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## Manoj Kumar left indelible mark on cinema world: Rahul Gandhi

**Sanjay Kumar**

New Delhi, Apr. 04: The Congress on Friday condoled the demise of veteran actor-filmmaker Manoj Kumar, with former party



chief Rahul Gandhi saying his films were a medium of entertainment and also carried patriotic and social messages. Kumar, who came to be known as 'Bharat Kumar' for his series of patriotic films such as "Shaheed", "Upkar" and "Purab Aur Paschim", died in a Mumbai hospital early Friday. He was 87. The industry veteran, whose films ruled the box office in the late 1960s and

1970s, had been ailing for a while and died of age related issues at the Kokilaben Ambani Hospital around 3.30 am, family friend and filmmaker Ashoke Pandit told. Condoling's Kumar's demise, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said, "In a career spanning four decades, prolific actor and director, Manoj Kumar ji captivated the audiences with his films made on patriotism and national pride. " The Padma Shri recipient was fondly known as 'Bharat Kumar' and his films like "Shaheed" and "Upkaar" earned the attention of the then PM Lal Bahadur Shastri, the Congress chief said. "We extend our deepest condolences on his passing away. Our thoughts are with his family, friends and millions of fans," Kharge said in his post in Hindi on X. Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi said, "The news of the demise of Manoj Kumar ji, the eminent actor, writer and director of Hindi cinema is extremely saddening.

## Modi meets Bangladesh's Yunus, conveys deep concerns about safety of Hindus

**Simmi Kaur Babbar**

New Delhi, Apr 04: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday directly conveyed India's deep concerns about the safety of Bangladesh's Hindus and other minorities to interim government chief Muhammad Yunus and said he expects Dhaka to ensure their security and thoroughly investigate instances of atrocities against them. The two leaders met for the first time since the ouster of the Sheikh Hasina government in student-led protests last August on the margins of the Bimstec Summit in Bangkok. The security of Bangladesh's minorities has emerged as the most contentious issue between the two sides since then, with New Delhi repeatedly urging Dhaka to ensure their security. Several other contentious issues, including the caretaker administration's request for extraditing Hasina, the management of the border and transnational crimes, and the holding of elections in Bangladesh, figured in the 40-minute meeting. An Indian statement offered no characterisation of the talks, while a Bangladeshi readout described the meeting as "candid, productive and constructive". Modi underlined India's "deep concerns" about the safety of

Bangladesh's minorities, including Hindus, and "expressed his expectation that the government of Bangladesh would ensure their security, including by



thoroughly investigating all cases of atrocities committed against them", foreign secretary Vikram Misri told a media briefing. Modi also said the two sides should avoid rhetoric that vitiate the environment and hoped all issues of mutual interest will be addressed and resolved "bilaterally through constructive discussions"

in the interest of mutually beneficial ties. Yunus responded to Modi's concerns by saying that reports of attacks on the minorities "were hugely inflated" and "the bulk of them were fake news", the Bangladeshi readout said. Besides asking Modi to send journalists to Bangladesh to investigate the attacks, Yunus said he had created a system for monitoring religious violence and his government is taking "serious actions" to stop such incidents. Yunus enquired about the status of Dhaka's request for extraditing Hasina, currently in self-exile in India, and pointed out she has made "false and inflammatory remarks" and is trying to destabilise Bangladesh. "We request that the government of India take appropriate measures to restrain her from continuing to make such incendiary statements while she remains in your country," he said, adding that the UN human rights agency has confirmed human rights abuses by Awami League activists. Misri acknowledged the extradition request figured in the meeting but declined to go into specifics. "At this time, it will not be appropriate for me to say anything more on this issue," he said. People familiar with the matter said on condition of anonymity that the Bangladesh side is yet to complete certain legal formalities in connection with the extradition request.

## SC allows Yasin Malik to cross-examine witnesses through video conferencing from Tihar Jail

New Delhi, Apr. 04: The Supreme Court on Friday allowed jailed JKLF chief Yasin Malik to cross-examine witnesses in two cases through video conferencing from Tihar Jail. The order came on a plea filed by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) seeking transfer of the trials in the 1989 case of the kidnapping of Rubaiya Sayeed, daughter of former union minister Mufti Mohammed Sayeed, and the 1990 Srinagar shootout case, from Jammu to New Delhi. The plea is over the two cases in which four Indian Air Force (IAF) personnel were killed on January 25, 1990 in Srinagar and the abduction which took place on December 8, 1989. A bench of Justices Abhay S Oka and Ujjal Bhuyan perused the report submitted by the registrar IT of Delhi High Court and registrar general of the Jammu and Kashmir High Court regarding facilities of video conferencing available in Tihar jail and Jammu respectively. The top court noted the Jammu sessions court was "well-equipped" with the video-conferencing system enabling the virtual examination. It also recorded the submission of Malik that he does not want to engage a lawyer for cross-examination of witnesses.

## Akhilesh Yadav vows to fund education of girl who saved books amid UP demolition drive

**Navdeep Singh Sahni**

Lucknow, Apr 04: Samajwadi party president Akhilesh Yadav on Friday pledged that he would fund the education of an 8-year-old girl who went viral after a video surfaced of her running with books during a demolition drive near her shanty. In a post on X, Akhilesh Yadav took a jibe at the Yogi Adityanath-led Uttar Pradesh government, saying, "Those who ruin the future of children are actually homeless. We take a pledge to educate this girl. Only those who study know the value of education. The bulldozer is a symbol of destructive power, not of knowledge, understanding or wisdom." Also Read: Supreme Court raps UP govt over 'inhuman' demolition of houses in Prayagraj, gives rule of law reminder He also criticised the demoli-

tion drives conducted by the UP government and said, "The bulldozer runs on the fuel of ego, on the wheels of arro-



gance, it has no reins of justice." The girl, Ananya Yadav, was forced to leave her shanty in March, during a demolition drive in Arai village in the Ambedkar Nagar district, due to the state government's allegation that the residential

structures had been built on encroached land. "There was a fire near our home, and the bulldozer was coming close. So, I ran inside to get my books and notebooks," she said, as quoted by . Also Read: Grateful that Supreme Court understood our pain: Former Allahabad University prof welcomes order on demolition In a video that made the rounds on social media, Ananya was seen fleeing the razed structures while holding on to her books. Later, she told reporters that she would like to become an IAS officer in the future. The Supreme Court also took cognisance of Ananya Yadav, citing her as an example of the lack of sensitivity involved in the UP government's demolition drives. A Supreme Court bench of Justices Abhay S Oka and Ujjal Bhuyan observed, as quoted by, "There is a recent video in which small huts are being demolished by bulldozers.

## CM Omar Abdullah-led legislative party meeting of NC

**ST Correspondent**

Jammu, Apr. 04: Two days ahead of Union Home Minister Amit Shah's three-day tour of Jammu and Kashmir, a meeting of the legislators of the ruling National Conference (NC) and its alliance partners began here on Friday amid growing disquiet between the Raj Bhavan and the six-month-old government in the Union Territory. The meeting, chaired by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and also attended by National Conference president Farooq Abdullah, began at Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary's residence at the Gupkar here. The Cabinet ministers, all MLAs of the NC, and three Congress legislators led by chief whip Nizamuddin Bhat are attending the meeting. The unscheduled meeting of



the alliance partners comes in the backdrop of Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha ordering transfer and posting of 48 officers of the Jammu and Kashmir Administrative Service (JKAS). The controversial transfer of 48 bureaucrats three days ago led to the latest flashpoint between the Raj Bhavan and the Abdullah government which regards the LG's move as violation of the legal and administrative framework under the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act. The meeting of the ruling alliance comes two days ahead of the home minister's visit to the Union Territory following the recent spate of terror activities in the Kathua district of Jammu region. Shah is arriving on April 6 and is scheduled to chair security review meetings in both Jammu and Srinagar during his three-day visit. Before entering the meeting, NC MLA from Sonawari Hilal Akbar Lone said the Raj Bhavan is "undermining" the elected government. He said the meeting would discuss the steps required to be taken so that such things do not recur. Abdullah has written to Sinha asking him to review the unilateral decision, saying that the transfers and postings of officers outside the All India Services cadre was the exclusive prerogative of the elected government. Such orders undermine the functioning and authority of the elected government, Abdullah asserted in the letter. Abdullah is said to have taken up the matter with Home Minister Shah, complaining that a series of actions by the LG, including the transfers, "eroded" the authority of his government.

## Waqf Bill will benefit Munambam residents: Suresh Gopi

**Tejinder Kaur Babbar**

New Delhi, Apr. 04: Union Minister Suresh Gopi on Friday stated that the recently passed Waqf Amendment Bill in Parliament would benefit the residents of Munambam, who have been protesting for revenue rights over their properties against Waqf Board's claims. Speaking to reporters, the Union Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas and Tourism reiterated that the bill would be advantageous to Munambam residents. "Waqf is an institution meant for the greater good. However, certain barbaric practices within it needed to be eliminated," he said without elaborating and added that "The Bill is a legal step towards ending such practices." He further claimed that the new amendment would also benefit the Muslim community. When asked whether the amendment would have a retrospective effect, Gopi responded, "Wait, sir. Wasn't it you who said this bill would never come at all?" Dismissing

concerns raised by the opposition that the bill has no retrospective effect and it could not resolve the Munambam issue, he urged people to consult unbiased experts regarding the allegations against the amendment. "It is the opposition that tried to divide the people," Gopi alleged. "They stood against it in Parliament and claimed that this would harm the Muslim community." What happened to the promises made by those from North Paravur and Malappuram, he asked in a veiled attack against the Leader of Opposition V D Sathesnan who represents the North Paravur constituency and Indian Union Muslim League (IUML) president Panakkad Syed Sadik Ali Shihab Thangal, from Malappuram district. Responding to questions about the recent attack on Christian priests in Jabalpur, Gopi criticised the media and said, "This is exactly what distortion

means. Issues like these arise everywhere." The entire Christian community stood united. That is what upsets the opposition, he alleged. He added that if



anything unlawful had happened in Jabalpur, appropriate legal action would be taken. In a veiled attack on Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi, he questioned, "Why didn't the

brother and sister speak up in Parliament (about the Waqf (amendment) bill)? The Parliament approved the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2025, early on Friday after the Rajya Sabha passed it following a 13-hour marathon debate. The Bill was approved in the Rajya Sabha with 128 votes in favour and 95 against. Earlier, the Lok Sabha had cleared it with the support of 288 members, while 232 voted against it. Residents of Munambam, who have been staging a relay hunger strike for 174 days under the banner of 'Munambam Bhoo Samrakshana Samithi,' are hopeful that the passage of the Bill will lead to a resolution of the Waqf Board's claims over their land. In Cherai and Munambam villages in Ernakulam district, residents have alleged that the Waqf Board is illegally asserting ownership over their lands and properties, despite having registered deeds and land tax payment receipts.

## Haryana will play a special role in realizing Prime Minister's dream of Viksit Bharat by the year 2047: CM

**Naresh Malhotra**

Chandigarh, April 4: Haryana Chief Minister, Sh. Nayab Singh Saini said that Haryana will play a special role in fulfilling Prime Minister, Sh. Narendra Modi's dream of making India a developed nation by the year 2047. He said that everyone must work together to accelerate Haryana's pace of development. Sh. Nayab Singh Saini said this while interacting with the people from Ambala during a programme held on Friday at his residence, Sant Kabir Kutir, Chandigarh. He said that dedicated efforts are being made to ensure that the government's policies and welfare schemes must reach every household. The Chief Minister said that over the past 10 years, under the leadership of Prime Minister, Sh. Narendra Modi, India has achieved remarkable progress across all sectors, earning global recognition. Today, India is emerging as a secure, rapidly developing nation that puts the interests of its people first, said Sh. Nayab Singh Saini. He said that the benefits of public welfare schemes of both the Central and Haryana governments are reaching every citi-

zen. Eligible beneficiaries need not worry, as the government is fully committed to safeguarding their interests. The Chief Minister further said that Haryana has seen rapid development in the



past decade. A wide network of roads is being laid across the state, significantly improving transportation facilities. The "triple-engine" government will accelerate development efforts three-fold, boosting progress in both the state and the

nation, he said. Sh. Nayab Singh Saini said that both the Central and Haryana governments have worked towards strengthening farmers economically. Haryana is the first state in the country to procure 100 percent of all crops at Minimum Support Price (MSP), he said. The Chief Minister said that over the past three months, 1.5 lakh people have visited him at his residence Sant Kabir Kutir, out of which the problems of 75,000 people have already been resolved, while the remaining are being addressed swiftly. The Chief Minister further informed that on the occasion of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's birth anniversary, Prime Minister, Sh. Narendra Modi will be visiting Hisar to inaugurate the Maharaja Agrasen Airport and will also lay the foundation stone of a new 800 MW power unit in Yamunanagar. This power unit, to be developed at a cost of Rs. 7,272 crore, is expected to be completed by the end of 2028. Sh. Nayab Singh Saini urged the public to attend both the programmes in large numbers. Chief Minister's wife, Smt. Suman Saini, former Minister, Sh. Aseem Goel and several other dignitaries also remained present on this occasion.

## DU to enforce Lyngdoh panel guidelines in next DUSU polls: VC

New Delhi, Apr. 04: Delhi University Vice-Chancellor Yogesh Singh has said that the varsity will implement Lyngdoh panel guidelines and the next Delhi University Students' Union (DUSU) elections will have more "limitations and restrictions" to ensure smoother conduct. "Nobody should deface walls. What happened during elections in the past, huge amounts of money and muscle power, is not expected. We don't want to repeat these things, and next time, we will see a change. We will implement Lyngdoh Committee recommendations," Singh said in an interview with. He further added that "now there will be limitations and restrictions," in an apparent reference to new measures to curb malpractices in student politics. Singh also acknowledged concerns raised by students who feel that elections disrupt academic activities. "Many students just want to study, and they should have that right without disturbances," he said. Last year, the Delhi High Court said officials of Delhi University and its colleges had failed to appreciate the true import of the Lyngdoh

Committee guidelines, which prohibit the defacement of public property and the use of printed posters during the students union elections. According to the Lyngdoh Committee guidelines, a candidate cannot spend more than Rs 5,000. They also state that the candidates can only use voluntary contributions from the student body for their campaign. The guidelines also do not allow candidates to use any printed material, including posters, for canvassing. There are other limitations as well regarding funding and campaigning. Any contravention of these recommendations may make the candidate liable to be stripped of his candidature or his elected post, and the authorities may also take appropriate disciplinary action against such a violator, as stated in the guidelines. During the interview, the VC also responded to allegations that DU is being saffronised. Dismissing such claims, he asserted that education should instil a sense of national pride. "This is our country. We all are children of this country. The education system should prepare that kind of mindset.



## NEWS BOX

## Whistleblower prof at GU transferred

**Ahmedabad.** A case of significant financial irregularity at Gujarat University's animation department has resulted in the dismissal and arrest of Dr Kavaljeet Lakhtariya, an assistant professor, from the computer department.

Additional disclosures are anticipated following the chargesheet. GU's decision to abruptly transfer Prof Ajay Das, who reported the misconduct and filed a police complaint that resulted in Lakhtariya's arrest, from the animation department to geography department has raised questions about the probe's thoroughness.

According to sources, certain individuals continue to exercise control over the animation department. Reports indicate that Prof Das experienced intimidation from interested parties. He acknowledged receiving a transfer notice. This unexpected move has raised doubts about the validity of the police complaint and the potential disclosure of additional individuals involved in the irregularities.

## 16-yr-old from Bihar flees child marriage, finds help in city

**Ahmedabad.** She was just 16, but her future had already been decided — marry a man nearly twice her age or be disowned by her family. Faced with no other choice, she did the unthinkable; she ran. Alone, scared and with hardly any luggage on her, the girl got down at the Sabarmati Railway Station. That's when an NGO worker noticed her hesitation and sensed something was wrong. The worker alerted the Abhayam 181 women's helpline. "With police assistance, we questioned the girl, who revealed she had fled from a town in Bihar," said a counsellor. A little encouragement uncovered a heartbreaking truth: she had escaped to avoid her imminent marriage to a 30-year-old man. Her protests and pleas to complete her studies had been ignored, leaving her with no choice but to run, said the counsellor.

When the rescue team contacted her father, his response was cold and final: he refused to take her back, stating they wanted nothing to do with her. Clinging to hope, the girl sought support from her maternal uncle, who was shocked to learn of her plight. He assured counsellors he would try to convince her family to call off the marriage and support her education. "When that failed, he stepped forward to take custody, vowing to ensure her safety, allow her to study and not marry her off till she was of legal age," said the counsellor.

The girl spent two days in a govt-run observation home before her uncle arrived to take her in. The rescue team has pledged to check on her periodically. The counsellor added the girl's determination struck a chord with many because it was a story shared by many girls. "However, she decided to flee the house and go to a completely unknown region, braving difficulties."

## Mumbai traffic police toughens stance: Drunk drivers to face FIR under BNS, 3-month jail

**MUMBAI.** Motorists caught for drunk driving will now face FIRs under the Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), the traffic police chief warned on Thursday. Last year, the traffic police had issued challans to 9,462 motorists for drunk driving while in the first three months of this year, 2,264 had received challans.

Until now, a motorist who was found to have consumed alcohol beyond permissible limits, following a breathanalysis, was asked to pay a monetary deposit An LAC (Local Act Case) was recorded at the nearest police station and the offender was asked to remain present in court. The court would then decide on the punishment.

Now on, an FIR will be registered under section 125 of Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita



(BNS) which deals with acts that endanger the life or personal safety of others.

The law says if the reckless act has caused minor harm, the punishment can be imprisonment for up to three months, a fine up to Rs 2,500, or both. But if the act has caused serious harm, the punishment can be more severe.

In addition to BNS, Section 185 of the Motor Vehicles Act will be slapped on the offender, his driving licence will be seized, and his vehicle will be confiscated. Police sources said stringent action is necessary to deter drunk driving, which is among key causes for fatal crashes.

Sources added that on facing an offence under the BNS, motorists may encounter difficulties in applying for passport and visas and for getting police clearance certificates for jobs.

## Revoke suspension or face stir, workers' union tells Samsung

SIWU plans to go on strike in two weeks if suspension of 23 workers is not withdrawn.



**CHENNAI.** CITU-backed Samsung India Workers' Union (SIWU) has issued a strike notice, dated April 2, stating that its members will stop work and launch a protest after 14 days if its demands, including recognition of the union by the company, revoking the suspension of 23 employees, and fair treatment of its members, are not met. The notice also details several alleged unfair labour practices and retaliatory actions taken by the company

against union members.

The major demands of SIWU include withdrawal of charge memos issued to 23 employees and the cancellation of their suspension. It urged the company to engage with SIWU in negotiations to finalise agreements on salary increments and other general demands.

The union accused the company of bypassing SIWU and instead holding talks with the Samsung India Welfare Federation, which

SIWU alleges was formed at the company's behest to determine increments for 2025-28. The company subsequently signed an agreement with this federation and allegedly pressured SIWU members to accept it. SIWU has demanded the cancellation of this agreement and called for a secret ballot, supervised by labour department officials, to establish the true majority representation among workers.

Additionally, SIWU has demanded that the company grant ex-gratia payments to all 1,455 union members without any conditions. It claimed that while workers in the federation had already received the benefit, SIWU members were being pressured to leave the union to receive it.

The union also alleged that employees at the Visual Display Plant were transferred, with the management stating they would only be reinstated in their original sections if they quit the union.

SIWU has demanded an immediate reversal of these transfers. It also alleged various retaliatory actions taken against employees belonging to SIWU. It stated that such actions of the company are violations under the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947.

## Power utility directed to install prepaid meters in government buildings in Tamil Nadu

**TNERC said the local bodies had already been given sufficient time to pay BPSC and requests for further concessions are neither fair nor justified.**

**CHENNAI.** The Tamil Nadu Electricity Regulatory Commission (TNERC) has directed the state's power distribution utility Tamil Nadu Power Distribution Corporation Limited (TNPDC) to install prepaid meters at all existing government institutions, including local bodies, state undertakings, Tamil Nadu Water Supply and Drainage Board (TWAD), and Tamil Nadu Urban Habitat Development Board (TNUHDB).

TNERC also said prepaid meters, where the consumer makes the payment in advance, should be mandatory for all new connections in government institutions.

