

PM inaugurates India's fastest metro in Meerut, entire Namo Bharat corridor

PM Narendra Modi today inaugurated the remaining sections of India's first Namo Bharat RRTS, which include the 5-km section between Sarai Kale Khan and New Ashok Nagar in Delhi and the 21-km section between Meerut South and Modipuram.

New Delhi.(Agency) Prime Minister Narendra Modi today inaugurated the remaining stretches of the 82-km Delhi-Meerut Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) and the 23-km Meerut Metro, India's fastest metro service, giving a major boost to regional connectivity across Delhi-NCR. Services will begin at 6 pm after the inauguration. The Prime Minister launched the remaining portions of India's first Namo Bharat RRTS. This includes the 5-km stretch between Sarai Kale Khan and New Ashok Nagar in Delhi, and the 21-km section from Meerut South to Modipuram. The end-to-end journey between Delhi and Meerut will take just under an hour. PM Modi, accompanied by Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and NCRTC officials, took a ride on the train from Shatabdi Nagar to



Meerut South. He interacted with passengers. The Prime Minister was also briefed by officials about the functioning of Namo Bharat train and the project. The Prime Minister was received by Adityanath at the Hindon Airport in Ghaziabad. He then

proceeded to Meerut to inaugurate the RRTS stretches and Meerut Metro, before he will address a rally. Before the rally, he will inaugurate and dedicate development projects worth about Rs 12,930 crore. Designed for a top speed of 180 kmph and an operational speed of up to 160 kmph, the RRTS will significantly cut travel time between Delhi and key urban centres such as Sahibabad, Ghaziabad, Modinagar and Meerut. The Meerut Metro, which runs alongside the RRTS on several stretches, is India's fastest metro, with a maximum operational speed of around 120 kmph. It will cover the entire route in about 30 minutes. This will be the first time in India that both the Namo Bharat train and metro will run on the same tracks built for the RRTS. The 23-km corridor has 13 stations — Meerut

South, Partapur, Rithani, Shatabdi Nagar, Brahmapur, Meerut Central, Bhaisali, Begumpul, MES Colony, Daurli, Meerut North, Modipuram and Modipuram Depot. Passengers can interchange between the Metro and RRTS at Meerut South, Shatabdi Nagar, Begumpul and Modipuram. KEY STATIONS, FEATURES AND CONNECTIVITY Sarai Kale Khan, the originating station of the corridor, is among the four Namo Bharat stations being commissioned. Developed as a major multi-modal hub, it connects Hazrat Nizamuddin railway station, the Delhi Metro's Pink Line, Veer Haqueqat Rai ISBT and the Ring Road. The other three stations being commissioned — Shatabdi Nagar, Begumpul and Modipuram — are located in Meerut.

Targeted over caste: Siddaramaiah vows to fight 'politics of hatred and jealousy'

Describing his four decades in public life as a path of "stones and thorns," Siddaramaiah said powerful leaders had hatched conspiracies to end his career, but he had prevailed with the blessings and support of the people.

Bengaluru.(Agency) A social media post by Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has sparked a fresh political storm, with the veteran Congress leader alleging that he is being "targeted" because of his caste and social background. The remarks come amid a simmering leadership tussle within the ruling party between Siddaramaiah and his deputy, DK Shivakumar. In the strongly worded post, Siddaramaiah referred pointedly to his Kuruba (Other Backward Classes) identity.



"The one who should have been herding goats becoming CM is reason enough to make the eyes of the privileged turn red," he wrote, adding that many of the attacks and allegations against him stem from his birth caste. He said his journey — from a shepherd community to standing "shoulder-to-

shoulder with economic experts" and presenting multiple state budgets — had provoked "hatred and envy" among his opponents. If he could be "finished off," he suggested, it would clear the path for

others. Describing his four decades in public life as a path of "stones and thorns," Siddaramaiah said powerful leaders had hatched conspiracies to end his career, but he had prevailed with the blessings and support of the people. He said that attempts

to sideline him were aimed not just at him personally but at those who believe in his politics of social justice. "I know this is not merely a conspiracy against me; it is a conspiracy against all of you," he said, vowing to continue fighting "the politics of hatred and jealousy." "I will never be one to retreat from the battlefield." He also invoked social reformers such as BR Ambedkar, Basavanna, Mahatma Gandhi, Periyar, Narayana Guru and Kanakadasa, saying those who fought for social change had historically faced resistance and conspiracies. Opposition leaders accused the Chief Minister of playing the caste card to deflect criticism and consolidate support among backward communities amid internal power struggles. The controversy comes amid speculation over a possible power-sharing arrangement within the Congress government, an issue that has fuelled tensions since the party returned to power in 2023.

Union Minister Amit Shah to visit Bihar on February 25 to assess development works in border districts

Patna.(Agency) Union Home Minister Amit Shah is likely to visit Bihar on February 25 to assess development works being carried out in villages along the Indo-Nepal border under the Centre's Vibrant Villages scheme. Preparations for the minister's proposed visit have already begun in villages in Muzaffarpur, Sitamarhi, East Champaran and West Champaran districts of north Bihar, which have been selected for focused development. The scheme aims to strengthen infrastructure and improve living standards in villages located along the international border. During his visit, Shah is expected to review ongoing works in villages identified under the programme.



A senior IPS officer assigned to oversee arrangements said, "Though official communication is yet to come from the Centre, we have already started preparations for his visit. He is expected to arrive here on February 25." Intelligence and security agencies have been put on alert and standard operating procedures are being followed. Checking in border areas has been intensified, and people coming from Nepal are being frisked by security personnel, the officer said. During the visit, the Union minister will hold meetings with senior district

officials to understand challenges in implementing development works. He will review schemes related to road connectivity, electricity, healthcare and employment. Migration remains a major issue in these districts, and lack of jobs has pushed some youths into unlawful activities, including cross-border crimes, creating challenges for law

enforcement agencies. A Sitamarhi resident, Gyan Ranjan, said, "Road connectivity and communication have increased. Electricity is available but lack of employment is a major problem, forcing youths into unlawful activities. At times, it creates serious law and order problem." Officials said the visit is significant as several villages along the international border are considered vulnerable from a security point of view. The porous border is under strict vigil of the Sashastra Seema Bal.

Rahul, Kharge say trade deal has become an 'ordeal'

The party also asked the government to put the Indo-US trade agreement on hold.

New Delhi.(Agency) After the US Supreme Court struck down a huge chunk of President Donald Trump's global tariffs, the Congress on Saturday intensified its attack on the Modi government, questioning why it had signed the trade deal in haste. The party also asked the government to put the Indo-US trade agreement on hold.

Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi said the Prime Minister is "compromised", and that his "betrayal" in trade deal stands exposed. Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge asked if the government has a "clueless foreign policy" or has engaged in a "one-sided surrender" to the US. "The PM is compromised. His betrayal now stands exposed. He can't renegotiate. He will surrender again," Gandhi posted on X.

Kharge asked why the Centre hadn't waited for the US court's verdict before rushing into an agreement, which he termed a "trap deal". "The PM must tell the truth to people. What or who pressured you into compromising India's national interest and strategic autonomy?" he asked in a post. "Was it Epstein Files?... Will the Gol wake up from its deep slumber and deliver a fair trade deal that preserves the self-respect of 140 crore Indians and the interest of our farmers, workers, small businesses and traders?"

Congress general secretary in-charge of communications Jairam Ramesh claimed that if PM had not been so "desperate" to protect his "fragile image" and waited 18 days more, farmers would have been saved from distress, and Indian sovereignty would have been protected. "Yesterday after the US SC struck down his tariffs policy, President Trump declared that (i) Mr Modi is his great friend; (ii) the India-US trade deal will continue as announced..." he said on X. Ramesh told reporters that there was a provision in the 'Framework of Interim Agreement' that if one country modifies the terms, the other can do that.

Digital Marketing Program Free of cost to Economically Weaker Students: World Trade Council

The Sikh Times

New Delhi: (News Varta) The World Trade Council has announced the launch of its Certificate Course in Digital Marketing. This is a transformative educational initiative specially designed to empower underprivileged and economically weaker students by providing them with in-demand digital skills. The initiative aims to bridge the digital divide and create meaningful employment and entrepreneurship opportunities for youth across the country. In today's rapidly evolving digital economy, digital marketing has emerged as one of the most influential and accessible career options. From small businesses to multinational

corporations, all organizations rely on digital platforms to expand their reach, strengthen brand visibility, and increase revenue. Recognizing this shift, the World Trade Council has developed a comprehensive certificate program that will provide students with practical knowledge, hands-on training, and industry-relevant expertise. The course has been structured with a strong focus on inclusivity and accessibility. It is specifically designed for students from economically weaker sections who often miss out on professional skill development opportunities due to financial constraints. The Council believes that talent and potential exist in every section of society, and

access to education should not be restricted by economic limitations. The Digital Marketing Certificate



Course will include the following key modules: Introduction to Digital Marketing; Social Media Marketing (Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, etc.); Content Marketing

and Blogging; Email Marketing; Website Basics and Introduction; Online Advertising Strategies; Freelancing and Online Income Opportunities; and Digital Entrepreneurship and Startup Guidance. The program will be conducted through classroom sessions, online workshops, practical assignments, and real-life case studies. Participants will have the opportunity to work on live projects, enabling them to develop practical competence alongside theoretical understanding. On this occasion, Shri Vijay, spokesperson of the World Trade Council, said, "The digital revolution has created limitless opportunities, yet many deserving students are left behind due to lack of resources and affordability.

Through this certificate course, our objective is to empower underprivileged youth with practical skills that can immediately enhance their employability and income potential. Our vision is to create self-reliant and digitally skilled citizens who can contribute to the nation's economic growth." One of the key highlights of the program is its affordability. Students who meet the eligibility criteria (based on income certification) will be offered the course free of cost or at a highly subsidized fee. Additionally, in collaboration with social organizations, CSR initiatives, and corporate partners, scholarship and sponsorship opportunities are also being developed. Contd.....page-3

Punjab Budget to be presented on Women's Day: Will Rs 1,000 promise be fulfilled?

This year, March 8 not only marks International Women's Day, but is also a Sunday. With the Vidhan Sabha meeting on such an unusual day of the week, the announcement has fuelled speculation that the upcoming Budget may include a major announcement for women.

Chandigarh.(Agency) Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann has announced that his government will present its fifth Budget on March 8 in the state Legislative Assembly. The announcement was made during his visit to Gujarat alongside AAP National Convener Arvind Kejriwal. Notably, March 8 not only marks International Women's Day, but is also a Sunday this year. With the Vidhan Sabha meeting on such an unusual day of the week, the announcement has fuelled speculation that the upcoming Budget may include a major announcement for women, particularly



regarding the ruling party's pending promise of Rs 1,000 per month to every woman in the state. Addressing the media, Mann reiterated that

the upcoming Budget would once again be a "pro-people" and citizen-centric document focused on the welfare of every section of society.

"The Punjab Government will present its fifth Budget in the month of March, and we will continue our tradition of presenting a pro-people budget aimed at the welfare of all. Our sole aim is to ensure the well-being of the common man, and we are making strenuous efforts to achieve this. The forthcoming Budget will again ensure immense benefit to the people of Punjab," he stated.

The assurance about a monthly allowance of Rs 1,000 to every woman above 18 years of age in the state was first made in November 2021, ahead of the 2022 Punjab Assembly elections, during the 'Mission Punjab' rally in Moga. Kejriwal had then declared that once the AAP government was formed, every woman would receive Rs 1,000 per month directly in her bank account. Now, nearly four years after that promise was made, and as the AAP government prepares to present its final full Budget before the 2027 Assembly polls, the question remains over whether and how the promise will finally be implemented.

SPOTLIGHT ON Rs-1,000 PROMISE

News box

Trading app hacked, man loses Rs12 lakh

Noida.(Agency)

A Delhi-based businessman claimed that cyber fraudsters hacked the login credentials of his digital gold and silver trading app, Bharat Batuk, and siphoned off nearly Rs 12 lakh from his wallet. He accused the director of the city-based company of his loss. Sachin Kumar Yadav, a resident of Delhi's Gulabi Bagh, said he had found out about his loss after logging into the company's mobile application and finding all his credentials changed and the account cleared out. The company, based in Sector 9, provides investment services in digital gold and silver from 2023.

Yadav invested through the company's mobile application and opened a virtual account with it to record his transactions. On Jan 13 this year, Yadav opened the mobile app and found that the details he registered on it—name, address, email ID, phone number, and bank account details—were all changed. He had about Rs 11.9 lakh in the virtual account, which moved to two different bank accounts through the app. He claimed the company cheated him and blamed the director, Pralabh Gupta, for his losses. A case was filed under BNS sections 318(4) (cheating) and 319(2) (cheating by personation) of and sections 66 and 66D of the IT Act.

Fire guts factory in Greater Noida, alarm helps workers rush out

Noida.(Agency)

A fire broke out at a cooler pad manufacturing unit near Bisnoli village under the Badalpur police station area on Saturday, causing losses worth several lakh rupees. Fortunately, no casualties were reported in the incident.

According to fire officials, the blaze erupted around 7am at Shri Shyam Enterprises, located along GT Road. The factory manufactures cardboard cooling pads used in air coolers. Smoke was first noticed emerging from stacks of cardboard inside the unit. Within minutes, the smoke turned into flames and rapidly spread across the premises. Factory employees immediately raised an alarm, triggering panic and a brief stampede-like situation inside the unit. Workers rushed out of the building to save themselves and alerted the police and fire department. By the time fire tenders reached the spot, the blaze had intensified, engulfing large portions of the factory. The tin shed structure and stored materials were seen burning fiercely as firefighters, assisted by residents and police personnel, launched efforts to contain the flames. Around six fire engines were pressed into service. Fire officials ensured that all employees were safely evacuated from the premises.

Due to the intense heat, sections of the tin shed melted, leading to significant structural damage. After nearly three hours of continuous firefighting operations, the blaze was finally brought under control.

Chief fire officer Pradeep Kumar Chaubey confirmed that there were no injuries or loss of life in the incident. However, the factory suffered substantial financial losses, estimated to be in lakhs of rupees.

Class 7 girl locked in washroom for an hour in Greater Noida, school says kids latched door

Noida.(Agency)

IA Class 7 student was allegedly locked inside a washroom for nearly an hour at a private school in Greater Noida. The girl's father claimed his daughter was reprimanded and asked to write an apology after she reported it to her class teacher. The girl, he claimed, was left shaken by the incident and skipped school for a day.

Ashok, the girl's father, told TOI that his daughter went to the washroom during lunch break on Feb 19 when someone bolted its door from outside. She was found only after the cleaning staff arrived nearly an hour later. "When she told her teacher what happened, she was scolded and asked to write an apology letter," Ashok claimed. "If a student is missing for 1 hour, how come no teacher noticed it? The school administrators could have alerted us," he said. The family said they would approach the district magistrate and basic shiksha अधिकारी, seeking clarity on whether safety protocols were followed by the school. "CCTV footage from the premises should be reviewed to establish responsibility," he said.

The school, meanwhile, claimed it constituted a committee to look into the incident, and the matter was resolved.

The principal told TOI that the student's parents were being interviewed as part of the inquiry. "The matter is being closely monitored. After the investigation, it was found that a few students wanted to skip classes, so they did it. However, the matter is resolved now. We spoke to the parents, too," she said.

Food safety teams seize adulterated khoya in Agra, edible oil in M'nagar

Agra.(Agency)

As part of an ongoing crackdown on food adulteration, authorities seized and destroyed 1,320 kg of adulterated khoya in Agra and confiscated nearly 12,000 litres of adulterated edible oil in Muzaffarnagar over the past two days, officials said on Saturday. In Agra, the district administration intercepted a pickup van carrying adulterated khoya from Rajasthan around 8 am on Shamshabad Road. A Food Safety and Drug Administration (FSDA) team seized 22 containers of khoya, each weighing 60 kg and valued at about Rs 2.37 lakh. On-the-spot testing by an FSDA mobile laboratory found the stock unfit for human consumption, following which the entire consignment was destroyed at the Bamrauli Katara dumping zone. Two statutory samples were sent for laboratory analysis.

Noida police scan mule accounts, investment patterns, stop 122 scams midway

Gurgaon.(Agency)

As part of an ongoing crackdown on cybercrime, Noida police have identified 122 people across the country who were actively being targeted in online investment scams, preventing them from losing more money. Officials said they were now registering complaints, freezing linked bank accounts and taking action against the accused. Officials said that in Nov 2025, a cybercrime team led by the DCP (cybercrime) coordinated with the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) and the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) to track suspicious financial patterns linked to ongoing fraud cases. By analysing transactions from reported accounts, police identified individuals who, influenced by social media-based financial groups and fake

investment portals promising high returns, had been transferring money to fraudulent "investment platforms" over several months. The team reached out to these potential victims and stopped them from investing further. As a result of this intelligence-led effort, police identified 122 potential victims in real time across states, including Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Telangana, Odisha and Rajasthan. According to officials, most victims were lured with false promises of lucrative stock market and investment schemes. Once flagged, the Noida cyber team contacted them, halted further transfers and froze related bank accounts before the funds could be withdrawn. In one case, a Noida resident learned about an investment scheme while scrolling through Facebook and invested Rs 3.5 lakh. Upon learning of this

incident, the cybercrime team immediately contacted the man and informed him of the online fraud. The team advised him not to make any further investments on the app in question and informed him about legal action options to recover the funds. In another case, a Tamil Nadu resident who neither spoke Hindi nor English was found to be deeply entangled in an investment fraud network. It was discovered that the man had already invested Rs 40 lakh in what he believed was a financial platform. The Noida team coordinated with TN police to establish dialogue and explained the scam in his native language, convincing him to stop all future transactions. Officials urged the public to stay alert, avoid falling for such scams, and immediately report any suspicious activity to 1930 or www.cybercrime.gov.in.



Mercury set to cross 30°C this week in Gurgaon, says IMD

Gurgaon.(Agency)

The city recorded a maximum temperature of 26.5°C and a minimum of 12.8°C on Saturday, compared with 26.4°C and 12.6°C, respectively, a day earlier.

Weather conditions remained dry across Haryana, an India Meteorological Department (IMD) bulletin said. Although the state's average maximum temperature saw a slight dip of 0.4°C, it remained 1.6°C above normal. In Haryana, Palwal recorded the highest maximum temperature at 29.1°C on Saturday, followed by Bhiwani at 28.1°C and Nuh at 27.9°C. According to an IMD forecast, with sunshine during the day and no cloud cover, temperatures are expected to rise



by 2-4°C across the state this week. In the city, the mercury is likely to cross 30°C by Feb 26 as dry conditions continue. The weather department said the absence of

any active western disturbance over north India will keep skies largely clear. Night temperatures are also expected to rise gradually, though the increase may be less than during the day. "The minimum temperature is expected to remain around 12-13°C, while the maximum may range between 27°C and 30°C over the next seven days," IMD said.

Meanwhile, the city's air quality index stood at 250 on Saturday, up from 241 a day earlier, placing it in the poor category. Air quality has largely remained in the poor to very poor range through February. Brief improvements were recorded on Feb 2, when the index was 191, and on Feb 19, when it fell to 148. On both days, air

Haryana orders single accounts for all land revenues

Noida.(Agency)

Haryana govt has centralised the handling of proceeds earned from the sale of municipal land and revenue roads.

