepika Padukone,” she declares. They are my motivation and I adore them, but they are not my role models; instead, I want to be Sara Arjun. If I’m telling the truth. I would never want to be someone else’s next. Fans are greatly astonished by this sense of uniqueness and clarity, which was displayed at such a young age. Numerous people have praised her self-awareness and confidence on social media. “The girl has a sense of individuality at such a young age,” one commenter commented. One person said, “What a sorted girl,” while another said, “Couldn’t be more impressed.” Others expressed similar opinions, describing her as “incredibly talented,” “confident,”

and “focused.” Long before her recent triumph, Sara Arjun started her career in the entertainment business. She began her career as a kid artist, making appearances in a number of TV ads, including a well-known one for Clinic Plus. Her early performances immediately attracted notice, and she was cast in movies like 404 (2011) and Deiva Thirumagal (2011), the latter of which won her praise from critics. With films like Ek Thi Daayan, Jazbaa, Jai Ho, Saivam, Ek Ladki Ko Dekha Toh Aisa Laga, and Mani Ratnam’s Ponniyin Selvan, in which she portrayed young Nandini, she amassed an excellent career over the years in both Hindi and South Indian cinema. Sara moved into a big role with Dhurandhar, where she costarred with Ranveer Singh. Many people enjoyed their on-screen relationship, and the critics praised her performance.

The second portion of the two-part series went on to earn nearly ₹1,700 crore globally, making it one of the highest-grossing Indian movies. Globally, the franchise has surpassed ₹3,000 crore.Although Sara hasn’t made an official announcement about her next project, there are rumors that she might star in a biopic about the great actor Madhubala, which is allegedly supported by Sanjay Leela Bhansali. The actor hasn’t yet provided an official confirmation, though.

Why Delhi Deer Are Being Sent to Rajasthan Tiger Reserves by the Supreme Court

New Delhi, Apr 28: The Deer Park in south Delhi may only remain a “mini zoo” with the Central Zoo Authority’s (CZA) permission and a drastically reduced deer population of no more than 38, the Supreme Court declared on Monday. The order makes it possible to move the remaining deer to two Rajasthan tiger reserves.As suggested by the Central Empowered Committee (CEC), a bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta stated that the retention of up to 38 deer at the AN Jha Deer Park will be permitted strictly subject to the required permits from the CZA. In order to manage the smaller population, the court also ordered the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) to improve logistics, infrastructure, and skilled labor. The ideal sex ratio for the kept deer was to be 15 males to 23 females.The bench emphasized that the 10-acre park must remain a “protected forest” and that this status cannot be changed in the future. The NGO New Delhi Nature Society, which had protested to moving



deer from the park to Rajasthan’s Ramgarh Vishdhari Tiger Reserve and Mukundara Hills Tiger Reserve, filed a plea that resulted in the directives. 260 deer have been moved thus far. The CEC was previously assigned by the court to inspect the park and the relocation sites. The committee supported the move, citing the park’s inability to support a sizable deer population.The bench noted that, as wildlife, deer should not be kept in constrictive confinement unless there are extraordinary and legally justifiable conditions, high-lighting animal welfare issues. The CEC further noted that the park’s “mini-zoo” status had been revoked

by the CZA because of the park’s continuous transgressions of zoo management regulations, its inability to manage the deer population, and the expiration of its license in August 2021. The Supreme Court halted additional translocation in November 2025 and requested that the CEC evaluate important matters, such as the park’s carrying capacity and the state of the animals that were transported.The park can only “sustainably and humanely” accommodate 38 spotted deer under current standards, the court stated, accepting the committee’s conclusions. According to regulations, each pair of deer must have at least 1,500 square meters of enclosed

space. The park can accommodate about 19 pairs due to its estimated usable size of 29,000 square meters. The court mandated that additional translocation be completed under CEC supervision, in a timely manner, and precisely in accordance with established guidelines. Protocols pertaining to capture, veterinary care, transportation, acclimatization, and post-release monitoring must be followed by authorities. The CEC research warned that sudden relocation could be detrimental since deer raised in controlled environments might find it difficult to adjust to open forest settings.The court ordered the Union Environment Ministry to study the CEC’s draft rules and provide a compliance report within six months, citing loopholes in the current legislative frameworks governing wildlife relocation.The bench stated, “These guidelines deserve to be, and shall be, imparted statutory status,” and scheduled more monitoring for January 19 of the following year.

