

Arvind Kejriwal in tears after court clears him, says proof he's kattar imaandar

After Arvind Kejriwal was discharged in the Delhi excise policy case due to lack of evidence, the former Delhi Chief Minister broke down before cameras as supporters gathered around him, urging him to stay strong.

New Delhi.(Agency) Moments after being discharged in the Delhi excise policy case, Arvind Kejriwal broke in front of cameras as he called the verdict a victory of truth. "It has been proved today... the court has said that Kejriwal is kattar imaandar (staunchly honest)," a tearful Kejriwal said. Kejriwal's emotional reaction prompted his former deputy and co-accused in the case Manish Sisodia, who was also cleared of charges, to pull him in for a hug. "Court verdict is evidence of my innocence. Truth always wins," Kejriwal said, breaking down and urging that the Constitution not be turned into a joke. He questioned why the BJP could not come to power by offering real solutions to issues such as corruption, unemployment and pollution, instead of trying

to topple an elected government. KEJRIWAL, SISODIA BREAK INTO EMOTIONAL HUG Arvind Kejriwal was left momentarily speechless. Struggling to find words, he removed his glasses, covered his eyes and broke down before cameras as supporters and lawyers patted his shoulders, urging him to stay strong. "We were harassed. Debates were going on TV channels, and news was aired that Kejriwal is corrupt," Kejriwal said, as he could no longer hold back his tears after appearing strong all this while. Sisodia, Kejriwal's former deputy, stood beside him and pulled the AAP chief into an embrace. Emotional scenes unfolded outside the Rouse Avenue Court in Delhi, where Kejriwal buried



his face in Sisodia's chest and broke down in tears. Earlier in the day, the court flagged a lack of evidence against Kejriwal, observing that serious allegations must be backed by material and that attributing a central conspiratorial role

cannot be sustained without proof. It added that public confidence in constitutional offices is undermined when prosecution claims lack supporting evidence. While discharging Sisodia, the court held that the prosecution's case did not withstand judicial scrutiny and found no material indicating criminal intent on his part. It observed that the documents, read alongside witness statements, pointed to administrative deliberations rather than wrongdoing. IT WAS BJP'S LUST FOR POWER: SUNITAKEJRIWAL Lashing out at the Narendra Modi government, Sunita Kejriwal said the AAP was not involved in corruption and alleged that the case stemmed from someone else's "lust for power."

Droupadi Murmu Becomes 1st Indian President To Fly In Attack Helicopter Prachand

With today's sortie, Droupadi Murmu became the first Indian president to fly in an attack helicopter, adding another milestone to her engagements with frontline military platforms.

Jaipur.(Agency) Clad in an olive-green flying suit and helmet, President Droupadi Murmu on Friday took a 25-minute sortie as co-pilot in Light Combat Helicopter 'Prachand' near the India-Pakistan border in Jaisalmer district. According to the Indian Air Force (IAF), the helicopter took off from the Jaisalmer Air Force Station after the president was briefed by the captain. She waved from the cockpit before departure. During the flight, Murmu -- the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces -- delivered a message to the nation from the cockpit. "Prachand helicopter is a powerful symbol of self-reliance. At this moment, I am flying over the Jaisalmer district. I extend my heartfelt greetings and deepest gratitude to our brave soldiers. A warm salute to you, Jai Hind, Jai Bharat," she said. The helicopter flew over the Pokharan firing range, where the IAF is scheduled to



conduct its firepower demonstration, 'Vayu Shakti', on Friday evening. Murmu will witness the day-dusk-night demonstration. Earlier, IAF Chief Air Marshal A P Singh welcomed the president at the IAF station. With today's sortie, Murmu became the first Indian president to fly in an attack helicopter, adding another milestone to her engagements with frontline military platforms. She undertook a sortie in a Rafale fighter aircraft at the Air Force Station in Ambala in October last year, becoming the first Indian

president to have flown in two different fighter aircraft of the IAF. In April 2023, she undertook a sortie in a Sukhoi-30 MKI fighter aircraft at the Tezpur Air Force Station in Assam, flying for about 30 minutes over the Brahmaputra and Tezpur valley with a view of the Himalayas. LCH Prachand is India's first indigenously designed and developed combat helicopter, built by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited. Equipped with advanced avionics, stealth features, night-attack capability and a formidable array of weapons including air-to-ground and air-to-air missiles, rockets and a 20 mm gun, the LCH significantly enhances the combat capability of the Indian Air Force. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh had undertaken a sortie in the Prachand, which translates to fierce, during the formal induction of the first LCH into the IAF at the Jodhpur Air Force Station in October 2022.

'Don't Doubt Judicial Officers': Supreme Court In Bengal vs Poll Body

New Delhi .(Agency) The Election Commission has given a training module to judicial officers in West Bengal to help out with the special intensive revision (SIR) process in the state, the Mamata Banerjee government told the Supreme Court today, amid her government's friction with the EC. The state government's comment came a week after the Supreme Court told the Calcutta High Court to appoint judicial officers for helping in carrying out the SIR exercise, noting an unfortunate blame game had been going on between the state government and the EC over the voter roll clean-up drive. The judicial officers can look into claims and objections, the Supreme Court had said. But friction between the Bengal government and the EC remained even after the Supreme Court's order on February 20. In the hearing today before a bench of Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi, the Bengal government's lawyer Kapil Sibal alleged the EC has issued directions to the judicial officers to follow a certain training module. "Something strange has happened. While your lordships passed the order that all the modalities will be settled by the Chief Justice (of the Calcutta High Court) and the committee, what they have done is, behind the back, they have issued directions to the judicial officers and issued a training module saying this is what they should accept and this is what they should not accept," Sibal said. The Supreme Court, responding to this, said it

On February 24, the Supreme Court allowed the deployment of West Bengal civil judges, in addition to 250 district judges, for SIR exercise

knows its judicial officers well and they will not be "influenced by anything".



"Now don't doubt the judicial officers, they will decide. There has to be an end to this," Chief Justice Kant said. Justice Bagchi added, "Who else other than the EC would give the training? We have made it clear what the documents are to be looked at. Our directions are clear; they cannot be overridden." Sibal then alleged the EC told them domicile certification should not be accepted for SIR verification.

ED gets nod to prosecute P Chidambaram in INX, Aircel-Maxis cases

New Delhi .(Agency) The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has secured mandatory prosecution sanction against Congress veteran P Chidambaram in the INX Media and Aircel-Maxis money-laundering cases, removing a key legal hurdle and clearing the way for expedited trial proceedings. Both cases relate to alleged financial irregularities during Chidambaram's tenure as the Union Finance Minister. He and the co-accused have denied wrongdoing. The agency informed the Rouse Avenue Court that the competent authority granted approval on February 10, as required under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) following a recent Supreme Court ruling mandating sanction before prosecuting public servants. In November 2024, the Supreme Court held that prior sanction is compulsory even in PMLA prosecutions involving public officials. The ruling triggered challenges in multiple ongoing cases, including those against Chidambaram, slowing proceedings. With fresh sanctions now formally placed before the trial court in both matters, objections on procedural grounds are unlikely to stall the cases further. The ED has indicated it will seek fast-tracked hearings. In the INX Media matter, investigators allege that during his tenure as finance minister, Chidambaram approved Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) clearance to INX Media in exchange for illegal gratification routed through firms linked to his son Karti Chidambaram. The ED claims about Rs 65.88 crore constitutes proceeds of crime, allegedly layered through shell entities such as Advantage Strategic Consulting and invested in assets in India and abroad. Assets worth over Rs 65 crore have been attached in phases since 2018. The prosecution complaint was filed in 2020, with cognisance taken in 2021 and a supplementary complaint filed in December 2024. In the Aircel-Maxis deal, the ED alleges that in 2006, FIPB clearance for foreign investment of Rs 3,565 crore was granted despite requiring Cabinet-level approval. Investigators claim Rs 1.16 crore in illegal gratification flowed to companies linked to Karti Chidambaram.

Karnataka cabinet nod to fill 56,432 vacancies in govt departments, process to begin in a month

Bengaluru.(Agency) Conceding to pressure mounted by protesting youth, the Karnataka cabinet on Thursday approved filling up of 56,432 vacancies in various government departments, adhering to 50 per cent quota in recruitments. The process will start in 30 days. "They are all sanctioned posts, with the Finance department giving approval to fill 24,300 posts, and 32,132 in Kalyana Karnataka region, in keeping with Article 371. The Chief Minister has given instructions to all departments to take measures to fill posts," Law and

Parliamentary Affairs Minister HK Patil said, briefing the media after the cabinet meeting. With the issue acquiring seriousness, the repercussions of delaying recruitment were discussed in the cabinet. It could backfire on the ruling dispensation, with the opposition BJP indicating it would support the protesting youth and make it a big issue, sources said. With two cases before court, including internal quota for Scheduled Castes, and as the quota cannot go beyond 50 per cent, recruitment will be subject to the court's



decision, he clarified. He said with Governor Thawar Chand Gehlot having given his nod for the Scheduled Castes (Sub-Classification) Bill, the internal quota bill of

SCs, it will be incorporated in recruitment and spelt out in the notification. "There will not be any financial burden as the posts, except for 1,000-odd newly created ones, were existing ones that fell vacant," Patil said in response to a query, adding that the government will take care of the financial issue. The cabinet also accepted the report of the high-powered committee on Redressal of Regional Imbalance, headed by Prof M Govinda Rao which has recommended the allocation of Rs 43,914 crore. It will be adopted in the budget, Patil said.

Facts disregarded: Court orders action against CBI officer in Delhi liquor case

New Delhi.(Agency) Acquitting Arvind Kejriwal, Manish Sisodia and 21 others in the Delhi Liquor Policy case, the Special CBI Court on Friday ordered departmental action against the investigating officer, observing that he showed a "complete disregard" for facts while prosecuting the case. The court came down heavily on the conduct of the officer, pointing out that government officials discharging their routine duties in implementing a public policy had been subjected to criminal prosecution solely on the basis of inadmissible hearsay attributed to an approver. The investigation, the court said, yielded no material evidence against them.

Calling the approach "particularly disturbing," the court said public servants were prosecuted despite the absence of substantive evidence, relying instead on statements that did not meet evidentiary standards. The court further observed that the investigating officer appeared to have adopted a "conscious and calculated stratagem" by keeping the allegations deliberately "fluid." It noted that the officer relied on an individual's statement to support the prosecution's case, while simultaneously preserving the option of implicating that very individual if the case failed to withstand judicial scrutiny. "Court is not merely to discount the tainted



investigative material, but also to recommend initiation of appropriate departmental proceedings against the erring investigating officer for framing A-1 (then-Deputy Excise Commissioner Kuldeep Singh) as an accused in the absence of any material against him, so that

accountability is fixed and the institutional credibility of the investigative machinery is preserved," the court said. Such dual positioning, the court said, revealed that the officer was aware of the inherent fragility of the allegations and apprehensive that the version presented before the court might not survive close judicial examination. NO MANIPULATION IN CREATING DELHI EXCISE POLICY: COURT The special CBI Court also held that there was no evidence of "manipulation or influence" in the creation of the Delhi excise policy, observing that the policy change followed detailed deliberations and layered scrutiny.

News box

10k Gurgaon girls to be vaxxed in 3-month HPV drive

Gurgaon.(Agency)

Around 10,000 adolescent girls are expected to be vaccinated across the city as Haryana prepares to roll out a three-month human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination drive at the block level. "The campaign aims to reduce the risk of cervical cancer, the second most common cancer among women in India," civil surgeon Dr Lokveer said on Thursday, ahead of the drive that begins from Civil Hospital in Sector 10 on Feb 28. Health officials said the rollout is part of a universal vaccination drive, with the state aiming to complete initial coverage within 100 days. Haryana has received 1.14 lakh HPV vaccine doses. Around 3 lakh beneficiaries are likely to be vaccinated this year.

"Human papillomavirus is a leading cause of the disease — cervical cancer — particularly types 16 and 18. The vaccine being administered provides protection against HPV types 6, 11, 16 and 18," Dr Lokveer said.

The vaccination will be voluntary and free of cost, with the target group being girls aged 14 years, who have not yet turned 15. All vaccinations will be recorded digitally on the U-WIN portal, with OTP-based consent obtained prior to vaccination, though written parental consent will also be accepted. Digital vaccination certificates will be issued to beneficiaries and finger-marking will be done to prevent duplication. District surveillance officer Jaiprakash Rajliwal said, "On the launch day, at least 50 eligible girls are to be vaccinated at the district hospital, though all eligible beneficiaries present will be covered. We received 3,000 vaccines so far. We will roll out from Monday to a few health centres. After three months, it will be given in routine immunisation."

While the programme will be launched from the district hospital, it will be expanded in phases to polyclinics and health centres in Sohna, Pataudi, Farrukhnagar, Borha Kalan and Ghangrola.

Nepal woman gang-raped by 3; 1 arrested

Gurgaon.(Agency)

A 24-year-old woman was allegedly gang-raped by three men at an accommodation in the Sadar area. One person has been arrested following the incident that took place near Naharpur Rupa police post. Following a complaint — lodged with Sadar police station on Feb 24 by the survivor who is from Nepal — police arrested Manish Kumar, a resident of UP's Etah, who is being interrogated. "We registered a gang-rape case and are conducting raids to nab the other two accused," a police officer said. The woman was allegedly abducted after she fell unconscious in an auto-rickshaw after consuming liquor. The survivor, a resident of Kurukshetra, came to Gurgaon on Feb 23 to meet a friend in Ashok Vihar. According to her complaint, she was unable to find her friend and, under mental stress, consumed alcohol before boarding the auto-rickshaw to return. Three youths were already present in the vehicle.

The woman said she lost consciousness due to heavy intoxication shortly after boarding the auto. When she regained consciousness, she found herself in a room, sources said. The woman alleged that the three youths then gang-raped her in the room.

Gurgaon civic body set to hire trolleys, earthmovers for sanitation

Gurgaon.(Agency)

MCG on Thursday initiated the process to hire tractor-trolleys and earthmovers for sanitation work across the city for one year at an estimated cost of Rs 6.42 crore. Officials said the machinery will be deployed with sanitation workers directly employed by the corporation for garbage lifting and road cleaning. The move comes ahead of the expiry of contracts of existing contractors on March 15. Officials said that the move aims to ensure that road sweeping and waste collection from public places, roads and vacant plots are not disrupted. "Zone-wise tenders have been floated. The estimated cost for hiring is Rs 1.7 crore for zone 1, Rs 1.05 crore for zone 2, Rs 2.4 crore for zone 3, and Rs 1.3 crore for zone 4," an official said. Currently, Gurgaon has 4,904 sanitation workers, about 400 vehicles for door-to-door waste collection, and 18 mechanised sweeping machines. However, the civic body faces a shortage of equipment. Against a requirement of 42 machines, only 18 are available. MCG has proposed purchasing 20 large and four medium mechanised sweepers, citing the availability of funds.

In its annual action plan submitted to Union environment minister Bhupender Yadav in Dec last year, the corporation reiterated the need for additional machines. It identified more than 1,400 km of roads suitable for mechanised sweeping and flagged the shortage as a major constraint.

Noida set to repair Pushta road to ease away gridlock

Gurgaon.(Agency)

Pocked with potholes and rough stretches, the 11.5-km Yamuna Pushta Road from Kalindi Kunj to Sector 135 is set for a Rs 30-crore revamp, even as Noida Authority is drawing up an estimate to upgrade the remaining 15 km stretch up to Sector 150.

The four-lane road serves as a key backup to the Noida Expressway, which remains heavily congested during peak hours. With irrigation department approvals in place, the Noida Authority is likely to begin resurfacing damaged sections in the coming weeks to improve traffic flow along the embankment road.

Officials said work will also be taken up to plug missing links on the 45-metre-wide sector road along the expressway, easing pressure on the main arterial corridor.

The 25-km-long Noida Expressway, an arterial link between Delhi and Greater Noida, carries traffic from multiple entry points, including the DND Flyway, Chilla border and Kalindi Kunj. During office hours, traffic from adjoining sectors spills onto the corridor, often leading to slow-moving traffic and longer commute times. Officials said the embankment road, which runs parallel to the expressway, offers a viable alternative, particularly for local and intra-city traffic. A plan to have an elevated Kalindi Kunj-Sector 150 corridor, however, remains stalled.

Hindon floodplain residents protest, seek power supply to houses

Gurgaon.(Agency)

Residents living on the Hindon floodplains protested outside the chief engineer's office in Sector 16 on Thursday, demanding a power connection. The group had planned a foot march to the district magistrate's office but was stopped by police, after which they continued their protest at the spot.

Nearly one lakh people live on the Hindon floodplains in Gautam Budh Nagar across several villages including Garhi Chaukhandi, Chotpur, Sorkha, Haldoni, Kulesra, Devla and Patwari. Residents in these areas have been demanding power connections for years. On Feb 18, Noida MLA Pankaj Singh had raised the issue in the state assembly, seeking at least conditional or temporary power connections for affected families. Preeti Devi (30), one of the protesters who lives in Sorkha village with her husband Vijay Pandit (32), a mason, said they migrated from Begusarai in Bihar about 15 years ago. "We initially stayed in rented accommodation and later bought a 50

sqm plot for Rs 5 lakh eight years ago. The land was registered, and we built a small house. But we were not given an electricity connection," she said.