Under the new system, revenue from all urban local bodies (ULB) will be deposited into a single bank account controlled by its directorate and will no longer remain with individual civic bodies. Separate ledgers will be maintained for each municipality to record the amount contributed by each city. Officials said the move is aimed at preventing misuse of funds at the local level and ensuring that the accumulated money is later allocated for major infrastructure and revenue generating projects within the same city, such as commercial complexes, parking facilities and modern markets. The decision follows amendments to the state land rate policy first notified on Nov 25, 2021. Clause 5(3)(c) of the policy was revised on June 27, 2025, allowing centralised

handling of income from land sales. The department has instructed officials to comply with the order and maintain detailed records of all property transactions. The policy is expected to have the greatest financial impact in high value urban centres such as Gurgaon, where municipal land commands premium prices. Until now, if a municipal corporation sold land to private buyers or developers, the proceeds were retained in its own account. This practice has now been discontinued. "... the amount collected from the sale of municipal land or surplus revenue road shall be deposited into a centralised bank account managed at the directorate level. The directorate will maintain a detailed ledger tracking land sales on a municipality wise basis. Once sufficient funds are accumulated, the amount will be allocated to the respective municipalities for the creation of revenue generating assets within those jurisdictions," the order stated. CG records show that several parcels of

revenue road land have already been sold to private developers. In 2024, eight private builders approached the corporation to purchase revenue road land falling within their housing societies in sectors 63A, 65, 106, 111 and 113. In the current financial year, the corporation has estimated income of Rs 5 crore from the sale of municipal land. In the previous financial year, it earned Rs 3.4 crore from such sales. Although the revenue last year was limited, the corporation had in earlier years sold land to private builders valued at several crores. According to corporation data, in 2018 builders encroached on more than 26 acres of govt revenue road land. Officials said encroachment cases have since increased, and more than 25 builders have applied to purchase such road land from the corporation. Revenue roads were originally created as access paths to agricultural fields in village areas. They came under the jurisdiction of municipal corporations after licensed colonies were

Over river, under streets: How NCRTC engineered 1-hour Delhi to Meerut ride

Gurgaon.(Agency)

When work on the Namo Bharat rapid rail began in June 2019, the ambition was clear: compress the daily sprawl of Delhi to Meerut into a hour-long ride. What followed was a seven-year construction marathon that pushed technical limits and cut through some of NCR's densest urban terrain before finally stitching Delhi, Ghaziabad and Meerut into a seamless ride. "This project posed civil, engineering and logistical challenges we had never handled at this scale," an official with the National Capital Region Transport Corporation said. "Unlike metro or Vande Bharat projects, this corridor had to be built almost entirely from scratch. Covid slowed work, but commissioning the full line on Feb 22 is a moment of great feat." Among the most demanding feats was the Yamuna crossing—Delhi's longest rail bridge. Stretching 1.3 km, the structure rests on 32 pillars and carries box-girder



viaducts launched sequentially using heavy gantries. About 626 metres run directly over the river, with the rest extending across floodplains on either side.

"Each pier, especially those placed midstream, tested our expertise to the limit," the NCRTC official said. "Last 2-3 years' monsoon and high water levels added another layer of difficulty."

Another hurdle was laying the foundation, complicated by a clay layer 10 to 15 metres below ground that slowed piling, an official said. Shifting sand required constant monitoring and on-the-fly adjustments to

ensure stability.

Work was also constrained by the Yamuna floodplains, where water well construction was possible for only about seven months a year, officials said. To manage these limits, engineers used Building Information Modelling to create a detailed 3D model of the bridge, helping spot problems early, improve coordination and streamline execution allowing the structure to be completed in just 2.5 years. Running parallel to the DND Flyway, the bridge connects the Namo Bharat stations at Sarai Kale Khan and New Ashok Nagar skimming past the Barapullah flyover and Ring

Road before slipping into Sarai Kale Khan—a stretch that threads through some of Delhi's busiest arteries.

If the Yamuna bridge defines the corridor's scale above ground, its underground works in Meerut underscore its precision below it. A 5-km subterranean section passes beneath the city's tightly packed neighbourhoods, housing Meerut Central, Bhainsali and Begumpul station. Of these, Begumpul stands out—246 metres long, 24.5 metres wide and sunk roughly 22 metres below street level.

"Meerut is a congested, old city. Working that deep while ensuring no structural damage to buildings above was a challenge we had to manage with absolute precision," the official said.

Located beneath a bustling market, Begumpul is expected to draw heavy footfall. It is also the corridor's most significant interchange, offering both Namo Bharat and metro services on the same

infrastructure, also a first in India.

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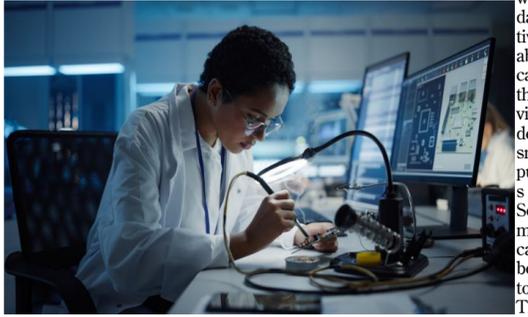
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India's semiconductor sector poised for lift-off: Smartphones to space tech

The Sikh Times

New Delhi: A state-of-the-art national research and development centre for next-generation display devices and optical technologies based on semiconductors is being established by Council for Scientific and Industrial Research at Central Scientific Instruments Organisation (CSIO) in Chandigarh. This centre, named Opto Microelectronic Research Centre, will address the needs of strategic sectors like defence and space, as well as healthcare, telecommunications, and automotive sectors. The facility, the first of its kind in the country, will initially focus on the design, assembly, testing, and packaging of mini-displays and later move on to other equipment like new types of head-up displays for aircraft. This will fill the

gap in the indigenisation of futuristic high-technology gadgets. "Our aim is to address the existing and



future challenges obstructing indigenisation in strategic and commercial display devices and optical technologies and to take a step forward in providing a well-versed research and develop-

ment ecosystem for the rising semiconductor industries in India," a scientist at CSIO said. Semiconductors have

technologies across different disciplines. Acting as a brain, semiconductor chips help machines take decisions while processing heavy data, giving them iterative direction. Their ability to control electrical conductivity makes them ideal for use in virtually all electronic devices, ranging from smartphones and computers to cars and spacecraft. Semiconductors are materials whose electrical conductivity lies between that of conductors and insulators. They can behave as either, depending on the conditions and requirements, making them ideal for electronic devices. This unique property allows them to be used in the creation of tiny electronic chips that control

modern devices. Semiconductors are also essential for the development of advanced technologies such as artificial intelligence, edge computing, and 5G communication. A great deal of resources is being devoted to semiconductor technology, and its advancement is fuelling innovation in various fields, leading to smaller, faster, and more powerful electronic devices. With greater digitalisation and automation in day-to-day activities, semiconductors have become integral to economic security and strategic independence. The acute shortage of chips during the Covid pandemic and its aftermath, as well as the Ukraine-Russia war that affected the manufacture of cars, mobile phones, and other electronics, is a pointer towards this end.

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Digital Marketing Program Free of cost to Economically Weaker Students: World Trade Council

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The duration of the course will range between three to six months, depending on the selected format. Upon successful completion, students will receive an official certificate from the World Trade Council recognizing their digital marketing proficiency. This certification will enhance employment prospects in roles such as Digital Marketing Executive, Social Media Manager, SEO Analyst, Content Creator, and Freelance Consultant. Beyond employment, the Council also aims to promote entrepreneurship. Students will receive training on starting their own online businesses, managing digital campaigns for local enterprises,

and offering freelance services on national and international platforms. This initiative seeks to nurture not only job seekers but also job creators. The initiative aligns with national programs such as Digital India and Skill India, which emphasize technology-driven development and skill empowerment. By providing structured training in digital marketing, the World Trade Council is contributing to inclusive economic growth. Applications for the first batch of the Digital Marketing Certificate Course will open soon. Interested students from economically weaker sections may apply by submitting their educational details and income proof. Selection will be based

on eligibility and commitment to successfully complete the course. The World Trade Council invites non-governmental organizations, educational institutions, corporate houses, and philanthropic individuals to collaborate in this initiative. Through partnerships, the program will be expanded to various cities and rural areas to benefit a larger number of deserving students. Committed to promoting global trade awareness, skill development, and economic empowerment, the World Trade Council is taking another significant step toward building a digitally empowered and self-reliant generation with the launch of this Digital Marketing Certificate Course.

'Lady Don', 7 others chargesheeted in Seelampur teen's murder case

New Delhi: Feared across the narrow lanes of Seelampur and known to wield more authority than many local gangsters, Zikra Khan, who is widely known in the area as 'Lady Don', is now at the centre of a chilling murder case that has exposed the dark underbelly of Delhi's street vendettas. Once whispered about in fear and rarely named aloud, Zikra now stands formally chargesheeted, alongside seven others, for the brutal stabbing of a 17-year-old boy, Kunal, a crime, the police say, that was plotted with ruthless precision as an act of revenge. For months, her name had instilled silence in street corners. But on July 26, in a courtroom far removed from the world she once controlled, her alleged empire of fear began to

unravel as a judicial magistrate took cognisance of the police findings. The chargesheet, filed under multiple provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), paints Zikra not just as a conspirator, but also as the architect of a revenge plot that ended in a teenager's death, all for a grudge rooted in a past assault on her cousin. Judicial Magistrate First Class (JMFC) Anmol Nohria took cognisance of the case and said, "From the perusal of material available on record, I take cognisance of the offence." Zikra, along with her cousin Sahil Ansari, believed to be the key conspirators, were produced before the court from judicial custody. The court has also issued summons to the remaining accused identified as Zahida,

Shahid, alias Shuaib, Anas, Aneesh, Nafees and Vikas. The matter is now scheduled for further hearing on August 8. The murder dates back to April, when Kunal, a minor, was allegedly stabbed to death in the Seelampur locality. During custodial interrogation, Zikra confessed that her cousin Sahil was attacked in November last year by two individuals, Lala and Shambhu, who were reportedly close friends of Kunal. While Kunal was present during the attack, he was not named in the FIR due to his minor status. Zikra and Sahil allegedly suspected Kunal of having orches-

trated the assault and decided to retaliate. Following her arrest in April, Zikra was remanded to judicial custody by the Karkardooma Court. Sahil was also taken into police custody for two days before being remanded to judicial custody. Investigators believe the revenge plot was meticulously planned, with each accused playing a role in executing the fatal assault. The chargesheet has been filed under Sections 103(1), 61(2), 351(3), 3(5), 249(a) and 238(a) of the BNS, indicating a broad spectrum of offences tied to premeditated murder and criminal conspiracy.

Gurugram banker found dead in Jhajjar village, CA husband held

Jhajjar: The police have arrested a Chartered Accountant (CA) on charges of murdering his wife with a sharp-edged weapon near Pansaur village, under the Badli police station area in the district, on the night of February 14. The deceased, identified as Mahak, worked at a private bank in Gurugram. In his complaint with the police, Mahak's brother Akshay said Mehak had married Anshul Dhawan of Hisar on September 25, 2025. Her husband was employed in Gurugram as a chartered accountant and the couple left for Gurugram on February 14. Later that night, the accused's father informed the family about an alleged accident.

NAME CHANGE

I, DEEPAK KUMAR VERMA S/O PARTAP SINGH residing at H.No.16, Tara Nagar Main Kakrola Road, Kakrola, South West Delhi, Delhi-110078 have changed the name of my minor daughter SHREYA ALIAS SHREYA VERMA aged 13 years, and she shall hereafter be known as SHREYA VERMA.

NAME CHANGE

I, hitherto known as SAMEERA SINGH D/O SUDHIR KUMAR SINGH residing at Flat No.E-1058, River Heights, Raj Nagar, Extension, Tower-15, Ghaziabad, U.P.-201001, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as SAMEERA SINGH AMETHIA.

NAME CHANGE

I, Sushma D/o Shambhu Prasad Dharamna W/O Vinod Kumar R/O B-6 Police Colony Mandir Marg New Delhi-110001 Have changed my name to Sushma Badola for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I, Swaran Kaur Sawhney W/O Prith Pal Singh R/O 10C/80 SFS Flats Green View Apartment Mayapuri Road Hari Nagar West Delhi-110064 Have Changed My Name to Swaran Kaur for all purpose.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for general information that I, Rahul Vishwakarma R/O J-4, Ground Floor Gandhiji Market, Mir Dard Road, Minto Road, Indraprastha, Central Delhi, Delhi-110002 declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as Rahul Kumar Vishwakarma in my minor daughter namely Anika Vishwakarma aged 5 years in his School Records. The actual name of mine is Rahul Vishwakarma.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for general information that I, INDU CHAUHAN W/O NARENDER SINGH CHAUHAN R/O N-129/1, T-HUTS, KHILONA BAGH DIST NORTH WEST DELHI-110009 declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as INDU KANWAR in my minor son namely HARSH VARDHAN SINGH CHAUHAN aged 13 years in his school record and birth certificate No. MCDOLIR-2211-005020356. The actual name of mine is INDU CHAUHAN which may be amended accordingly.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for general information that CHANDER VEER S/O RAM JI LAL R/O Q-157 Vikas Vihar Ujjain Nagar West Delhi-110059 declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as CHANDER PAL in my minor daughter namely KIRTI aged 15 years in her birth certificate No.MCDOLIR-0110-004425168. The actual name of mine is CHANDER VEER which may be amended accordingly.

NAME CHANGE

I, hitherto known as Laxman Yadav alias Bhavikshan Yadav S/O Bechan Yadav R/O Gram Debra, Post Bela, Thana Babubarhi, Ward No-02, Bela, PO Bela, Dist Madhubani, Bihar-847224 Has changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Bhavikshna Yadav.

Mental health issues transcend all age groups: AIIMS expert

New Delhi: World Mental Health Day, observed annually on October 10, concludes with World Mental Health Week (October 4-10). Established in 1992 by the World Federation for Mental Health and endorsed by the World Health Organisation (WHO), this day emphasises the importance of mental health as integral to overall well-being. Professor Dr Nand Kumar, Head of the Department of Psychiatry at the AIIMS, Delhi, says: "Mental health is like physical health. It depends on our thoughts, feelings and emotions. Good mental health means being able to cope with the normal stresses of life and maintain functioning in work and daily life." Common mental health disorders (CMDs) include anxiety, depression, obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD), somatic symptom disorders and insomnia. Dr Kumar explains, "Anxiety

is normal in certain situations, but it becomes a disorder when worry is excessive, persistent over months, and interferes with daily activities such as work, study or family life." Depression is identified when "low mood persists for at least two weeks, accompanied by loss of interest in activities, social withdrawal, decreased energy and feelings of hopelessness. Occasionally, thoughts of self-harm may appear." India faces a significant mental health challenge. The National Mental Health Survey (NMHS) of 2015-16 reported that 10.6 per cent of adults suffer from mental disorders, equating to approximately 150 million individuals in need of active medical intervention. The Global Burden of Disease Study 2017 estimated that 197.3 million people in India had

mental disorders, including 45.7 million with depressive disorders. Despite the high prevalence, treatment remains limited. The NMHS indicates that the treatment gap for mental disorders ranges "low mood persists for at least two weeks, accompanied by loss of interest in activities, social withdrawal, decreased energy and feelings of hopelessness. Occasionally, thoughts of self-harm between 70 per cent and 92 per cent, with common mental disorders like depression and anxiety having gaps of 85.2 per cent and 84.0 per cent, respectively. Urban areas, while having more accessible treatment facilities, often lack awareness. Dr Kumar notes, "Many individuals do not recognise

depression or anxiety as medical conditions." Mental health issues affect all age groups. Youth face pressures hopelessness. Occasionally, thoughts of self-harm may appear." India faces a significant mental health challenge. The National Mental Health Survey (NMHS) of 2015-16 reported that 10.6 per cent of adults suffer from mental disorders, equating to approximately 150 million individuals in need of active medical intervention. The Global Burden of Disease Study 2017 estimated that 197.3 million people in India had

Married man killed by live-in partner for talking to his ailing wife

New Delhi: A 40-year-old scrap dealer was stabbed to death by his live-in partner in the DLF Phase 3 area here early on Saturday after an argument over him talking to his wife, police said. Harish Sharma, a resident of Baliawas village in Gurugram, had been in a live-in relationship with the 27-year-old accused, Yashmeet Kaur, for more than a year. They lived in a rented flat. Sharma was married and had two daughters who lived with his wife in the village. His wife was not keeping well for some time, and Sharma would often talk to her, which infuriated Kaur, police said. On Friday night, Kaur saw Sharma talking to his wife, and the couple had a heated argument. In a fit of rage, Kaur stabbed Sharma in the chest with a kitchen knife. He was taken to a hospital but was declared dead on arrival. A friend of the deceased, Vijay alias Sethi, who was reportedly present in another room, is also under the scanner. The victim's nephew has alleged in his complaint that both Kaur and Vijay planned the murder. Kaur, a resident of Delhi's Ashok Nagar, has been arrested and has confessed to the crime, police said, adding that the murder weapon and a blood-stained T-shirt were seized from the flat.

Delhi Police SI held for taking Rs 40,000 bribe

New Delhi: The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Wednesday apprehended a Sub-Inspector (SI) of the Delhi Police for allegedly accepting a bribe of Rs 40,000 from a complainant, the agency said. The Sub-Inspector, Vijay Singh, who was posted at the North Rohini police station, has been suspended with immediate effect. "The CBI apprehended SI Vijay Singh, who was posted at the North Rohini police station, while accepting a bribe of Rs 40,000 in a case being investigated by him. SI Vijay and his supervisory officer, SHO of the North Rohini police station, have been placed under suspension with immediate effect and departmental proceedings have been initiated against them," the Delhi Police said in a statement on X. The CBI registered a case against the SI on Tuesday based on a complaint alleging that the officer had demanded a bribe of Rs 50,000 for not arresting the complainant's cousin and also helping him to secure anticipatory bail. After negotiation, the SI agreed to accept the bribe of Rs 40,000. A trap was laid and the SI was caught red-handed while accepting the money, an official said. The official said further investigation was on in the case. The CBI has urged people to report any instances of corruption or bribery by government officials. Complaints can be submitted at the CBI office on the first floor, CBI Building, CGO Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi. People can also call 011-24367887 or 9650394847 to report such cases or share relevant information.

Over 8 Lakh people screened for tuberculosis

New Delhi: Delhi Health Minister Pankaj Kumar Singh on Thursday reviewed the TB Mukti Bharat Abhiyan. He was apprised by officials that 8.78 lakh individuals have been screened and 3.8 lakh chest X-rays conducted since the campaign began. "We will continue to strengthen our screening and support systems, and community participation to ensure that every TB patient receives timely care, nutrition and encouragement," the health minister said. Officials from the ministry said Delhi achieved 99% of its National TB Elimination Programme Delhi operates 190 diagnostic centres and 365 treatment centres. The government has set a target to screen 50 lakh people.

NAME CHANGE

I, ABDUL TAWWAB S/O Shri Abdul Rehman Resident of House No. C-16, Abhimanyu Gali, Near Bapu Ram Chowk, Arjun Mohalla, Mounpur, Delhi-110053 have changed my name as ABDUL TAWWAB for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I, SIDDHARTH RANA S/O BHAGWAN RANA residing at H.No-1074, SIRASPUR, DELHI-110042 have changed my name to SIDDHARTH RANA for all future purpose.

NAME CHANGE

I Kapil Kumar Yadav S/O Dinesh Yadav R/O House No-523 P, Sector-14, Gurgaon, Haryana-122001, Have Changed My Name To Kapil Yadav For All Purpose

NAME CHANGE

I, Pradeep Kumar S/o Prem Chand R/O D-75/4A, Gali No.1, Ashok Nagar, Shahdara, Delhi-110093 have changed the name of my minor son from Arjun to Arjun Vaidwan.

NAME CHANGE

I, Anupama D/o Pradeep Kumar R/O D-75/4A, Gali No.1, Ashok Nagar, Shahdara, Delhi-110093 have changed my name to Anupama Chaudhary.

NAME CHANGE

I, VINOD KUMAR S/O UDAY SINGH residing at FLAT NO-G-3/8, NEAR DDA WATER TANK, SECTOR-4, ROHINI, DELHI-110085 have changed my name to VINOD KUMAR KUSHWAHA for all future purpose.

