

6 WORLD 8 NATION Israeli airstrike in southern Gaza city of Rafah kills at least 9 Palestinians Pak PM set to visit Saudi to advance investment talks Like Amethi, Congress 'sahabzade' will also lose Wayanad LS seat: PM Modi govt cares only for super rich, posing threat to Constitution: Rahul

HT BRIEFS Meeting held

DIPHU: The Chief Executive Member (CEM) of Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council (KAAC), Tuliram Ronghang had a meeting with the Kuki Civil Society Organisation (KCSO) at Sajjang in the premises of Kuki Gaonbura Association's office. A leader of KCSO, John Thangew appreciated the development-oriented government of the BJP. He stated the difficulties and grievances of the Kuki tribe in Karbi Anglong before the CEM. The Kuki leader said that they will vote for the BJP candidate Amarsing Tisso. Executive Member of KAAC, Surja Rongphar; president of BJP East Karbi Anglong District Committee, Roland Killing and chairman of GinFed, Tongthang Touthang among others were present in the meeting.

Polling percentage

TEZPUR: The poll process of general election held in Sonitpur HPC on Friday in the first phase passed off peacefully showing no major setback. The average voter turnout percentage in the constituency is 78.47 while LAC wise latest voter turnout percentage is shown 77.60 in Dhekiajuli LAC, 77.17 in Barchala, 78.16 in Tezpur, 79.67 in Rangapara, 79.27 in Naduar, 80.20 in Biswanath, 80.09 in Behali, 78.69% in Gohpur and 75.55 in Bihpuria. Bihpuria LAC presents the lowest poll percentage of 75.55 percent in comparison to 8 other assembly segments under the 11- No Loksabha Constituency while Biswanath LAC shows the highest 80.20 percent polling.

Poll violence

IMPHAL: Several organisations have strongly condemned the incidents of violence that marred voting processes at several polling stations across the Inner Manipur Parliamentary constituency on April 19. Khwairamband Nupi Keithel Apunba Imasing condemned sporadic incidents of violence reported in several polling stations yesterday, particularly disrespect shown by the armed miscreants towards the womenfolk.

Anurag Doloi of Jorhat tops rank-holders' list

Boys outshine girls in HSLC examination Pass percentage stands at 75.7%

GUWAHATI, April 20: Boys outshone girls in the class 10 board examinations in Assam, results of which were declared on Saturday. The overall pass percentage in the High School Leaving Certificate (HSLC) examination held in February-March this year was 75.7 percent, the Board of Secondary Education, Assam, (SEBA) said. The total percentage was an improvement over the last two years, with the pass percentages in 2022 and 2023 being 56.4 percent and 72.6 per cent respectively. A total of 4,19,078 students, comprising 1,87,904 boys, 2,31,164 girls and 10 transgenders, had appeared in the examination. The pass percentage among boys was 77.3 per cent, girls 74.4 percent and transgenders 80 percent. Chirang district had the highest pass percentage at 91.2 per cent, while the lowest of 60.9 per cent was in Udalguri district. The SEBA also announced the top three rank holders, with three students sharing the third position. Anurag Doloi of Pragma Academy Senior Secondary School of Jorhat topped the list, scoring 593 marks out of a total 600. Jharna Saikia of Shankardev Shishu Vidya Niketan, Biswanath Chariali, bagged the second position with 590 marks. The third rank was shared by Manish Pratim



Saikia of Island Academy, Majuli, Bedanta Choudhury of Stella Maris School, Sarupeta, and Devashree Kashyap of Ramanujan Senior Secondary School, Nagaon, scoring 588 marks. Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma congratulated those who cleared the exam, while urging those who did not fare as expected to continue working harder. "Congratulations to all my young friends who have successfully passed their HSLC exam this year. I wish you all the best for a bright future ahead," he wrote on X. "For those who aren't happy with the results, I want to tell them - one exam is NEVER a make or break exam. Life will always give you several more chances. Identify the numerous talents you are bestowed with and keep working hard! You will go places," Sarma added. (PTI)

