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Prime Minister Modi inaugurates new PMO, 'Seva Teerth'

In a transformative milestone for India's administrative governance architecture, the Prime Minister's Office got a new address today for the first time since Independence.

New Delhi.(Agency)
India's most powerful address changed today as Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated Seva Teerth, the new integrated complex that will house the Prime Minister's Office (PMO). The relocation -- a first since Independence -- marks a shift to a modern, state-of-the-art facility designed to consolidate key executive functions and enhance administrative efficiency. To mark the moment, which the government has described as a "transformative milestone in India's administrative governance architecture," the Prime Minister also released a Rs 100 commemorative coin. PM Modi unveiled the name 'Seva Teerth' at around 2 pm before formally inaugurating Seva Teerth and Kartavya Bhavan-1 and 2, which will accommodate several key ministries. The project reflects the Prime Minister's vision of building a

modern, efficient and citizen-centric governance ecosystem, officials said.
ENDING FRAGMENTED GOVERNANCE
For decades, ministries operated from ageing, scattered buildings across the Central Vista, leading to coordination gaps, logistical hurdles and high maintenance costs. The new complexes aim to resolve these issues by bringing key administrative arms together in future-ready infrastructure designed for seamless coordination. The government expects the consolidation to speed up decision-making, reduce costs and enhance transparency.
KEY OFFICES UNDER ONE ROOF
Seva Teerth will house three core executive institutions -- the Prime Minister's Office (Seva Teerth-1), the National Security Council Secretariat (Seva Teerth-2) and the Cabinet

Secretariat (Seva Teerth-3) -- which earlier functioned from separate locations. Their co-location is expected to strengthen strategic coordination at the highest levels of government. Kartavya Bhavan-1 and 2 will accommodate key ministries including Finance, Defence, Health and Family Welfare, Corporate Affairs, Education, Culture, Law and Justice, Information and Broadcasting, Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Chemicals and Fertilisers, and Tribal Affairs. The consolidation is aimed at improving inter-ministerial coordination and easing public access.
DIGITAL INTEGRATION, CITIZEN-CENTRIC

The new complexes feature digitally integrated offices, structured public interface zones and centralised reception facilities to improve efficiency and citizen engagement. Advanced digital infrastructure is expected to support e-governance and transparent administration. Built to 4-Star GRIHA standards, the complexes incorporate renewable energy

systems, water conservation measures, waste management solutions and energy-efficient building design. According to the PMO, these measures reduce environmental impact while improving operational performance.
ENHANCED SECURITY
The facilities are equipped with smart access controls, integrated surveillance and advanced emergency response systems to ensure security without compromising accessibility. With this relocation, the government aims to set a new benchmark in administrative infrastructure -- consolidating key institutions into a modern, integrated complex designed to support faster, coordinated and citizen-focused governance.



Siddaramaiah loyalist backs out of MLAs' foreign tour amid row: Not taking anyone

Karnataka Minister K Venkatesh said that neither his department is organising any foreign tour for MLAs nor is he leading any delegation to Australia and New Zealand, amid a massive controversy over the proposed visit.

Bengaluru .(Agency)
Karnataka Animal Husbandry Minister K Venkatesh, a close aide of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, has backed out from a proposed foreign tour of MLAs amid a major controversy over its funding and purpose. The minister clarified that neither his department is organising the trip nor is he leading it. The clarification comes days after India Today first reported that over a dozen MLAs, considered loyal to Siddaramaiah, had sought approval for a "study tour" to Australia and New Zealand to learn best practices in animal husbandry. The proposal sparked a political storm, with the Opposition terming it a taxpayer-funded junket. The Congress and the state government, however, maintained that the legislators would bear the expenses themselves.



The tour also acquired political significance against the backdrop of the ongoing power tussle between the Chief Minister and his deputy, DK Shivakumar, which has intensified in the past few days. Earlier reports had suggested that the Animal Husbandry Department would organise the tour, with Minister Venkatesh likely to lead the delegation. However, on Thursday, the minister denied that his department was conducting the tour or that he would head it. "I don't know why our

department's name has come up. We are not taking anyone on any tour from our department. I don't know why statements are being made that they are going under my leadership or our department's leadership," he said. The Congress leader further said that it was Putrang Shetty who had claimed that Venkatesh would lead the delegation, and when questioned, reportedly said, "I just said it." "There is no question of any tour under my leadership. During the Assembly session, some senior MLAs, who have been elected four or five times, discussed among themselves about going on a tour somewhere. I was part of that discussion. They insisted that I join them. I told them, 'Let's see, if possible I'll come.' But I am not going on any tour now," he added. The minister reiterated that MLAs are free to travel on their own and emphasised that the proposed visit has nothing to do with him, his department, or any other leader.

Rahul Gandhi meets farm leaders, discusses nationwide protest against India-US trade deal

New Delhi .(Agency)

Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi on Friday met leaders of farm unions from across the country in Parliament House complex during which the need for a nationwide movement to oppose the India-US interim trade deal as well as safeguarding the livelihoods of farmers and farm labourers was discussed. During the meeting, the farm union leaders expressed their opposition to the India-US trade deal, and conveyed their deep concern for the livelihoods of farmers of corn, soyabean, cotton, fruits and nuts, the Congress said. Gandhi said the trade deal has opened the door for agricultural imports and that many other crops would soon follow, according to the party. The farm leaders and Rahul Gandhi discussed the need for a large-scale national movement to oppose the deal, and safeguard the livelihoods of farmers and farm labourers, it said. The farm leaders who met Gandhi here included All India Kisan Congress chief Sukhpal S Khaira, Ashok Balhara of the Bharatiya Kisan Mazdoor Union, Haryana, Baldev S Zira of the BKU Krantikari, R. Nandkumar of the Progressive Farmers Front, Amarjit S Mohri of the BKU Shaheed Bhagat Singh, Guramneet S Mangat of the Kisan Mazdoor Morcha -- India, and Hameed Malik of the J-K Zamidara Forum, among others. The meeting comes a day after Gandhi asserted that the government can file cases or a privilege motion against him but he will stand strongly with farmers.

The farm union leaders expressed their opposition to the India-US trade deal, and conveyed their deep concern for the livelihoods of farmers of corn, soyabean, cotton, fruits and nuts.

He had also accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of being "anti-farmer" and "selling" the



country through the India-US interim trade deal. The Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha had shared a video statement on X in which he made a scathing attack on the government over the India-US interim trade deal. In a post in Hindi on X along with the video, Gandhi had said, "FIR is filed, a case is registered, or a privilege motion is brought -- I will fight for the farmers."

"We Stand For Free, Fair, Inclusive Elections": India On Bangladesh Polls

New Delhi.(Agency)

India on Thursday said it will wait for the outcome of the elections in Bangladesh and the mandate, and then look at issues which are there. As the polling was underway in the neighbouring country in the afternoon, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said, "We stand for a free, fair, inclusive and credible elections in Bangladesh." The voting for the 13th parliamentary elections in Bangladesh was held along with a referendum on the implementation of a complex 84-point reform package, known as the July National Charter. The counting of votes began after voting concluded at 4:30 pm (local time). At his weekly briefing here, Jaiswal was asked about both Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and Jamaat-e-Islami in their manifestos mentioning "robust defence plans", and if that is a cause for concern for India. "The election is going on in Bangladesh. We should wait for the outcome of the elections to see as to what sort of mandate has come...and thereafter, we will look at issues that are there. On the election per se, you know what our position has been. We stand for a free, fair, inclusive and credible elections in Bangladesh," he said. The MEA spokesperson was also asked if any observers were sent by New Delhi. "We did receive an invitation for sending observers. We have not sent our observers to Bangladesh," he said. The election is being considered a direct contest between the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and its once ally Jamaat-e-Islami, in the absence of ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina's now disbanded Awami League. "The first significant results may be available overnight," an election commission spokesman said. Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus' interim government last year disbanded the Awami League and barred it from contesting the polls. Jaiswal also fielded a volley of queries on the status of India's sourcing of oil from Russia amid the current tariff policy of Washington.

Bhagwant Mann Govt finalises year-long roadmap for 650th Parkash Purb of Sri Guru Ravidass Ji: Harpal Singh Cheema

The Sikh Times

CHANDIGARH, 13th February: The Punjab Cabinet Sub-Committee chaired by Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema on Friday held its second meeting to finalise an extensive, year-long roadmap for commemorating the 650th Parkash Purb of Sri Guru Ravidass Ji, with a clear resolve to elevate the celebrations to a global scale and carry the Guru's message of equality, humanity and devotion to every corner of the state and beyond. During the meeting, Finance Minister Advocate Harpal Singh Cheema, Cabinet Minister Dr. Ravjot Singh, Cabinet Minister Tarunpreet Singh Sond, Advisor to the Tourism Department Deepak Bali and special invitee Pawan Tinnu held detailed deliberations on the month-wise organisation of programmes, ensuring a balanced blend of spiritual reverence, educational outreach and

social welfare initiatives. Highlighting the spir-



itual dimension of the celebrations, Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema stated, "Our goal is to celebrate this historic occasion on a

scale that reflects the profound impact of Sri Guru Ravidass Ji's teachings on society. We are committed to ensuring that every citizen, especially our youth, connects with the message of 'Begumpura' -- a society free from sorrow and discrimination." The committee decided to organise four major Shobha Yatras originating from Varanasi, Faridkot, Jammu and Bathinda, which will converge at Sri Khuralgarh Sahib, the revered tapasthan of Guru ji. It was also resolved to facilitate a Tirath Yatra for pilgrims from different parts of Punjab to visit the Sri Guru Ravidass Ji Janam Sathan Mandir at Seer Govardanpur, Varanasi, enabling devotees to pay obeisance at the sacred birthplace. To ensure that Guru Ji's philosophy reaches the younger generation in a meaningful manner, the sub-

committee approved seminars on the life and teachings of Sri Guru Ravidass Ji in schools, colleges and universities across the state. The roadmap also includes innovative outreach through drone shows in every district and the screening of documentary films in villages, using modern technology and visual media to strengthen awareness and engagement. Reinforcing its commitment to environmental sustainability and social service, the committee discussed launching a massive plantation drive involving 6.5 lakh saplings per district dedicated to the 650th anniversary. Statewide blood donation camps, marathons, cycle rallies and grand Kirtan Samagams will also be organised to promote community bonding and physical well-being as part of the year-long commemorations. Secretary Tourism Kumar Amit, Director Tourism Sanjeev Tiwari and Deputy Director Tourism Yashpal Sharma were also present during the meeting.

From dissent to frontline: Shashi Tharoor gets Congress's key Kerala election role

New Delhi .(Agency)

After months of turbulent ties with the party and a recent reconciliation, senior Congress leader Shashi Tharoor has been entrusted with a key role to lead the party to victory in Kerala in the upcoming assembly elections. He has been appointed co-chairman of the Congress campaign committee, a move widely seen as an attempt to capitalise on his national stature and appeal among urban and young voters in the state. The decision, announced by the party high command, comes at a crucial juncture as the Congress steps up preparations to take on the ruling CPI(M)-led Left Democratic Front (LDF) and the BJP in a bid to return to power and end a decade-long stint in the Opposition. Tharoor's appointment assumes added



significance as it comes days after his meeting with Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and senior leader Rahul Gandhi to address his grievances. Following the meeting, he had said that "all is good" and that "we are all on the same page". Since the thaw, Tharoor has been vocal in

defending the Congress and recently initiated the discussion on the Union Budget in the Lok Sabha. For several months prior to the reconciliation, he had been at odds with the party, making remarks that were perceived as diverging from the Congress line, including repeated praise for Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Tharoor had also expressed discontent over what he described as attempts by some leaders to sideline him in Kerala, and more recently, over the treatment meted out to him at an event in Kochi. However, following the rapprochement, he asserted, "I am in the Congress and I am not going anywhere. I will be part of the Kerala campaign and work for the UDF's victory. I will be in the forefront, leading the Congress in the upcoming Kerala Assembly elections."

News box

Auto driver beaten up over Rs 50 in Gurgaon

Faridabad.(Agency)

An autorickshaw driver was allegedly assaulted with iron rods near the IFFCO Chowk metro station on Wednesday after he refused to pay Rs 50 as "parking charges".The victim, Rinku, a resident of Sukhrali village, alleged that he was attacked by one Veeru, who allegedly collects money from auto drivers for using the parking space near the station.According to other auto drivers, Rs 50 is collected daily from each vehicle to allow them to queue up at the parking area outside the station. A driver, who wished to remain anonymous, said the charge is an informal arrangement meant to regulate the line and fix fares for different routes. "It helps avoid disputes among drivers and makes it easier for passengers," he said.The drivers claimed that several autos operating from the stand are owned by Veeru and are rented out. They claimed he had recently approached the autorickshaw union near the bus stand and was trying to establish control over the stand. "He wants to assert dominance in the area. That's why he came and picked a fight with us," a union member said.Police said they had received a complaint and were investigating. "The incident stemmed from a dispute over control of the parking space, which led to the assault," an officer said.

School fined Rs 1.5L for lapses in RTE seat declaration

Gurgaon.(Agency)

The directorate of elementary education on Thursday imposed a penalty of Rs 1.5 lakh on Amity International School in Sector 43 for lapses in implementing the Right to Education (RTE) Act, 2009, after the institution failed to complete mandatory procedures in declaring seats for students from economically weaker sections and disadvantaged groups.As per Section 12(1)(c) of the RTE Act, schools must declare 25% seats to disadvantaged students. An official order stated that despite declaring the required seats on the MIS portal, Amity International School failed to submit essential documents after which the concerned district elementary education officer rejected the declaration. The school was granted an opportunity for a personal hearing on Jan 28, during which the management committee said there was no wilful intention to violate the RTE Act and the irregularities occurred due to lack of knowledge or awareness about established norms. School principal Dr Anshu Arora said, "At no stage were we informed of any rejection or deficiency by the authorities. Therefore, we have respectfully requested a review of the penalty as there was no wilful violation or negligence on the part of the institution and we remain committed to ensuring transparency and adherence to all statutory requirements."Taking into account the submissions by the school and provisions of the RTE Act, the directorate imposed a fine of Rs 1.5 lakh and ordered the school to pay the amount within two days. The school has also been warned to adhere strictly to the mandates of the RTE Act in the future, failing which appropriate action would be taken as per prescribed rules.In addition, field authorities have also been ordered to ensure private schools operating within their jurisdiction show documents for admissions under the RTE, failing which they should immediately deposit the prescribed penalty amount.

Mother, son assaulted by school principal, staff over Instagram messages in Gurgaon: ‘Strangled, kept in cold water for 10–20 minutes’



GURGAON.(Agency)

Gurgaon: A Class 8 student of a private school in Bhondsi sustained grievous injuries after he was allegedly assaulted, along with his mother, by the school principal and the staffers two weeks back. The child's mother — Sarla, a resident of Ryan Enclave — alleged her son was beaten up by the school principal, along with three other teachers. Police registered an FIR and initiated an investigation into the assault that took place inside the campus on Jan 28.While police have not named the school principal in the FIR, they named the teachers — Riya, Jiya and Anurag. A police officer said the suspects are yet to be arrested. "We are yet to ascertain why the child was assaulted," the officer said. Sarla alleged in the police complaint that her 12-year-old son was beaten up after being called out of class, "strangled" and forced to record a video admitting to sending Instagram messages. She also alleged that he was kept in cold water for 10-20 minutes after the assault.Sarla said she received a call from the school around 9.20am informing her that her son was injured and asking her to come immediately. Upon reaching the school, the principal accused her son of sending Instagram messages and when she sought clarification, she was allegedly assaulted by the principal. She claimed that the principal and two teachers locked the office, assaulted her and threatened to kill her and her son following which she informed the police control room at 112. Finger and nail marks were visible on her son's neck, she said.Police said the boy was first taken to Civil Hospital, Sohna, where his medico-legal case was prepared on Jan 28, noting five-six injuries. He was later referred to General Hospital in Gurgaon Sector 10, where he remained admitted for two days. A CT scan and dental X-rays were conducted.

Launched a month ago, but Sadar Bazar multi-level parking in Gurgaon has no company to run it

Gurgaon.(Agency)

The newly inaugurated multi-level car parking facility in Sadar Bazar remains inoperable, with MCG officials saying that the project cannot be opened to the public because its operations and maintenance contract has not been awarded yet. The facility was inaugurated by Haryana CM Nayab Singh Saini over a month ago.Officials said that while the tenders were floated twice, none of the applicants met the eligibility criteria required for selection. The eligibility varies from project to project.The civic body is now considering relaxing these conditions to ensure that an agency can be hired to run the facility. For traders and visitors in the congested Sadar Bazar area, the delay means continued parking chaos despite the project being publicly presented as completed."We floated the tender twice. However, agencies are unable to fulfil the eligibility criteria, due to which this delay happened. We are now in talks

with the consultant who prepared the request for proposal (RFP) to tweak certain conditions so that we can have an agency and the facility is made operational. It will take us at least one month more to make the parking functional," said a senior MCG official. The project was originally scheduled to be completed in Dec 2021. The parking facility was constructed over 3,187 sq metres with three basements and six floors, and can accommodate 218 cars. Once operational, the Rs 55 crore project is expected to ease parking woes in one of the city's oldest and most crowded markets.TOI reported on Oct 2, 2025 that MCG was planning to outsource the operations and maintenance of the facility for five years to ensure smoother management."What is the advantage of spending crores when the facility is not put to use? The building has been ready for six to seven months but is not operational. Once operational, it will resolve the parking

problem of the area to a great extent," said Sumit Narang of Sadar Bazar Association.A former Haryana govt official said that many of the projects often take years to complete and, in some cases, never even take off. "In the case of the multi-level car parking in Gurgaon, Rs 55 crore of taxpayers' money is already spent, yet the facility is still not operational.Several projects across the state remain stuck in prolonged delays. If the carrying cost or interest burden on public funds locked into such stalled works was calculated, the figure would be substantial, underscoring what critics describe as a serious waste of public money," the official said, requesting anonymity.The stalled parking facility is not an isolated case but part of a wider pattern across Haryana. Official data accessed by TOI shows that of the 737 projects announced by the CM since 2014, 148 are still unfinished.This includes 72 classified as pending and 76 listed as in

progress, putting the overall non-completion rate at about 20.1%. In other words, nearly one in five announced projects is yet to be delivered.Panipat has the highest number of pending projects at 27, followed by Gurgaon with 20. Gurgaon also has 10 projects still in progress, while Panipat has seven underway. Faridabad, which has the highest number of CM announcements in the state at 144, currently has 23 projects in progress and eight pending.Officials often attribute such delays to procedural hurdles such as tendering issues, technical requirements, or coordination challenges between departments. However, governance analysts point out that these are routine administrative steps that should typically be resolved before projects are declared ready or inaugurated.he data also shows that of 737 CM announcements, 41 projects were "not found feasible to be executed".

NHRC notice to Gurgaon police over torture of 5 minors held captive for 18 hours

Gurgaon.(Agency)

National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has taken suo motu cognisance of a case involving five minors who were picked up from an under-construction site, held captive and tortured for 18 hours in DLF Phase 3 over a week ago, and asked the Gurgaon police commissioner to submit a report regarding the incident within two weeks.NHRC issued the notice on Wednesday, referring to the incident as a "serious violation of human rights of the victims"."We have received the notice and will follow the orders. Accordingly, we will submit a reply within the time given by the commission," Gurgaon police spokesperson, ASI Sandeep Turan, told TOI.The incident happened on Feb 2, when the boys, aged 10-13, were abducted and locked in a room at a PG building in U-Block under false suspicions of theft. The mother of one of the boys, who filed a police complaint based on which an FIR was registered, said that the incident

traumatised the children, adding that her son has stopped attending school and is terrified to go outside to play. According to the police complaint, a group of six men—identified as Harindra Lohia, Feroz Khan, Mohammad Jamaail, Deepak, Pradeep, and Sachin—carried out a series of assaults while in a state of intoxication. An FIR was registered on Feb 3 under BNS sections 115 (voluntarily causing hurt), 127 (2) (wrongful restraint /confinement), 287 (negligent conduct with respect to fire or combustible matter), 3 (5) (acts done by several persons in furtherance of common intention), 351 (3) (criminal intimidation) and under section 10 (punishment for aggravated penetrative sexual assault) of the PoCSO Act.The mother provided a harrowing account of the violence to TOI. "My child and the other boys were not only beaten but subjected to unspeakable cruelty," she said, adding that "These men used heated electric bulbs to inflict burns on the boys

and poured petrol on their genitalia." The mother, who eventually tracked the children to the room, said that she was met with verbal abuse and forced to sit on the floor under threat of violence. "They eventually released us, but issued a death threat, warning that if we reported the matter, they would kill us all," she added. The woman works as a helper in a school and is the sole breadwinner of her family. She said she moved from Bihar to Gurgaon to support her children.When she returned from work on the evening of Feb 2, she found her son missing. "When I finally located him the next morning, he was being held captive. The men told me to leave and come back in two hours, but I refused... I sat right there, enduring their humiliation, until I could take my child back home.""I am a widow trying to work to support us, but now I have to cut my work hours or ensure his older brother guards him. We are simply too afraid to leave him alone," she said.