PM Modi commemorates Sikkim’s half-century as a state



Gangtok, Apr 28: On Tuesday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi got off to a lively start on the second day of his two-day visit to Sikkim by playing football with young people in Gangtok prior to official engagements. The Prime Minister later referred to Sikkim as the “heaven of the East,” complimenting its natural beauty, serenity, and cultural harmony, while speaking to a crowd during the golden jubilee celebrations commemorating the state’s 50 years of independence.Before official engagements, the Prime Minister even shared photos of himself practicing and interacting with the young players, demonstrating a laid-back and enthusiastic start. After a busy political itinerary in West Bengal, the Prime Minister traveled straight from election campaigning to Sikkim for his two-day visit to the Himalayan state. On Mon-

day night, a large number of people participated in his huge roadshow in Gangtok, lined the streets with Indian flags, loudly cheering, and engaging in traditional dance and song. As part of the golden jubilee festivities commemorating 50 years of Sikkim’s statehood, Prime Minister Modi spoke to a sizable crowd at Paljor Stadium on Tuesday morning. He called Sikkim the “heaven of the East,” complimenting its unparalleled beauty, tranquility, and spiritual depth while congratulating the populace.Speaking on Sikkim’s natural beauty, Prime Minister Modi expressed his fascination with the state’s orchids and added that visitors who haven’t seen them “have not seen anything.” He was certain that in the upcoming years, the state will see record numbers of visitors. PM Modi emphasized unity, pointing out that Sikkim has set

an example by uniting people from all across India during the festivities at a time when politics in the nation frequently revolves around linguistic and caste issues.Recalling that he had previously been unable to visit Gangtok because of inclement weather, he expressed his happiness at being there at last and reassured the locals that he is dedicated to elevating Sikkim to new heights.The Prime Minister focused on development and emphasized accelerating connectivity and infrastructure projects to increase tourism. He called the Sevoke-Rangpo railway project, which will link Sikkim to the national railway network, a significant step toward economic development. He also praised Sikkim as a model for the “vocal for local” project and emphasized the Center’s efforts to establish the state as a global center for eco and wellness tourism. PM Modi said the region’s dedication to sustainable development is demonstrated by Sikkim’s accomplishment of becoming a fully organic state ten years ago.He said that the present administration has accelerated long-pending projects like the railway link, taking a jab at previous administrations.As the country approaches its 100th anniversary of independence, PM Modi urged the populace to get ready for the goal of a developed India by 2047, with Sikkim playing a crucial role in that journey.

Two-time Olympic medallist Manu Bhaker inquired about Vaibhav Sooryavanshi

New Delhi: After his recent triumphs in the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026 and the U19 World Cup, 15-year-old phenom Vaibhav Sooryavanshi has become the talk of the town. The hysteria surrounding the left-hander makes sense because he is among the top five players on the Orange Cap leaderboard. But nobody anticipated that Sooryavanshi’s name would be mentioned at a media appearance by bronze medallist Manu Bhaker from the Paris Olympics. The internet has not taken kindly to an Olympic winner being questioned about a cricket player when there was no need for such a question, notwithstanding the 24-year-old’s restraint in responding to the question regarding Sooryavanshi. The whole thing began when Bhaker, a young achiever herself, was questioned about another young person, Vaibhav, at an event. Speaking on the fringes of the 75th anniversary celebrations of the National Rifle Association of India (NRAI), Bhaker emphasized the value of having a good mentor and a sound head on one’s shoulder.”I