NAME CHANGE

I Manoj Ram S/o Ram Bilash Ram R/O Flat No-6, Tower-8, Harmelia Street, IRIS, Vatika City, Sector-49, Gurgaon, Haryana-122018, Have Changed My Name To Manoj Kumar For All Purpose

NAME CHANGE

I Taran Preet Singh Kochhar S/O Manpreet Singh Kochhar R/O 10C/80 SFS Flats Green View Apartment Mayapuri Road Hari Nagar West Delhi-110064 Have Change My Given Name Taranpreet Singh and Surname Kochhar for all purpose.

NAME CHANGE

I, hitherto known as BALJEET SINGH CHUGH, GURPREET KAUR CHUGH, JASLEEN KAUR CHUGH in my minor daughter JASLEEN KAUR aged 16 years in her 10th class Educational Documents. The actual name of mine, my wife and my minor daughter are BALJEET SINGH, GURPREET KAUR and JASLEEN KAUR respectively, which may be amended accordingly.

NAME CHANGE

I, NO-17007475L Rank-NK Name- JITENDRA GANGWAR S/O LATE NIRANJAN LAL GANGWAR R/O WARD NO-11, MOHALLA GYASPUR, NEAR BANGALI BABA MANDIR, BILASPUR, PILLIBHIT, UTTAR PRADESH-262201 have changed my minor son's name from DAKSH GANGWAR to YASH GANGWAR for all future purposes vide Affidavit Dated 05/09/2023 before Notary Public, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE

I, NO-17007475L Rank-NK Name- JITENDRA GANGWAR S/O LATE NIRANJAN LAL GANGWAR R/O WARD NO-11, MOHALLA GYASPUR, NEAR BANGALI BABA MANDIR, BILASPUR, PILLIBHIT, UTTAR PRADESH-262201 have changed my minor son's name from DAKSH GANGWAR to YASH GANGWAR for all future purposes vide Affidavit Dated 05/09/2023 before Notary Public, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE

I, ANIL BALKRISHNA PANICKER S/O ANGAKATTIL NARAYAN BALKRISHNA PANICKER R/O A-6/334-A, Janta Flats, Paschim Vihar, Delhi-110063, have changed my name to Anil Bala Panicker permanently.

NAME CHANGE

I, ANITA BANSAL W/O PAWAN BANSAL residing at B-50, MAYUR-DHWAJ APARTMENT, I.P. EXTN, EAST DELHI-110092 have Change my name to ANITA RANI BANSAL for all future purpose.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for general information that I, Jyoti pal W/O Sunil Kumar R/O WZ-125, Village Begumpur, North West Delhi, -110086, declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as Jyoti in my minor Daughter Yashika aged 14 years in her school cords and birth certificate no MCDOLR09368299. The actual name is Jyoti Pal.

NAME CHANGE

I, PUNNAM DEVI Wife of No-14913053K Rank-HAV Name-NARENDER SINGH R/O C-7, LAXMI GARDEN, NAJAFGARH, NEW DELHI-110043 have changed my name from PUNNAM DEVI to POONAM DEVI for all future purposes vide Affidavit Dated 30/09/2023 before Executive Magistrate, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE

I, NEETAS DEVI Wife of No-3204848W Rank-HAV Name-DHARMENDRA SINGH R/O VILL-BIGUNDA, POST-MURSAN, DIST-THATHRA, U.P. 204213 has changed my name from NEETAS DEVI to NITESH DEVI for all future purposes vide Affidavit Dated 30/09/2023 before Notary Public, Delhi.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for general information that I, BALJEET SINGH S/O GURCHARAN SINGH R/O 12/32, Geeta Colony, East Delhi-110031 declare that name of mine, my wife and my minor daughter has been wrongly written as BALJEET SINGH CHUGH, GURPREET KAUR CHUGH in my minor daughter JASLEEN KAUR aged 16 years in her 10th class Educational Documents. The actual name of mine, my wife and my minor daughter are BALJEET SINGH, GURPREET KAUR and JASLEEN KAUR respectively, which may be amended accordingly.

NAME CHANGE

I, MOGHAL FATIHA BAIG Wife of JC-3550177 Rank-NB/SUB Name-MOGHAL MOHAMMAD BAIG Presently residing at 9-5-5, ANDHRA PATHA NAGAR, PERALA HIGH SCHOOL, PERALA, CHIRALA PRAKASAM DISTRICT, ANDHRA PRADESH-523157, have changed my name from MOGHAL FATIHA BAIG to FATHIMA SHAIK for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 16/07/2025 before First Class Magistrate, Shillong, Meghalaya.

NAME CHANGE

I, JUGAL KISHOR S/O Lala Dhar R/O H.No-196 S/F, Kh.No-619/21, Chattr Pur, South Delhi, Delhi-110074 have changed the name of my minor daughter namely Kishna Devi aged 16 years and she shall hereafter be known as Priya.

NAME CHANGE

I, hitherto known as Farman S/O Akeel Ahmed R/O B 272/27, Gali No 4, Subhash Mohalla North Ghonda, Garhi Mendu, Bhajan Pura, North East, Delhi-110053 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Farman Ahmed.

NAME CHANGE

I, hitherto known as Atif S/O Manzoor Khan R/O 1999-C, 4F/F, Gali No-5, Guru Harkrishan School Wali Gali, Katbir Nagar, Gokal Pur, North East Delhi, Delhi-110094 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Atif Khan.

NAME CHANGE

I, hitherto known as Akash S/O Makar Singh Rawat R/O 2087/5, Gali No-20, Prem Nagar Patel Nagar, Patel Nagar S.O, Central Delhi, Delhi-110008 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Akash Rawat.

NAME CHANGE

I, hitherto known as Sanam Kumari W/O Samarjeet Gupta R/O E-400-D, Block-E, Ashok Nagar, Vasundhara Enclave, East Delhi, Delhi, Delhi-110096 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Sonam Sav.

NAME CHANGE

I, hitherto known as Laxman Yadav alias Bhavikshan Yadav S/O Bechan Yadav R/O Gram Debra, Post Bela, Thana Babubarhi, Ward No-02, Bela, PO Bela, Dist Madhubani, Bihar-847224 Has changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Bhavikshna Yadav.

NAME CHANGE

I, hitherto known as ASHISH KUMAR RATHOR S/O PURAN LAL R/O C-48, RAJEEV NAGAR BEGUM PUR, NORTH WEST DELHI, DELHI-110086, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as RAZA-AHMED.

NAME CHANGE

I, SANJAY KUMAR CHOUHARY S/O LATE SH. LAXMAN CHAUDHARY Permanent R/o Parsauri Khroodhar, Sitamarhi, Bihar-843325 and Presently Residing at Plot No. B-20, Second Floor, Dass Garden, Baprola Vihar, Najafgarh, New Delhi-110043, declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as SANJAY CHOUHARY in my minor daughter namely SHIWAJGI CHOUHARY aged 17 years in her 10th class Marksheet. The actual name of mine is SANJAY KUMAR CHOUHARY, which may be amended accordingly.

NAME CHANGE

I, VINOD KUMAR S/O UDAY SINGH residing at FLAT NO-G-3/8, NEAR DDA WATER TANK, SECTOR-4, ROHINI, DELHI-110085 have changed my name to VINOD KUMAR KUSHWAHA for all future purpose.

NAME CHANGE

I, SANTOSH KUMAR S/O VISHVA NATH PANICKER residing at PLOT NO-58859, FLAT NO-2, STREET NO-5, HAVENS GARDEN MATIALA, DELHI-110059 have changed my name to SANTOSH KUMAR GUPTA for all future purposes

NAME CHANGE

I, Anil Balakrishna Panicker s/o Angakattil Narayan Balakrishna Panicker R/O A-6/334-A, Janta Flats, Paschim Vihar, Delhi-110063, have changed my name to Anil Bala Panicker permanently.

NAME CHANGE

I, ANITA BANSAL W/O PAWAN BANSAL residing at B-50, MAYUR-DHWAJ APARTMENT, I.P. EXTN, EAST DELHI-110092 have Change my name to ANITA RANI BANSAL for all future purpose.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for general information that I, NIDHI AGGARWAL YADAV D/O VIRENDER KUMAR AGGARWAL, AL and Ex. Wife of AMIT YADAV, R/O H.No E-12, Hauj Khas, South West Delhi-110016, declare that I got divorce from my Ex. Husband AMIT YADAV vide Court Decree HMA No. 603/2019 dated 30-04-2019, further I have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as NIDHI AGGARWAL. I also have changed the name of my minor son namely AAYAN YADAV, aged 16 years and my minor daughter namely ARSHIYA YADAV, aged 13 years and they shall hereafter be known as AAYAN AGGARWAL and ARSHIYA AGGARWAL respectively, which may be amended accordingly.

NAME CHANGE

I Taran Preet Singh Kochhar S/O Manpreet Singh Kochhar R/O 10C/80 SFS Flats Green View Apartment Mayapuri Road Hari Nagar West Delhi-110064 Have Change My Given Name Taranpreet Singh and Surname Kochhar for all purpose.

NAME CHANGE

I Sarve Preet Kaur Kochhar W/O Manpreet Singh Kochhar R/O 10C/80 SFS Flats Green View Apartment Mayapuri Road Hari Nagar West Delhi-110064 Have Change My Given Name Sarvepreet kaur and Surname Kochhar for all purpose.

NAME CHANGE

I, hitherto known as ASHISH KUMAR RATHOR S/O PURAN LAL R/O C-48, RAJEEV NAGAR BEGUM PUR, NORTH WEST DELHI, DELHI-110086, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as RAZA-AHMED.

NAME CHANGE

I, SANJAY KUMAR CHOUHARY S/O LATE SH. LAXMAN CHAUDHARY Permanent R/o Parsauri Khroodhar, Sitamarhi, Bihar-843325 and Presently Residing at Plot No. B-20, Second Floor, Dass Garden, Baprola Vihar, Najafgarh, New Delhi-110043, declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as SANJAY CHOUHARY in my minor daughter namely SHIWAJGI CHOUHARY aged 17 years in her 10th class Marksheet. The actual name of mine is SANJAY KUMAR CHOUHARY, which may be amended accordingly.

NAME CHANGE

I, SH AUTAR SINGH Father of JC-413677X Rank-SUB MAJ Name-BHAGAT SINGH presently residing at VILL-BILTITIYA SUKOLI TALLI PO-DHAUNTYAL, DIST-PAURI GARHWAL, UTTARAKHAND, 246155 has changed my name from SH AUTAR SINGH to AVTAR SINGH for all future purposes vide affidavit dated 12/03/2024 before Notary Public, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE

I, NO-17007475L Rank-NK Name- JITENDRA GANGWAR S/O LATE NIRANJAN LAL GANGWAR R/O WARD NO-11, MOHALLA GYASPUR, NEAR BANGALI BABA MANDIR, BILASPUR, PILLIBHIT, UTTAR PRADESH-262201 have changed my minor son's name from DAKSH GANGWAR to YASH GANGWAR for all future purposes vide Affidavit Dated 05/09/2023 before Notary Public, Delhi.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for general information that I, BALJEET SINGH S/O GURCHARAN SINGH R/O 12/32, Geeta Colony, East Delhi-110031 declare that name of mine, my wife and my minor daughter has been wrongly written as BALJEET SINGH CHUGH, GURPREET KAUR CHUGH in my minor daughter JASLEEN KAUR aged 16 years in her 10th class Educational Documents. The actual name of mine, my wife and my minor daughter are BALJEET SINGH, GURPREET KAUR and JASLEEN KAUR respectively, which may be amended accordingly.

NAME CHANGE

I, Kulsom w/o Rozuddin R/O B-17, Gali No.3A, Near Mohalla Dilshad Masjid, Old Mustafabad, Delhi-110094, have changed my name to Kulsom for all future purposes.

NEWS BOX

Arab, Muslim countries slam US envoy's remarks on Israel's 'right' to Middle East land

JERUSALEM. (Agency)

Arab and Islamic countries issued a joint condemnation on Sunday of remarks by US ambassador to Israel Mike Huckabee, who suggested Israel had a biblical right to a vast swath of the Middle East.

Huckabee, a former Baptist minister and a fervent Israel supporter, was speaking on the podcast of far-right commentator Tucker Carlson. In an episode released on Friday, Carlson pushed Huckabee on the meaning of a biblical verse sometimes interpreted as saying that Israel is entitled to the land between the river Nile in Egypt and the Euphrates in Syria and Iraq.

In response, Huckabee said: "It would be fine if they took it all." When pressed, however, he continued that Israel was "not asking to take all of that", adding: "It was somewhat of a hyperbolic statement." The backlash widened sharply on Sunday as more than a dozen Arab and Islamic governments -- alongside three major regional organisations -- issued a joint statement denouncing the US diplomat's comments as "dangerous and inflammatory."

The statement, released by the United Arab Emirates' foreign ministry, was signed by the UAE, Egypt, Jordan, Indonesia, Pakistan, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kuwait, Oman, Bahrain, Lebanon, Syria and the State of Palestine, as well as the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, the Arab League and the Gulf Cooperation Council. They said the comments contravene the UN Charter and efforts to de-escalate the Gaza war and advance a political horizon for a comprehensive settlement. Iran joined the chorus with its foreign ministry accusing Huckabee on X of revealing "American active complicity" in what it called Israel's "expansionist wars of aggression" against Palestinians. Earlier, several Arab states had issued unilateral condemnations.

Saudi Arabia described the ambassador's words as "reckless" and "irresponsible", while Jordan said it was "an assault on the sovereignty of the countries of the region." Kuwait decried what it called a "flagrant violation of the principles of international law", while Oman said the comments "threatened the prospects for peace" and stability in the region.

How Epstein Tried To Build Web Of Powerful Ties Across Middle East

Dubai. (Agency)

The departure of the chief executive of Dubai port giant DP World is the biggest fallout in the Middle East from U.S. Department of Justice documents which show that disgraced financier Jeffrey Epstein tried to build a powerful network of political figures and business leaders across the region.

DP World announced on Friday that Sultan Ahmed Bin Sulayem had resigned as chief executive and chair. The decision to act was taken after Bin Sulayem's name appeared in the Epstein files, two sources with direct knowledge of the matter told Reuters, and as his relationship with the late convicted sex offender faced increasing scrutiny.

In their correspondence, Bin Sulayem discussed sexual relationships with women with whom Epstein helped him connect. In an email dated November 9, 2007, Bin Sulayem told Epstein he had met one such woman in New York, whom he does not name and with whom he said he did not have sex.

"Yes after several attempts for several months we managed to meet in NY," he wrote, adding that there was a misunderstanding because "she wanted some BUSINESS! while i only wanted some PUSSYNESS!" Dubai's ruler on Friday also issued a decree appointing a new chairman for Dubai's Ports, Customs and Free Zone Corporation, one of several roles Bin Sulayem held. Reuters was able to independently review only some of the Epstein files relating to Bin Sulayem and was unable to ascertain what specifically led to his departure from DP World although the sources said, without providing further details, that it was related to the files.

US Strikes On Iran Could Target Leaders, Seek Regime Change: Report

Washington. (Agency)

US military planning on Iran has reached an advanced stage with options including targeting individuals as part of an attack and even pursuing regime change in Tehran, if ordered by President Donald Trump, two US officials told Reuters. The military options are the latest signs that the United States is preparing for a serious conflict with Iran should diplomatic efforts fail. Reuters first reported last week that the US military is preparing for a sustained, weeks-long operation against Iran that could include striking Iranian security facilities as well as nuclear infrastructure. The latest revelations suggest more granular, ambitious planning ahead of a decision by Trump, who has in recent days publicly floated the idea of regime change in the Islamic Republic.

The US officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity due to the sensitive nature of the planning, did not offer further details on which individuals could be targeted or how the US military could attempt to carry out regime change without a large ground force.

Pursuing regime change would mark another shift away from Trump's vows during the presidential campaign to abandon what he has called the failed policies of past administrations, which included military efforts to topple governments in Afghanistan and Iraq. Trump has assembled a massive amount of firepower in the Middle East but most of the combat capabilities are aboard warships and fighter aircraft. Any major bombing campaign could also count on support from US-based bombers. In his first term, Trump showed a willingness to carry out targeted killings by approving a 2020 attack on Iran's top general, Qassem Soleimani, who led the foreign espionage and paramilitary arm of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, known as the Quds Force.

Blizzard warnings issued from Delaware to Massachusetts as storm threatens US East Coast

NEW YORK. (Agency)

A rapidly intensifying storm triggered blizzard warnings Saturday for New York City, New Jersey and Boston as communities along the East Coast prepared for the Sunday arrival of heavy snow and damaging winds. The National Weather Service increased its assessment of the potential severity of a storm that was projected to be much milder only days earlier. The weather service said 1 to 2 feet (about 30 to 61 centimeters) of snow was possible in many areas as it issued blizzard warnings for New York City and Long Island, Boston and coastal communities in New Jersey, Connecticut, Delaware, Maryland, Rhode Island and Massachusetts. Flooding was also possible in parts of New York and New Jersey, it said.

"While we do get plenty of these nor'easters that produce heavy snow and strong impacts, it's been several years since we saw one of this magnitude across this large of a region in this very populated part of the country," said Cody Snell, a meteorologist at the service's Weather Prediction Center. Snell said the storm would arrive Sunday

morning in areas around Washington before stretching toward Philadelphia and New York City and reaching Boston in the evening. The weather service said the storm could begin as rainfall in some places before worsening, with the heaviest snowfall expected at night and as much as 2 inches (5 centimeters) of snow per hour at times in some areas, before tapering off by Monday afternoon. The weather service warned that the storm, with steady winds of 25 to 35 mph (40 to 56 kph) would "make travel dangerous, if not impossible. Scattered downed tree limbs and power outages possible due to snow load and strong winds." Officials scrambled to prepare for a storm that forecasters days ago believed would have a much more limited impact. New York Mayor Zohran Mamdani said the city would expand on efforts it used to deal with a major snowfall weeks ago. But officials held off on deciding whether to open schools Monday for the time being. "We saw on Friday there was expectation that the likelihood was that we were going to face maybe 3 to 4 inches

of snow. Quickly that then changed," Mamdani said. "So we want to make sure that we make a decision based on up-to-



date and accurate information." New York brought in additional snow clearing equipment from outside the city and planned to increase use of geocoding to keep track of bus stops and crosswalks that need clearing, he said. With the storm zeroing in, John Berlingieri scrapped plans for a family trip to Puerto Rico to prepare his company, Berrington Snow Management, for what could well be a mammoth task: Clearing snow from

millions of square feet of asphalt surrounding shopping malls and industrial parks across Long Island. Employees spent the last few days recharging batteries on the company's 40 front-end loaders and replacing windshield wipers on snow removal vehicles, before resting up Saturday. "I'm anticipating at least one week of work around the clock," Berlingieri said. "We're going to work 24 to 36 hours straight, sleep for a few hours and then go back."

The storm approached just as the icy remains of a snowstorm that struck the region weeks earlier were finally melting away.

Officials in Atlantic City, New Jersey, urged residents and casino visitors to stay off the streets, especially in low-lying neighborhoods prone to flooding.

"I could go on and on probably with a good two dozen streets where we know we will get water and there will be snow on top of that," said Scott Evans, the city's fire chief and emergency management coordinator.

Pakistan launches deadly strikes in Afghanistan; children among dozens killed

The overnight attacks were the most extensive since border clashes in October killed more than 70 people on both sides and wounded hundreds.

KABUL. (Agency)

Pakistan said Sunday it launched multiple air strikes targeting militants in neighbouring Afghanistan, where the government reported children were among dozens of people killed and wounded. The overnight attacks were the most extensive since border clashes in October killed more than 70 people on both sides and wounded hundreds. Islamabad said it hit seven sites along the border region targeting Afghanistan-based militant groups "in the aftermath of recent suicide

bombing incidents in Pakistan".