The directions come amidst rising concerns over payments pending to the financially struggling TNPDC. TNERC issued these directions in its order dismissing the petition filed by TNPDC, which sought the waiver of the belated payment surcharge (BPSC) of Rs 137.13 crore owed by local bodies as of



March 31, 2023, so as to push them to pay the pending current consumption (CC) charges. The commission criticised TNPDC's proposal to waive BPSC as "irrational and wholly unjustifiable."

The outstanding CC charges of all local bodies alone

stand at Rs 1,618.54 crore. TNERC directed TNPDC to ensure the recovery of CC charges and BPSC from the defaulting local bodies by initiating swift and appropriate action.

In its order, TNERC said the local bodies had already been given sufficient time to pay BPSC and requests for further concessions are neither fair nor justified.

TNERC pointed out that for low-tension (LT) service connections to local bodies, the BPSC rate is only 0.5% compared to 1.5% for other LT consumers, and local bodies have a longer payment period than other consumers.

TNPDC, in its petition, cited a decision from the chief secretary's review meeting on March 8, 2023, which proposed waiving belated payment surcharge if local bodies paid 50% of their dues. Officials had agreed to clear pending CC charges in 24 installments, aiming to settle all dues by June 2025. Local bodies account for 8.69 lakh electricity connections.

## NDA decides to strengthen front ahead of LSG polls in Kerala

The meeting decided to announce an action plan in May to fight the local body polls. It has been decided to form NDA committees from the booth level and hold NDA state leadership meetings every month.



**ALAPPUZHA.** A meeting of the NDA state unit held at Cherthala in Alappuzha on Thursday decided to strengthen the front in view of the upcoming local body elections.

It was the first meeting of the NDA after Rajeev Chandrasekhar assumed charge as the state president of BJP.

BJP leaders V Muraliedharan, P K Krishnadas, Bharath Dharma

Jana Sena president and NDA state convener Thushar Vellappally, among others, attend the meeting. The meeting decided to announce an action plan in May to fight the local body polls. It has been decided to form NDA committees from the booth level and hold NDA state leadership meetings every month.

The meeting also presented resolutions against the state

government. The manifesto of the 2021 election promised an increase in honorarium of ASHA workers. However, the Pinarayi government did not keep this promise after securing a second term in office. ASHA workers represent the entire women's community of the state. The entire community is supporting their agitation, which could impact the prospects of the Pinarayi government, the resolution stated.

The LDF and UDF are doing nothing for the welfare of coastal people. They are facing sea erosion, poverty, and diseases, yet both fronts continue to neglect these marginalised communities. In contrast, the NDA government is implementing numerous projects for the welfare of coastal people, which would improve their living conditions, the resolution stated.

## Proposal to set up panel fails to enthuse ASHAs in Thiruvananthapuram

During the discussions, Veena urged ASHA workers to end their protest, and announced the formation of a commission to study their demands over the next three months.

**THIRUVANANTHAPURAM.** The third round of negotiations between Health Minister Veena George and trade unions representing ASHA workers failed to break the deadlock in their ongoing strike, which has now entered its 54th day. In response, the Kerala ASHA Health Workers Association (KAHWA), leading the protest outside the Secretariat, intensified its agitation by blocking MG Road and raising slogans against the minister. During the discussions, Veena urged ASHA workers to end their protest, and announced the formation of a commission to study their demands over the next three months.

The committee, to be chaired by an IAS officer, will include representatives from the health, labour, and finance departments. Finance Minister K N Balagopal briefly participated in the talks

online. However, KAHWA rejected the proposal, insisting on an immediate Rs 3,000 increase in their honorarium, a demand the minister found unacceptable. Veena reiterated the government's "practical approach" to resolving the workers' grievances.

"The government is serious about



addressing their concerns and has a positive stance toward their demands. However, any decision on the honorarium hike must be taken collectively by the health, finance, and labour departments," she said.

## Four dead after KSRTC bus rams SUV on Bengaluru-Mysore Expressway

The police said the accident occurred when Chandra Raju Urs, tried to take the service road near Tubinakere exit to avoid the expressway toll.

**MANDYA.** In a bid to avoid toll payment on Bengaluru-Mysuru Expressway, four members of a same family lost their lives after the SUV in which they were travelling was hit by a KSRTC Airavat bus near Tubinakere in Mandya on Thursday afternoon.

The deceased have been identified as Satyananda Raju Urs (51), his wife Nishchitha (45) and, Chandra Raju Urs (62) and his wife Sumedini Rani (50). Residents of JP Nagar in Bengaluru, the family was on their way to Periyapatna in Mysuru district for a family event.

As Satyananda Raju Urs's father-in-law had passed away, the family members were travelling from Bengaluru to Siguru village in Periyapatna taluk. Satyananda Raju Urs, who was an electric contractor and Chandra Raju Urs, a retired junior engineer, are



cousins. Chandra Raju Urs was behind the wheels when the accident took place.

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# Gurgaon: Doorstep waste pickup may take hit as MCG yet to send contract plan to Haryana govt

**Gurgaon.** The city risks facing disruption in doorstep waste collection services if the proposal for engaging a new agency is not prepared and submitted to the urban local bodies (ULB) department for approval in a timely manner. Despite the current private agency's contract ending in June this year, MCG has not yet submitted its proposal for engaging the new agency for door-to-door waste collection. According to the revised ULB department guidelines, the new contract will span seven years and requires approval from the Haryana govt. High-value projects typically require considerable time to secure state govt approvals. However, a senior MCG official said, "The final proposal is now ready for submission to the ULB department on Friday. The delay occurred as specific modifications were necessary following consultations with ULB department officials. These required changes have now been incorporated into the completed proposal." Sources said that

due to the seven-year duration, the contract value would approach Rs 300 crore, necessitating state govt clearance, which requires a lengthy approval process. Given this timeline, the MCG ought to have already forwarded the proposal to the ULB department to secure timely authorisation. The civic body's contract with the previous solid waste management concessionaire was terminated on March 17, before which the civic body should have submitted the proposal for doorstep waste collection. TOI reported on Feb 5 that the ULB department modified its tender specifications for waste management services across the state, extending the contract from five to seven years. The revised scope encompasses door-to-door waste collection, segregation and transportation of municipal solid waste to processing



facilities. So, the MCG's contract with the new agency will also have these specifications, implying that the waste collection agency will also have to ensure processing of waste at the landfill. The civic body had also floated a tender in Jan to secure a private agency for the

transportation of the city's waste to the Bandhwari landfill site. However, the civic body again floated a tender for the same work on Wednesday. The estimated cost of the project is Rs 6.9 crore. Following the termination notice issued to Ecogreen in mid-June 2024, the civic body outsourced the city's door-to-door waste collection to a private contractor, and transportation of waste to Bandhwari was also handled by multiple private contractors. However, local residents expressed dissatisfaction with the inconsistent service quality provided by the current contractors.

Officials said the objective is to hire a single private agency to ensure efficient waste transportation operations. The contractor or agency hired must arrange transportation of all waste at their own expense, including compactors, dumpers, excavators and loaders.

## April 10 deadline set for all corporations to get House nod for budget in Haryana

**Gurgaon.** The Haryana govt has asked all municipal corporations to obtain approval for the 2025-26 fiscal year budget estimates from their newly elected Houses by April 10. As an interim measure to ensure uninterrupted operations, the corporations have been allowed to use 10% of the previous fiscal year's (2024-25) approved budget from respective allocations until April 30. Haryana municipal corporation elections were held on March 2, and the results were declared on March 12. However, in the absence of functioning Houses, the corporations forwarded their budget estimates to the urban local bodies (ULB) department for approval. The Houses will now convene to approve the budget.

"The govt has decided that all municipal corporations, including those that have forwarded their estimates to the department before, shall forward their budget estimates for fiscal year (FY) 2025-26 to the ULB department, Haryana, Panchkula, after getting the same passed through their elected House by April 10," read the communication sent by the ULB department to the municipal corporations on Tuesday. "The govt also permitted all the municipal corporations to incur an amount equivalent to 10% of the sanctioned budget for the FY 2024-25 under the same head by April 30, as a stopgap arrangement for the smooth functioning of the municipal corporations," it added. Moreover, the ULB department directed the corporations to provide explanations for low revenue collection and variations in expenditure, whether excess or deficit.

## GMDA prepares for trials of new water treatment unit at Chandu Budhera, water supply shutdown on April 7-8



**Gurgaon.** GMDA is gearing up to conduct trials of newly constructed 100 MLD unit at the water treatment plant (WTP) in Chandu Budhera within the next 15 days. To facilitate this, the authority has announced a shutdown of 30 hours at the plant. The new unit will be connected to the existing 1,600mm pipeline during the shutdown, which will be initiated from 11am on April 7 to 5pm on April 8. The areas affected by this shutdown will include sectors 4, 5, 7, 9, 11, and 12; sectors 81 to 115; Dayanand Colony, Old Gurugram, Laxman Vihar, and Choti Mata boosting station. Meanwhile, Chandu village, Dhankot, sectors 10, 33, 37D, and 38, along with the Sector 51 boosting station serving sectors 42-74 and Badshapur village will experience a partial 12-hour water supply disruption from 11am to 11pm on April 7. "We have requested the residents in the affected areas to be prepared to face the shutdown. While we have announced a 30-hour shutdown, we will try to complete the work early to minimise inconvenience to the public. The water supply to Sector 51 boosting station will be partially affected and will be restored within 12 hours," the official added. After 2016, when the third unit was constructed at the plant, this will be the first major boost to the city's water supply system. According to GMDA, finishing work is currently underway, including installation of electrical connections, with Daultabad feeder supplying power until the 66 kV substation becomes operational.

## How SC's Lafarge judgment set benchmark for green clearances

**Gurgaon.** The Supreme Court's 2011 order in Lafarge Umiam Mining vs Union of India case is a cornerstone of environmental policy that gave the govt a framework to follow while considering forest clearances to make way for development projects.

Experts say the ruling signaled a shift in India's regulatory framework by emphasising on the importance of environmental protection and sustainable development. "The Supreme Court set a precedent for transparent and accountable governance. It laid down guidelines for future projects. The judgment not only talks about identifying forest-like areas but also tasks state govts to find migratory corridors for wildlife," said Gaurav Bansal, an SC advocate. A look at the case: The case dates to 2001 when Lafarge Umiam Mining, a subsidiary of a French cement firm, started mining for limestone in East Khasi Hills near Shella Nongtrai village of Meghalaya. Lafarge had obtained environmental clearance for mining, but it did not apply for forest clearance, arguing that the mining site, some 25km from the nearest forest, was a rocky area that was unsuitable for vegetation. Mining went on uninterrupted till 2006, when Meghalaya's then chief conservator of forests Khazan Singh wrote to the Union environment ministry, saying there appeared to be a dense forest in the area where the company was operating. MoEF consequently suspended environmental clearance given to Lafarge and mining was halted in April 2007. Soon after, Lafarge filed an application for forest clearance and approached the Supreme Court, seeking an expedited decision on the approval. The central empowerment committee (CEC), a body appointed by the SC to handle forest-related issues, advised that the company should have sought forest clearance before starting operation but it acknowledged that this was a "fait accompli" situation, which left little room but to give a green nod.

## Man tries to pass off as minor in murder bid case, caught: Produced forged birth certificate, school documents & Aadhaar, but online result gave him away

**Gurgaon.** A 24-year-old man accused in an attempt to murder case almost managed to hoodwink the legal system by presenting himself as a minor to escape strict punishment, weaving a web of forged documents that included an Aadhaar card and a family ID issued by Haryana govt. Harsh Moriya's carefully scripted story began to unravel when he presented a birth certificate issued by the District Hospital in Hapur, claiming he was born on Sept 29, 2007. With this, Moriya claimed he was 17 when he was picked up for a murder bid on Dec 24 last year. While the maximum prison term under the BNS section for attempt to murder is 10 years, it's three years under the juvenile justice system. Along with the birth certificate, Moriya submitted doctored school admission forms, marksheets, and even an Aadhaar card, which initially earned him a transfer to a shelter home

## SC to hear 14 petitions against drive to raze illegal construction in DLF phases in Gurgaon on Friday

**Gurgaon.** The Supreme Court will hear special leave petitions filed by 14 different groups on Friday seeking relief from the drive to demolish unauthorised construction in housing units and seal commercial activities in DLF phases 1 to 5. The hearing comes on a day when the department of town and country planning (DTCP) is set to launch its crackdown on illegal structures in compliance with the Punjab and Haryana high court directive. A DTCP official said over 2,200 properties have been marked for action, with recommendations already made to revoke occupancy certificates and cut off essential services such as water supply.

Petitioners who approached the SC include DLF Qutub Enclave RWA, residents of areas off Golf Course Road, DLF phases 5 and 3 as well as Guesthouse Association and several independent property owners. They argue that the demolition and sealing drive is unfair and that they should

be given more time to address regulatory concerns. Residents and businesses in DLF await a crucial decision that could impact the future of the enforcement drive.

The crackdown follows a Feb 13 order from the HC, directing the govt to take strict action against unauthorised constructions and illegal commercial activities in DLF residential areas. The case originated from a 2020 petition filed by the DLF City RWA, seeking action against unregulated modifications in residential buildings. HC has instructed the DTCP to submit an action taken report (ATR) by April 19, detailing the measures implemented. "Affected residents must restore their properties to comply with regulations. If they fail to do so, the department will proceed with necessary action. Any obstruction to the drive will lead to legal action," town planner (enforcement) Amit Madholia said. To implement the HC order, DTCP had

already issued public warnings in the affected areas on Thursday, urging residents to remove unauthorised modifications voluntarily. Officials have warned that failure to comply will result in strict action, including demolition and disconnection of essential utilities such as water, electricity and sewer connections.

However, the administration remains firm, saying that illegal constructions have been identified and the govt is committed to enforcing the law. Anticipating resistance from affected residents and businesses, authorities have deployed 200 police personnel to maintain law and order. Additionally, four duty magistrates have been appointed to oversee the operation. Police teams have been patrolling the area since Thursday to prevent any untoward incidents. Officials have also warned that any attempt to obstruct the demolition drive will result in FIRs being registered.

### NAME CHANGE

I, Khushboo Kumari W/o Samrendra Kumar R/o O, Chipanya Khurd Urf Tigri, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh-201009 have changed the name of my minor son Atul Kumar aged 9 years and he shall hereafter be known as Anubhav Pratap Singh.

### NAME CHANGE

I, SUGANI DEVI is Spouse of No. 15791468A Rank-L/HAV Name- PARANJA RAM, 325 LT AD REGT (COMP) R/o VILLAGE-GOGOUR, POST-LICHANA, TEH-NAWA, DIST-NAGOUR, STATE-RAJASTHAN, PIN-341533 have changed my date of birth from 04/02/1987 instead of 01/01/1987. Vide Affidavit Dated 31/03/2025 before Notary Public New Delhi.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for general information that I, Kusum Lata Mehta W/o Late Harish Chander Mehta R/o G-44, Kirti Nagar, Ramesh Nagar, West Delhi, Delhi-110015 declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as Kusam Mehta in my Husband's PPO No-20047030290641. The actual name of mine is Kusum Lata Mehta.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for general information that I, Anand Giri S/o Suresh Giri R/o H.No-4/1, Near Narv Bharti School, Sindhore kalan, Ashok Vihar, Saraswati Vihar, North West Delhi, Delhi-110052 declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as Anand Giri Goswami in my Driving Licence No-DL08 20110135971. The actual name of mine is Anand Giri.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for general information that I, Machhindra Ramdas Andhale S/o Ramdas Eknath Andhale Permanently residing at Gavthan Karjule Haryana, Nagar Kalyan Road, Parner, Karjule Haryana, Karjule Haryana, Ahmaddnagar, Maharashtra-414300 Presently residing at Qtr No-3228, Tigres line, Near Sader bazar, Delhi cantt-110010 declare that name of mine and my minor son has been wrongly written as Machhindra Andhale and Harshal Andhale in my minor son Harshal Machhindra Andhale aged 15 years in his School Records. The actual name of mine and my minor son are Machhindra Ramdas Andhale and Harshal Machhindra Andhale.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform you that our client, Mr. Yusuf, intends to purchase the Built-Up Third Floor with Roof Rights on Property Bearing No. 33, measuring 131 sq. yds., out of Kharsa No. 55, Kila No. 14/1 Min. 16 Min to 19 Min, situated in Village Kureji Khas, Varadwala Park, Laxmi Nagar, Shadkhan, Delhi-110092, from Sh. Anas Uddin. Sh. Anas Uddin purchased the said property from Sh. Rafiq Khan through a Sale Deed dated 05.03.2020. The same property is financed by Hero Housing Finance Ltd., NSP Branch, Delhi. The following original chain document has been lost: The Original Sale Deed dated 28.08.2018, registered as Document No. 5050, Book No. 01, Volume No. 1375, on Pages 143A-154, New Delhi, pertaining to the aforesaid property owned by Sh. Anas Uddin. An online FIR (LR No. 2720998/2025) has been registered on 01.04.2025 with P.S. Crime Branch, Delhi. If any persons having any objection regarding subject property, then kindly submit his/her objection within 07 days from the date of the Notice in writing. The said objection may be kindly sent to the undersigned by way of the Registered Post on the address given below and by E-mail, failing which, the claim as per aforesaid shall be treated as null and void in respect of the subject property.

### NORTHERN RAILWAY

#### CORRIGENDUM

Ref: Tender Notice No. 93/2025-2026 dated 01-02-2025 of (S.No. 16)

[1] Tender no. 19250837 due on 29-04-2025

In reference to above Tenders the quantity of the tender has been changed as follows:

SN	Depot	Existing	Revised
1	DSL/CB	10 Nos.	10 Nos.
2	ASR/NR	42 Nos.	42 Nos.
3	ETD/LDH	6 Nos.	0 Nos.

All other terms and conditions remain unchanged.

The corrigendum has been published on website www.irps.gov.in 1029/2025

### SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

### NORTHERN RAILWAY

#### CORRIGENDUM

The tender notice no. 178-Sig/CW/32/112 dated: 11.03.2025 published on 14.03.2025 due to be opened on 07.04.2025 may be treated as withdrawn due to administrative reasons.

Office of Dy. CSTC/C/W, DRM's Office, New Delhi, Email: id: dyestcw@gmail.com Phone: 011-23740037

No. 178-Sig/CW/32/112 Dated: 04.04.2025

### SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

### NORTHERN RAILWAY

#### OPEN TENDER NOTICE

The Sr. Divisional Engineer, Northern Railway, DRM Office, Delhi Division, State Entry Road, New Delhi-110055, for and on behalf of the President of India invites sealed open electronic tenders for under noted work:-

S. No.	Name of work	Approximate cost of work	Earnest money to be deposited	Completion period	Date of opening
1.	Earthwork and construction of SSE/P.Way office in connection with provision of new ballast siding at KKDE.	Rs. 3,54,36,592.17	Rs. 3,27,200/-	06 Months	25.04.2025

The e-tender is to be submitted through railway website "https://www.irps.gov.in". The tender can be submitted on website up to 15:00 hrs. on 25.04.2025 as shall be opened there after. NO: 128-W/Sr.DEN-C/NIT-01-25-26-WC Date: 03.04.2025 1018/2025

### SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

# Toddler abducted a week ago rescued, couple arrested

Noida. An 18-month-old girl, kidnapped earlier this week, was rescued by police on Saturday in a swift operation that led to the arrest of a couple involved in the abduction. The police team was rewarded Rs 25,000 by the deputy commissioner of police (DCP), central Noida, for their prompt action. The accused, identified as Renu (44), a native of Aligarh,

and Dinesh (28), from Hathras, had allegedly taken the child from Yusufpur Chak Shahberi without the mother's knowledge. DCP Shakti Mohan Avasthi said, "On March 18, Biskrah police received a complaint from the child's mother stating that her daughter was taken away by Renu and Dinesh, who worked as

sweepers at 14G Avenue, Gaur City, on March 16. A case was registered under Section 358 (kidnapping from lawful guardianship) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), and multiple teams were deployed to trace the child. "Police reviewed nearly 200 CCTV

footage clips, tracking the accused's movements. Based on intelligence that the couple had previously worked at a brick kiln,

police conducted searches across multiple locations, including Kasganj,

### NAME CHANGE

I, RAKHI RATHEESH Wife of No-14449800M Rank-HAV (Gnr) Name- RATHEESH KUMAR R Residing at HOUSE NAME-SANTHA VILASOM, VILL-EDAMULAKKAL, PO-AYOOR, TEH-PUNALUR, DIST-KOLLAM, KERALA-691533, have changed my name from RAKHI RATHEESH to RAKHI NAIR U B for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 03/04/2025 before Notary Public, Kerala.