would argue that age is just a number provided he has excellent mentoring, good company, and good people around him. Furthermore, talent has no age limit. Great things happen at six, not at sixty. He will therefore undoubtedly be the next great thing if those around him properly mentor and encourage him. At an event on Monday, Bhaker told reporters, “I am confident he will be the next big star if the people around him mentor and guide him properly.”When responding to the question, Bhaker, who won two bronze medals in the 10-meter pistol event and the 10-meter pistol mixed team at the 2024 Summer Olympics in Paris, showed no signs of annoyance. It is understandable, though, that the internet is frustrated when an Olympic medallist is questioned

about a cricket player. On social media, especially X (previously Twitter), there are a number of responses as users continue to vent their rage and wrath, saying Bhaker was not given enough respect. Allegations of favoritism for cricket in India have resurfaced as a result of the Sooryavanshi issue, and people are discussing how other sports are still viewed as inferior and lacking in respect. The left-hander has scored 357 runs in eight games so far in the 2026 Indian Premier League, including two fifties and one century. He scored a century against Sunrisers Hyderabad last week, surpassing the three-figure threshold in just 36 balls. Pat Cummins, the captain of SRH, praised Sooryavanshi after this knock and referred to the young player as his “new favorite cricketer.

RCB wins the match thanks to Bhuvneshwar Kumar’s INR 1.33 crore spell

New Delhi: Bhuvneshwar Kumar is currently mounting a statistical uprising in the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026 for the Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB), despite the fact that the national selection committee seems to have moved on from him in the T20I format. He has used the new ball to his advantage against the Delhi Capitals, taking three wickets in his opening three overs. Bhuvneshwar last represented India in 2022, but his stats over the previous three to four years indicate that, at thirty-six, he is still the most effective Powerplay weapon in Indian cricket. Bhuvneshwar’s dominance in the first six overs is an eye-opening indicator of his worth. No bowler in the Indian Premier League has been more successful at making early breakthroughs since the beginning of 2023. He has now taken 14 wickets in 8 games this season, frequently hitting for RCB during the powerplay. Bhuvneshwar Kumar’s recent performance positions him as one of the top new-ball bowlers, matching Trent Boult’s acclaim. He boasts an impressive strike rate while playing on batting-friendly surfaces, with a remarkable 20 three-wicket hauls in IPL history—second only to Jasprit Bumrah. Additionally, he holds the record for the most dot balls



in IPL and is the first Indian pacer to surpass 200 wickets, reaching 212. Despite criticism regarding a perceived decline in pace, his 2026 season stats highlight his adaptability and effectiveness, particularly in a game where securing Powerplay wickets and maintaining an economy rate under 8.00 is crucial. His current form calls for a reevaluation by selectors looking for impactful players, as he has proven invaluable in Bengaluru’s bowling attack.

Madhya Pradesh Creates a High-Level Panel and Accelerates the Push for a Uniform Civil Code

Bhopal, Apr 28: MP speeds up the push for a uniform civil code and creates a high-level panel led by a former Supreme Court judge. The move was first reported on April 9. With an official order on Monday to form a high-level six-member committee entrusted with creating the framework for one of the state’s most ambitious legal reforms, the Madhya Pradesh government has formally advanced its efforts to enact the Uniform Civil Code (UCC).The committee, led by former Supreme Court judge Ranjana Prakash Desai, has only sixty days to present the state government with a draft bill and comprehensive report, laying the groundwork for a comprehensive revision of personal and family laws pertaining to marriage, divorce, maintenance, inheritance, and adoption. On April 9, it was reported that the government led by Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav was actively preparing to move on UCC and that Desai, who had previously chaired committees of a similar nature in Gujarat and Uttarakhand, was likely to be tasked



with spearheading Madhya Pradesh’s legal blueprint as well. Despite the intricate tribal, social, and constitutional issues at hand, the state’s administrative apparatus had already started the process.The group will examine current personal laws and suggest a workable, socially balanced legal framework that is adapted to Madhya Pradesh’s demographic and cultural realities, according to an official announcement from the Law and Legislative Affairs Department.The committee’s focus on regulating live-in relationships, including provisions pertaining to registration, legal rights, and obligations arising