Adding that the absence of a legal power supply forced some residents to resort to illegal connections, she said, "People draw long wires from nearby poles, but due to load shedding, the supply often snaps, leading to quarrels among locals. The power department also conducts drives and cuts these unauthorised connections frequently." Kalawati (28) originally from Ballia in Uttar Pradesh, said she purchased a 60 sqm plot for Rs 7 lakh eight years ago without knowing it fell within a floodplain zone. "The registry was done and no one objected at the time. Now we are being told the area is unauthorised, and power connections cannot be issued,"



she said, adding that children in the area study by candlelight and even charging mobile phones is a challenge. Thursday's protests also received support from farmers' group Bhartiya Kisan Union (BKU). According to BKU president Sukhveer Khalifa, residents have been

pretesting at the engineer's office since Feb 9. "When our demands were not addressed, we decided to conduct a protest march. We submitted a memorandum to the city magistrate. The agitation will continue until a solution is found," he said. Noida city magistrate Arvind Kumar Mishra said that he received the memorandum from the protesting members. "The power department already prepared a report on this issue and sent it to govt. We will inform you once govt's decision comes," he added. The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has time and again directed authorities in

Noida and Greater Noida to remove encroachments on the Hindon floodplains, reiterating that no illegal construction can be permitted in the eco-sensitive zone. Progress on the ground, however, has been slow-going.

NGT pulls up Haryana for illegal groundwater use

Gurgaon.(Agency)

National Green Tribunal (NGT) slammed Haryana govt for not acting against rampant illegal extraction of groundwater in the city and ordered an inspection of construction sites, farmhouses, industrial units, educational institutions and pharma units to check if they are illegally drawing groundwater. The data by National Compilation on Dynamic Groundwater Resources shows the city extracted groundwater over twice its permissible limit in 2023 and 2024. NGT also said all colonies and institutions must maintain functional rainwater harvesting systems, illegal borewells must be sealed and legal users must be monitored through piezometers. It gave the state govt six months to complete the entire process.

The tribunal took suo motu cognisance of a TOI report — Gurgaon a Groundwater Dark Zone, But Extraction Over 2 Times the Limit — published on Aug 5, 2025. NGT's principal bench observed that official replies filed by multiple departments were heavy on plans and

claims, but light on enforcement.

The tribunal has given govt authorities a slew of instructions, including inspection drives, supplying water treated by sewage treatment plants (STP), carrying out sealing drives and imposing environmental compensation, to tackle the problem at the earliest. The tribunal stated in its Feb 10 order, "None of the above replies reflects the effective action by authorities at the ground level to check the unauthorised withdrawal of groundwater by different entities and project proponents". The order was passed by the bench comprising Prakash Shrivastava (chairperson) and Dr A Senthil Vel (expert member). Referring to the TOI report, the bench observed that it "clearly mentioned unauthorised and illegal extraction of groundwater by entities like builders, industries, educational institutions, pharmacy firms, residential societies." It said authorities were now required to take "effective action at the ground level" against each category. NGT directed a district-wide inspection drive, beginning with

construction sites, farmhouses, industries, educational institutions, pharmaceutical firms and public institutions. "The respondent authorities will inspect each of the construction sites in Gurgaon and ascertain the quantity and source of water used," the order said, adding that all project proponents must be shifted to STP-treated water. It also made govt responsible for supplying treated STP water to construction projects free of cost. The tribunal also noted that large-scale extraction happens at farmhouses for gardening and horticulture purposes. "These farm houses (must) utilise STP-treated water for such purposes," the bench said. It stressed that residential colonies, farmhouses and institutional areas must have "effectively operating rainwater harvesting systems" in place. For non-potable uses, the bench made its position clear, stating "use of STP-treated water instead of extracting the groundwater be ensured and encouraged" for activities such as car washing, vehicle servicing and dust mitigation, where water does not come into human contact.

Arbitrary power charges, security lapses: Gurgaon homeowners go to police

Gurgaon.(Agency)

Homeowners at a residential complex in Sector 35 have lodged a complaint with police naming the developer, management agency and estate management personnel over various issues pertaining to electricity charges, power infrastructure and a recent security-related incident. Residents of The Melia, who lodged the complaint with Sohna police station following an incident on Feb 23, said they are seeking uninterrupted electricity supply, adherence to the maintenance agreement and "assurances on safety" within the complex, developed by Silverglades.

The matter escalated on Monday, when electricity supply to some households was stopped, leading to a gathering within the



complex to seek clarification. During this time, the residents said, external security personnel were present in the premises, which has caused concerns, "particularly as families were present at the time".

Meanwhile, homeowners have also submitted representations to authorities — builder management and maintenance agencies — and said they are "seeking resolution through dialogue and official

channels". The developer could not be reached for his comment. Residents allegedly made "multiple representations" to the on-site management team and also approached the developer's corporate office in Gurgaon in recent months to seek clarification and a resolution. However, "discussions had not yet resulted in a mutually agreed solution". Residents said they currently pay maintenance charges of Rs 4 per sq ft plus applicable taxes, in line with the maintenance agreement signed at the time of possession. They said the agreement covers essential services such as security, common area electricity, clubhouse operations and general upkeep and alleged that separate billing for common area electricity has been introduced.

Plight of 9 Gurgaon students shows how illegal school tie-ups play with kids' futures

Gurgaon.(Agency)

The strange predicament of nine Class X students — who spent the entire year studying CBSE syllabus, only to be pushed to write Haryana board exams at the last moment — has brought to the fore how institutions forge dodgy tie-ups to circumvent affiliation and make money on the side. Their school, Educrest International, ran a Class X batch without CBSE affiliation, took full fees in advance, and then relied on informal tie-ups with CBSE-affiliated institutions to secure admit cards. When those arrangements fell through for a part of the batch, the nine students were left unregistered and effectively locked out of the CBSE exams. Some of the parents moved Punjab and Haryana High Court, which intervened earlier this week and ordered that the nine students be allowed to write their Class 10 boards exams under the state board.

They wrote their first paper on Thursday. Educrest had 25 students in Class X. According to the school, 14 students

managed to get admit cards through other affiliated institutions, but the remaining students could not be "accommodated" before the registration deadline. The result? No registration, no admit cards, and no CBSE board exams. Of 11 students who were not allowed inside the exam hall, the parents of nine moved HC.

Officials agreed that the episode was not a one-off administrative lapse, but a symptom of a wider, risky practice in which unaffiliated schools operate senior classes by using "third-party" affiliations to show students on the rolls of another school — on paper — while teaching them elsewhere. "This shadow system was operational for years. Unaffiliated schools often collect full tuition and examination fees from unsuspecting parents, only to later 'sell' these students to larger, CBSE-accredited schools to be registered there. The process is highly calculated and begins years before the board exams," an education department official said. A

similar case surfaced in the city in Feb last year, when three students of Orchids International School in Sector 49 were initially denied admit cards and missed their first English paper amid CBSE affiliation and documentation delays. After parents protested, Delhi High Court intervened and hall tickets were issued. Officials explained that many schools can legally function up to Class 8, where CBSE scrutiny is not as stringent. The pressure point comes in Class 9, when the Board requires student registration and a list of candidates, beginning a verification cycle that culminates in the Class 10 exams. If a student is not properly registered in time, last-minute fixes are nearly impossible.

"It is at this critical juncture that unaffiliated schools seek out 'compromised' but accredited institutions to formalise arrangements that exist largely on paper. Students continue to attend classes at the unaffiliated

'feeder' school, while officially being shown as enrolled at the accredited 'partner' school. Fees are divided between the two institutions in a discreet understanding," another official said. In effect, officials said, the child studies in one school but exists in the records of another. To CBSE, the student appears legitimate because the paperwork sits with an affiliated institution. Officials said CBSE typically steps in only when specific complaints are received. "Unless a formal complaint is lodged, there is no way for the Board to detect the discrepancy," an official said.

Educrest owner Vinay Kataria said the school had been running for eight years but never received CBSE affiliation for classes 9 and 10. "We had permission up to Class 8. So, we applied for affiliation for classes 9 and 10. But during an inspection, some rooms were under construction, which is why our file was rejected," he said. Kataria agreed that Educrest previously had a tie-up with a Delhi-based CBSE-

affiliated institution, which enabled last year's Class X students to take the CBSE

THE SIKH TIMES

Edited, Printed, Published
Owned by Simmi Babbar
N-31, Dr. Mukherjee Nagar
Delhi-110009

Printed at Qaumi Patrika Printing
Press, A-4/A-144, Tronica City
(Loni), Ghaziabad (Uttar Pradesh)

Corporate Office:

5, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg,
Press Area, ITO, New Delhi

Editor-in-Chief
Gurcharan Singh Babbar

Mob: 9654077232, 9971359517

Website: www.thesikhimes.in

Email: sikhimesindia@gmail.com

RNI No. DELENG/2008/25465

10-yr-old missing girl reunited with kin under Op Milap

New Delhi: A 10-year-old girl, who reportedly went missing, was reunited with her family at the Subzi Mandi police station, North Delhi. The girl was located near Ghanta Ghar Chowk on Friday evening. During patrolling, the police saw a girl surrounded by people. She was not able to provide her address. The girl only revealed that her name was Munni and that she lived in Khadda Colony. The officers took her to the police station. The police began searching for her family by circulating her photographs and details through police networks and local stations, said Raja Banthia, Deputy Commissioner of Police, North District. It was found that Khadda Colony falls under the jurisdiction of the Samaypur Badli police station, but no missing report was filed there, he said. On the morning of September 6, the police team travelled began searching for her family by circulating her photographs and details through police networks and local stations, said Raja Banthia, Deputy Commissioner of Police, North District. It was found that Khadda Colony falls under the jurisdiction of the Samaypur Badli to Khadda Colony with the girl. After verification, the team traced her father, Manoj Mandal of Khadda Colony, Raja Vihar, Badli, and handed over the girl to him as part of "Operation Milap." Under "Operation Milap", the Delhi Police have traced 130 missing persons in August.

No arrest so far in stolen 'kalash' case, Delhi Police trace suspect's movements

The Sikh Times New Delhi: No arrest has been made so far in connection with the theft of a gold-and-jewel-encrusted 'kalash' (urn) worth around Rs 1 crore from a Jain religious ceremony near Red Fort, police said on Sunday. The Delhi Police have traced the movements of the suspect and obtained crucial leads about his hide-out. The theft occurred on September 3 during a prayer ceremony attended by several dignitaries, including Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla. The suspect, dressed in a traditional dhoti-kurta to blend in with devotees, allegedly exploited the commotion created when Birla arrived for the event and fled with the vessel. The urn, made of 760 grams of gold and embedded with 150 grams of diamonds, rubies and emeralds, holds significant religious value for the Jain community. The ongoing ceremony began on August 28 and is scheduled

to conclude on September 9. A case was registered at Kotwali police station. "We have got important clues, and raids are being carried out."



after the urn could not be traced despite extensive searches. A senior police officer said the suspect had been conducting reconnaissance for several days and had mingled with organisers to avoid drawing suspicion. Multiple teams are working on the case, and CCTV footage from the venue and adjoining areas has helped investigators establish the route taken by the accused after the theft, he said. "The accused will be arrested soon," the officer said, adding that the accused's movement has been largely reconstructed," the officer said. Organisers of the ceremony said the theft had caused great distress to the community. "The kalash is of immense religious value besides its material worth. We are hopeful the police will recover it," said Puneet Jain, one of the organisers.

Wanted in murder and armed dacoity cases, Nepali criminal killed in police encounter in Delhi

New Delhi: In a joint operation by Delhi and Gurugram police, a criminal wanted in multiple cases of murder and armed dacoity was shot dead in an encounter near the Astha Kunj Park in south-east Delhi, an official said on Tuesday. According to police, Bhim Mahabhadur Jora (39), a native of Lalpur in Nepal, was wanted in connection with the murder of Dr Yogesh Chander Paul, who ran a private clinic in Jangpura, in May 2024. A reward of Rs 1 lakh was announced for information leading to Jora's arrest. Acting on a tip-off, a joint team of Gurugram Crime Branch and Special Staff of the south-east district intercepted Jora near the Astha Kunj Park around 12.20 am on Tuesday. "Jora fired six rounds at the police team, which returned the fire with five rounds, hitting the accused," a senior police officer told PTI. Jora was rushed to the AIIMS Trauma Centre, where doctors declared him dead. Police seized an automatic pistol, empty cartridges, one live round, and a bag containing house-breaking tools from the spot, the officer said. Jora was involved in at least six cases of murder, dacoity, and burglary across Delhi, Gurugram, Gujarat, and Bengaluru, he added.

7 cyber criminals duped over 5K people of about Rs 75 crore: Cops

Gurugram: A police investigation has revealed that seven cyber criminals arrested by the Gurugram cyber police had duped more than 5,000 people across the country of about Rs 75 crores. The accused were arrested during the last three months, their mobile data revealed this shocking revelation. According to the police, the arrested accused were identified as Sachin Kumar, Hitesh, Rahul Pandey, Mohammad Shahzad Ansari, Abhishek, Shivraj and Amarnath, natives of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. A total of 5 mobile phones, 4 SIM cards and Rs 3 lakh were seized from their possession. "After reviewing the data from the I4C of the mobile phone, SIM cards recovered from these 7 cyber fraudsters, it was revealed that these mobile phones, SIM cards were used to commit cyber frauds across India. With 5,555 complaints and 199 cases having been registered against these miscreants, the quantum of the fraud was found to be around Rs 75.06 crore. Of the 199 cases registered at different places across the county, 16 were logged in Haryana, including five in Gurugram.

GNDU Successfully Concludes Counselling for 2025 Undergraduate Admissions

Amritsar: Guru Nanak Dev University (GNDU), Amritsar, has successfully completed the counselling process for its 2025 undergraduate session under the leadership of Vice-Chancellor Prof. (Dr.) Karamjeet Singh, conducted through the University Common Entrance Test (UCET) and University Common Admission Test (UCAT). The process, marked by transparency and efficiency, covered courses under the university's 14 departments within the Faculty of Sciences and Engineering. The counselling witnessed overwhelming participation, reflecting growing student interest and trust in

GNDU's academic excellence. Nearly all seats

signaling the university's rising prominence. Dr. Kang further



across various courses were filled, with demand for some programmes exceeding expectations,

Tejwant Singh Kang, UCET Coordinator, noted that this response underscores GNDU's commitment to quality education. Dr. Kang further

areas and rural regions, will soon be conducted at the departmental level. These seats have also garnered significant interest, with the process expected to conclude on time. For any vacant seats, waiting lists will be handed over to departments by July 10, 2025, enabling them to contact eligible candidates and ensure optimal seat allocation. Vice-Chancellor Prof. (Dr.) Karamjeet Singh commended Dr. Kang, Prof. Balwinder Singh, and the entire counselling team for their seamless and transparent execution of the admission process. Congratulating the newly admitted students, he urged them to pursue their studies with dedication and integrity, contributing meaningfully to society. This successful counselling process not only reaffirms GNDU's academic excellence but also highlights its commitment to shaping a bright future for its students.

Cops add criminal conspiracy charges

New Delhi: The Delhi Police added charges of criminal conspiracy following revelation by the two arrested accused in connection with the alleged assault on Chief Minister Rekha Gupta at her camp office in Civil Lines. A senior police officer said the fresh charge was added after investigators found evidence suggesting the assault was not an isolated act but part of a planned conspiracy. Both accused - Rajeshbhai Khimji and Tahseen Syed - who are already in custody, were earlier booked under assault and related sections. Criminal conspiracy charges under Section 61 of the BNS have now been added to the case. According to Section 61 of the BNS, when two or more persons agree to commit an illegal act, or an otherwise legal act through illegal means, such an agreement amounts to a criminal conspiracy. It further states that conspirators to offences, punishable with life imprisonment or rigorous imprisonment of two years or more, face the same punishment as if they had abetted the offence. Following the incident, the Delhi Police have significantly intensified security arrangements for Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, permanently deploying 40 personnel and ordering multiple frisking of visitors before their entry to any of her events. Initially, the Union Home Ministry had directed the CRPF to extend Z-category cover to the Chief Minister, but that arrangement has now been withdrawn. Instead, the Delhi Police have taken over her protection with additional deployment.

announced that counselling for supernumerary quota seats, reserved for students from border

NAME CHANGE

I, YAMUNA is legally Mother of No. 2811689A, Rank-HAV, Name: KOGHE, SURESH, ATMARAM presently residing at VILL-ADOLI, POST-ADOLI TEH-WASHIM, DIST-WASHIM (MAHARASHTRA)-444505, have changed my name from YAMUNA to YAMUNA ATMARAM and date of birth from 05/03/1970 to 01/01/1973 for all future purposes. Vide affidavit dated 21/02/2026 before Public Notary Delhi.

NAME CHANGE

I, SITA BAI is legally mother of No. 13627523A Rank-LHAV Name-JADHAV TUKARAM RAMCHANDRA presently residing at VILL-KHIRKINDI, POST-???????, KOREGAON, DIST-SATARA (MAHARASHTRA)-415501, have changed my name from SITA BAI TO SITABAI RAMCHANDRA JADHAV and date of birth from 13/02/1960 to 01/01/1951 for all future purposes. vide affidavit dated 16.02.2026 before Public Notary Delhi.

NAME CHANGE

I, SONTAKKE PANDURANG SHIVRAM is legally Father of No. 2812147W Rank- SEP Name-SONTAKKE SANTOSH PANDURANG R/O VILL-PIMPARKHED POST-BASAMA TEH- HINGOLI DIST- HINGOLI (MAHARASHTRA)-431515, have changed my date of birth from 8/12/1957 to 01/01/1947 for all future purposes. Vide affidavit dated 29.01.2026 before Public Notary Delhi.