Debris and road dust drive PM10 pollution level in Delhi-NCR, experts tell MCG

Gurgaon.(Agency)

During a one-day training session on construction and demolition (C&D) waste management, experts told MCG officials that dust from roads, soil and construction activities accounted for 42% of PM10 pollution in the Delhi-NCR, making C&D waste a major, but often overlooked, source of air pollution. The training session, held at MCG's office and organised by the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE), briefed civic officials on dust control strategies and recycling models drawn from cities participating in the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP). If not disposed of properly, C&D waste causes blockage of water bodies, urban flooding, land instability and eats into green areas,



experts said. About 80% to 90% of C&D waste can be recycled and reused, and if measures such as road management, material handling and wind barriers are used at construction sites, PM10 emissions can be reduced by 64% to 79%, they said.Additional commissioner Yash

Jaluka said, "MCG will adopt a solid strategy for scientific management of C&D waste and dust control, and suggestions received from the training will be implemented in a phased manner." He added, "C&D waste management is not just a matter of garbage disposal, but an issue directly linked to clean air, resource efficiency and climate protection. C&D waste management has now become not an option but a necessity in the direction of clean and sustainable cities." Experts at the training said the NCAP study made it clear that a comprehensive ecosystem approach, including bylaws, fee structure, collection mechanism, processing capacity and mandatory demand for recycled products, can

Freed from jail by mistake, Gangster Ravi Kana gets anticipatory bail

Noida.(Agency)

Scrap tycoon and UP Gangsters Act-accused Ravi Kana, who was released last month erroneously from Banda jail, got anticipatory bail from a sessions court here on Wednesday, giving him protection for the time being from being arrested.Police have been on the lookout for Kana since his Jan 29 release, following which a city court had sent the Banda jail superintendent a show-cause notice. The superintendent has been suspended.District and sessions judge Atul Srivastava ordered that if Kana is arrested, he should be released on furnishing a personal bond of Rs 35,000 and a surety. The judge, however, imposed conditions on Kana – that he will not influence any witnesses or any person related to the case and must appear before the investigating officer within seven days without waiting

for notice. The court also forbade Kana from leaving the country without its permission.The bail was granted in connection with FIR number 20/2026 registered at Noida Sector 63 police station under BNS sections 351 (criminal intimidation), 308 (extortion) and 3(5) (acts done by several persons in furtherance of common intention) on a complaint from Shailendra Sharma on Jan 14.It was in this case that a B-warrant was issued by the court for his production for remand and he was released by the jail authorities even though there was no court order to do so. A B-warrant is a directive to move a suspect already in custody for another legal proceeding.Kana's counsel Lalit Mohan Gupta told TOI that he has been accused in 29 cases."He has obtained bail in all the cases. When his release order reached Banda jail in

connection with the last Gangsters Act case against him, police got this new case filed in Noida and tried to take him on remand. The matter was heard through video-conference by the court on Jan 29 but a decision was pending. However, jail authorities released him," Gupta said. Kana filed the anticipatory bail application with the sessions court on Feb 2. Gupta argued that the Noida police commissioner has a personal grudge against Kana and had threatened him in prison and that two security guards provided to Kana were recalled by police. Pointing out that the Jan 14 FIR was filed three years after the other cases, Gupta told the court, "When police knew that my client obtained bail in all previous cases and was all set to be released from jail, this fresh case was registered with malicious intentions."

The Sector 63 FIR is against Pankaj Parashar and Kana. Complainant Sharma is a builder and owns Rhinos Group. He accused Parashar, who ran a news portal, of extorting him in 2021. While giving details of money transferred to his account, the complainant claimed that on the orders of Parashar, Kana issued threats to kill him several times. Govt's counsel argued that allegations levelled by Kana against Noida police commissioner Laxmi Singh were baseless, pointing out that Singh was appointed in 2023, while Kana had 14 cases registered against him in before 2023 in NCR.Having heard both sides, the judge noted, "The incident occurred in 2021. The accused is not directly charged with putting someone in fear of death or grievous hurt. The charges against the accused, other

than Section 308(5) of the IPC, are of a general nature.

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In hope of 'dhanvarsha', 3 Delhi residents fall prey to tantrik's evil plan

The Sikh Times

New Delhi: The Outer District Police have solved a sensational triple murder case involving Delhi residents who were allegedly poisoned as part of a well-planned conspiracy for financial gain. A self-styled tantrik, identified as Kamruddin, alias Baba, has been arrested in the case. He was operating a so-called tantric centre in Loni and Firozabad. Police investigations revealed that he lured victims by promising "dhanvarsha (a shower of wealth)" through tantric rituals, gradually gaining their trust and mentally influencing them. He allegedly mixed poison in laddoos to kill them and then robbed them of cash and valuables. During inspection of the vehicle, police recovered liquor bottles, cold drink bottles, empty glasses, mobile phones, cash, helmets, jackets, Aadhaar cards, and other personal belongings and documents. Taking the case with utmost seriousness, police conducted detailed technical analysis and interrogated connected persons. Investigations revealed that all three victims were in contact with a tantrik who had assured them of financial gains through rituals. Technical evidence showed that the victims had visited

Loni, Ghaziabad, one day prior to the incident and again on the day of their deaths, remaining in constant contact with Kamruddin. Further analysis indicated that an additional person was



present in the car during their return journey. This person was identified as Kamruddin, who allegedly boarded the vehicle in Loni and later abandoned it at the place of occurrence before the inci-

dent came to light. Kamruddin was apprehended and initially attempted to mislead investigators. However, during sustained interrogation, he disclosed that around two months earlier, Laxmi

and asked them to bring Rs 2 lakh in cash along with liquor and cold drinks. According to his disclosure, he prepared laddoos mixed with poison and accompanied the victims in their car. During the journey, he induced them to consume liquor, cold drinks, and the poisoned laddoos. After they became unconscious, he allegedly took the cash and fled from the vehicle. Police stated that technical and circumstantial evidence corroborates the presence of the accused in the vehicle at the relevant time. The accused is described as a habitual offender with previous involvement in serious criminal cases, including one in Dholpur, Rajasthan, and another in Firozabad, Uttar Pradesh, in similar fashion. On February 8, a PCR call was received at Police Station Paschim Vihar East regarding three persons lying unconscious inside a white car. Police personnel rushed to the spot and found an elderly man seated in the driver's seat, a middle-aged man who had been pulled out of the vehicle by members of the public, and a woman lying inside the car. All three were shifted to Sanjay Gandhi Memorial Hospital, where doctors declared them brought dead.

Man strangles wife to death, flees spot

Gurugram: The accused, who works as a labourer, informed his relatives about a quarrel with his wife and fled the spot. When his relatives reached their room, they found his wife dead. According to the police, the deceased was identified as Shilu (27), wife of Sunny Dyal, a native of Rani Ghat, Kanpur, in Uttar Pradesh. They got married eight years ago and had two children. The couple had been living in Gurugram for the past around four years and used to fight often. In his complaint to the police, Kapil, brother of Shilu, said he came to know about the death of his sister on Thursday afternoon. Sunny strangled his sister to death after a quarrel over some issue on Wednesday night. After getting information, the police reached the spot and took the body into their custody. A case was registered in this regard and the body was handed over to the kin after the post-mortem examination. "The accused is missing after the incident. We are tracing his mobile location and he will be arrested soon," said Inspector Manjeet Singh, SHO of the Sector 37 police station.

Man gets 20-year jail for raping minor

Faridabad: The Court of Additional Sessions Judge Hemraj Mittal, Faridabad, has sentenced a man to 20 years of imprisonment for raping an 11-year-old girl in 2020. Chief defence lawyer Ravinder Gupta said based on the complaint of the victim's mother, a case was registered at the Dabua police station on October 29, 2020. The accused was identified as Ravi Pandey, a resident of Pratapgarh, Uttar Pradesh, and living in the Dabua police station area. According to the FIR, the girl was studying in Class II. Her parents would leave for work, leaving the girl and her brother alone at home. When her parents left for work on October 26, Ravi Pandey, who lived next door, entered their house. He took the girl to his room on the pretext of some work and raped her. He threatened to kill her if she disclosed the incident to anyone.

Labourer dies after falling into open manhole, FIR lodged

New Delhi: The Delhi Police on Wednesday filed a first information report (FIR) in connection with the death of a labourer who fell into an open man-



hole in the Begampur area of northwest Delhi's Rohini. According to the police, a case has been registered under Sections 285 (creating danger obstacles) and 106 (Death due to negligence) at the Begampur police station. The 32-year-old labourer died after allegedly falling into the manhole on a vacant Delhi Development Authority (DDA) land in

Sector 32, Rohini. The police said they received a PCR call around 2.36 pm on Tuesday at the Begumpur police station regarding a person sus-

evening. Amir told the police that Birju was last seen with another friend, Budhan Das, aka Suraj (33), a resident of Bhupati village in Madhubani district, Bihar. The duo reportedly consumed alcohol on Sunday night. While they were returning to their nearby jhuggi around 7.30 pm, Birju allegedly lost control and fell into the open manhole. Budhan reportedly did not raise an alarm or inform anyone about the fall as he was intoxicated. He informed Amir Hussain about the incident only after regaining consciousness the following afternoon. After receiving information, the police alerted the DDA, fire brigade and other agencies concerned.

pected to have fallen into a manhole. A police team reached the spot to verify the information. The caller, Amir Hussain, a resident of Uchati village in Darbhanga district of Bihar, told the police that his friend, Birju Kumar Rai (32), a labourer from Ward No. 14, Sadipur, Badnaha, in Samastipur district of Bihar had been missing since last

Miscreants fire at toll plaza, 3 other locations; arrested

Gurugram: Chaos and panic prevailed after three miscreants in a black Scorpio, without number plate, broke through a barricade and fired two rounds after arguing with toll workers. The toll workers narrowly escaped after a bullet struck a nearby barricade, while another bullet struck the FasTag board. All three accused in the vehicle managed to flee from the spot, but the police arrested them within hours. The arrested accused revealed that they had also fired at three other locations on Tuesday and Wednesday. According to the police, the recent incident took place at the Ghamroj toll plaza late in the evening

on Thursday when the Scorpio reached the toll plaza on Sohna Road. The youths inside the car rammed the toll barricade,



breaking it, and proceeded to cross the toll. Meanwhile, two toll workers, trying to stop the Scorpio, stopped their vehicle and started arguing with them. At this point, the trio drew their weapons and fired a round, which hit a nearby barricade. After the firing, both toll workers started

walking towards the toll booth. At that moment, the Scorpio rider opened fire again, hitting a nearby FasTag board. An FIR was

revealed that after firing at toll plaza they had also fired on a person Gokul with the intention of killing him in village Jheel Ki Dani, Kadarpur, due to an old dispute on Thursday night. On the same night, they fired at the house of Rohit in village Kadarpur and on Tuesday night they fired more than eight rounds at the house of Rahul in village Kadarpur over an old dispute. "The accused had opened fire outside the homes of Rahul, Rohit, and Gokul in Kadarpur. They also opened fire at the Ghamroj toll plaza after breaking a barricade over a toll tax dispute and argued with toll workers. We are questioning the accused," said the spokesperson of the Gurugram police. The waiver has benefited more than 3.30 lakh consumers, leading to the waiving off

of nearly Rs 1,500 crore as interest on penalty and recovery of principal amount of Rs 430 crore as of January 29

Delhi court seeks status report in Janakpuri biker death probe

New Delhi: A court in Dwarka on Wednesday directed the Delhi police to submit a status report on the investigation so far into the death of a 25-year-old biker who died after falling into an uncovered Delhi Jal Board pit in West Delhi's Janakpuri. The court has also sought a report on the operational status of CCTV cameras installed near the spot where the incident occurred. Earlier, on Tuesday, the court had granted protection from arrest to contractor Kavish Gupta.

PUBLIC NOTICE

General Public is hereby informed that my client SHRI PURAN SINGH AND SMT. SUMAN R/O T-65, SF, PRIVATE COLONY BLOCK-T, SRINIWASPUR, DELHI-110065 HAVE DISOWNED/DEBARRED THEIR SON NAMELY ROHIT KUMAR AND DAUGHTER IN LAW NAMELY REENA respectively from their all movable and immovable assets/properties and severed their all relationship with them since aforesaid Rohit has solemnized his marriage with aforesaid Reena without consent and permission of our aforesaid client. Anybody dealing with them will do at his/her/their own risks, costs and responsibility.

VIMLESH YADAV
ADVOCATE
CHAMBER NO.125
PATIALA HOUSE COURTS
NEW DELHI-110001

NAME CHANGE

I Vinita Rawat W/O Vipin Singh Rawat R/o House No-664 3rd Floor, Sarvath Apartments Pocket-A, Golf Course Road, Dwarka Sector - 17, PO:N.S.I.T. Dwarka, DIST: South West Delhi, Delhi, 110078 have changed my name to Vinita Rawat for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I Maheshwari Devi W/O Jaswant Singh Rawat R/o House No-664 3rd Floor, Sarvath Apartments Pocket-A, Golf Course Road, Dwarka Sector - 17, PO:N.S.I.T. Dwarka, DIST: South West Delhi, Delhi, 110078 have changed my name to Maheshwari Rawat for all future purposes.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Information is given to general public at large that our client Mr. Mahirajuddin S/o Mr. Riyazuddin is the absolute owner of Freehold Residential Municipal House No. 691 & 692, area measuring 210 Sq. Yds. 175.65 Sq. Mtrs, Out of Kharsa No. 1399 & 1400, Situated at Village Gadhik Palkhuwa Pargana Dasna Tehsil Dhaulana District Hapur, Uttar Pradesh. By virtue of Dec. Deed dated 29.11.2022 Vide Doc. No. 14528, Vol. No. 5579, Book No. 1, Pages No. 73-86, SRO- Dhaulana, Hapur, in the chain documents below mentioned documents not available i.e. Death Certificate of Late Mrs. Anna Begum, now our client is declaring that that any other Person does not have any right over the said property, and same has been finance by Piramal Finance Ltd. Branch: Gurgaon, Haryana. If any person(s) have any objection(s) or claim(s) with respect to the right, title or interest in the Said Property then contact us within 07 days from the date of Publication of this notice and or the same to the undersigned if found by anyone. Thereafter no claim shall be entertained.

[NAVEEN KUMAR VERMA]
Advocate
F-211, Sector-3,
Vaishali, Ghaziabad,
Uttar Pradesh-201010
(Contact at 09958871432)

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for general information that I, YASHASVI SINGH DAHIYA S/o RAVINDER SINGH, R/o Flat No.251, Sangam Apartment, Pocket-24, Sector-24, Rohini, North West Delhi, Delhi-110085 declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as YASH in my 10th and 12th class education documents and YASHASVIR in my Graduation Degree. The actual name of mine is YASHASVI SINGH DAHIYA, which may be amended accordingly.

NAME CHANGE

I hitherto known as HAKEEM MOHAMMAD TAUFEEQ alias MOHAMMAD TAUFEEQ S/O RAFAEQ AHMAD R/O 167.22.203.20/1, Near Mogra Guest House And Kalan Masjid, Basti Hazrat Nizamuddin, Hazrat Nizamuddin, South Delhi, Delhi-110013 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as HAKEEM MOHAMMAD TAUFEEQ.

NAME CHANGE

I, RUBI KUMARI is legally Wife of No. 14660541Y Rank- HAV Name-MANISH KUMAR SINGH presently residing at VILL-SILHATH, P.O-DULLIPATTI TEH-JAYNAGAR DIST- MADHUBANI (BIHAR)-847228 have changed my name from RUBI KUMARI to RUBI SINGH for all future purposes. Vide Affidavit Dated 13/02/2026 before SUB DIVISIONAL MAGISTRATE New Delhi.

NAME CHANGE

I DISHA KAUR W/O JASPAL SINGH DHUNNA R/O G-24 EKANIKI ENCLAVE GREATER NOIDA SECTOR P-1 KASANA KASNA GUTAM BUDDHA NAGAR UTTAR PRADESH - 201310 - HAVE CHANGED THE NAME OF MY MINOR SON SARTAJ SINGH AGED 13 YEARS AND HE SHALL HEREAFTER BE KNOWN AS SARTAJ SINGH DHUNNA

NAME CHANGE

I, KIRAN DEVI PRABHA is legally mother of No. 17002057M Rank-HAV Name- GAURI SHANKAR SINGH presently residing at VPO-KASMA MARAR, TEH-MADHUBANI, DIST-MADHUBANI, (BIHAR)-847228 have changed my name from KIRAN DEVI PRABHA and KIRAN KUMARI PRABHA for all future purposes. Vide Affidavit Dated 13/02/2026 before SUB DIVISIONAL MAGISTRATE New Delhi.

NAME CHANGE

I, ASHISH SINGH, S/o. SIPAHI SINGH, R/O C-10, GALI NO-5, MBD SCHOOL, SHYAM VIHAR, PHASE-2, NAJAFGARH, NEW DELHI-110043, have changed my name from ASHISH SINGH to ASHISH KUMAR SINGH for all future purpose.

NAME CHANGE

I, No. 2707633P Rank-LNK Name-Harmana Ram Jakhri S/o Shri Ram Jakhri, Resident of Vill-Bigga Bas Ramsara, TEH-Shri Durgagarh Dist-Bikaner(Rajasthan)-331803 have changed my wife Name from Kiran Bhadu to Kiran for all future purposes. vide affidavit Dated 13/02/2026 before Notary public new Delhi.

NAME CHANGE

I, Rajesh Arora S/O Govind Narayan Arora R/O 49-Pragati nagar bhilwara Rajasthan 311001, Changed my name to Rajesh Kumar Arora.

NAME CHANGE

I, Km Najmeen D/O Masoom Ali R/O J17/2, 3rd floor gupta colony khirki extension delhi 110017, changed name to Najmeen Siddique.

NAME CHANGE

I, MD SARTAJ KHAN S/O MD MUMTAZ KHAN residing at H No.A-128,3rd Floor,Shaheen Bagh, Abdul Fazal Part -2, Jamia Nagar Okhla New Delhi-110025, have changed my name to MOHD SARTAJ KHAN

NAME CHANGE

I HEERA SINGH ARMY NO.4487083W RANK HAV UNIT 19 SIKHLI RESIDENCE OF VILLAGE BUTT POST OFFICE BUNDALA TEHSIL AMRITSAR DISTRICT AMRITSAR PUNJAB 143413 DO HEREBY SOLEMNLY DECLARE THAT MY WIFE NAME WRONGLY WRITTEN IN MY ARMY RECORD AS HARJEET KAUR INSTEAD CORRECT NAME OF MY WIFE IS HARJIT KAUR. ALL CONCERNED NOTE .

NAME CHANGE

I, ZAHIDA KHATOON W/O ANUL HAQUE KHAN R/O H NO-Q-69A, BATLA HOUSE, NAFEEES ROAD, NEW FRIENDS COLONY, SOUTH EAST DELHI, DELHI-110025 have changed my name to ZAHIDA KHAN for all future purpose.