from such arrangements—an issue that has emerged as a politically and socially contentious frontier in civil law reform—is one particularly noteworthy aspect of its mandate. The panel will evaluate UCC models from Uttarakhand and Gujarat, focusing on their drafting processes, implementation strategies, and legal frameworks to adapt recommendations for Madhya Pradesh. Women’s rights, child protection, and equality will be central to the proposed framework, ensuring the protection of vulnerable groups and harmonization of legal traditions. Public consultations will be key, allowing input from citizens, legal experts, and organizations. The committee includes various experts and aims to address Madhya Pradesh’s unique socio-economic and cultural context, particularly concerning its tribal population and constitutional protections under the Fifth Schedule, as complexities related to customary practices and community autonomy are anticipated during the drafting process.

Telangana Police Officers Will Get Leave for Birthdays and Wedding Anniversaries

Hyderabad , Apr 28: The Telangana Police has declared extra leave for its employees on their birthdays and wedding anniversaries, which is a major humanitarian initiative.Recognizing the rigorous nature of policing tasks, the program seeks to improve officers’ work-life balance and raise morale, according to a circular released by the Director General of Police.Except in exceptional cases, all unit officers have been instructed to provide leave on these dates. “The sanctioning authority shall sanction leave, unless it



is very important to deny,” the circular states.Officials clarified that leave will not be considered an automatic entitlement and that it will only be provid-

ed upon the submission of legitimate proof and a prior written request. The ruling is seen as a step toward enhancing the welfare and work-life balance of state police officers.The circular states that the action was implemented as a thank you for the force’s unwavering commitment.The circular states that the goal is to promote a better work-life balance by giving all Telangana Police officers, regardless of rank, the chance to celebrate these important life milestones with their families.

Axar Patel makes a modest plea to Delhi Capitals supporters following RCB’s nine-wicket thrashing

New Delhi: The Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026 season is not going well for the Delhi Capitals. After winning their first two games under Axar Patel’s leadership, the squad has been on a downhill trend ever since. The Delhi Capitals allowed the Punjab Kings to chase down 265 on Saturday. Two days later, the team bowled out for 75 against Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB), recording the lowest total of the 19th T20 league. Delhi were 8/6 at one point, and it appeared as though RCB’s IPL record of the lowest total ever (49) might be surpassed. Nevertheless, the Delhi Capitals were able to exceed this number in some way. With nine wickets remaining, RCB then chased the goal of 76 in the seventh over.Delhi captain Axar made a modest plea to supporters to continue supporting the team following the defeat to the reigning champions RCB. He stated that even when the team isn’t performing well, it is the fans’ responsibility to support them. The spin-bowling all-rounder, who is currently experiencing a bad period in the 2026 Indian Premier League, stated that the players are equally devastated by the loss and will make every effort to turn things around.”You mentioned the fan base. I can reassure them by pointing them that the players are also discouraged if the supporters are. We don’t play to lose after putting in so much effort. They ought to help the players now, in my opinion. You shouldn’t simply stand by us when we succeed. “Support should stay the same whether we win or lose,” Axar told reporters during the press conference following the game. To have any hope of qualifying for the playoffs, Delhi, which



is currently in seventh place, needs to win at least five of its next six games. Axar acknowledged that the loss against Punjab Kings, in which the hosts allowed Shreyas Iyer and company to surpass the 265-run total, had an impact on the defeat versus RCB.The fact that we lost the previous game after scoring 264 points might have had an impact. The hitters hesitated. Apart from that, it was unlucky. The batters simply continued to go out in a matter of balls. We’ll just have to put this day behind us and move on,” Axar remarked. Regarding the match between DC and RCB, the hosts were dismissed for 75 in 16.3 overs as Josh Hazlewood claimed four wickets and Bhuvneshwar grabbed three.Regarding the pace pair, Axar remarked, “Bhuvneshwar and Hazlewood are world-class bowlers who held a good length.”