Anurag wants to become software engineer

JORHAT, April 20: Anurag achieved an impressive score of 593 marks, with a perfect 100 in four subjects: Advanced Mathematics, General Science, General Mathematics, and Social Science, placing him at the top among the five rank holders this year. Notably, SEBA has recognised only five rank holders for the first time. The atmosphere at Pragma Academy was one of jubilation as students and teachers celebrated this remarkable achievement, especially since this was the first batch from the school to appear for the HSLC exam. At Anurag's residence in Kasogor, the air was filled with joy as neighbors and well-wishers gathered to congratulate him on his success. Addressing the media at the school campus, Anurag expressed his gratitude for the support of his teachers and parents, attributing his success to their guidance. He also acknowledged the role of his previous school, Jonaki Sangha, in laying a strong foundation for his academic journey. Anurag revealed his aspirations to pursue higher studies at Pragma Academy and aim for admission to prestigious institutions like IIT or NIT to study computer science, with the goal of becoming a software engineer. When asked about his study routine, Anurag shared that he dedicated 12 to 13 hours daily to his studies, incorporating breaks for activities like playing the tabla, listening to music, and short naps. Despite the rigorous schedule, he maintained a balance in his routine. In addition to his academic pursuits, (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

Congress wants to remove ban on PFI: Shah



JAIPUR/KOTA, April 20: Accusing Congress leader Rahul Gandhi of spreading lies on the issue of reservation, Union home minister Amit Shah on Saturday said even if the opposition party wants to do away with quota given to SC, ST and OBCs, the BJP will not allow it to happen. Addressing rallies in Rajasthan, Shah also claimed that the Congress wanted to remove the ban on the Islamic extremist outfit Popular Front of India (PFI). He hit back at the opposition's claim that the BJP's slogan of winning

400 seats was aimed at changing the Constitution. "When Congress got a majority, they used it to impose Emergency... we got the majority in 2014 and 2019, we did not use it to remove reservation but to remove Article 370, to build Ram temple... bring CAA... give reservation to women... we used our majority to remove poverty, to secure the country," Shah said. "Rahul baba, you should not lie. Even if the Congress party wants to remove SC, ST and OBC reservation... we will not allow it to remove reservation. This is Modi's guarantee. These (Congress) people are spreading lies," he said. He claimed the Congress has harmed the interest of Other Backward Classes (OBC) the most. Prime Minister Narendra Modi belongs to the OBC community, Shah said, adding that it was Modi who implemented schemes for various communities among the backward classes. Shah said Modi worked to give constitutional recognition to the National Commission for Backward Classes. "We worked to give 27 per cent reservation to OBCs in all central institutions in the country. Modi, under whom respect for the country increased globally, also comes from the OBC community," he said. Shah said that before the Modi government, there was no scheme in the country for communities such as blacksmiths, tailors, carpenters and boat-makers, but Prime Minister Modi "spent Rs 13,000 crore and connected them with skill development and self-employment schemes". "The Congress government did not implement the Mandal Commission report. During a discussion in Parliament on the reservation, Rahul baba's father Rajiv Gandhi spoke against it for two-and-a-half hours," (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

Modi alleges conspiracy by big players to remove him from power

CHIKKABALLAPURA/BENGALURU

April 20: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said big and powerful people in India and abroad have joined hands to remove him from power. Addressing a mega public meeting in Chikkaballapura, near here, he said, "Mothers and sisters have come in a large number here. Your struggle and the challenges you face to nurture your family, Modi has seen this in his house. These days, big and powerful people in the country and abroad have united to remove Modi." "But, because of Nari Shakti and Maatru Shakti's blessings and Suraksha kavach (safety armour), Modi is able to move on fighting challenges." "Serving mothers, sisters and daughters and protecting them is Modi's priority," he said, listing out measures taken by his government for women's welfare in ten years like supporting their self help groups and creating 'Lakshmi Didis'. The prime minister said the first phase of voting for Lok Sabha on Friday has gone in favour of NDA and 'Viksit Bharat'. Targeting the INDIA bloc, he said the opposition alliance doesn't have a leader at present, and has no vision for future, and "their history was of scams." Praising JD(S) patriarch and former Prime Minister H D Deve Gowda who shared the stage with him, for his energy and commitment at the age of 90, Modi said he too draws inspiration from him. "His (Gowda) commitment towards Karnataka, the pain in his heart for the plight of