### NAME CHANGE

I, SANTHAMMA Mother of No-14449800M Rank-HAV (Gnr) Name- RATHEESH KUMAR R Residing at HOUSE NAME-SANTHA VILASOM, VILL-EDAMULAKKAL, PO-AYOOR, TEH-PUNALUR, DIST-KOLLAM, KERALA-691533, have changed my name from SANTHAMMA to SANTHA KUMARI for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 03/04/2025 before Notary Public, Kerala.

### NAME CHANGE

I, MONIA BHATIA ANEJA W/O ATUL ANEJA R/O 592, INDIRA NAGAR COLONY, DEHRADUN, UTTARAKHAND-248006, I have changed my name from MONIKA ANEJA TO MONIA BHATIA ANEJA for all future purpose.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for general information that I, VANSHTI GULIA s/o DEVENDER SINGH residing at 721/29, Gali No.9, Near UCO Bank, Tilak Nagar, Rohat, Haryana-124001, declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as VANSHTI in my 10th and 12th Educational Documents. The actual name of mine is VANSHTI GULIA, which may be amended accordingly.

### NAME CHANGE

I, No. 4007015K Rank- NK Name- PAWANJEET SINGH, S/O DEV RAO PARIHAR, 10 DOGRA R/O VILLAGE. POCHHAL, POST OFFICE. POCHHAL, TEL. KISHITWAR, DIST- KISHITWAR, PIN - 182204 have changed my minor son name from SAKSHAM TO SAKSHAM PARIHAR for all future purposes Vide Affidavit Dated 04/04/2025 before Notary Public New Delhi.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that M/s Rupari Foundation through its Director Mr. Amit Mishra S/o Mr. Satish Chandra Mishra, is the owner of non-agriculture land area measuring 0.514 Hect., out of Gata No. 778/1, 032 Hect., Situated in Village Bighar Buzard, Pargana, Tehsil & Dist. Gonda, U.P. (hereinafter referred to as "Said Property"), by virtue of Sale Deed as Regd. No. 568, Book No. 1, Vol. No. 9432, Page No. 299-318, dated 23.01.2017, SRO-Gonda (Sadar), Further, M/s Rupari Foundation had mortgaged the Said Property with Unity Small Finance Bank Ltd., located at 102 Sky High, Park Road, Hazratganj, Lucknow, U.P. - 226001, to secure a loan/credit facility, and the charge of Unity Small Finance Bank on the Said Property continues to subsist. If any person(s) objection & regarding subject property, then kindly may submit his/her objection within 07 days from the date of the Notice in writing. The said objection may be kindly sent to the undersigned by way of the Registered Post on the address given below and by E-mail, failing which, the claim as per aforesaid shall be treated as null and void in respect of the subject property.

[ASHWANI KUMAR] Advocate Chamber No. 122, Tehsil Compound, Ghaziabad, U.P.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

MY CLIENT RAN DAYAL S/O CHANDER DEV R/O HOUSE NO-410 B, KHASRA NO-451, G BLOCK BHAGAT SINGH PARK, SIRAS PUR, NORTH WEST DELHI 110042 ALSO RESIDENCE AT GANJOUR, MEH-NAGAR, AZAMGARH, UTTAR PRADESH 276204, HAVE SEVER ALL HIS RELATIONS & DISOWNED HIS SON ROHIT AND HIS WIFE SONI FROM ALL HIS MOVABLE/IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES DUE TO HIS MISCONDUCT AND MISBEHAVIOUR ANYBODY DEALING WITH THEM SHALL DO AT THEIR OWN RISK. KAPIL SINGH Advocate C-3/109, Sec-11, Rohini, Delhi-110085

### NAME CHANGE

I, VIMLA DEVI wife of Late Sh. SUBEDAR R/O Y K JHUGGI CAMP, CHILLA VILLAGE, YAMUNA KHADAR, MAYUR VIHAR PH-1, PO. MAYUR VIHAR PH-1, DIST. EAST DELHI, DELHI-110091 have changed my name from MANTORNI DEVI to VIMLA DEVI for all future purpose.

### NAME CHANGE

I, No. 15797506Y Rank- L/HAV Name- ATUL KUMAR, S/O MAHESH CHANDRA R/O VILLAGE- GOPALPUR, POST EKKHHERA, TEH- BILSI, DIST- BUDAUN (U.P.) PIN 243724 have changed my daughter name from ANVI to ANVI SINGH for all future purposes. Vide Affidavit Dated 04/04/2025 before notary Public New Delhi.

### NAME CHANGE

I, Regimil Kurian S/O Mahral R/O KIZHIKKUPUTHUPPALLIL KALLARA, PO-MUTTUUCHIRA, KOTTAYAM, KERALA-686613 Have Change My Name From Kurian To Rosamma For All Future purposes

### NAME CHANGE

I, SURESHITA DEVI Mother of No. 20004909L Rank- NK Name- JANG BADHUR SINGH, R/O HOUSE 48 NEW PLOT NEAR CITIZEN BANK, NEW PLOTS JAMMU, REHARI MOHALLA, JAMMU AND KASHMIR-180005 have changed my name from SURESHITA DEVI to SURISHITA DEVI for all future purposes. Vide Affidavit Dated 04/04/2025 before Notary Public New Delhi.

### NAME CHANGE

I, SHOBHA D/O LT. SH. OM PARKASH W/O SH. KRISHAN YADAV R/O H.No.-164, Post Office Wail Gali, Ahir Mohalla, Nangloi, Nangloi, West Delhi, Delhi-110041 and MEENA D/O LT. SH. OM PARKASH W/O SH. KRISHAN YADAV R/O H.No.-164, Post Office Wail Gali, Ahir Mohalla, Nangloi, West Delhi, Delhi-110041, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as MEENA YADAV.

### NAME CHANGE

I, No. 15791469A Rank-L/HAV Name- PARAMA RAM, S/O JAWANA RAM, 325 LT AD REGT (COMP) R/o VILLAGE-GOGOUR, POST-LICHANA, TEH-NAWA, DIST-NAGOUR, STATE-RAJASTHAN, PIN-341533 have changed my minor son's ROHIO KIROOLYA date of birth from 29/10/2010 instead of 28/10/2010. Vide Affidavit Dated 31/03/2025 before Notary Public New Delhi.

### NAME CHANGE

I, hitherto known as SHELLY GARG Alias - SHELLY SINGLA W/O SANDEEP KUMAR R/O 40 SECOND FLOOR, C-BLOCK, SUSHANT LOK, PHASE-1, CHAKARPUR(74), GURGAON, HARYANA-122002 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as SHELLY SINGLA.

### NAME CHANGE

I, Kurian W/O Kurian Mahral R/O KIZHIKKUPUTHUPPALLIL KALLARA, PO-MUTTUUCHIRA, KOTTAYAM, KERALA-686613 Have Change My Name From Kurian To Rosamma For All Future purposes

### NAME CHANGE

I, SUCHITA Wife of No. 15212713N, Rank-HAV Name-ARANE NAVNATH KADU residing at HOUSE NO-11, KALWADE, KOPGAON, AHMEDNAGAR, MAHARASHTRA-423601, have changed my name from SUCHITA to SUCHITA NAVANATHE ARNE for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 04/04/2025 before Notary Public, Delhi.

### NAME CHANGE

I, PYLA SURIAPPAYAMMA Date of Birth 7May 1966 is mother of No.17019013L RANK CFN - Name- Pyla Satish presently residing at - Village- Gunjupurupeta Post - Gunjupurupeta, Tehsil- Dendaka, District- Vizianagaram, State- Andhra Pradesh. PIN code - 535006 inform that I have changed my name from Pyla surya Appayamma to Pyla Suriappayamma for all future purposes

### NAME CHANGE

I, HANSH RAJ S/O KHEM SINGH residing at HOUSE NO-175, A-BLOCK, GALI NO-910, HARIJAN BASTI, NASIRPUR, DELHI-110045 have changed my name to HANS RAJ for all future purpose.

### NAME CHANGE

I, KAJAL BAKULKUMAR SHAH, W/o Mr. ZENITH MAUNISH SHAH, R/O, H12/15, 2nd Floor (Press 3 in Lift), Behind Bhanu Food Outlet, Malviya Nagar NEW DELHI 110017, I Have Changed My Name To, KAJAL SHAH For All Future Purposes

### NAME CHANGE

I, KAVERI Wife of No. 14440270F, Rank-HAV (HK) Name- HIPALE NIJAPPA SURYAKANT residing at VILL-BORUL, PO-KANBAS, TEHSIL & DIST-SOLAPUR, MAHARASHTRA-413215, have changed my name from KAVERI to KAJAL NIJAPPA HIPALE for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 04/04/2025 before Notary Public, Delhi.



NEWS BOX

South Korea court upholds President Yoon's impeachment, ousts him over martial law

**Seoul** South Korea's Constitutional Court on Friday decided to oust President Yoon Suk Yeol, upholding parliament's impeachment motion over his short-lived imposition of martial law last year that sparked the country's worst political crisis in decades.

With Yoon's ouster, a presidential election is required to take place within 60 days, according to the country's constitution.Yoon's lawyer said that he feels miserable after the court upholds his impeachment.Prime Minister Han Duck-soo will continue to serve as acting president until the new president is inaugurated.The ruling caps months of political turmoil that has overshadowed efforts to deal with the new administration of US President Donald Trump at a time of slowing growth.

Separately, 64-year-old Yoon faces a criminal trial on insurrection charges. The embattled leader became the first sitting South Korean president to be arrested on January 15 but was released in March after a court cancelled his arrest warrant.The crisis was triggered by Yoon's December 3 declaration of martial law, which he has said was needed to root out "anti-state" elements, and the opposition Democratic Party's alleged abuse of its parliamentary majority that he said was destroying the country.Yoon lifted the decree six hours later after lawmakers defied efforts by the security forces to seal off parliament and voted to reject it. Yoon has said he never intended to fully impose emergency military rule and tried to downplay the fallout, saying nobody was hurt.

Months of protests have followed, and it remains unclear if the political chaos sparked by Yoon's martial law declaration will now be eased by the court ruling.

Trump confident in TikTok sale as US ban deadline approaches

**world.** President Donald Trump again downplayed risks that TikTok is in danger of being banned in the United States, saying he remains confident of finding a buyer for the app's US business by a Friday deadline.

The hugely popular video-sharing app, which has over 170 million American users, is under threat from a law that passed overwhelmingly last year and orders TikTok to split from its Chinese owner ByteDance or face a ban in the United States.Motivated by widespread belief in Washington that TikTok is ultimately controlled by the Chinese government, the law took effect on January 19, one day before Trump's inauguration.But the Republican president quickly announced a delay that has allowed it to continue to operate; that delay is set to expire on April 5.We have a lot of potential buyers. There's tremendous interest in TikTok," Trump told reporters onboard Air Force One late Sunday."We have a lot of people that want to buy TikTok. We're dealing with China also on it, because they may have something to do with it," he said, adding "I'd like to see TikTok remain alive."

Any deal to divest TikTok from ByteDance will require the approval of Beijing, and Trump has said he may offer to reduce tariffs on China as a way to get Beijing's approval for the sale.Trump, though he supported a ban in his first term, has lately become the app's greatest defender, seeing it as a reason more young voters supported him in November's election.

One of his major political donors, billionaire Jeff Yass, is also a major stakeholder in parent company ByteDance.

ByteDance on board? -

Several proposals for TikTok's US business have emerged since the law began to make its way through Congress last year. But according to The New York Times, citing people involved in coming up with a solution, the most likely fix would see existing US investors in ByteDance roll over their stakes into a new independent global TikTok company.Additional US investors would be brought on to reduce the proportion of Chinese investors. Trump at one point said the US government could also take a stake through a newly announced national sovereign fund.

You Cannot Annex Another Country": Denmark PM To US Over Greenland

**Oslo.**Accusing the US of subjecting Denmark and Greenland to "pressure and threats," Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen firmly rejected US attempt to annex the Greenland, citing international law."You cannot annex other countries -- not even under the pretext of international security," Frederiksen said at a press conference with Greenlandic officials in Nuuk, the capital of Greenland. "National borders, sovereignty, territorial integrity - these are rooted in international law. These principles were established after World War II so that small countries would not have to fear large ones."Meanwhile, she expressed deep concern over what she described as pressure and threats from the United States. "When you seek to take over part of the Kingdom (of Denmark)'s territory, when we are subjected to pressure and threats by our closest ally, what are we to think about the country we have admired for so many years?" Frederiksen said.

The press conference, which was broadcast live by Danish broadcaster DR, was held amid US President Donald Trump's continuous expression of interest in acquiring Greenland, an autonomous territory of Denmark, Xinhua news agency reported.

Mute Egede, the outgoing Greenlandic prime minister, who spoke alongside Frederiksen and the incoming leader Jens-Frederik Nielsen, praised the Danish prime minister's stance and emphasised the progress made in Denmark-Greenland relations in recent years.He said that while challenges remain, the two sides are cooperating more closely. "Today's global situation obliges us to work together. Good friends and allies must stand together to defend the values we have long shared in the Western world," he said.

AI-Generated Research Paper Is Latest Spin On Climate Change Denial

**Washington.**Climate change deniers are pushing an AI-generated paper questioning human-induced warming, leading experts to warn against the rise of research that is inherently flawed but marketed as neutral and scrupulously logical.

The paper rejects climate models on human-induced global warming and has been widely cited on social media as being the first "peer-reviewed" research led by artificial intelligence (AI) on the topic.

Titled "A Critical Reassessment of the Anthropogenic CO2-Global Warming Hypothesis," it contains references contested by the scientific community, according to experts interviewed by AFP.

Computational and ethics researchers also cautioned against claims of neutrality in papers that use AI as an author.The new study -- which claims to be entirely written by Elon Musk's Grok 3 AI -- has gained traction online, with a blog post by Covid-19 contrarian Robert Malone promoting it gathering more than a million views.After

the debacle of man-made climate change and the corruption of evidence-based medicine by big pharma, the use of AI for government-funded research will become normalized, and standards will be developed for its use in peer-reviewed journals," Malone wrote.

There is overwhelming scientific consensus linking fossil fuel combustion to rising global temperatures and increasingly severe weather disasters.

**Illusion of objectivity**

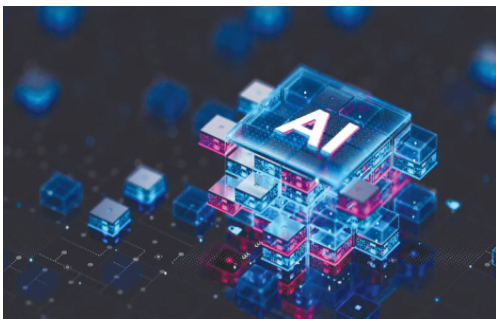
Academics have warned that the surge of AI in research, despite potential benefits, risks triggering an illusion of objectivity and insight in scientific research."Large language models do not have the capacity to reason. They are statistical models predicting future words or phrases based on what they have been trained on. This is not research," argued Mark Neft, an environmental sciences professor.

The paper says Grok 3 "wrote the entire manuscript," with input from co-authors

who "played a crucial role in guiding its development."Among the co-authors was astrophysicist Willie Soon -- a climate contrarian known to have received more than a million dollars in funding from the fossil fuel industry over the years.

Scientifically contested papers by physicist Hermann Harde and Soon himself were used as references for the AI's analysis.

Microbiologist Elisabeth Bik, who tracks scientific malpractice, remarked the paper



did not describe how it was written: "It includes datasets that formed the basis of the paper, but no prompts," she noted. "We know nothing about how the authors asked the AI to analyze the data."Ashwinee Panda, a postdoctoral fellow on AI safety at the University of Maryland, said the claim that Grok 3 wrote the paper created a veneer of objectivity that was unverifiable."Anyone could just claim 'I didn't write this, the AI did, so this is unbiased' without evidence," he said.

**Opaque review process**

Neither the journal nor its publisher -- which seems to publish only one journal -- appear to be members of the Committee of Publication Ethics.The paper acknowledges "the careful edits provided by a reviewer and the editor-in-chief," identified on its website as Harde.It does not specify whether it underwent open, single-, or double-blind review and was submitted and published within just 12 days.

No food, one toilet: Passengers fume as 30-hour Turkey airport ordeal drags on

**Virgin Atlantic flight made emergency landing in Turkey on April 2**

**Over 250 passengers, many of them Indians, stranded at Diyarbakir Airport**

**Passengers facing lack of food, toilets, and charging points**



**world.** More than 250 passengers, including several Indians, have been stranded for over 30 hours at Turkey's Diyarbakir Airport after a Virgin Atlantic flight from London to Mumbai was forced to make an emergency landing.Flight VS358 departed London's Heathrow airport at 11:40 a.m. local time on April 2 and was scheduled to land in Mumbai at 1:40 a.m. on April 3. However, the plane made an unscheduled landing at

Virgin Atlantic described as a "hard landing", the aircraft was deemed unfit to fly due to a technical issue. Passengers were disembarked, but while the crew was transported to a hotel, passengers remained confined to a restricted area within the small regional airport, which lacks adequate facilities."We are actively exploring all options, including the operation of an alternative aircraft, to ensure customers can reach Mumbai as soon

as possible," the UK-based airline said in a statement on Thursday.Passengers, however, painted a grim picture of their ordeal. X users detailed a lack of basic amenities, including insufficient food, limited toilet facilities, and a lack of charging points for electronic devices."It's been 24 hours and not a single airline representative has met the passengers. They have barely any food, one toilet amongst 275 pax, phones running out of batteries as they don't have Turkish adapters. There are babies, pregnant women, diabetics and old people in this ordeal," wrote AAP leader Preeti Sharma-Menon on X, requesting government intervention.The Indian Embassy in Turkey said it is in contact with the airport and other authorities."The Embassy of India, Ankara is in constant communication with Virgin Atlantic Airlines, Diyarbakir Airport Directorate, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Trump's approval rating hits new low amid tariff announcement

**world.** President Donald Trump's approval rating has dropped to 43%, the lowest since he took office. According to a Reuters/Ipsos poll, most Americans are not happy with his tariff strategy and his administration's management.The survey, which lasted three days and closed on Wednesday, indicated a 2-point drop from a survey taken in late March. It is also 4 points below the 47% approval rating which he received shortly after his inauguration in January.Trump's approval had been highest in early 2017 at 49%. His lowest in his first term was 33% in December 2017.Despite his current approval being lower than it was earlier this year, it's higher than it was for most of his first term. While Joe Biden had a lower 35% just before the November election.

**Are Americans satisfied with aggressive Trump policies?**

One of the main areas where Trump's popularity declined is in how he



manages the economy. Only 37% of people sanctioned his performance on economic matters, and only 30% sanctioned his response to the high cost of living, an issue President Biden is also grappling with.Most Americans are particularly concerned about Trump's tariffs on items such as automobiles and automotive parts. Almost half of respondents indicated

that they think the new tariffs will harm them and their families.Trump's tariff hikes have created uncertainty in the stock market. His aggressive policies have also resulted in a shift in the way the US engages with the world by disrupting long-standing diplomatic norms.Another problem that has been of concern is how the Trump administration manages a military situation.The survey found that 74% of individuals felt that it was irresponsible for Trump's staff to talk about a military strike on militants in Yemen on a popular messaging app, Signal.Only 22% of respondents felt that it was merely an error. 70% of people said Trump should be held accountable for the gaffe.Trump's foreign policy approval rating also fell to 34%, from 37% in January. But he still got a higher approval rating for his immigration handling, with 48% of Americans approving.



"I am heartbroken to share the tragic news of the death of Fr. Arul Carasala, who was fatally shot earlier today," Naumann wrote."This senseless act of violence has left us grieving the loss of a beloved priest, leader, and friend."The Knights of Columbus organised a Rosary ceremony at Sts. Peter and Paul Parish in Seneca, followed by a Mass presided over by Archbishop Naumann in memory of Father Carasala.