After the Delhi Capitals' humiliating loss to RCB, the owner sends a strong message

New Delhi: Parth Jindal, a co-owner of the Delhi Capitals, responded on social media to his team’s crushing defeat to Royal Challengers Bengaluru on Monday in New Delhi. The Delhi Capitals were dismissed for just 75 thanks to four wickets from Josh Hazlewood and three from Bhuvneshwar Kumar. In response, RCB achieved a stunning nine-wicket victory as Virat Kohli and Devdutt Padikkal easily defeated the run chase. After a game in which Punjab Kings chased down a record 265-run target, this was DC’s second consecutive defeat. Parth Jindal said, “Stay together more than ever now DelhiCapitals - really very tough to take but we must keep fighting and keep believing,” on X, the former Twitter platform. When Delhi Capitals failed to defend 264 against Punjab Kings on Saturday, Axar Patel had little to say. He appeared even more bewildered when his team crumbled to 75 against Royal Challengers Bengaluru in their second consecutive IPL defeat in 48 hours.Josh Hazlewood’s masterful use of the short ball strategy and Bhuvneshwar Kumar’s noticeable swing reduced the Delhi Capitals to 9 for 6 in Powerplay overs.The outcome was the lowest total of the season, as RCB easily won by nine wickets.I’m not even sure what went wrong. For this reason, it’s said that you need to remain alert when playing cricket.

At the post-match presentation ceremony, Axar stated, “We have to move on from this match.” The tournament momentum for DC was impacted by David Miller’s refusal of a single in a one-run loss to Gujarat Titans, and Karun Nair’s dolbies against Punjab Kings only made things worse.From the perspective of today, you can argue that it had an impact, but if we had taken the single against GT or made the catches (Nair), momentum would have been on our side. There is no place for ifs and buts in this game. You need to stay upbeat; even though you had a difficult day, remember the good things from the previous five or six games,” Axar continued.

SPORTS

Kris Srikkanth Grills Hemang Badani Over Jibes Aimed At Stephen Fleming And Dhoni



New Delhi: The IPL has a habit of bringing old words back at the worst time-and Hemang Badani is now learning that the hard way, as a 2025 interview resurfaces for the Delhi Capitals head coach. Following Delhi's humiliating nine-wicket loss to Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) on Monday, former India captain Kris Srikkanth launched a blistering attack on Badani. Srikkanth's fury wasn't just directed at the scoreboard, but at what he perceived as Badani's past arrogance regarding the coaching credentials of Chennai Super Kings coach Stephen Fleming.RCB vs DC: **HIGHLIGHTS | SCORECARD**The root of the friction lies in comments Badani made during an interview with former cricketer Yo Mahesh. At the time, Badani had questioned whether Fleming was truly a "great" coach, suggesting his success was entirely tethered

to MS Dhoni. "On top of all this, Hemang Badani went after Stephen Fleming," Srikkanth fumed. "Hey Hemang. First take care of yourself before talking about others. I have always said this: 'in life, don't talk too much'." He spoke too much. Now, he has to shut up and watch stuff happening." Srikkanth continued the onslaught, questioning Badani's own tactical acumen. "Everybody is bringing this up and slamming him. Why talk about others? You should have been mindful of your job. Who are you to say Stephen Fleming won only because of MS Dhoni? What have you done? Anything special? Nothing." The timing of the verbal volley coincided with one of the darkest chapters in Delhi's batting history. Just days after scoring a massive 264 in a losing cause against Punjab Kings-a match where they conceded the highest successful chase in