NAME CHANGE

I, Yash / Yashasvi / Yashasvir S/o Ravinder Singh R/o Flat No.251, Sangam Apartments, Pocket -24, Sector -24, Rohini, Delhi-110085, have changed my name to Yashasvi Singh Dahiya permanently

NAME CHANGE

I Heena Begum / Tahira Be W/O Itkhah Alam R/O House No-1073 Kamra Bangasah Haveli, Anwar Ali Darya Gari New Delhi-110002 Declare That Heena Begum And Tahira Be Will Be Used For Future Purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I, KISHOR BABBER S/O Pishori Lal R/O N-71-A, F/F, Vishnu Garden, Delhi-110018, have changed my name to KISHORE BABBER permanently

NAME CHANGE

I, ALAY NAVI S/o Tahir Husain R/O H.No./J-17/5, Street No.6, Chauhan Banger, Seelampur, Delhi-110053, have changed my name to AALE NABI permanently

NAME CHANGE

I, HEMA D/O Anand Kumar Sinha R/O B-77, Maharani Enclave, Uttam Nagar, Delhi-110059, have changed my name to HEMA SINHA permanently

NAME CHANGE

I, ANAND KUMAR SINHA S/o Mundrika Prasad R/O D-53, Gali No.5, Vikas Enclave, Vikas Nagar, Uttam Nagar, Delhi-110059, have changed my name to ANAND SINHA permanently

NAME CHANGE

I, SHEHLA ANJUM W/o Razul Islam Khan R/O 259, Ikram House, Second Floor, Jamia Nagar, Delhi-110025, have changed my name to SHEHLA ANJUM KHAN permanently

ENGINEERING WORKS UNDER ALIPURDUAR DIVISION

E-Tender Notice No.: 129/W-2/APDJ;

Dated: 11-02-2026. E-tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following work: Tender No: 35-AP-II-2025. Name of Work: Elimination Of level crossing AB/33 and AB/35 by providing parallel connecting road to AB/33 - AB/34 and AB/35 - AB/36 in New Coochbehar-Bamanahat section under the jurisdiction of ADEN/HQ/Alipurduar Jn. Tender Value: ₹3,72,69,053.02; Earnest Money: ₹3,36,40,000. E-tender will be closed at 15:00 hrs. on 05-03-2026 and opened at 15:30 hrs. on 05-03-2026. The complete information with the tender documents of above e-tender will be available in the website <http://www.ireps.gov.in>

DRM (Works), Alipurduar Jn.
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
"Serving Customers with a smile"

S&T WORKS IN LUMDING DIVISION

E-Tender No.: SNT-40-LMG-2025-26;

Dated: 11-02-2026; E-Tender are invited by the undersigned for the following work: Name of work : Reliability improvement by restoration/replacement/upgradation of Telecom Gears under SSE/Tele/IC/Guwahati of Lumding Division. Tender Value: ₹52,33,633.85/-; Bid Security: ₹1,04,700/-; Date & time of closing of tender at 15:00 hours and opening at 15:30 hours on 06-03-2026. Complete information alongwith the tender document of above e-tender will be available in the website www.ireps.gov.in

DSTE, Lumding
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
"Serving Customers With A Smile"

ENGINEERING WORKS UNDER KATHIR DIVISION

E-TENDER NOTICE NO. KIR/

Engg./04 of 2026; Dated: 11-02-2026.

E-tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following work: Tender No.1. Brief Description of Work: Provision of covered shed, guard wall, sump, approach road and drain at RUB under the jurisdiction of ADEN/ I/New Jalpaiguri. Tender Value: ₹13,23,03,149.77; Bid Security: ₹8,11,500.00. Tender No.2. Brief Description of Work: Construction of 01 suite and 2 Rooms in RPSF GO's mess with Toilet & Bathroom (Fully Furnished), Construction of one room for RO plant, Construction of drain 1500 Mtrs. (Depth 1 Meter) at 4BN/ RPSF/New Jalpaiguri. Tender Value: ₹3,21,45,110.53; Bid Security: ₹3,10,700.00. Tender No.3. Brief Description of Work: Kurseong-Mahanadi-Construction of Office-cum-Barraack at DHR-Kurseong-Mahanadi.

Tender Value: ₹2,11,31,291.87; Bid Security: ₹2,55,700.00. E-tenders will be closed at 15:00 hrs. on 11-03-2026 and Opened at 15:30 hrs. on 11-03-2026. The complete information with the tender document of above e-tender will be available upto 15:00 hrs. on 11-03-2026 in website <http://www.ireps.gov.in>

DRM (Works), Kathir
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
"Serving Customers with a smile"

PUBLIC NOTICE

To be known to all that I, Padam Singh S/O Late Sh. Prem Singh R/O B2/16, Ashok Vihar, phase-2, Delhi - 110052, has applied for certified paper of the aforesaid shop original possession letter & NOC for water and electric has been lost file no f20(22) 1984/IMPL SHOP NO-11, Ground floor CSC Market at Trilokpur, Phase-3, Scheme No-1027 (Mayur Vihar phase-1) Delhi and FIR/NCR NO-9946/2026 to this effect has been lodged in the police station Crime Branch Delhi on dated 12/2/2026. Any Person(s) claiming any right, Interest having any objection or found in Possession of Original documents may write/contact 7840025000 and Dy. Director (CE) or Director (CE), A-block, 2nd Floor, Vikas Sadan, INA, Delhi-23, within 15 days from the date of Publication of this Notice.

NAME CHANGE

I, SRI NIVASAN Father of No.16019411W, Rank-HAV, Name-MUNIRAJ S resident of H. NO.4/346, VILL-CHINNATHABBAI YARIYUR, PO-JITTANDHALLI, TEHSIL-PALACODE, DISTT-DHARMAPURI, TAMIL NADU-638005, have changed my name from SRI NIVASAN to SRINIVASAN PERUMAL for all future purposes and in my son's service records my date of birth wrongly mentioned as 20/09/1966 instead of my correct date of birth as 22/07/1965 vide Affidavit dated 13/02/2026 before Notary Public, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE

I, KISHAN KUMAR S/O RAM DAS SHARMA R/O KOTHI NO-261, Sector-29, FARIDABAD, HARYANA - 121008, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO KRISHAN SHARMA FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSES

NAME CHANGE

I, KULDEEP S/o KESHAV R/o VILLAGE GARH MIRAPUR, GT ROAD, JHUNDPUR(34), SONIPAT HARYANA-131023, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME, KULDEEP KASHYAP FOR FUTURE PURPOSE

NAME CHANGE

I Sakshi W/O Jatn Saini R/o House no. 156, Punjab National Bank Near Mandir Barwala Delhi-110039 have changed my name to Sakshi Mehra for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I, SONU W/O LATE. BUDH RATAN R/O 28/151, Block 26, Triok Pun, Dist: East Delhi, Delhi-110091, have changed the name of my minor daughter GUNGUN aged 17 years and She shall hereafter be known as MAHI.

NAME CHANGE

I, No-1601324M Rank-HAV, Name-KESHAV KUMAR S/o MAHAVIR Presently residing at VPO- BYOHAI, TEH-MAHAWAN, DIST-MATHURA, UTTAR PRADESH-281008, have changed my mother's name from LAXMI DEVI to LAKSHMI for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 13/02/2026 before Notary Public, Delhi.

NORTHERN RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/Traction Distribution, DRM's Office, State Entry Road, New Delhi for & on behalf of President of India, invites open e-tender for the under noted work:-

1	Name of Work with its Location	Rs. 1,33,45,265.90/-
2	Approx. Cost of work	Rs. 2,16,700/-
3	Earnest Money Deposit	25.02.2026 (00.00 Hrs.) to 11.03.2026 (15.00 Hrs.)
4	E-Tender Bid Submission Period	11.03.2026 (15:00 hrs.)
5	E-Tender Bid Submission End Date & E-Tender Open Date & Time	
6	Fund Allocation	Capital (PH-16)
7	Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen	www.ireps.gov.in

E-Tender No.: 38-TRD-NDLS-2025-26 Dated: 12.02.2026 504/2026

NORTHERN RAILWAY

E-Auction Notice

The Bids were invited through e-auction scheduled on 17.03.2026 for leasing of parcel space of 02 S/LRs in Train Nos.:-

Trains No's 14816 (F-I, F-II, R-I), 12912 (F-I), 14308 (F-I, F-II, R-I), 14631 (F-I, F-II, R-I), 14230 (F-I, R-I), 12056 (F-I), 14310 (F-I), 14342 (F-I), 14120 (F-I), (14090 (F-I, F-II, R-I), 14318 (F-I), 15019 (F-I), 19272 (F-I), 14311 (F-I), 14609 (F-I), 19610 (F-I, R-I), 15008 (R-I) 12172 (F-I), 12402 (R-I) originating from Moradabad Division for a period of 3 years. E-auction for the same will be invited on 17.03.2026 10:00 am through www.ireps.gov.in. The detailed terms and conditions for the same are available on the website itself.

The Bids were invited through e-auction scheduled on 18.03.26 for leasing of parcel space of 30 S/LRs in Train Nos.:-

Trains No's 14320 (F-I, F-II, R-I), 14236 (F-I, F-II, R-I), 14321 (F-I), 14718 (F-I, F-II, R-I), 12091 (F-I, F-II, R-I), 14315 (F-I, F-II, R-I), 14605 (F-I), 12037 (F-I), 12018 (F-I), 14887 (F-I, F-II, R-I) 14304 (F-I, F-II, R-I), 14308 (F-I, F-II, R-I), 12370 (F-I), 14314 (R-I) originating from Moradabad Division for a period of 3 years. E-auction for the same will be invited on 17.03.26 10:00 am through www.ireps.gov.in. The detailed terms and conditions for the same are available on the website itself.

NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE

Tender Notice No.: S/66/016/25-26, Dtd: 11-02-2026. E-Tender are invited by the undersigned for the following works.

SI.No.:1; Tender No. : NJ255648A;

Closing/Opening Date: 05-03-2026.

Brief Description: Supply, installing and commissioning of porta cabin (size 6050 mm X 3050 mm X 2440 mm) for housing signal and telecom equipment (relays, chargers, secondary cells) and its associated accessories complete for wiring of LC gate and signals as per technical specification. The scope of work includes electrical accessories and necessary wiring complete with electrical earthing Technical description Attached With Annexure-A (used in Mangurjan-Surja Kamal section). Qty: 12 nos. Consignee:- SSE/SIG/Kishanganj, NFR.

Note :- For full details of Tender Notice and Tender Documents, Tenderer may log on to the website (www.ireps.gov.in) prospective bidder who intend to participate in above tenders are required to log in themselves with the above website and submit their offer electronically, if they are already registered with I

NEWS BOX

Shooting at South Carolina State University residence complex kills two and wounds one

ORANGEBURG. (Agency)

Two people are dead and one person wounded after a shooting at a South Carolina State University residential complex, the university said Thursday. University officials have not confirmed the victims' identities or the condition of the person wounded, the school said in a news release. The school put the campus in Orangeburg on lockdown at about 9:15 p.m. when a report of the shooting came in. It remained on lockdown four hours later. Investigators were on site and law enforcement was patrolling the campus and areas nearby. The university canceled Friday classes and was making counselors available to students.

BNP thanks India for recognising Bangladesh election verdict, hopes for stronger bilateral ties

DHAKA. (Agency)

The BNP on Friday thanked India and Prime Minister Narendra Modi for recognising the verdict of Bangladesh's general elections and hoped that the relations between the two countries will be strengthened under the new government.

Speaking to PTI videos, the Bangladesh Nationalist Party's (BNP) standing committee member and chief coordinator for the 2026 election Nazrul Islam Khan said the party appreciated Modi's recognition of the people's verdict. "We thank Prime Minister Narendra Modi for congratulating our leader, Tarique Rahman. It is great that a democratic country is supposed to recognise the verdict of the people, and Mr Narendra Modi has done this. We thank him," he said.

"We, also on behalf of our party, thank him, and we believe that under the leadership of our leader, Mr Tarique Rahman, the relation between these two countries and the people of these two countries will be strengthened," he added. Earlier in the day, Modi extended warm congratulations to Rahman on leading the BNP to a decisive victory in Bangladesh's parliamentary elections. In a post on X, the Indian Prime Minister said the result reflected the trust of the Bangladeshi people in Rahman's leadership. "India will continue to stand in support of a democratic, progressive and inclusive Bangladesh. I look forward to working with you to strengthen our multifaceted relations and advance our common development goals," PM Modi wrote. The exchange comes as the BNP secured a commanding two-thirds majority in the 300-member Jatiya Sangsad in the February 12 election. This is the first parliamentary election since the 2024 student-led uprising that ousted former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

Pakistan Went On Damage-Control Overdrive After Washington's India Map Post

World. (Agency)

Pakistan has said that it approached Washington after the US posted a map that aligns with India's official map, showing the entire region of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, including Pakistan-occupied Kashmir and Aksai Chin, as Indian territory—a move that deeply embarrassed Islamabad. Pakistan's Foreign Ministry claimed the post was deleted after Islamabad raised objections with US officials.

Parts of Jammu and Kashmir and Arunachal Pradesh are illegally claimed by Pakistan and China.

"This map was put up at certain handles. We contacted the US authorities, and they realised that this map was illegal... As a result, the international map delineating Pakistan and Indian territories is legally sanctified by the United Nations," Pakistan Foreign Ministry spokesperson Tahir Andrabi said in a media briefing. Islamabad, left red-faced by Washington's action, claimed it was satisfied that "the US side made the requisite correction to highlight the legal UN-sanctioned map of our region, which clearly delineates Jammu and Kashmir as a disputed territory whose settlement is to be done through a UN-administered plebiscite in accordance with the UN Security Council resolutions." The map posted by the United States Trade Representative (USTR) on February 7 had caught attention, as it was a clear departure from the historical American practice of marking PoK and Aksai Chin as disputed areas. The graphic was part of the announcement on the bilateral interim framework agreement on trade, soon after New Delhi and Washington announced they had agreed on the terms of the deal.

Obama Says Trump Climate Repeal Leaves Americans "Less Safe, Less Healthy"

world. (Agency)

Former US president Barack Obama on Thursday warned that Donald Trump's decision to repeal a landmark scientific finding underpinning climate regulations would leave Americans "less safe, less healthy." The endangerment finding, issued under the Obama administration, determined that greenhouse gases threaten public health and welfare by driving climate change. "Without it, we'll be less safe, less healthy and less able to fight climate change -- all so the fossil fuel industry can make even more money," the 44th president wrote on X.



Second US aircraft carrier is being sent to Middle East amid rising Iran tensions

The USS Gerald R Ford's planned deployment to the Mideast comes after Trump only days earlier suggested another round of talks with the Iranians was at hand.

WASHINGTON. (Agency)

The United States will send the world's largest aircraft carrier to the Middle East to back up another already there, a person familiar with the plans said Friday, putting more American firepower behind US President Donald Trump's efforts to coerce Iran into a deal over its nuclear program.

The USS Gerald R Ford's planned deployment to the Mideast comes after Trump only days earlier suggested another round of talks with the Iranians was at hand. Those negotiations didn't materialize as

one of Tehran's top security officials visited Oman and Qatar this week and exchanged messages with the US intermediaries.

Already, Gulf Arab nations have warned any attack could spiral into another regional conflict in a Mideast still reeling from the Israel-Hamas war in the Gaza Strip.

Meanwhile, Iranians are beginning to hold 40-day mourning ceremonies for the thousands killed in Tehran's bloody crackdown on nationwide protests last month, adding to the internal pressure faced by the sanctions-battered Islamic Republic. The Ford's deployment, first reported by The New York Times, will put two carriers and their accompanying warships in the region. Already, the USS Abraham Lincoln and its accompanying guided-missile destroyers are in the Arabian Sea. The person who spoke to The Associated Press on the deployment did so on condition of anonymity to discuss military movements. Ford had been part of Venezuela strike force marks a quick turnaround for the Ford, which Trump sent from the Mediterranean Sea to the Caribbean last October as the

administration build up a huge military presence in the lead-up to the surprise raid last month that captured then-Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro.



It also appears to be at odds with Trump's national security strategy, which put an emphasis on the Western Hemisphere over other parts of the world.

Trump on Thursday warned Iran that failure to reach a deal with his administration would be "very traumatic." Iran and the United States held indirect talks in Oman last week. "I guess over the next month, something like that," Trump said in response to a question about his timeline

for striking a deal with Iran on its nuclear program. "It should happen quickly. They should agree very quickly." Trump told Axios earlier this week that he was considering sending a second carrier strike group to the Middle East. Trump held lengthy talks with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Wednesday and said he insisted to Israel's leader that negotiations with Iran needed to continue. Netanyahu is urging the administration to press Tehran to scale back its ballistic missile program and end its support for militant groups such as Hamas and Hezbollah as part of any deal.

The USS Ford set out on deployment in late June 2025, which means the crew will have been deployed for eight months in two weeks time. While it is unclear how long the ship will remain in the Middle East, the move sets the crew up for an unusually long deployment. The White House didn't immediately respond to a request for comment. Ford's deployment comes as Iran mourns Iran at home faces still-smoldering anger over its wide-ranging suppression of all dissent in the Islamic Republic.

Goldman Sachs' top lawyer Kathy Ruemmler to resign after emails show close ties to Jeffrey Epstein

NEW YORK. (Agency)

Kathy Ruemmler, the top lawyer at storied investment bank Goldman Sachs and former White House counsel to ex-US President Barack Obama, announced her resignation Thursday, after emails between her and Jeffrey Epstein showed a close relationship where she described him as an "older brother" and downplayed his sex crimes. Ruemmler said in a statement that she would "step down as Chief Legal Officer and General Counsel of Goldman Sachs as of June 30, 2026."

Up until her resignation, Ruemmler repeatedly tried to distance herself from the emails and other correspondence and had been defiant that she would not resign from Goldman's top legal post, which she had held since 2020. While Ruemmler has called



Epstein a "monster" in recent statements, she had a much different relationship with Epstein before he was arrested a second time for sex crimes in 2019 and later killed himself in a Manhattan jail. Ruemmler called Epstein "Uncle Jeffrey" in emails and said she adored him. In a statement before her resignation, a Goldman Sachs spokesperson said Ruemmler "regrets ever knowing him." In her statement Thursday, Ruemmler said: "Since I joined Goldman Sachs six years ago, it has been my privilege to help oversee the firm's legal, reputational, and regulatory matters; to enhance our strong risk management processes; and to ensure that we live by our core value of integrity in everything we do. My responsibility is to put Goldman Sachs' interests first." Goldman CEO David Solomon said in a separate statement: "As one of the most accomplished professionals in her field, Kathy has also been a mentor and friend to many of our people, and she will be missed. I accepted her resignation, and I respect her decision." During her time in private practice after she left the White House in 2014, Ruemmler received several expensive gifts from Epstein, including luxury handbags and a fur coat. The gifts were given after Epstein had already been convicted of sex crimes in 2008 and was registered as a sex offender.

Bangladesh elections: Political heir Tarique Rahman in line for PM after BNP claims victory

DUBAI. (Agency)

Long overshadowed by his parents and heir to one of Bangladesh's most powerful political dynasties, Tarique Rahman has finally stepped into the spotlight. At 60, the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) leader is preparing to take charge of the South Asian nation of 170 million, driven by what he calls an ambition to "do better." A year and a half after the deadly uprising that toppled Sheikh Hasina's iron-fisted regime, the BNP said they had won a "sweeping victory" in parliamentary elections held on Thursday. Official results are yet to be declared, but the United States offered congratulations to Rahman on an "historic" win. His rise marks a remarkable turnaround for a man who only returned to Bangladesh in December after 17 years in exile in Britain, far from Dhaka's political storms. Widely known as Tarique Zia, he carries a political name that has shaped every stage of his life. He was 15 when his father, president Ziaur Rahman, was assassinated in 1981.

Tarique's mother, Khaleda Zia -- a three-time prime minister and a towering figure in Bangladeshi politics for

decades -- died aged 80 in December, just days after his return home.

My country'

Speaking to AFP two days before the vote, Rahman vowed to build on their



legacy. "They are them, I am me," he said from his office, beneath gold-framed portraits of his late parents. "I will try to do better than them."

He described the "mixed feelings" that overwhelmed him when he arrived home in December -- the joy of returning, swiftly eclipsed by grief at his mother's death. "This is my country, I was born here, I was raised here -- so naturally, that was a very happy feeling," he said. Instead of celebrating, however, he had to bid farewell to his

Trump's EPA revokes scientific finding that underpinned US fight against climate change

WASHINGTON. (Agency)

The Trump administration on Thursday revoked a scientific finding that long has been the central basis for U.S. action to regulate greenhouse gas emissions and fight climate change, the most aggressive move by the Republican president to roll back climate regulations. The rule finalised by the Environmental Protection Agency rescinds a 2009 government declaration known as the endangerment finding that determined that carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases threaten public health and welfare. The Obama-era finding is the legal underpinning of nearly all climate regulations under the Clean Air Act for motor vehicles, power plants and other pollution sources that are heating the planet.