NAME CHANGE

I, Harishchandra Ambasta s/o Guneshwar prashad Ambasta R/o H no-1080 singha chowk sector-12 Gurgaon Haryana have changed my name to Harishchandra Prasad

NAME CHANGE

I, SURAJ KUMAR P/S/O SANAT PAL R/O H NO-195, 1ST FLOOR, RUDRA APT, STREET NO-2, MAHAVIR ENCLAVE, PALAM VILLAGE, DELHI-110045, have changed my name to SURAJ PAUL for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I, hitherto known as SACHIN S/O TRILOK CHAND R/O 2104, KACHHRIPUR EAST DELHI, PATARGANJ DELHI, CHILLA SARODA KHADAR, DELHI-110091, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as SACHIN AGGARWAL. It is certified that I have complied with all legal requirements in this connection.

NAME CHANGE

I, Ritu Gupta W/O Arvind Gupta R/O A/C-48, Ground Floor, Tagore Garden, West Delhi, Delhi-110027, have declared that in my Passport No. B3883054 name of mine and my husband has been mentioned as RITU GUPTA and ARVIND GUPTA and also declare that Ritu and Ritu Gupta are the name of one and the same person and my husband's correct name is Arvind Gupta and Arvind and Arvind Gupta are one and the same person.

NAME CHANGE

I, Chitra Baliga D/o Damodar Vaman Baliga and W/o B S Girish Pal R/o O, Shantari, 8th Cross S P Extn, Malleswaram, Bangalore North, Karnataka - 560003, have changed my name to Sumana G Pai

NAME CHANGE

I, Ritu Gupta W/O Arvind Gupta R/O A/C-48, Ground Floor, Tagore Garden, West Delhi, Delhi-110027, have declared that in my Passport No. B3883054 name of mine and my husband has been mentioned as RITU GUPTA and ARVIND GUPTA and also declare that Ritu and Ritu Gupta are the name of one and the same person and my husband's correct name is Arvind Gupta and Arvind and Arvind Gupta are one and the same person.

NAME CHANGE

I, Nisha Aggarwal, Bhopal Devi, and Mr. Manoj Kumar Mittal, Thereafter, Pushpa Mittal, Simmi Garg, Shweta Kumar, Nisha Aggarwal, and Bharpai Devi relinquished their respective shares in favour of Mr. Manoj Kumar Mittal through a Relinquishment Deed dated 26.06.2013. Subsequently, Mr. Manoj Kumar Mittal sold the said shop to Mr. Ram Charan through a Sale Deed dated 24.01.2014. Thereafter, Mr. Ram Charan sold the said shop to Mr. Sunil Kumar through a Sale Deed dated 02.07.2025. Consequently, Mr. Sunil Kumar is the absolute and lawful owner of the aforementioned property. The property is free from all kinds of litigation, encumbrances, liens, charges, or claims. Please note that the said property is proposed to be financed by RBL Bank Ltd., Indrapuram Ghaziabad Branch, Uttar Pradesh. If any person(s) objection or regarding subject property, then kindly may submit his/her objection within 07 days from the date of the Notice in writing. The said objection may be kindy sent to the undersigned by way of the Registered Post on the address given below and by E-mail, failing which, the claim as per aforesaid shall be treated as null and void in respect of the subject property.

NAME CHANGE

I, hitherto known as KANHYA SINGH S/O SUDAMA R/O F-104 Jailer Wala Bagh, Ashok Vihar, North West Delhi, Delhi-110052 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as KANHAI

NAME CHANGE

I, BHAGWAN DEV is legally mother of No. 14862297M Rank-SEP Name ANOKHE SINGH presently residing at VILL-ADREPURVA, POST-BANI-PARA, TEH DERAPUR, DIST-KANPUR DEHAT (UTTAR PRADESH)-209303 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as ANOKHE SINGH

NAME CHANGE

I, Nisha Aggarwal, Bhopal Devi, and Mr. Manoj Kumar Mittal, Thereafter, Pushpa Mittal, Simmi Garg, Shweta Kumar, Nisha Aggarwal, and Bharpai Devi relinquished their respective shares in favour of Mr. Manoj Kumar Mittal through a Relinquishment Deed dated 26.06.2013. Subsequently, Mr. Manoj Kumar Mittal sold the said shop to Mr. Ram Charan through a Sale Deed dated 24.01.2014. Thereafter, Mr. Ram Charan sold the said shop to Mr. Sunil Kumar through a Sale Deed dated 02.07.2025. Consequently, Mr. Sunil Kumar is the absolute and lawful owner of the aforementioned property. The property is free from all kinds of litigation, encumbrances, liens, charges, or claims. Please note that the said property is proposed to be financed by RBL Bank Ltd., Indrapuram Ghaziabad Branch, Uttar Pradesh. If any person(s) objection or regarding subject property, then kindly may submit his/her objection within 07 days from the date of the Notice in writing. The said objection may be kindy sent to the undersigned by way of the Registered Post on the address given below and by E-mail, failing which, the claim as per aforesaid shall be treated as null and void in respect of the subject property.

NAME CHANGE

I, hitherto known as ANOKHE SINGH W/O MANU SHANKAR R/O HOUSE NUMBER 27, 1ST FLOOR, THYAGARAJ NAGAR MARKET, THYAGARAJ STADIUM, LODHI ROAD, DELHI-110003 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as ANOKHA SHANKAR. It is certified that I have complied with all legal requirements in this connection.

NAME CHANGE

I, BHAGWAN DEV is legally mother of No. 14862297M Rank-SEP Name ANOKHE SINGH presently residing at VILL-ADREPURVA, POST-BANI-PARA, TEH DERAPUR, DIST-KANPUR DEHAT (UTTAR PRADESH)-209303 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as ANOKHE SINGH

NAME CHANGE

I, BHAGWAN DEV is legally mother of No. 14862297M Rank-SEP Name ANOKHE SINGH presently residing at VILL-ADREPURVA, POST-BANI-PARA, TEH DERAPUR, DIST-KANPUR DEHAT (UTTAR PRADESH)-209303 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as ANOKHE SINGH

NAME CHANGE

I, Nisha Aggarwal, Bhopal Devi, and Mr. Manoj Kumar Mittal, Thereafter, Pushpa Mittal, Simmi Garg, Shweta Kumar, Nisha Aggarwal, and Bharpai Devi relinquished their respective shares in favour of Mr. Manoj Kumar Mittal through a Relinquishment Deed dated 26.06.2013. Subsequently, Mr. Manoj Kumar Mittal sold the said shop to Mr. Ram Charan through a Sale Deed dated 24.01.2014. Thereafter, Mr. Ram Charan sold the said shop to Mr. Sunil Kumar through a Sale Deed dated 02.07.2025. Consequently, Mr. Sunil Kumar is the absolute and lawful owner of the aforementioned property. The property is free from all kinds of litigation, encumbrances, liens, charges, or claims. Please note that the said property is proposed to be financed by RBL Bank Ltd., Indrapuram Ghaziabad Branch, Uttar Pradesh. If any person(s) objection or regarding subject property, then kindly may submit his/her objection within 07 days from the date of the Notice in writing. The said objection may be kindy sent to the undersigned by way of the Registered Post on the address given below and by E-mail, failing which, the claim as per aforesaid shall be treated as null and void in respect of the subject property.

NAME CHANGE

I, hitherto known as ANOKHE SINGH W/O MANU SHANKAR R/O HOUSE NUMBER 27, 1ST FLOOR, THYAGARAJ NAGAR MARKET, THYAGARAJ STADIUM, LODHI ROAD, DELHI-110003 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as ANOKHA SHANKAR. It is certified that I have complied with all legal requirements in this connection.

NAME CHANGE

I, BHAGWAN DEV is legally mother of No. 14862297M Rank-SEP Name ANOKHE SINGH presently residing at VILL-ADREPURVA, POST-BANI-PARA, TEH DERAPUR, DIST-KANPUR DEHAT (UTTAR PRADESH)-209303 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as ANOKHE SINGH

NAME CHANGE

I, BHAGWAN DEV is legally mother of No. 14862297M Rank-SEP Name ANOKHE SINGH presently residing at VILL-ADREPURVA, POST-BANI-PARA, TEH DERAPUR, DIST-KANPUR DEHAT (UTTAR PRADESH)-209303 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as ANOKHE SINGH

NAME CHANGE

I, Nisha Aggarwal, Bhopal Devi, and Mr. Manoj Kumar Mittal, Thereafter, Pushpa Mittal, Simmi Garg, Shweta Kumar, Nisha Aggarwal, and Bharpai Devi relinquished their respective shares in favour of Mr. Manoj Kumar Mittal through a Relinquishment Deed dated 26.06.2013. Subsequently, Mr. Manoj Kumar Mittal sold the said shop to Mr. Ram Charan through a Sale Deed dated 24.01.2014. Thereafter, Mr. Ram Charan sold the said shop to Mr. Sunil Kumar through a Sale Deed dated 02.07.2025. Consequently, Mr. Sunil Kumar is the absolute and lawful owner of the aforementioned property. The property is free from all kinds of litigation, encumbrances, liens, charges, or claims. Please note that the said property is proposed to be financed by RBL Bank Ltd., Indrapuram Ghaziabad Branch, Uttar Pradesh. If any person(s) objection or regarding subject property, then kindly may submit his/her objection within 07 days from the date of the Notice in writing. The said objection may be kindy sent to the undersigned by way of the Registered Post on the address given below and by E-mail, failing which, the claim as per aforesaid shall be treated as null and void in respect of the subject property.

NAME CHANGE

I, hitherto known as ANOKHE SINGH W/O MANU SHANKAR R/O HOUSE NUMBER 27, 1ST FLOOR, THYAGARAJ NAGAR MARKET, THYAGARAJ STADIUM, LODHI ROAD, DELHI-110003 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as ANOKHA SHANKAR. It is certified that I have complied with all legal requirements in this connection.

NAME CHANGE

I, BHAGWAN DEV is legally mother of No. 14862297M Rank-SEP Name ANOKHE SINGH presently residing at VILL-ADREPURVA, POST-BANI-PARA, TEH DERAPUR, DIST-KANPUR DEHAT (UTTAR PRADESH)-209303 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as ANOKHE SINGH

NAME CHANGE

I, BHAGWAN DEV is legally mother of No. 14862297M Rank-SEP Name ANOKHE SINGH presently residing at VILL-ADREPURVA, POST-BANI-PARA, TEH DERAPUR, DIST-KANPUR DEHAT (UTTAR PRADESH)-209303 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as ANOKHE SINGH

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Sh. Ajoy Kumar S/O Late Vinoda Nand Prasad, residing at RZ-2 - 86, Rajnagar Part - 2, Palam Colony, New Delhi - 110077, do hereby give notice to the general public that I have permanently severed all personal, social, and familial ties with my daughter, Ms. Medha Chaurasiya, with immediate effect. This decision has been taken on account of her continuous disobedience, misconduct, and irresponsible behaviour, which has caused great distress and dishonour to the family despite sincere and repeated efforts at reconciliation. The general public is hereby notified that from the date of publication of this notice, I, Sh. Ajoy Kumar, shall not be responsible for any act, deed, contract, liability, debt, obligation, or conduct of Ms. Medha Chaurasiya, whether civil, criminal, financial, or social in nature. Any person dealing with Ms. Medha Chaurasiya in any matter, whether financial, legal, or otherwise, shall do so entirely at their own risk. I shall have no concern with any such dealings whatsoever. Further, Ms. Medha Chaurasiya shall have no right, title, interest, or claim over any of my movable or immovable properties, assets, bank accounts, or any other belongings of any nature. Sd/- Sh. Ajoy Kumar

NAME CHANGE

I ANKUL HAQ S/O GULAM RABANI R/O K-1-18D/39 GALI NO-18D SANGAM VIHAR SOUTH DELHI -110062 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO ANUL HAQ

NAME CHANGE

I Anu Dutta W/o Raman Kumar Dutta R/o H. No.62-C, Pocket-E, LIG Flts, GTS Enclave, Delhi P.O. Mandoli Saboli, North East Delhi, Delhi-110093 have changed my name to Anupama Dutta for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I hitherto known as AYUSHI BANSAL D/O PURSHOTTAM KUMAR W/O VISHAL GOEL R/O F-50, Block-F, Shiv Mandir, Shastri Nagar, Ashok Vihar, North West Delhi, Delhi-110094 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as AYUSHI GOEL.

NAME CHANGE

I hitherto known as PRAHLAD SINGH BAWARIA alias PRAHLAD SINGH S/O MAN SINGH R/O A-36, Tolera Road, Dhana Ka Bagh, Bohara Colony, Toolera, Alwar, Rajasthan-301001, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as PRAHLAD SINGH.

NAME CHANGE

I hitherto known as RAM VINAI THAKUR S/O DEENANATH residing at H NO-40, Gali No-1, Sangam Vihar Jharoda, Wazirpur, Post: Barari, North West Delhi, Delhi-110033, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as RAM VINAY SHARMA.

NAME CHANGE

VICKY KUMAR S/O RAMEAH R/O H-10141 C D Park, Jahangir Park, North West Delhi, Delhi-110033, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as VICKY.

NAME CHANGE

It is for general information that I NUSRAT KHATOON W/O SHAHRUKH R/O J-4/62, Ground floor, Khirki Extn., Po: Malviya Nagar, Dist: South Delhi, Delhi-110017, declare that name of my minor son has been wrongly written as MOHD. AHMAD RAZA in my minor son namely MOHAMMAD AHMAD RAZA aged 11 years in his School Records. The actual name of my minor son is MOHAMMAD AHMAD RAZA which may be amended accordingly.

NAME CHANGE

I, BHAGWAN DEV is legally mother of No. 14862297M Rank-SEP Name ANOKHE SINGH presently residing at VILL-ADREPURVA, POST-BANI-PARA, TEH DERAPUR, DIST-KANPUR DEHAT (UTTAR PRADESH)-209303 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as ANOKHE SINGH

NAME CHANGE

I, BHAGWAN DEV is legally mother of No. 14862297M Rank-SEP Name ANOKHE SINGH presently residing at VILL-ADREPURVA, POST-BANI-PARA, TEH DERAPUR, DIST-KANPUR DEHAT (UTTAR PRADESH)-209303 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as ANOKHE SINGH

PUBLIC NOTICE

Mr. Vikrant and Mrs. Komal Kumari Owner of the Sub Leasehold Dwelling Unit bearing No. 11/157, 15th Floor, in Tower No. 11, having Super area 1335 sq. ft., in the complex known as "P.L.M. OLYMPIA", built up Plot no GH-02, Sector-16C, Greater Noida, Distt. Gautam Budh Nagar, U.P. Mr. Vikrant and Mrs. Komal Kumari have lost Original GPA executed by Mr. Tejinder Singh in favour of Mr. Jaspinder Singh in USA dated 08.03.2017 duly stamped AIG Gautam Budh Nagar, for which complaint lodged to the police. Therefore, by way of this Public Notice it is hereby notified that any person, Attorney and/or entity, firm/company, society and/or member of the Society, Bank, HUF/member of HUF, Financial Institution having any claim, charge, interest, or lien whatsoever with respect to the Said house or otherwise, may notify to undersigned only on his rahulkumar.gupta281401@gmail.com with documentary proof within 15 days from the date of this publication of notice, failing which any such claim etc. shall be deemed to be null and void, whereas title shall be deemed to be clear, and marketable without any defect or encumbrance and free to create equitable mortgage.

NAME CHANGE

I hitherto known as AYUSHI BANSAL D/O PURSHOTTAM KUMAR W/O VISHAL GOEL R/O F-50, Block-F, Shiv Mandir, Shastri Nagar, Ashok Vihar, North West Delhi, Delhi-110094 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as AYUSHI GOEL.

NAME CHANGE

I hitherto known as PRAHLAD SINGH BAWARIA alias PRAHLAD SINGH S/O MAN SINGH R/O A-36, Tolera Road, Dhana Ka Bagh, Bohara Colony, Toolera, Alwar, Rajasthan-301001, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as PRAHLAD SINGH.

NAME CHANGE

I hitherto known as RAM VINAI THAKUR S/O DEENANATH residing at H NO-40, Gali No-1, Sangam Vihar Jharoda, Wazirpur, Post: Barari, North West Delhi, Delhi-110033, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as RAM VINAY SHARMA.

NAME CHANGE

VICKY KUMAR S/O RAMEAH R/O H-10141 C D Park, Jahangir Park, North West Delhi, Delhi-110033, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as VICKY.

NAME CHANGE

It is for general information that I NUSRAT KHATOON W/O SHAHRUKH R/O J-4/62, Ground floor, Khirki Extn., Po: Malviya Nagar, Dist: South Delhi, Delhi-110017, declare that name of my minor son has been wrongly written as MOHD. AHMAD RAZA in my minor son namely MOHAMMAD AHMAD RAZA aged 11 years in his School Records. The actual name of my minor son is MOHAMMAD AHMAD RAZA which may be amended accordingly.