Kansas Speaker of the House, Dan Hawkins, also shared his condolences. He said, "It is heartbreaking to hear of the news of the fatal shooting of Fr. Arul Carasala. My deepest prayers go out to all who knew him, as they grapple with this senseless act of violence and tragic loss to the faith community."

India Deploys Relief Teams, Aid To Myanmar After Deadly Earthquake

**Mandalay.**India's National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) is actively leading the efforts as part of Operation Bhurma, with rescue and relief operations underway in Myanmar.The country is currently recovering from the devastating 7.7 magnitude earthquake that hit on March 28, following which India, being the first responder in times of crisis in the neighbourhood, had been providing vital assistance to the country.NDRF Deputy Commander Kunal Tiwari, who is overseeing the search and rescue operations, shared insights into the ongoing efforts on Wednesday.Mr Tiwari mentioned that the NDRF team consists of 80 personnel, supported by four specially trained canines and advanced equipment for rigging, lifting, cutting, and bridging.

Despite the challenges, Mr Tiwari expressed confidence in their readiness to overcome them. He also highlighted the team's expertise in managing recovery operations, including handling the recovery of mortal

remains with dignity and respect.

"Our team has a total of 80 members. We have four canines and heavy team equipment like rigging, lifting, cutting, and bridging. Our team is fully equipped," he said.The NDRF Deputy Commander also spoke about the significant support received from Myanmar's local population and emphasised the strong bond between India and Myanmar, noting that while India has extended a helping hand, the people of Myanmar have shown immense warmth and respect in return."As India has taken one step forward to help Myanmar, so have the people of Myanmar taken two steps forward with us. Wherever we are going, we get their full support. So it is because of this bonding between Myanmar and India that we are able to carry forward with our work," Mr Tiwari added.Regarding aftershocks, Mr Tiwari assured that safety is a top priority for the team. All personnel are equipped with personal protective equipment (PPE), and thorough safety

protocols, including marking escape routes and safe zones, are strictly followed before commencing any work."Safety first is our principle. All of us trained for it. We all have good PPE, which gives us local protection. Before starting any work, we mark the escape route properly and the safe zone; the safety officer is informed," he said.Mandalay, the city hardest hit by the earthquake, has been divided into four sectors: Alpha, Bravo, Charlie, and Delta. The Delta sector, which is the most affected area, is under India's responsibility and has seen significant intervention, with India covering 11 of the 15 designated work sites.

A local Myanmar monk expressed deep appreciation for India's efforts, stating that he was satisfied and grateful for the assistance provided. Another local, Hussain, also expressed his thanks, describing the arrival of the Indian team as a source of great relief."We got a great sense of relief when you came. You (Indians) are very hard-working people.

We are very happy and at peace. We have benefitted a lot from the arrival of NDRF. May god shower blessings upon India and its leadership," he said.As part of Operation Brahma, India has already delivered 625 metric tonnes of humanitarian aid and disaster relief materials to Myanmar as of Tuesday.The operation reflects India's commitment to being a first responder in the region, providing essential search and rescue, medical aid, and disaster relief in the wake of the March 28 earthquake.Operation Brahma is a comprehensive effort involving multiple branches of the Indian government to address the widespread devastation caused by the earthquake and support Myanmar's recovery.The Indian Army has also set up a Field Hospital, providing medical support to the people.According to the Indian Army's release, the medical team successfully conducted 23 surgeries, over 1,300 laboratory investigations, and 103 X-ray procedures as of Thursday evening.



NEWS BOX

Two auto drivers held for raping Bihar woman in Bengaluru

**BENGALURU.** A 19-year-old migrant labourer from Bihar was kidnapped and raped near KR Puram Metro station in the wee hours of Wednesday. The two alleged assailants Asif and Syed Moosa were arrested by the Mahadevapura police. The two are autorickshaw drivers.

The victim along with her cousin were looking for a hotel to have food around 1.20 am. The victim who is from Banka district in Bihar had gone to her sister's house in Idukki district in Kerala a month ago. The victim along with her sister and brother-in-law were working in a cardamom plantation.

She boarded the train from Emakulam to Bihar on Tuesday. Her cousin joined her from KR Puram railway station around 1.15 am. According to police, Asif raped the victim while Moosa subdued her cousin.

On hearing the screams of the victim, locals rushed to the spot. The crowd managed to nab Asif and handed him over to the police.

Based on his information, the police arrested his associate, Moosa. "Both the accused who are from Mulbagal taluk in Kolar district were sleeping in their autorickshaws during night by parking near the KR Puram railway station," said an officer. The victim who has been hospitalised has been subjected to mandatory medical tests.

A case of rape (BNS 64), causing hurt (BNS 115(2)), wrongful restraint (BNS 126(2)), criminal intimidation (BNS 351(2)), intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of the peace (BNS 352), along with other sections of BNS have been registered against both the accused.

Training programme on women's safety in film industry launched

**THIRUVANANTHAPURAM.** The Women and Child Development Department has rolled out a specialised training programme to enforce the provisions of the POSH Act in the film industry. The training programme was organised in the light of the POSH Act 2013 and the Justice Hema Committee Report, said Health and Women and Child Development Minister Veena George inaugurating the training programme.

The programme was organised by the Women and Child Development Department with the help of Gender Park to create awareness about the POSH Act among those working in the film sector.

When a film is made through the collective work of about thirty sections, it is necessary to ensure a safe working environment for all those working in this sector, she said. The module training has been organised to implement the existing provisions under the POSH Act. "The producer is the employer.

Then it is the responsibility of the producer to form internal committees and ensure women's safety," said the minister. The minister also clarified that this will be the most effective training programme to make the Malayalam film industry women-friendly. Chief Secretary Sarada Muraleedharan presided over the function. Around 60 people from the film industry participated. Under the POSH Act, internal committees have been formed in all institutions with more than ten employees in 95 government departments in the state.

More than 25,000 institutions have been registered. In January 2023, a POSH portal was launched to coordinate and monitor activities under the POSH Act to prevent sexual harassment against women in the workplace.

Aavin is the cheapest cooperative milk brand in country, says minister Raja Kannappan

**CHENNAI.** Milk and Dairy Development Minister R S Raja Kannappan on Wednesday informed the Assembly that Aavin milk is the most affordable among all state-owned cooperative brands, including Amul, Nandini and Milma, as well as private brands, with the price difference ranging from Rs 6 to Rs 16 per litre. He added that Aavin can ensure an adequate milk supply for all only if daily procurement increases from the current 36 lakh litres to 56 lakh litres. During discussions on the demands of grants for his department, Kannappan highlighted Aavin's competitive pricing. He said Aavin sells toned milk at Rs 40 a litre, compared to Rs 48 by Nandini, Rs 46 by Milma and Rs 54 by Amul. Similarly, Aavin's standardised milk variant is priced at Rs 44 per litre, whereas Nandini charges Rs 56, Milma Rs 54 and Amul Rs 60. For full cream milk, Aavin sells it at Rs 60 per litre and Rs 48 per litre for cardholders, while Nandini, Milma and Amul price their full cream milk at Rs 62, Rs 68 and Rs 66 per litre respectively.

Efforts are under way to increase milk procurement to 56 lakh litres per day to revive 300 dormant primary milk producers' cooperative societies, Kannappan said. He also mentioned that 18 dairy projects, with a total investment of Rs 1,800 crore, are currently at various stages of implementation across the state. "Upgradation of dairy plants is in progress at Salem, Namakkal, Thanjavur, Thoothukudi and other locations.

BBMP chief Girinath revs up Palike machinery for rain work, keeps officials on their toes

Steps have already been taken in 166 places to ensure that there are no problems.

**BENGALURU.** BBMP Chief Commissioner Tushar Girinath has instructed civic officials to take precautionary measures to avoid any rain-related problems during the monsoon.

At a meeting on Thursday to deliberate on preventive measures to be taken due to the rain, he told officials to take necessary action under the Disaster Management Act. Officials should complete the works in Sai Layout, Pai Layout, Kendriya Vihar Apartment, Kogilu Cross, Sarjapur Road (Iblur Junction), Abbigere Kere Kodi, Mysore Road, Gali Anjaneya Swamy Temple and other places before the onset of the monsoon season.

"There are 209 flood-prone areas in the city, including 11 new areas. Steps have already been taken in 166 places to ensure that there are no problems. Appropriate measures should be taken in the remaining 43 flood-prone areas to ensure that there are no problems. Officials should personally visit



flood-prone areas and resolve the problems," said Girinath.

The BBMP chief directed the Palike staff to coordinate with Bengaluru Traffic Police and take up works to prevent waterlogging at 180 spots on major roads. He also instructed officials to clean the gratings on the roadside

to ensure the smooth flow of rainwater into the side drains.

Girinath also stated that the Bangalore Electricity Supply Company (BESCOM) and Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) officials should be deployed to the BBMP control rooms before the onset of the rainy season. "A department-wise list of officers should be prepared in this regard immediately. In addition, a list of SDRF/NDRF officers should be prepared. All the necessary equipment for the rainy season should be stored in the control rooms," he instructed.

"Stormwater drains should be cleaned on a regular basis using earthmovers. A two-month plan should be made up, along with a list of cleaning tasks for the SWD.

Water should flow smoothly everywhere," he said and added that 30 teams are at hand to clear trees and branches that have fallen due to the rain. He also instructed officials to respond immediately to complaints from citizens.

Highways Authority Bill gets through in Assembly

Works minister Prithiviraj Harichandan said the government has envisaged to develop 75,000 km of world-class road network across the state.

**BHUBANESWAR.** The Odisha State Highways Authority Bill, 2025 was passed early on Thursday morning enabling the government to establish an autonomous body for planning, development, maintenance and management of highways and major roads in the state.

Introducing the Bill in the wee hours after a marathon debate on the University Amendment Bill, Works minister Prithiviraj Harichandan said the government has envisaged to develop 75,000 km of world-class road network across the state.

"It was felt expedient to set up an autonomous body to accelerate the pace of development of roads. A fast-track approach is needed for matters relating to land acquisition, rehabilitation and resettlement along the

corridors, obtaining environment and forest clearance, shifting of utility, prohibiting



encroachment, regulating traffic on highways to enhance road safety and scientific management of highways in the state," the minister said.

On notification of the Authority, Harichandan said it will have the power to acquire, hold and dispose of property, both movable and immovable, and enter contracts which may include long-term concessions for designing, construction, financing and operation of highways.

The Authority will comprise a chairperson, three or four full-time members of whom, one each will be the member-in-charge of finance, safety and technology, works contracts and operations, concessions and public-private partnerships. The government will appoint six part-time members, not below the rank of a secretary, from Finance, Commerce and Transport, and Planning and Convergence departments.

Air India integrates Apple AirTag to track baggage of passengers

**KOCHI.** Air India has integrated Apple AirTag with its baggage-tracking system and mobile app, allowing customers using the Apple iPhone, iPad or Mac devices to securely track their baggage, the first airline in Asia to offer the facility.

Air India transports more than 100 million items of baggage annually, with more than 99.6% of items arriving together with the accompanying customer. For the small proportion that does not, due to issues with airport baggage systems, flight misconnection or other factors, the AirTag integration will help locate items and expedite recovery.

The integration builds upon the easy-to-use baggage tracking feature Air India offers on its mobile app and website, which leverages real-time information available from airports to keep guests informed. For customers who have added their flight to the "My Trips" section of the app, baggage information becomes automatically available soon after the bags are checked-in, as well as on the "Track my Bags" tab of the website.

Customers may also scan the barcode on their baggage receipts to initiate tracking.

How to utilize AirTag feature

If the baggage with the AirTag in it, does not arrive at the destination, the guest can report it at Air India's baggage counter at the airport. Air India airport staff will assist in filing a property irregularity report (PIR) for the baggage.

The guest will then need to generate the 'Share Item Location' in the 'Find My' app on their Apple device and share the location link with Air India and associate it with the above-mentioned PIR via the Air India mobile app or website

Via app

The guest can visit the 'Customer Support Portal' on the app and choose 'Baggage' and then select 'Lost and Found Check-in Baggage' and provide the Air

Impounded vehicles turning police stations in Kerala's Ernakulam into junkyards

For years, the police department has been advocating for a dedicated yard to keep impounded vehicles, as many police stations are struggling with a lack of parking space.

**KOCHI.** Police stations across the district are turning into junkyards due to the accumulation of impounded vehicles, leading to severe space constraints. According to data with the home department, a total of 2,258 vehicles impounded in various cases are currently parked at different police stations in the district.

Within Kochi city police limits alone, 813 vehicles remain unclaimed, while 1,445 vehicles are parked at stations under the Ernakulam Rural district. As of March this year, 26,195 impounded vehicles are lying at police stations across the state. Palakkad has the highest number (3,189), followed by Thrissur Rural (2,728), Thrissur City (2,223), and Malappuram (2,131).

"Although there are directives to release vehicles to their owners once legal procedures are completed, very few owners come forward to reclaim them. Additionally, since legal proceedings often take years, the condition of these

vehicles deteriorates over time. Last year, we auctioned off several unclaimed vehicles, but bidders usually look for well-maintained ones, leaving many unsold," an officer with Ernakulam Rural police said.

For years, the police department has been



advocating for a dedicated yard to keep impounded vehicles, as many police stations are struggling with a lack of parking space. "In city areas, most impounded vehicles are two-wheelers, while in rural areas, we seize larger vehicles like trucks and lorries, which

occupy significant space. Additionally, cars and buses involved in accidents often remain at police stations for months after the incidents," the officer added.

In 2018, the home department issued a directive instructing all police districts

to clear impounded vehicles from station premises as soon as possible. To streamline the process, officers were advised to seize only the vehicle's registration certificate in cases of traffic violations, instead of taking physical custody of the vehicle. There was also a proposal to incorporate some of these impounded vehicles into the police motor fleet.

"Despite these measures, the number of vehicles left at police stations remains alarmingly high. This is problematic for stations like Palarivattom and Ernakulam Central, which have limited compound space. A dedicated storage yard for impounded vehicles would be a far better solution," another Kochi City police officer said.

Water supply in Thiruvananthapuram resumes after three-day shutdown

The KWA had shut down the Aruvikkara water treatment plant, the capital's main source of drinking water on Tuesday, leading to water supply disruption in many areas.

**THIRUVANANTHAPURAM.** After three days of shutdown to facilitate three major works, the Kerala Water Authority (KWA) resumed water supply in the capital on Thursday evening.

However, high-lying areas in the capital will start getting water in another 24 hours. "Low-lying residential areas will get water first and it will take some time for the water to reach high altitude areas. We will continue to supply water in tankers for such areas until the crisis is over," said a KWA official. The KWA had shut down the

Aruvikkara water treatment plant, the capital's main source of drinking water on Tuesday, leading to water supply disruption in many areas.

KWA authorities said the supply resumed 15 hours ahead of schedule — the actual plan was to resume distribution from Aruvikkara at 8 am on Friday.

"We were able to undertake all three works well ahead of schedule and resumed pumping from Aruvikkara at 4.30pm today. Elaborate arrangements were made to ensure drinking water supply through

tankers to the affected areas," said a KWA official. The city corporation had deployed around 50 tankers for the purpose. Realigning the main transmission line near Shastri Nagar near Jagathy to facilitate the doubling work of the Thiruvananthapuram-Nagercoil railway line was one of the major works undertaken by the KWA. Replacement of butterfly valve near the PTP vending point and installation of flow meter and valve to facilitate smooth water supply from PTP Nagar to Nemom and Vattiyoorkavu zones were the other two.

The civic body had started a helpline number for the public to report water-related woes during the shutdown. The KWA too had made alternative arrangements for establishments by hospitals.

Elaborate arrangements

The city corporation had deployed around 50 tankers for the purpose. The civic body had started a helpline number for the public to report water-related woes during the shutdown. The KWA too had made alternative arrangements for establishments by hospitals.

After night-long debate on Bills, House adjourned sine die three days before schedule

**BHUBANESWAR.** The budget session of the Odisha Assembly was adjourned sine die on Thursday morning by Speaker Surama Padhy three days ahead of schedule after the House passed the Odisha Universities (Amendment) Bill, 2024 and Odisha State Highways Authority Bill, 2025 following a night-long marathon debate.

This was for the first time in the history of Odisha Assembly that proceedings continued for the entire night on Wednesday and the House was adjourned sine die at 7.05 am.

The Odisha Universities (Amendment) Bill, 2024 which was opposed by the BJD, was debated for more than 12 hours and passed at 4.30 am. Similarly, the Odisha State Highways Authority Bill, 2025 was passed in the House at 6.29 am.

Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi and all the 13 ministers were present in the House during discussion of the Bills. However, Congress members were absent as they have been suspended from the House for seven days by the Speaker for creating unruly scenes in the House.

"The third session of the 17th Odisha Legislative Assembly commenced on February 13 and was scheduled to continue till April 5. However, keeping in view that no more important business is left, the House has been adjourned sine die," the Speaker said.

Earlier, government chief whip Saroj Kumar Pradhan had moved a proposal to adjourn the Assembly which was supported by members of the treasury bench. During the budget session, the chief minister, who is also in charge of the Finance department, presented the annual budget of ₹2,90,000 crore for the 2025-26 fiscal on February 17.

The session witnessed a lot of ruckus for which the proceedings remaining adjourned for several days. Proceedings were smooth for the last three days after suspension of the Congress members.



# AI tools are fuelling a free-for-all

Anew phenomenon is catching on in the digital sphere. Users are flooding social media platforms like X, Instagram and Facebook with their portraits, family pictures and other images drawn in the style of legendary Japanese animator Hayao Miyazaki. He is the founder of the famed Ghibli Studio, which in the past four decades has created iconic animation characters. The typical style of drawing characters in light, pastel shades has come to be known as the Ghibli art. However, the art being posted online by users is not original but generated by artificial intelligence (AI) tools available for free on a trial basis. With just a few clicks, one can transform a picture into the trademark Ghibli art. Millions of users, including politicians, fashion and sports influencers, and celebrities, are using AI tools to create images in this style. Though generative AI tools — which are used for content creation — have been around for some time, the current trend has been triggered by a new tool developed by OpenAI. Text-based or large language models (LLMs) models like ChatGPT take textual inputs and generate desired material like articles, book chapters, social media posts, etc. The latest multimodal generative AI tools can take text, images, videos, voice and music as inputs and generate desired output images and videos. Tools like Midjourney, Stable Diffusion and DALL-E can take in text as input and give output as images. For instance, one can ask DALL-E to generate a painting of a Delhi street in the style of MF Husain or Jamini Roy and it would do so within a few seconds. Then there are image-to-image tools like Lensa that can provide altered versions of the input images. The images generated in the Ghibli style have caught the public imagination because they look cute and funny. The fun part, however, masks serious issues concerning text and image-generative AI systems. Any AI system is based on real data collected from various sources. AI tools should be ‘trained’ using massive amounts of data (text, images, music, etc.). If an LLM is asked to generate a small story in the style of Amitav Ghosh or Ruskin Bond, it would do so by digging into massive amounts of data that would have been based on the works of these authors. Much of this material is copyrighted, and AI companies have not bought the rights from authors to ‘train’ their systems. The same is happening with the works of Ghibli Studio or the paintings of masters like Husain. AI companies say they are only using data available in the public domain, but the creative work is not buying this claim. The ‘fair use’ doctrine in copyright laws is being misused by technology companies. The existing copyright frameworks are inadequate to deal with this kind of infringement. Cases against technology companies are already in courts in North America and Europe. The larger question that generative AI raises is about the assault on the very idea of creativity. A painting, book, cartoon character or a piece of music are all forms of creative expression by individuals. They are all cultural products, born out of individual experience and context. For example, the work of the Ghibli Studio is a window to Japanese society and culture, just as the productions of Walt Disney Studio reflect American culture. Assigning such creative works as products of a machine or an AI system goes against the very idea of human creativity and passion. An artist may take months to finish a painting or a writer may take years to write a novel or a non-fiction book. Hundreds of hours of hard work go into the making of a cartoon or animation strip. Therefore, creators must get credit and money. AI companies are indulging in what critics say is data laundering and robbing creators of both credit and money. With every new generative AI model — built on the work of millions of creators — the valuation of AI firms rises by billions of dollars. They sell these products for thousands of dollars to users across the world, while creators get nothing. Image generators are not artists, but they are a challenge to artists. Generative AI has already started disrupting the creative industry globally. The most obvious impact of these products is job loss for artists, illustrators and designers in the animation industry. While AI-generated images lack the depth and expression of human-created images, they are of generally acceptable quality.