The repeal eliminates all greenhouse gas emissions standards for cars and trucks and could unleash a broader undoing of climate regulations on stationary sources such as power plants and oil and gas facilities, experts say. Legal challenges are near certain.

President Donald Trump called the move "the single largest deregulatory action in American history, by far," while EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin called the endangerment finding "the Holy Grail of federal regulatory overreach."

Trump called the endangerment finding "one of the greatest scams in history," claiming falsely that it "had no basis in fact" or law. "On the contrary, over the generations, fossil fuels have saved millions of lives and lifted billions of people out of poverty all over the world," Trump said at a White House

ceremony, although scientists across the globe agree that carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases are driving catastrophic heat waves and storms, droughts and sea level rise.

Environmental groups described the move as the single biggest attack in U.S. history against federal authority to address climate change. Evidence backing up the endangerment finding has only grown stronger in the 17 years since it was approved, they said.

This action will only lead to more climate pollution, and that will lead to higher costs and real harms for American families," said Fred Krupp, president of Environmental Defense Fund, adding that the consequences would be felt on Americans' health, property values, water supply and more.

As Xi Jinping Purges His Commanders, CIA Sees Opening In Beijing's Barracks

WASHINGTON. (Agency)

Weeks after China's top military general was removed, the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) of the United States released a new Chinese-language video to appeal to disillusioned People's Liberation Army officers. The agency's video is seen as an attempt to recruit spies in the country, a move likely to infuriate Beijing.

CIA's New Video

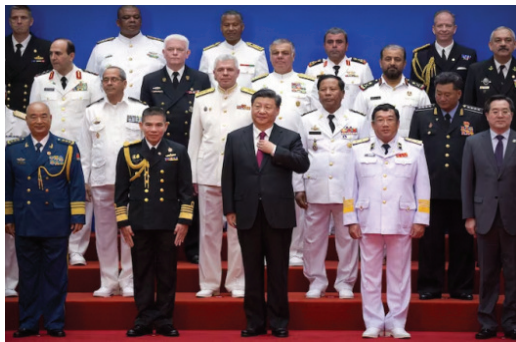
Titled "Save the Future", the video was posted on YouTube and other social media platforms nine months after the CIA first published Chinese-language videos to help recruitment, Financial Times reported.

In the clip, the narrator is a fictional mid-level military officer disheartened by the condition in the country. He laments, "The only thing our party leaders are interested in defending is their own pockets". Although the CIA has not directly linked the video to the recent purges in China, the clip was posted two weeks after President Xi Jinping removed General

Zhang Youxia, who served as his second-in-command on the powerful Central Military Commission, and General Liu Zhenli, another top member of the CMC. The removal followed dozens of similar purges of top PLA generals in recent years and was the most serious removal of top military officials since the time of Mao Zedong. What The CIA Said On The Video The video shows the narrator "making the difficult decision to stay true to his values and forge a better path for his family by contacting the CIA," a CIA official told CNN. CIA Director John Ratcliffe said the agency was "going to continue offering Chinese government officials and citizens an opportunity to work toward a brighter future together." The intelligence agency has said that these videos have led to the recruitment of new intelligence sources inside China. American officials say China is the biggest strategic threat facing the US today, adding that the government has

historically proven to be one of the most difficult targets to gather intelligence on.

US Position On China During his confirmation hearing last year, Ratcliffe highlighted that China would be a top



priority for the agency. The CIA believes it has an opportunity to potentially expand its presence in Beijing, partly by exploiting Xi's intensifying crackdown on the country's military leadership. This is part

of the CIA's attempt to rebuild its network in China after the US lost a string of spies in Beijing as part of a two-year counterintelligence campaign starting in 2010.

China's Recent Purge

Since 2023, Beijing has ousted or put over 20 senior military officials under investigation. Now, US officials think Xi Jinping may be consolidating his power even more with Zhang Youxia's removal. Since coming to power in 2012, President Xi has launched waves of anti-corruption campaigns that critics say have been used to remove political rivals, the BBC reported.

Speaking in a virtual address on Tuesday, Xi made a rare reference to the public crackdown and stated that the past year had been "unusual and extraordinary", adding that the army had "undergone revolutionary tempering in the fight against corruption".

NEWS BOX

Speed trial on metro line from Vadapalani to Poonamallee likely by February-end

CHENNAI. (Agency)

The final speed trial for Chennai Metro Rail’s Corridor 4 Phase II stretch from Vadapalani to Poonamallee Bypass is expected towards the end of the third week of February, before the grant of the regulatory approval. The commissioner of Metro Rail Safety (CMRS) on Thursday continued statutory inspections on the priority section of the corridor for the second consecutive day, bringing the project closer to the start of commercial operations. Anant Madhukar Chowdhary, commissioner of Metro Rail Safety (Bengaluru Circle), inspected the elevated section between Iyyapanthangal and Vadapalani, covering 8.5 km of the 14.64-km priority corridor. The two-day inspection, conducted on February 11 and 12, spans 11 stations between Poonamallee Bypass and Vadapalani, including key stations such as Porur Junction and Iyyapanthangal. A Chennai Metro Rail release said the inspections focused on electrical systems, track alignment and civil infrastructure, all of which form part of the mandatory safety clearance process ahead of passenger services. CMRL has decided to prioritise extending services up to Vadapalani rather than commissioning the stretch only till Porur Junction, citing concerns over limited ridership due to the absence of direct connectivity with the operational Phase I network.

GHMC allocates Rs 500 crore each to Cyberabad, Malkajgiri civic bodies

HYDERABAD. (Agency)

The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) will allocate 500 crore each to the newly formed Cyberabad and Malkajgiri municipal corporations to support day-to-day administration and development works. The decision was approved at the first standing committee meeting following the GHMC reorganisation, chaired by Jayesh Ranjan, the special officer for the three municipal corporations at the GHMC head office. GHMC Commissioner RV Karnan and senior officials attended the meeting. Following the trifurcation, a task force under the Centre for Good Governance has been constituted to allocate assets, liabilities and manpower among the three corporations. The task force will study existing agreements and submit recommendations within 10 days, Ranjan, who is also Municipal Administration and Urban Development department special chief secretary, said. He said administrative efficiency could yield visible results in a short period and that six months would be sufficient to see improvements in urban governance. Officials were asked to treat the next six months as a key working season and prioritise completion of SRDP, SNDP and H-City projects, along with ensuring pothole-free roads and adequate street lighting. Referring to Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy’s focus on governance in the Core Urban Region (CURE), Ranjan said officials should leverage government support and work under the leadership of Karnan to deliver outcomes at the grassroots. Earlier, Karnan reviewed sanitation, waste management, dumping yard alternatives, infrastructure and road safety. To boost sanitation, competitions will be held among the three corporations, with certificates and incentives for officials, NGOs and individuals.

LSGD warns Karumkulam panchayat against obstructing dog shelter ops; cites SC directives

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM. (Agency)

With protests mounting against the dog shelter at Karumkulam panchayat, the local self-government department (LSGD) has come up with an order directing the panchayat authorities not to obstruct the functioning of the animal shelter citing directives issued by the Supreme Court. In a communication addressed to the district police chief, Thiruvananthapuram, and the secretary of Karumkulam panchayat, the LSGD referred to a petition submitted by Sangeetha Suresh, an activist, seeking intervention to ensure the smooth functioning of Naughtys Pet Sanctuary. The order mandates that stray animals picked up must be housed in appropriate shelters or cattle pounds and provided with food, water and veterinary care in accordance with the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960, and the Animal Birth Control (Dogs) Rules, 2023. The court has also held that local bodies are responsible for immediately removing stray dogs found within the premises of educational institutions, hospitals, sports complexes, bus stands and railway stations, and shifting them to designated shelters after sterilisation and vaccination as per the rules. The LSGD noted that there is an urgent need to establish dog shelters in the state to effectively implement stray dog control measures in line with the Supreme Court’s directives.

UP unveils new excise policy: With small 100 ml packs, govt targets extra big revenue

The working hours of retail shops will remain unchanged, i.e. from 10 am to 10 pm

Lucknow. (Agency)

Liquor in 100 ml packs, a reduction in excise duty on wine: These and more are part of Uttar Pradesh’s Excise Policy for 2026-27, approved by the Cabinet on Wednesday evening. While the government has largely retained the existing framework, several key changes have been introduced to boost revenue, streamline administration, and fine-tune regulations across the liquor trade. Changes in pricing and pack sizes In 2026-27, a 100 ml pack size has been introduced for 42.8% volume/volume UP Make Liquor (UPML). Except for 25% v/v strength, the maximum retail price (MRP) of all other strengths of country liquor/UPML will be rounded off to the next multiple of Rs 10. This is estimated to generate additional revenue of Rs 1,500 crore. While rationalising MRP formulas for Indian-made wine and low-alcohol beverages (RTD), excise duty on wine has been reduced. Fortified wine will be charged excise duty at an additional rate. Against excise-duty-free wine, a total monthly/quarterly adjustment in MGR up to 0.1% will be permissible. A minimum increase has been made in the special additional excise

duty on Indian Made Foreign Liquor (IMFL). The working hours of retail shops will remain unchanged, i.e. from 10 am to 10 pm. Shop allotment and renewals Under the new policy, composite shops, model shops, premium model shops, retail shops of country liquor, and hemp (bhang) will



primarily be managed through renewal after receiving applications. On the e-lottery portal, a processing fee of Rs 3,000 has been fixed for applications related to mobile number correction, PAN correction, etc. This arrangement will be applicable from the date of notification of the Excise Policy for 2026–27.

Licence fees

In the interest of revenue and administration, the annual Minimum Guaranteed Quantity (MGQ) of country liquor shops arranged in 2025-26 will be increased differently area-wise. The monthly distribution of annual MGQ will be done on the basis of varying percentages, considering demand/consumption in different months. Transfer of MGQ up to 30% between country liquor shops will be permissible. A shop will be permitted to lift only up to a maximum of 75% of its monthly MGQ from any one distillery (including all Country Liquor Bottling-1 and CLB-2 units of that distillery). The MGR / license fee of liquor retail shops has been increased by 7.5%. The license fee for bhang shops shall be increased by 10%. Grape wineries established in the state will be permitted a maximum of two V-5 licenses per district. For the financial year 2026–27, the provisions related to liability of license fees for CL-2 (country liquor), FL-2 (foreign liquor), and FL-2B licenses have been modified. The authority to change the location of retail shops (shop relocation) has been vested in the Licensing Authority (District Collector concerned).

Trade union protest in Bengaluru ends in mass detentions

The unions reiterated their demand for repeal of the labour codes and reinstatement of MGNREGA provisions, vowing to continue their agitation.

BENGALURU. (Agency)

Nearly a thousand members of the Joint Committee of Trade Unions (JCTU) participated in a protest at Town Hall on Thursday as part of the nationwide general strike, demanding withdrawal of the four new labour codes and opposing changes to Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA). Police detained several protesters, citing restrictions that allow demonstrations only at Freedom Park. Schools, public transport and essential services functioned normally across the city. As the protest intensified, police rounded up workers and activists and shifted them in BMTC buses. Protesters alleged that at least 23 busloads were taken to the CAR police grounds in Adugodi around 11.30 am, where they continued raising



slogans. They were released by about 2.30 pm. Clifton Rozario, AICCTU national vice-president and human rights activist, said the protest was part of a nationwide strike against the labour codes introduced by the Union government. “Even under the Siddaramaiah-led government, labourers and activists are being denied the opportunity to protest. All the

workers were arrested and taken to Adugodi police grounds,” he alleged.

Hundreds of IT employees were arrested, along with Karnataka IT/ITeS Employees Union (KITU) General Secretary Suhas Adiga and other leaders and activists from KITU and various Central Trade Unions, during the protest. “By cracking down on peaceful protesters, the Congress government in Karnataka is displaying its undemocratic character and hostility toward working-class struggles.

We strongly condemn this repression,” he said. As the crowd swelled and tension mounted around Town Hall, some BMTC passengers alleged that they were asked to alight from buses to enable police to transport detained protesters.

₹35,000 bribe inside Mantralaya! ACB traps FDA clerk in minister’s office, Congress demands ouster

The Maharashtra Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Thursday arrested a clerk from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) department for allegedly accepting a bribe of 35,000 to restore a suspended medical licence. The accused, identified as Rajendra Dherange, was working as a clerk in the FDA department under the charge of state minister Narahari Zirwal. According [...]

Mumbai. (Agency)

The Maharashtra Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Thursday arrested a clerk from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) department for allegedly accepting a bribe of ₹35,000 to restore a suspended medical licence. The accused, identified as Rajendra Dherange, was working as a clerk in the FDA department under the charge of state minister Narahari Zirwal. According to ACB officials, Dherange had allegedly demanded ₹50,000 from a complainant for reinstating a cancelled licence. After the complainant approached the ACB office and registered a complaint, officials verified the allegations and laid a trap inside the Mantralaya building. The accused was caught red-handed while accepting ₹35,000 as part

of the demanded bribe. An ACB official said the trap was executed inside the department office and further investigation into the case is underway. The arrest has sparked a political



controversy after Maharashtra Congress president Harshvardhan Sapkal demanded accountability at the ministerial level. “Shocking information has come to light that the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) laid a trap in the office of a cabinet minister at the Mantralaya and took a bribe-taking official into

custody. It has once again become clear that under the highly corrupt Mahayuti government, open bribery and commission-taking are rampant in the Mantralaya. A situation has arisen where public work does not get done without money. This is an extremely serious matter.” Sapkal said. Narahari Zirwal is a senior Maharashtra politician and a cabinet minister in the state government, currently handling the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) portfolio. A prominent tribal leader from north Maharashtra, Zirwal has been associated with the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) and has represented the Dindori constituency in the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly for five times.

Days ahead of daughter’s marriage, gold worth Rs 65 lakh ‘missing’ from bank locker, Vadodara family files police complaint

Ahmedabad. (Agency)

How safe is the gold in your bank locker? A US-based Vadodara family was in for a rude shock on Thursday, when they found that gold ornaments, approximately worth Rs 65 lakhs kept in the bank’s locker, had allegedly gone missing. What was meant to be a momentous visit to their bank to take gold jewellery from their safe deposit locker for their daughter’s wedding turned into distress for the family.

Narendra Shah said that he had visited the Cosmos Co-Operative Bank at Waghodia Road in Vadodara, where his wife and he had a safe deposit locker with the intention to bring home around 35 tola (408 grams) of gold as their daughter is scheduled to be married on February 18. Shah said that the couple, on opening the safe deposit locker, allegedly found the aluminium box used to store the gold had its lock broken and 65 grams of gold was missing. Shah said, “We live in the US and have arrived in Vadodara for our daughter’s wedding. When we visited the bank to operate the locker and when my wife saw that the lock of the aluminum box was broken, she was suspicious. Our fears came true when we opened the box and saw that the gold ornaments were missing... We have a list of our

items. There are bangles, bracelets, necklace, and ten gold coins among other jewellery that makes a total of about 30-35 tola (408 grams) of gold. There are also silver ornaments and articles in the safe deposit locker that are not missing.” Accusing the bank of giving “dissatisfactory answers”, Shah said that he summoned the police to the spot. “When we asked officials of the bank about the gold, they did not reply in a satisfactory manner and insisted on “resolving the matter internally”. My daughter’s wedding is slated for the day after tomorrow and we had no choice but to call the police... It was in 2024 that I applied for a locker at the bank and even created the mandatory fixed deposit for the same. We kept all the gold and precious ornaments in the locker. We have not visited the bank in a while so the management has to answer where the gold is.” Bapod police station in Vadodara city on Thursday initiated a probe into the allegation, following a complaint filed by the family. A police official of Bapod police station said that the primary probe would look into the details of the operation of the safe deposit locker of the bank, which operates on a dual key system.

The university said a resident doctor had filed a complaint on Wednesday, accusing him of stalking her and sending inappropriate messages

Vadodara. (Agency)

An Additional Professor at Lucknow’s King George Medical University (KGMU) was suspended on Thursday following a complaint lodged by a resident doctor with university authorities, accusing him of sexual harassment, a day earlier. This comes weeks after a junior resident doctor and an intern were arrested on similar charges. On January 9, the junior resident doctor, Rameezuddin, accused of alleged forced religious conversion and sexual exploitation of two women, was arrested in Lucknow. The same month, the intern was arrested for allegedly sexually exploiting a nursing

student on false promise of marriage, among other charges, by the Qaiserbagh police. KGMU spokesperson Dr K K Singh told The Indian Express, “The Additional Professor was suspended after a resident complained about his inappropriate behaviour with her, which comes under sexual harassment charges. She lodged the complaint yesterday and the action was taken to ensure that the Additional Professor does not affect the inquiry.” Dr Singh said the professor has been instructed not to visit the department so that the victim can record her statement before the Vishaka Committee without any obstruction or pressure. The matter has been



placed before the Committee and inquiry has been initiated, he added.

In her complaint, the resident doctor alleged that the Additional Professor had been harassing her over the past few days. She claimed he was stalking her, sending

messages, and making gestures in the department as well as outside working hours.

University in spotlight

Over the past month, following the complaints against its doctors, the varsity found itself fending off claims that a “love jihad” network is running from its campus. A confrontation between a group of protesters led by BJP leader and Uttar Pradesh State Women’s Commission Vice-Chairperson Aparna Yadav and the Vice-Chancellor had added to the heat, after the former raised questions over KGMU’s handling of the case.

Dream big and act fast to be in winning AI camp

The buzz of artificial intelligence is in every ear. A loud and scary buzz even. If you are not into AI, you are going to be living in a different world altogether. A future dominated by those with AI. A world divided into two. Those with it and those without. The future gets cleaved into two once again. The haves and the have-nots.

What began as tentative talk in business newspapers a decade ago is a reality in our lives today. AI is bringing in efficiency unimagined. A task that took, say, 4 hours to complete gets done in a few minutes. AI tools of every kind are helping everything we do today, from the homework of a Class 3 student to a high-level presentation on the economy made to the prime minister. AI is already in our midst on our smartphones and will shortly be in us as AI-embedded beings letting the machine do the thinking for us. The future is a buzz that has begun. As this buzz gets louder, it's time for the world of technology to wake up and prepare for the needs of the yet-again divided world ahead. Countries such as India and all in Africa need to be more careful about this divide than many others for now. As one divide erases, another begins. As economic disparity shows signs of getting a wee bit lesser than before and as the educational divide promises to get bridged by a bit, a new technological divide threatens the world ahead.

Is it really a threat? Depends what you make of it. Depends also on whether you are on that side of technology where all this is happening, or on the other side of the fence where all this sounds like science fiction. The divide, deepening by the day, is represented by strange allies. Technology at one end and religion at the other. These two strange buddies are dividing the world by the minute. The year gone by saw the world of tech get divided into a US camp and a China camp. There are two mindsets and two capitals of the technology world today. The rest of the world seems to be a wannabe world, wanting to snuggle into either of the two clusters that have emerged. Most developers, startup evangelists, thinkers, ideators and patent creators seem rather comfortable to cater to the needs, wants, desires, aspirations and even fantasies of these two cluster capitals. There is a ChatGPT world at one end and a DeepSeek world at another. Year 2025 was most certainly the year of AI across the developing and developer worlds. Nvidia hit a \$5-trillion valuation and catapulted AI as the hottest future property of the world. This made everyone in the space of AI chips and data centre infrastructure to salivate with glee. In more ways than one, this singular event has made a whole generation of youngsters across the world want a piece of the AI pie. Never mind if you do not belong by geography to the two AI clusters. You can aspire to be a part of this world—working from home, wherever home is. A whole host of piecemeal developers are emerging from every nook and corner of every country. Most of this is happening at the top of the tech developers' pyramid. I see it happening in Luanda in Angola and Lusaka in Zambia, just as I see it happening at the bleeding-edge of work out of Bengaluru, Pune, Gurugram and Bhubaneswar. Everyone, everywhere is contributing a bit to build the whole. The whole will belong to one of the two cluster capitals though—the US or China. Let me congeal the discussion then. Where does India stand in it all? Does it have a place at the table already neatly set for two? Please do remember, as famously quoted by Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney recently at Davos, "If you are not at the table, you are on the menu." India needs to aspire, plan for and ensure a place for itself in the noisy space of AI. We need to have our plans in place with a clear strategy of what we stand for. We need to establish a high ground for ourselves that defines a playing turf.