The military targeted the Pakistani Taliban and its associates, as well as an affiliate of the Islamic State group, a



statement by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting said.

Afghanistan said the strikes hit Nangarhar and Paktika provinces, "martyring and wounding dozens of people, including women and children". "Pakistani generals try to compensate for their country's security weaknesses through such crimes," government spokesperson Zabihullah Mujahid posted on X. An AFP journalist in Nangarhar's Bihud

district saw people using a bulldozer to search for victims under the rubble following the strikes. Twelve children and teenagers were among 17 people killed when a house was targeted in Bihud, an Afghan security source told AFP on condition of anonymity as he was not authorised to speak to the media. The two countries have been locked in an increasingly bitter dispute since the Taliban authorities retook control of Afghanistan in 2021.

The relationship between the two countries has deteriorated sharply with deadly border clashes since October. Pakistan said Sunday that despite repeated urging by Islamabad, the Taliban authorities have failed to act against militant groups using Afghan territory to carry out attacks in Pakistan. It said the strikes were carried out in response to a suicide blast at a Shiite mosque in Islamabad two weeks ago and other more recent suicide bombings in northwest Pakistan, including one on Saturday.

Crews recover bodies of nine backcountry skiers days after California avalanche

TRUCKEE, Calif. (Agency)

Crews recovered the bodies of nine backcountry skiers who were killed by an avalanche in California's Sierra Nevada, authorities said Saturday, concluding a harrowing operation that was hindered by intense snowfall.

A search team reached the bodies of eight victims and found one other who had been missing and presumed dead since Tuesday's avalanche on Castle Peak near Lake Tahoe. The ninth person who was missing was found "relatively close" to the other victims, according to Nevada County Sheriff's Lt. Dennis Hack, but was impossible to see due to whiteout conditions at that time. At a news conference, Sheriff Shannon Moon praised the collective efforts of the numerous agencies that helped recover the bodies -- from the California Highway Patrol to the National Guard to the Pacific Gas & Electric utility company -- and 42 volunteers who helped on the last day of the

operation. "We are fortunate in this mountain community that we are very tight-knit, and our community shows up in times of tragedy," Moon said.



Victims named The sheriff named for the first time the three guides from Blackbird Mountain Company who died: Andrew Alissandratos, 34, Nicole Choo, 42, and Michael Henry, 30. According to biographies on the company's website, Alissandratos was originally from Tampa, Florida, and moved to Tahoe roughly a decade ago.

He enjoyed a wide array of adventure activities, from backcountry exploration to rock climbing. Henry moved to Colorado in 2016 and then to Truckee three years later. He was described as "laid back" and devoted to sharing his knowledge and love of the mountains with others. There was no bio for Choo on the website. "This was an enormous tragedy, and the saddest event our team has ever experienced," Blackbird Mountain founder Zeb Blais said Wednesday in a statement. "We are doing what we can to support the families

who lost so much," he said, "and the members of our team who lost treasured friends and colleagues." The six other fatal victims were women who were part of a close-knit group of friends who were experienced backcountry skiers and knew how to navigate the Sierra Nevada wilderness, their families said this week.

White House dinner closes a turbulent week for governors in Washington

Dozens of Democrats had threatened to boycott Saturday's dinner if members of their party were blocked from Friday's meeting. But even after Moore's attendance, some said they still wouldn't show up.

WASHINGTON. (Agency)

The annual dinner with governors at the White House is typically a chance for leaders from both parties to come together, socialize and spend a low-key evening with the president. But like many traditions during President Donald Trump's second term, Saturday's dinner has proven

unusually controversial. Ahead of this week's gathering of the National Governors Association, Trump ridiculed the bipartisan group's leadership, Republican Gov. Kevin Stitt of Oklahoma and Democratic Gov. Wes Moore of Maryland. He refused to invite Moore, along with Colorado Gov. Jared Polis, to a working event at the White House on Friday -- only to relent at the last minute. Then the event ended shortly after Trump learned of the Supreme Court's decision to strike down his sweeping tariff policy.

Dozens of Democrats had threatened to boycott Saturday's dinner if members of their party were blocked from Friday's meeting. But even after Moore's attendance, some said they still wouldn't show up. "President Trump has made this whole thing a farce," Massachusetts Gov. Maura Healey said in a statement. When the dinner finally rolled around, no Democrats were spotted in the room.

Enjoying the black-tie affair, with tall candles arranged on tables, were just top



administration officials and Republican governors. In brief remarks, Trump joked that state leaders "look in that mirror and say, I should be president, not him." The president didn't criticize any Democrats by name, but he blamed two states led by Democratic governors when he mentioned a sewage spill in the Potomac River near

Washington. "We have to clean up some mess that Maryland and Virginia have left us," Trump said, adding that "it's unbelievable what they can do with incompetence." The ruptured pipe is part of a Washington-based utility that's federally regulated and under the oversight of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Vice President JD Vance praised the governors for having to make tough decisions. When you're in his position, Vance said, "nobody blames you when anything goes wrong." Those who have attended previous dinners said they offered a rare and helpful opportunity for governors to connect with the president and members of his Cabinet away from the pressure of daily governing. Some also said the dinner was a chance to connect with fellow governors from other parties whom they might not see very often.

Ruling against Trump's tariffs creates new uncertainty in US trade relations with China

Washington. (Agency)

The Supreme Court decision striking down President Donald Trump's sweeping tariffs has added a wrinkle to already complicated US-China relations, with both countries navigating shifting ground to avoid an all-out trade war that would disrupt the global economy while still jostling for a position of strength in negotiations. Friday's court ruling would seem to strengthen China's hand, but analysts predict that Beijing will be cautious in exploiting the advantage, knowing that Trump has other ways of levying taxes. Both sides also want to maintain a fragile trade truce and stabilize ties ahead of Trump's highly anticipated trip to Beijing. "It will give China a moral boost in their negotiations with Trump's team ahead of the summit, but they are prepared for the scenario that nothing actually changes in reality," said Sun Yun, director of the China program at the Stimson Center, a Washington-based think tank.

Furious about the defeat, Trump said first he was imposing a temporary 10% global tariff before raising it to 15% as well as pursuing alternative paths for import duties. He made the case for tariffs by pointing to China, which poses the biggest challenge to US economic, technological and military dominance.

"China had hundreds of billions of dollars in surpluses with the United States. They rebuilt China. They rebuilt the army. We built China's army by allowing that to happen," Trump told reporters Friday. "I have a great relationship with President Xi, but he respects our country now." The White House has confirmed that Trump will travel to China on March 31 through April 2 to meet President Xi Jinping.

China is looking beyond tariffs. Xi is unlikely to "flaunt or brandish" the Supreme Court ruling forcefully when meeting Trump, likely choosing instead to try to strengthen his rapport with the US president, said Ali Wyne, a senior research and advocacy adviser focused on US policy toward China at the International Crisis Group.

The more that Xi can do that, "the more likely it is that the fragile trade truce between the United States and China will take hold in earnest and that Trump will be amenable to security concessions that give China greater freedom of maneuver in Asia," Wyne said.

Asked for comment on the implications of the court ruling, Chinese Embassy spokesperson Liu Pengyu said only that tariff and trade wars serve neither country's interest. He called for Beijing and Washington to work together to "provide greater certainty and stability for China-US economic and trade cooperation and the global economy." The court decision also creates new uncertainty for other US trading partners, in Asia and elsewhere, especially those that have reached trade deals to calm the initial turmoil from Trump's tariffs. "I would expect most Asian partners to proceed cautiously, with existing agreements largely holding as both sides work through the implications in the coming weeks," said.

NEWS BOX

HP approves Rs 20-cr upgrade for Shimla ice-skating rink

Shimla. (Agency)
The Himachal Pradesh govt has approved a redevelopment project to modernise the iconic ice-skating rink in Shimla, with an estimated investment of Rs 20.22 crore. The initiative aims to strengthen tourism and promote winter sports in the hill town. Established in 1920 during the British era, the rink long served as a landmark attraction at Lakkhar Bazar and nurtured generations of ice skaters. The upcoming transformation will convert the historic venue into a modern, state-of-the-art sports facility designed to meet international standards while preserving its legacy, said an official spokesperson. As part of the plan, outdated structures,



including the Old Club House buildings and the servant residence, will be demolished to make way for new infrastructure. Of the total project cost, Rs 16.09 crore has been earmarked for upgrading the rink's core infrastructure, Rs 2.81 crore for constructing a new Club House building, and Rs 1.21 crore for developing a store, souvenir shop, and essential amenities. An additional Rs 11.20 lakh will be spent on demolition work, said the spokesperson. The revamped facility is expected to attract national and international sporting events, provide improved training opportunities, and significantly boost Shimla's tourism and sports profile.

Two abducted exploration workers rescued, a few hours after abduction in Tripura

Agartala. (Agency)
A few hours after the abduction, police rescued two persons late last night from Baikhora area in South Tripura district, police said on Sunday. However, nobody has been arrested so far in connection with the incident. According to police, the miscreants released them around 1 AM near Sabroom-Agartala National Highway, from which security personnel took them to the police station. Police recorded their statement, and after a due medical check-up, they were sent to the camp. The report indicated that there was no link to militant angle in the incident, but suspected that local miscreants, powered by political affiliation, kidnapped them for money, although the victim had yet to confess to any transaction. However, based on the FIR, the police launched an investigation. Police said Bhuban Chan Joshi, an engineer, and Amit Kumar, a floor-man from Oil India Ltd Drilling Camp, an Assam-based firm, were abducted from the Devtamura drilling site under Silchari police station in Tripura's South district by a group of unidentified miscreants last evening when they were preparing to return to the base camp. "A group of approximately 12 criminals arrived in two commander jeeps at the Oil India Drilling Camp near the Devtamura drilling site under Silchari police station, and forcibly abducted them. The assailants were armed with sticks and a dao and assaulted Joshi," police said, referring to the statement of the victims. Police promptly alerted all nearby police stations upon receiving information regarding the abduction. The breakthrough occurred late at night when the two kidnapped individuals were found in Baikhora area by a police patrol party and rescued them.

Decades old bridge over Upper Kolab collapses

BENGALURU. (Agency)
A bridge over the Upper Kolab main canal near Potraguada under Jeypore block in Koraput district collapsed on Saturday, snapping connectivity to several villages and triggering safety concerns among residents. No casualties were reported due to the incident. The bridge, built around 44 years ago, is around 7.2 km from the main dam reservoir. The cave-in has severely disrupted road access to Potraguada, Kalauida, Bariniput, Boiragimoth, Gadapadar and Balaput, forcing villagers to take longer alternative routes for their daily commute. Sources said authorities of the Upper Kolab irrigation project had earlier conducted surveys and submitted proposals to the government for construction of a new bridge, citing the deteriorating condition of the ageing structure. Meanwhile, locals alleged that the recent release of water to the canal, following demands from farmers in Kotpad and Borigumma blocks, may have further weakened the bridge, contributing to its collapse. Officials of the irrigation department rushed to the spot soon after the incident and cordoned off the approach road to prevent movement and ensure public safety. Residents have been advised to use alternate routes bypassing the canal stretch. Jeypore Upper Kolab Head Works sub-division divisional officer Rajanikant Mishra attributed the collapse primarily to the age of the structure.

'5 lakh vehicles without numberplates ply on Gujarat roads'

Ahmedabad. (Agency)
The death of a 22-year-old youth in an accident in Juhapura has exposed what officials describe as a systemic lapse. Authorities estimate that as many as 5 lakh to 6 lakh vehicles in Gujarat lack valid plates or carry tampered ones. Every tenth vehicle checked in enforcement drives raises a red flag, according to traffic police. "According to rules, no vehicle can be driven out of a showroom without a numberplate. Yet, several dealers deliver vehicles without a valid numberplate despite it being an offence," said a senior police officer, refusing to be named. A quick scan of social media posts shows the scale of the problem, said an officer. "At least one out of three posts featuring vehicle deliveries shows them being driven out without

numberplates," the officer added. While no RTO officer was willing to be quoted formally, one said, "It is the dealers' responsibility to ensure numberplates are affixed before delivery."



N N Chaudhary, additional commissioner of police (traffic), said enforcement drives routinely detect violations. "During checks, we find that about one out of every 10 vehicles either does not have a numberplate or has a tampered one. Cases are registered against

such offenders," he said. A senior RTO officer indicated that the practice is more common among two-wheelers, as well as in certain high-end and SUV segments. Dealers are required to have in-house numberplate installation facilities, but many have not set these up, leading to delays and unlawful deliveries. Authorities also flagged manipulation in older vehicles. In some cases, numberplates are altered or completely painted white, allegedly to evade CCTV detection. "In such cases, it is the responsibility of the vehicle owner to get it made again, but the owners do it to avoid being caught on CCTV cameras," said an officer. A traffic cop said, "Recently, I caught a car which did not have a numberplate. The driver claimed that the numberplate was yet to be delivered. However, when I checked the meter reading, I found that the vehicle had been driven for over 20,000km."

Right to pursue education is lifelong, cannot be forfeited: HC

Chandigarh. (Agency)
The Punjab and Haryana high court has made it clear that denying the right to pursue any educational qualification to any individual who was willing to pursue it, at any stage of life, was violative of the Fundamental Right to Education and could not be taken away or forfeited, as these rights were inherent, permanent, and essential to human dignity from birth throughout one's entire existence. The high court further clarified that enhancing the educational qualification of an employee must be encouraged because a better-educated workforce directly served the public interest by enhancing the competency of the employee. "A more educated workforce is better equipped to engage with complex social issues, adapt to technological changes, and contribute to more informed and better results. Therefore, encouraging lifelong learning and educational enhancement is not merely a private benefit, but a public good. The

state not only bears the responsibility of ensuring a better-qualified workforce on the public payroll but also of supporting the professional growth of its employees," the high court held.



Justice Harpreet Singh Brar passed the order while allowing a petition filed by Naveen Kumar, a veterinary livestock development assistant (VLDA), who challenged the rejection

of his request to enrol in a Bachelor of Arts programme through distance education. The petitioner was appointed as a VLDA on Feb 9, 2024, following a selection process conducted by the Haryana Staff Selection Commission. He joined duty on Feb 15, 2024. Having completed his schooling up to Class XII level at the time of appointment, the petitioner wanted to improve his qualifications by enrolling in a BA course through distance mode. On May 29, 2024, he submitted a representation seeking official permission, undertaking that he would not avail study leave and that his duties would not suffer. However, on July 2, 2024, the authorities rejected his request, citing govt instructions that required completion of three years of regular service before pursuing higher education. Justice Brar observed that the three-year service requirement applied only to cases where employees sought to pursue studies in regular mode requiring physical attendance and study leave.

Stranded Odisha youths return from Thailand

Kendrapara. (Agency)
Exploited by the employer and abandoned by their agents, four workers of Kendrapada district returned from Thailand on Saturday after a five month ordeal. Five youths from Kendrapada district and one from Bhadrak had travelled to Thailand in August last year to work in a plywood company. However, they later alleged that the company they worked with did not pay their wages and they faced hardships. As their call for help reached Odisha government through social media, coordinated efforts were initiated. The Ministry of External Affairs, chief resident commissioner of the state government in New Delhi and agencies such as directorate of Odisha Paribar under Odia Language, Literature and Culture department, Labour

and Employees State Insurance department as well the administration of Kendrapada and Bhadrak joined forces to bring them back. Four of the stranded youths were repatriated and after their return, they expressed gratitude to the state government for the timely support and assistance. The youths said they spent over '2 lakh each to get the job in a plywood factory in Chon Buri of Thailand. However, they were allegedly duped by their employers in Thailand and agents in India. "We had gone to Thailand through a



22-year-old dies after high-speed dumper without numberplate hits his scooter in Ahmedabad

Ahmedabad. (Agency)
A 22-year-old man was killed in a road accident on Saturday morning near Royal Akbar Tower on the main road in Juhapura after a dumper that did not have a numberplate hit his scooter at high speed and dragged it. The deceased was identified as Mustakim Sheikh. According to the complainant, Iqbal Shaikh (50), a doctor by profession and the uncle of the deceased, the accident occurred around 7am on Saturday when Mustakim was returning home on a two-wheeler after collecting medicines. "Mustakim attempted to cross the road in front of Royal Akbar Tower, a dumper coming from the Sarkhej side struck the

scooter from the front. The impact caused fatal head injuries, and Mustakim died on the spot," the complainant said. The complainant stated that the dumper did not have a visible numberplate on the front or rear. A number was painted on the side of the vehicle with the last three digits reportedly scratched off, making full identification difficult at the scene. The M-division traffic police registered a case under sections 106(1) (causing death by negligence), 125(a) (act endangering life or personal safety of others, hurt it caused), 125(B) (act endangering life or personal safety of others, grievous hurt it caused), 281 (rash driving), and also under.



Worms found in mid-day meals at Karnataka schools: Suppliers may face axe

The schools have received fresh food grains. We are inquiring how the worm-infested foodgrains were supplied to the schools, said KSFC Chairman H Krishna.

Bengaluru. (Agency)
Taking a serious note of several news reports of worms being found in the midday meals at multiple schools across the state, the Karnataka State Food Commission (KSFC) has visited schools in 20 districts and the warehouses where the food grains are stored. Sources said the commission would soon compile its observations about the quality of grains used for the midday meals and submit a report to the government along with a set of recommendations. KSFC Chairman H Krishna told TNIE, "During our inspection in 20 districts, I found worm-infested foodgrains at government schools in Kalaburgi, Mandya, Tumakuru



and Mysuru district. I sent back the worm-infested rice and pulses and ordered replacement. The schools have received fresh food grains. We are inquiring how the worm-

infested foodgrains were supplied to the schools." Krishna also highlighted that there is shortage of staff at schools to cook the meals for the children. At many schools, the teachers are burdened with the task of cooking the meals for the students. "Teachers or principals are assigned with responsibilities to look after food grains, buying eggs and bananas and other groceries required to cook food. All these details have to be entered in the S A T S. Under these circumstances, it is no surprise that grains containing worms go unnoticed," he said. "The government must blacklist such suppliers immediately. The responsibility of inspecting the quality of food grains must be delegated to the non-teaching staff in schools, with only the supervision assigned to the teaching staff.

Instead of procuring foodgrains from a supplier in Kalaburgi and supplying it to other various districts, the department must procure them from local vendors so that schools get fresh food items. The officials and teachers must monitor the quality of food grains arriving at schools." Karnataka State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (KSCPCR) member KT Thippeswamy, who was part of the team inspecting the warehouses in Chitradurga and Tumakuru districts, said, "The warehouse in Chitradurga is a new one. However, in Tumakuru the facilities weren't good and officials have been apprised about it."

Pope Leo XIV declares Kerala-born Father Theophane 'Venerable'

Kochi. (Agency)
In an important development in the Catholic Church's canonisation process, Pope Leo XIV has authorised the promulgation of a decree recognising the heroic virtues of Kerala-born Capuchin priest Father Theophane. The decree was issued by the Dicastery for the Causes of Saints and published with the Pope's approval at the Vatican. With this recognition, Father Theophane has been declared "Venerable," a significant stage in the path toward beatification and eventual sainthood. Born Michael on July 20, 1913, in Kottapuram, he joined the minor seminary of the Verapoly Archdiocese in 1929. Drawn by the spirituality and missionary zeal of Francis of Assisi, he later entered the Order of Friars Minor Capuchin on October 31, 1933, and took the religious name Theophane. He was ordained a priest on April 20, 1941. Father Theophane was widely regarded as a devoted preacher and spiritual mentor who embodied the Franciscan spirit of poverty, humility, and prayer. As an educator and pastor, he was known for his attentiveness to students and the faithful, readily clarifying doubts and offering guidance. During his lifetime, he gained a reputation for holiness, which continued to deepen after his death on April 4, 1968. The Vatican decree formally acknowledges the heroic Christian virtues he practised throughout his life. The declaration of "Venerable" represents a crucial step in the Church's process, with beatification requiring the recognition of a miracle attributed to his intercession. ill running," Zala added.