NAME CHANGE

I, BHAGWAN DEV is legally mother of No. 14862297M Rank-SEP Name ANOKHE SINGH presently residing at VILL-ADREPURVA, POST-BANI-PARA, TEH DERAPUR, DIST-KANPUR DEHAT (UTTAR PRADESH)-209303 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as ANOKHE SINGH

NAME CHANGE

I, BHAGWAN DEV is legally mother of No. 14862297M Rank-SEP Name ANOKHE SINGH presently residing at VILL-ADREPURVA, POST-BANI-PARA, TEH DERAPUR, DIST-KANPUR DEHAT (UTTAR PRADESH)-209303 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as ANOKHE SINGH

NAME CHANGE

I, BHAGWAN DEV is legally mother of No. 14862297M Rank-SEP Name ANOKHE SINGH presently residing at VILL-ADREPURVA, POST-BANI-PARA, TEH DERAPUR, DIST-KANPUR DEHAT (UTTAR PRADESH)-209303 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as ANOKHE SINGH

NAME CHANGE

I, BHAGWAN DEV is legally mother of No. 14862297M Rank-SEP Name ANOKHE SINGH presently residing at VILL-ADREPURVA, POST-BANI-PARA, TEH DERAPUR, DIST-KANPUR DEHAT (UTTAR PRADESH)-209303 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as ANOKHE SINGH

PUBLIC NOTICE

General public at large that my client namely Mohd Anwar Saifi, Aged about 69 years, S/o. Haji Genda Khan, R/o. H.No. A-176, Durga Vihar Devli, South-Delhi, Delhi-110062, do hereby inform that my above said client had earlier disowned his son namely Wasim Saifi, aged about 28 years, R/o. H.No. A-176, Durga Vihar Devli, South-Delhi, Delhi-110062, through a public notice published in "Rastriya Sahara" dated 24, August-2022. That, my above said client hereby withdraw and cancel the said public notice. My client's son namely Wasim Saifi, R/o. H.No. A-176, Durga Vihar Devli, South-Delhi, Delhi-110062, is reinstated as his lawful son with effect from today i.e. 27.02.2026. The earlier notice dated 24.08.2022, shall be treated as cancelled.

SHAKIL AHMAD Advocate

Member No.175 Saket Courts, Complex New Delhi-110017.

PUBLIC NOTICE

That my client Mohd. Shokin, S/O Abdul Salam, R/O. H.No. B-126 & B-127, Block-B, Sangam Vihar, South Delhi, New Delhi 110080, has disowned/ debarred her son Mohd. Kasim from my all moveable and immovable assets and properties acquired by my client in past and future and have no relation with them whatsoever. My client has also disowned the above said son from their civil and criminal liabilities.

GAUTAM KUMAR SHRIVASTAVA Advocate

Off: 43B, Third Floor, Patparganj Village, Mayur Vihar, Phase-I, Delhi-1, M.NO- 7252922875

NAME CHANGE

I, SRIKESH YADAV S/O SURESH YADAV R/O VILL-PALYA, PO-RUIHIPUR, TEHSIL-SADAR, DIST-GHAZIPOUR, UTTAR PRADESH-233300, have changed my son's name from SRIKESH YADAV to SRIYAN SHU YADAV for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I Baby D/o Babu Moolya R/o 3 - 263 /1 Pavana Nivasa, Narambolu Agrar Post, Rantwal, PO-Bantwari, Dist-Peerkshina Ramnada, Karnataka - 574211, have changed my name to Pamitha K.

NAME CHANGE

NEWS BOX

4.7 magnitude earthquake jolts eastern Nepal

WASHINGTON. (Agency)
An earthquake of magnitude 4.7 hit Sankhuwasabha district on Friday in Nepal. There were no immediate reports of loss of life or damage of any kind due to the quake. The earthquake struck at 3.18 am on Friday with its epicentre located at Topke Gola near the Sankhuwasabha-Taplejung border area, situated around 400 km East of Kathmandu, according to the National Earthquake Monitoring and Research Centre (NEMRC). The tremor was also felt by people in the neighbouring districts, including Bhojpur, Panchthar and Tehrathum districts.

In open war with Afghanistan, says Pakistan's Defense Minister, following latest strikes



ISLAMABAD. (Agency)
Pakistan's defense minister early Friday said that his country had run out of "patience" and now considers itself in an "open war" with neighboring Afghanistan after both sides launched strikes following what Islamabad described as an Afghan cross-border attack. In a post on X, Defense Minister Khawaja Mohammad Asif said Pakistan had hoped for peace in Afghanistan after the withdrawal of NATO forces and expected the Taliban to focus on the welfare of the Afghan people and regional stability. Instead, he alleged, the Taliban had turned Afghanistan "into a colony of India," gathered militants from around the world and begun "exporting terrorism."

"Our patience has now run out. Now it is open war between us," he said. There has been no reaction from Afghan government officials to Asif's comments. Pakistan has frequently accused neighboring India of backing the outlawed Baloch Liberation Army and the Pakistani Taliban, allegations New Delhi denies.

His remarks came hours after Pakistan carried out airstrikes in Afghanistan's capital, Kabul, as well as in Kandahar in the south and Paktia province in the southeast, according to Pakistani officials and Afghanistan government spokesperson Zabihullah Mujahid. Pakistan says the strikes were in retaliation for Afghan cross-border attacks.

The escalation comes months after Qatar and Turkey mediated a ceasefire between the two sides.

Georgia's child welfare system remains shaken after projected 85.7 million dollars Budget shortfall



ATLANTA. (Agency)
Georgia's child welfare system spiraled into crisis as the Georgia Division of Family and Children Services faced a whopping \$85.7 million projected shortfall. With Candice Broce, commissioner of the Department of Human Services and director of the child welfare agency it oversees, taking a number of cost-saving measures in November, it's meant fewer visits between children and parents needed for family reunification, less time for aides to spend helping foster parents care for children with complex needs and juvenile court dates needing to be postponed when children have no transportation to get there.

"I'm just stuck. I'm stressed out. Emotionally, I'm exhausted," said Pamela Bruce, who said her foster son "can't grow in survival mode" and is also terrified she'll surrender him back to the state as services dwindle. Georgia lawmakers voted to backfill the budget gap, but families have already lost months of services and delays may last. Some lawmakers see the influx of cash as a Band-Aid and want an audit to determine why the system blew up. Although experts say the projected deficit was an outlier in size, Georgia's child welfare agency is not the only one struggling. One of the issues stressing Georgia's system — an unpredictable influx of children with acute behavioral challenges — is a problem nationwide. Broce has been applauded for reducing the number of complex needs kids living in hotels, a troublesome practice many states use as a remedy. Finding places and people to care for children with such high needs is expensive. To try to manage the deficit, which observers say could have resulted from a plethora of causes, Broce, a longtime ally of Republican Gov. Brian Kemp, has terminated contracts with service providers she said weren't performing well and in November required contracted services to first get state approval. Providers, families, lawyers, lawmakers, placement agencies and others across the state say few service referrals are being made and describe a system that slowed drastically.

UK Green Party wins special election, pushing Starmer's Labour to third place

HAVANA. (Agency)
The Green Party won a special parliamentary election in England on Friday, a big boost for the small party and a blow to Prime Minister Keir Starmer, whose center-left Labour Party was relegated to third place.

Green candidate Hannah Spencer was declared winner of the contest in Gorton and Denton early Friday, with 14,980 votes. Matthew Goodwin of hard-right party Reform UK got 10,578 votes. Labour candidate Angeliki Stogia received 9,364.

The result illustrates the increasingly fragmented political landscape in Britain, which was dominated for decades by the Labour and Conservative parties. The Gorton and Denton constituency in Greater Manchester elected Labour lawmakers for almost all of the last century, but Starmer's government has seen its popularity plunge since it won office in July 2024. Labour's share of the vote was halved from 2024 national election, when it won the area easily. Spencer won by an unexpectedly wide margin to give the environmentalist Greens their fifth seat in the 650-seat

House of Commons.

"For people here in Gorton and Denton who feel left behind and isolated: I see you and I will fight for you," said Spencer, plumber and a local councilor, in her victory speech. She apologized to her plumbing customers, saying she would have to cancel some appointments because "I'm heading to Parliament." The Green Party beat not just Labour, which holds 404 Commons seats, but the anti-immigration Reform UK, led by the veteran hard-right politician Nigel Farage, which holds eight Commons seats but has topped national opinion polls for months. Jenny Jones, a Green member of the House of Lords, called the result "absolutely seismic." The outcome of the election, which was triggered by the resignation of the area's former Labour lawmaker, had been hard to call, in a diverse area that has traditional working-class neighborhoods — once strongly Labour, now tilting toward Reform — as well as large numbers of university students and Muslim residents. Many of them feel disillusioned by Labour's centrist

shift under Starmer and the government's perceived slowness at criticizing Israel's conduct of the war against Hamas in Gaza — fertile ground for the Green Party.

Under "eco-populist" leader Zack Polanski, the Greens have expanded beyond



environmental concerns to focus on issues including the cost of living, legalization of drugs and support for the Palestinian cause. Setbacks for Starmer since he led Labour to a landslide election victory in July 2024. He has struggled to deliver promised economic growth, repair tattered

public services and ease the cost of living. He pledged a return to honest government after 14 years of Conservative government that ended in scandals and chaos, but has been beset by missteps and U-turns over welfare cuts and other unpopular policies.

Friday's defeat underscores the depth of Labour's unpopularity and the challenge it faces from both left and right. The next national election does not have to be held until 2029, meaning the main threat to Starmer comes from within his own party, whose lawmakers are considering whether to ditch him for a new leader. Starmer had a narrow escape earlier this month as party discontent spiked after revelations about the relationship between sex offender Jeffrey Epstein and Peter Mandelson, the veteran Labour politician appointed by Starmer in 2024 to be U.K. ambassador to Washington. Police are investigating emails suggesting Mandelson passed sensitive government information to Epstein a decade and a half ago.

Nepal PM hopeful eyes 'change' in post-uprising elections

KATHMANDU. (Agency)
Nepali student leader-turned-politician Gagan Thapa has sought to rejuvenate his party's stale image, campaigning on generational change ahead of the Himalayan nation's first elections since a deadly youth-led uprising.

"We need energy for Nepal's change," the 49-year-old aspiring prime minister told AFP, saying his candidacy represented a break from decades of rule by a tight-knit and ageing elite. The country of 30 million people will head to the polls on Thursday, following a wave of protests in September in which 77 people were killed, and parliament and hundreds of other buildings were torched. The protests toppled Marxist leader KP Sharma Oli's government, in which Thapa's centrist Nepali Congress party had the biggest share of seats. Thapa's home and party office were among the buildings set alight during the two days of violence last year. He has since led an internal revolt and was elected party leader in January, ending the decade-long grip of former prime minister Sher Bahadur Deuba, 79, who had defied calls for reform.

Thapa, a former health minister, said he offered "the right mix of energy and experience." "We had to change the leadership of major parties," he said, including Congress -- the country's oldest and one of the three dominant political powers that have given Nepal nearly all its prime ministers in recent history. "For decades, two to three old-aged men were running it like a club, dominating and slowly limiting our democracy by power sharing with each other," Thapa said. "That devastated our governance." "Work together" Thapa was drawn into politics as a teenager in the 1980s, when leftist and communist parties led a popular movement against absolute monarchy, giving rise to multi-party democracy since 1990. As civil war reshaped the country in 1996-2006, pitting Maoist guerrillas against the monarchy, he rose through the ranks of pro-democracy student groups linked to the Nepali Congress. "The sense of gratification I felt when we rallied around an agenda and got results made me feel like this is what I want," Thapa said of his start as a student activist. "People have problems -- pick them up and solve them. That gravitated me

towards politics." In 2006, when a popular uprising forced the king to abdicate, Thapa was already a prominent figure in the pro-democracy movement and had been jailed several times for his role in street protests. Two years later he entered parliament as one of its youngest members, and has since won re-election three times from a Kathmandu constituency. But this time, Thapa has chosen to run from Sarlahi, mainly a farming district southeast of the capital, on the plains bordering India. "A large proportion of Nepal's population live here, and they have long felt excluded," he said. "If I represent this region, it helps my party electorally. But in the long term, it gives me the foundation to lead all of Nepal." His party's manifesto prioritises political and economic reform, pledging to create 1.2 million jobs in five years. Analysts expect no single party to win an outright majority in parliament, likely leading to a coalition government. "We will have to work together," Thapa said. "If I get a chance to be in a leadership role, I believe in teamwork. We can fulfil the demands made during the Gen Z protest only through teamwork."

publicly linked to any of the pro-Palestinian demonstrations that roiled Columbia's campus. A self-described content creator, she has amassed a large social media following by sharing day-in-the-life videos and tips for navigating college as an immigrant. Early Thursday, five federal agents gained entry to her apartment at 6 a.m. by claiming they were searching for a missing child, according to a petition from her lawyers and a statement released by Columbia's acting president, Claire Shipman. "The agents gained entry by stating they were police searching for a missing child," Shipman said in a video released Thursday night.

Columbia student detained by ICE is abruptly released after Mamdani meets with Trump

NEW YORK. (Agency)
Federal immigration authorities arrested a Columbia University student early Thursday, triggering protests on campus and allegations that agents gained entry to the university-owned residence by posing as police officers searching for a missing child. Just hours after detaining student Ellie Aghayeva, though, the federal government abruptly reversed course, permitting her to walk free after an apparent intervention by President Donald Trump. In a social media post Thursday afternoon, Mayor Zohran Mamdani said he expressed concerns about the arrest during an unrelated meeting with Trump, who then agreed

to release her immediately. "I am safe and okay," Aghayeva wrote on Instagram, minutes after Mamdani's post, adding she was in "complete shock" from the experience. The head-spinning series of events marked the latest consequence of the unlikely relationship between the Republican president and Mamdani, a democratic socialist who Trump once threatened to have deported. On Thursday, while pitching Trump on a massive housing project, Mamdani also called on the president to drop cases against several other current and former students facing deportation for their roles in protests against Israel. Aghayeva, a senior from Azerbaijan studying neuroscience and politics, hasn't been

publicly linked to any of the pro-Palestinian demonstrations that roiled Columbia's campus. A self-described content creator, she has amassed a large social media following by sharing day-in-the-life videos and tips for navigating college as an immigrant. Early Thursday, five federal agents gained entry to her apartment at 6 a.m. by claiming they were searching for a missing child, according to a petition from her lawyers and a statement released by Columbia's acting president, Claire Shipman. "The agents gained entry by stating they were police searching for a missing child," Shipman said in a video released Thursday night.

Son of Indonesia 'gasoline godfather' jailed in 17 billion dollars corruption case

WASHINGTON. (Agency)
An Indonesian judge sentenced the son of an Interpol-wanted oil tycoon to 15 years in prison on Friday in connection with a corruption scheme estimated to have cost the government \$17 billion.

Muhammad Kerry Adrianto Riza is the highest-profile defendant to be convicted in the sprawling scandal involving state-owned energy firm Pertamina. Kerry was found guilty of manipulating a lease and colluding with several Pertamina executives, according to a statement from the Attorney General's Office. "Muhammad Kerry Adrianto Riza has been proven in a legally and convincingly valid manner to have jointly committed corruption," Judge Fajar Kusuma Aji told the court on Friday.

After a nearly 12-hour sentencing, the court handed Kerry 15 years in prison and ordered him to pay a fine of approximately \$59,500 as well as restitution worth about \$173 million. Kerry's father, "gasoline



godfather" Mohammad Riza Chalid, is wanted for his alleged involvement in the same corruption probe, but has fled Indonesia. Interpol issued a red notice for him in January. The Pertamina scandal involved procuring low-quality imported fuel at higher prices, among various other corrupt practices, according to the Attorney General's Office.

At the same sentencing on Friday, Riva Siahaan, a former chief executive of a Pertamina subsidiary, was given a nine-year prison term. Indonesia has long struggled with graft and has arrested scores of public officials in recent years. In 2023, a former communications minister was jailed for 15 years after being found guilty of corruption in a case that investigators said cost the country more than \$530 million.

Airstrikes hit Afghan capital of Kabul, hours after Afghanistan attacks Pakistan

BASSETERRE. (Agency)
Pakistan carried out airstrikes in Kabul and two other Afghan provinces early Friday, Afghanistan's government spokesperson said, hours after Afghanistan launched a cross-border attack on Pakistan in the latest escalation of violence between the neighboring countries that made a Qatar-mediated ceasefire appear increasingly shaky. At least three explosions were heard in Kabul, but there was no immediate information on the exact location of the strikes in the Afghan capital, or of any potential casualties. Government spokesperson Zabihullah Mujahid said Pakistan also carried out airstrikes in Kandahar to the south and in the southeastern province of Paktia.

Two senior Pakistani security officials told The Associated Press that Pakistan's military carried out airstrikes targeting what they described as Afghan military facilities in Kabul, Kandahar and Paktia provinces, allegedly destroying two brigade bases, but they didn't mention any

potential casualties. The officials spoke on the condition of anonymity as they were not authorized to speak to media on the record. Afghanistan said its military launched its attack across the border into Pakistan late Thursday in retaliation for deadly Pakistani airstrikes on Afghan border areas Sunday, and claimed to have captured more than a dozen Pakistani army posts. Pakistan's government, which had described last Sunday's airstrikes as an attack on militants harbored in the area, described Thursday's Afghan attack as unprovoked, and dismissed claims that army posts had been captured. The officials spoke on the condition of anonymity as they were not authorized to speak to media on the record. U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres urges both sides to protect civilians as required under international law and "to continue to seek to resolve any differences through diplomacy," U.N. spokesperson Stephane Dujarric said. Afghan strikes were retaliatory



"In response to the repeated rebellions and insurrections of the Pakistani military, large-scale offensive operations were launched against Pakistani military bases and military installations along the Durand Line," Mujahid said in a post on X Thursday night. Afghanistan's Defense Ministry said the retaliatory attacks occurred along the border in six provinces. The two countries' 2,611-kilometer (1,622-mile) long border is known as the Durand Line, which Afghanistan has not formally recognized. Differing casualty figures The two sides reported widely differing

casualty figures. Afghanistan's Defense Ministry said 55 Pakistani soldiers had been killed, including some whose bodies had been taken into Afghanistan, while "several others were captured alive." It put its own casualties at eight killed and another 11 wounded. The ministry said it had destroyed 19 Pakistani army posts and two bases, and that the fighting had ended at midnight, about four hours after the start of the attack. Pakistan's Information Minister Attaullah Tarar, however, said the number of Pakistani soldiers killed stood at two, with three others wounded. He said 36 Afghan fighters had been reported killed. In a post on X, he said Pakistan was giving a "strong and effective response" to what he called unprovoked firing from Afghanistan. Mosharraf Ali Zaidi, spokesperson for Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, denied that any Pakistani soldiers had been captured. Later, in a post on X, he added that at least 133 Afghan fighters were killed and more than 200 wounded.