Technology, power and China’s strategic ambitions

Two soldiers injured in the same operation must not be treated differently for taxation merely because one continued to serve longer.

IN January 2026, China announced plans that appeared futuristic but are increasingly grounded in near-term feasibility. Its state-run space agency revealed proposals to build solar-powered data centres in space to support advanced artificial intelligence systems, alongside continued investments in space tourism and deep-space exploration. The announcement signalled intent rather than novelty: China aims to shape the next phase of technological development rather than merely narrowing existing gaps. These initiatives align with China's long-term objective of becoming a "world-leading space power" by 2045. They also reflect the broader elevation of aerospace and frontier technologies within Beijing's pursuit of technological self-reliance. Such announcements are no longer isolated. Instead, they point to a sustained pattern of China setting ambitious targets across emerging sectors and aligning state capacity to meet them.

China's technological acceleration should therefore be understood as strategic rather than incidental. Slowing economic growth, rising exposure to external pressure, and persistent concerns over dependence on foreign technologies have collectively pushed innovation to the centre of national policy. For India — pursuing atmanirbharta alongside manufacturing expansion and innovation-led growth — understanding the scale and coherence of China's approach has become increasingly important. At its foundation, China's emphasis on indigenous innovation is driven by economic considerations. Avoiding the middle-income trap has become a central policy concern, reinforced by the belief that long-term growth cannot rely indefinitely on access to Western technologies or export markets. In response, China has prioritised movement up the value chain, focusing on advanced manufacturing, artificial intelligence, clean energy, and high-end industrial systems. Demographic trends reinforce this shift. As China's working-age population declines, productivity gains driven by technological upgrading have become essential for sustaining growth. Innovation, in this context, is less a market outcome and more a deliberate response to structural domestic constraints. This repositioning has important external implications. While India continues to expand its manufacturing base, China is moving towards more advanced technological segments, widening differences in productivity and technological depth. At the same time, China's entry into frontier industries increasingly overlaps with India's own ambitions for technological self-reliance, intensifying competition in sectors such as semiconductors, electric-vehicle batteries and renewable energy technologies.

Economic motivations alone do not fully explain the intensity of China's technology push. Geopolitical considerations play a critical role. Heightened US-China strategic rivalry has underscored the national security risks associated with technological dependence, particularly in critical supply chains. Export controls on advanced semiconductors and policy initiatives such as the US CHIPS and Science Act have reinforced Beijing's perception of vulnerability. Within this environment, innovation functions as strategic insurance. By indigenising key technologies and embedding them within domestic ecosystems, China seeks to reduce exposure to external pressure and enhance resilience



against potential disruption. Technological self-reliance is thus framed as both an economic and strategic necessity. For India, these developments create a complex policy landscape. An era of technology decoupling and politicised interdependence between China and the US demands careful navigation. Access to platforms, standards and components is no longer governed solely by market dynamics, and overreliance on any single technological ecosystem carries long-term risks. Preserving strategic autonomy will, therefore, require more than diversification; it will depend on building credible domestic technological capabilities. China's technology strategy increasingly seeks to shape the structure of competition. Rather than competing only within existing markets, it aims to influence how these markets evolve. By consolidating control over upstream capabilities — ranging from battery chemistry and power electronics to industrial machinery, data ecosystems, and software-hardware integration — China raises entry barriers for others. Manufacturing may be geographically dispersed, but control over

Red lines on SIR: SC seeks balance in Bengal roll revision

The credibility of elections depends not just on clean polling-day management but also on the painstaking work that precedes it.

THE Supreme Court's intervention in the West Bengal Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls seeks to steady a process that is facing political and administrative turbulence. By extending the deadline by a week and clearly limiting the role of micro-observers, the Court has attempted to balance two imperatives: safeguarding the integrity of electoral rolls and ensuring procedural fairness. At the heart of the dispute lies trust — or the lack of it. The Election Commission of India (ECI) has flagged alleged intimidation, violence and public statements by ruling party leaders that, it says, discouraged officials engaged in the SIR exercise. The state government, on the other hand, has questioned the manner in which the revision was conducted, particularly the use of micro-observers and digital tools that, it argues, led to arbitrary exclusions and confusion among voters. The Court's clarification that micro-observers cannot pass orders is significant. Electoral law vests decision-making powers



with electoral registration officers and their assistants. Any dilution of this scheme risks creating parallel

authorities and undermining accountability. By drawing this red line, the SC has reaffirmed that assistance cannot morph into adjudication. Equally important is the warning that no impediment will be tolerated in completing the SIR. Electoral roll revision is a constitutional necessity to ensure that elections reflect the will of eligible citizens. Political mobilisation, whether by intimidation or obstruction, erodes that objective. Predictably, the ruling has been claimed as a victory by the Trinamool Congress, while the ECI has welcomed judicial backing for the continuation of the exercise. Such competing narratives underline why the process itself must be insulated from partisan interpretation. The credibility of elections depends not just on clean polling-day management but also on the painstaking work that precedes it.

The wasted school tablets of Haryana

A long-term vision for better use of educational technology should start with the basic needs

VIJAYA Mulay, who died in 2019 at the age of 98, had greater faith in the potential of educational technology than I had, but she also had far more knowledge and technical experience, so I never questioned her faith. She was a celebrated producer and director of educational films for children. She was also a venerated administrator with hands-on experience of using different technologies. When I requested her to chair the national focus group on educational technology in 2004, she produced a document of long-lasting value for the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT). She described India's schools as graveyards of technological equipment. Her observation continues to find evidence in schools and colleges where unusable computers and tablets lie dumped with old radio and television sets waiting to receive official permission for disposal. Mulay had seen several waves of enthusiasm for induction of communication technology in the school curriculum. From radio to satellite television, tape recorders and VCRs, they enjoyed seasonal popularity, guzzling scarce resources and giving uncertain results. If good things happened in a few schools, the official policy always insisted on upscaling, mostly leading to quick collapse and movement towards the next 'latest' toy. The emphasis was always on 'catching up' rather than consolidating the gains, with teacher confidence and autonomy. Had Mulay been around today, The Tribune report (February 4) about thousands of unusable tablets in Kaithal and Karnal wouldn't have surprised her. These tablets, with pre-downloaded lessons, were distributed just four years ago across Haryana. For various reasons, they are now unusable and beyond repair. The report says that teachers are reverting to chalk and blackboard. Even in the old days, when a school radio or TV developed a problem, the principal had to wait for months to get it repaired. Contingency money for minor work was always limited, and principals were never trusted to get

anything done themselves. So, a leaky tap, a blocked toilet, a broken windowpane must wait. It is not a pleasant afterthought that the humungous effort to equip schools with gadgets was all wasteful. It is still going on — in just as erratic a manner in which it had started — and a balanced approach shows no signs of emerging. Like all other polarities prevailing in our society, the polarity between techno-romantics and techno-sceptics has proved unbridgeable. A modest effort to create a bridge was made at a conference organised by Panjab University a year ago. In the current state of blocked dialogue, policies swing from side to side. The Himachal government has realised that smartphones in children's hands disturb the school day, so an order has been issued to stop them from bringing their phones to school. How this order will be implemented is anybody's guess. Teachers receive orders all the time and they are expected to comply quickly. In Uttar Pradesh, an order was recently circulated through WhatsApp, asking headmasters to initiate newspaper reading on a daily basis. Where the headmaster will find funds for this otherwise laudable initiative is not yet clear. Also, the order conveys that both Hindi and English newspapers should be subscribed to. Given the state of English teaching in UP, teachers are rightly confused. In private schools affiliated to the CBSE, uploading of school events is a regular activity, and principals continuously receive orders from the Board. As a teacher put it, teaching has become impossible. Mandatory use of digital technology now pervades all aspects of teachers' daily life. The news that Sweden, Denmark and France



have recognised the folly of giving digital technology so big a space in school life and are now reverting to older ways will take a while to filter down to our decision-makers. Mulay had seen it all, but she was not cynical in the least. She continued to believe that availability of good equipment could give children enjoyable opportunities to be creative. No one can argue that our schools offer plenty of such opportunities. I could never figure out the source of Mulay's undying hope that educational technology would one day find its proper use. She created one of the biggest collections of audio-visual material for classroom use. I can't think of a single

school which uses it. Mulay was familiar with the systemic conditions which discourage long-term vision and effort for pedagogic change. Rushed action for immediate outcomes sucks all the energy of school-level staff. Their role is to obey and show subservience. A long-term vision for better use of educational technology should start with the basic needs and low-tech devices required to bring life into classroom teaching. A dozen pairs of binoculars, for example, would enable children to watch and study birds around the campus. A class of 40 children needs that many pairs of scissors to make cross-sections of stems and leaves to be studied under a magnifying glass. Official policy does not recognise binoculars and magnifying glasses as part of educational technology. The cost of such simple equipment would be a fraction of what a tablet costs. And that may be the reason why there are no lobbyists for the availability of this kind of machinery. Tech companies and suppliers are actively involved in a decision to distribute tens of thousands of pre-loaded tablets. Bureaucrats and politicians play an active role in such a decision. The only person not involved is the teacher and the headmaster. They were not involved when radio sets were distributed in the 1960s, TV sets in the 1970s, VCRs in the 1980s. That equipment can still be found in the school graveyards in different parts of the country. Tablets will join them soon.

Education minister orders security review after Chanaur school murder

Shimla.(Agency)

Himachal Pradesh Education Minister has directed officials to ensure foolproof security arrangements in educational institutions across the state following the shocking murder of a mid-day meal worker at a primary school in Chanaur Gram Panchayat in Dehra in Kangra district.

Expressing deep sorrow over the killing of Saloncha Devi, the Minister termed the incident extremely unfortunate and said that schools must remain the safest spaces for children, teachers and supporting staff.

He informed that the accused in the case has been arrested and assured that strict action will be taken in accordance with the law.

Rohit Thakur instructed the Education Department to immediately review existing safety protocols and strengthen security measures in all government schools to prevent recurrence of such incidents. He emphasised that the safety of students, teachers, mid-day meal workers and other staff would be treated as a top priority.

Conveying condolences to the bereaved family, the Minister said the Education Department stands firmly with them in this hour of grief and will extend all possible assistance. He also prayed for peace to the departed soul and strength to the family to bear the irreparable loss.

Minister orders security review after worker's murder in Dehra School

Dharamshala.(Agency)

Education Minister Rohit Thakur expressed deep sorrow over the murder of mid-day meal worker Saloncha Devi at the primary school in Chanaur Gram Panchayat, Dehra. Calling the incident extremely unfortunate, he said that schools should be the safest places for children, teachers, and staff.

The Education Minister said that the accused in this case has been arrested, and strict and necessary action will be taken as per the law.

He directed the Education Department to immediately review and strengthen security arrangements in all state schools to ensure the safety of students, teachers, mid-day meal workers, and all supporting staff, and to prevent such incidents in the future.

Expressing condolences to the bereaved family, the Education Minister said that the Education Department is with the family in this hour of grief and will provide all possible assistance. He prayed for peace for the departed soul and strength to the family to bear this irreparable loss.

57 grams of Charas seized in Kangra; one held under NDPS Act

Dharamshala. (Agency)

Police at Lambagaon Police Station have arrested a man after recovering 57 grams of charas from his possession in the Gadiyara area of Kangra district, Police said here on Friday. Kangra district superintendent of police Ashok Rattan told UNI that the accused has been identified as Baldeep Rana, a resident of the village and post office Khairi, Tehsil Sujampur Tihra, District Hamirpur (Himachal Pradesh).

S P Rattan said that the contraband was seized during a routine check on February 11. He said that following the recovery, a case has been registered under Sections 20, 61, and 85 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act at Lambagaon Police Station. Further investigation into the matter is underway.

Centre pledges stronger BSNL network, more towers to improve connectivity in Himachal Pradesh

Shimla (Agency)

Responding to concerns over poor BSNL signal quality and frequent voice call disruptions in Himachal Pradesh, the Centre has assured Parliament that concrete measures are underway to strengthen telecom infrastructure and increase teledensity in the hill state.

During the Lok Sabha Question Hour, Minister for Communications Jyotiraditya M. Scindia said the government has initiated monthly and quarterly performance reviews of BSNL circles, focusing on operational and financial benchmarks including cable faults, repair timelines, and BTS uptime. "The target is to ensure at least 95 per cent uptime, with redeployment of manpower where necessary," he added.

During the Question Hour, Shimla MP Suresh Kashyap highlighted the acute staff shortage in BSNL and persistent network failures in remote and border areas of the state. He pointed out that many villages continue to struggle even for basic 2G connectivity, while residents face repeated call drops and prolonged service outages, particularly during heavy snowfall and rains.

'Plea appears to delay trial': Court rejects BJP MP's son petition in stalking case

Vikas Barala, son of BJP MP and party's former Haryana chief Subhash Barala, and Ashish Kumar are accused in the kidnapping and stalking case involving the daughter of an IAS officer.

Chandigarh. (Agency)

A Chandigarh court has dismissed an application filed by accused Vikas Barala and co-accused Ashish Kumar seeking forensic examination of certain documents in the 2017 stalking case, holding that no useful purpose would be served by sending them to the Central Forensic Science Laboratory (CFSL) at this stage. Barala, son of BJP MP and party's former Haryana chief Subhash Barala, and Ashish are accused in the kidnapping and stalking case involving the daughter of an IAS officer. The court while dismissing the application held, "The present case is pending since 2017 and it appears that the accused is delaying the proceedings. Therefore, no ground is made to allow the present application".

The order was passed by Judicial Magistrate First Class (JMFC) Navjot Kaur while hearing an application moved by the accused requesting that documents marked Ex.P1 and Ex.P2 be sent

to CFSL along with the complainant's admitted signatures recorded during her examination and



cross-examination. The defence counsel of Barala had sought expert analysis to establish their claim that the signatures on the documents were forged. According to the application, the

defence had already examined handwriting expert Dr Jassy Anand as a witness, who, as per the accused, concluded that the signatures on the documents were forged. The prosecution, however, argued that the expert's report was based only on photocopies and not original documents. The accused then sought court permission to send originals from the court file to CFSL for verification, offering to bear the expenses.

Opposing the plea, the public prosecutor submitted that the issue of alleged forgery had already been adjudicated earlier by a Chandigarh court. In August 2023, an application filed by Barala under Section 340 of the CrPC seeking action against the complainant regarding the same documents had been dismissed, and that order had not been challenged before any higher court. Hence, the prosecution argued, the matter could not be reopened at this stage.

Rail Connectivity bringing about major transformation in Mizoram Bharat Gaurav Tourist Train Arrives at Sairang for the first time, Signalling New Era of Rail Tourism and Growth in Mizoram

The Sikh Times

Maligaon, 13th February:

Railway services in Mizoram reached a new milestone with the arrival of the Bharat Gaurav Deluxe AC Tourist Train at Sairang Railway Station for the very first time on 12th February

2026 under the "North East Discovery" circuit. This premium tourist train, carrying 81 tourists from different parts of India as well as other nations such as the United States and Nepal, underscores Mizoram's growing visibility on the national and international tourism map. The historic inauguration of the 51.38 km Bairabi-Sairang Railway Line by Hon'ble Prime Minister on 13th September 2025 has turned out to be a watershed moment for tourism in Mizoram, with inflow of tourists witnessing continuous growth over the last six months. Improved accessibility has attracted both domestic and international visitors, which is contributing to

employment generation in hospitality and allied sectors, promoting eco-tourism and cultural tourism, and positioning Mizoram as an emerging destination in the



Northeast under the broader vision of inclusive growth and regional integration. Since the commencement of train services on the Bairabi - Sairang route in September 2025, public response has been overwhelming. The Sairang-Anand Vihar Rajdhani Express has recorded occupancy exceeding 147% and 154% in both

directions. The Sairang-Guwahati Express and Sairang-Kolkata Express have similarly registered strong occupancy levels of over 100%, clearly reflecting robust

demand and strong public acceptance of railway services from Sairang. Recently, on 9th February 2026, a new train service from Sairang to Silchar has been flagged off by the Hon'ble Railway Minister, further strengthening regional mobility, and connecting Mizoram with the important educational,

medical and commercial hub of the Barak Valley in Assam. Freight operations on the Bairabi-Sairang section have also gained substantial momentum since commissioning. The first freight rake comprising 21 cement wagons was successfully moved to Sairang shortly after inauguration, marking the beginning of regular freight move-

ment to the State. Subsequently, a diversified freight basket including cement, sand, stone chips, essential commodities and automobiles has been handled. Notably, the first inward automobile rake carrying 119 passenger vehicles was received at Sairang, demonstrating the line's capability to handle high-value bulk consignments. NFR has also initiated measures to strengthen parcel logistics, including the introduction of refrigerated parcel van services to facilitate transportation of horticultural and perishable produce, thereby expanding market access for local farmers and traders while reducing logistics cost. The NFR remains committed towards further strengthening rail infrastructure, enhancing service quality and expanding both passenger and freight operations in the region, ensuring that rail connectivity continues to serve as a catalyst for inclusive growth and long-term socio-economic development across Mizoram and the wider Northeast.

UP Budget 2026: Eye on panchayat polls, Yogi govt hikes Panchayati Raj funding by 67%

Lucknow. (Agency)

With panchayat elections in Uttar Pradesh due this year, the Yogi Adityanath government has proposed a sharp increase in funding for rural local bodies in this year's state Budget. The government has earmarked about Rs 32,090 crore for Panchayati Raj schemes – a 67 per cent rise over the previous year's allocations for the Panchayati Raj Department.

While grants to gram panchayats have more than doubled – from Rs 5,457.90 crore in 2025-26 to Rs 13,490.19 crore – fund allocations for block panchayats and district panchayats have also been significantly increased – from Rs 1,169.55 crore each to Rs 2,890.76 crore each.

Further, provision of Rs 350 crore has been made in the budget for making arrangements for the panchayat elections. While the budgetary outlay for the capital and administrative expenditure has seen only a marginal increase – Rs 30 crore and Rs 50 crore, respectively – a major portion of the hike is directed towards direct financial assistance to the three tiers of Panchayati Raj institutions in the state.



"The enhanced allocation is aimed at strengthening grassroots governance and improving basic infrastructure like sanitation and service delivery in villages. It signals a major push towards rural development and local capacity building before the upcoming panchayat polls, which are due anytime this year," said a senior official of the Panchayati Raj Department. Spending under Central schemes such

as Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) and the National Gram Swaraj Abhiyan has also been stepped up. "With focus on sanitation and governance, an allocation of Rs 2,823 crore has been proposed for the Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) Phase II, which has been operational since 2020-21," the Budget document read.

Also, to bridge the rural digital divide, the government has proposed Rs 454 crore for setting up "digital libraries" at the gram panchayat and ward levels, providing students and youth access to modern learning facilities within villages.

Fazilka SSP tenders apology at Akal Takht over police entry into Darbar Sahib

Jathedar seeks written explanation; urges Delhi to release Prof Devenderpal Singh Bhullar

Shahpur (Kangra).(Agency)

Senior Superintendent of Police Gurmeet Singh of Fazilka on Wednesday visited the Secretariat of Sri Akal Takht Sahib and tendered an apology over a recent police action inside the parikrama of Sri Darbar Sahib. The controversy arose after five police personnel from Fazilka district entered the parikrama area without permission from the shrine management and detained two individuals.

SSP Gurmeet Singh met Jathedar Giani Kuldip Singh Gargaji at the Secretariat, presented his version of events and expressed regret over the incident.

Addressing the media, the Jathedar said, "Sachkhand Sri Darbar Sahib gives the message of universal brotherhood to the world. Its four doors are open to all humanity. Devotees from across the globe visit the holy shrine with

deep reverence and faith."

He said the SSP has been asked to submit his explanation in writing. "SSP Fazilka Gurmeet Singh has acknowledged that the manner in which five police personnel from his district entered the parikrama of Sri



Darbar Sahib recently was inappropriate and should not have occurred," the Jathedar said.

According to him, the police assured that such an incident would not

recur. He emphasised that nothing should disturb the sanctity of the shrine or hurt the religious sentiments of the Sangat. In a separate statement, the Jathedar also raised the issue of Prof Devenderpal Singh Bhullar, whose petition for release was rejected by the BJP-led Delhi government. He described the decision as unfortunate.