Karnataka today and the 'josh' in his voice, is the testimony for Karnataka's bright future," he said, as he thanked Gowda for his "blessings". The JD(S) joined the NDA in September last year. Earlier, in his speech, Gowda hit out at Congress, chief minister Siddaramaiah and deputy chief minister D K Shivakumar over a sarcasm-laced newspaper advertisement campaign alleging that the Modi government's gift to Karnataka was empty 'Chombu' (a small, round water container). Pointing at scams like 2G and coal gate during UPA rule under Manmohan Singh and Sonia Gandhi, he said, "After looting the resources of the state and the country during the Congress regime, Modi was given the empty 'Chombu', which the prime minister has turned into 'Akshaya Patre' in ten years." Modi, later addressing a public rally in Bengaluru, said in the 2014 and 2019 general elections, people gave a record (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

BJP wants to continue loot: Cong slams FM's remarks on electoral bonds



NEW DELHI, April 20: The Congress on Saturday hit out at the BJP over finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman's reported remarks that electoral bonds will be brought back after consultations, alleging that after looting ₹ 4 lakh crore of public money, they want to "continue the loot." Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh's attack on the BJP came after Sitharaman told the Hindustan Times that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) intended to bring back electoral bonds in some form after consultations with all stakeholders if it is elected back to power after the 2024 general election. In a post on X, Ramesh said, "Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has declared that if the BJP returns

to power, they will bring back the Electoral Bonds that the Supreme Court declared unconstitutional and illegal!" "We know that the BJP looted ₹ 4 lakh crore of public money in the #PayPM scam. Now they want to continue the loot," he alleged. Ramesh listed what he said were the "four methods of PayPM." "Prepaid Bribery - Chanda do, Dhandha Lo. Postpaid Bribery - Theka Do, Rishvat Lo. Combined Cost of Pre-paid and Post-paid Bribes: ₹ 3.8 lakh crores," Ramesh said. "Post-Raid Bribery - Hafta Vasuli. Cost of Post-Raid Bribes: ₹ 1,853 crores. Farzi Companies - Money Laundering. Cost of Farzi Companies: ₹ 419 crores," he said. "This is the most important election of our lifetime. Thankfully, as ground reports make clear, this corrupt brigade is on its way out!" the Congress leader asserted. In February, the Supreme Court delivered a judgment striking down the electoral bonds scheme. Following a directive from the apex court, the State Bank of India, which was the authorised seller of electoral bonds, shared data on electoral bonds which was then made public. The Congress has alleged that the electoral bonds data has exposed "corrupt tactics" of the BJP such as quid pro quo and grant of "protection" to companies against donations. (PTI)

Karbi Anglong, WKA celebrate improved HSLC performance

DIPHU, April 20: Following the announcement of the High School Leaving Certificate (HSLC) results for 2024 by the Secondary Education Board of Assam (SEBA), the district-wise analysis revealed significant progress in Karbi Anglong and West Karbi Anglong districts, with both securing improved positions. Executive Member of the Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council (KAAC) for Education, Richard Tokbi, expressed his appreciation during a press conference held at his official residence on Saturday, applauding the collective efforts aimed at enhancing education in the region, historically ranked at the bottom. "The HSLC pass percentage for Karbi Anglong is 81.06 percent and for West Karbi Anglong is 78.2 percent, positioning them at 8th and 18th places respectively. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to KAAC and CEM Tuliram Ronghang for their unwavering support. Together, we established an Education Reform Committee and conducted extensive education awareness programs involving stakeholders, student organizations, education officers, and teachers. This achievement is dedicated (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