Strong penalties in Seeds Bill to curb fake seeds

THE Seeds Bill, 2025, which provides for a fine of up to Rs 30 lakh and jail of five years, is likely to be effective in curbing the sale of fake or substandard seeds. Notably, the Seeds Act, 1966, the Seeds Rules, 1968 and the Seeds (Control) Order, 1983 do not provide for stringent punishment or heavy fines. Under these rules, if farmers suffer losses due to counterfeit seeds or if the Seeds Act is violated, the selling company or individual could be fined Rs 500 or imprisoned for six months. Thus, offenders have no fear of this law and the sale of spurious seeds remains unchecked and continues unabated. The stringent punishments and heavy fines under the new Seeds Bill, 2025 will deter such offences. This Bill also provides farmers the right to "grow, sow, re-sow, save, use, exchange, share, or sell" seeds from their fields. Farmers can produce their own seeds and exchange them with other farmers.

According to Section 17 of the Seeds Bill, 2025, no producer shall grow or organise the production of seeds unless they are registered by the relevant state government. No person shall operate a seed processing unit unless such a unit is registered by the state government. For registration, the producer or seed processing unit must possess the infrastructure, equipment and qualified manpower as per the prescribed specifications in the case. Every seed producer and seed processing unit shall maintain such records and shall furnish to the state government from time to time returns detailing the quantity of different varieties of seeds produced or processed by it. The state government may



suspend or cancel the registration of any defaulter. Under the new Bill, any individual or company supplying counterfeit seeds or seeds of unregistered varieties or duplicate seeds to farmers will be considered a major offence. Lab testing and labelling will be required to prevent counterfeit seeds. A QR code on seed packaging has also been made mandatory for tracking.

Under the current framework, seed testing labs can only test the germination percentage of the seeds. They lack the ability to test genetic purity, quality, variety, and Bt gene, which are crucial for supplying quality seeds to farmers. The yield and quality of the crop depend on the variety and quality of seeds. Every seed has the potential to germinate naturally, but crop yield depends on the purity, quality and variety of the seed. With guaranteed quality seeds, the farmers' economy will improve and their debt burden lighten. Today, farmers can afford the price of seeds, but poor quality seeds can lead to unbearable crop losses. In the past 60 years, no violator has been punished or fined under the Seeds Act and other related laws. If the new law is strictly enforced, the sale of counterfeit and unauthorised seeds can be curbed.

The Seeds Bill, 2025 also calls for the government to determine the selling price of seeds. It is a major effort to modernise the seed regulatory framework by ensuring seed quality, traceability and accountability. If the Seeds Bill, 2025 includes a provision to compensate farmers for losses caused by substandard seeds and is implemented under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, it would be even more beneficial for farmers

The pivot to the hard right

The world is at the mercy of a few technocrats and authoritarian rulers

CONTROLLED fire was perhaps one of the most defining moments in human evolution as the ability to cook food gave humans the massive surge in calories required to fuel a much larger and more complex brain (the human brain consumes about 25% of the body's energy). It is postulated that fire allowed humans to bypass the metabolic limits which keeps the brains of other primates small. Richard Wrangham, professor of biological anthropology at Harvard University, brought this up in what is referred to as the 'cooking hypothesis'. In other words, the ancestor who developed the ability to build a 'controlled fire' was the inventor/scientist not only of his time but for all times. The opening line of the Rig Veda is, "Agnimile purohitam yajnyasya devamrtvijam, hotaram ratnadhathamam" (Agni I adore, who stands before the Lord, the god who sees Truth, the warrior, strong disposer of delight). It is an invocation to Agni (the fire god), praising him as a mediator between humanity and divine energy. From the controlled fire and the cooking of food, human ingenuity made progress in discoveries and inventions. Although the great scientists and explorers of the Middle Ages made phenomenal progress, the quantum jump was provided by the Industrial Revolution, which saw a tidal wave of human ingenuity and invention. It also gave rise to democratic movements across Europe. Literature blossomed alongside science. The products of the Industrial Revolution were still very much under mankind's control due to the development of democratic governance and institutions. These were liberal in nature until the German, Spanish and Italian states gave birth to dictatorships which emasculated the democratic institutions of these nations. However, through the First and Second World Wars, the democracies — with the overwhelming support of the people — prevailed.

This period also saw the next quantum jump — atomic energy that was unleashed on a world holding its breath. Fortunately, the world came together and set up institutions to keep this energy under control. Treaties were signed and honoured by nuclear powers. So far, we have succeeded and used it mainly in a positive way. This has been made possible because of our democracies,

liberal governments and institutions. Today, as humanity develops artificial intelligence (AI) and quantum computers, and as the two come together, they bring the strong possibility of a 'sentient' AI. Theoretically, it's AI which is self-aware and capable of taking independent decisions. Are we once again at an inflection point...is humanity about to develop the next 'controlled fire'? The challenge for the evolution of humanity along with technological evolution has always been in its ability to 'control' the fire it creates, for it brings havoc if not controlled. The Chernobyl nuclear disaster is a case in point, so are the questionable bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Similarly, many questions remain unanswered about the Covid-19 pandemic. I could go on

activism in Europe, Asia, South America, etc. Our great technological advancement is coming at a time when liberalism in politics and government is giving way to the hard right. Liberal democracies and liberal economies are giving way to authoritarianism in politics and economics...the world order is reverting to the nation state. Moreover, the 'nation state' is going in for a far more rigid form of government that is authoritarian. The effort is to maintain the facade of democratic elections and hollow the system from the inside. The Trojan horse of authoritarianism and protectionism has come through the gateway of elected governments. Plato critiqued democracy and saw it gradually decaying into a tyranny as power shifted to demagogues who were adept at manipulating the masses — there is much truth in this if we neglect our institutions and bring down the checks and balances of power. The centrist, liberal ideology has been pushed back by the tidal wave of a dogmatic right.

Coupled with these developments is the urgent, almost immediate rearmament and the rise of the defence budgets of most countries of Europe, Asia, etc. This requires a shift from developmental economics to the rearmament of the developing and the developed world. The benefits of this go to the vast military-industrial complex. Today, budgets are being tailored for rearmament, the nuclear treaties being made null and void and nuclear arsenals being replenished... all this points to a disaster in the making. It has already started with wars erupting in various locations across the world.

Add to this the emergence of AI and you have a world at the mercy of a few technocrats and authoritarian rulers.

Institutions such as the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Disarmament Commission and other organisations under the United Nations (UN) helped create a systemic check on the development and use of nuclear energy. However, AI is a developing technology which is moving at a very rapid pace and is capable of bringing far-reaching changes and disruptions; it is currently without any systemic controls. The immediate need is for countries to get together to face this onslaught of AI and introduce a system of checks and balances which, if not done, can lead to a situation where AI can become an 'uncontrolled fire'.



about the misuse of technology, how humanity twists technological advancements developed for its benefit into weapons of mass destruction or control. For as we develop this advanced technology, we must keep in mind what Carl Sagan described as 'technological adolescence' characterised by humanity possessing tremendous world-altering power without the necessary wisdom or foresight to manage it safely.

Today, it must be noted that the pivot to the hard right is happening; it can be observed in the MAGA (Make America Great Again) movement and in similar political

Babri row: SC refusal to intervene is welcome

At stake is India's pluralism and the constitutionally guaranteed right to freedom of religion.

THE Supreme Court has rightly refused to entertain a plea seeking a ban on the construction or naming of mosques after Mughal emperor Babur. The case pertains to suspended Trinamool Congress MLA Humayun Kabir's plan to build a Babri Masjid-style place of worship in Murshidabad district of poll-bound West Bengal. Kabir, who is trying to woo Muslim voters, organised the foundation stone-laying ceremony of the mosque on December 6 last year — the 33rd anniversary of the Babri Masjid demolition. His endeavour may be politically contentious, yet the constitutional question is straightforward. In a secular democracy, can the State pre-emptively prohibit citizens from naming a place of worship after a historical figure, no matter how divisive?

The petitioner objected to the practice of dedicating mosques to "anti-Hindu invaders" such as Babur. However, the Constitution protects rights, not narratives. The resentment reflected in this petition mirrors the overzealousness to erase the Mughals from textbooks.



Renowned historian Romila Thapar recently observed that history cannot be taught in fragments; its continuity must be preserved. Removing chapters about certain

emperors or renaming places with a Mughal connection does not heal festering wounds; it only impoverishes an objective understanding of historical events. Nations gain maturity not by suppressing unpleasant facts but by contextualising them. The apex court's landmark 2019 verdict in the Ayodhya case sought closure through legal adjudication: the disputed land went to a trust for a Ram temple, while a five-acre plot was allotted for a mosque. However, mandir-masjid politics refuses to die down. If the upcoming mosque violates building bylaws, funding regulations or public order norms, the authorities are empowered to take action. What they can't do — nor should courts compel them to do — is penalise people merely for conjuring up dark images of the recent or distant past. At stake is India's pluralism and the constitutionally guaranteed right to freedom of religion.

Seeds Bill, 2025: Final assault on indigenous seeds

➔ **The Bill is essentially pro-corporate, centralising and anti-farmer**

THE Seeds Bill, 2025 is essentially pro-corporate, centralising and anti-farmer. The government is trying to create a false impression that the Bill protects farmers. The Bill exempts farmers from seed registration and allows them to keep, use and sell their seeds. But the harsh reality is that the monoculture resulting from the Green Revolution has almost wiped out local seed varieties. Farmers today are largely dependent on the market to buy seeds. It may seem that farmers can retain and use their own seeds, but in this era of a market-oriented agricultural system, if a high-yield seed enters the market, why would farmers continue using traditional seeds? The Green Revolution began the destruction of local seeds and the Seeds Bill would be the final assault, leading to their extinction. Regarding prices, the government may regulate the price of a seed variety in emergent situations, like abnormal price rise, monopolistic pricing and profiteering, but none of these terms is defined. This implies no meaningful control over corporate exploitation. The Bill even exempts foreign seeds from registration. The government may, by notification, permit the import of an unregistered kind or variety. On the other hand, local seed sellers are not allowed to sell unregistered varieties. What kind of nationalism is this? Under the WTO regime, foreign seeds already enjoy several privileges. Indian agricultural universities or research institutes cannot



conduct research on foreign seed varieties. Foreign seeds have brought pests, such as the American worm, which later became impossible to control. The Seeds Bill will establish the domination of MNCs, leaving our institutions as mere spectators. The Bill equates private institutes with public research institutions and also allows them to evaluate and certify seeds. If private companies evaluate seed performance, who will evaluate these companies? The Bill is silent on how farmers can

complain, how compensation will be provided or how much compensation will be given in case of crop loss due to faulty seeds. No court shall take cognisance of any offence under this Act unless a complaint is filed by a seed inspector. If big companies enter the seed sector, the seed inspector would be just an ordinary official and his jurisdiction would be limited. If a seed causes widespread damage, who will file the complaint? The government would have the final say on whether a

matter is a policy question. It also empowers the Centre to make rules once the Bill becomes an Act. No state government or agricultural university will be able to function as per the state's needs. Though agriculture is a state subject, the Central government is on a spree of centralisation. For instance, GM mustard trials have been underway at PAU, Ludhiana, for three years. The Punjab government has neither permitted nor opposed them. The state government has failed to protect its federal rights, offering only occasional lip service. The AAP government promised a state agriculture policy if voted to power, but it has failed to do so.

If the seed and research sectors are overtaken by the Centre, there will be no room left for a state agriculture policy. On the other hand, the Punjab government has decided to sell lands of PAU, Punjab Agro and the Horticulture Department. This shows declining seriousness towards agricultural research, agri-based industry and horticulture.

The Seeds Bill, the India-US trade deal and the India-European Union trade deal would have the same consequences. The earlier Seeds Act of 1966 simply provided for certification, registration, quality checks and inspectors. Its Clause 17 barred free imports, unless "it conforms to the minimum limits of germination and purity specified for that seed under clause (a) of Section 6." Appeals by aggrieved persons were allowed under Clause 11. That Act now stands overturned and the new Bill promotes the free inflow of foreign seed varieties.

The Seed Control Order of 1983 brought seed trade under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, to prevent market monopolisation and black marketing. Export and import were permitted only under a licence issued as per Clause 3. But the Seeds Bill, 2025 will finish all the safeguards.

With polls in offing, set back for PMK Ramadoss faction as Madras HC nixes pleas to use Mango symbol

Chennai.(Agency)

Still undecided on its partner after promising to forge a grand alliance and with the Assembly elections fast approaching, the Pattali Makkal Katchi (PMK) faction led by its Founder Dr S Ramadoss suffered a setback as the Madras High Court has dismissed two writ petitions filed by him on the Party's 'Mango' symbol.

In his pleas, Dr Ramadoss sought a direction to the Election Commission of India (ECI) to either allow his faction use the 'Mango' symbol during the elections in Tamil Nadu and in the neighbouring union Territory of Puducherry or freeze it to prevent the other faction led by his 'estranged' son Anbumani from using it.

When then matter came up for hearing, the First Bench comprising Chief Justice M M Shrivastava and Justice G. Arul Murugan refused to entertain the two writ petitions after concurring agreeing with the ECI standing counsel Niranjan Rajagoplan that factional disputes in a political party could be resolved only through a civil court decree and no such direction as sought by the PMK Founder could be issued to the ECI.

Mumbai: Tree-destruction in eco-sensitive zone, complaint lodged by NGO

Mumbai.(Agency)

The environmental NGO Vanashakti has recently lodged a complaint with various state authorities including the forest department and the BMC about the destruction of trees and other vegetation within the Royal Palms township in Goregaon (E) for the construction of huge sheds over two-acres area.

"This site near the Windsor Gate of Royal Palms complex, near SGNP, is an eco-sensitive zone (ESZ). Hence, no major construction activity can be allowed here without the permission of the ESZ monitoring committee and the forest and civic bodies. However, it is disturbing to see several trees and vegetation cleared from the area in order to build huge sheds which will be rented out for film shoots. We are demanding that this illegal construction be stopped immediately," said D Stalin, director of Vanashakti.

On Feb 17, a formal site inspection was carried out, based on the Vanashakti complaint. "The inspection team confirmed the destruction of trees, and have now communicated to BMC to take cognizance of the case, since this happens to be in ESZ," said Stalin. He added that for the past many months, the biodiversity of this region, including wild animals, birds, has been affected.

Gujarat University receives over 10,000 applications for 167 non-teaching posts

Ahmedabad.(Agency)

Gujarat University received an overwhelming response to its recent recruitment drive for 167 non-teaching posts, with more than 10,000 applications submitted across various categories. The university invited applications for multiple administrative and technical positions, and the detailed post-wise application data is now public.

According to the figures released earlier, the highest number of applications was received for the post of junior clerk. A total of 9,843 candidates applied for 84 vacancies, reflecting intense competition for clerical positions. For the post of senior clerk, 394 applications were received against seven vacancies. Among other positions, 69 candidates applied for one post of Accountant officer, while 33 applications were submitted for the single post of personal assistant (PA) to the vice-chancellor. For two laboratory assistant posts, 117 applications were received. The post of pharmacist attracted 35 applications for one vacancy, and 41 candidates applied for the technical assistant (library) position.

In the PWD category, 299 applications were received for 4 junior clerk posts. The university also received 58 applications for one telephone operator post, 26 for one assistant registrar post, and 15 for one librarian post. Additionally, 39 candidates applied for the security officer position, while nine applications were submitted for the single post of chief accountant.

Gujarat: School management body seeks revocation of ban on trustees' entry during board exams

Ahmedabad.(Agency)

With Classes 10 and 12 final exams in Gujarat scheduled to begin on Feb 26, a new issue emerged regarding the entry of school management representatives at exam centres. The School Management Association urged the education authorities to reconsider and revoke a recent resolution barring trustees and management members from entering school premises during the exam period.

Earlier, the education department decided that school trustees and management representatives would not be allowed to enter exam centres while board exams were in progress. However, the association wrote to the secretary of the Gujarat Secondary and Higher Secondary Education Board (GSHSEB), requesting that



the restriction be reviewed and relaxed. In its representation, the association stated that many educational institutions are run by public trusts established purely for service. Trustees often reside in cities for business purposes but continue to guide and financially support

schools in their native villages. They pointed out that the state govt does not provide financial assistance for constructing school buildings in granted schools. While salary grants are provided for teaching and non-teaching staff, maintenance grants are minimal and insufficient to meet rising expenses.

The association further noted that schools bear the full cost of installing CCTV cameras and fire safety equipment, both mandatory for board exam centres. In rural areas, issues such as power outages also arise during exams, making the presence of trustees important. The management requested a detailed discussion in the next board meeting to reconsider the resolution and permit trustees entry under unavoidable circumstances.

Year on, slain PU student's family struggles to pick up the pieces

Chandigarh.(Agency)

"Ohde kol Aditya da sweater hai ik, jo ohne kade nai chadheya.. raat nu uthe ro paindi ae." (She has Aditya's sweater, which she has never left. She wakes up at night and cries)...Aditya Thakur's father cannot complete the sentence. His voice breaks. There is silence on the phone, then the muffled sound of sobs.

On Friday, Parveen Thakur was travelling back from Chandigarh after attending yet another hearing at Chandigarh district court, Sector 43, in the murder case of his son, who was killed at age 21 last year at Panjab University campus. This was around the fourth time Thakur made the journey to court. Each trip is the same — courtrooms, waiting, endless formalities — and the long road back to a house that no longer feels like a home.

His wife, who had been living with a

kidney disorder for years, once managed her condition with strength and discipline. "Doctors tareef karde si jiddan oh avde aap nu saambhdi si." (Doctors used to praise her for the way she handled her condition) he says. But after Aditya's death, her spirit collapsed and so did her health.

"She is on the brink of dialysis now," he says. Blood pressure fluctuations and thyroid complications have followed. A few days ago, they were back in hospital. The nights are the hardest. "She wakes up and starts crying," he says, struggling to steady himself. The sweater remains in her arms.

Not that his own health is any better. "Ik din vi neend nai ayi mainu kade mere putt de jaan ton baad," (Sleep has never come easy since my son passed) he says. He resorted to sleeping pills but even these don't



work now. The night stretches endlessly, with memories that refuse to fade and a silence that feels heavy, suffocating.

Since the day this correspondent first contacted him last year, one thing has not changed. Every single day, without exception, Aditya's photograph appears on his father's WhatsApp status. Every day. Sometimes it is a childhood picture — little Aditya standing beside his father. Sometimes a teenage

Aditya, sunglasses on, posing confidently. The image changes, the ritual does not.

There has not been a day without his son's face. "Hor kujh tan bacheya nai mere kol. Ik dooje ton luk luk ke rone aen asin ghare" (That is all we have left, we hide from each other and cry at home), he says. For his younger sister, everything is a reminder of the loss the family has suffered. An engineering student, Aditya wanted his sister to take non-medical and pursue engineering too. She is appearing for her Class X board examinations but instead of guidance, there is a void. "She is still in shock and remains confused," her father says. Following the murder, Panjab University announced financial compensation for the family. The father confirms that the amount has been received, the family decided not to use it for themselves.

Man from Navi Mumbai arrested for sexually assaulting woman after promising 'marriage'

Mumbai.(Agency)

A 34-year-old man, a software engineer residing in Kamothe, was arrested by Kharghar police after a police complaint was lodged by a 32-year-old married woman, also from Kamothe, on Thursday. She alleged that the accused forcibly established a

sexual relationship with her after promising marriage, by taking her to different hotels, and later reneged on his marriage promise. The complainant also alleged that the accused impregnated her multiple times between June/July 2021 and Jan 2026 and, by physically assaulting and threatening her, forced her to undergo abortions every time by taking her to different hospitals.