Harpal Singh Cheema or Baljit Kaur: Why Bhagwant Mann's 'top choice' for deputy CM could upset AAP pecking order

Years ago, Arvind Kejriwal had promised that a Dalit would be appointed deputy CM if AAP was voted to power in Punjab.

Chandigarh. (Agency)

As the ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) in Punjab deliberates on fulfilling its pre-poll promise of appointing a Dalit leader as the deputy chief minister, Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema seems like the natural choice. However, a new name has reportedly entered the fray—that of Social Security, Women and Child Development Minister Dr Baljit Kaur.

Sources said that Dr Baljit Kaur is the preferred choice of Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann for the second top most post in the government. "Dr Baljit Kaur has always been a top choice of the CM. He has often praised her at several platforms of the party. He takes her to be a hard worker, an upright leader, who has not courted any controversy unlike many other women MLAs of the party," a source said. The senior leadership of the party has reportedly been

made to understand that if Dr Baljit Kaur is named deputy CM, the move could serve multiple strategic purposes. "With elections



approaching, the government is keen to consolidate support among women voters. Dr Baljit Kaur heads the department responsible for implementing the party's promise of providing Rs 1,000 per month to

eligible women, including compiling and verifying beneficiary data. Elevating her could reinforce the party's commitment to that pledge while sending a strong political message," a source privy to discussions said.

AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal had made the promise of appointing a Dalit as a deputy CM if the party was voted to power before 2017. However, the AAP could not form the government then. It came to power in 2022. The Opposition has since reminded the AAP several times to fulfil the promise.

Cheema is a prominent figure and holds key portfolios such as finance, taxation, and excise. He is also the second seniormost minister in the Cabinet after the CM, and has previously served as Leader of the Opposition during the Congress government. "The party considers him a troubleshooter. He has often been entrusted with handling sensitive political

situations and engaging with protesting employee unions during challenging times. However, now Dr Baljit Kaur's name has emerged," said a source.

He added that the announcement naming Dr Baljit Kaur as the deputy CM, expected by now, was not made as it could open a can of worms. "Dr Baljit Kaur is a first-time MLA from Malout. She currently holds the fourth position in pecking order and is the only woman minister in the Punjab government. She fits the bill. But naming her could annoy Cheema and his supporters and volunteers. The party is weighing all options," said a source, adding that she had the CM's backing.

Mann, it is learnt, is also backing the reinduction of his aide, Kuldeep Singh Dhaliwal, in the Cabinet. Dhaliwal was ousted last year and named a party spokesperson. "The government has not yet got his official bungalow vacated. This shows that there is a chance that he may be re-inducted," said a source.

Former Himachal CS accused of concealing records in Palampur land dispute

Dharamshala.(Agency)

A fresh complaint has been filed against a former Chief Secretary and an ex-Revenue Secretary of Himachal Pradesh, alleging deliberate suppression of official records in the long-pending Palampur land case concerning Section 118 proceedings. The complaint, submitted by Anoop Dutta of Dharamshala, accuses senior state officials of concealing crucial documents while submitting replies to constitutional authorities and courts.

According to the 21-page supplementary representation dated February 10, 2026, addressed to the Chief Minister and the Lokayukta, the complainant has alleged that during proceedings in Lokayukta Complaint No. 39/2023, senior officers, including the then Additional Chief Secretary (Revenue) Onkar Chand Sharma and former Chief Secretary Prabodh Saxen, submitted an incomplete record.

The complaint states that Annexure-6, which ought to have contained 276 pages of the SDM Palampur report dated 05.12.2002 and the Deputy Commissioner Kangra's forwarding letter dated 08.01.2003, was reduced to only four pages, thereby allegedly concealing the agreement dated 03.07.2002 and related documents.

The representation further claims that the agreement dated July 3, 2002, formed part of the official records and established lawful possession in favour of the complainant. It alleges that despite prior knowledge of this agreement, subsequent permissions under Section 118 of the H.P. Tenancy and Land Reforms Act were processed by suppressing relevant material. The complainant has also referred to earlier FIRs and inquiry proceedings conducted in 2002 under the directions of the then Chief Minister, contending that these records were not fully placed before the Lokayukta or other authorities.

Chief Of Defence Staff On Why Nehru Wanted Panchsheel Agreement With China

"Nehru probably knew that we had something as McMahon Line in the east... so that's why he wanted to go for the Panchsheel Agreement, probably," Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Anil Chauhan said.

Founder of terror-tainted Al Falah university to stay in jail, custody extended

New Delhi.(Agency)
A Delhi court on Thursday extended the judicial custody of Al Falah University Chairman Jawad Ahmad Siddiqui by 14 days in a case being investigated by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in connection with the Red Fort terrorist attack. The November 2025 terrorist car bomb attack near Delhi's Red Fort, which killed at least 15 people, was carried out by operatives employed as doctors at Al Falah University. Large amounts of explosives were seized from the university campus hours before the attack, and the campus in Faridabad emerged as a key hub in the terror conspiracy in the probe. The court directed that Siddiqui remain in judicial custody until the next hearing on March 27.
During the proceedings, the court also issued a notice to the Enforcement Directorate on a plea filed by Siddiqui. In his application, he sought copies of documents related to the prosecution complaint (chargesheet) filed in the case, urging the court to direct the ED to furnish all documents relied upon in the complaint to enable him to prepare his defence. The court took the plea on record and asked the central agency to respond.
Siddiqui was arrested as part of the ED's ongoing probe into the case. The charges and the ED's response to his plea are expected to be examined at the next hearing on March 27. At the rally, Vijay once again declared that TVK is a "100 per cent pure force" and asserted that the party would form the government to fulfil the aspirations of the people. Tamil Nadu is set to go to the polls for the State Assembly elections before May this year.

Delhi govt approves skill scheme; CM Gupta says artisans custodians of cultural heritage

New Delhi.(Agency)
In a push for traditional workers, the Delhi government has approved the Chief Minister Skill Development Scheme, a transformative scheme aimed at supporting thousands of artisans associated with khadi, handloom, cottage industries, and the unorganised sector.
The decision was cleared at a recent Cabinet meeting chaired by the Chief Minister, Rekha Gupta. Announcing the move, she said Delhi's artisans are the true custodians of the city's cultural heritage. "For years, they have strengthened society with their craftsmanship. But in changing times, they also need modern training and direct market access. This scheme will ensure that they not only sustain themselves in the new economy but truly progress with upgraded skills and access to digital platforms," she said.
Referring to the 'Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue 2026', Gupta noted that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had described skill development as a cornerstone of nation-building. The Union Budget 2026-27, she added, has also placed strong emphasis on connecting artisans to global markets, along with branding, training, and quality enhancement. "Delhi is carrying that vision forward. We are linking skills directly to dignified livelihoods," she said.
The scheme will be implemented through the Delhi Khadi and Village Industries Board (DKVIB). During 2025-26, a total of 3,728 beneficiaries will be trained, with Rs 8.9 crore approved for this phase. For 2026-27, a proposed allocation of Rs 57.5 crore is likely to be brought in to expand the programme.
Under the scheme, beneficiaries will undergo 12 days of structured training, which will include a two-day Entrepreneurship Development Programme (EDP). To ensure personalised guidance, training will be conducted in small batches of 35-45 participants. Upon completion, each beneficiary will receive a stipend of Rs 4,800 (Rs 400 per day), along with Rs 100 per day towards meals. Participants will also be provided essential toolkits after training, including foot-operated sewing machines where required. A key feature of the scheme is digital onboarding. Each artisan will have an e-catalogue created with their profile, photographs, and product details. These will be uploaded on the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) platform, giving their products visibility not only across India but also in international markets.

New Delhi.(Agency)
India recognised Tibet as part of China in 1954 and the two neighbours signed the Panchsheel Agreement, which India assumed meant the settlement of the northern border though a formal treaty, Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Anil Chauhan said at an event in Uttarakhand's Dehradun.
"... But the Chinese stand was that this agreement was negotiated only for trade, and it in no way reflected the Chinese stand on the border," General Chauhan said. To this day, the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the harsh Himalayan terrain remains sensitive.
Jawaharlal Nehru, the country's first prime minister, and the then Chinese premier Zhou Enlai signed the Panchsheel Agreement, or five principles including peaceful coexistence. "... The British left, they had to leave one day, and it was for India to decide where our front is.
Nehru probably knew that we had something as McMahon Line in the east; we had some kind

of a claim in the Ladakh area, but it was not here [in the east]. So that's why he wanted to go for the Panchsheel Agreement, probably," the CDS said.
The 890-km McMahon Line was the boundary between British India and Tibet in the east. General Chauhan said the Chinese wanted stability in the area after its "so-called" liberation of Tibet.
Tibet Factor
"For the Chinese also, because they had kind of liberated, so-called liberated Tibet - they had moved into Lhasa, they had moved into Xinjiang - this particular area was extreme from both ends, so they wanted stability, probably in this particular region." So this area assumed some kind of a priority.
Independent India was keen to build a good relationship with China, and once China gained independence in 1949, it pursued

neither its claims for enclaves and gave up the special privileges which it inherited from the British," General Chauhan said.



According to him, after China occupied Tibet and India recognised China for having a permanent seat in the United Nations, the

"Himalayan buffer" which was there between India and Tibet "evaporated" and that would convert into a border. "In 1954, India recognized Tibet as part of China; both countries signed the Panchsheel Agreement. With this, India assumed that it had settled its border, the northern border, the only area which we assumed that was not settled, through a formal kind of a treaty.
"For India, the legitimacy of this border now rested on the Panchsheel Agreement, which it thought had been delimited by identifying six passes through which trade would take place or pilgrims would go, that are Shipki La, Mana, Niti, Kingri-Bingri, Lipulekh and Dharma," General Chauhan said.
The deadliest clash along the LAC between Indian and Chinese troops happened in June 2020, when 20 Indian soldiers were killed in action while defending the nation.

ED arrests Former Lodha Developers Director in Rs 85-crore fraud case

New Delhi.(Agency)
The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Thursday arrested Rajendra Lodha, former director of Mumbai-based real estate firm Lodha Developers, in connection with a money laundering case involving an alleged Rs 85 crore scam. The arrest follows a complaint filed by Lodha Developers, one of India's leading real estate companies, which reported financial irregularities and fraudulent dealings after a massive scam came to light last year. He was earlier arrested by the Mumbai Police. According to officials, Rajendra Lodha and several others are accused of siphoning off large sums of money from the company through a series of complex transactions.
The case first came to light in September 2025, when Lodha Developers filed a criminal complaint against Rajendra Lodha and others, prompting the Mumbai



Crime Branch's property cell to initiate an investigation. Subsequently, Rajendra Lodha and several co-accused were arrested on suspicion of fraud, cheating, criminal breach of trust and criminal conspiracy. Investigators have since uncovered multiple instances of alleged embezzlement involving both cash and gold.
According to the investigation, Rajendra Lodha is accused of orchestrating a scheme to divert company funds through fake land acquisitions, the resale of previously purchased land and the undervaluation of company assets. Evidence

indicates that large cash transactions were carried out under the pretext of land deals, resulting in significant losses to Lodha Developers.
Police reports and witness testimonies have played a key role in building the case. Notably, seven witnesses have recorded their statements before a magistrate, while another 40 have given statements to the police.
One key witness, Rajendra Lodha's driver, told police that he collected Rs 1 crore from two locations in Mumbai and handed it over to Rajendra. According to the driver, the cash was later deposited into Rajendra's accounts.

Bengal voter with certificate issued before birth comes under poll body radar

While the SIR drive was ongoing in the state, the constituent submitted a birth certificate that listed March 6, 1993, as the person's birthdate. However, the electoral body flagged an issue after pointing out that the certificate was issued two days prior to the date of birth.



New Delhi.(Agency)
A person in West Bengal's Baranagar assembly constituency has come under the radar of the state election commission (SEC) for allegedly submitting a fake birth certificate during the state's recently concluded special intensive revision (SIR) of the electoral list drive. While the drive was ongoing in the state, the constituent submitted a birth certificate that listed March 6, 1993, as the person's birthdate. However, the electoral body flagged an issue after pointing out that the certificate was issued two days prior to the date of birth, March 4, 1993. Citing the impossibility of registering a birth certificate two days before the birth, the commission soon considered the certificate vague.
The case triggered legal action with the state chief electoral officer's office asking the electoral registration officer to take staunch legal action against the identified person, invoking Section 31 of the Representation of the People Act, which penalises the submission of false information.
Meanwhile, in West Bengal, the state election commission set a verification deadline of February 21. It sought an extension from the Election Commission of India. Nearly five per cent of the hearing in the SIR case is pending. The final electoral list, which was supposed to come out on February 14, will now come out on February 21.

Star power: Seven Presidents, two V-Ps, nine PMs to attend AI impact summit in Delhi

CEOs from almost all major AI companies are expected to attend the summit including, Alphabet CEO Sundar Pichai and OpenAI CEO Sam Altman.

New Delhi.(Agency)
India is set to host one of the most consequential technology gatherings of the decade as the AI Impact Summit kicks off at Bharat Mandapam here from February 16. Marking the first global AI summit to be held in the Global South, the five-day event is expected to bring together world leaders, policymakers, and the biggest names in artificial intelligence under one roof. The scale of political participation underscores the growing geopolitical weight of artificial intelligence. Seven presidents, two vice-presidents, and nine prime ministers have confirmed their presence, signaling that AI governance and innovation are now at the centre of global diplomacy. Sources said among the presidents are Brazil's Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, France's Emmanuel Macron, representing vice-presidential leadership will be Guyana's Bharrat Jagdeo and Seychelles' Sebastian Pillay.
The summit will also see PMs from nine countries—Armenia's Nikol Pashinyan, Bhutan's Tshering Tobgay, Croatia's Andrej Plenkovic, Finland's Petteri Orpo, Spain's Pedro Sánchez, Greece's Kyriakos Mitsotakis, the Netherlands' Dick Schoof, Kazakhstan's Oljas Bektenov, and Mauritius' Navinchandra Ramgoolam.
Beyond political leadership, CEOs from almost all major AI companies are expected to attend the summit. Confirmed industry leaders include Alphabet CEO Sundar Pichai, OpenAI CEO Sam Altman, Google DeepMind CEO Demis Hassabis, Anthropic CEO Dario Amodei, and Mistral AI CEO Arthur Mensch.
Estonia's Alar Karis, Slovakia's Peter Pellegrini, Sri Lanka's Anura Kumara Dissanayake, Serbia's Aleksandar Vucic, and Switzerland's Guy Parmelin. Their participation reflects a broad cross-continental engagement, spanning Europe, South America, and Asia.



"Won't Allow": Supreme Court Rejects Haryana's Aravalli Zoo Safari Plan

New Delhi.(Agency)
The Supreme Court on Thursday said it will not allow "anyone to touch the Aravallis", refusing to permit the Haryana government to submit a detailed plan on jungle safari till a definition of "Aravalli range" is clarified by experts. A bench of Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and Vipul M Pancholi said that the issue of jungle safari will be dealt with when it considers the main matter on the Aravalli range. Counsel for Haryana said that they have revised the detailed project report (DPR) of the safari project from 10,000 acres to over 3,300 acres. He said all they want is to be allowed to furnish the DPR to the central empowered committee (CEC) for their examination.
The bench said, "We are not experts. The experts will decide the definition of Aravalli. Till the definition of the

Aravalli range is finalised, we will not allow anyone to touch the Aravallis." CJI Kant said that the Aravalli is not only of Haryana or Rajasthan but it is a range which traverses many states.
"We will deal with this issue of safari with the main matter," he told the counsel for the Haryana government, who said that the main matter is altogether different and the issue of safari is different.
"Sometimes, the CEC is also very selective in giving its permission. If we permit this, they will give a very rosy picture that these are the trees, wildlife and forests," the bench observed. CJI Kant said that once the expert committee's opinion comes, it will deal with the safari project.



In October last year, the top court stalled the proposed mega 'Aravalli Zoo Safari project', touted to be the world's biggest zoo-safari by the Haryana government.
The Zoo Safari project aims to set up big cat zones and house hundreds of species of birds, reptiles and butterflies in

an area of 10,000 acres in the eco-fragile Aravalli range in Gurgaon and Nuh districts.
The top court was dealing with a petition jointly filed by five retired Indian Forest Service officers (IFS) and NGO 'People for Aravalis' alleging the project would spell doom for the already damaged Aravalli range.
On December 29, amid the outcry over the new definition of Aravallis, the top court kept in abeyance its directions of November 20 last year which accepted a uniform definition of these hills and ranges, saying there is a need to resolve "critical ambiguities" including whether the 100-metre elevation and the 500-metre gap between hills criteria will strip significant portion of the range of environment protection.

NEWS BOX

A slice of history: Pizza-maker Kalugamage spins Italy to first T20 World Cup win

New Delhi. (Agency)

India plays Namibia tonight, but Pakistan is already on everyone's mind. It's the reality of tournament cricket—you can't ignore what's coming next, even when there's a game to win right now. Suryakumar Yadav's men will insist they're focused only on Namibia, and they should be. But the Pakistan clash looms large, and tonight is also about preparation for that. Respectfully, Namibia might not be the biggest threat to India right safe? The team selection and approach will reveal how much India is thinking beyond just the next two points.

AN OPENING CONUNDRUM

The biggest question mark hangs over the opening slot. Abhishek Sharma looked off-colour during the USA game, and his subsequent hospitalisation—though he's since been discharged—has raised concerns about his fitness. Can he dig deep and get back to his best? A rest might be on the cards,



but then the question becomr the country," Irfan Pathan said on Star Sports, hinting at the management's priorities.

So who steps in? Sanju Samson is the obvious choice as the other opener in the squad, but he hasn't been in great form lately. In the quiet, cobblestoned streets of Lucca, Tuscany, the rhythm of Crishan Kalugamage's life was long defined by the heat of a wood-fired oven. By day, he is a pizzaiolo — a man who stretches dough and perfects the blistered crust of a classic Margherita. But while his hands worked the flour, his mind was revisiting the dusty pitches of Negombo, Sri Lanka, and the wickets he was destined to take. Today, that dream has been served piping hot on the world stage. Kalugamage is no longer just Lucca's favourite pizza maker.

Arshdeep Singh shares first glimpse of Abhishek Sharma after stomach illness

New Delhi. (Agency)

India pacer Arshdeep Singh offered fans a timely glimpse of Abhishek Sharma through a recent social media post, even as uncertainty continues to surround the opener's availability for India's blockbuster T20 World Cup clash against Pakistan on February 15. The light-hearted video surfaced shortly after India's dominant win over Namibia, reigniting conversations around Abhishek's recovery timeline.

The clip, filmed in what appeared to be the Indian dressing room during a post-match meal, showed Abhishek looking relaxed and comfortable. While Arshdeep jokingly pointed out that Abhishek was still sticking



to a light diet of dal and rice, the visuals suggested the opener is steadily on the mend, even if match readiness remains a separate question. Why is Abhishek Sharma ruled out?

Abhishek Sharma was hospitalised in Delhi earlier this week after suffering from a stomach bug, forcing him to miss India's group-stage fixture against Namibia. The illness came as an untimely setback, especially given the batter's importance at the top of the order in India's aggressive T20 setup. Although Abhishek has since been discharged from hospital, the Indian team management has taken a cautious approach. Speaking at the toss against Namibia, captain Suryakumar Yadav confirmed that the opener would be unavailable for "a game or two", underlining that the decision was driven by recovery and not form or fitness concerns.

Will Abhishek Sharma play IND vs PAK?

With the India-Pakistan clash looming, Abhishek's availability remains one of the biggest talking points in India's World Cup campaign. A fully fit Abhishek would significantly strengthen India's top order and give them a chance to seal Super 8 qualification in emphatic fashion against their arch-rivals.

USA batter calls out ICC over lesser funding for associate nations: Need more exposure

T20 World Cup: USA batter Shayan Jahangir has urged the ICC to increase funding and exposure for Associate nations ahead of their must-win clash against the Netherlands in Chennai. He believes better support will help emerging teams thrive globally.

NEW DELHI. (Agency)

USA batter Shayan Jahangir has urged the International Cricket Council (ICC) to provide more funding and exposure to Associate Nations ahead of USA's must-win T20 World Cup clash against the Netherlands in Chennai. Jahangir said the lack of resources continues to hold emerging teams back even as they shine on the world stage.