Plastic production threatens 1.5 degrees Celsius limit, new study warns

NEW DELHI, April 20: If the current rate of plastic production continues, it could use up the global carbon budget to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius by as early as 2060 or no later than 2083, according to a new study. The study by the United States' Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL) comes ahead of the fourth round of United Nations negotiations for an international treaty to end plastic pollution in Ottawa, Canada, during April 23-29. It is estimated that global plastic production today accounts for around 12 per cent of total demand for oil and 8.5 per cent of total demand for natural gas. Greenhouse gas emissions during primary plastic production come from burning fossil fuels for heat and electricity, and other processes that don't involve burning. About 75 per cent of these emissions happen before the plastic is even formed.



Burning fossil fuels is the primary reason for the increasing concentrations of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, which are driving up global temperatures. The study suggests that primary plastic production needs to decrease by around 12 to 17 per cent per year starting in 2024 to avoid breaching the 1.5 degrees Celsius limit set by the Paris Agreement. In 2019 alone, primary plastic production generated about 2.24 gigatonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (GtCO2e), which is 5.3 per cent of

total global greenhouse gas emissions (excluding agriculture and LULUCF (Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry)). In contrast, the global aviation sector produced 0.6 GtCO2e in 2019, while the entire global transport sector, including aviation, produced 8.3 GtCO2e. Under a conservative growth scenario (2.5 percent per year), GHG emissions from primary plastic production would more than double to 4.75 gigatonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (GtCO2e) by 2050, accounting for 21-26 per cent of the remaining global carbon budget for a 50 per cent chance of staying below the 1.5 degrees Celsius threshold. At a growth rate of 4 per cent per year, emissions from primary plastic production would increase more than threefold to 6.78 GtCO2e, accounting for 25-31 per cent of the remaining global carbon (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

BEPAR TERANG COACHING CENTRE, HANJANGLANGSO GOOD NEWS FOR UPSC & APSC EXAMS ASPIRANTS OF BOKAJAN SUB-DIVISION COMPETITIVE EXAMS COACHING AND GUIDANCE BY BEPAR TERANG COACHING CENTRE, HANJANGLANGSO Coaching and guidance headed by Mr. DILIP KUMAR LEKTHE, who is behind the success of: Ms. Arnika Lekthe, ACS, presently Election Officer, Hamren Mr. Sidhanta Killing, AFS, Forest Ranger (APSC Recruitment) 6 MONTHS APSC CCE COACHING STARTED FROM 1ST APRIL, 2024 (MORNING SHIFT: 8AM TO 11 AM) REGISTRATION FOR 2ND BATCH GOING ON (EVENING SHIFT: 2PM TO 5 PM) Contact Us: 70998 24738 Office Address: 1st floor, Sarihajan Bazar Committee Building, Hanjanglangso



















**MUMBAI, April 20:** Filmmaker Gurinder Chadha on Friday officially announced her new film "Christmas Karma", a contemporary Bollywood musical, inspired by Charles Dickens' classic "A Christmas Carol".

"The Big Bang Theory" alum Kunal Nayyar will portray the lead role of Scrooge in the movie, which also feature a star-studded cast of Eva Longoria, Billy Porter, Hugh Bonneville, Boy George, Leo Suter, Charithra Chandran, Pixie Lott, Danny Dyer, Bilal Hasna, Allan Corduner, Tracy-Ann Oberman, Rufus Jones, Eve and Nitin Ganatra.

Chadha, best known "Bhaji on the Beach", "Bend It Like Beckham", "Bride and Prejudice", "Angus, Thongs and Perfect Snogging", "It's a Wonderful Afterlife" and "Viceroy's House", is also producing and writing the new movie, which will feature music written by acclaimed British singer-songwriter Gary Barlow, Shaznay Lewis and Nitin Sawhney.