# Shielding the guilty officials and betraying the public

The attitude of senior officers to shield the misconduct and wrongdoings of juniors eventually leads to indiscipline, bad behaviour and corruption.

There is this unfortunate tendency of some senior police officers and some in other government departments to shield, cover up or overlook the misconduct and wrongdoings of junior officers and subordinate staff. Such misplaced sense of loyalty and support eventually leads to a breakdown of discipline and results in subsequent gross misconduct on the part of such subordinate staff. This happened in Punjab during the late eighties and early nineties when fake encounters had become the norm for the state police. During the mid-eighties, an air service was started between Kota and Delhi. A small shelter at the airport served as its office. General Officer Commanding (GoC) of the division in Kota, who was the seniormost army officer in Rajasthan, was stopped by a deputy superintendent of police (DSP) who wanted to carry out his body search before he was to board the aircraft. The GoC was in uniform and from where the DSP was standing, one could see the pilot jeep along with a number of military police personnel as the GoC arrived. The GoC did not allow the DSP to carry out his body search. The DSP was rude and had misbehaved. On return from Delhi, the GoC wrote to the DG Police in Jaipur about the conduct of this DSP. The DGP did not respond, but his staff officer wrote back, justifying the DSP's conduct. The GoC pursued the case through staff channels. Finally, the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) issued instructions to the police to suspend the DSP and initiate disciplinary action against him. The attitude of senior officers to shield the misconduct and wrongdoings of juniors eventually leads to indiscipline, bad behaviour and corruption. There is this incident which took place in Patiala on the intervening night of March 13-14, wherein four police inspectors and eight policemen in civil dress beat up a serving colonel of the Army (Col Pushpinder Singh Bath) and his son while they were having food at a roadside dhaba. The police personnel were apparently drunk, both with the false sense of authority and, perhaps, liquor as well. Otherwise, at least one the four inspectors would have tried to restrain the others from assaulting the colonel and his son. Even when the colonel told them that he was an army officer and showed his identity card, they did not stop beating him, but instead snatched his card and phone. They continued to hit him with sticks as he lay unconscious on the ground and kept beating his son as he tried to shield his father. These policemen told the son to collect the identity card the next morning only if they survived this encounter. A day before, these police personnel had staged an encounter and, for them, this was yet another encounter. The way the policemen continued to beat the colonel was nothing short of an attempt to murder. The colonel's arm and his son's nose were



fractured. The colonel's wife raised the alarm. She was driven from pillar to post as she tried to bring the case to the notice of the authorities. The SSP, Patiala, tried to strike a compromise between the colonel's family and the police personnel and cover up the case. The policemen apologised and sought forgiveness from the colonel's family for their conduct and, at the same time, gave a veiled threat to the family as it had to live in Patiala and so also these police personnel. If one were to delve into the past record of these police inspectors, it is possible that it would be found that their previous wrongdoings had been covered up or, perhaps, even rewarded. Some two days after this serious crime, a false FIR was registered against some unknown persons in the name of the owner of the dhaba where this incident took place. Two features of this FIR are intriguing. One, the identity of the culprits in this crime was shown as 'not known' and it was recorded that the colonel and his son were drinking liquor when this incident took place. Two, the names and other details of these police personnel were known to the police and the medical examination of the colonel and his son, carried out in the civil hospital, showed that they had not taken liquor. Subsequently, attempts were made by senior police officers to strike a compromise between the colonel's family and the police personnel. A second FIR by Col Pushpinder Singh was recorded after eight days, only when the incident had come into the public gaze and ex-servicemen had staged a 'dharna' in front of the deputy commissioner's office. Attempts seem to have been made to exclude the name of

one of the four inspectors involved in this crime. These policemen were merely suspended and not arrested and, that too, when pressure was built on the SSP, Patiala. The police constituted a team of senior police officers to look into the case. However, this incident of criminal assault, where an attempt seems to have been made to kill the colonel, is too serious a case to be dealt by a departmental inquiry. The colonel's wife made desperate attempts to meet senior police officers, but they could not see her as they were rather busy. The Chief Minister finally agreed to meet her on March 31. The response to her pleas from senior police officers made her realise that fair play may not come about. So, she demanded that the case be handed over to the CBI for an unbiased investigation. Finally, a spirited advocate took up this case with the Punjab and Haryana High Court. Soon after, Colonel Bath's application before the high court too surfaced. These two applications have been clubbed and the court has taken up the case. At one time, the Punjab police was considered the best in the country. Today, it is rated rather low. This slide must be arrested. Lawlessness, free flow of drugs and illegal dispatch of young people to foreign countries by fake companies are rampant. Corruption, too, persists. The Punjab Police has many competent officers. They must put an end to illegal activities. They must attend to the wrongdoings of the junior staff, enforce discipline and ensure their good behaviour towards the public at large. It is well within their capability and capacity to bring law and order back on rails and restore the Punjab Police's standing in the country.

# A welcome change

Opposition picks debate over protest on Waqf Bill



IN a rare and refreshing move, the Opposition's INDIA bloc has chosen to engage in a parliamentary debate over the contentious Waqf (Amendment) Bill instead of resorting to protests and walkouts. This marks a departure from the usual theatrics that have often stalled legislative business, depriving the public of substantive discussions on crucial issues. This decision is a much-needed reaffirmation of democratic principles. Contentious as the Waqf Bill may be, a rigorous parliamentary debate offers a platform for parties to present their arguments, expose contradictions in the ruling party's stance and allow citizens to understand the full implications of the legislation. By pressing for a vote, the Opposition is compelling fence-sitters and NDA allies to take a clear position, thereby ensuring greater accountability. The Bill has elicited diverse perspectives. Proponents argue that including non-Muslims in Waqf boards will

enhance transparency and curb mismanagement. Conversely, critics contend that this inclusion could undermine Muslim authority over their endowments and potentially lead to government overreach.

Additionally, some fear that the Bill may facilitate the confiscation of historic mosques and other properties, further marginalising the Muslim community. The INDIA bloc has also sought the support of non-aligned parties like the BJD and the YSR Congress to strengthen its stand. Such strategic outreach highlights the importance of alliances in parliamentary decision-making. While heated debates are inevitable, as seen in the ongoing Lok Sabha discussions, they remain far superior to disruptions that leave pressing issues unaddressed. If this approach is sustained, it could herald a more mature and effective parliamentary process, where laws are debated on merit rather than reduced to political flashpoints. Democracy thrives when elected representatives engage in informed deliberation rather than staged protests. This approach should become the norm rather than the exception.

# The dangers of excavating the past

The ‘thousand years of slavery’ makes emotions raw and leads to excavations that cannot be the priority of the Republic.

HISTORY is a minefield which can lead to great, unwelcome and unnecessary problems when India's overwhelming priority should be national consolidation, development and promotion of its strategic interests. The difficulties created by a deliberate focus on history, as is taking place now, become greater when persons, groups and parties view it through ideologically driven current political and electoral considerations. This inevitably leads to some historical figures and their clans being either stigmatised or applauded by different persons or groups. The question is whether the ruling dispensation's by now clear emphasis of India having undergone 'a thousand years of slavery' has let loose a genie. And, if so, what would be its consequences? Indeed, would it, as the ruling dispensation desires, lead to the coming together of the Hindus? Or, are there dangers that it will have the opposite impact — not only make old historical scars itch but also open social fissures among the Hindus who have remained closed over the centuries? One recent painful example of the social and political consequences of 'a thousand years of slavery' projection was witnessed in Parliament in the exchange over Rana Sanga. Ramji Lal Suman, Samajwadi Party Rajya Sabha member from UP, made unpalatable comments on Rana Sanga, who is venerated by the Rajput community as a hero. He is considered a hero by others too. Not only was there a furore in Parliament on the issue but Suman's comments also led to his house in Agra being attacked allegedly by a Rajput community group. Suman's own party has been drawn into the controversy, but it is treading a fine line. It does not wish to annoy either Suman's base or the Samajwadi Party's Rajput followers. As for Suman, media reports indicate that he has not withdrawn his comments. This controversy has not consolidated the Hindus but has had, in a small way, the opposite impact. Recently, in his podcast talk with Lex Fridman, Modi, recalling the contribution of Mahatma Gandhi to India, observed: "Another key factor to consider is India's fight for independence. India was ruled by the



Mughals, the British and several other foreign powers. Despite being bound by the shackles of colonial rule for centuries, the flame of independence burned brightly in every corner and nook of India, never fading, always fuelling the desire for freedom." Significantly, but not surprisingly, Modi has included the Mughals as a foreign colonial power in his formulation. This is obviously in line with the idea of 'a thousand years of slavery'. This idea is leading to demands — and these demands may only grow in time — by some sections that symbols of Mughal rule should not be allowed to stand. Positive remarks on some controversial historical figures such as Aurangzeb also inflame passions in these hypersensitive times. The controversy surrounding Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb's grave which erupted last month led to demands by sections of the VHP and Bajrang Dal that the grave be removed from its location in Khuldabad, Chhatrapati Sambhajanagar district. The media quoted a memorandum given by the VHP to Maharashtra CM Devendra Fadnavis, stating inter alia:

"Having his memorial in India is an endorsement of his injustices; the grave should be properly removed...." A little over two weeks after the VHP's views, RSS' former sarkaryavah (general secretary) Suresh Bhaiyyaji Joshi said that the controversy over Aurangzeb's grave was "unnecessary." He clarified that as Aurangzeb had died in Khuldabad, he was buried there and anyone can visit his grave. It is interesting that the RSS toned down the VHP's demand; thus, indicating that the manner in which actions will unfold on handling the 'thousand years of slavery' period's remnants is not clear within the ruling dispensation. As during the period of British colonialism, during Mughal times or those of the Sultanate, too, there were some Indians who opposed the rule through different means and others who collaborated with it. During the Muslim period, a number of Indians got converted to Islam, while during the British rule, some became Christians. After Independence, the Congress party and others that emerged from the National Movement did not stigmatise those who had

collaborated with the British rulers. Indeed, Sardar Patel ensured that the Indian Civil Service and other elements of the bureaucracy continued to serve independent India, as did the British Indian army, which became the army of the Republic. The judiciary, too, continued and, finally, India adopted the British political system, too. Naturally, the heroes of the Republic were not those who aided the British or kept themselves completely aloof from the National Movement but those who led the fight for freedom. Also, these institutions imbibed the spirit of the Republic. Now, the impulses which wisely guided the Republic in its early years have given way to the stigmatisation of those who were impacted by western modes of thought which emerged from the European Enlightenment as 'Macaulay's children'. It is overlooked that 'Macaulay's children' never turned their back on India's ancient traditions but wanted a hierarchical society to become egalitarian and follow the path shown by the Republic's Constitution. The term 'Macaulay's children' is used by those who also have stressed the notion of a thousand years of slavery. So, now will those who were influenced by the Indo-Persianate culture (which has disappeared from India) be stigmatised? And what of those Hindu clans that had collaborated with the Mughals? Will a distinction be drawn between those who entered into 'matrimonial alliances' with the Mughals and those who refused to do so as they considered them humiliating? Certainly, such alliances were not on an equal basis during the Mughal period. Many clans that entered into matrimonial alliances with the Mughals held senior positions in the Mughal forces and administration. How should these Hindu grandees be looked upon? Naturally, Maharana Pratap and later Shivaji refused to submit to Mughal writ and they are rightly looked upon as heroes today. The 'thousand years of slavery' makes emotions raw and leads to excavations that cannot be the priority of the Republic as it confronts the challenges of these dramatically changing technological and global dynamics.





This summer, personalise your

# Workout

to get in

# Shape

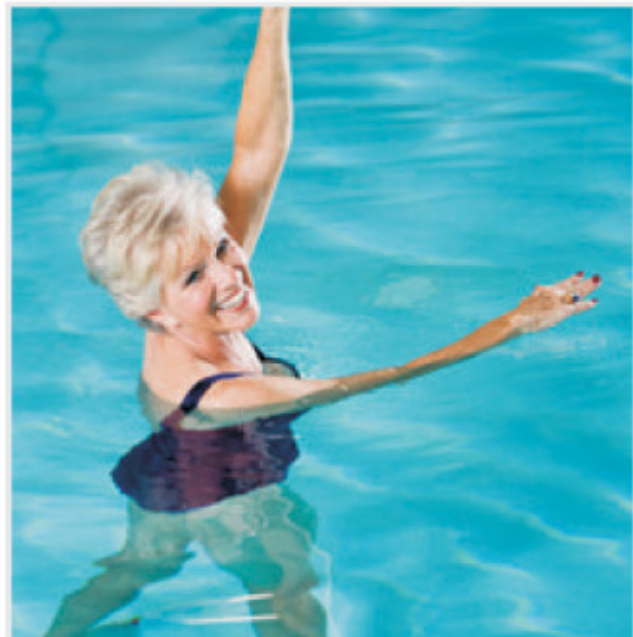
## Pool aquacises for fitness and fun

Low-impact and easy on the muscles, these workouts and games provide little risk of injury. Mumbai has been sweltering alright! At 36.9 degrees Celsius, we had the hottest day recently, and it's going to get worse. While we don't advocate

Enjoy playing tag on land? Now, try it in the water with Marco Polo. In it, players form two teams. The catcher has to yell "Marco" and the rest yell "Polo" as they swim around in a bid to avoid him.

### Go on a Treasure Hunt

Make a list of 'treasures' that are to be found in the pool such as coins, rings and other small, but sinkable items. Let two teams read the list and try and find these. Coins are the hardest to find so the game is bound to provide hours of fun.



wasting water in a rain dance, how about getting into a pool to cool down?

If all you did was swim so far, take a deep breath and jump in! Here are other ways to enjoy yourself...

### Water Relay

Keep two buckets at either end of the pool and divide players into two teams, each having a mini surfboard and small mug tied to the board. Each player must fill the mug with water, get on to the board and swim across the pool to dump the water into the bucket on the other side. He or she must then hand the mug to a team mate, to take over. First to fill the bucket is the winner.

### Marco Polo

needs pool depth as one needs movement to be able to jump and hit the ball. Use floating ropes to mark boundaries. Not only is this a calorie buster, but also needs controlled movements that helps tone your legs. Aqua Noodle Water exercises are a huge draw as water provides 14 per cent more resistance than air, which means muscles get more toned in water. And there is almost zero impact on the bones, joints and muscles. Forget fancy machines and try the plastic noodle, which helps you stay afloat while balancing. From a simple push and pull movement to squats and twists, there's a lot you can do with this.

Mumbai's temperatures are soaring high and soon you'll be seeing people trying to beat the heat with shorts, halters, summer dresses and crop tops!

But before you do the same, you need to tone your arms, thighs, waist and shoulders, to flaunt your flirty summer wardrobe. Here are some season-specific exercises to incorporate in your fitness routine...

### For shapely thighs, hips and butt

**Squats:** Three sets of 10 to 15 reps Stand with your feet hip-width apart. Lower yourself gently, like you are going to sit on a chair. Keep your toes behind your knees and push your weight on your heels. Straighten your legs to raise yourself back up. Keep your abs in and don't lean too far forward as you lower yourself. For extra toning, hold medium weights in your hands as you squat.

### For toned arms

**Bicep curls:** Three sets of seven to 12 reps Stand straight with medium weights in each hand at arm's length. Keep your elbows close to your torso and rotate the palms until they are facing forward. Now, keeping the upper arms stationary, exhale and curl the weights while contracting your biceps. Do not use momentum to throw the weights up, and do not let them drop quickly on the way down.

### For flat abs

**Bicycling on the floor:** Lie flat on your back on a yoga mat with your legs bent and feet flat on the mat. Bend your elbows, flare them out to your sides and place your fingers just behind your ears. Contract your abs, move the legs in a pedalling motion, touching the left elbow to the right knee. Focus on keeping the abs contracted during the entire exercise. Do not pull the head toward your legs with your hands, as it will strain your neck.

### Common workout mistakes

### you are making

You may chart out a great exercise routine for yourself, but it won't be any good if you make these mistakes:

### Drinking coffee before exercising

Caffeine acts as a diuretic to your body, causing severe dehydration. So, when you consume it before a workout, your body loses fluids. The best way to stay hydrated is to drink water, especially in summer. This will keep your body cool.

### Stepping out late for your workout

If you're a late riser, you may tend to put off your exercise routine for later in the morning. But this isn't a great idea, as during summers, the temperatures go up much earlier in the day. The heat can put your body at risk. Sleep early at night and do your exercises as early in the morning, even on weekends. If early in the day is not possible, work out late in the evening when it is cooler.

### Not wearing spandex

Most people prefer wearing loose clothes while gymming. But these can cause chaffing, especially when you sweat. Go for options that aren't too tight or too loose. You can wear spandex beneath a loose T-shirt to prevent this.

### Skipping a meal post exercising

Starving yourself after exercising won't make you lose any more weight. You need to refuel your body within 30 minutes after your gym session. So, apart from hydrating yourself, you can snack on a small meal, like a hard-boiled egg, a carrot or a shake.

# Hydrotherapy

## an alternative form of medicine

Hydrotherapy, is a part of alternative medicine, which involves the use of water for pain relief and treatment. The term encompasses a broad range of approaches and therapeutic methods that take advantage of the physical properties of water, such as temperature and pressure, for therapeutic purposes, to stimulate blood circulation and treat the symptoms of certain diseases. Bath temperatures typically ranged from 92°F to 97°F, so as not to cause injury to the patients.

Water therapy may be restricted to use in Physiotherapy, and as a cleansing agent. However, it is also used as a medium for delivery of heat and cold to the body, which has long been the basis for its application. Hydrotherapy involves a range of methods and techniques.

Various therapies used in the present-day hydrotherapy employ water jets, underwater massage and mineral baths. Hydrotherapy which involves submerging all or part of the body in water.

The Hydro Machine has pre installed Jets. These Jets shoots water on the body in periodicals (specified time periods). The water affects precisely on the chakras of the body. Eventually cleansing

and opening the desired chakras.

The Health and Healing Benefits of Hydro Therapy is it reduces muscle tension and pain rehabilitates injured muscles, boosts immune system, encourage detoxification and relives stress.

In addition to the Hydrotherapy, Sea Salts are also used. Sea salts and Epsom salts, or magnesium sulfate, both commonly used in the beauty industry, contain minerals that can help to enhance the skin. The magnesium in Epsom salts can reduce

inflammation, while sulfates flush out toxins. These salts helps in exfoliation, invigorates and cleanses and regenerates the skin.

Hence, it is usually recommended to have a Hydrotherapy along with the Bath Salts for the numerous benefits it does on the overall body.





# Only Delhi women to be allowed for free bus rides with smart cards

The move comes days after CM Rekha Gupta in the Assembly alleged corruption in the existing pink ticket system under the previous AAP government.

**NEW DELHI.** The free bus rides scheme for women launched during Aam Aadmi Party's tenure will now have a rider. According to officials, the scheme will now be available to women residing in the national capital.

The women will now be given lifetime smart cards to avail the free ridership in DTC buses replacing the pink tickets, said officials. For this, the Delhi government will soon launch a registration process where the beneficiaries would be asked to produce proof of residence to ensure that they are residents of Delhi. "As per the eligibility criteria, the lifetime smart card will be issued only to women residing in Delhi, allowing them to travel anywhere, any time without any limitations," an official said. The move comes days after CM Rekha Gupta in the Assembly alleged

corruption in the existing pink ticket system under the previous AAP government. "We are committed to providing this service to women... Corruption will not be tolerated. We will introduce digital travel cards for women, putting an end to the 'pink corruption' tied to physical tickets," Gupta said. "The card will allow women to travel freely on public buses anytime, eliminating corruption linked to ticketing," she added, emphasising that the ticketing system will be fully digitised to enhance efficiency.