Speaking at the pre-match press conference on the eve of the crucial Group A fixture in Chennai, Jahangir stressed that Associate sides have proved they belong at this level,

but are still not being supported adequately. "The exposure and the kind of funding that we get from ICC is lacking...I think we've been given the tag of Associate nation, but we are nothing short of a great team. As you have seen in this World Cup, all the teams that are tagged Associate Nations have put on a show, and they've given a very tough time to all these big teams," Jahangir said.

How associate nations made T20 WC headlines

The 2026 T20 World Cup has been defined by the fearless performances of teams outside the traditional powerhouses. Nepal, Netherlands, USA and debutants Italy have all produced headline-making moments. Nepal came close to pulling off a famous win against England, backed by massive crowd support at Wankhede. Netherlands narrowly missed out on an early upset against Pakistan, while Italy, playing their first-ever World Cup, stunned Nepal to register their maiden T20 World Cup victory. Former players have also voiced support for these rising nations. Aakash Chopra called for greater attention towards teams like Nepal, while Yuvraj Singh praised Italy after their historic win. Jahangir believes these performances show that the

associate sides are already pushing the best, but only because of the players putting in their utmost efforts with very little financial backing from the ICC.

"I would say, we have not been watered down



properly. We haven't been nurtured properly. But again, it's all our players who are putting in the hard yards. Without the financial resources, without the infrastructure, I think if ICC pays more attention to us and all the Associate nations, you'll see more big games and you'll see all these teams coming and changing their tag from Associate nations to big teams as well," Jahangir added.

How USA gave India a T20 World Cup scare USA entered the tournament after a chaotic build-up, with its governing cricket board facing a suspension from the ICC disrupting

their preparation big time. They had not played a T20I since April 2025 before arriving at the World Cup. Despite that, the USA gave defending champions India a major scare in Mumbai, reducing them to 75 for 6 before Suryakumar Yadav's innings turned the match around. "We almost beat India, having them 75 for 6 – again Surya (Kumar Yadav) playing the way he played. But if we had cleansed those moments, we would have beaten the powerhouse of a World Cup team," he added. How big is the gap between associate teams and heavyweights? The 31-year-old also pointed out how Full Member teams benefit from bilateral series and high-quality preparation in the lead-up to tournaments. India hosted New Zealand last month, while Australia toured Pakistan for a short series before arriving in Sri Lanka, opportunities that Associate sides have not been given by the governing bodies, or it is something they simply cannot afford. "Preparation is very important, and it has a lot to do with the funding as well. We don't have the money to have those comps, have those big grounds that we can play on, and I think if we have that funding from the ICC, and it's a request from us, personally from me, to really look into it, and if you really nurture us.

Cricket nerd from 7, Gerhard Erasmus lives up to the Namibian spirit against India

CORTINA D'AMPEZZO. (Agency)

"I guess, we'll just rock up and do it the Namibian way — which is to fight," Gerhard Erasmus had vented out ahead of their T20 World Cup match against India. The anger of the small associate nation, stemmed from the frustration of not being able to train under the floodlights in the build-up to their most high-profile game in the tournament. Back at home, Namibia do not have floodlights in their stadium. For teams that do not play a lot of games under the light in international cricket, spotting the ball becomes the main challenge. Namibia could have accepted their fate, but the Namibian spirit, as Erasmus put it, did not allow them to.

So Namibia, needed to find a way to make matters difficult for the home team. And make matters difficult, they did. Playing at the Arun Jaitley Stadium in New Delhi, Gerhard Erasmus' team restricted India to 209 runs, despite being bashed for 86 runs in the powerplay. Ask any team around the world, they would be mighty proud of themselves if they are able to keep the swashbuckling Indian side under the 210-run mark in a T20I game.

IND VS NAM: ERASMUS SPINS A WEB



A gritty bowling display from the Namibian side made Suryakumar Yadav, Rinku Singh, Axar Patel and Shivam Dube struggle with the bat, and at the forefront of that attack was their captain - Gerhard Erasmus. The 30-year-old registered the figures of 4-0-20-4, his best ever in the format. Erasmus pulled out every bit of the knowledge from his cricketing brain, to make sure that India batters never really settled in the crease. Erasmus basically emptied the entire magician's bag against India's firepower-packed batting unit. High arm, round arm, side arm, he rolled out every possible release, then kept mixing his pace and bounce with classic off-spin, overspin, and the sneaky straightener. The result? Big wickets of Ishan Kishan, Tilak Varma, Hardik Pandya, and Axar Patel. And just to top it off, Gerhard chipped in with a sharp run-out too, catching Shivam Dube short in the 19th over. The first World Cup we played in was the 2003 World Cup — the 50-over World Cup in South Africa.

Riyan Parag set to be named Rajasthan Royals captain: Report

IPL 2026: Rajasthan Royals have reportedly decided to make Riyan Parag the captain of the franchise. The move comes after the exit of Sanju Samson from the Jaipur-based team.

NEW DELHI. (Agency)

Rajasthan Royals have decided to appoint all-rounder Riyan Parag as their new captain, reported ESPNcricinfo on Friday, February 12. Parag, who has been with the franchise for several years, will take over from Sanju Samson for the 2026 season of the Indian Premier League.

The change in captaincy comes in the

backdrop of RR opting to trade Sanju Samson to the Chennai Super Kings. Rajasthan traded Ravindra Jadeja and Sam Curran in exchange for Samson, but chose to retain leadership within their core by



backing one of their homegrown players. Parag, still only 24, has previously led RR. He stepped in last season when Samson missed eight matches due to injury.

However, Parag's stint as captain proved challenging — the team managed to win just two of those eight games. ESPNcricinfo further reported that Parag was among a select group of players interviewed by head coach Kumar Sangakkara before the management finalised their decision. This also marks a period of transition for the franchise, as RR will have both a new captain and a new head coach after Rahul Dravid parted ways with the team following the 2025 season. Rajasthan Royals finished ninth last season, winning just four of their 14 matches.

Highly rated since his IPL debut in 2019, Parag has featured in 84 matches in the league. His standout season came in 2024, when he scored 573 runs at a strike rate of 150.

Matchday Preview: Injury-hit Australia eye successive wins to strengthen Super 8 berth

NEW DELHI. (Agency)

Day 6 of the T20 World Cup promises a triple dose of high-octane action, with three top-notch clashes featuring the likes of heavyweights Australia, and even the promising associate powerhouses like the USA and Netherlands. The day begins in Colombo, where 2021 champions Australia face Zimbabwe at the R Premadasa Stadium. The Mitchell Marsh-led side will aim to extend their winning run, while Zimbabwe look to cause an upset against one of the tournament favourites. The action then moves to New Delhi's Arun Jaitley Stadium, where Canada take on the United Arab Emirates in a crucial Group D clash, with both teams seeking their first points of the campaign. The contest could play a key role in shaping their Super 8 stage ambitions. The day concludes with a Group A encounter between two sides who have shown immense grit and promise in this edition of the T20 World Cup - Netherlands and the United States. The Dutch are coming

off a win over Namibia, while the USA are still searching for their first victory of the tournament. When and where to watch Australia vs Zimbabwe in Colombo in a



Group B match at 11 am IST Canada vs UAE in Delhi in a Group D match at 3 pm IST USA vs Netherlands in Chennai in a Group A match at 7 pm IST All matches will be telecast on Star Sports, with livestreaming available on JioHotstar. Here is a quick preview of the three games scheduled on Day 6 of the T20 World Cup.

MATCH 1 Prediction: Australia vs Zimbabwe in Colombo Australia head into their Group B clash against Zimbabwe in Colombo

facing a spate of injuries and uncertainty, a theme that has defined their T20 World Cup build-up. The defending champions opened their campaign with a convincing 67-run win over Ireland, posting 182 for six and then bowling out the Irish side for 115, showcasing depth despite key absences.

However, setbacks continue to test Australia's lineup. Captain Mitchell Marsh missed the opener with a groin injury, and his participation against Zimbabwe remains uncertain. To cover for him, veteran Steve Smith has been flown in, ready to slot in if Marsh cannot take the field. Adding to their challenges, power-hitter Tim David is still sidelined as he recovers from a hamstring strain, limiting Australia's batting options. Zimbabwe, on the other hand, have made a brilliant start to the tournament, securing an eight-wicket win over Oman in Colombo. Their pace trio — Blessing Muzarabani, Richard Ngarava and Brad Evans — restricted Oman to 103, while Zimbabwe chased it down comfortably with 39 balls to spare.

If Usman Tariq pauses, you pull out: R Ashwin's bold take could spice up IND vs PAK

T20 World Cup: Former India spinner R Ashwin has suggested a bold tactic to counter Pakistan's mystery spinner Usman Tariq ahead of the IND vs PAK clash on February 15. Ashwin believes it could unsettle Pakistan's biggest spin threat.

CHENNAI. (Agency)

Former India spinner Ravichandran Ashwin has come up with a cheeky, headline-grabbing idea on how India could handle Pakistan's mystery spinner Usman Tariq ahead of their blockbuster showdown on February 15. Ashwin's comments have already got fans at the edge of their seats, especially with Tariq being seen as

Pakistan's most dangerous spin weapon in the tournament. Speaking on his YouTube show Ash Ki Baat, Ashwin floated a clever tactic, one he stressed is completely legal, and challenged Indian batters to use it against Tariq's now-famous pause at the crease. "There is one thing I want to see. Who dares to do that?" Ashwin said. "If Tariq pauses before delivery, the batter has the right to move away. The batter can say, 'I don't know when the ball is coming, so I moved away.' That will be an interesting case and a huge headache for the umpire," he added. "The umpire will have to decide whether to warn the bowler or the batter. Odds are, and that is how cricket has worked, the bowler will be warned first."

Ashwin believes a batter simply stepping away could mess with Tariq's mind, piling pressure on the spinner and forcing him to rethink his rhythm in the middle of the biggest game of the group stage. "Imagine, this is such a big game. And Tariq has been the cynosure. He has to bowl 24 deliveries

like that," Ashwin said. "If the batter starts withdrawing, imagine the pressure on Tariq. He might have to alter his action in the



middle of the game. Pakistan's trump card might turn out to be nothing."

Why is Usman Tariq's action controversial?

Tariq's bowling action has been at the centre of debate even before the T20 World Cup kicked off. The off-spinner's unusual action has drawn comparisons to Sri Lanka cricket

legend Muttiah Muralitharan, largely because of Tariq's hypermobile (double-jointed) elbow, which prevents him from fully straightening his arm.

But the bigger issue for batters is Tariq's strange rhythm. His diagonal run-up, followed by a dramatic pause of a few seconds at the crease, creates a stop-start pattern that disrupts timing and forces players into second-guessing their movements. During Pakistan's recent bilateral series against Australia, Cameron Green was among those who questioned the legality of Tariq's action. Ashwin, however, also defended Tariq's action as being in accordance to the rulebook.

"If I have a normal bowling action but suddenly pause and deliver the final ball in the over, that was ruled illegal a few years ago because that is against the natural rhythm of my bowling action. The umpire can warn me. For Tariq, the case is different. That pause is part of his normal action," he said.

Why is Usman Tariq a threat to India?

Cheque bounced? How one mistake can spiral into legal and financial trouble

New Delhi.(Agency)
Writing a cheque still feels like a simple, routine part of managing money. Whether it is for rent, school fees or a big purchase, most people expect the payment to go through without trouble. But when a cheque bounces, that ordinary transaction can quickly turn into a stressful and expensive problem.

Many people see cheque returns as minor technical glitches. In reality, a bounced cheque can trigger bank penalties, damage your credit profile and, in some cases, even lead to legal action. Understanding how and why cheques bounce is the first step towards avoiding these risks.

WHY CHEQUES BOUNCE IN THE FIRST PLACE
The most common reason for a cheque bounce is insufficient funds. If there is not enough money in the account to cover the amount written on the cheque, the bank will refuse to honour it. Even a small shortfall can result in the cheque being returned unpaid. Signature mismatch is another frequent cause. Banks carefully verify the signature on a cheque against their records. If the signatures do not match, the cheque may be rejected as a precaution against fraud. Simple errors in filling out cheque details can also create problems. A wrong or missing date, a mismatch between the amount written in words and numbers, or visible alterations without proper authentication can all lead to rejection. Cheques drawn on closed accounts are automatically dishonoured, as there is no valid account to process the payment. Date-related issues are equally important. A post-dated cheque presented too early will not be cleared. Similarly, cheques have a limited validity period, usually three months. If presented after this period, they become stale and are likely to be rejected.

'Felt being used': Employee shares being made to work more, promised promotion, but then...
New Delhi.(Agency)
An employee has claimed on social media that the office misled them into believing that they were in line for a promotion and made them put in more work when they had already given the position to another colleague. This story highlights how employees are being asked to prove themselves for a promotion and how openly the office offers that position to others. The employee wrote on Reddit that six months ago the manager went on parental leave and the employee was put in the manager's role. Their manager explicitly said that after coming back he would not resume his role because he was not enjoying the role. When the employee got a temporary promotion, the office informed that the employee would be offered the position permanently if the performance was good for the coming six months. The employee put in extra hours, assumed greater responsibility and worked extremely hard to achieve the best position. At the end of the six months period, the employee kept asking the management for confirmation but the office did not give any confirmation. The employee later called the manager who was on parental leave and asked him about the job confirmation. The manager explained that the post was promised to another colleague who was employed at the same time as the employee. It was informed that the role would be given to the other colleague. The employee said that despite working hard and putting in extra hours, the work was not rewarded. The employee felt used as they worked hard and delivered way beyond their targets and said that there was a feeling of taking revenge.

Honasa Consumer expects robust FY27 growth as Mamaearth rebounds: CEO
New Delhi.(Agency)
Indian personal care company Honasa Consumer expects revenue growth above market expectations for fiscal 2027, its CEO told Reuters, led by a ?sustained recovery in its flagship Mamaearth brand while exploring acquisitions ?in new categories. Mamaearth, which Ambit Capital says accounts for over half of Honasa's ?topline, had struggled to grow in 2024 and 2025 due to shifting consumer preferences, with executives noting that they needed to refresh its products, prices and marketing. Launched in 2016, the brand grew popular for its range of "toxin-free" mom-and-baby products such as face washes, shampoos and hair oils. Honasa, in an investor presentation in November, said the unit's growth was "back in the green" in the September quarter with the launch of new products, while its Rice Facewash hit ?100 crore (\$11.02 million) in annual recurring revenue. Honasa ?now aims to grow its overall revenue in the high-teen percentage range for fiscal 2027, CEO and co-founder Varun Alagh said on Thursday. Analysts project growth of 15 per cent, according to data compiled by LSEG. On Thursday, it reported consolidated profit of ?50.2 crore for the December quarter, nearly double year-on-year, with revenue from operations climbing 16 per cent to ?602 crore. Shares traded 3 per cent higher on Friday, putting the company's market capitalisation at more ?than ?10,000 crore.

Acquisition blueprint
Honasa is also banking on continued acquisitions to fuel further growth, a strategy ?it kicked off after it pivoted from being a single-brand company in 2020. Dealmaking in India's consumer goods and retail sector hit a four-year high in January-September ?by number ?of deals, per investment bank Equirus Capital, with consumer majors such as Marico and Hindustan Unilever ?announcing more personal-care acquisitions since.

RBI steps in to stop mis-selling by banks: Decoding what's good and what's not clear

The Reserve Bank of India has signalled its intent after years of rising mis-selling complaints. But will this draft protect ordinary customers before the next grievance is filed? In this article, we break down what changes, what remains unclear, and whether enforcement can finally make a difference.

New Delhi.(Agency)
After years of complaints from customers who say they were sold insurance and investment products they did not fully understand, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has put out a draft proposal aimed at tightening how banks and NBFCs advertise, market, and sell financial products. This is not a final rule yet. It is a draft open for public comments until March 4, 2026. But it signals that the

regulator sees mis-selling as more than isolated misconduct. It sees it as a structural issue. So what is RBI actually proposing? What changes if this becomes binding? And what is still unclear? WHY RBI FINALLY DECIDED TO STEP IN?
Mis-selling is not a fringe problem. According to data from the insurance regulator, more than 2.5 lakh insurance grievances were recorded in FY2024-25. Around 1.2 lakh of those were related to life insurance alone. A significant share falls under unfair business practices, which include mis-selling and improper disclosure.

That means thousands of customers each year formally complain that what they were sold did not match what they were told. Over the past few years, complaints about insurance sold through banks have repeatedly surfaced. Customers have said they were told a policy was similar to a fixed deposit, only to later discover long lock-ins and surrender penalties. Others have found themselves

committed to premium payments far longer than expected. Against this backdrop, the RBI's draft aims to overhaul how banks handle advertising, marketing, and sales of financial products, including third-party products such as insurance.

WHAT RBI'S DRAFT PROPOSAL COVERS?
The RBI wants to introduce comprehensive instructions on advertising, marketing, and sales practices for banks and NBFCs. This goes beyond earlier instructions that focused

mainly on suitability in the insurance agency business. The new draft extends conduct expectations across commercial banks, small finance banks, payments banks, cooperative banks, NBFCs, and housing finance companies. In simple terms, the regulator is saying that how products are marketed and sold is as important as the products themselves. The draft specifically mentions prevention of mis-selling, oversight of Direct Sales Agents and Direct Marketing Agents, and even the use of "dark patterns" in customer interfaces. That is important because many complaints arise not from forged signatures, but from aggressive selling tactics or confusing presentation. WHAT'S GOOD IN THE DRAFT PROPOSAL?

The most important improvement is the emphasis on responsible business conduct. The central bank is clearly stating that banks are accountable for how financial products are marketed and sold through their branches and agents.



8th Pay Commission: Government seeks public feedback; who can participate

New Delhi.(Agency)
The government has invited public suggestions on the 8th Pay Commission, opening a consultation process that allows citizens to share their views on salaries, pensions and allowances of central government employees. The move has drawn attention from employees and pensioners who are closely following the Commission's progress. The 8th Pay Commission was first announced in January 2025. It was formally notified in November the same year, and its Terms of Reference (ToR) have since been approved. The Commission has been given 18 months to submit its recommendations.

November 3, 2025, to formally constitute the Eighth Central Pay Commission. The panel has been tasked with submitting its



WEBSITE LAUNCHED, SUGGESTIONS INVITED

The government has also launched the official website of the 8th Pay Commission, where the panel is seeking inputs from ministries, departments, central government employees and other stakeholders. The online platform is meant to make the consultation process wider and more accessible. According to the Commission, the last date to submit responses to the questionnaire is Monday, March 16, 2026.

WHY THIS MATTERS FOR EMPLOYEES AND PENSIONERS

The recommendations of the 8th Pay Commission are expected to influence future salary structures, allowances and pension benefits for central government staff. For many employees and retirees, this consultation offers a chance to directly contribute to discussions that could affect their finances.

Silver slips below Rs 2.5 lakh/kg: What this price correction means for investors

MUMBAI.(Agency)
Silver prices extended their decline, slipping below the Rs 2.5 lakh per kg mark on the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX) and deepening concerns among traders about whether the correction has further to run.

The fall comes after an extraordinary rally that had taken MCX Silver futures close to Rs 4,20,000 at their peak. Since then, prices have retreated sharply and are now trading in the Rs 2,30,000 to Rs 2,70,000 zone, reflecting intense volatility in both domestic and global markets.

strengthens. A stronger dollar makes commodities like silver more expensive for global buyers, putting pressure on prices. There has also been heavy profit-



corrected sharply from record highs above \$121 and is now trading significantly lower, reinforcing bearish sentiment in domestic markets.

SHORT-TERM PRESSURE, LONG-TERMSUPPORT

Ponmudi R, CEO of Enrich Money, says that while the long-term bullish structure in silver remains intact, the recent fall has pushed prices below major moving averages. That indicates short-term bearish pressure and an ongoing corrective phase. On MCX, strong buying interest is seen in the Rs 2,25,000 to Rs 2,60,000 support band. This zone aligns with previous swing lows and longer-term structural support levels. If prices manage to hold above this base and recover decisively, the next upside targets could be in the Rs 3,00,000 to Rs 3,25,000 range.