IPL history-the Capitals' confidence appeared completely shattered. Facing RCB at the Arun Jaitley Stadium, Delhi were blown away for a measly 75 - their third-lowest total in IPL history. At one point, the scoreboard read a surreal 9 for 6, threatening the lowest total in the league's existence. Only a gritty 30 from Abishek Porel saved them from absolute ignominy before RCB chased the target in a mere 6.3 overs. Beyond the scoreline, Srikkanth took aim at the management's decision-making. The Capitals dropped Pathum Nissanka to hand a debut to 18-year-old Sahil Parikh, a move that backfired when Parikh was sent out to take strike first-up against Bhuvneshwar Kumar's world-class swing. "Why allow Sahil to take strike ahead of KL Rahul?" Srikkanth questioned, noting that more experienced options like Prithvi Shaw were left on

the sidelines. For Delhi, the sense of dj vu is palpable. Last season, the team collapsed after winning four of their first five matches, eventually missing the play-offs. With three losses on the bounce and a coach now under fire, the Capitals find themselves in a familiar. "People said I would never fix my short-ball problem. That triggered me. I wanted to prove them wrong by performing well. So, I worked hard on it. Earlier, I would just take a single or try to keep the ball down. But now my mindset has changed. If I see a short ball in my zone, I am going to hit it for a six," said Shreyas. Before the literal dust storm descended upon the Arun Jaitley Stadium in New Delhi, Josh Hazlewood and Bhuvneshwar Kumar conjured a tempest of their own with the new ball to blow the Delhi Capitals away. The Australian speedster snared four wickets while Bhuvneshwar, ageing like a vintage wine, provided a masterclass in why he remains one of the game's premier new-ball exponents. His three-wicket burst effectively dismantled the Delhi Capitals' batting order before it had even found its feet. Exactly two days after posting a formidable 264 (and somehow losing), Delhi Capitals subsided to a measly 75, which was half of what KL Rahul alone managed on Saturday. It marked the 12th lowest total in IPL history and the Delhi franchise.

Busy Virat Kohli Takes Time Out From IPL To Inaugurate His Childhood Coach's Academy

New Delhi: In the frenetic IPL season, where schedules are packed with back-to-back games and relentless travel, Virat Kohli proved that some bonds are timeless. A day after starring in Royal Challengers Bengaluru's (RCB) clinical win over Delhi Capitals at the Arun Jaitley Stadium, Kohli bypassed an early flight to stay back in his hometown for a deeply personal cause. On Monday, the former Indian captain joined his childhood coach, Rajkumar Sharma, for the inauguration of a new branch of the West Delhi Cricket Academy (WDCA) at Delhi Public School, RK Puram. Despite RCB having a crucial fixture against Gujarat Titans on Thursday, Kohli ensured he stayed an extra day in the capital city to support the man who shaped his career. The ceremony was also attended by DDCA President Rohan Jaitley. RCB vs DC: **HIGHLIGHTS | SCORECARD** Kohli took time to give away awards to the academy's students, many of whom were visibly starstruck. In a touching moment of traditional respect, one student moved to touch Kohli's feet; however, the modern-day legend immediately signalled the youngster not to do so, preferring a handshake and a word of encouragement instead. Addressing the students, Kohli's speech was a masterclass in self-awareness. "I chose sport very early on in my life, but that came from a very honest place," the 37-year-old said, according to ANI. "I was very sure that I wanted to go ahead and pursue cricket, and I had to be honest with myself, my family, and also my teachers to convey to them that this is the path I want to take." He advised the budding cricketers to be fully committed to their ambitions: "Be honest with your dreams, about what you want to do and follow that dream with absolute commitment. Only you will know whether



you are being 100% honest or not." Kohli's visit comes amidst a sensational run of form in the ongoing IPL 2026 season. He has been a pillar of consistency for RCB, amassing 351 runs in just 8 innings at a staggering average of 58.50. His season has already been punctuated by a blistering unbeaten 81 off 44 balls against Gujarat Titans and a historic milestone at the Kotla on Monday, where he became the first player in IPL history to breach the 9,000-run mark. Recalling his long association with the academy, Kohli noted that it remains a significant anchor in his life. "I started practising when I was eight years old, and I still continue to come to the academy whenever I get time. It's a big part of my childhood, and I hope all the kids that come to learn cricket here can value it," he concluded. Rajkumar Sharma, speaking to ANI, expressed his pride in his most famous ward. "I am very happy and thankful to DPS RK Puram for this opportunity. With the infrastructure here and the hard work we put in, I am hopeful we will be able to produce more sportspersons for the country like Virat Kohli." Virat Kohli advised cricket academy students to be fully committed to their ambitions and maintain absolute