She also said that the entire system would be modernised, and the flawed existing schemes would be revamped to ensure transparency and efficiency. "Our goal is to make Delhi's public transport more



accessible, reliable and globally recognised," Gupta said during the Budget Session of the Assembly, highlighting the broader efforts to make public transports more inclusive and efficient, particularly for women. The free bus ticket scheme was launched by the AAP on the occasion of Bhai Dooj in 2019. Women receive

single-journey passes in the form of pink tickets, with the government covering the cost of Rs 10 per ticket.

**Govt to soon launch registration process**

The Delhi government will soon launch a registration process where the beneficiaries would be asked to produce proof of residence to ensure they are residents of Delhi. As per the eligibility criteria, the lifetime smart card will be issued only to women residing in Delhi, allowing them to travel anywhere, any time without any limitations," an official said. The move comes days after Chief Minister Rekha Gupta in the assembly alleged corruption in the existing pink ticket system.

Over 50,000 power cuts lasting over five hours in last 10 years in Delhi: Minister Sood

**NEW DELHI.** Power Minister Ashish Sood on Thursday accused the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) of misleading the public on power outages in the capital. Speaking at a press conference at the Delhi secretariat, Sood dismissed opposition claims, stating that the AAP government presided over 51,958 power cuts lasting over five hours in the last 10 years, averaging 14 long outages per day. Sood said the government is considering legal action against those spreading falsehoods and disturbing peace.

He asserted that no power grid in the world can function without scheduled shutdowns and questioned why prolonged power cuts occurred under Atishi's tenure despite AAP's claims of transforming the sector. Citing data from BSES and Tata Power, Sood detailed power cut incidents from 2015 to 2024, with peak outages in 2016 (8,659 instances) and the lowest in 2022 (2,692 instances).

He also dismissed Atishi's claim that data on power cuts was available on the state load dispatch centre (SLDC) website, stating that no such figures exist in official records.

Looking ahead, Sood said the government is working on transformer upgrades, removing overhead cables, and collaborating with the Public Works Department (PWD) and the Delhi Jal Board to prevent waterlogging-related outages. With summer demand expected to rise to 9,200 MW, he assured that the government is implementing load balancing, setting up a 24-hour control center, and reviewing power purchase agreements. The AAP has repeatedly accused the BJP-led Delhi government of mismanaging the city's power supply, citing frequent outages since it took office.

Over 300 seized vehicles gutted in police yard fire in Delhi

**NEW DELHI.** More than 300 vehicles seized by Delhi Police were destroyed in a fire that broke out on Thursday at the malkhana in Nehru Place, located in the southeastern part of the national capital, officials said.

Fire officials reported receiving an alert about the blaze around 2 pm. The caller informed them that the fire was spreading across vehicles parked at the malkhana (yard) behind the MTNL office in Nehru Place. In response, five fire tenders were dispatched to the scene. Firefighters managed to bring the fire under control and began cooling operations.



The fire had affected two-wheelers, three-wheelers, and cars in the open area of the malkhana. No casualties were reported in the incident, according to senior fire officials.

The vehicles, which were parked in the malkhana, had been seized under the 207 Motor Vehicle Act and 66 Delhi Police Act. Initial investigations indicate that approximately 300 to 400 vehicles were destroyed in the fire, the officials said, adding that the exact cause of the blaze remains under investigation. In a separate incident, a car caught fire on Wednesday night in the Ambedkar Nagar area of South Delhi. No injuries were reported in the incident.

Police said they received a PCR call around 9 pm regarding the fire. Upon arrival at the Khanpur to Chirag Delhi road, officers found a car engulfed in flames. The driver, Shakeel Ahmad, a resident of Jamia Nagar, stated that the fire started suddenly while he was driving.

## Delhi HC says high speed alone doesn't prove rash or negligent driving

**NEW DELHI.** The Delhi High Court has ruled that driving at a high speed cannot automatically be deemed as rash and negligent behavior and stressed that speed alone is insufficient to establish culpability unless supported by concrete evidence of reckless conduct. Justice Saurabh Banerjee made the observation while discharging a man accused of driving at high speed and fatally hitting two pedestrians.

The accused had been convicted by a trial court under Sections 279 (rash driving) and 304A (causing death by negligence) of the IPC, 1860, and sentenced to two years of rigorous imprisonment. Reversing the conviction, the court noted a significant lack of evidence to demonstrate that the accused was driving in a reckless or negligent manner.

"Even assuming that the petitioner was driving at a 'high speed', the same is not sufficient to conclude that he was, in fact, driving the car in a 'rash and negligent' manner," Justice Banerjee said. The court pointed out that neither the witnesses nor the prosecution had defined what constituted "high speed" in the case or provided any specific details about the speed at which the vehicle was being driven.

The HC observed that merely because the car, allegedly being driven at a 'high speed', hit two pedestrians, leading to their death, it is not adequate for a court of law to hold that the petitioner was being 'rash and negligent'. It further criticised the prosecution's case for its overall inconsistencies and lack of conclusive proof. "Succinctly put, there being an overall infirmity and unfilled lacunae in the case set up by the prosecution, it was not able to prove beyond reasonable doubt that the petitioner was indeed driving the car in a 'rash and negligent' manner, which resulted in the demise of the two pedestrians," the court observed.

## Heritage tag for Delhi Old Secretariat likely soon

After Independence, the building saw a lull in activity until Delhi was granted an Assembly in 1952.



**NEW DELHI.** The iconic Old Secretariat building — which houses the Delhi Legislative Assembly — may soon become a heritage site. Unveiling a plan to convert the 115-year-old structure into a heritage site, Assembly Speaker Vijender Gupta on Thursday said that he would take it up with Union Minister of Culture Gajendra Singh Shekhawat.

Once a symbol of imperialism, the Vidhan Sabha building housed both the Central Legislative Council (Parliament) and a temporary Central Secretariat when the capital of British India was shifted from Kolkata (then Calcutta) to Delhi in December 1911. After Independence, the building saw a lull in activity until Delhi was granted an Assembly in 1952.

However, the Assembly was disbanded in 1956. The building assumed fresh significance in 1966 as a Metropolitan Council was established in Delhi. The building has been the seat of the Delhi legislature since 1993. The Old Secretariat was designed by E Montague Thomas in 1912 and was completed in eight months. The Assembly had plans in 2022 to renovate the execution house — a two-room suite outside the Assembly chamber that can be accessed via a staircase — and throw it open to the public.

## Master plan to ensure clean water in Delhi

Verma says initiative aims to tackle long-term water shortages and improve infrastructure

**NEW DELHI.** Water Minister Parvash Verma on Thursday inspected the Wazirabad Water Treatment Plant (WTP) and Sewage Treatment Plant (STP), announcing a 50-year master plan to ensure a sustainable and clean water supply for the city. The initiative aims to tackle long-term water shortages and improve infrastructure, he said.

A major component of the plan involves desilting the Wazirabad Barrage to double its storage capacity within the next one to one-and-a-half months. Verma stated that this measure will help prevent shortages, particularly during the summer months. He also criticized past administrations for neglecting Delhi's water infrastructure, emphasizing that his government is committed to transparency and effective governance. The minister also highlighted efforts to curb Yamuna pollution and illegal encroachments. "The Delhi Jal Board (DJB) has enlisted the help of the

Indian Army's Territorial Army to prevent encroachments and waste dumping into the river," he said. He assured stricter surveillance and tougher enforcement against violators to restore the Yamuna's health.



Verma also announced the implementation of a comprehensive water management strategy to replace crisis-driven solutions with long-term reforms. The plan includes upgrading pipelines, preventing water leakage, and enhancing the distribution network to reduce wastage. He noted that

outdated pipelines and illegal water extraction have contributed significantly to Delhi's water issues, but the new approach will address these problems systematically.

To maintain transparency, Verma disclosed that the Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) level in Wazirabad's water stands at 170, which meets safety standards set by the World Health Organization (WHO) and Indian regulations. "I drank the treated water myself and verified its safety. Instead of fear-driven politics, we are taking concrete steps to guarantee clean water for every citizen," he said.

He also revealed plans for an IT-based dashboard to enable real-time tracking of water intake and output at WTPs and STPs. Reaffirming the government's commitment to ensuring uninterrupted clean water access for all Delhi residents, he stated, "Those using the water crisis for political gain will have to answer for their actions."

## 5-7 per cent fee hike in new DU academic session likely

According to projections, the university expects to collect more than Rs 246 crore in revenue from tuition fees in the financial year 2025-26.

**NEW DELHI.** Delhi University is planning to increase "nominal 5%-7%" fees charged from students in the academic year 2025-26, with Vice-Chancellor Professor Yogesh Singh saying the hike will be applicable for all courses.

In an exclusive interview with this newspaper, Professor Singh says that the fee hike is not to strengthen the finances of the university, but to compensate for inflation.

"We don't want to hike the fees very heavily for the students. It will be a regular hike. Fees alone don't run the varsity. We have adequate budget and support from the Central government,"



he said. "Under the Higher Education Funding Agency, we've got Rs 1,000 crore and Rs 900 crore for the Institute of Eminence tag. We have recently

purchased furniture worth Rs 100 crore and spent over Rs 100 crore on upgrading our library. We are trying to work harder to spend the money for the future of our students," he said.

According to projections, the university expects to collect more than Rs 246 crore in revenue from tuition fees in the financial year 2025-26.

The V-C talked about revamping the student election process in the university. "It is time for the university to rethink the election system. We are yet to decide if direct or indirect elections will be held to appoint DUSU members," he said.

## Delhi Assembly to install 500 kVA solar panels within 100 days

**NEW DELHI.** The Delhi Assembly has announced plans to install 500 kVA capacity solar panels within 100 days, which is expected to save approximately Rs 15 lakh per month in electricity costs, Speaker Vijender Gupta said on Thursday. Gupta emphasised that the initiative would promote solar energy, sending a message to the public to adopt renewable energy and work towards zero electricity bills.

Additionally, Gupta revealed that the Assembly aims to go paperless before the upcoming monsoon session under the National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA) project. As part of the initiative, a media desk will be established, equipped with 25 computers, an internet connection, and printers.

Addressing the press, Gupta also highlighted the accomplishments of the new Delhi government, stating that in the 40 days since its formation, two sessions had been held and concluded

successfully. The seven-day budget session was completed in a record 27.56 hours, he noted. Gupta shared that the budget, tabled on March 25, was discussed for just 7.13 minutes by 36 members, including those from the opposition Aam Aadmi Party (AAP). The only calling attention motion accepted during the session was moved by the opposition to discuss power cuts.

Gupta expressed surprise that despite being present on the Assembly premises, the opposition did not participate in the discussion on their own motion. He questioned the opposition's absence while they claimed to have been prevented from speaking on the issue of power cuts. "The Opposition will have to answer about this in the next session," he said.

The Speaker also criticized "politically motivated" disruptions by the



opposition, stating that they were handled "sternly" during the budget session. For the first time, one day of the session was dedicated to private members' resolutions, and a record 78 matters were raised under the special mention rule. Gupta further noted that eight reports from the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) on the performance of the previous Delhi government were tabled in the House, but the opposition did not participate in the discussions.

Additionally, a resolution under Rule 107 was passed to dispose of over 300 matters carried forward from the previous Assembly's committees.

In a cultural milestone, the Assembly also celebrated the Hindu New Year for the first time, marking another achievement of the current session.

House needs around 600 KW of power: Speaker

Speaker Vijender Gupta said on Thursday, "The Assembly needs around 600 KW of power and it has two solar plants with 100 KW capacity each. The installed solar power capacity will be increased to fulfil our energy needs fully with solar power." Addressing a press conference, Gupta said the Assembly will promote solar energy to send a message to public to adopt it and ensure zero bills against electricity consumption.





# Best exercises you can do sitting at Yourdesk

A survey done by Qi Spine Clinic in 2018 shows that 57 percent of professionals in office jobs are affected by visible symptoms of sedentary workplace behaviour. Experts agree and suggest that by taking breaks to stretch or to run on the spot, people can work towards a healthier lifestyle. "Desk work puts a huge mental and physical stress on our bodies, especially on our lower back, leading to low back pain," Garima Anandani, chief spine specialist at Qi Spine Clinic, told. "The combination of high stress at jobs (which puts people at greater risk for habits such as smoking), sitting for long

periods (sitting for over two hours at a stretch is considered a long period) at the desk in poor posture, and lack of physical activity, puts us at greater risk for low back pain," she added. Stressing the importance of an active lifestyle, Ibrahim Khan, master trainer at Talwalkars gym, said: "A sitting job would lead to lower back pain and spondylosis. A side effect of not working out would be slowing down of Basal Metabolic Rate (the rate at which we burn our calories), and weight gain." Leading holistic health guru Mickey Mehta has some easy-to-follow solutions. "Use the staircase at least three times a day. Walk from your house or office to the bus stand. After every two hours, get

up from the chair and take a deep breath and stretch backwards. Then breathe out and come and touch your toes," he said. "Twisting will also help. Hip rotation clockwise and anticlockwise is good too," he added. ay to workout in office is to run on the spot, suggests Neeraj Mehta, director of Growth

For Fitness Instructors Fitness Academy. "You can do that for 30 seconds or a minute. Then do a little bit of stretching," he said. Anandani is also in favour of stretching. "For the benefit of the back and neck, stretch from head to toe, beginning with the neck. Slowly tilt your head towards your shoulder. Hold for 10 seconds. Do alternate sides. Next loosen up your shoulders. Roll both shoulders forward in a circular motion then backward. Repeat 10 times," she said. Tightening stomach muscles at work is also possible! "To work your abdominal muscles, hold your stomach for a few seconds when breathing in, then release when breathing out." If possible, get some fresh air in

Be it the Metro, car, bike or workplace, most office-goers tend to sit at one spot at a stretch every day at the cost of their health. So how about taking a little time out to exercise at your workplace every now and then?



your lungs by taking a walk outside," master trainer Aminder Singh at Anytime Fitness, told IANS. For your hips, try kicking...in the air! "Leg kick front is good for hips. Kick front in a controlled way, do 10 counts for each leg. Another one is side kick. Kick sideways in a controlled way, do 10 counts for each leg," said Khan. While taking the staircase is a must to keep the legs strong, Singh also suggests to sit upright on your chair and straighten one leg out in front of you. Your hands should rest on the chair. Hold the position for three to five seconds. Repeat it between 12 and 20 times, then switch to the other leg, he said. And just in case you don't want bingo wings, don't forget to keep your arms fit. "Stand up and place your hands (each about a shoulder width away from your body) on the desk, and twist them in so they point towards your body then lean forward. "Then push your shoulders and elbows closer to the desk. Repeat it five times," said Singh. Thanks to computers, office work also strains the eyes, so you need to exercise to strengthen them too. "Gaze at a distant object for 15 to 30 seconds, then relax eyes," said Neeraj Mehta. Now stop sitting and reading, get set going towards a fitter and more active you.

## Avoid these common causes of bad posture

A person with bad posture is perceived as a person with low self-esteem and low confidence, besides harming overall health in the long term. The physical harm directly affects back and neck pain, amongst several other ailments. Today, we have Dr. Tina Mahendrakar - Physiotherapist, lay down some common causes of poor posture, so that being aware of these causes can help you avoid it to improve your posture.

**Pain or past injuries**  
When you experience pain in your back or neck muscles or any other part of the body, you tend to overcome the pain by

are preventing you from improving your posture. However, this can be rectified with professional help. **Extra weight**  
According to Dr. Tina, carrying extra weight can also be the reason for your poor posture. Many women with large breasts tend to have bad posture because the extra weight around their chest pulls them forward. People with extra weight around their stomach can have a problem with lower back pulled forward, due to the stomach weight. **Habit**  
Sometimes, the way you walk or the way you hold things can be the reason of bad posture. For instance, if you always walk with your head down or slump your shoulders, this can cause your posture to pull out from proper alignment. Sometimes, carrying weight on only one side of the body can contribute to imbalanced or poor posture.



holding your body in a different position. When this posture is continued for a long time, it can become a daily habit. Hence holding yourself differently can be due to some pain or muscle injury in any part of your body.

**Low nutritional state**  
Your spine and back need adequate nutrients to grow strong and straight. Low nutrition and lack of vitamins and calcium can affect the bones and muscles by not providing adequate strength and flexibility to hold itself in a correct posture.

**Hereditary**  
If you have a family history of bent back, then even you might have to deal with it. Sometimes no matter how hard you try to hold your posture in a correct way, the reason can be just genes that

**Your job**  
Your desk job is the biggest reason for your hunched back - according to Dr. Tina. People, who have desk jobs, often push their neck and head forward and hunch their shoulders. All these factors contribute to our inability to keep our spines straight and results in poor posture. **Lifestyle and fashion**  
Clothing and shoes especially affect posture. Women, who walk on pencil heels, are more prone to cause problems to their posture. Besides high heels shoes, wearing boots, tight fitting clothes, low waist jeans and wide belts can cause bad posture - according to Dr. Tina. When you wear something uncomfortable like wide belts or high heeled shoes, this changes your centre of gravity, which ultimately causes your posture to suffer.

## Home remedies to treat High blood pressure

Blood pressure is determined by the amount of blood your heart pumps and the amount of resistance to blood flow in your arteries. The more blood your heart pumps and the narrower your arteries, the higher your blood pressure. High blood pressure, a silent killer can cause heart attacks, strokes, heart disease, organ failure, and death if not treated on time. Your doctor will give you medical prescriptions if you have high blood pressure, but did you know that there are several things in your kitchen cabinets that can be used to lower the same problem?

**Red Vs white**  
Fish and chicken are helpful in lowering blood pressure. But red meat will spike your blood pressure and even make matters worse. Try clubbing chicken or fish with vegetables and you are sorted!

**Garlic**  
Garlic is a key ingredient of the Indian diet and many cuisines around the world. Remember your grandma asking you to eat a piece of garlic every day? Well she was right! This natural medicine helps in lowering cholesterol and also keeps your blood pressure in check.

**Onion and honey**  
A quick tip to lower your blood pressure is to take a tsp of onion juice in a cup and add two tsp of honey. Have this concoction every day. Curry leaves This is one remedy that our south Indian friends mostly opt for. Curry leaves are a natural source that battles various illnesses. In a vessel add drinking water and 4-5 curry leaves, cool it and use it for daily drinking.

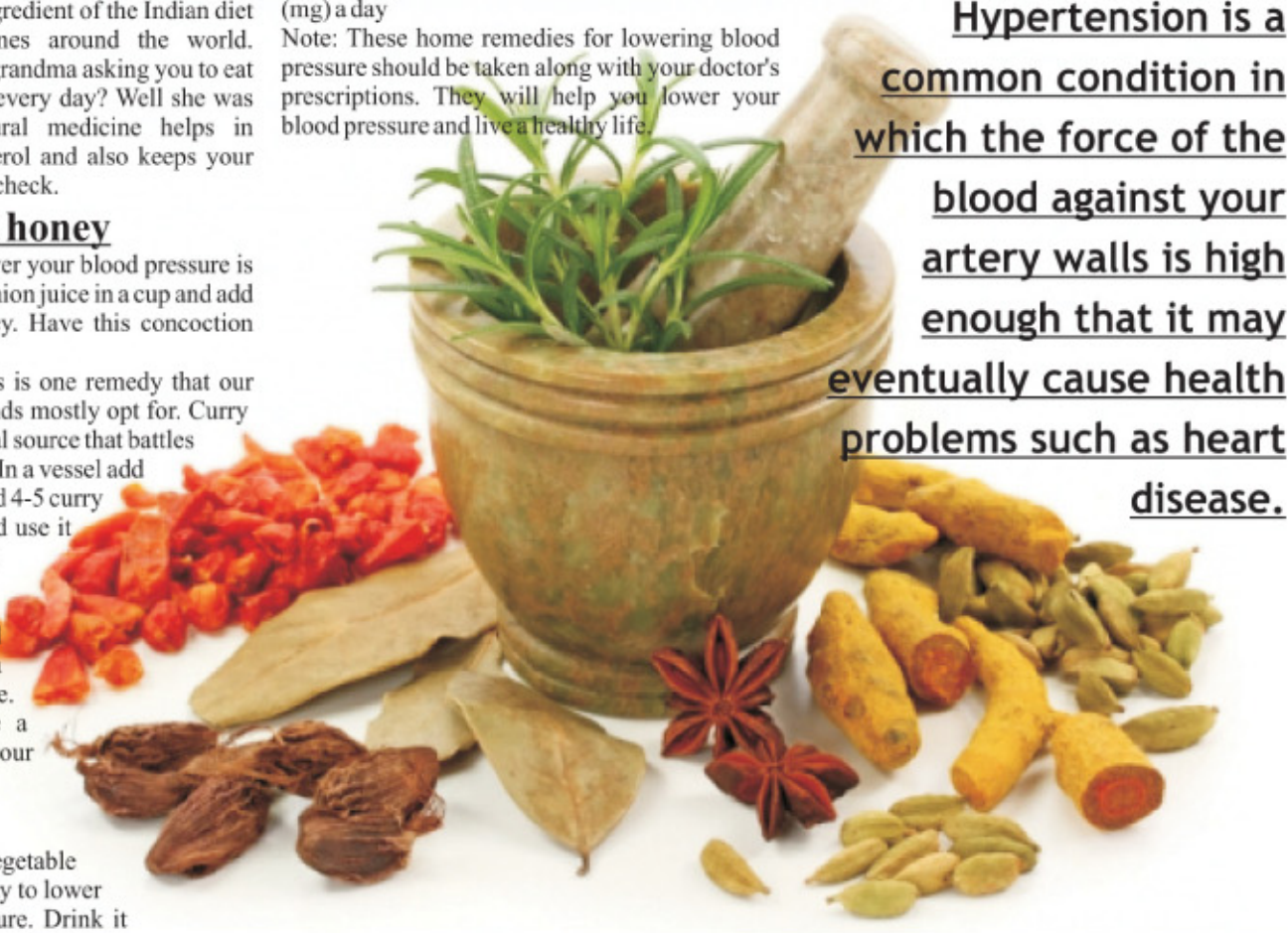
**Carrots**  
Blend a carrot and spinach to get a tall glass of juice. Drink this twice a day to lower your blood pressure.