WHY IS SILVER PRICE FALLING?
The immediate trigger has been a mix of global factors. Stronger-than-expected US economic data has reduced expectations of early interest rate cuts. When rate cut hopes fade, the US dollar

booking. After such a steep rally, traders often rush to lock in gains at the first sign of weakness. Once key price levels break, automated selling and stop-loss triggers can accelerate the decline, amplifying the move. On the global front, COMEX Silver has also

After days of volatility, gold and silver have posted modest gains, catching the attention of investors. The small rise has reopened a familiar debate, i.e., are precious metals preparing for another climb, or is a fresh dip still possible

New Delhi.(Agency)
After an extraordinary rally this year that pushed prices to record highs, gold and silver have suddenly hit a rough patch. At the time of writing, at 12.30 pm, MCX gold was priced at Rs 153,950, up by Rs 1,114 or 0.70%, while silver was priced at Rs 241,762, up by Rs 4,992 or 2.11%.

The correction comes as global cues shift quickly. A stronger US dollar and fresh signals around interest rate expectations have cooled the enthusiasm that had driven precious metals higher. For investors who piled into gold and silver during the rally, the big question now is whether to hold, buy more, or exit.

WHY GOLD AND SILVER PRICES

ARE SHIFTING
Gold and silver prices have entered a volatile phase after months of strong gains. Both metals have corrected sharply from their peaks as investors reassess global economic signals. Stronger-than-expected US jobs data recently pushed the dollar higher and reduced hopes of near-term interest rate cuts, putting pressure on metal prices. Because ETFs directly track the price of the underlying metals, the sudden drop in spot prices is quickly reflected in ETF values. This led to panic selling in some segments of the market.

KEY LEVELS INVESTORS SHOULD WATCH

According to Ponmudi R, CEO of Enrich Money, the broader structure for gold is still supportive despite the recent correction. "MCX Gold futures are trading near the Rs 1,50,000-Rs 1,60,000 zone, following consolidation after the sharp correction from all-time highs around Rs 1,80,000-Rs 1,81,000," he said. He added that strong buying interest is visible in the Rs 1,45,000-Rs 1,50,000 support area. A sustained hold above this

base, followed by a breakout above Rs 1,60,800, could revive upside momentum toward Rs 1,65,000-Rs 1,75,000, keeping the medium-term outlook positive despite ongoing volatility," Ponmudi noted.

Silver has seen an even steeper pullback.



Ponmudi said, "MCX Silver futures are trading near the Rs 2,30,000-Rs 2,70,000 zone after a sharp correction from record highs around Rs 4,20,000."

While the long-term trend remains constructive, he cautioned that silver is under short-term pressure. "Strong buying interest is evident in the Rs 2,25,000-Rs 2,60,000 support band. A sustained hold above this base, followed by a decisive

recovery, could revive upward momentum toward Rs 3,00,000-Rs 3,25,000," he explained.

WHAT SHOULD INVESTORS DO NOW?

For long-term investors, sudden corrections in gold and silver are not unusual. Precious metals often move in cycles, with sharp rallies followed by equally sharp pullbacks. Experts suggest avoiding panic selling during such phases.

Investors with a long-term horizon may consider staggered buying near strong support levels instead of making lump-sum bets. Those already holding gold and silver ETFs could review their overall asset allocation and ensure metals do not exceed their planned portfolio share. Short-term traders, however, should remain cautious. As Ponmudi pointed out, a clear break below key support levels could deepen the correction. He added that dips toward support "continue to offer accumulation opportunities for positional traders," but only with strict risk management.



Taapsee Pannu

Praises Anubhav Sinha’s ‘Effortless’ Storytelling Ahead of Assi Release

Taapsee Pannu is reuniting with filmmaker Anubhav Sinha for the third time with their upcoming film Assi, which releases in theatres on February 20. After delivering powerful performances in Mulk and Thappad, the actress is once again collaborating with Sinha for another thought-provoking film. Speaking about the director, Taapsee said she doesn’t want to limit him to courtroom dramas alone. “I don’t want to bracket Anubhav Sir only with respect to courtroom dramas. There are a lot of things he brings to the table that make his films feel dramatically real, almost too close to home,” she shared.

According to her, whether it is Mulk, Thappad, Article 15, or Assi, Sinha presents facts in such an effortless way that audiences cannot ignore them. She explained that his storytelling often holds up a mirror to society, making viewers reflect on uncomfortable truths.

Taapsee Feels Actors Are ‘Safest’ in Anubhav Sinha’s Films

Taapsee further said that Sinha has the rare ability to present even simple stories in an impactful manner. “When you have a director who has the power to present even the simplest stories in the most powerful way, actors are probably the safest in those films,” she explained.

The Dunki actress added that if an actor is genuinely committed, there is very little room to go wrong because of the strong

material and impactful dialogues Sinha provides. Taapsee Urges Audiences To Support Meaningful Cinema

Ahead of Assi’s release, Taapsee also shared a long note on Instagram urging audiences to support rooted and real Hindi cinema. She encouraged viewers not to ignore meaningful films and to value stories that reflect real social issues. She penned, “If we want to compete with world cinema, let’s start with supporting OUR stories. The real ones. Let’s change the times because, sadly, it is no longer just making your film and sitting back. We deserve good cinema only when we value it. The society will soon be deprived of good films, not because we have consistently called out mediocrity, but because you chose to stay silent when your voice could help push towards supremacy.”

Star Cast Of Assi

The trailer of Assi introduces Taapsee as a determined lawyer fighting for justice. The hard-hitting drama raises important questions about morality and accountability. Apart from Taapsee, the film stars Kani Kusruti, Revathy, Manoj Pahwa, Kumud Mishra, and Mohammed Zeeshan Ayyub, with special appearances by Naseeruddin Shah, Supriya Pathak, and Seema Pahwa.



Ananya Panday On Growing Up In Front Of The Camera: ‘Any Normal Girl Would Change From 18 To 27...’



Ananya Panday has opened up about growing up in front of the camera. From her debut in Student of the Year 2 to her performances in films like Kesari Chapter 2 and Kho Gaye Hum Kahan, Ananya Panday has come a long way. In a recent chat with Variety India, Ananya opened up about being more conscious now and how she’s being taken more seriously as an actor. Asked about whether the change in her film choices was a conscious decision, she said, “Yes, it definitely was conscious. I was 18 when I started out... still a teenager when I began working, got my first film and started giving interviews and all of that. So, I feel like I’ve grown up in front of people; they’ve seen my journey. So it was conscious, but it was also a natural thing – like any normal girl would change from 18 to 27.”

Ananya added, “I’ve also had that natural growing up, but just in front of the public eye. But it’s also been conscious. I think I’ve become a lot more aware of what I’m putting out of myself. I’ve always been an open book, and I still am, but now I know where to say what, which I didn’t earlier. So I wouldn’t say I’m filtered, but I’m a little more conscious.”

The actress said that her peers started taking her more seriously after films like Gehraiyaan and Kho Gaye Hum Kahan. She said, “When someone sees you do something, they’ll say, ‘Oh, she can do this? We never thought she could do that.’ I think that’s what happened with Gehraiyaan.”

“Vikramaditya Motwane saw me in that film. And he was like, ‘Oh, she’s quite mature. I didn’t see that side of her before,’ and that’s how I got the chance to work with him on CTRL. So it’s kind of a domino effect when people see you do something. I was very lucky to be a part of Kesari Chapter 2, and people were pretty surprised with what we did with that film. The fact that the makers pictured me in that role, and I’m hoping now that’s also going to create a ripple effect, and people see me in more things,” she mentioned.

Archana Puran Singh Opens Up About Not Giving Enough Time To Younger Son And Parenting Guilt



Archana Puran Singh, who is currently winning praise for The Great Indian Kapil Show, recently shared a deeply personal podcast on her YouTube channel. Joined by her sons Aaryamann and Ayushmaan, Archana spoke candidly about her love story with husband Parmeet Sethi, pregnancy, parenting challenges and their childhood memories.

Archana Gets Emotional While Talking About Parenting Regrets

One of the most emotional moments from the podcast came when Archana reflected on a phase where she felt she could not give enough time and attention to her younger son, Ayushmaan. During the discussion, Ayushmaan recalled a period when both parents were more focused on Aaryamann, which deeply affected him.

Archana shared that she later apologised to Ayushmaan when he was just six or seven years old, admitting her mistake. She recalled telling him, “That I think I have done this and I am very sorry.” To this, Ayushmaan had replied, “Mumma, I also need you.”

Archana said that moment still brings tears to her eyes, as she never imagined letting something like that happen. She admitted she had assumed Ayushmaan was very independent and realised how easy it is for parents to make such mistakes. Emphasising the challenges of parenting, she added that there is no “handbook” for raising children and no book can truly prepare someone to be a parent.

Aaryamann Sethi Recalls His Toughest Phase

Aaryamann also opened up about one of the most difficult chapters of his life, leaving home at a young age to pursue football in England. He said, “The tough part was leaving home. I decided I wanted to play football in England, and you guys made it happen.”

He recalled moving abroad at 14, only to suffer a major setback shortly after. “I left home at 14. I stayed there for three weeks and just as I settled in, I broke my leg. It became very difficult,” he said, adding that he returned to India for surgery and recovery.

Despite returning the following year, the struggle continued. Balancing studies with recovery proved challenging, and he felt he was falling behind others physically. “It wasn’t one moment; it was a slow realisation that my dream was breaking,” he shared.

Shehnaaz Gill

Shares A Peek Into Her Next Ishqnama, To Release On July 24

Punjabi star Shehnaaz Gill on Thursday unveiled the first poster of her upcoming film Ishqnama, which she described as a “true story of true lovers.” Taking to social media, Shehnaaz announced: “First picture from my upcoming movie.... ‘ISHQNAMA’ True Story of True Lovers NIMMA–NASIMA. Releasing 24th July 2026 in cinemas worldwide.”

Alongside the announcement, the actress also shared a poster offering a glimpse into

the old Punjabi aesthetic. Secure your seat for Shehnaaz Gill’s ‘Ishqnama’—experience the true love story on the big screen.

She was last seen on screen in “Ikk Kudi”. The film tells the tale of a woman from a family of broken hearts who starts doubting her arranged marriage match and embarks on a quest to uncover her fiancé’s mysterious past.

The 32-year-old actress gained stardom after her stint in “Bigg Boss 13”. It was in 2015 that Shehnaaz began her modelling career with a music video titled ‘Shiv Di Kitaab’. In 2017, she marked her debut in the Punjabi film ‘Sat Shri Akaal England’.

The actress’ filmography also includes names such as ‘Kala Shah Kala’, ‘Daaka’, ‘Honsla Rakh’, ‘Kisi Ka Bhai Kisi Ki Jaan’, and ‘Thank You for Coming’ to her credit. Shehnaaz has appeared

in several music videos titled– ‘Maar Kar Gayi’, ‘Pindaan Diyaan Kudiyaan’, ‘Je Haan Ni Karni’, ‘Putt Sardaran De’, ‘Lakh Laanhta’, ‘Viah Da Chaa’, ‘Jatt Jaan Vaarda’, ‘Gusse Ho Ke Nahiyi Sarna’, ‘Jatti Hadd Sekhdi’, ‘Gunday Ik Vaar Fer’, ‘Peg Paun Wele’, ‘Gedi Route’, ‘Shona Shona’, and ‘Habit’. She also has ‘Sab First Class’ in the pipeline.



Ishqnama’s world, a romance drama rooted in true events and unfolding against the fraught India and Pakistan backdrop. In one image, Shehnaaz is seen hugging an injured Jayy Randhawa, her expression heavy with pain, resilience, and devotion, capturing a love bruised by conflict yet refusing to break. In another visual, she appears in a bridal avatar, draped in



Saint Valentine's Day, extensively popular as Valentine's Day, is celebrated on February 14 to commemorate the bond and spirit of love between intimate companions. The enthusiasm of celebration is seen much among the youths who consider it to be a wonderful moment to express their love towards their beloved. Founded in 496 A.D by Pope Gelasius I to pay homage to one or more early Christian martyrs named Saint Valentine, this day usually reflects the tradition and culture of ancient Roman and Christian.

Valentine's Day in celebrated across the world in a traditional fashion by sending Valentine wishes, flowers, greeting cards and gifts to his/her beloved. This year, lovers would be celebrating Valentine's Day on February 14 to convey their heart's feelings towards their partners.

Facts about the history of Saint Valentine's Day is still shrouded in mystery. Many Christians believe that Saint Valentine was a priest in Rome during the third century and helped young couples to get married secretly despite being outlawed by Emperor Claudius. When Claudius discovered Valentine's actions, the emperor ordered his execution. Moreover, many people believe his execution was ordered for helping Christians escape the Roman prisons where

they were brutally beaten.

Valentine's Day is celebrated across many countries. The celebration was long followed by Christians as a tradition until Geoffrey Chaucer associated it with romantic love in his poem 'Parlement of Foules' when courtly love was growing luxuriantly in the High Middle Ages.

Valentine's Day is indeed a big deal. To mark the occasion a special moment for their beloved, couples seek for unique and attractive Valentine's gift ideas. Not only youths but aged couples also treat it as a special moment and make plans to celebrate it in a memorable way apart by sending Valentine's Day wishes and Valentine's Day messages. For many it is a wonderful time to revive their love relationship or recall some wonderful moments they have spend together.

On Valentine's Day to show love and affection, a range of beautiful and striking gifts categorised as Valentine's gifts for Him and Valentine's gifts for Her are available. Apart from the traditional Valentine Gifts, romantic breaks for couples which are just designed to re-kindle the fire of love and passion.

Exchanging cute greetings cards and hand written notes on Valentine's Day are some small tokens of love and affection apart from gifts. But in the contemporary times, Valentine's Day SMS has become widely popular to celebrate and treat one's beloved in a special way.

First Valentine's Day Say I Love You

The first Valentine's Day always remember and determines the direction of life.

Valentine's Day and Diwali are Separated from each other's Happiness takes Time to understand it. When moving into A relationship Too hasty show either give A LIFETIME are Misunderstandings. Think again before Committing must proceed calmly.

The day you accept each other's feelings and gives him the opportunity to celebrate.

The truth is that such a big deal when you put your heart's content when it came out. Also ensure that your partner loves you say after. The day was reserved for the expression of love, commitment is even more dramatic fall down flat on the ground inverted. Hence the expression to wait for the right moment.

I want to talk to you

We have heard hundreds of stories about the future of the two lovers together 'thing' is to be converted to sit and debate the matter several times always goes News. The important thing is pointed at the wrong time seems hollow. Therefore, to determine the future of their relationship to a more serious matter and postpone the day. Valentine's Day is the right day for it.

Or I do not care about Valentine's Day

The Celebration can be observed on any day all year.

Despite the importance of Valentine's Day is a special day because the partner does not ever say I do not care about Valentine's Day. This is not the day to test their relationship.

I got the mood of

The day your Apechshaan are very strong, have already made plans. If the mood of these is bound to be a little messed up but here is a test of your patience. You have made reservations to celebrate Valentine's Day in the restaurant that can be canceled for any reason. If the dish did not fit on your mind or service with your partner, you begin to feel humiliated.

Remember that this day is a normal day like any other day. Rudrarup waiter or restaurant manager

looking for your partner fight with you can always be alienated. It is a special day but do not take anyone's fault at the very heart. Do not spoil the whole evening was anxiously blabber or abused. Remember that Plan A may fail two Plan B. There is always room to move.

Today you are free to go on a date?

This day would not have to GO on A date. Especially on the first date Valentine's Day A partner on out, do not Insist. Surrounded What I think you should give him some Liberty Your partner. Are you inspired by Others but at the Same Time Keeping the Whereabouts of Mind. Seeing Others do not lose consciousness, relationships Take A moment to Cook. Effects Landing you believe ME the other day fever of Valentine's Day there will BE much happier because you are restrained and kept tight rein on the flow of emotion.



Many couples are tying the knot today, on the day of love, to make it more memorable

Delhiites have double the reason to be happy on February 14 this year, as it is Valentine's Day and also the auspicious occasion of Basant Panchami. Thus, it isn't a surprise when people in and associated with the wedding industry tell us that there are around 4,000 to 5,000 weddings happening across the city today. Most couples tying the knot today say they're doing it so their D-day stays alive in people's memories for a long time.

This comes after a long time

It's after a long time that there is a shubh mahurat on February 14. Anil Thadani of Jeaa Band says, "We are witnessing this mad rush to get married on February 14 after a gap of around 4-5 years. People are excited that since it's Basant Panchami, they can get married on this day."

It's so romantic!

For many, there can be no better day than February 14 to get married. Amit Bagga, who is getting married to Tanvi, told us, "I am a die-hard romantic and when we decided to get married, I thought this would be the best day. It's the day of love and people will

Wedding rush on Valentine's Day

remember it. It also helped that according to the Hindu calendar, there is a shubh mahurat today, on Basant Panchami."

Arranged marriages in V-Day rush too

Not only are love marriages being solemnized on the occasion of Valentine's Day, even arranged marriages are happening today. Says Dilip Rathore, whose nephew is getting married today, "The panditji had told us that there are two mahurats - one is on February 14 and the other one was in March. Even though we were getting less time to prepare for the wedding, we chose February 14 because it's something that people won't forget. In fact, in the wedding invite sent out, we have specially written that the wedding is happening on the auspicious occasion of Valentine's Day."

It doesn't matter if it's expensive

Since there are so many weddings happening today, people who have planned their wedding on February 14 have had to go the extra mile to get their wedding venue and other things in place. Says Niranjana Goel, a resident of North Delhi, whose brother-in-law is getting married on Valentine's Day, "Since it's Valentine's Day, we decided to fix the wedding for February 14. The expenditure on the wedding went up

by almost one-and-a-half times, but it's worth it. The celebrations for my brother-in-law's wedding will be held worldwide and their wedding anniversary will be celebrated every year too!"

It's really special

Bandwallahs say that people who have approached them have had no qualms in saying that they want their wedding to be the subject of discussion among their peers.

Virender Chawla of Chawla Band says, "We are completely booked for the day. Most of the people who have come to us have told us that they want their wedding day today to be special."

However, due to so many weddings taking place, the bandwallahs are finding it difficult to do any special preparations for weddings. Thadani says, "Due to the packed schedule, we are not doing anything special for weddings taking place today."

Close to 175 halls booked

The wedding halls are totally booked for the day, say banquet hall managers. "Delhi's North, East and South municipal corporations have a total of 235 halls. Out of these, there are 175 big halls which are equipped to host weddings. All of them are booked for February 14," Yogendra Mann, spokesperson of North and East corporations, had told us when asked.



The history of Valentine's Day

Love of the day, the day to express love. To express your feelings in words of the day everyone is eagerly awaiting heart throbbing. Yes, we are talking about, Prwanon day of love, Valentine - Day....

14 February is celebrated the day in different countries, individually and as individually celebrated with confidence. In Western countries, this day is the glow on your youthfulness, but its eastern countries also celebrate this day - has its own style.

In China, at this day "Knights of Sevens" is special to the hearts in love, while Japan and Korea at the festival "White Day" is known for. Furthermore, all of these countries, this day people express their love for one month and one - by giving each other gifts and flowers to express your feelings.

The festival traditionally in western countries celebrate the festival 'Valentine - Day' in the name

of love - is the exchange of letters, as well as heart, Cupid, flowers etc. A Gift of love by giving feelings are expressed Signs. Sdin 19th A holiday in the U.S. on this day was officially declared.

Yu. S. greeting cards per year worldwide, an estimated one billion Valentine - send each other cards, the second highest card after Christmas sales are considered the festival.

It is believed that Valentine - Day was originally named Saint Valentine. But about Saint Valentine of opinion and nothing historically accurate information. St. Valentine Catholic Church in 1969, a total of eleven confirmed and announced on February 14 gala

celebration in his honor. These are considered the most important Valentine St. Valentine of Rome.

History of Valentine Day

1260 was compiled in "d'Oria Vorajin of Jacobus" is described in the book of St. Valentine. Accordingly, in the third century in Rome was ruled by Emperor Claudius. According to marry him power and wisdom of men is low. He issued orders that no soldier or officer will not marry her. Saint Valentine opposed the brutal command.

At the urging of his many soldiers and officers were married. After Claudius Saint Valentine on February 14, 269 AD was hanged Cdhwa. Love Day is celebrated in his memory since then.

It is said that St. Valentine's jailer's blind daughter at the time of his death and Jakobs Jacobus has written a letter to the donations, which in the end he wrote, "Your Valentine". It was the 14th day of February, which later came to be celebrated in the name of the saint and Valentine - Day of the excuses in the world to spread the message of love is selfless.