NEWS BOX

20 Lakh Devotees Expected in Navi Mumbai for Hind Di Chadar Event

Mumbai. (Agency)

Navi Mumbai is set to witness one of its largest ever religious congregations this weekend, with an estimated 15 to 20 lakh devotees expected to attend the Hind Di Chadar commemoration in Kharghar on February 28 and March 1.

The event, marking the 350th martyrdom anniversary of Guru Tegh Bahadur, will be held at Owe Ground in Sector 29. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is likely to address the gathering virtually, while Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and other senior leaders are expected to attend.

Authorities have rolled out a multi agency plan to manage the scale of the congregation. The Konkan Divisional Commissioner's office is coordinating preparations along with the Navi Mumbai and Panvel civic bodies, Raigad district administration and police.

Nearly 3,000 personnel will be deployed, backed by over 300 CCTV cameras and a central control room to monitor crowd movement. A one to two kilometre radius around the venue will be designated a restricted vehicular zone.

Heavy traffic inflow is expected from Mumbai, Thane and Pune. Diversions have been planned on the Sion Panvel Highway, particularly to regulate heavy vehicles heading towards the Jawaharlal Nehru Port area. Around 30 to 38 parking grounds have been earmarked, and more than 150 special bus services will operate to ferry devotees.

Civic authorities have installed nearly 1,000 temporary toilets and deployed over 500 sanitation workers. Drinking water facilities, lighting and power backup systems have been put in place. Accommodation for about 25,000 visitors is being arranged.

Krishna water reaches Tamil Nadu, AP has agreed to give 1 TMC

CHENNAI. (Agency)

Krishna river water released from Kandaluru reservoir in Andhra Pradesh reached Zero Point in Uthukottai on the state border around 9.30 pm on Wednesday.

A Metro Water official said the Water Resources Department (WRD) has requested the Andhra Pradesh government to release a minimum of 1 TMC, and it will be released till April. Also, there is a possibility of increasing the quantum of the release," the official said.

Release of Krishna water is part of an agreement (Telugu Ganga Project) between Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh governments. As per the agreement, the neighbouring state should release water from July to October, and January to April.

The official explained the water from the Zero Point will be taken to Poondi reservoir. "From Poondi, water will be diverted to Chembarambakkam and Redhills reservoirs. 1 TMC agreed to be released by Andhra Pradesh could meet drinking water needs of Chennai for one month. But, the five reservoirs that supply drinking water to the city have sufficient water, and will last till October-November," the official said.

At the same time, the Metro Water hopes that Krishna river water will help maintain the reservoir levels. Between July and October 2025, over 3.5 TMC was released from Krishna. At present, the five major reservoirs feeding drinking water to Chennai have a combined storage of 9,684 mcf, which is nearly 83.37% of their capacity.

As per Metro Water data, about 200 cusecs each are being drawn every day from Redhills and Chembarambakkam for supply.

'Online friend' fleeces 69-year-old businessman of Rs 2.65 crore; case booked

HYDERABAD. (Agency)

A 69-year-old businessman from Somajiguda was cheated of Rs 2.65 crore after investing in a fraudulent online trading platform.

According to Hyderabad cybercrime police, a woman, identifying herself as Ramya Krishnan, contacted the victim on Facebook and gradually built a rapport. She shared multiple WhatsApp numbers for communication, though she reportedly spoke from only one. Claiming she traded on platforms such as Polys Finance and PFP Gold, she told the victim she had invested Rs 50 lakh and earned high returns. She also persuaded him to invest in proposed ventures, including resorts and an apparel business in Kerala and Hyderabad. Trusting her, the complainant transferred money to various bank accounts she provided. To gain his confidence, she asked him to withdraw Rs 4,300, which was credited to his account.

The website later displayed his investments and profits in USDT. However, when he attempted to withdraw the amount, the platform demanded 15% of the total asset value as exchange conversion commission. After he refused, the website became inaccessible, and her phone was switched off. The victim later found that one of the WhatsApp numbers was registered in the name of Sneha Mahadevan, whom Ramya had claimed was her mother. "I later realised that the person, who introduced herself as Ramya Krishnan, along with others who created fake websites and showed lucrative returns in USDT, cheated me of Rs 2.65,32,000," he said.

Budget session of Gujarat Assembly: Congress stages walkout from Gujarat Assembly over 'poor' budgetary allocations for SC, OBC, minorities

Congress says no clear answers from the government, BJP MLAs call it a publicity stunt

Ahmedabad. (Agency)

Congress MLAs staged a walkout from the Gujarat Assembly during Question Hour on Thursday, alleging poor budgetary allocations for Scheduled Castes (SCs), Other Backward Classes (OBCs) and minorities, as well as underutilisation of funds.

The Opposition began a protest while Social Justice and Empowerment Minister Manisha Vakil was replying to questions regarding grants allocated to 10 boards and corporations under her department.

Speaking to reporters outside the Assembly after the walkout, the Congress alleged that the BJP's "double engine government" is against Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribes, OBC, minority, sanitation workers and all disadvantaged communities.

During question Hour, Congress MLA Shailesh Parmar raised a question on the budgetary allocations to as well as non-utilised funds by various boards and corporations under the Social Justice and Empowerment Department. He also sought the rationale behind the allocation of funds as he alleged that the funds allocated to these communities that

constitute nearly 68 per cent of Gujarat's population is not proportional to their numbers. Vakil then started listing the funds allocated and non-utilised during the last five years. "In the last five years, a total of Rs 2116.25 crore has been utilised by the 10 corporations and boards. In the year 2021-22, Rs 332.29 crore

Corporation which he claimed that in 2024, about 28 per cent of the allocation was not used. He also said 40 per cent of funds allocated to the Gujarat Minority Finance and Development Corporation, 35 per cent for the Gujarat Backward Classes Development Corporation, 58 per cent for the Thakor and Koli Vikas Nigam and 50 per cent for the Gujarat Gopalak Vikas Nigam remain unspent.

Even as the budgetary allocations are low, up to 50 per cent of funds remain unspent, he alleged.

However, Vakil clarified that the amount Chavda and others are referring to are up to December whereas the expenditure in terms of loan disbursements and others usually increases in the last months of the financial year.

Justifying the unspent amounts as only 'delays' due to incomplete documentation, she added that once these are complete loans are disbursed. To this, independent MLA from Bayad Dhavalsinh Zala and BJP MLA from Gandhinagar South Alpesh Thakor pointed out the issues faced by applicants of loans from SC and OBC communities.



was utilised, Rs 467.27 crore in 202-23, Rs 432.02 crore in 2023-24, Rs 640.68 crore in 2024-25 and Rs 243.99 crore until January in the current fiscal," the minister said.

Congress MLA Amit Chavda intervened and alleged that allocated funds remained unspent, citing the Safai Kamdar Development

BMC to be first civic body to mandate 'Vande Mataram' at official events following Centre's new rules

Mumbai. (Agency)

The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) on Thursday passed a unanimous resolution, making it mandatory that the six stanzas of India's national song — Vande Mataram — should be sung in all civic events in the future. The resolution was passed by Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) Ganesh Khankar, who is the leader of the house in the civic body.

Khankar's resolution aligns with the Union Home Ministry's 10-page order dated January 18, which mandated that the six-stanza Vande Mataram song, which is 3 minutes and 10 seconds long, be sung or played at any official ceremony or occasion.

The resolution has been sent to Municipal Commissioner Bhusan Gagrani for final approval. Khankar told The Indian Express that once the resolution is implemented, BMC will become the first civic body in the country to adopt the rule officially. "I have sent the proposal to the commissioner's office and have been following it consistently.

Usually, it takes a month for the commissioner's office to give a go-ahead to these kinds of proposals. However, in this case, I am hoping that the approval will come quicker," Khankar told. According to the resolution, the national

Furthermore, the Union Ministry said that if the national song and the national anthem, Jana Gana Mana, are sung or played together, Vande Mataram should be played first, and the audience should stand at attention during the song.

"Whenever the official version of the national song is sung or played, the audience shall stand at attention. However, when in the course of a newsreel or documentary the national song is played as a part of the film, it is not expected of the audience to stand as standing is bound to interrupt the exhibition of the film and would create disorder and confusion rather than add to the dignity of the national song," said an excerpt of the order. Bankim Chandra Chatterjee wrote Vande Mataram in the late 19th century in Sanskritised Bengali. The original version consisted of six stanzas. The song first found its place in his novel Anandamath, set in the late 18th century, when famine and rebellion tore through Bengal.



song will be sung at any event held at the civic corporation hall, during ceremonies such as Independence Day or Republic Day, and in other formal civic functions.

Surat: Workers' protest turns violent, cops fire tear gas shells

Bhattacharya was speaking to mediapersons after a meeting with people from West Bengal, including migrant workers, who are staying in Surat.

Surat. (Agency)

A protest carried out by 5,000 contract workers of Larsen & Toubro (L&T) working at the AM/NS (ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel) project site at Hazira, Surat

turned violent with several policemen sustaining injuries and many vehicles being set on fire. The workers demanded a hike in wages and a reduction in working hours from ten hours to eight. According to the primary investigation of the police, the protests were inspired by a video of workers in an oil refinery at Panipat which had gone viral on social media.

The police officials of six police stations and fire department teams reached the spot after learning about the incident. The police fired tear gas shells to disperse the

mob and detained several protesting workers.

Surat Deputy Commissioner of police Zone 7, Shaifali Barwal, said, "We are registering an offence of rioting and damaging

the property against the mob. We have detained about 20 people from the spot who were on a rampage. Presently, the situation is under control, and we have deployed police staff on the spot. Few police men including Hazira police inspector V L Parmar were

injured and their condition is stable."

"For the last two days, there was unrest among the workers of a refinery in Panipat. There were many clashes there too. Following this, WhatsApp videos of the L&T workers at Hazira also went viral this morning. As a result, a large number of workers gathered at the site. Initially, our police inspector was present at the spot and the police tried hard to convince them that their words would be heard. The police tried to assure them that the company would also sit with them and discuss any question which they had, but the situation went out of control. When they started pelting stones, we immediately took action and fired more than 35 tear gas shells to control the situation," she added.



Mumbai registers only 39 corruption cases in a Year: Is Corruption Really So Low in India's financial capital?

Mumbai. (Agency)

Mumbai, India's financial capital and home to the state's most expensive real estate and largest civic budgets, reported the lowest number of anti corruption trap cases in Maharashtra last year. Senior Anti Corruption Bureau officials say Mumbai's consistently low number of trap cases does not reflect lower corruption but points instead to significant under reporting in the city.

According to data from the Maharashtra Anti Corruption Bureau, 669 trap cases were registered across the state in 2025, leading to 989 arrests. Of these, Mumbai accounted for just 39 cases and 63 accused, roughly 6 percent of the state's total cases. In contrast, Nashik topped the list with 138 trap cases and 210 arrests, followed by Pune with 121 cases and 176 arrests. Chhatrapati Sambhajanagar recorded 109 cases with 160 accused, while Thane reported 82 cases and 124 arrests. Even smaller regions such

as Amravati and Nanded reported more traps than Mumbai.

The data also shows a structural decline in trap cases since the pandemic. Before Covid, the ACB registered 891 trap cases in 2018 and 866 in 2019. The number fell sharply to 630 in 2020. Since then, it has largely remained in the 600 to 700 range, with 669 cases recorded in 2025.

Disproportionate assets cases and other corruption categories have also fluctuated, but remain relatively low compared to pre pandemic figures.

Officials attribute the decline partly to digitisation of government services and improved surveillance systems. However, several serving and retired officers say the numbers do not necessarily reflect lower corruption. A senior IPS officer said the data does not represent the actual corruption situation in Mumbai. "It does not mean there is less corruption in the richest city of the country.

Ahmedabad civic body approves 'tea-snacks' bill worth over Rs. 16 lakh for AI Crash site teams

The teams were deployed at four locations including the crash site of BJ Medical College in Ahmedabad.

Ahmedabad. (Agency)

The Standing Committee of the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (AMC) on Thursday approved expenses worth over Rs 16 lakh incurred for providing refreshments to teams who had worked to search for bodies and cleared debris after the Air India flight 171 crash on June 12, 2025 in Ahmedabad. The teams comprising officers, employees and volunteers of social organisations had to be provided tea, snacks, water bottles, Amul milk and biscuits, the Standing Committee agenda listed. Adding that the agencies had submitted bills of Rs 16,74,405, seeking ex post facto approval for the above arrangements. The teams were deployed at four locations

including the crash site of BJ Medical College in Ahmedabad.

The other decisions taken in the Standing Committee of Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation focused on renewable energy and reducing the carbon footprint of the city by using floating solar panels on water bodies. Standing Committee Chairman Devang Dani stated that the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation is using renewable energy for the purpose of saving electricity. "At present, the Municipal Corporation spends about Rs 350 crore on electricity. To reduce this expenditure, it is now using 43 percent renewable energy, under which solar panels have been installed in all the buildings of Ahmedabad



Municipal Corporation," added Dani. "Apart from this, today's committee has given approval to the state government agency to get renewable energy by using floating solar panels on the water bodies of the Municipal Corporation i.e. Kankaria Lake, Sabarmati Riverfront and Lambha

Lake. On the basis of this tenders are being prepared and efforts are being made to get 100 percent renewable energy sources to the Corporation so that the Municipal Corporation moves towards net zero by the year 2028. With this, the Municipal Corporation aims to save Rs 3000 crores worth

electricity," Dani stated.

The standing committee along with the Heritage Committee, have approved the budget for the development work of the tourist places in the city. The committee has approved the development of places like Kankaria Lake, Atal Bridge, Sabarmati Riverfront, Jagannath Temple and Swaminarayan Temple. All the expenses have been approved by the state government.

Speaking about the new attractions of Kankaria, the Standing Committee Chairman said that in the coming days different types of rides will be installed inside Kankaria Lakefront, approving the construction of a candy museum at a cost of Rs 10 crore which will take a year to complete.

Deleting dad's name from birth certificate won't affect rights: Karnataka HC

BENGALURU. (Agency)

The Karnataka High Court directed the Chief Registrar of Births and Deaths, Bengaluru, to change the name of the minor girl as per the request of the mother, who wanted to remove the name of her abandoned live-in partner and add her name and her family name in the child's birth certificate issued on March 4, 2017.

The High Court held that the proposed change of the minor's name, while retaining the father's name in the birth certificate, does not affect substantive legal rights and is legally permissible. The insertion of the maternal derivative or family name in the birth certificate does not affect any substantive legal rights of any person. The biological and legal relationship between the child and the father, including the child's rights of inheritance, succession, and maintenance, remains unaltered. The change is one of nomenclature and identity that reflects the actual family environment in which the child is being raised, the court said.

Justice Suraj Govindaraj passed the order on February 17, allowing the petition filed by a minor daughter, represented by her mother, seeking directions to the Registrar for a change of name of an eight-year-old girl.

The HC stated that the mother, the sole custodial parent, has every right to determine the name by which her minor daughter shall be known. This is an aspect of parental authority that is recognised under law.

The mother's decision to give the child her own family name, particularly in circumstances where the father has abandoned the child, is a reasonable and rational exercise of parental authority and rational exercise of parental authority that serves the best interest of the child, the court added. The minor girl was born out of a live-in relationship of a couple from Nepal, at a hospital in the city in 2017. The mother applied for a birth certificate by showing her name as mother and her live-in partner's name as the father, which came to be issued on March 4, 2017.

Do not uproot India's West Asia moorings

Navigating geopolitical shoals is tricky business in international diplomacy. Realism prevails. But it is not as if actions become a matter of expediency and subject to personal whims and fancies, or that morality and legality of actions become irrelevant. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's overnight visit to Israel is a case in point. The visit is untimely, unwarranted and out of sync with regional and international politics. It is taking place at a time when the fog of war is descending on the state of Israel. The ministry of external affairs did not give a briefing on the visit. Perhaps, public accountability for foreign policy actions is no longer required. Or, perhaps, the geopolitical headwinds unnerve Delhi. What we know about the visit came from Tel Aviv. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu personally undertook the media management, calling Modi a 'personal friend', which is rather strange at that level. Netanyahu is a skilled and experienced diplomat and is very focused on what he seeks to extract out of anyone. Quite obviously, at a time when the world avoids socialising with Netanyahu, Modi's visit came like celestial manna to the beleaguered Israeli leader who is in a crucial election cycle that may take him to prison unless he retains immunity in office from prosecution. It is Howdy Modi 2.0. But why should it be obligatory on Modi's part? The India-Israel relationship has phenomenally transformed through the Modi years as one of Delhi's most strategic partnerships. For Israel, the more it gets shunned internationally, the more it needs to hold India's hands. Delhi has no qualms that Israel is an exceptionally brutal genocidal state, which is antithetical to India's ancient values of compassion and forgiveness. Israel violates international law with impunity. But Delhi is so opportunistic that Indian diplomats at the UN dithered at the recent voting on the Israeli plan to annex West Bank territory. They played safe by abstaining but signed up the very next day on the final statement. The flip-flop exposed Indian policy as unprincipled. Today, adherence to international law and the UN charter is a hot-button issue as Trump's 'armada' gathers around the Persian Gulf. These are extraordinary times. At the recent Munich Security Conference, the US Secretary of State Marco Rubio invoked the 'white man's burden' of the colonial era to deliver an encomium to five centuries of the West's 'missionaries, its pilgrims, its soldiers, its explorers, pouring out from its shores to cross oceans, settle new continents, build vast empires extending out across the globe'. European elites who came to listen gave Rubio a standing ovation. Such is the bizarre world we live in. Israel itself is blithely invoking Genesis to stake claim to all the lands between the Nile and the Euphrates.