**Beet root**  
This beautiful vegetable juice is a great way to lower your blood pressure. Drink it



twice a day. Decrease the salt in your diet: 1,500 milligrams (mg) a day Note: These home remedies for lowering blood pressure should be taken along with your doctor's prescriptions. They will help you lower your blood pressure and live a healthy life.

High blood pressure or Hypertension is a common condition in which the force of the blood against your artery walls is high enough that it may eventually cause health problems such as heart disease.





# US trade policy offers both challenges and opportunities

New Delhi. The US government's decision on tariff on Indian imports is expected to have a major impact across multiple sectors. The new levies are likely to hit India's \$32 billion gems & jewellery exports hard, given the US accounts for \$11.58 billion, or 34%, of these exports. "While the tariff's application to competing nations presents both challenges and opportunities, it is expected to significantly impact India's diamond and jewellery sector, a cornerstone of its exports to the US," the Gem & Jewellery Export Promotion Council said in a statement. "In the short run, we see challenges in sustaining India's export volume of \$10 billion to the US market." The US is India's largest goods export destination, about \$78 billion in annual exports, or 18% of India's total exports (FY24).

India has an annual goods trade surplus of about \$35 billion with the US. Auto parts and aluminium exports remain outside the scope of the latest 27% levy, though they will still be subject to the previously announced 25% tariff. This is expected to affect Tata Motors' JLR (exported from the UK), which derives 33% of its sales from North America.

"The tariff could force price hikes or cost-cutting measures to maintain margins. Given its premium positioning, JLR may have some resilience, but near-term volume pressure is expected," said Sanket Kelaskar, analyst - institutional equity at Ashika Group. Since passenger vehicle exports from India to the US constitute less than 1% of total PV exports, tariff will not impact domestic automotive OEMs. The auto component industry will face challenges. India's auto components exports is 29% of industry revenues in FY24, with 27% of these exports going to the US.

## Smartphone exports unlikely to be derailed by tariff move

NEW DELHI. India is in a better position compared to its key competitors in the electronics export sector, particularly China, Vietnam, Thailand, and Indonesia, following the Trump administration's tariff announcement, according to experts.

However, they advise the Indian government to continue negotiating with the US to lower tariffs and pursue a bilateral trade agreement. As per Donald Trump's announcement on April 2, 2025, Vietnam, Thailand, Indonesia, and Malaysia face tariff rates of 46%, 36%, 32%, and 24%, respectively. In contrast, India's reciprocal tariff rate stands at 27%. In 2023-24, India exported \$10 billion worth of electronics to the US. However, countries such as Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Brazil, and the Philippines have secured lower tariff rates, posing a threat to India's electronics exports.

"Several developing countries have secured notably lower tariff rates compared to India, including Brazil, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, the UAE (each at 10%), and the Philippines (17%). Saudi Arabia and the UAE represent near-term threats to India's electronics exports due to their SEZs, competitive manufacturing environments, and potential labor-cost advantages. Brazil's favorable tariff treatment, despite historical trade barriers, adds to strategic ambiguity and warrants careful monitoring," said Pankaj Mohindroo, Chairman of the India Cellular and Electronics Association (ICEA). Ajay Srivastava, founder of GTRI, shares a similar viewpoint he said that in the electronics, telecom, and smartphone sectors, countries like Vietnam and Thailand are likely to lose cost competitiveness due to the steep US tariffs. "As global brands seek to diversify supply chains away from high-tariff countries, India can emerge as a preferred destination for new manufacturing setups and component assembly lines," said Srivastava.

## Biggest plunge for the dollar in a decade as Trump's tariffs send shockwaves through the global economy

NEW DELHI. Financial markets around the world are reeling following President Donald Trump's latest and most severe volley of tariffs, and the dollar slumped by as much as 2.6 percent versus the euro, its biggest intraday plunge in a decade, and suffered sharp losses also against the yen and British pound.

The U.S. stock market may be taking the worst of the tariff shock. Little was spared as fear flared globally about the potentially higher inflation and weakening economic growth that tariffs can create. Prices fell for everything from crude oil to Big Tech stocks to small companies that invest only in U.S. real estate.

"The simultaneous decline in both stocks and the US dollar speaks volumes about investor confidence in Trump's trade policy," said Citia Index and FOREX.com analyst Fawad Razaqzada.

The U.S. Senate voted 51-48 to counter Trump's tariffs on Canada by ending the presidential emergency declaration onentanyl Trump used to justify them. The resolution has little chance of passing the Republican-controlled House but shows the limits of GOP support for Trump's vision of remaking the U.S. economy by restricting free trade. A new AP-NORC poll shows Trump's dramatic changes to the federal government have yet to emerge as an obvious political winner or loser. And while U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio and the Trump administration's new envoy to NATO seek reassurance wary allies of the U.S. commitment to the alliance, the current Supreme Allied Commander Europe tells senators that if the U.S. relinquishes this commander role, it could put large numbers of U.S. troops under non-U.S. command for the first time. World readers react to "brutal" new tariffs. French President Emmanuel Macron called for suspending investment in the United States until what he called the "brutal" new tariffs had been "clarified." But the 27-nation EU and other countries also showed willingness to negotiate as they refrained from immediate retaliatory measures, with almost a week until the harsher US levies actually take effect. Beijing said it was "maintaining communication" with Washington over trade issues, and EU trade chief Maros Sefcovic planned to speak with US counterparts on Friday.

# Trump tariff blitz wrecks Wall Street, markets suffer biggest fall since Covid

Wall Street plunged over Trump's new tariffs, worst since 2020

S&P 500 fell 4.8%, Dow down 1,679 points, Nasdaq dropped 6%

Tariffs may cut US growth by 2% and hike inflation to 5%

New Delhi. Wall Street shuddered, and a level of shock unseen since Covid's outbreak tore through financial markets worldwide on Thursday on worries about the damage President Donald Trump's newest set of tariffs could do to economies across continents, including his own. The S&P 500 sank 4.8%, more

than in major markets across Asia and Europe, for its worst day since the pandemic crashed the economy in 2020. The Dow Jones Industrial Average dropped 1,679 points, or 4%, and the Nasdaq composite tumbled 6%. Little was spared in financial markets as fear flared about the potentially toxic mix of weakening economic growth and higher inflation that tariffs can create. More than \$2 trillion in value vanished, according to Howard Silverblatt, a senior index analyst at S&P Dow Jones Indices. Everything from crude oil to Big Tech stocks to the value of the US dollar against other currencies fell. Even gold, which hit records recently as investors sought something safer to own, pulled lower. Some of the worst hits walloped smaller US companies, and the Russell 2000 index of smaller stocks dropped 6.6% to pull more than 20% below its record. Investors worldwide knew Trump was going to announce a sweeping set of tariffs late Wednesday, and fears surrounding it had already pulled Wall Street's main measure

of health, the S&P 500 index, 10% below its all-time high. But Trump still managed to surprise them with "the worst case scenario for tariffs," according to Mary Ann Bartels, chief investment officer at Sanctuary Wealth. Trump announced a minimum tariff of 10% on imports, with



the tax rate running much higher on products from certain countries like China and those from the European Union. It's "plausible" the tariffs altogether, which would rival levels unseen in roughly a century, could knock down US economic growth by 2

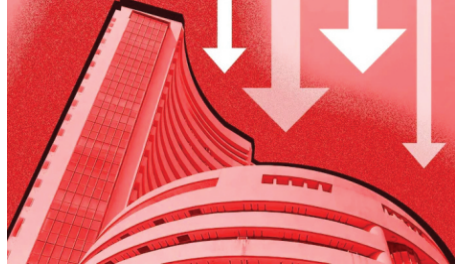
percentage points this year and raise inflation close to 5%, according to UBS. Such a hit would be so big that it "makes one's rational mind regard the possibility of them sticking as low," according to Bhanu Baweja and other strategists at UBS. Wall Street had long assumed Trump would use tariffs merely as a tool for negotiations with other countries, rather than as a long-term policy. But Wednesday's announcement may suggest Trump sees tariffs more as helping to solve an ideological goal than as an opening bet in a poker game. Trump on Wednesday talked about wresting manufacturing jobs back to the United States, a process that could take years. If Trump follows through on his tariffs, stock prices may need to fall much more than 10% from their all-time high in order to reflect the recession that could follow, along with the hit to profits that U.S. companies could take. The S&P 500 is now down 11.8% from its record set in February.

# Sensex tanks over 700 points as Wall Street bloodbath sinks Indian IT stocks

Sensex, Nifty plunge as Wall Street crash rattles markets

Trump's tariffs hammer Indian IT, auto, metal stocks hard

Global trade war fears deepen market volatility, say analysts



NEW DELHI. Benchmark stock market indices fell sharply after opening on Friday as the bloodbath on Wall Street hit information technology and auto stocks on Dalal Street. The S&P BSE Sensex was down 698.89 points to 75,596.47 at around 10:06 am, while the NSE Nifty50 was trading 269.50 points lower at 22,980.60.

All the other broader market indices declined sharply as volatility rose due to chaos triggered by US President Donald Trump's reciprocal tariffs announcement, which led to heightened fears of a global recession. Vaibhav Porwal, Co-

Founder of capital market company Dezerv, said tariffs will create near-term market volatility. "In this market environment, gains will likely be concentrated in select stocks rather than broadly distributed, making careful stock selection and active management strategies more effective than passive approaches," Porwal said. It may be noted that auto, metal and IT stocks have been hit hard as Donald Trump's reciprocal tariffs have threatened to significantly hit the revenues of these export-heavy sectors. Tata Motors' shares were down nearly 5% amid concerns about exports of Jaguar Land Rover (JLR) vehicles to the US. Companies like Hindalco, Tata Steel, L&T and JSW

Steel also witnessed a steep decline. Heavyweight Reliance Industries also tumbled over 2.3% during the session. Some of the stocks that are likely to be in focus today include HDFC Bank, Zomato, DMart. Dr. V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Financial Services, said, "Markets are going through heightened uncertainty which is likely to last some time. A trade war has been triggered by Trump and retaliatory tariffs from China, EU and others are on the cards. This will only extend the period of uncertainty and confusion in the market." "It appears that a contraction in global trade and decline in global growth are inevitable in the present context. Decline in global growth will impact India's growth, too, even though we might do better than other large economies," he added. "Investors can wait for the dust to settle down. For the short term, it would be better to focus on domestic consumption-driven themes and pharma in the externally-linked segments."

# Asian stocks slide after Wall Street surrenders to hit by Trump's tariffs

HONG KONG. Asian shares slid further Friday after US President Donald Trump's tariffs sent shudders through Wall Street at a level of shock unseen since the COVID-19 pandemic pummeled world markets in 2020. Everything from crude oil to Big Tech stocks to the value of the US dollar against other currencies has fallen. Even gold, a traditional safe haven that recently hit record highs, pulled lower after Trump announced his "Liberation Day" set of tariffs, which economists say carries the risk of a potentially toxic mix of weakening economic growth and higher inflation. Markets in Shanghai, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Indonesia were closed for holidays, limiting the scope of Friday's sell-offs

in Asia. Tokyo's Nikkei 225 lost 4.3% to 33,263.58, while South Korea's Kospi sank 1.8% to 2,441.86. The two US allies said they were focused on negotiating lower tariffs with Trump's administration. Australia's S&P/ASX 200 dropped 2.2% to 7,684.30. In other trading early Friday, the US dollar fell to 145.39 Japanese yen from 146.06. The yen is often used as a refuge in uncertain times, while Trump's policies are meant in part to weaken the dollar to make goods made in the US more price competitive overseas. The euro gained to \$1.1095 from \$1.1055. Trump announced a minimum tariff of 10% on global imports, with the tax rate running much higher on products from

certain countries like China and those from the European Union. Smaller, poorer countries in Asia were slapped with tariffs as high as 49%. It's "plausible" the tariffs altogether, which would rival levels unseen in more than a century, could knock down US economic growth by 2 percentage points this year and raise inflation close to 5%, according to UBS. That's such a big hit it "makes one's rational mind regard the possibility of them sticking as low," according to Bhanu Baweja and other strategists at UBS. Trump has previously said tariffs could cause "a little disturbance" in the economy and markets. On Thursday he downplayed the impact.

Delta, for example, ... that they were already seeing a slowdown as the tariff talk just started so we can only imagine what they are going to say now," he said. The Dow Jones Industrial Average fell more than 3% and the benchmark S&P 500 was down almost 4%.

## TECH HARDWARE AND SEMICONDUCTORS

An 8.8% drop in Apple's shares was the biggest weight on the S&P 500. More than 90% of its manufacturing is based in China, one of the hardest-hit countries by the tariffs, according to an estimate from Citi. Rosenblatt Securities estimated the iPhone maker could face \$39.5 billion of tariff costs, adding that "if these costs were just eaten by Apple, we estimate a near 32% hit to operating profit and EPS, annualized." Makers of PCs and AI servers will be hit hard as well. The U.S. imported nearly \$486 billion in electronics last year, the second-biggest sector for imports, after machinery, according to Census Bureau data.

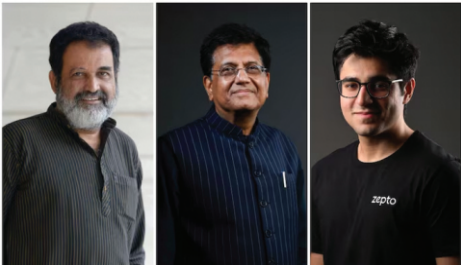
# What has he done' Startup leaders criticise Piyush Goyal's 'dukaandari' jibe

Startup ecosystem leaders' response came after Piyush Goyal took a firm stance and said that while Indian startups were busy building food delivery platforms and fantasy gaming apps, those in countries like China were working on EVs, semiconductors, batteries, and AI.

New Desk. Startup founders and leaders have stepped up to defend India's startup ecosystem after Union Minister Piyush Goyal questioned its direction and focus. China, is under the spotlight after a strong statement from Union Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal. Speaking at the Startup Maha Kumbh on Thursday, Goyal criticised the current direction of Indian startups. He pointed out that while many Indian startups are focusing on food delivery, betting, and fantasy sports, Chinese startups are working on electric vehicles, battery technology, semiconductors, and artificial intelligence.

"Do we have to make ice cream or chips? Dukaandari hi karna hai (Do we just want to do shopkeeping)?," Goyal asked during his speech. He questioned whether the country was content with creating gig jobs instead of aiming for deeper innovation and long-term progress in key technologies. These comments have led to strong responses from well-known names in the startup and tech world. Mohandas Pai, former CFO of Infosys and a prominent investor, said the comparison with China was unfair and unhelpful. He raised concerns about the role of government policies in slowing down the growth of deep tech in India. "These are bad comparisons. India has startups in all those areas too but they are small. Minister @PiyushGoyal should not belittle our startups but ask himself what has he done as our Minister to help deep tech start ups grow in India?" Pai wrote on X. He further blamed India's financial system and regulations for creating hurdles. "We have a hostile @FinMinIndia @nsitharaman who harassed start ups on Angel tax for many years, do not allow endowments to invest, insurance cos still do not invest whereas they do globally. @RBI regularly

harasses overseas investors on remittances and AIFs, treat them badly, cos FE rules. China invested 845 billion dollars from 2014 to 2024. India only 160 billion dollars! Why is Minister Zepto founder Aadit Palicha also responded



and defended India's consumer internet startups and highlighted the impact of Zepto, which began only 3.5 years ago. Zepto became a unicorn in 2023 and is one of the industry pioneers in quick e-commerce. It started the 10-minute delivery service via its online app, which has been adopted by its competitors. "It is easy to criticise consumer internet startups in India, especially when you compare them to the deep technical excellence being built in US/China. The

reality is this: there are almost 1.5 lakh real people who are earning livelihoods on Zepto today," Palicha said. He also pointed out that Zepto pays over Rs 1,000 crore in taxes to the government each year, has brought in over a billion dollars of foreign direct investment, and has invested hundreds of crores into India's supply chains, especially for fresh fruits and vegetables. "If that isn't a miracle in Indian innovation, I honestly don't know what is," he added. Palicha further argued that large-scale internet companies are important for developing future technologies. "Why doesn't India have its own large-scale foundational AI model? It's because we still haven't built great internet companies," he said. He gave global examples to support his point. "Most technology-led innovation over the past two decades has originated from consumer internet companies. Who scaled cloud computing? Amazon. Who are the big players in AI today? Facebook, Google, Alibaba, Tencent - all started as consumer internet companies," he said. Palicha also explained that these companies have access to the best data, talent, and capital, which helps them drive innovation.



## NEWS BOX

## Rohit Sharma's bizarre chat with Zaheer goes viral: 'Jab karna tha, maine kiya'

**NEW DELHI.** Mumbai Indians' (MI) batter Rohit Sharma's chat with Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) mentor Zaheer Khan has been going viral on social media. The opening batter hasn't been in the best of forms in the ongoing season, having scored just 21 runs from three innings so far. He began the season with a four-ball duck against Chennai Super Kings (CSK) and further scored 8 and 13 in the next two matches respectively. Amid his poor form, a clip posted by Mumbai Indians has been going viral on social media where Rohit can be heard saying that he doesn't need to do anything anymore. The video is being widely shared by fans as his chat is being seen as a comment on his current form. "Jab karta tha maine kiya barabar se, mujhe ab kare ki zaroorat nahi (I've done a lot in the past now I don't need to do anything)," said Rohit in a video shared by Mumbai Indians on their X account. Recently, Rohit was also seen talking to MI owner Neeta Ambani



following his another poor outing against Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) in the last game at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai. Rohit got dismissed for 13 (12) by Andre Russell for the first time in his IPL career as he holed out to mid-off. Earlier in the previous season, Rohit found himself in the middle of another controversy as his chat with KKR assistant coach Abhishek Nayar also went viral. The former MI captain was heard saying "Ye mera last hai (this my last)," as fans began speculating his shift from Mumbai to some other franchise.

Ahead of the 2024 season, Rohit was unceremoniously removed from the captaincy with Hardik Pandya being given the leadership duties following his transfer from Gujarat Titans (GT). The entire incident resulted in several controversies for Mumbai as reports of divisions inside the camp also surfaced in the media.

## Sai Kishore: Benchwarmer to key cog in Gujarat Titans' wheel

**CHENNAI.** R Sai Kishore has been one of the best finger spinners in the Indian domestic circuit for a few years now. But the Tamil Nadu left-arm orthodox bowler had to bide his time to become a regular playing member in the Indian Premier League (IPL).