honesty regarding their dreams. He emphasized that only the individuals themselves truly know if they are giving 100% effort toward their goals. Addressing students at the inauguration of a new West Delhi Cricket Academy branch at DPS RK Puram, Kohli shared that his own career path began from a very "honest place" when he chose sports early in life. He stressed the importance of having respect for the school environment and teachers, noting that they dedicate parts of their lives to help students grow. The 37-year-old Virat Kohli also encouraged the budding cricketers to clearly communicate their aspirations to their families and teachers, just as he did when pursuing his own cricketing journey. Virat Kohli has remained a cornerstone for Royal Challengers Bengaluru during the 2026 IPL season, continuing his trademark consistency as an opening batter while adapting to a more aggressive modern T20 style. He has already achieved significant milestones this year, becoming the first player in IPL history to surpass 4,000 runs in successful chases and overtaking Shoaib Malik as the Asian cricketer with the most T20 runs. Early in the campaign, Sunrisers.

China Sweeps Indian Women Zero To Five In Final Group A Tie Of TUC 2026

Horsens: The Indian women's team came up with a spirited performance against defending champions China in their final Group A clash of the Thomas & Uber Cup 2026 in Horsens, Denmark on Monday night, but could not avoid a 0-5 loss. Facing a must-win situation to stay in the hunt for a quarterfinal berth, former world champion PV Sindhu returned to play the first singles and had her chances against world no 2 Wang Zhi Yi, according to a release. Sindhu led Wang for most of the third game and even opened up an 18-12 lead in the decider. The Chinese then took seven consecutive points to take the lead and wrapped up the match a couple of points later. India's other two singles players, Isharani Baruah and Devika Sihag, also built pressure



on their Much-fancied Chinese opponents but could not carve out a win. Isharani lost to former Olympic Champion Chen Yu Fei 20-22, 13-21, while Devika went down 21-19, 17-21, 10-21 against Xu Wen Jing. India's scratch women's doubles combination of Tanisha Crasto and Kavipriya Selvam raised hopes of winning a point when they took the

opening game against Luo Xu Min and Zhang Shu Xian, but ended on the losing side of a 10-21, 21-12, 21-19 score line. India had lost their first group game against Denmark 2-3 and then blanked Ukraine 5-0. The scoring system in badminton is set to undergo a massive change from next year onwards, as the current best-of-three, first-to-21 system will be

replaced by the best-of-three, first-to-15 system. From January 4 next year, as per Olympics.com, the badminton matches will be played as best-of-three matches, with 15 matches per game at stake. The change was voted on during the Badminton World Federation (BWF) Annual General Meeting in Horsens, Denmark, currently the host to the BWF Thomas & Uber Cup Finals 2026. As per BWF, the new system "offers a strong and sustainable foundation for the sport's future." It outperformed both the 3x21 system and the alternative option of the 5x11 system during the data review. It is also hoped that through this scoring system, there will be shorter matches with more predictable lengths, which will help players in getting more are building.

Manchester United Beat Brentford 2-1 To Strengthen Their Top-Three League Spot

Carrick Stays Grounded Despite UCL Proximity

Stretford: Manchester United secured a crucial 2-1 victory over Brentford in their English Premier League (EPL) clash, boosting their push for Champions League qualification. United took control early with Brazilian star Casemiro opening the scoring in the 11th minute before Benjamin Sesko doubled the lead in the 43rd minute following a swift counterattack. Mathias Jensen pulled one back late for Brentford in the 87th minute, but the hosts, Man Utd, held on for all three points at Old Trafford on Monday. The result sees Manchester United consolidate third place in the Premier League standings, strengthening their chances of finishing in the top five and qualifying for next season's Champions League. Brentford, meanwhile, remains ninth, still in contention for a European spot. United's win puts them within touching distance of securing Champions League football, while Brentford will look to bounce back as the race for European qualification intensifies in the final stretch of the season. Arsenal lead