There is a high probability that the US and Israel will attack Iran to advance a regime change agenda. This could happen close to Modi addressing the Knesset. Netanyahu thoughtfully proposed the flattering idea with a purpose. Again, according to Netanyahu, India would sign up to a so-called 'Hexagon of Alliance'—a proposed network of allied countries in or around West Asia that collectively stand against what he termed "radical" adversaries.

The Times of Israel quoted Netanyahu as saying, "In the vision I see before me, we will create an entire system, essentially a hexagon of alliances around or within West Asia." The visionary Israeli PM thereupon singled out India, Greece and Cyprus as the core participants of a civilisational alliance that shares similar strategic concerns. Netanyahu let the cat out of the bag by also elaborating that this bloc would stand in opposition to what he described as "radical axes" in the region including the "radical Shia axis" as well as what he visualises as an "emerging radical Sunni axis". One doesn't have to be a rocket scientist to figure out that Netanyahu hopes to team up with India against Turkey and Saudi Arabia. He must have heard somewhere that the Modi government is upset with Ankara's stance on Kashmir and with Riyadh over its defence pact with Pakistan.

A blueprint for all-round growth

The Viksit Bharat goal should be reset to make India a more inclusive society by 2047

MANY disruptive forces are colliding with each other to create radical uncertainty. Global governance institutions have broken down — the UN, World Trade Organisation, climate accords. Domestic politics is witnessing a churn in many countries. Wars are raging within and between nations. Artificial intelligence (AI) is set to disrupt business models in many industries. Climate change continues uncontrollably.

The old order has crumbled, and no one knows what the new global order will be. New lenses are required to make sense of what is happening. Also, it's time to think about the work that people will do in the future to earn adequate incomes. A popular view among economists is that India's economy has not grown well because its informal sector is too large. Also, the 'middle' is missing: too many small enterprises that do not 'scale up'. Too few women are employed for wages in the formal sector, and too many are engaged in family care and community activities. Such perceived weaknesses could be potential strengths of India's economy. Formal, large-scale enterprises are not creating enough good jobs even in developed countries. They employ more capital and technology to improve efficiency, reducing their needs for human labour and human intelligence. They also take caregivers away from families. Meanwhile, healthcare needs are increasing everywhere with ageing populations, along with mental distress and societal unrest caused among the youth by unemployment and insecurity over future earnings. Modern economies cannibalise human society to feed economic growth. Humans are included only as resources in economists' models, not as agents with independent wills and desires. Ordinary citizens in various countries seem to think that the 'liberal' policy-making intelligentsia has been manipulating them. They are unwilling to accept 'free market' prescriptions. The International Monetary Fund says that its 'tighten the belt and open for trade' agenda of economic reforms has been resisted everywhere since the 2008 global financial crisis. Albert Einstein (and others) have said that we cannot solve our problems with the same thinking we used when we created them. 'High frequency' indicators such as daily stock market fluctuations and monthly/quarterly variations in employment trends and the GDP only record storms on the surface of the ocean. They cannot reveal the deeper forces causing large and long-term changes. 'Big data

analytics' reveals interesting correlations; it cannot explain causation. One must look deep beneath the data to gauge the underlying forces interacting with each other.

Henry Ford, who revolutionised manufacturing by improving efficiency with the assembly line and standardised work, lamented that when he wanted only a pair of hands, he got a whole human being with emotions and demands for justice and social security. Machines and AI are more efficient. And they do not demand fairness. Human labour, human intelligence and even human creativity are being replaced by technologies. Capitalists may now increase profits unrestrained by the needs of their employees.



With technology, economic benefits shift from wages for human work to dividends from capital investments. This is the principal cause of the increasing economic inequality between the top 1 per cent, most of whose wealth is produced in financial markets and tech enterprises, and the bottom 50 per cent of the citizens who must work to earn and increase their wealth.

In the formal economy, only the work done in formal settings is considered productive — generally outside the home, to earn money and add to the GDP. Overall, women work more than men. But the work women do in informal settings, at home and in their communities, is valued less. Pulling women and others out of caregiving and informal work into formal economic enterprises contributes to the GDP. However, it reduces societal well-being. The economy improves; society suffers. The 'employment elasticity' of growth — the number of jobs created with each unit of GDP growth —

is going down. Formal enterprises create fewer jobs per dollar of capital invested. The employment elasticity of India's economy is one of the lowest among developing countries. This is tragic because India has the largest cohort of the youth needing employment: the country's potential 'demographic dividend'. In various societies, people are living well beyond the conventional retirement age with few sources of income; they need care. Mental health problems are on the rise among the youth, and they require care too. Caregiving is touted as the new growth sector for entrepreneurs who will provide care and wealth for investors too. The problem is: who will pay the enterprises for the services provided? Older unemployed people and younger underemployed ones will not have the money to pay for these services. Governments also do not have the resources required because they cannot raise taxes on corporates and wealthy people and yet must balance their budgets. The following solutions can make growth more inclusive and sustainable by creating more incomes and jobs for the youth and women as well as providing more affordable home-based care. These are ways in which India's economy can become an engine of its own growth. One, form more local, cooperative enterprises that increase the wealth of worker-owners faster than the wealth of stock market investors.

Two, create denser local economic webs composed of small enterprises in the farm, manufacturing and service sectors. Three, support local systems solutions cooperatively developed by communities to deal with their environmental problems.

Four, use capital frugally and promote enterprises that employ more people with better wages in all sectors, except where it is essential to have capital and technology-intensive production such as manufacturing of computer chips. Five, reform education at all levels to promote lifelong learning capabilities rather than skill development for specific jobs, because the nature of jobs and skills required will keep changing unpredictably.

Six, nurture enterprises that develop new capabilities faster, because that is the only way a nation can compete with others whose enterprises are also continuously improving their capabilities.

Seven, reset the goal of Viksit Bharat to make India a better and more inclusive society by 2047 that provides equal political, social and economic freedoms to all its citizens, whatever their caste and religion, and measure all-round progress rather than the size of the GDP.

HPV vaccination drive: A shield against cervical cancer

The World Health Organisation endorses HPV vaccination to eliminate cervical cancer

THE decision by India to roll out a nationwide HPV vaccination drive for 14-year-old girls marks a shift from prevention to prevention in women's health. By targeting adolescents before exposure to the virus, the government is taking aim at cervical cancer — one of the most preventable yet persistently deadly cancers among Indian women. The campaign, spearheaded by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, signals seriousness of intent. A time-bound, mission-mode approach can help overcome the inertia that often slows the inclusion of new vaccines into routine immunisation. If implemented effectively, it could shield millions of girls from high-risk HPV strains responsible for the majority of cervical cancer cases. Equally important is equity. The campaign must prioritise rural districts and underserved communities where screening rates are low and cancer detection often comes too late. The HPV vaccine has long been available in the private market and a few states



piloted limited public programmes over the past decade. Yet cost concerns, logistical hurdles and policy hesitations delayed a universal rollout, leaving coverage fragmented and inequitable. The World Health

Organisation endorses HPV vaccination to eliminate cervical cancer. More than 160 countries have already incorporated it into their national programmes. India's scale makes this rollout especially significant as success here would dramatically accelerate global elimination targets. Yet policy announcements must translate into public trust. Vaccine hesitancy, misinformation and sociocultural taboos surrounding HPV — often incorrectly linked solely to sexual behaviour — could blunt impact. Transparent communication, school-based outreach and involvement of community health workers will be critical. Last-mile delivery will determine outcomes as the vaccine must be ideally administered to girls before they are 16. This drive could become a transformative public health intervention. Preventing cancer before it begins is sound governance.

Equipping kids to face AI's brave new world

THE advent of artificial intelligence heralds a new era in humanity's progress. The enormous potential of this technology to benefit humans has to be weighed against the equal prospect of possible harm to society.

Even as the pros and cons for its development are debated, the AI models on our devices give a glimpse into the future. In my case, it was a harsh jolt when my phone's AI described a teenage girl in my photos as "sweet", like an online predator. The reality of the need for guardrails and safety is brought home in this tiny example even as one cannot forget the young man guided to suicide by ChatGPT. These are not isolated instances and there is a reason the last AI conference in Paris was called the AI Safety Summit. Concerns over the perils of unrestricted AI systems have created a strong lobby advocating a moratorium on AI development. It included Elon Musk at one time, though he is now well into the AI race.

Another leading computer science expert Stuart Russell, in interviews, has spoken of lab studies where AI systems have opted for killing humans rather than switching off. Women experts have also spoken of gender bias that has crossed over to these systems simply because most coders are men. The AI ecosystem, thus, needs to be viewed equally from a holistic and ethical perspective rather than merely in terms of computers, data centres and energy needs, models and applications. It also needs to consider an issue that has increasing resonance in emerging economies like India and that is, jobs. The AI Impact Summit in Delhi recently had much to say on this critical aspect that has been worrying the Global South. There are two schools of thought on this issue. One is that ultimately, AI will evolve to such an extent that most mundane jobs will be eliminated.

The other is that the nature of jobs will change as the need for different types of skills emerges with new technology, as it happened during the Industrial Revolution.

Representatives of the country's leading IT companies at the conference are in the latter category and sought to downplay concerns over the impact of AI on value-added services. Even as they were doing so, stocks of IT majors were tanking in domestic markets. Bears took grip after Anthropic announced its system, Claude Code, could do much of the tasks provided by these companies. The next announcement about Claude's enhanced abilities prompted a global sell-off. The immediate threat to the millions of workers in the IT industry is that tasks at the bottom of the pyramid are likely to be taken over by AI systems. The solution in the short run is clearly upskilling of the workforce to tackle the changing needs of customers. Yet the long-term problem remains of ensuring that the country's educational systems are geared up to provide students with the skill sets essential for surviving in the brave new world of AI. The challenge is not just in higher education. It is at the primary and secondary education levels, where sufficient investment has not been made to upgrade the quality of government school infrastructure.

The Annual Status of Education Report 2024 says children in classes III to IV struggle to deal with simple math problems. These are the students who will have to grow up to deal with a sophisticated AI ecosystem.

Efforts are under way, it has been reported recently, to introduce AI at all levels: from pre-primary to higher education. But these moves will only be successful if the quality of basic education and supporting infrastructure is made world class. Only then will it be possible to reap the benefits of the demographic dividend of a youthful

population. It is in this context that Google chief Sundar Pichai cautioned at the summit that the digital divide should not be allowed to become an AI divide. These are foundational issues which will determine whether India will retain its edge as a global hub for innovation and talent. Currently, 20% of the world's chip designers are



based in this country, which has made it easier to go ahead with the ambitious plans for semiconductor development. This competitive advantage will only continue to be available in future if the educational infrastructure is upgraded in time.

Despite the availability of talent, however, the complaint has been that we are still playing catch-up with the US and China. Yet the Delhi summit showed India is not out of the race as several LLMs (large language models) were unveiled that did not rely on foreign-based

architecture. The move towards sovereign AI was most dramatic with the launch of Sarvam AI's models, which are capable of real-time speech and deep reasoning across 22 languages. This was followed by Bharatgen's model, Gmani.ai, Tech Mahindra and Fractal Analytics' models. Several models are the outcome of the India AI

Mission, which has recorded notable success. On the investment side, the summit was fruitful, with over \$200 billion in AI and deep tech investment having been committed over the next two years. This includes sizable pledges from domestic players like Reliance and Adani group, while funds will also come from Nvidia, Microsoft and Google for a wide range of projects.

However, the government's own commitments are modest, with last year's budgetary allocation of Rs 2,000 crore having been halved in the latest budget proposals. The cut is puzzling at a time when investment in cutting edge technology needs to be stepped up. This is not the time to indulge in bureaucratic cost-cutting. Though billions of

dollars may be flowing in from Big Tech and home-grown conglomerates, public funding support is needed to maintain the momentum of success stories, like the India AI Mission. At the same time, a long-term vision dictates that investment on basic education must be enhanced along with a significant upgrading of infrastructure. Only then will it be possible for the next generation to deal effectively with the problems and perils of a future with AI.

Minor leaves home to continue studies, recovered safely

Shimla.(Agency)

In a rare but sensitive case reflecting the importance of education and parental understanding, a 14-year-old girl from Theog subdivision of Shimla district was traced and reunited with her family within two hours of a complaint being lodged.

According to police sources, Indra, a resident of Tehsil Theog, approached Deha Police Station on February 26, reporting that her daughter had left home around 12:30 p.m. on February 25 without informing the family. Acting swiftly, the police initiated inquiries and conducted searches at possible locations.

The minor was located safely at her elder sister's residence in Kokunala area of Kotkhai. She was brought to the police station and formally handed over to her mother after due verification.

During preliminary inquiry, it emerged that the girl had left home with the intention of continuing her education, as financial and family constraints had reportedly prevented her from pursuing further studies.

Police confirmed that no criminal incident had occurred. The prompt recovery within two hours highlights the alertness and responsiveness of the district police.

The incident also serves as a reminder to parents and guardians to encourage and support children's education. Denying young girls the opportunity to study could have emotional and social consequences, while constructive dialogue within families can prevent such situations.

Prompt action of Himachal police ensures safe recovery of minor girl

Shimla.(Agency)

Demonstrating swift action the Shimla district police safely traced and recovered a 14-year-old minor girl within two hours of receiving a complaint regarding her disappearance and reunited her with her family.

A police official said on Friday that a resident of Tehsil Theog in District Shimla, Himachal Pradesh, Indra reported at Police Station Deha on Thursday, that her daughter had left home without informing anyone at around 12:30 pm on February 25 and had not returned.

Acting promptly on the complaint, the police initiated immediate search operations.

After seeking information from the family members search was conducted and possible locations were identified.

During the search, the minor was traced to Kokoonala in the Kotkhai area, where she was found safe at her elder sister's rented accommodation. The police team brought the minor from Kokoonala to Police Station Deha and, after completing necessary formalities, handed her over to her mother.

"Preliminary inquiry revealed that the minor wished to continue her education. However, due to family constraints, her mother was unable to support her further studies. Consequently, the girl had gone to stay with her elder sister in Kokoonala so that she could pursue her education," said the police official.

Police officials confirmed and ruled out any criminal incident had taken place in connection with the minor.

CSKHPKV holds training on organic, natural farming for Kangra farmers

Palampur.(Agency)

Chaudhary Sarwan Kumar Himachal Pradesh Krishi Vishwavidyalaya (CSKHPKV), Palampur, organised a one-day training programme on 'Organic and Natural Farming' for farmers of Kangra district.

The programme was sponsored by the Regional Centre for Organic & Natural Farming (RCNOF), Ghaziabad, under the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India. More than 50 farmers from Bhawarana, Panchrukhi and Palampur blocks participated in the training.

The training was inaugurated by Dr Janardan Singh, Head, Department of Organic Agriculture and Natural Farming, who highlighted the importance of livestock-based resources and scientifically developed natural farming practices for sustainable production.

In his message, Vice-Chancellor Prof Ashok Kumar Panda emphasised that organic and natural farming are vital for sustainable agriculture, environmental conservation and enhancing farmers' income.

He reiterated the university's commitment to empowering farmers through scientific training, capacity building and promotion of eco-friendly farming practices to ensure long-term agricultural sustainability in Himachal Pradesh. Dr Kshitij Kumar, Training Coordinator, RCNOF, briefed participants on the objectives of the programme and ongoing national initiatives to promote organic and natural farming. Dr Rameshwar, Principal Scientist, welcomed the dignitaries and delivered a lecture on packages and practices of organic and natural farming. Dr Gopal Katna, Principal Scientist, spoke on marketing strategies for organic produce and selection of suitable crop varieties under natural farming systems. Dr Rakesh Chauhan provided practical insights into natural farming inputs and demonstrated the preparation and use of Jeevamrit, Beejamrit, Eupatorium extract and other organic formulations to improve soil health and crop productivity.

'Credibility deficit of Punjab Police': Gurdaspur MP Sukhjinder Randhawa urges Amit Shah for Central probe into 'encounter' of 19-year-old

Chandigarh .(Agency)

Congress MP from Gurdaspur Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa wrote to Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday, highlighting conflicting accounts surrounding the alleged encounter of 19-year-old Ranjit Singh. Randhawa also sought immediate central intervention and an independent investigation by either the National Investigation Agency (NIA) or the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) into the February 23 killing of two Punjab Police personnel at the Adhian check-post, citing a "credibility deficit of the state police."

Ranjit, a resident of Adhian village, was one of the three accused in the murder of two policemen in Gurdaspur, who were found shot dead at a checkpoint near the border with Pakistan. On Wednesday, Ranjit was shot dead in an exchange of fire with the police.

In his demi-official (DO) letter, written a day after the Punjab Police claimed to have solved the case through the encounter killing of one of the accused and arrest of another, Randhawa described the incident as a "serious blot on national security" and a "comprehensive breakdown of border management and the state's 'second line of defence'". This is Randhawa's second DO communication on the issue. The bodies of Assistant Sub-Inspector Gurnam Singh and Home Guard Ashok Kumar were found inside the check-post, about 2 km from the International Border. The Punjab Police

attributed the killings to an ISI-linked plot executed for Rs 20,000 by local men, with some Pakistan-linked outfits claiming responsibility on social media and a video of the shooting surfacing. Randhawa noted the timing of the attack, occurring amid heightened national vigilance following Operation Sindoor, India's



2025 military response to the Pahalgam terror attack. He expressed distress over what he called a "muted and inadequate response at the Central level" and "immature handling" by the Punjab Government, which he said has generated "avoidable confusion and deepened mistrust" among border communities.