In his first IPL stint at Chennai Super Kings, Sai Kishore warmed the bench for two successive seasons as he was expectedly behind Ravindra Jadeja, a master of his craft, in the pecking order.

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While the tweaker broke into the Gujarat Titans (GT) XI in the business end of their title-winning campaign in 2022, he had to be content with a bit-part role in the previous



three-year cycle because of the presence of top-quality spinners in Rashid Khan and Noor Ahmad. But this year, he has been a regular feature. On Wednesday at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium against Royal Challengers Bengaluru, it was his spell of 2 for 22 that went a long way in Titans winning the game. The lanky left-arm was bought back by Titans for Rs 2 crore using the 'Right To Match' card at the mega auction.

With Noor making the move to CSK, Sai Kishore, who has a phenomenal economy of 5.98 in 73 T20 matches, has been elevated to a frontline spinner in the 'playing XII' (including the Impact Player). The 28-year-old is leading the wickets chart for GT with six scalps in three matches. "I'm actually looking forward to this season (playing more matches). All this while, I've watched a lot of games and learnt a lot. I've been very honest with myself and have worked really hard. Let us hope that this season is a wonderful one," said Sai Kishore after GT's win over Mumbai Indians in Ahmedabad.

The left-arm slow bowler has underlined his credentials with match-influencing spells in less-than-favourable conditions for the spinners. When PBKS put on a boundary-hitting exhibition in Ahmedabad, Sai Kishore produced a miserly effort of 3 for 30. On Wednesday, he foxed the RCB batters with variations, which included angles, speeds and type of deliveries.

## Rishabh Pant under pressure as struggling Lucknow host rejuvenated Mumbai

➔ **Mumbai Indians beat Kolkata Knight Riders in their last game**

➔ **Lucknow Super Giants lost their last game vs Punjab Kings**

➔ **Rishabh Pant has scored just 17 runs from three innings so far**

**NEW DELHI.** Having finally got their campaign started with a victory in the previous encounter, Mumbai Indians (MI) will be eager to continue their winning momentum as they take on Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) on Friday, April 4 at Ekana Stadium in Lucknow. The Hardik Pandya-led side had a disastrous start to the season, losing their opening encounter against arch-rivals Chennai Super Kings (CSK) by four wickets. They further failed to chase down 197 against the Gujarat Titans (GT) and lost by 36 runs. However, the first home game finally turned out to be the game-changer for MI, who beat the defending champions Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) to open their account on the points table. The youthful



exuberance of Ashwani Kumar, coupled with the energy of the local crowd, seems to have rejuvenated Mumbai and set them up perfectly for the rest of the season. If history is any example, the five-time champions' campaign just skyrockets after a few initial hiccups. The Hardik Pandya-led side will aim to continue their past record and make sure that their campaign goes from strength to strength from here onwards. On the other

hand, Lucknow have had a mixed season so far under the leadership of their new captain, Rishabh Pant. They managed to lose the opening game against Delhi Capitals (DC) from a dominating position but hammered the hard-hitting Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) in the second game. However, Punjab Kings' (PBKS) eight-wicket win over them in the third encounter exposed frailties in their playing combination. Captain Pant also

hasn't had a good start personally, having accumulated just 17 runs from the first three games, and the wicket-keeping blunders have further added to his woes. Hence, Pant has a lot to prove both as a captain and player against Mumbai Indians as Lucknow aim to bounce back to winning ways.

## HEAD-TO-HEAD: LSG vs MI

Lucknow is the only team from the present IPL season who boast a dominating record over Mumbai Indians, having beaten them just once out of the six matches played between the two teams. Be it home or away, MI haven't been able to stamp their authority over LSG, which will give the opposition massive confidence heading into the fixture.

## Team News: LSG vs MI

Lucknow have been bolstered by the return of star seamer Akash Deep. However, uncertainty remains on the return of Mayank Yadav. On the other hand, there are no injury concerns in the MI camp.

Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) Predicted XI: Mitchell Marsh, Aiden Markram, Nicholas Pooran, Rishabh Pant (WK/C), Ayush Badoni, David Miller, Abdul Samad, Digvesh Singh Rathi, Shardul Thakur, Avesh Khan, Ravi Bishnoi,

## LSG vs MI, pitch, weather report IPL 2025: Will Lucknow give a high-scoring thriller

**New Delhi.** The Lucknow Super Giants will welcome the Mumbai Indians to Ekana stadium on Friday, April 4 as Rishabh Pant and his side look to bounce back from their loss to the Punjab Kings. LSG were hammered by PBKS in their home ground in a one-sided affair in the end. This led to LSG mentor Zaheer Khan publicly taking a dig at the Lucknow curator for not allowing his side enjoy 'home advantage.' Mumbai, on the other hand, have got their season up and running with a thumping win over the defending champions, Kolkata Knight Riders, in Mumbai. The MI side were greatly boosted by the performance of Ashwani Kumar, who produced a brilliant bowling performance against KKR. With both teams aiming for a win, let's see how the pitch and weather conditions in Lucknow will help in having a good IPL 2025 clash.

## LSG vs MI, IPL 2025: Lucknow pitch report



The pitch in Lucknow has always been known to be on the slower side, with a lot of help for the spinners as it is a red soil one. We saw in the first match in Lucknow this season that most of the help will be for the team chasing a target at the Ekana stadium. While teams batting first and chasing have won 7 matches each out of the 15 played in the IPL at the venue, we can expect whoever wins the toss to bowl first and chase a target. LSG vs MI, IPL 2025: Lucknow weather forecast According to Accuweather, it is expected to be a hot day on Friday in Lucknow. The temperature is expected to reach a high of 38 degree celsius, with the temperature at toss time, 7 pm IST, being 33. As the match progresses, the temperature is expected to drop a bit.

## James Franklin rues SRH's poor death bowling against KKR: Didn't get it quite right

➔ **SRH slumped to a 80-run defeat to KKR**

➔ **SRH dropped to the bottom of the points table SRH leaked 66 runs in their last 4 overs**

**New Delhi.** Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) bowling coach James Franklin said that the Orange Army weren't up to the mark in the death overs in their Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025 match against Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) on Thursday at the Eden Gardens.

After asking KKR to bat first, SRH did get the wickets of Sunil Narine and Quinton de Kock early, but then conceded 200 runs. The Sunrisers also let their guard down in the death overs as the Knight Riders hammered 66 runs in their last four overs with Venkatesh Iyer and Rinku Singh in the middle. Thereafter, the Sunrisers got

bowled out for 120 in 16.4 overs. "Didn't quite execute" Franklin, who played 20 IPL matches for the Mumbai Indians (MI) in 2011 and 2012, said that had SRH bowled well in the second half of their innings, they would have been able to restrict the home



team to around the 180-run mark. "It's likely a combination of both the assessment and the execution. For example, the 65 runs off the last four overs probably reflect that we didn't get it quite right," Franklin said in the post-match press conference.

IPL 2025 Coverage | IPL Points Table | IPL Schedule

"At the halfway stage, KKR were 84 or 85 for two. If we'd managed the back 10 overs better, we probably could have kept them to 170-180, but we didn't quite execute,"

Franklin said. "As a coach, sometimes you reflect and wonder, could we have done things better? Could we have been a bit braver in some aspects? Those are conversations we'll have in the coming days before we go again on Sunday. It's about reflecting, particularly with the players who were out there, and making sure we come back better, especially with our execution in the death overs," Franklin added.

The Sunrisers will be looking to bounce back when they face Gujarat Titans on Sunday, April 6 at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium in Hyderabad. The Orange Army slipped to the bottom of the table after losing to the Knight Riders.

## From Olympic heartbreak to winning bagful of medals: Rower Tyagi's story

**CHENNAI.** As New Year 2024 dawned, rower Ajay Tyagi was in a happy space and dreaming of qualification for the Paris Olympics. And why not? He was already in the national camp and the next few months were going to present him ample opportunities to make it to his maiden Games. Things, however, went downhill from there as he was excluded from the camp and went out of contention to qualify for the marquee event. It was a difficult period for Tyagi, a Havildar in the Indian Army, who even thought of quitting the sport and communicated the same to his coaches. "Had they not convinced me, I would have left the sport last year," 25-year-old Tyagi told this daily following his return from Tasmania, Australia where he won two gold and a silver at the 2025 Australian Rowing Championships. He then made a return to the sport during the Indoor Nationals in Moga, Punjab in July 2024 and won gold in the lightweight pair event.

"Representing the country in the Olympics is every athlete's dream and I was no different. I don't know why I was excluded from the camp ahead of the 2024 Games. I didn't compete at the 2024 National



Championships as I was told to focus on my preparations. Later, they picked only gold medalists from the nationals for the camp." Tyagi's return coincided with the Indian Army hiring services of Australian

coach Antony Patterson and it changed his outlook towards the sport completely. "He brought his training methods. We were made to take tests every month and our progress was gauged from our performances there. I saw huge improvements in my timings both in water and on ergometer. My timings have improved by 6-7 seconds outdoors while the timings on ergometer saw an improvement by four seconds. Earlier, we used to work on ergometer for 30 minutes but the foreign coach made us work there for an hour. It improved our stamina," noted the rower, who hails from Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh. An improved Tyagi was ready for his second stint and the hard miles he had done started to bear fruit as he went on a medal-winning streak. It all started with his first maiden gold of the National Games in February in Uttarakhand. He finished on the top of the podium at the lightweight men's double sculls along with his partner Ujjwal Kumar Singh.

## Sumeeth eager to share hard-earned wisdom to youngsters

➔ **Having recently called time on his playing career, former badminton doubles ace from Telangana determined to lift current crop of players**

**CHENNAI.** B Sumeeth Reddy recently made one of the biggest decisions of his life. Having dedicated his life to badminton for over two decades, he called time on his professional career. His playing days might have ended but it's also the beginning of a new chapter, a chapter he hopes will bring wealth of success. Brimming with hard-earned wisdom, Sumeeth, having donned the hat of a coach, is now eager to pass on the knowledge to youngsters in the days to come. "I only wanted to do it (retire) when I felt like I couldn't improve any further than whatever I was during my peak. Lately, I could feel that my body wasn't able to keep up. I had lost a lot of power due to a back issue. Despite that,

I used to manage because of my experience. Even last week, I was World No 25. However, I couldn't get myself into the top-10, something that was always in my mind. Maybe, I could have pushed a little more but that would not fulfill my goal," he said.

Once recommended by the doctors to quit playing the sport (due to a back injury), the man from Telangana had overlooked their suggestion to soldier on and carve out a respectable career for himself. Against all odds, Sumeeth, alongside partner Manu Attri, had made history in 2016 by becoming the first men's pair from the country to qualify for the Olympics. Manu and Sumeeth climbed as high as World No 17 at their peak. That might pale in comparison to what Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty has produced, but it was a significant push for Indian badminton then. It was not just his personal injury that Sumeeth was battling, the Indian doubles department, for various reasons including the results, did not use to get the attention required to thrive at the elite level. He has played alongside other notable players like Ashwini Ponnappa and N Sikki Reddy, with whom he tied the knot in 2019, in the mixed doubles category as well. Being part of the Olympics is something that

will remain in his heart forever. "Getting selected for the Olympics was special. Only 13 spots (three others would be part of continental quota) were there and to be part of that number was always special. I had to wait 12 or 16 years to get the Commonwealth



medal. I had always missed it by a whisker. That was special. We also had some big scalps against top-ranked players. That was special too. All those Grand Prix wins were also quite special," he recalled. Despite the injury that ended his aspirations to become a singles star (he was former India junior No 1 in singles) and despite the challenges that tested players from doubles category then,

Sumeeth is filled with gratitude. "We were lucky that we were at one of the top centres in the country, the Gopichand Academy. The atmosphere was always positive, looking to win big titles. Apart from that, my dad has always been a source of strength and motivation. He was also a national athlete. Obviously, he couldn't get any support from my grandparents and he wanted me and my brother to pursue sports. He always supported me. I could see him day in and day out and that pushed me to achieve bigger things in life." The 33-year-old is encouraged by the talent in store, especially Treasa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand apart from Satwik and Chirag. But he also felt that doubles players, especially the youngsters, still have a lot of learning to do. "When I started, I had helped them (Treasa and Gayatri) for a month before China. They have done pretty well. Recently, they won against a Korean pair (Kong Hee Yong/Kim Hye Jeong) and that was really good. The pair from Korea had been winning all the top tournaments. Winning against them was also special. I'm also taking care of the mixed doubles pairs and upcoming players.



# Shanaya Kapoor

## Slams Man For Negligence Towards Pet In Viral Video: 'You Do Not Deserve...'

Shanaya Kapoor never minces her words when it comes to advocating the safety of pets. Having said that, the soon-to-be actress recently dropped a post on social media wherein she reacted to a viral video that showcased a pet in grave danger. In her post, Shanaya reshared the purported clip along with a note to express her anger for the pet owner's negligence towards his pup. She also remarked that the pets do not deserve to suffer due to humans' careless attitude. Calling out people for neglecting the safety of furry canines, Shanaya Kapoor wrote, "No pet deserves to suffer due to human negligence. If you can't ensure their safety, you do not deserve a pet. Heartbreaking."

As for the video shared by the actress, it shows a man rushing to catch his train with his dog in tow. In his hurry, the man forced his pet to board but owing to the speed of the train, the canine struggled to jump. Consequently, the dog tragically fell off the platform and was nearly run over by the train but somehow, it managed to crawl to the other side. The text overlay the video reads, "When money can't buy wisdom. A golden retriever barely survived after being dragged onto the railway tracks due to its owner's careless



attempt to board a moving train. Pets trust us with their lives, yet negligence like this puts them in grave danger. How irresponsible have we become?"

In terms of work, Shanaya Kapoor's slate looks solid. She has films like Aankhon Ki Gustaakhiyan with Vikrant Massey, Bejoy Nambiar's Tu Yaa Main and Vrushabha with Mohanlal in her kitty. That's not all. Shanaya has also bagged the lead role in the third project of the Student Of The Year franchise. News18 Showsha, regarding Karan Johar's film, also got informed that actor Tusharr Khanna has auditioned for the male lead in the movie and is being considered by the makers for the same. "Auditions for the male lead have been happening for a long time now. Tusharr (Khanna) also auditioned, and it went well. The casting team is impressed and is considering signing him as one of the male leads. But nothing has been finalised as of now," the source said. Shanaya's Aankhon Ki Gustaakhiyan is expected to hit the big screens by mid-2025.



In her post, Shanaya Kapoor reshared the viral video along with a note to express her anger for the pet owner's negligence towards his pup.

# Kareena Kapoor Khan

## Shares A Sneak Peek Of Her Date, Internet Can't Keep Calm

Kareena Kapoor Khan is called the fashionista of Bollywood and her every public appearance proves it. She recently delighted her fans by sharing a glimpse of her date night. Taking to her Instagram handle, the Singham Again actress posted a video featuring herself and the background drama. In no time, it went viral, and fans called her queen. Taking to her handle, Kareena shared a video



in which she was seen getting ready for the date night and looking gorgeous. "How the date went 1.04.2025." One of the fans wrote, "Bollywood queen." Another wrote, "Dreamy bebo." After making a glamorous statement at Vivienne Westwood's debut show at the Gateway of India, Mumbai, actor Kareena Kapoor kept it simple and casual as she was spotted in the city. The actor attended a book launch in Mumbai. For her appearance at the event, she made a chic statement as

she opted for a purple bandhani shirt that she had paired with a pair of jeans. However, there have been ongoing discussions about her Hollywood debut. Recently, during a fashion show event, she talked about it. In the video, shared by Manav Manglani, we can see the host asking about a situation where an AD enters her vanity and says, 'shot is ready' but Kareena immediately replied saying 'but I am not'. She further elaborated saying 'what happens in my vanity stays in my vanity...'. Her answer left everyone in laughing and hooting. On the cinematic front, Kareena Kapoor was most recently seen in Singham Again. Directed by Rohit Shetty, the film starred Ajay Devgn, Ranveer Singh, Akshay Kumar, Tiger Shroff, Deepika Padukone, Arjun Kapoor, and Jackie Shroff in key roles. Looking ahead, she is all set to

collaborate with Meghna Gulzar for her next project, reportedly titled Daayra. Kareena will also light up the screens with her highly anticipated project, Veere Di Wedding 2. The film is a sequel to the 2018 film that starred Sonam Kapoor, Shikha Talsania.



## Rhea Chakraborty's Friend Recalls Trauma After Sushant Singh Rajput Case: 'Her Mom Could Barely Speak'



Five years after Sushant Singh Rajput's death sent shockwaves through India, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) officially closed the case, citing no foul play and confirming it was a suicide. While the final report may bring legal closure, the emotional scars left on those caught in the storm—particularly actress Rhea Chakraborty and her family—remain deep and unhealed. Now, Rhea's close friend Nidhi Hiranandani has come forward in a powerful interview with Indian Express to speak about the chaos, trauma, and isolation the Chakrabortys endured during the relentless media and legal trial that followed Sushant's death. Her account paints a picture of a family ripped apart not just by accusations, but by a public narrative that left no room for empathy or nuance.

Nidhi remembers the exact moment the nightmare began. "Rhea's parents treated Sushant like family," she said. "They were shattered when he passed. I saw how they broke down, how their mental health was already suffering. What Rhea went through was unprecedented. I felt helpless watching their life being ripped apart."

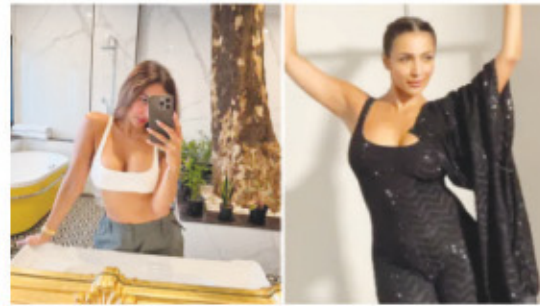
In the months following Sushant's death in June 2020, Rhea became the face of the scandal. She was accused by the late actor's family of financial misconduct, abetment to suicide, and controlling his life. The Narcotics Control Bureau later arrested her for allegedly procuring drugs for Sushant—a charge that would later be weakened by lack of substantial evidence. She spent nearly a month in jail before being granted bail. But the damage, Nidhi says, had already been done.

"There was a wave of hatred, and everybody was riding it," Nidhi recalled. "We were begging and pleading with people to talk for us, to speak out. But nobody wanted to. No one wanted to focus on the truth—they just wanted someone to hate. Rhea became that person. She became the scapegoat."

## Malaika Arora Gives A Peek Into Her New Tattoo: 'Sabr, Shukr'



Malaika Arora shared a peek into what she has been up to lately. Through a bunch of pictures, she showcased a glimpse of her fashion diaries, self-care routine and work schedule. Malaika's photo dump immediately went viral, capturing fans' attention, mostly for the new tattoo on her arm. The actress, in a slide, shared the photo of her fresh ink art that read, "Sabr, Shukr (Patience, gratitude)." Posing for a glamorous mirror selfie, Malaika Arora's first image of the carousel is worth taking a look. The actress followed the same with a few shots of her appearance at the Lakme Fashion Week X FDCI event. For her time at the star-studded



event, she opted for a black crystal-encrusted romper by Namrata Joshipura.

The fourth slide allows viewers a closer look into Malaika Arora's recently done tattoo. Next, she added a photo of her morning meal featuring a fried egg, bread toast, blueberries and pomegranates. The subsequent slide comes with a screenshot of British singer Ed Sheeran's Photograph song. A quote is also attached in the next slide. It reads, "Yes, it is important to be soft and kind in the world, but it is essential we also know when to draw swords. When to fight tooth and claw for what we believe in and love. To strike a balance between the shadow in our heart and the light. As the nature of the rose is both flower and thorn, the complete human soul is both devil and God."

In the final few slides, we get a glimpse of Malaika Arora's swimming sessions by the pool. Her side note attached to the post read, "The week that it was (two red heart emojis)."

Talking about her new tattoo, Malaika Arora recently told ETimes, "I don't get them just for the sake of it, they have deep personal meaning. This particular one symbolises the year that 2024 has been for me. The words 'patience' (sabr) and 'gratitude' (shukr) are very comforting. These words resonate with me when I think about where I am now, compared to where I was just a year ago." In the same interaction, Malaika Arora also admitted that she last got inked after her official separation from her former husband Arbaaz Khan.