With "Christmas Karma", Chadha said, the aim is to create a festive classic for "our times and for generations to come".

"By adapting one of history's greatest novels - Charles Dickens' 'Christmas Carol' - I am making a British film from my unique,

original point of view but one that resonates with Dickens' masterful statement on the human condition.

"I am blessed with such a great diverse cast and eclectic music team - the soundtrack will be banging, influenced by Gospel, Bhangra, Carols and classic pop songs. You will not be able to sit still," the 64-year-old director said in a statement.

"Christmas Karma" is backed by True Brit Entertainment, Bend It Films, Maven Screen Media and Civic Studios. Chadha, Celine Rattray, Trudie Styler and Amory Leader will serve as producers.

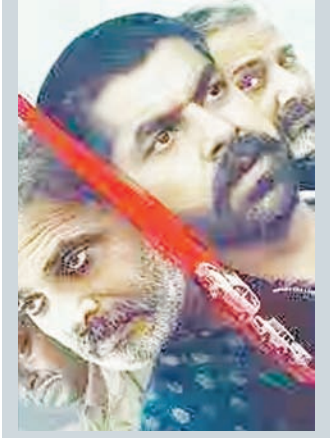
The executive producers include Zygi Kamasa, Anushka Shah, Paul Mayeda Berges, Sophia Pedlow and Hannah Leader.

Published in 1843, "A Christmas Carol" recounts the story of Ebenezer Scrooge, an elderly miser who is visited by the ghost of his former business partner Jacob Marley and the spirits of Christmas Past, Present and Yet to Come. In the process, Scrooge is transformed into a kinder, gentler man. (PTI)



## Gurinder Chadha announces new film 'Christmas Karma', Kunal Nayyar to play lead role

**'Undekhi' season three to release on SonyLIV in May**



**MUMBAI, April 20:** Streaming platform SonyLIV has announced that the third season of its popular show "Undekhi" will premiere on May 10.

The thriller series features Harsh Chhaya, Dibyendu Bhattacharya, Varun Badola and Shivangi Singh, among others. It is directed by Ashish R Shukla.

The streamer on Friday unveiled the trailer of "Undekhi" and announced the release date of the upcoming season.

Set in Manali, "Undekhi" revolves around a horrid crime that takes place one fateful night, and the cat and mouse chase that ensues post that between the perpetrators and the ones seeking justice.

Bhattacharya plays the role of the police officer and Chhaya as a man who will do anything to hamper the investigation.

"As the Atwal family unleashes chaos, grappling with family politics and confronting their concealed past becomes a massive challenge. Thrilling encounters, a battle for ultimate supremacy, and long-buried mysteries resurfacing to haunt them, this season promises to showcase an electrifying fight for power amidst a relentless force of revenge," read the official synopsis.

Produced by Applause Entertainment, in association with Banijay Asia, "Undekhi" also stars Surya Sharma, Ankur Rathee, Anchal Singh and Ayn Zoya. (PTI)

**Sequel to Malayalam hit 'Premalu' in the works from Bhavana Studios**

**MUMBAI, April 20:** Production house Bhavana Studios has announced a sequel to its latest Malayalam hit "Premalu".

Girish AD, who helmed the romantic comedy that released in theatres in February this year to positive reviews, will return as the director for the follow-up.

The studio announced the movie in a post on Instagram on Friday evening and said it will be released in 2025. "The Biggest Rom-Com blockbuster ever in Malayalam Cinema will be back in 2025! Let's 'Premalu2'." Bhavana Studios wrote alongside the film's poster. "Premalu" starred Naslen and Mamitha Baiju in lead roles, alongside Sangeeth Prathap, Shyam Mohan, Meenakshi Raveendran, Akhila Bhargavan and Althaf Salim.