Sanjay Joshi, senior inspector of Kharghar, informed that the arrested accused was identified as Abhishek Singh, who is unmarried. He was produced before the Panel sessions court on

Thursday and was remanded to police custody until Feb 23. Inspector Joshi said, "As of now, we did not invoke relevant BNS sections for forcible abortion by the accused, since we are yet to gather documentary evidence from the concerned hospitals where she underwent abortions to ascertain her allegations.

The five-star hotel in Kharghar and other hotels where she claims that Singh took her and allegedly had a sexual relationship with her will be checked for collecting technical and documentary evidence.

As of now, the accused Singh was booked under relevant sections of BNS that criminalises sexual intercourse obtained through deceitful means, such as a false promise of marriage, sexual harassment, voluntarily causing hurt, intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of peace, and criminal intimidation."



Odisha clears Rs.44,242 crore investment in 10 mega projects, signals shift to high-tech and clean energy sectors

Bhubaneswar.(Agency)

In a major push to accelerate industrial growth and strengthen its position in high-value sectors, the Odisha government has approved 10 large-scale industrial projects with a total investment of Rs.44,241.97 crore. The projects are expected to generate 8,765 employment opportunities across eight districts of the state.

The proposals were cleared at the 44th meeting of the High-Level Clearance Authority (HLCA), chaired by Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi. The approvals reflect the state's strategic shift from traditional industries to technology-driven manufacturing, renewable energy, and advanced infrastructure.

Addressing the meeting, the Chief Minister said Odisha is now focusing on emerging and future-ready sectors. "Through these strategic HLCA approvals, we are creating opportunities for new businesses, strengthening advanced manufacturing and renewable energy capacity, and accelerating our journey towards a Samruddha Odisha by

2036," he said. The approved projects span key sectors such as semiconductor manufacturing, rare earth processing, cement, automobile and auto-components, telecom infrastructure, and renewable energy. They are distributed across Khordha, Koraput, Malkangiri, Dhenkanal, Puri, Nayagarh, Kalahandi, and Deogarh districts.

In the semiconductor sector, ASP Semicon Private Limited will establish a semiconductor memory chip modules plant in Khordha with an investment of Rs.4,620 crore, creating 2,500 jobs and strengthening Odisha's emerging electronics ecosystem. In rare earth manufacturing, Magnova Private Limited will invest Rs1,050 crore in Khordha to set up an integrated high-performance magnet manufacturing facility. Further strengthening advanced manufacturing, Bharat Forge Limited will invest Rs 3,000 crore in Dhenkanal to establish an automotive, aerospace, and defence components manufacturing.

Cancer cases rise in Punjab, screening coverage remains low

Chandigarh.(Agency)

Even as cancer cases and deaths continue to rise in Punjab, screening coverage across districts remains far from complete, leaving lakhs of people yet to be tested for early detection, which is key for timely treatment, improved survival rates, and reducing the overall burden of the disease. According to data compiled by the National Centre for Disease Informatics and Research under the National Cancer Registry Programme, Punjab recorded 13,299 deaths due to breast, cervical, and ovarian cancers during the 2021-25 period.

The incidence of these cancers showed an upward trend. New breast cancer cases in Punjab increased from 3,297 in 2021 to 3,388 in 2025, an increase of about 2.8%. Cervical cancer cases rose from 1,279 in 2021 to 1,314 in 2025. Ovarian cancer cases also increased, from 844 in 2021 to 868 in 2025. Breast cancer remains the leading cause of cancer-related deaths among the three. Fatalities increased from 1,418 in 2021 to 1,457 in 2025. Deaths due to cervical cancer rose from 691 to 710 during the same period, while ovarian cancer deaths increased from 515 to 529.

Screening performance across districts,

however, shows significant gaps. From April 2021 to Jan 2026, Punjab identified a target population of 1,11,47,371 for oral cancer screening. Of these, 68,52,864 people were screened, translating to 61%, leaving 42,94,507 pending. Among the larger districts, Ludhiana screened only 45% of its 15,02,494 target population, with 8,24,465 still pending.

Tarn Taran recorded 50%, Jalandhar achieved 51%, Patiala 52%, Ferozepur 55%, Faridkot 57%, and Amritsar and Sangrur 59% each.

For cervical cancer screening, Punjab had a target population of 55,73,686. Of these, 17,92,505 women were screened, amounting to just 32%, while 25,57,746 remain pending. Nawanshahr recorded the highest screening rate at 70%, followed by Gurdaspur at 64%. However, several districts reported very low coverage. Jalandhar screened only 7%, Kapurthala 15%, Amritsar 16%, Muktsar 18%, Tarn Taran 19%, Fazilka 20%, and Hoshiarpur 21%.

Breast cancer screening shows relatively better coverage but still leaves many women unscreened. Against a target of 55,73,686, Punjab screened 33,41,447 women, achieving 60%, with 22,32,239 pending.



Ludhiana screened only 44% of its 7,51,247 target, with 4,18,964 pending. Tarn Taran recorded 48%, Patiala 49%, Jalandhar 51%, and Amritsar 53%. Among the top performers, Pathankot achieved 83%, Bathinda 82%, and Gurdaspur 78%.

With cancer incidence and mortality rising, public health experts stress that early detection through screening remains crucial.

Dr Arun Mitra, president of the Indian Doctors for Peace and Development, along with Dr Inderveer Singh Gill, said Punjab is witnessing a steady rise in both cancer incidence and mortality, particularly in breast, cervical, and ovarian cancers. They pointed out that while screening programmes are underway, coverage remains low. They stressed that early detection is critical because cancers identified at an early stage are more likely to be treated successfully, reducing both mortality and the financial burden on families. According to them, gaps in screening leave a large section of the eligible population undiagnosed, which may result in late-stage presentation and poorer outcomes.

They asserted that awareness campaigns must be strengthened at the community level, particularly in rural and semi-urban areas, so that people understand the importance of regular screening and do not delay seeking medical help.

Delhi Police bust Lashkar-linked terror module; 8 arrested from Tamil Nadu, Bengal

New Delhi.(Agency)

The Delhi Police has busted a major terror module with alleged links to Pakistan-based terrorist outfit Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), Pakistan's spy agency Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), and Bangladesh-based extremist organisations, arresting eight suspects from Tamil Nadu and West Bengal in a coordinated operation. Investigators suspect the group was planning a major terrorist strike in India under the direction of foreign handlers.

Six accused -- identified as Mizanur Rahman, Mohammad Shabat, Umar, Mohammad Litan, Mohammad Shahid and Mohammed Ujjal -- were detained from garment units across Tamil Nadu's Tiruppur district, while two others were arrested from West Bengal, officials said on Sunday.

Police said some of the arrested individuals are Bangladeshi nationals who were allegedly using forged Aadhaar cards to conceal their identities.

According to police sources, the module is linked to LeT, and its handler is a Kashmir native currently operating from Bangladesh.

The handler is believed to have received terror training in Pakistan, and the eight arrested suspects were allegedly acting at his behest, officials added.

Police also claimed to have recovered mobile phone videos showing reconnaissance of several cities, including Delhi.

The arrests came a day after security agencies sounded a high alert across the national capital following intelligence inputs warning of a possible terror plot by Pakistan-based outfit Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) targeting crowded religious and heritage sites in Delhi. Sources said specific inputs suggested that a temple in the

Chandni Chowk area could be among the potential targets, with terrorists allegedly planning an improvised explosive device

India at the behest of foreign handlers. Preliminary findings have also revealed that the handler of the eight arrested accused is a Kashmir native currently based in Bangladesh.

"The operation followed an investigation into online posts supporting terror activities, which led the team to Tiruppur with the assistance of the local police. Investigators found that the six individuals were working in garment factories in the region and were carrying fake Aadhaar cards," the Delhi Police Special Cell said about the operation in Tamil Nadu.

During the operation, police recovered eight mobile phones and 16 SIM cards, which are now being examined for digital evidence and possible links to other operatives.

'FREE KASHMIR' POSTERS LED TO ARRESTS

The module first came under the scanner after provocative posters surfaced at more than 10 locations across the national capital in recent days, including within the Delhi Metro network. The posters reportedly contained inflammatory content and references to Kashmir, including "Free Kashmir" slogans. A deeper probe by the Special Cell into the origin of the posters led investigators to a network operating out of Tamil Nadu, ultimately resulting in the arrests.

The development mirrors a recent case involving a suspected doctors' module, where posters that appeared in Jammu and Kashmir led investigators to Faridabad's Al-Falah University. Individuals employed as doctors there were involved in the Red Fort blast.

Officials described Sunday's operation as a major breakthrough in thwarting a potential terror conspiracy. Further investigations are underway to identify additional suspects, funding channels, and possible cross-border links.



(IED) attack in and around sensitive locations, including areas near the Red Fort. According to investigators, the suspects were allegedly planning a major terrorist strike in

3 killed, many injured in UP after private bus collides with roadways bus head-on

New Delhi.(Agency)

Ready to tie the knot, cow vigilante Bittu Bajrangi (47) — an accused in the 2023 communal riots in Haryana's Nuh — arrived in Aligarh with his baarat on February 7, only to find the venue deserted. Surprised, he called up the woman he was supposed to marry. The woman who picked up his call also appeared to be surprised. She told Bajrangi that she was unwell and was told, said police. Bajrangi allegedly also transferred Rs 30,000 to the accused on February 6 to purchase clothes for the bride-to-be. "Even at his (Faridabad) house, decorations and other preparations were in place to welcome the bride," a police spokesperson said.

"We are looking into the accounts where the money was transferred, and will then conduct raids accordingly," the spokesperson added. Calls to Bajrangi for a comment went unanswered. The accident caused panic among the locals. They also joined the rescue operation with the police.

Talking about the incident, senior police officer Hridesh Katheria told the press that the police are conducting a thorough investigation into the incident, and the drivers of both buses, who are currently under treatment, will be questioned once they recover. If needed, legal action will also be taken. Meanwhile, the Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister, Yogi Adityanath, also expressed his grief upon learning about the incident. He ordered a thorough probe into the incident and asked the officials to ensure the best possible treatment for the injured.

Sharad Pawar admitted to Pune hospital again as health deteriorates

New Delhi.(Agency)

The veteran Nationalist Congress Party (SP) leader and the fourth-time Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Sharadchandra Pawar, was admitted to Ruby Hall Clinic Hospital in Pune again on Sunday. According to his daughter and the MP from Baramati, Supriya Sule, the veteran leader has been suffering from a cough and throat infection. As his condition deteriorated, the family decided to admit him to the private hospital for further medical observation and care. The 85-year-old leader was brought to the same hospital last week, as he complained of difficulty breathing and a persistent cough. Further diagnosis showed that the leader had a chest infection, and as a result, he was under supervision for a few days. The veteran leader was brought back to his residence last Saturday. The doctors advised him to rest for three to four



days. "Accordingly, he will rest at home and will resume his daily work thereafter," Supriya Sule wrote on X after Pawar was discharged from the hospital. She also expressed her gratitude to all the doctors at the Ruby Hall Clinic on behalf of Pawar. "He (Pawar) sincerely thanks everyone for inquiring about his health. He also expresses heartfelt gratitude to the doctors, nurses, and supporting staff at Ruby Hall Clinic who treated him and took care of him," Sule further wrote. After being discharged, Pawar was brought back to his Pune residence, where he rested for a couple of days and completed his course of medication. However, within a week, his health worsened, and he was readmitted to the same hospital once again.

Delivery executive killed after car hits him from behind in west Delhi

New Delhi.(Agency)

A 25-year-old delivery executive was killed after his scooter was allegedly hit by a car from behind in west Delhi's Tilak Nagar area on Saturday morning, police said.

Tilak Nagar police station received information at 3.26 am regarding an accident near Subhash Nagar Metro red light on Najafgarh Road towards Rajouri Garden.

A car and an electric scooter were found at the spot. The injured man, identified as Hem Shankar, had already been shifted to Deen Dayal Upadhyay Hospital, where doctors declared him dead, a senior police officer said. He

was a resident of Raghuraj Nagar in west Delhi.

rammed the scooter from behind, he said.



He worked for an instant online grocery delivery organisation and used an electric scooter, the officer further said. Preliminary inquiry and eyewitness accounts indicated that a car allegedly

also being ascertained whether the driver was under the influence of alcohol at the time of the incident, officials added.

Eight arrested in alleged Delhi terror conspiracy; Bangladeshi nationals among suspects

New Delhi.(Agency)

Eight persons have been arrested for allegedly plotting a major terror conspiracy targeting Delhi, with investigators suspecting links to Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) and extremist organisations based in Bangladesh, PTI reported on Sunday.

According to police, six of the suspects were detained from Tiruppur in Tamil Nadu and are expected to be brought to Delhi for further interrogation. Authorities confirmed that some of those arrested are believed to be Bangladeshi nationals.

Two additional individuals had earlier been taken into custody during follow-up operations connected to the same investigation. The arrests come amid heightened security concerns following an alert issued by intelligence agencies

regarding a possible explosion near the Red Fort in Delhi.

Central intelligence inputs had indicated that Pakistan-based terrorist outfit Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) may be



targeting prominent religious sites across India. Officials said the operation was launched based on specific intelligence inputs about a suspected terror module planning

subversive activities in multiple parts of the country.

During search operations, investigators recovered dozens of mobile phones and SIM cards from the accused. These devices are currently being analysed to determine the scale of the network and identify possible foreign connections.

Preliminary findings suggest the suspects were in communication with handlers allegedly linked to Pakistan's ISI as well as certain Bangladesh-based extremist groups. Central security agencies are assisting local police in the ongoing probe.

Intelligence agencies have also warned that LeT may have been attempting to execute an attack using an Improvised Explosive Device (IED). Sources indicated that the alleged plot could be linked to attempts by the terror group to avenge the February 6 mosque blast in Islamabad, Pakistan. The latest alert comes against the backdrop of a deadly car explosion near the Red Fort.

Punjabi NRI woman pulls out sword to scare off robbers in dramatic clash

Harjind Kaur took out a sword as she stepped out of the vehicle and stood her ground, daring the robbers to step forward. The video of her bravery has gone viral.

New Delhi.(Agency)

A routine drive turned into a cinematic display of courage when a Punjabi woman, Harjind Kaur, an NRI recently returned from Australia, pulled out a sword to fend off two robbers on an isolated stretch of road. The incident, which has since gone viral on social media, saw Kaur transform from a target into a defender, earning her widespread praise for her brave response to the threat. The video shows the woman standing in the middle of the road, in the dark, brandishing a sword, after which the alleged miscreants fled the scene.

The incident is said to have taken place on Friday evening and was recorded by the woman's aunt, who was travelling with her in the car. Harjind Kaur was driving, while her aunt was seated in the front.

While Kaur was travelling with her aunt and mother-in-law to a relative's house in

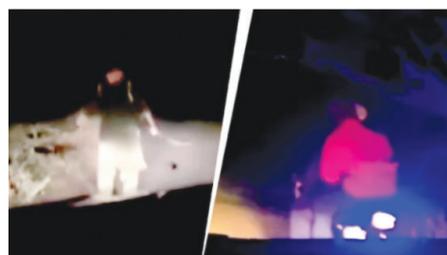
Ludhiana, she suspected that two persons on a motorbike were following their vehicle.

"Despite making way to allow the motorbike to overtake the car, the alleged miscreants kept tailing us," Kaur told reporters in Ludhiana on Saturday. Suspecting that the bike-borne persons intended to rob them, her aunt began recording the incident. After some time, when Kaur slowed down the car, one of the miscreants allegedly hurled eggs at the windscreen to block the view, according to the video.

"I could not understand what happened; I had never encountered such a situation before," Kaur said.

Her aunt and mother-in-law began shouting inside the car out of panic, news

agency PTI reported. "Judging by how they threw eggs, I was sure they intended to rob us," she added.



The video shows the two people overtaking the car before stopping in the middle of the road, some distance ahead on an isolated stretch. When Kaur decided to confront them and

got out of the vehicle, her aunt could be seen shouting, "Do not go outside. Leave it. They will hit you". Kaur took out a sword as she stepped out of the vehicle and stood her ground, daring the alleged miscreants to step forward. She also charged some distance towards them, swinging the sword in the air. Apparently taken aback by her response, the duo allegedly fled the spot.

The viral clip has garnered praise on social media, with users commending Kaur for her act of bravery in standing up to the alleged miscreants. With a slight swagger in her tone, Kaur later said, "They chose the wrong target."

Ludhiana Police, responding to the video, said they were "taking prompt action" and that two suspects had been rounded up. A case has been registered, and further investigation is underway.

NEWS BOX

Neymar hints at possible retirement at the end of 2026 season: Living year to year

New Delhi. (Agency)

Neymar has hinted that the 2026 season could be his last, but the Brazilian superstar has made one thing clear — he wants one final shot at the FIFA World Cup with Brazil.

Speaking to Caz TV, the 34-year-old admitted that retirement is a possibility at the end of next year. However, with the World Cup on the horizon, his immediate focus remains on returning to peak condition and fighting for a place in Brazil's squad. "I don't know what will happen from now on, I don't know about next year... It may be that when December comes, I'll want to retire. I'm living year to year now," Neymar said. This year is a very important year, not only for Santos, but also for the Brazilian national team, as it's a World Cup year, and for me too," he added.

The comments come at a delicate phase of his career. Neymar returned to boyhood club Santos nearly 12 years after leaving for



Barcelona, following an injury-plagued spell at Paris Saint-Germain and a brief stint at Saudi side Al Hilal. Santos have since extended his contract until December 2026, but questions around his long-term future continue to linger.

NEYMAR'S INJURY PROBLEMS

Fitness has been Neymar's biggest opponent in recent years. Since January 2025, recurring injuries have significantly restricted his game time. He has featured in 29 matches in that period, scoring 11 goals and providing five assists, but has spent close to 200 days on the sidelines. A serious knee issue, which required surgery, kept him out for an extended stretch and disrupted his rhythm once again.

He only recently returned to action after recovering from that setback. While flashes of quality remain, consistency has been hard to build with constant interruptions. At 34, the physical toll is evident, and it has inevitably led to conversations about how much longer he can compete at the highest level. Despite the setbacks, Neymar remains Brazil's all-time leading scorer with 79 goals in 128 appearances — a record that underlines his importance to the national side.

After Vinicius Jr., Fofana, Hannibal receive racial abuse after Chelsea-Burnley draw

New Delhi. (Agency)

Days after the Vinicius Jr. incident during the Real Madrid clash, the footballing world saw another incident of racial abuse as Hannibal Mejbri and Wesley Fofana were targeted on social media after the Chelsea-Burnley stalemate. Fofana, who was sent off in the 72nd minute after receiving a second yellow card for a challenge on James Ward-Prowse, shared screenshots of the racist messages he received on Instagram. He criticised the lack of effective punishments for offenders and highlighted ongoing issues in the fight against discrimination. Fofana wrote, "2026, it's still the same thing, nothing changes," directly addressing what he sees as the failure of anti-racism campaigns to bring about meaningful change. Chelsea promptly responded to the abuse with a strong statement, declaring there is "no room for



racism" and pledging to collaborate with authorities to identify and punish those responsible. The club reiterated its commitment to eradicating discrimination from the sport. Such behaviour is completely unacceptable and runs counter to the values of the game and everything we stand for as a club. There is no room for racism," they said in a statement. We stand unequivocally with Wes. He has our full support, as do all our players, who are too often forced to endure this hatred simply for doing their job.

"We will work with the relevant authorities and platforms in identifying the perpetrators and take the strongest possible action."

WHAT DID HANNIBAL SAY?

Hannibal Mejbri, who was fouled in the build-up to Fofana's red card, also made public the racist messages he received after the match. In his response, Mejbri urged,

From backyard rivalry to Ahmedabad: Morkel brothers ready for IND vs SA clash

T20 World Cup: It may be India vs South Africa in Ahmedabad on Sunday, February 22, but the match will also feature two brothers on opposite camps. Albie and Morne Morkel open up about their backyard rivalry, job roles and more in a candid chat with the BCCI.