"Truth is pursued without fear or favour" A key concern Randhawa raised in his letter was the police handling of the suspects. The Punjab Police claimed Ranjit was killed in an

"encounter" near Puranashala on the Gurdaspur-Mukerian road, while another was arrested. However, Ranjit's mother publicly stated that he had been picked up from their home earlier for questioning.

The Congress leader highlighted the "sharply conflicting public versions", stating they have created a "credibility deficit that the State police, acting alone, will find difficult to overcome". "In matters with potential national security dimensions, the appearance of procedural opacity can be as damaging as the reality," he wrote. Randhawa made four specific requests to Shah, including immediate transfer of the investigation to NIA or CBI "so that the truth is pursued without fear or favour" and public confidence is restored, given the cross-border linkages. He also sought a time-bound, independent review of the entire custody and encounter sequence, including apprehension, movement, supervision, medical and forensic trail, and compliance with legal safeguards. The Gurdaspur MP asked for necessary intelligence and investigative support from Central agencies to probe terrorist handler angles, underground facilitation, financing, and communications trails — domestic or trans-border. He also asked for a senior-level security review in the Gurdaspur border belt, involving Central and state formations, to rebuild confidence among personnel and citizens.

HC refuses to admit Sukhu govt appeal over delay in filing appeal in arbitral case

Shimla.(Agency)

The Himachal Pradesh High Court has refused to admit an appeal filed by the State of Himachal Pradesh, refusing to condone a delay of more than 300 days in challenging a single judge's order arising out of an arbitral award.

A division bench comprising Chief Justice GS Sandhawalia and Justice Bipin C. Negi held in an order released to media on Friday that the state had failed to furnish any "plausible and tangible explanation" for the long delay. As per the office report, the appeal was barred by 323 days, while the state's own application admitted a delay of 293 days.

"We are not inclined to hear the same on merits keeping in view of gross inaction as such of the state even in applying for the certified copy which was done after a period of almost ten months on September 16, 2025," the court said in a five-page order. The bench took serious note of the fact that the certified copy of the judgment dated November 5, 2024, was applied for only on September 16, 2025 — almost ten months after its pronouncement. The state contended that it had not been informed by the office of the Advocate General about the dismissal of its objections and came to know of the decision only after an execution petition was filed in July 2025. The court rejected this plea, observing that it was the department's responsibility to remain in touch with its counsel and monitor pending litigation.

The dispute pertains to an arbitral award dated January 31, 2024, which created a financial liability of Rs 66,35,351 against the state in relation to running bills for work completed on October 30, 2013. The state had challenged the award under Section 34 of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996, but its objections were dismissed by the Single Judge on the ground of a 23-day delay.

A night along the Pakistan border in Punjab, in the shadow of two murders at an outpost

Amritsar, Gurdaspur .(Agency)

The Punjab Police claims to have cracked the mystery behind the double murder of two police personnel at an outpost in Adhian village in Gurdaspur, near the international border with Pakistan, with the killing of a 19-year-old in an "encounter", and the arrest of another, on Wednesday.

A third accused was absconding, police alleged, adding that the three were acting at the behest of Pakistan's ISI. If that has set alarm bells ringing, though, there is little evidence of this on the ground, at the border outposts manned by police, located just behind the BSF's, and touted as the 'Second Line of Defence'.

A key concern Randhawa raised in his letter was the police handling of the suspects. The Punjab Police claimed Ranjit was killed in an



to Khalra in Tam Taran. Forty-eight hours after the murders of Assistant Sub-Inspector Gurnam Singh and India Reserve Battalion Constable Ashok Kumar at the Adhian

killings, DIG Sandeep Goyal denied there had been any negligence on the police's part, and alleged that the ISI had lured three local youths to carry out the attack, even while paying only "a small portion" of the promised Rs 2-4 lakh. The encounter, Goyal said, was "poetic justice".

The family of the 19-year-old killed in the encounter, however, has said he was picked up from his house by police and shot dead the next day.

Asked if there were adequate personnel at the police checkpoints, the DIG said: "The Punjab Police is a professional force. It knows its job, where to deploy checkpoints and how to deploy them."

The Punjab Police did not respond to specific queries by The Indian Express regarding what it found along the border.

Transfers should norms not patronage : Himachal HC raps state for arbitrary use of power

Shimla.(Agency)

Himachal Pradesh High Court has quashed a transfer order of the state horticulture department, calling it arbitrary and unconstitutional. A single judge bench maintained that transfer should be an established service norm rather than an instrument of patronage to adjust the preferred officer.

Single-judge bench of the High Court, presided over by Justice Ajay Mohan Goyal, on Thursday set aside the government's decision to transfer a state employee from his posting at Nankhari in the Rampur subdivision to Doda Kwar.

The petitioner who was Subject Matter Specialist (SMS) in Horticulture at Nankhari, had challenged the order stating that it was passed without administrative necessity and driven by the desire to accommodate other officers preferred by the government. In a firm ruling, reinforcing constitutional principles of equality and fairness in public service, the Himachal Pradesh High Court quashed a government transfer order, holding that the arbitrary use of administrative power to favour certain officers violates Articles 14 and 16 of the Constitution of India. The HC observed that the petitioner had been posted in Nankhari for only seven months. Prior to this, he had completed a full three-year tenure in Rohru, a posting that aligns with recognised administrative norms for rotational transfers. The State government defended the

transfer, asserting it was in the "public interest", but the court found no material on record to justify this claim. The official file lacked any reference to administrative exigency, departmental requirement or bona-fide reason for the order.

"The mere assertion of public interest does not suffice where the file discloses no objective reason, and administrative action appears to be coloured by extraneous considerations," the court said, invoking settled constitutional tenets that arbitrariness and equality are incompatible. The bench emphasised that State action must be founded on fair and lawful principles, and that unfettered discretion cannot substitute for reasoned administrative judgment.

In its reasoning, the court noted that the private respondents — those officers being transferred to Nankhari — were moved without entitlement to Transfer Travel Allowance (TTA), indicating that their transfer requests were self-initiated rather than emanating from departmental necessity. This, the court said, underscored that the reshuffle was designed to accommodate personal preferences rather than to meet organisational needs.

Citing Articles 14 and 16 of the Constitution, which guarantee the right to equality and equal opportunity in public employment, the bench held that administrative power must not be exercised in a manner that privileges some while prejudicing others without rational justification.

HP hoteliers want women-safe tourism guidelines to encourage 'solo trips'

Dharamshala .(Agency)

The Hotel & Restaurant Association, Dharamshala, has urged the Himachal Pradesh government to introduce focused policy measures to promote the state as a safe and women-friendly destination for solo travellers.

Association president Ashwani Bamba told UNI that with a growing number of women opting for independent travel, ensuring their safety, comfort and confidence has become a key priority for the tourism sector. He noted that Himachal Pradesh, known for its scenic beauty and hospitality, has strong potential to attract this expanding segment if robust safety mechanisms are implemented.

The Association has recommended setting up dedicated women tourist assistance desks, increasing police patrolling at major tourist hubs, installing CCTV surveillance systems, and strengthening emergency response mechanisms.

To enhance trust, it proposed a "women-safe accommodation certification" for hotels, homestays and guest houses to ensure verified staff, secure premises and women-friendly facilities, to be promoted through official tourism

platforms.

The Association also stressed the need for safe and reliable transport facilities, including GPS-enabled verified taxis, women-driven cab services, transparent fare systems and an effective grievance redress mechanism.

It further called for regular gender-sensitisation training for taxi operators, hotel staff, tourist guides and other stakeholders, along with stricter regulation of trekking and adventure activities through mandatory operator registration, guide verification and emergency support systems.

The proposal includes developing a dedicated digital platform offering SOS services, verified listings and real-time assistance for women travellers. Improving public infrastructure such as well-lit streets, clean washrooms and clear signage has also been highlighted.

Emphasising community participation, the Association suggested involving local women's groups in tourism-related activities such as homestays and cafés to foster a safer and more inclusive environment.

'Save your children': Chandigarh schools, Punjab Secretariat on high alert after bomb threat emails

Shimla. (Agency)

Chandigarh is on high alert after an anonymous email warning of explosions in city schools and at the Punjab Secretariat triggered swift precautionary measures on Friday as the police ramped up security at government establishments and schools and intensified security checks across the city.

The email contained phrases such as "save your children," and referred to explosions in "Chandigarh schools at 1:11," and a blast at "3:11" at the Punjab Secretariat, police sources said. Police officials, however, urged citizens not to panic, stating that standard safety protocols have been activated and no suspicious objects had been found during initial searches.

Delhi Public School, Sector 40, Bhavan Vidyalaya Chandigarh, and St Kabir Public School, Sector 26, reported receiving bomb threat emails. School authorities promptly alerted the police, leading to coordinated search operations and temporary movement restrictions within campuses. According to sources, the email reportedly carried a subject line warning of a "school bomb blast" and



was sent to official email addresses associated with the institutions. The content included provocative and inflammatory language, warnings to recipients to safeguard children, and specific times.

The message also reportedly referred to "justice for Hardeep Singh Nijjar" and contained claims that bomb blasts would take place in Chandigarh over the next two days,

alongside extremist slogans and rhetoric apparently aimed at creating fear, police sources said.

Police teams, bomb disposal squads and dog units were deployed at the affected schools. As a precaution, detailed checks of classrooms, staff rooms, corridors, parking areas and playgrounds were carried out. Staff present at the time were moved to safe locations while security personnel conducted systematic searches.

Security arrangements were simultaneously strengthened at key government establishments mentioned in the email, including the Punjab Secretariat. Additional personnel were stationed, and surveillance was intensified as part of standard precautionary protocol.

Senior police officials said that, so far, no suspicious material had been detected, but reiterated that all threats are treated seriously until thoroughly verified.

The cyber cell has initiated an investigation to trace the origin of the email, examining IP addresses and digital routing details. Officials noted that the structure and tone of the message bore similarities to previous hoax threats received in the region, though investigations remain ongoing and no definitive conclusion has been reached.

Chandigarh had witnessed a similar scare in January when around 30 private schools received threatening emails, prompting widespread searches that later turned out to be hoaxes.

JNU protest over UGC norms turns violent; cops accuse students of biting them

New Delhi.(Agency)

Police and students from Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) were injured on Thursday during clashes over a protest march to the Ministry of Education in Delhi, with both sides accusing each other of violence. Police alleged students threw shoes and bit officers, while students claimed they were manhandled and taken to "undisclosed locations." The protest, described as a "Long March," was announced by students to highlight their demands, including opposition to the recent rustication of student leaders, implementation of University Grants Commission (UGC) norms, and support for the proposed Rohith Act. Police said in a statement that they had not granted permission for the march outside campus grounds.

MARCH TOWARDS EDUCATION MINISTRY

Despite the advisory, between 400 and 500 students gathered and began the march from

campus. Around 3:20 pm, they moved toward the main gate in an attempt to proceed to the ministry. Police set up barricades in response to the approaching group. In videos obtained by India Today from Thursday's protest at JNU, students allegedly associated with the JNUSU can be seen slapping police personnel, abusing security staff, and throwing sticks at them. In one video, a PhD student named Nitish is seen climbing a wall inside JNU and allegedly instigating students, while also speaking about teaching the police a lesson.

In another video, a student identified as Shrey is seen allegedly slapping a police officer. A third video purportedly shows students abusing security personnel deployed outside the JNU campus and throwing a stick at a Rapid Action Force (RAF) jawan.

As tensions rose, barricades outside the campus were breached. According to a senior police officer, "Barricades placed outside the campus were damaged as the

situation escalated. The protesters pelted banners and sticks, threw shoes and resorted to physical assault. Some police personnel were bitten during the scuffle, resulting in injuries to several officers deployed at the spot," a senior police officer told news agency PTI.

More than 51 people have been detained and 14 arrested, while morning visuals from outside the Jawaharlal Nehru University campus showed heavy police deployment following violent clashes between students and police.

Earlier, police indicated that they pushed the protesters back inside university grounds. The situation resulted in injuries to about 25 police personnel, including several senior officers. The protesters, for their part, alleged that authorities used undue force, causing injuries to many students.

ASSAULT ON COPS SERIOUS: COURT

During the hearing, a female student claimed that four to five men in plain clothes dragged



her from the crowd, leaving blood clots and an injury on her arm.

Another accused said the claim that they were heading to India Gate was wrong, adding that they were marching to the Ministry of Education. The prosecution argued that it was not a peaceful protest and that violence was used. It added that students scuffled with police officers, who also suffered injuries.

The prosecution further submitted that the accused had protested on previous occasions as well and had used force. Four different

FIRs have been registered earlier.

The court noted that the police had submitted that around 300 people were marching toward India Gate without permission when barricades were installed.

"Assault on police officials is serious and cannot be permitted under the garb of a peaceful protest," the court said.

PROTESTERS TAKEN TO UNCONFIRMED LOCATIONS, CLAIM JNU STUDENTS

JNUSU president Aditi Mishra and former president Nitish Kumar were among 51 demonstrators detained after trying to leave the campus. Police stated that they had detained some protesters to maintain law and order at the university gates.

Several students claimed that after being detained, some protesters were taken to "unconfirmed locations." This allegation was also echoed by the university's teachers' association, which expressed concern for the detainees' well-being.

Delhi Police PCR team to get 500 body cameras; to enhance transparency, documentation

New Delhi.(Agency)

In a significant step toward enhancing transparency and accountability in policing, the Police Control Room (PCR) unit of Delhi Police is planning to procure over 500 body-worn cameras for its personnel, recognising the crucial role these devices can play during emergency response situations, sources said on Thursday. At present, the unit has 88 body-worn cameras in use. However, with the growing demand for greater operational transparency and reliable documentation of field interactions, the expansion is aimed at equipping a much larger section of PCR staff with this technology. According to the officials, the PCR staff is the first respondent to any emergency call.

"When PCR personnel reach the spot, it becomes extremely important to handle the situation professionally. The body-worn cameras serve several important purposes. During emergency calls, they can record events in real time, creating accurate digital evidence which can later assist in investigations, legal proceedings, or internal reviews. It helps establish facts, reduce disputes, and ensure a fair assessment of incidents," officials stated.

The unit has added 50 PCR vehicles to its fleet, taking the total to 857. Apart from recording evidence, these cameras can also document the conduct of police personnel. This feature is important for officers attending calls, as it can help address public grievances regarding police behaviour.

If any allegations are made regarding the conduct of a policeman, the camera recordings can verify the facts, thereby promoting professionalism and accountability. At the same time, the devices can also record the public's conduct, they stated.

Overall, the wider deployment of body-worn cameras reflects a broader commitment to transparency, fairness, and strengthening public trust, while also enhancing the operational efficiency of the PCR unit, they added.

The sources in the police department further stated that a recent manpower audit was conducted in the force, following which the PCR got over 200 additional personnel. This increased staff can help the unit to deploy three personnel in a vehicle and also to cover the hotspots in the capital effectively.

RAF at JNU campus to stop 'long march' of students against V-C remark

New Delhi.(Agency)

A call for a protest and the administration's response to it made Jawaharlal Nehru University look like a conflict zone on Thursday, as a heavy deployment of the Rapid Action Force (RAF) was stationed outside university.

The development took place hours before a "long march" called by the Jawaharlal Nehru University Students' Union (JNUSU) was scheduled to begin.

Student bodies of different political denominations wanted to march against the alleged casteist remarks made by university vice chancellor Santishree Dhulipudi Pandit on February 16. The authorities choosing to use a paramilitary force, rather than the usual and singular deployment of the Delhi Police, signaled a bigger intent on their part than mere control of a law and order situation. The RAF and the Delhi Police erected large barricades at key exit points of the university campus.

Student groups have been protesting for days in favour of the enactment of University Grants Commission (UGC) regulations addressing caste-based discrimination in higher education and implementation of the proposed Rohith Vemula Act. The proposed march on Thursday was intended to be the largest of these protests. However, the authorities seemed to be fully backing Pandit.

Several JNUSU members and other students started marching in the afternoon from the Sabarmati T-point, armed only with placards, banners and slogans of social justice. As they attempted to exit the gates, a heavy contingent of the RAF and the police blocked their way, forcibly stopping them and pushing them inside parked police buses. The police later detained 51 of them.

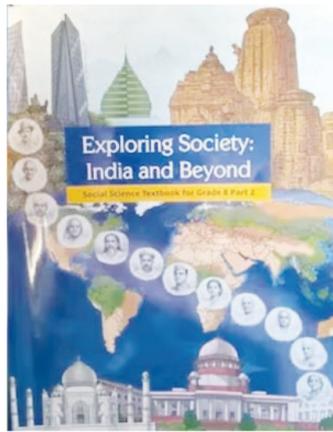
The Delhi Police later filed an FIR under multiple sections of the BNS justified its action, stating that about 400-500 students marched out of the main gate despite request to keep the protest inside and damaged barricades.

Govt asks I&B, MeitY to halt online circulation of NCERT textbook

New Delhi.(Agency)

The Union Ministry of Education on Thursday wrote to the ministries of information and broadcasting, and electronics, asking them to stop the dissemination of a controversial NCERT textbook through digital platforms and electronic media, officials said. The directive comes after the Supreme Court on Thursday imposed a "complete blanket ban" on any further publication, reprinting or digital dissemination of the NCERT's Class 8 social science book as it contained "offending" contents on corruption in the judiciary, saying "a gunshot has been fired and the institution is bleeding".

"While removal of physical textbooks and stoppage of their re-printing is being done by the NCERT and allied agencies, their dissemination through digital platforms and electronic media has to be stopped by the competent authorities - the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), and the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting," the letter said.