Co-written by Girish and Kiran Josy, the story followed the budding romance between Sachin (Naslen) and Reenu, played by Baiju. According to the reports, the movie had earned over Rs 135 crore at the global box office. "Premalu 2" will be produced by Malayalam star Fahadh Faasil, writer-director Dileesh Pothan and writer Shyam Pushkaran under the banner of Bhavana Studios. (PTI)

**MUMBAI, April 20:** Popular TV star Divyanka Tripathi, best known for daily soaps like "Banoo Main Teri Dulhann" and "Yeh Hai Mohabbatein", said she refrains working on the small screen as the characters are not well-etched out these days.

"For me, a character is very important. If the character is well-written, then there's a joy in playing it. The problem is that the TV shows that I've been offered have no clarity about the plot of the show for a month. Then it is susceptible to sudden changes, and in that case you can't chew on the idea," the actor told PTI in an interview. "However, I've worked with some good people like Sandeep Sikand, on 'Yeh Hai Mohabbatein'. My job was easy because they (makers) had clarity. I had a

graph about my character. Today, I don't see this kind of clarity (on TV shows) if I get that and if the character is well-written, I would

## CHARACTERS ARE NOT WELL-WRITTEN TODAY ON INDIAN TV, SAYS DIVYANKA TRIPATHI

love to do TV," she added. Tripathi, who started her career as an anchor on All India Radio (AIR), said television has played a huge part in her professional life.

"It has given birth to my career and taught me acting. There's no acting school better than TV," the actor said.

She currently features in the espionage thriller series, "Adrishyam - The Invisible Heroes".

The actor revealed

that she was initially in two minds about taking up the offer which came after she underwent a ligament surgery in August last year.

"I'm always seeking an opportunity to explore new characters, do something that I haven't done before. This role is completely different from what I've done. So, I was excited when they offered it."

"However, I was in a dilemma whether I'll be able to do it or not, will I recover post the surgery on time? So, there were certain timelines and they were waiting to begin the project. I had two months' time to recover, I worked hard a lot to make sure that we commenced shooting on time," she said.

Also starring Eijaz Khan, the SonyLIV show follows the life of two undercover intelligence

officers who neutralise terror risks while posing as regular employees of the meteorological department. Tripathi plays the role of Parvati, while Khan stars as Ravi.

The actor said she is grateful that she got the opportunity to try her hands on action with the series.

"On television, I was never approached for such a character, they don't write such characters for women. There are some characters like that but they didn't get that kind of reception. On OTT, we are seeing a variety of characters (for women) and the concept of (women) undercover agents is new in this web space," she added.

"Adrishyam - The Invisible Heroes" is developed by Anshuman Sinha and Sachin Pandey for Sony LIV. (PTI)

## I've not gone under the knife, only had touch up done with fillers years ago: Rajkummar Rao

**MUMBAI, April 20:** Rajkummar Rao on Friday denied rumours that has undergone plastic surgery after his photos from a recent event sparked social media debate about the actor's changed looks.

Rao, who is currently promoting his upcoming biographical drama "Srikanth", had posed for shutterbugs at a concert here and many on social media commented how he looked different.

"I've not gone under the knife. I have not done any kind of plastic surgery. That picture, if you see it again, how is it possible in 14 years, there's one picture and no other picture like that. It's certainly a touched-up picture because my skin is looking so flawless. Even I was amazed how it's so flawless without any makeup and after shooting the whole day," Rao told PTI.

The actor said he has faced comments about his looks right from his struggle days but he is still the same person.

"When I was looking for work and when I started working, people commented on my looks and everything. So, eight-nine years back, I did a little touch up on my chin with fillers, which is like a half an hour job, because I wanted to feel more confident, which I do.

"I feel I look much better. But has it changed me as a person? Has it changed me as an artist? Not at all," the 39-year-old actor said.

Directed by Tushar Hiranandani, "Srikanth" is a biographical drama of a visually impaired industrialist "Srikanth Bolla" who fights against odds to become an entrepreneur. The film is slated to release on May 10. (PTI)



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