New Delhi. (Agency)

The India vs South Africa clash on Sunday, February 22, at the Narendra Modi stadium will be about two unbeaten sides looking to gain early momentum in the Super 8 stage of the T20 World Cup 2026. One of the biggest subplots of the story will be seeing Albie and Morne Morkel squaring off on opposite camps. Morne has been the bowling coach of the Indian team since taking over the role in 2024. Albie, on the other hand, is the specialist consultant for South Africa as the Proteas look to claim their first T20 World Cup title. So, what does the former all-rounder do as part of Shukri Conrad's backroom staff? "A specialist consultant — yes, it is a mouthful! In short, I have to figure out ways how to beat Team India on Sunday.



That's it," says Albie about his role. The Morkels played 48 matches together in all formats and started their journey as coaches together. Albie took credit for Morne's rise as a bowling coach in the video released by BCCI on their social media platforms. "We've played some cricket together, and now we're both in coaching roles. We actually coached together in our first stint — that's where I shaped him to be a very good



bowling coach. Showed him how to do it!" said Albie.

THE BACKYARD WARS!

Morne is three years younger than Albie, but both men were rivals in their backyard while playing cricket. Morne said he never showed that competitive edge against his brother.

"I'm 3 years younger than Albie, and I was the baby in the house. In terms of bowling and

just doing what I was told — that's how things went. So there was no competitive edge from my side!" said Morne.

Albie, on the other hand, was assertive, saying that he was always right during the games and most of them ended with Morne in tears.

"I remember most of the backyard games ended up in arguments or tears. In a backyard game, you're never out. As a bowler, the batsman is always out — so there were always arguments around that."

"I remember him crying a lot because he was the youngest, and like you said, we older brothers just told him what to do all the time," said Morne.

FIGHTING FOR SAME GOAL

For the Morkel brothers, the goal on Sunday remains simple. Win the game for your team.

Morne admitted that there will be a bit of banter, but said that both brothers will remain calm and composed and not think too much about the match on or off the field. "The family will do the banter. We're very calm and professional about how we go about these things. Even during our playing days, we hardly spoke about games or moments — on or off the field." "Life will go on after this tournament. He's my family. The guys in the team are my friends. We'll see each other again," said Morne.

Qatar in focus: Doha to host International Cricket Council board meetings in March

DHAKA. (Agency)

Doha will host the next round of International Cricket Council (ICC) Board and Committee meetings from March 25 to 27, underscoring Qatar's growing importance in global cricket and the governing body's increasing engagement with the sport in the region.

The meetings will bring together ICC Board Directors, Chief Executives, Committee Members and senior leadership as part of the organisation's ongoing governance calendar. The discussions are expected to cover key matters concerning the present and future of international cricket, including governance, development and strategic priorities. The decision to stage the meetings in Doha reflects both the ICC's deepening collaboration with Qatar and the country's emergence as a promising growth market for the sport. The ICC has been working closely with the Qatar Cricket Association and the Qatar Olympic Committee to expand cricket's footprint and



strengthen grassroots participation.

CRICKET GROWTH IN QATAR

Cricket has witnessed rapid growth in Qatar in recent years, driven by targeted development programmes and school-level initiatives. According to the ICC, overall participation in cricket in the country has increased by an impressive 447 per cent since 2020, highlighting the impact of sustained investment and structured promotion.

A key driver of this expansion has been cricket's inclusion in the Qatar Olympic Committee's School Olympic Programme, which has helped introduce the sport to students and embed it within the national school system. The initiative has played a crucial role in exposing younger audiences to cricket and building a new generation of players and followers. The ICC's Cricrii Cricket Festivals have also contributed significantly to the sport's reach in Qatar. In the most recent edition, 287 school teams took part, with nearly 90 per cent of participants experiencing cricket for the first time.

India's spin power not a threat to South Africa: Neil McKenzie ahead of Super 8 clash

New Delhi. (Agency)

India's spin attack has been one of the standout features of their T20 World Cup 2026 campaign so far. But former South Africa batter Neil McKenzie does not believe that alone will tilt the Super 8 contest in India's favour.

Ahead of the high-stakes clash between the 2024 finalists in Ahmedabad, McKenzie acknowledged the quality in India's spin ranks. However, he insisted that the Proteas have enough resources to neutralise that threat if they execute their plans properly. Speaking to The Indian Express, McKenzie pointed out that while India might have greater variety in their spin department, that does not automatically translate into dominance. Where India is slightly ahead of South Africa is that they've got a lot more variation in the spin department. But I don't see that as being huge. It's obviously a huge positive because you have all the variations, but it's how you deploy them." He also emphasised on South Africa's ability to counter India's left-handed batters and manage match-ups smartly.

"Markram is more than a useful off-spinner.

Also, with the left-handers, you've got Lungi Ngidi who can bowl in the up front one or two, and then in the middle, and the one at the back end. And his favourite ball is



the slow ball into the wicket. So he is basically taking away from the left-handers as well. So they have got a lot of tools that they can use," he added. HOW HAVE INDIA SPINNERS PERFORMED?

There is no denying India's spin trio has been effective in the group stage.

Varun Chakravarty has been one of the most impactful bowlers of the tournament, picking up nine wickets in four matches and climbing into the top three on the leading wicket-takers list. His variations and

control through the middle overs have regularly squeezed opposition batters.

Axar Patel has also played a crucial role, claiming six wickets in the group phase while maintaining discipline in line and length. Alongside him, Kuldeep Yadav has provided control and subtle variation, giving India multiple options depending on match-ups and conditions.

On the Narendra Modi Stadium surface in Ahmedabad, spin is expected to play a role, especially if the pitch grips. India's ability to rotate between mystery spin, left-arm orthodox and wrist spin gives captain Suryakumar Yadav flexibility in the middle overs.

SOUTH AFRICA'S THREAT FOR INDIA

But South Africa are not short on answers. Their batting line-up carries serious firepower. Ryan Rickelton has shown clean striking ability at the top. Quinton de Kock remains a dangerous aggressor in the powerplay. Aiden Markram can stabilise and accelerate, while Tristan Stubbs adds finishing muscle. If the Proteas negotiate the spin phase smartly, they have the range to shift pressure back onto India quickly.

Suryakumar taking it a bit too far: Manjrekar calls India captain's approach dangerous

New Delhi. (Agency)

Suryakumar Yadav may be among the runs in T20s in 2026, but Sanjay Manjrekar isn't a fan of the Indian captain's approach with the bat in the ongoing T20 World Cup 2026. As India look to defend their crown on home soil, Suryakumar and the hosts have seemingly gone back on their attacking template and have become more cautious with their approach. The former cricketer feels that when Suryakumar tries to take the game deep, it doesn't allow for the proper utilisation of players like Shivam Dube, Hardik Pandya and Rinku Singh. There's something I'm seeing in Suryakumar Yadav, which I'm not liking too much. 77 for 6, India against USA at Wankhede. And Suryakumar Yadav had to change his game, which he did brilliantly. Just slowed down a little bit and then exploded and got a great score, player of the match and everything.

Since then, I think he's taking that a bit too far. Against Pakistan, when India lost a couple of wickets, he really pulled down the



shutters quite a lot," Manjrekar said in a video he shared on Instagram. "He and Tilak Varma, both playing slightly conservatively. And in the end, what happens is people like Hardik Pandya, Shivam Dube, and Rinku Singh are not

really tapped into as resources as much. In T20 cricket, that's a dangerous thing to do, when a senior player or a captain feels that he's got to stay in, especially batting first," he added.

'A DANGEROUS TACTIC'

Manjrekar feels that Suryakumar's approach will be a dangerous tactic especially when India has depth in their batting and is looking to set targets of 200-plus.

"When you're setting targets of 200 plus, winning scores, if you have somebody in the top four who believes that he's the guy who's got to control the innings and make sure that he's the one who'll take India to a certain score, that is a very dangerous tactic. And considering that India have such fantastic players with Axar Patel at number eight or Washington Sundar at number eight, no batter must think like that," said Manjrekar.

India vs South Africa: A cricket journey scripted as Tendulkar's travelogue

As India prepare to face South Africa in the T20 World Cup Super 8 in Ahmedabad, Sachin Tendulkar's career reminds us how one opponent shaped his journey through reunion, rivalry, scandal, accusation, redemption, and ultimate triumph.

New Delhi. (Agency)

The story of India and South Africa could easily be written as Sachin Tendulkar's travelogue. Tendulkar was there for the reunion in the 1991 series when South Africa came in from the cold. He was there for the scandal, when Hansie Cronje's midnight confession shook the sport to its foundations.

He was there for the anger, when Mike Denness accused him of ball-tampering and a nation erupted. He was there in Gwalior in 2010, when he made history against them. And he was there in 2001 at Mumbai, when a South African shaped one of India's greatest triumphs. The Team That Came In From The Cold November 10, 1991, Eden Gardens, Calcutta. The ground could hold nearly 90,000 people. That day, as Jagmohan Dalmia was to say, there were 300 extra. India was, for a long time, one of South Africa's most stubborn opponents on the question of readmission. India had a long, personal history with apartheid, highlighted by Mahatma Gandhi's eviction from a train. In 1974, India conceded the Davis Cup final rather than play South Africa. The trophy went to South Africa by walkover. But in 1991, India took the lead in getting South Africa readmitted. And when a planned tour by Pakistan was cancelled, South Africa were invited to play within 48 hours. Thousands welcomed them to Eden



Gardens. Legendary all-rounder Clive Rice, the captain, was so overwhelmed that he later said he now understood how Neil Armstrong felt on the moon.

It was that kind of day.

White Lightning And Little Master

The South Africans could barely grip the bat. Their nerves jangled, eyes welled up. Rice reportedly cried because they were finally playing. The occasion got to them, and they were restricted to 177. Easy-peasy for India,

or so everyone believed. Then Allan Donald ran in. A sprinter's dash, an artist's action. And the White Lightning struck. Donald was 25 on his international debut, and he was terrifyingly fast. He took three wickets in a blur: Shastri, Sidhu, Manjrekar, gone. India were 3/20. The 90,000 (plus 300) went silent. The only sound heard was of Donald's spikes gliding over the grass. Then Tendulkar walked out. He was 18, five foot five, weighed less than sixty kilograms, and had a curved pencil line for a moustache. When Tendulkar had debuted against Pakistan two years earlier, my aunt who was watching on a 20-inch TV was livid: "Why have they sent this boy against these Pathans? He will get hurt." But that day she was a soothsayer: "Tendulkar will hurt them." Donald ran in again and again, and Tendulkar played him on the back foot, late, off the hip, with a composure that seemed borrowed from a much older man. He scored 62 off 73 balls.

Nifty-500 clocks highest earnings growth in 8 quarters

New Delhi.(Agency)

India Inc delivered its strongest earnings performance in the past eight quarters in the third quarter of FY26, driven by broad-based sectoral growth and improving demand trends, a new report said on Sunday. The data compiled by Motilal Oswal Financial Services said that aggregate earnings of the Nifty 500 universe rose 19 per cent year-on-year in 3QFY26. Excluding financial stocks, earnings growth stood even higher at 23 per cent. If metals and oil & gas companies are excluded, aggregate earnings still grew a healthy 15 per cent, showing strength across sectors. Sales growth also improved sharply. Aggregate sales of Nifty-500 companies increased 11 per cent year-on-year, marking the highest growth in the last 11 quarters. During the quarter, total sales stood at around Rs 36 lakh crore, while EBITDA and adjusted profit after tax came in at about Rs 8 lakh crore and Rs 4 lakh crore, respectively. The report highlighted that commodities were at the forefront of earnings growth. The oil & gas sector recorded a 38 per cent jump in profits, while metals saw 34 per cent growth on a softer base. Public sector banks posted 18 per cent growth, and NBFC lending companies reported a 19 per cent rise in profits. The automobile sector, excluding tractors and passenger vehicles, saw profit growth of 27 per cent, supported by festive demand and the impact of GST rate cuts. Capital goods companies reported 24 per cent earnings growth, backed by strong order inflows and government spending in power transmission, defence and renewable energy. The cement sector also staged a strong comeback, reporting 46 per cent growth in profits after several weak quarters. Demand recovery of around 7-8 per cent helped boost performance. The telecom sector more than doubled its profits to Rs 31 billion during the quarter. Mid- and small-cap companies outperformed during the quarter. Earnings of the Nifty Midcap-150 companies grew 20 per cent year-on-year, while Smallcap-250 companies posted 26 per cent growth on a softer base. In comparison, earnings of Nifty-100 companies rose 18 per cent.

Deep-tech startups seek more than a summit to flourish in India

CHENNAI.(Agency)

India's technology companies showcased a range of innovations at the India AI Impact Summit in New Delhi, but deep-tech founders, venture capitalists and policy experts say that events alone are not enough to help the sector scale. They are calling for stronger financing mechanisms, better market access and long-term policy clarity to unlock growth.

Following the Union Budget 2026, the Centre acknowledged that deep-tech firms require longer gestation periods by increasing the revenue eligibility threshold to Rs 300 crore and extending the incorporation window to 20 years. However, stakeholders argue that more structural reforms are needed. Tamil Nadu remains the only state to roll out a dedicated deep-tech startup policy. While the Centre's National Deep Tech Policy is still under consideration, Karnataka has launched the ELEVATE Programme under Mission Startup Karnataka to promote innovation-led enterprises.

Industry leaders are urging the government to act as an anchor customer. Dr Ajai Chowdhry, Co-founder of HCL and Chairman of the Mission Governing Board of the National Quantum Mission, said the government should provide higher-value financing of at least Rs 10-20 crore per innovation, along with patient capital. "Innovation takes time to show results. Often, one round of funding is not enough," he said. He pointed to the US Defence Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) as an example of how public procurement can drive deep-tech innovation. While India's Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) initiative follows a similar model, Chowdhry noted that contract approvals often take up to a year. He also observed that Tamil Nadu's Rs 100 crore allocation for 100 startups translates to just Rs 1 crore per firm, which may be inadequate.

RBI's new data centre far from seismic risks and cross-border threats — where is it

New Delhi.(Agency)

The Reserve Bank of India has developed a high security data center in Bhubaneswar, in a move to safeguard critical financial systems and ensuring the continuity of its core operations. The location was chosen to minimise exposure to cross-border threats and seismic risks. The new greenfield facility, spread across 18.55 acres at Info Valley-II, Khordha, will host the central bank's core computing infrastructure, supporting currency management, payment and settlement systems, and regulatory data functions, officials said. "When RBI began work on its 18.55-acre campus at Info Valley-II, Khordha in 2023, few questioned the location. Beyond logistical and operational considerations, strategic factors are likely to have weighed on decision-makers," an analyst was cited by as saying. According to the analyst, the site lies far from India's western and northern borders, reducing vulnerability to missile or drone attacks. It also avoids the country's high seismic risk zones, that reduces risk of damage due to any earthquake activity. He further added that the location helps to "strengthen the safety and continuity framework for infrastructure that underpins critical financial systems."

India, US reschedule chief negotiators meeting on interim trade deal: Sources

The Indian team was earlier scheduled to start the three-day meeting on February 23 in the US. Joint Secretary in the Commerce Ministry, Darpan Jain, is the chief negotiator of India for this agreement.

New Delhi.(Agency)

India and the US have decided to reschedule the proposed meeting of their chief negotiators, supposed to be held in Washington from Monday, to finalise the text for the interim trade pact, sources said on Sunday. The Indian team was scheduled to start the three-day meeting on February 23 in the US. Joint Secretary in the Commerce Ministry, Darpan Jain, is the chief negotiator of India for this agreement. "With regards to the visit of the Indian team of negotiators to the US for the India-US trade deal, the two sides are of the view that the proposed visit of the Indian Chief Negotiator and the team



be scheduled after each side has had the time to evaluate the latest developments and their implications. The meeting will be rescheduled at a mutually convenient date," the Commerce Ministry sources said. The development is important following the US Supreme Court's verdict against sweeping import tariffs imposed by the Trump administration on trade partners. Trump on Friday imposed

a 10 per cent tariff on all countries, including India, from February 24 for 150 days after the court verdict. US President Donald Trump on Saturday announced raising tariffs on all countries to 15 per cent from 10 per cent announced a day earlier. In a major setback to Trump's pivotal economic agenda in his second term, the US Supreme Court ruled that the tariffs imposed by Trump on

nations around the world were illegal and that the president had exceeded his authority when he imposed the sweeping levies by using the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA) of 1977.

The US had imposed a 25 per cent reciprocal tariff on India in August 2025. Later, an additional 25 per cent duty was imposed for buying Russian crude oil, taking the total tariffs on India to 50 per cent. India and the US, earlier this month, agreed on a framework to finalise an interim trade deal, under which Washington will cut down the tariffs to 18 per cent. So far, the punitive 25 per cent exists. Following the Supreme Court ruling, Trump has again announced hiking these tariffs to 15 per cent. This levy, if notified, will be over and above the existing MFN or import duties in the US. For instance, if a product faces a 5 per cent MFN duty, an additional 15 per cent will be imposed, taking the effective duty to 20 per cent. Earlier, this was 5 plus 25 per cent.

IDFC First Bank flags Rs 590 crore suspected fraud at Chandigarh branch

From February 18, 2026, other Haryana government entities also contacted the bank regarding their accounts. In these cases too, discrepancies were found between the balances in the bank's records and the figures shared by the entities.

New Delhi.(Agency)

Private sector lender IDFC First Bank has reported a suspected fraud of around Rs 590 crore at its Chandigarh branch, raising serious concerns. The bank said the irregularities may involve certain employees along with accounts linked to the Haryana government. An internal review has been initiated, and the matter is being examined to understand

how the alleged fraud took place and who was involved. The bank said it detected suspected unauthorised and fraudulent activities at one of its Chandigarh branches in a regulatory filing under Regulation 30 of the SEBI Listing Regulations. It added that the



incident may involve certain employees along with other individuals or entities. The bank said it has filed a complaint with the police and will fully cooperate with investigating agencies. It has also sent recall requests to certain beneficiary banks, asking them to place a lien on balances in suspicious

accounts. The issue came to light when the bank received a request from a Haryana government department to close its account and transfer the funds to another bank. During this process, the bank noticed a mismatch between the amount mentioned in the request and the actual balance in the account.

From February 18, 2026, other Haryana government entities also contacted the bank regarding their accounts. In these cases too, discrepancies were found between the balances in the bank's records and the figures shared by the entities. Based on a preliminary internal review, the bank said the issue appears limited to a specific group of Haryana government-linked accounts handled through the Chandigarh branch. It clarified that other customers of the branch are not affected. The total amount currently under reconciliation across the identified accounts is estimated to be around Rs 590 crore.

Aussie internet safety law triggers cleanup

New Delhi.(Agency)

Standing on the global AI platform in New Delhi, French President Emmanuel Macron and Prime Minister Narendra Modi both made fervent appeals for the internet and social media being made a safe place for children. Macron said France was working hard to ban social networks for children under 15, along with others in Europe like Spain and Greece; and he hoped India "would join the club."

Mr Modi echoed Macron's sentiments. "We must become more vigilant about children's safety. Just as a school syllabus is curated, the AI space must be child-safe, and family guided," the Indian Prime Minister said.

Thousands of miles away in the U.S. the spotlight is on mental health too of millions of kids suffering from internet addiction. A jury in Los Angeles is currently hearing arguments against Meta and its CEO, Mark Zuckerberg. The trial has highlighted cases such as

Jordan DeMay, a 17-year teen who took his life in 2022 after being targeted in an online sextortion scam on Instagram. While Zuckerberg has apologized to parents, and promised tighter screening, a non-profit monitoring group, Fairplay, has found just about one of 5 screening tools on Instagram are working effectively.