The Premier League standings with 73 points from 34 matches, followed by Manchester City in second place with 70 points from 33 games. Manchester United occupy third with 61 points from 33 matches, while Liverpool and Aston Villa are tied on 58 points each, having also played 33 matches. Brentford sit ninth on the table with 48 points from 33 games. During the clash, Man Utd captain Bruno Fernandes reached

Another impressive milestone after moving level with Cristiano Ronaldo for Premier League goal involvements during Manchester United's win against Brentford on Monday. The Man Utd captain set up Benjamin Sesko to score and double his side's lead at Old Trafford after Casemiro's opener. It was Fernandes' 140th goal involvement in the competition and ensured he matched his former Man Utd.

Virat Kohli Finds School Speeches Awkward Yet Delivers A Golden Message To Students

New Delhi: Virat Kohli may find delivering speeches in schools to be tougher than dealing with an inswinging yorker, but the Indian star delivered a brilliant message to students while inaugurating another branch of his childhood coach's academy. Despite the rush period in the IPL 2026 campaign, Kohli found some time to spend with the students in Delhi after RCB's win over DC on Monday, April 27. After the inauguration, Kohli spoke to the students, reminding them about respecting the school environment and the teachers and dedicating their focus and attention towards their goals early. "I'm not used to speaking in schools, so this is going to be a bit awkward for me because I moved away from the school setup long ago for cricket, and that's what I'm going to talk about." I understand the environment of a school. I've been through the same process and stage that all you kids are a part of right now. And I can just share from my own experience



How my focus and priority changed very early on in my life," Kohli said. What I want to say is, a school is a place where you come to learn, you come to grow, you become better people." Have respect and regard for that environment first. For your teachers, for the people who are teaching you. They are giving you a part of their lives. It's very important to give them that respect and the

focus and attention that's required," Kohli added. Kohli opened up about his own journey with the kids and said he had to be honest with himself when he decided to make cricket his calling. The Indian star urged the students to be honest with their own dreams and follow it with commitment. I chose sport very early on in my life, but that came from a very honest place. I was

very sure that I wanted to go ahead and pursue cricket, and I had to be honest with myself, my family, and also my teachers to convey to them that this is the path I want to take," the former Indian captain said. "Be honest with your dreams, about what you want to do and follow that dream with absolute commitment. Only you will know whether you are being 100% honest or not." Recalling his association with the academy, Kohli said it remained a significant part of his life and childhood and hopes that the students can learn a lot about the sport during their time there. "I started practising when I was eight years old, and I still continue to come to the academy whenever I get time. And I hope all the kids that come to learn cricket here can value it, can learn something from the academy. And I hope it does wonders for the school, the cricket setup here as well. So, I wish everyone all the very best," said Kohli.

Internet Erupts Over Vaibhav Sooryavanshi Asking Manu Bhaker An Off-Target Question



New Delhi: Double Olympic medalist Manu Bhaker once again proved her composure extends far beyond the shooting range. However, while Bhaker is being lauded for her grace, the internet is venting its fury at a reporter who used a platform celebrating Olympic excellence to ask the shooter about a teenage cricket sensation. The incident occurred during an

Event in New Delhi held to commemorate 75 years of the National Rifle Association of India (NRAI). The gathering featured the crme de la crme of India's shooting fraternity, intended to honour the sport's rich history, which includes Bhaker's historic two-medal haul at the Paris 2024 Olympics. The atmosphere shifted when a reporter pivoted from The theme of the day to ask

Bhaker for her thoughts on Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, the 15-year-old cricketer who has recently taken the IPL by storm. Sooryavanshi, who recently became the youngest player to reach 1,000 runs in T20 cricket, has been the subject of intense media scrutiny since his debut. The question did not sit well with sports fans and social media users who quickly took to X.