Australian trigger

The dangers of uncontrolled access to the internet on young minds, the sexual exploitation and other online harassment they face, the problem of digital addiction etc have come to the fore again after Australia, faced with a national crisis of children's mental health and safety of children, was the first to ban social media for children under 16. Australia's Online Safety Amendment (Social Media Minimum Age) Act 2024 went into effect on 10 December, last year, forcing major platforms to deactivate millions of underage accounts.

The legislation has a comprehensive regulatory framework managed by an eSafety Commissioner. He lays down safety rules for tech companies and holds rapid take-down powers when detecting harmful content or cyber bullying. Most significantly, the law shifts the burden of implementing the ban from the parents to the operating companies.

It is platforms such as Meta, TikTok, Snapchat, Reddit and YouTube who have to put systems in place to block off minors. These companies also face huge deterrent fines up to \$34 million in case of violations in implementing the ban.

Though there is still to be a global consensus on the issue, Australia's law has acted as a catalyst. A clutch of countries are now moving fast to ensure safety controls. Denmark has passed legislation banning social media for under-16s, and is working to launch a age-verification app.



arrangement, limiting tariff exposure to 15 per cent for now. While this introduces short-term uncertainty for Indian exporters in sectors such as textiles, pharmaceuticals, gems, and machinery, the measure is considered less severe than previously proposed actions and leaves scope for continued negotiations, according to market watchers. President Donald Trump's remarks about potentially invoking alternative legal routes to advance his tariff policy inject a layer of policy uncertainty too. Meanwhile, Sensex has recovered from the 82,000-82,500 region, closing positively and holding key channel supports. Immediate downside protection is seen at 82,000-81,800 in case volatility resurfaces, while upside resistance is positioned at 83,500-84,000. "Looking ahead, markets may remain volatile with key supports at Nifty 25,300 and resistance at 25,700; a sell-on-rise strategy is advisable until bullish confirmation emerges. Investors should monitor global cues and upcoming earnings for directional cues," said experts.

SBI simplifies deceased claim process: How nominees and legal heirs can apply online

SBI has made the deceased claim settlement process easier and more straightforward, with updated guidelines, online application options and a clear list of documents required. This guide explains how the process works and what you need to know.

New Delhi.(Agency)

If you have a savings or deposit account with State Bank of India and the account holder has passed away, you may be eligible to claim the funds in that account. SBI has made the deceased claim settlement process easier and more straightforward, with updated guidelines, online application options and a clear list of documents required. This guide explains how the process works and what you need to know. A deceased claim refers to the process by which the legal heirs or nominees of an account holder who has died can withdraw the remaining balance from the deceased person's bank account.

This includes savings accounts, fixed deposits, recurring deposits and other SBI account types. SBI has revised its claim settlement rules to make it more efficient and less burdensome for families who must handle the financial affairs of a loved one.

Who Can Apply?

The following people can apply for the deceased claim settlement: Nominees registered with the bank account. Legal heirs when there is no nominee. Executors or administrators of the estate as per legal documentation. The bank will verify the relationship and documentation before releasing funds.

How to Apply Online

SBI has introduced an online application facility that allows nominees and legal heirs to file the claim without visiting a branch physically. Here's how it works: Visit the official SBI website and navigate to the deceased claim section. Fill out the online form with details of the deceased account holder and your relationship to them. Upload scanned copies of required documents (listed below). Submit the application and note

the reference number for tracking. You may receive communication from the bank if any additional verification is needed. The online option is particularly



useful during pandemic-related restrictions and reduces paperwork.

Documents Required To process a deceased claim, you will generally need: Death certificate of the account holder issued by appropriate authorities)

Account passbook or account details

Nominee's ID proof and address proof

Legal heir certificate or succession certificate (if no nominee is on record)

Executor/administrator documents (if the estate is being handled legally)

Ensure that all documents are valid, legible and properly certified where required. Incomplete documentation could delay claim settlement.

How the Claim Is Processed

Once the bank receives your application and documents, SBI will verify the death certificate and check the nomination details in its records.

If there is a registered nominee, the claim will usually be processed faster.

If there is no nominee, the bank may request a legal heir certificate or succession certificate to determine eligibility.

After verification, the bank will credit the claim amount directly into the claimant's bank account or issue a payment as per bank policy. The timeline can vary based on document verification and whether nominations or legal heir certificates are involved.

Important Things to Keep in Mind

Make sure the nominee details are up-to-date on your own accounts to avoid delays for your family later. If there is no nominee, be prepared to provide legal heir documentation.

Virat Kohli And

Anushka Sharma

Return To Mumbai After Alibaug Trip

Virat Kohli and Anushka Sharma were seen at the Gateway of India ferry terminal in Mumbai as they returned from Alibaug. The couple had visited Vrindavan to seek blessings from Premanand Ji Maharaj and followed their usual tradition of heading to Alibaug afterward. In videos making the rounds online, Virat was seen wearing a relaxed brown t-shirt with black pants and sunglasses, while Anushka opted for a simple yet stylish white top and jeans. The couple walked towards their car after disembarking from the ferry.



Virat Kohli's Performance in India vs New Zealand ODI Series

Virat Kohli recently joined the Indian cricket team for the ODI series against New Zealand. He was in the starting eleven and delivered standout performances in two of the three matches, showcasing his form ahead of upcoming games.

Anushka Sharma's Chakda 'Xpress Biopic Update

On the work front, Anushka Sharma was last seen in 2018 film zero opposite Shah Rukh Khan in the lead. Now a producer, Anushka continues to make headlines due to her role in the upcoming biopic Chakda 'Xpress, where she plays former Indian cricketer Jhulan Goswami. However,

there is still no official update on the film's release.

Alibaug: Favourite Getaway of Virat and Anushka

Over the years, Alibaug has become a preferred escape for the couple. The couple recently bought a 5-acre plot in Zirad village, Raigad, for Rs 37.86 crore, adding to their existing 8-acre farmhouse purchased in 2022. The coastal town is becoming popular among celebrities looking for a peaceful, scenic escape from Mumbai's busy streets.



Kareena Kapoor, Saif Ali Khan And Taimur Celebrate Jeh's 5th Birthday By Planting Trees At Pataudi Palace



Kareena Kapoor Khan and Saif Ali Khan's younger son, Jeh Ali Khan, is celebrating his 5th birthday today, February 21. The couple welcomed their first son, Taimur, in 2016, while Jeh came to this world in 2021. Post the knife attack incident at the residence last year, Bebo and Saif chose to keep Jeh's birthday celebrations low-key. In pictures shared by the actress, the family can be seen spending time at the Pataudi Palace.

Kareena Kapoor offers a peek into Jeh's low-key birthday celebration

A while ago, Kareena took to Instagram and shared a bunch of pictures of her boys 'planting trees' for Jeh's birthday. Dressed in their casual outfits, Saif and his sons are seen gently doing their work with the help of the house staff. One of the pictures also features Kareena Kapoor. Along with the pictures, Bebo wished her son Jeh as she wrote, "Birthday's are all about planting trees and being free. Happy birthday Son... Jeh Baba."

Bebo's post was filled with several comments from friends and fans. Neha Dhupia commented, "Jeh baba. happy happy happy always." Jeh's maasi Riddhima Kapoor Sahni dropped red heart emojis. Fans also wished the star kid and showered him with love and good wishes.

Meanwhile, Saif's sister and actress Soha Ali Khan, earlier today, dropped pictures from Jeh's birthday bash.

The family hosted a Naruto-themed birthday party for him, and it looked like a private celebration for them. The party was attended by Neha Dhupia, and Karisma Kapoor. Along with the adorable pictures, Soha wrote, "Blink and he's five."

Cake cutting photos have to be chaos. Can see the cake - birthday boy, not so much! (But we could hear him) And through it all is Bebo looking as cool as a cucumber - how?!!" Meanwhile, on the work front, Kareena will soon be seen in Meghna Gulzar's Daayra and Rohit Shetty's Golmaal 5. On the other hand, Saif has Haiwaan with Akshay Kumar.

Mihir Ahuja Says Sharing Screen With Ibrahim Ali Khan Never Felt Competitive: 'He's A Great Friend'



Not every actor measures success by screen time and Mihir Ahuja seems to be one of them. The young actor, who has steadily built a diverse body of work across films and web series, says sharing space with contemporaries has never been a concern for him. For Ahuja, the focus remains firmly on the story.

When asked whether playing a secondary character opposite a contemporary like Ibrahim came with hesitation, Mihir dismissed the idea. He told Hindustan Times, "I'm an actor first, so I look at the part, the story and the creator irrespective of who's opposite me. Even if it's a contemporary, that doesn't matter at all. I respect everyone as an actor if they've come to this profession, be it Ibrahim Ali Khan or anyone. He's anyway a great friend of mine and I respect him. If I'm telling a story and the director and the writer have chosen me for it, nothing else matters at all."

While he remains open to diverse roles, Mihir acknowledged that he is keen to take on more lead characters in the future. "Of course, I would love to play a leading man. I know that if you make a strong impact as an actor, you will get where you want to be in life, but when you play a leading role, there's a certain joy about it because you have this pressure on your shoulders. I love that pressure and I'm so ready for it. I'm exploring great parts and I know sooner or later it will happen. But I'm also not denying good roles in the meantime," he said.

One of his most high-profile projects so far has been The Archies, directed by Zoya Akhtar, in which he portrayed Jughead. Although the film did not meet box-office expectations, Mihir maintains that he does not attach expectations to outcomes.

"I never keep any expectations from any project. Having said that, we all believed that The Archies will do wonders. But I had nothing to lose. Where I was coming from, I had everything to gain. The film resonated with some people who liked it but some people didn't. Filmmaking is a gamble, everything is yin and yang. There are positives and negatives about everything. Everything we make is very subjective and everyone has a right and freedom of speech in this country," he asserted.

Over the years, Mihir has appeared in supporting roles in projects such as Made In Heaven, Vijay 69 and The Archies. More recently, he stepped into a leading role with the web series Shabad: Reet Aur Riwaaz. In 2024, he was also seen alongside Ibrahim Ali Khan in Sarzameen.

Hrithik Roshan

'Can't Wait' To Watch Priyanka Chopra Jonas' The Bluff, Calls Her 'Beautiful' In New Post



Priyanka Chopra Jonas is currently busy promoting her upcoming film, The Bluff. On February 21, she took to social media and shared pictures of herself from the promotions. The global star looked all things gorgeous in both looks. Soon after she shared the pictures from the press tour, Hrithik Roshan dropped a comment and went on to call her 'beautiful'.

Hrithik Roshan can't wait to watch Priyanka Chopra's The Bluff

In the pictures, PeeCee struck a variety of poses in a chic brown outfit paired with a black headgear, even pulling a goofy face in one of the photos. She also shared moments with her co-stars from the film. In another look, the actor switched things up in a blue satin top and green skirt, accessorising

with a pirate-style headgear. Along with the pictures, she wrote, "Press tour day two. A huge thank you to everyone who came out and showed up to show us support at the @agbofilms @primevideo screening #TheBluff."

Hrithik instantly dropped a comment on her post that read, "Beautiful. can't wait to watch this." Chitrangda Singh too couldn't hold herself back

from praising Priyanka. She wrote, "When are you NOT killing it!" Even the fans couldn't stop gushing over her.

Meanwhile, Hrithik and his ladylove, Saba Aza, and met Priyanka Chopra and Nick Jonas in 2025 during their trip to the USA.

On the work front, Priyanka's The Bluff also stars Karl Urban. Directed by Frank E Flowers, the film will stream on Prime Video on February 25. She



will also make her comeback to Indian movies with SS Rajamouli's Varanasi alongside Mahesh Babu. Hrithik, on the other hand, will make his directorial debut with Krrish 4. He was last seen in YRF's War 2, which was helmed by Ayan Mukerji. It starred Kiara Advani and Jr NTR in key roles. Fans loved watching his face-off with Jr NTR, but the film couldn't perform at the box office.



Kadi patta or curry leaves is a staple in Indian dishes. Commonly used as seasoning, this leaf adds a special flavour to every dish. But there is more to the humble curry leaf than simply flavour. Packed with carbohydrates, fiber, calcium, phosphorous, irons and vitamins like vitamin C, vitamin A, vitamin B, vitamin E, curry leaves help your heart function better, fights infections and can enliven your hair and skin with vitality. Here are few health benefits of kadi patta.

Helps keep anaemia at bay

Curry leaves are a rich source of iron and folic acid. Folic acid is mainly responsible for carrying and helping the body absorb iron, and since kadi patta is a rich source of both the compounds it is your one-stop natural remedy to beat anaemia.

Fights diabetes

Not only does kadi patta help lower the blood sugar levels, but also keeps in check for a few days after the administration of curry leaves.

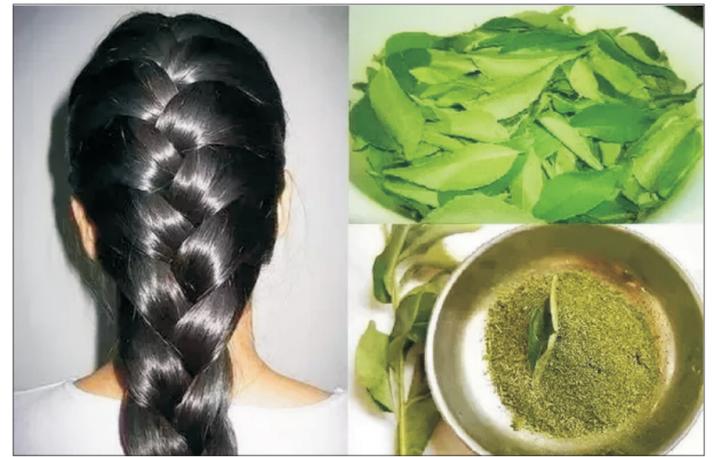
Health benefits of curry leaves

Curry leaves help your blood sugar levels by affecting the insulin activity of the body and reduces ones blood sugar levels. Also the type and amount of fiber contained within the leaves play a significant role in lowering blood sugar levels. So, if you

suffer from diabetes, kadi patta is the best natural method to keeping your blood sugar levels in check.

Improves digestion

Curry leaves is known to help improve digestion and alter the way your body absorbs



fat, thereby helping you lose weight. Since weight gain is one of the leading causes of diabetes, kadi patta treats the problem right at the root.

Lowers cholesterol

Many research shows that curry leaves have properties that can help in lowering one's blood cholesterol levels. Packed with antioxidants, curry leaves prevent the oxidation of cholesterol that forms LDL cholesterol (bad cholesterol). This in turn helps in increasing the amount of good cholesterol (HDL) and protects your body

from conditions like heart disease and atherosclerosis.

Prevents greying of hair

Kadi patta has always been known to help in preventing greying of the hair. It is also very effective in treating damaged hair, adding bounce to limp hair, strengthening the shaft of thin hair, hair fall and treats dandruff. The best part about this benefit is that you can either choose to eat the curry leaves to help with your hair woes or apply it to your scalp as a remedy.



The truth about lemon-honey-water concoction



Learn why most people drink this mixture every morning Most of us drink the warm water mixed with honey and lemon juice concoction every morning to help reduce weight. Here's what all this magical mix does for your body and why you should drink it, if you're not already!

Helps cleanse the liver - Liver is the main organ which helps in

purification of the body. This mix, helps keep the liver pure and toxin free. The liver is mainly responsible for producing protein and maintaining digestion process, so it is essential that the liver is kept pure and functioning well also.

Helps weight loss - This mix helps cleanse the liver which in turn removes the toxins from the body. Since the body is now free of toxins, metabolism gets boosted and the body starts functioning much better.

Vitamins and minerals - Consuming the concoction every morning kick starts your system by providing it with a boost of essential vitamins and minerals first thing in the morning. The drink is a heady mix of vitamin C, vitamin B, magnesium, calcium and phosphorous.

So serve your body a cocktail of nutrients and energy early morning by drinking this popular mixture!

Gain weight the healthy way!

We tell you how to gain weight the healthy way

While you must have seen realms of print being wasted on telling people how to lose those extra inches and burn those cumbersome calories, there is also a section of people who, hold your breath, actually find it tough to put on weight! Are you one of those? While you're probably the envy of family and friends, trying to pile on a few



pounds is not as easy it is made out to be. At least not for everyone. When it seems that all those juicy cheeseburgers and chocolate bars are not helping you gain even an ounce, you know you need to do something more to get meat on your bones. Because of the high prevalence of obesity and weight problems in our culture, more emphasis is laid on loosing weight than gaining weight. People who are too skinny need not fret. Here are some tips to gain weight the healthy way:

Calories:

Our bodies have a need for a set number of

calories each day. This need is based on your age, gender, height, weight, and activity level. In order to gain weight, you will need to take in more calories than your body needs to maintain your current weight. You can find out what your needs are by visiting a dietician or nutritionist. Find out a diet that is healthy as well as rich in calories. You don't want to gain weight by harming your body.

Nutrients

There are six essential nutrients that our bodies need to function — proteins, carbohydrates, fat, vitamins, minerals, and water. Each of these nutrients has its own function and is needed in different amounts. The way to get them in the right proportion is through the foods that we eat, and in some cases, by the supplements that we take. Your goal for gaining weight will be to eat a well-balanced diet in order to get all of these nutrients in.

Frequency:

It may be helpful to eat every couple of hours in order to get enough food and calories in. Set a timer on your cell phone or put it in your appointment book to remind you to eat. Eat smaller meals every few hours instead of just three large meals a day.

Supplements:

If you don't get enough calories just from your food, you can consider using supplements in between meals. However, always check with an expert beforehand. You don't want to consume something that is wrong for your body.

Weight Lifting:

Nothing builds muscle like weight lifting. If you are unsure of what to do, work with a trainer to set up a program that fits your schedule and needs.

Are you geared up right for the Gym?

People often don't realize the importance of the right kind of gym gear while working out. We speak to experts to know how important it is.

People feverishly discuss fitness tips, how much they can lift, and their cardio time at the gym, but seldom do they talk about fitness gear. There is much debate about whether people should wear whatever they find handy and head to the gym, or if they should dress up when they work out. BT speaks to fashion and fitness experts to know how important it is to wear the right gear while working out.

Dress functional, not fashionable

What you wear to the gym should not distract others working out with you, and should be functional rather than fashionable. Fitness expert Leena Mogre



says, "Always go for dry-fit clothing that absorbs sweat, like T-shirts and track pants. Carry your shoes in your bag and change into them at the gym, as walking in those shoes before hitting the gym is unhygienic. A sports bra is a must for women and they should always tie their hair if it's long." She adds that a deodorant is the "most important thing to have at the gym."

Get into the mood

What you wear also sets your mood for exercise, so choose your clothes carefully, says fitness expert Wanitha Ashok, "Wear

something that is comfortable, hugs your body and gives you a range of emotions. Wearing colourful clothes to the gym also sets your mood for exercise and motivates you," says Wanitha, adding, "Some women wear salwar kameez to hide their fat and that's not good."

Let your skin breathe

When working out, it is important to wear something that allows your skin to breathe. Celebrity fitness expert Rujuta Diwekar says, "Opt for comfortable cotton gear as it is much more important than wearing something that is in vogue. Wear whatever makes you comfortable and avoid sporting anything that restricts blood circulation."

Avoid injury

Entertainment professional Rohit Barker, a fitness enthusiast who has been working out for years, says, "Wearing the right workout gear is important to

avoid basic injuries. The stuff I wear might not necessarily be fashionable, but it's comfortable. Guys' workouts are always hard and heavy, so they need to wear tight underwear, or there are chances of them getting a hernia. Avoid working out barefoot or in floaters as wearing the right kind of shoes saves one from a lot of injuries." Model Zachariah Sujith Sebastian adds, "Wearing the right gear also enhances your performance as it is specifically engineered to tolerate high-impact wear and tear."