Earlier in the day, Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan expressed anguish over the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) coming up with a chapter on judicial corruption in its Class 8 textbook, promising to fix accountability and take action against

those involved in drafting the controversial portion.

Pradhan's remarks came on a day the Supreme Court observed that there appeared to be a "well-orchestrated conspiracy" to defame the judiciary. It imposed a "complete blanket ban" on the Class 8 NCERT book and ordered that all copies of it, physical and digital, be seized.

The NCERT's social science textbook for Class 8 stated that corruption, a massive backlog of cases and the lack of an adequate number of judges were among the challenges faced by the judicial system. After stern words by the Supreme Court that it will not allow "anyone on Earth" to tarnish the judiciary's integrity, the NCERT pulled the textbook from its website, with sources saying the government was livid with the controversial references in the book.

The NCERT on Wednesday also apologised for the "inappropriate content" after facing the Supreme Court's ire over the chapter, and said the book will be rewritten in consultation with appropriate authorities.

BJP's AI-Driven Strategy, "Assembly Charge Sheets" For 2026 State Polls

New Delhi.(Agency)

In a move to redefine digital campaigning, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has finalised a sophisticated, multi-layered social media strategy for the upcoming assembly elections in five states: West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Assam, and Puducherry.

The plan centres on the ethical use of artificial intelligence (AI) and hyper-local accountability through assembly-specific "charge sheets."

A Tale Of Two Strategies

The party has tailored its approach based on the current governance in the target states: In opposition-ruled West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, and Kerala, the focus is purely offensive. The strategy

revolves around exposing the perceived "failures" of the TMC, DMK, and LDF governments.



In NDA-governed states Assam and Puducherry, the campaign is defensive and celebratory, highlighting the achievements of the Himanta Biswa Sarma and NDA administrations.

Ethical AI: Innovation With A

Disclaimer

Breaking new ground, the BJP plans to use generative AI to create high-engagement content like Instagram reels, YouTube Shorts, and AI-animated stories. These videos will often feature caricatures or depictions of opposition stalwarts like West Bengal's Mamata Banerjee, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin, and Kerala's Pinarayi Vijayan to critique their policies in a satirical yet factual manner. However, conscious of the growing debate over "deepfakes" and misinformation, the party has mandated a strict ethical protocol. Every AI-generated video will carry a prominent disclaimer.

Rajya Sabha polls for 37 seats: Congress weighs firepower over formulas

With the Congress' Assembly strength having diminished in several states, more than two dozen contenders are lobbying intensely for the few available berths, as nominations open for 37 Rajya Sabha seats across 10 states ahead of March 16 polls.

New Delhi.(Agency)

As nominations open for 37 Rajya Sabha seats across 10 states ahead of March 16 polls, the battle lines are clearly drawn. While the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is expected to secure the lion's share, the Indian National Congress is likely to win around five seats from four states, two in Telangana and one each from Haryana, Chhattisgarh and Himachal Pradesh.

A senior Congress leader told India Today that the party has realised it lacks adequate "firepower" in the Rajya Sabha compared to the Lok Sabha, where strong orators have effectively held ground against the government while pushing the Opposition's narrative.

"Since our Rajya Sabha quota is limited, the party is considering sending strong

speakers rather than going strictly by social representation formulas of SC, ST, OBCs, minorities and women," the leader said.

With the Congress' Assembly strength having diminished in several states, more than two dozen contenders are lobbying intensely for the few available berths.

Telangana: High-Stakes Arithmetic

Telangana presents one of the most intriguing contests. For one Rajya Sabha berth, a party requires 40 MLAs. Congress currently has 66 MLAs, along with support from one Left MLA and seven AIMIM MLAs, taking its effective tally to 74, comfortably ensuring one seat.

However, the second berth could see a



tight contest. The Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) has 36 MLAs, though 10 of them are reportedly out of touch with the party leadership, which offers some relief to Congress. The BJP holds eight MLAs. If BRS and AIMIM join hands, with possible BJP backing, Congress could face a challenge for the second seat. Sources

indicate senior advocate and Congress leader Abhishek Manu Singhvi is likely to be renominated. There is also speculation around former Supreme Court judge Justice Sudarshan Reddy, who was earlier fielded by the INDIA bloc for the Vice-Presidential election.

Chhattisgarh: Repeat or Refresh?

In Chhattisgarh, more than a dozen contenders are vying for the lone Rajya Sabha seat as the tenure of Phulo Devi Netam comes to an end. While one section within the Congress favours repeating Netam, others argue this is the moment to introduce a fresh face. Nearly 15-20 prominent local leaders are under discussion, including.

JNUSU protest clash leaves police, students injured; FIR filed

Around 25 police personnel and several students were injured after clashes broke out during a JNUSU 'Long March' at the JNU gate. Police detained 51 protesters and registered an FIR alleging assault and obstruction.

New Delhi.(Agency)

Police and students were injured after clashes broke out during a march by the Jawaharlal Nehru University Students' Union (JNUSU) at the campus gate on Thursday, with both sides accusing each other of assault. An FIR has been registered, police said. According to the police, around 400-500 students gathered on campus for a "Long March" to the Ministry of Education as part of ongoing protests over issues including UGC regulations, rustication of JNUSU office-bearers and remarks by Vice Chancellor Santishree Dhulipudi Pandit.

Around 3.20 pm, protesters moved out through the main gate and attempted to proceed towards the ministry. Police stopped them at the North Gate and pushed them back inside the campus.

"Barricades placed outside the campus were damaged as the situation escalated. The protesters pelted banners and sticks, threw shoes and resorted to physical assault. Some police personnel were bitten during the scuffle, resulting in injuries to several officers deployed at the spot," a senior police officer told PTI.

Police said around 25 personnel were injured, including ACP Ved Prakash, ACP Sanghamitra, SHO Atul Tyagi and SHO Ajai Yadav.

An FIR was registered at Vasant Kunj North police station under BNS sections 221, 121(1), 132 and 3(5), alleging obstruction and assault on public servants. "We have detained some of the protesters. Some protesters are levelling allegations that police manhandled them which are completely baseless. Every single officer deputed there were maintaining law and order," the officer said.

JNUSU president Aditi Mishra and former president Nitish Kumar were among the 51 protesters detained, police said. Students, however, alleged that excessive force was used against them and claimed several protesters, including women, were injured. The JNU Teachers Association condemned what it described as "brutal use of force" and expressed concern that some detained students were taken to "unconfirmed locations".

The JNUSU also alleged that a portrait of B R Ambedkar was damaged during the police action. Videos of the clash circulated online, though PTI could not independently verify their authenticity.

NEW

Sachin Tendulkar impressed with India's intent in Zimbabwe win: Take this rhythm ahead

New Delhi. (Agency)
Indian cricket legend Sachin Tendulkar praised India's intent after their must-win Super 8 victory over Zimbabwe and urged the team to carry the same momentum forward. India stayed alive in the T20 World Cup 2026 with a commanding 72-run win over the Sikandar Raza-led Zimbabwe in Chennai, posting their highest total of the tournament and showing the urgency the situation demanded. Taking to X after the game, Tendulkar summed it up simply: must-win games test temperament, and India showed plenty. "Must-win games reveal temperament. 256 revealed plenty! Highest total of this T20 World Cup, and what stood out was the intent throughout the game today. Well played, India, take this rhythm into the next game. Congratulations to Zimbabwe as well on a great tournament!" With the pressure of elimination looming after their loss to South Africa, India responded with a performance built on aggressive batting and disciplined bowling to keep their semi-final hopes alive



HOW INDIA CONQUERED ZIMBABWE
Asked to bat first, India came out with attacking intent from the start. Abhishek Sharma, finally finding his form with some fresh and controlled intent, led the way with a brisk 55 off 30 balls, setting the tone early in the innings. Hardik Pandya then took charge in the closing overs, finishing unbeaten on 50 from 23 deliveries. Tilak Varma added late acceleration with a 44 not out off just 16 balls as India surged to 256 for 4 — their highest total of the tournament. Zimbabwe fought back through Brian Bennett, who remained unbeaten on 97, but lacked support from the rest of the batting unit. Arshdeep Singh's three-wicket spell ensured India stayed in control as Zimbabwe finished on 184 for 6.

CAN INDIA MAKE IT TO THE SEMI-FINAL?
The win significantly boosted India's net run rate and kept them in contention alongside West Indies for the remaining semi-final spot from the group. Their final Super 8 clash against West Indies in Kolkata now becomes decisive.

FIFA president says he has full confidence in Mexico as World Cup host despite cartel violence

MEXICO CITY. (Agency)
FIFA president Gianni Infantino said Thursday he spoke with Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum and that he has "full confidence" in Mexico as a host country for this year's World Cup soccer tournament despite violent incidents following the death of a powerful drug lord that left at least 70 people dead. Last Sunday, the Mexican army killed Nemesio Oseguera Cervantes "El Mencho", the leader of the Jalisco New Generation Cartel (CNGJ) sparking several days of violence. Cartel members burned cars and blocked roads in nearly a dozen Mexican states. "I had an excellent conversation earlier today with Mexico president, Claudia Sheinbaum," Infantino said. "I reiterated our full confidence in the host country and look forward to it staging



all scheduled matches there at what will be the most inclusive and the greatest FIFA World Cup ever. Mexico is set to host 13 World Cup matches, four of them in the western city of Guadalajara, in the Jalisco state, the central hub for the Jalisco cartel. "I spoke by phone with FIFA President Gianni Infantino; we continue working as usual to successfully host the 2026 FIFA World Cup," Sheinbaum posted on X. "We reaffirm our confidence in the country." Sheinbaum has vowed this week there was "no risk" for visitors, but on Thursday the World Cup diving event set to be held in a Guadalajara suburb next week was canceled over security concerns. Earlier in the week the Portuguese soccer federation said it was "closely monitoring the delicate situation" ahead of a friendly match against Mexico's national team in Mexico City. Infantino said earlier this week in Colombia that he was convinced that "everything will go as smoothly as possible." Besides the four World Cup matches, the western city of Guadalajara is scheduled to host an international playoff in late March. New Caledonia will play Jamaica and the winner will face Congo for a spot in the tournament.

The 15-minute Masterstroke: The video that rebuilt belief in India's dressing room

T20 World Cup: India bounced back strongly with a dominant batting display against Zimbabwe in the ICC Men's T20 World Cup. Following a 72-run win, Suryakumar Yadav revealed how the team management boosted their morale with a special video ahead of the fixture.

New Delhi. (Agency)
The Men in Blue finally returned to their domineering best during their second Super 8 fixture of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026 against Zimbabwe on Thursday, 26 February, at the MA Chidambaram Stadium in Chennai. India flexed their batting muscles in emphatic fashion, posting 256/4 in their 20 overs — the second-highest total in T20 World Cup history. — It marked a remarkable turnaround from their previous outing, where they were bundled out for 111 against South Africa and slumped to a 76-run defeat. This time, the Indian batting line-up — from the openers through to No. 6 — struck at over 150, scoring more than 20 runs

each, a first in T20 World Cup history. Abhishek Sharma led the charge at the top, bringing up his maiden half-century of the tournament with a fluent 55 off 30 deliveries. He was ably supported by Sanju Samson (24 off 15), Ishan Kishan (38 off 24), Hardik Pandya (50* off 23) and Tilak Varma (44* off 16), all of whom made significant contributions to the imposing total. Varma and Pandya were involved in a breathtaking 84-run partnership for the fifth wicket, which came off just 31 balls, as India surged past the 250-mark with ease. It was undoubtedly their most complete batting display of the tournament so far, especially after suffering repeated collapses in earlier matches.

Coming into the tournament, India's T20I success had been built around their formidable batting, having crossed the 200-run mark 15 times since the previous T20 World Cup. Against Zimbabwe, the Men in Blue rediscovered that aggressive edge, taking calculated risks rather than resorting to reckless slogging.

The morale-boosting clip The performance stood in stark contrast to their previous fixture, and captain Suryakumar

Yadav revealed how the team regrouped after the crushing defeat with the help of a special presentation prepared by the video analyst. He explained that the analyst had compiled customised slides for both batters and



bowlers, highlighting their performances over the past year. "We didn't think too much about what we did in the league stage or what we did in the last game in Ahmedabad. But thoroughly, we had a slide which our video analyst had made for all the batters and the bowlers of what we did over the year. We saw that slide, took a lot of positivity from that. When we came here, I think contributions from all the batters from top till number 7, I

think it was heartening to see," Suryakumar said at the post-match presentation.

Tilak Varma also shed light on the impact of the session, revealing how it provided the much-needed morale boost ahead of the must-win clash. "Earlier, we were shown what we had done over the past year. Before heading to the match, we had a 15-minute team video session where they showed everything we had worked on in the last year. Watching that video gave all of us a really good boost," Varma said in an interview with Star Sports.

How can India qualify for semi final? Meanwhile, despite the resounding win, India's journey in the Super 8 stage is far from complete. Their qualification hopes now hinge on their final Super 8 fixture against the West Indies in Kolkata, a contest that effectively serves as a quarter-final.

A victory in that encounter will secure India a place in the semi-finals, while any slip-up will bring their campaign to an abrupt end on home soil. With momentum finally on their side, the Men in Blue will be keen to carry this renewed confidence into the decisive clash.

No days off: Hardik, Dube's post-match bowl off leaves Sunil Gavaskar in awe

New Delhi. (Agency)
Hardik Pandya and Shivam Dube weren't ready to rest on their laurels and decided to practice on their bowling right after India's Super 8 win over Zimbabwe in Chennai on Thursday, February 27. The attitude from both all-rounders received praise from Sunil Gavaskar and Varun Aaron, who were happy to see the dedication from the duo to improve ahead of the crucial match against the West Indies.

The Indian batters were at their destructive best during the match at the Chepauk as the hosts scored 256 for four in 20 overs. However, the bowling wasn't up to the mark as Zimbabwe battled hard through Brian Bennett and got to 184 for six. Hardik conceded 21 runs in three overs and went wicketless. Dube was expensive, going for 46 runs in his two overs and picking up just one wicket. He conceded two no-balls and four wides during his spell. Hardik said right after being adjudged as the Player Of The Match that he was heading back to bowl and keep himself ready for the next match. Speaking to the broadcasters after the match, Gavaskar said that the duo could have opted to rest, but their dedication to improving was remarkable.

"And in this game, I think it's the bowling that was the thing that you needed to learn from,

which is why we saw Hardik Pandya and Shivam Dube putting in the hard yards after the match was done. Most of the time after the match is done, people want to sit in the change room, have a little discussion, have a little bit of fun. But I think that kind of hard work is something very, very impressive."



Gavaskar said that Hardik and Dube showed that they weren't ready to relax after the 72-run win, and it is a great sign for India moving forward. "Suryakumar said that the bowlers could have done a little bit better. And while the presentation was going on, I just walked towards the pitch. I was next to the pitch, and what one saw was Hardik Pandya and Shivam Dube still bowling with Morne Morkel there. They are making sure

they're getting ready for the next match. They're not sitting on the 72-run victory. They're not sitting tight on that. They want to improve, want to get better, and that's a great sign," said Gavaskar.

INDIA WANT TO WIN THIS WORLD CUP

One could sense at the post-match presentation that Hardik wasn't fully happy with his performance with the ball and Aaron echoed the same sentiment. The former pacer pointed that the dedication from Hardik and Dube shows how determined India are to win the World Cup.

"He's obviously disappointed with the way he went about with the ball today. He obviously bowled in the power play to get a wicket but he couldn't get it. In the power play, he is working on deliveries which he would like to work in the game. That's a great sign." "If you're working on your game, even after the game, and look, this is a World Cup game. He's scored a 50 as an all-rounder, and he's bowled three overs. The first thing you want to do is put your feet up and rest, but he's not doing that. This just shows how determined India is to actually win this World Cup," said Aaron.

Shivam Dube's bowling lacks confidence: Ex-India batter wants India to fix key issue

HUBBALLI. (Agency)
Former India cricketer Aakash Chopra has warned that India must address their sixth bowling option after Shivam Dube's expensive outing against Zimbabwe. Despite India's commanding win, Chopra felt Dube's lack of control with the ball remains a concern ahead of their must-win Super 8 clash against West Indies. India's batting powered them to a massive 254 against Zimbabwe in Chennai, but the bowling performance was far from flawless. Zimbabwe, led by a strong 97-run knock from Brian Bennett, still managed to reach 184 for 6 after a slow start, exposing gaps that stronger teams could exploit. Speaking on his YouTube channel, Chopra said India cannot afford uncertainty in their sixth bowler, especially with West Indies' explosive hitters awaiting them. Shivam Dube has conceded 113 runs in seven overs in the last three games. He



conceded 46 runs in two overs in this game, 32 runs in two overs in the previous game, and 35 runs in three overs in the game before that. The problem is that he is needed to bowl because he is the sixth bowler," Chopra said. "Tilak Varma and Abhishek Sharma's bowling is not going to work here. So Shivam Dube being so expensive as the sixth bowler is a problem. That means no one can have a bad day because you want only five bowlers to be used. If you need a sixth, Shivam Dube has no confidence whatsoever right now," he added.

SHIVAM DUBE'S BIZARRE SPELL VS ZIMBABWE

India's frontline pacers kept things tight, conceding just 66 runs in their 10 overs while picking up three wickets. But once the support options entered the attack, Zimbabwe began to find their way back. Shivam Dube had a particularly tough outing, finishing with 46 runs from his two overs, including two no-balls and four wides that helped Zimbabwe build late momentum. One moment captured the chaotic night for Dube perfectly. In the 15th over, his plan to bowl wide outside off-stump to Brian Bennett quickly unravelled into three wides, before an even more erratic delivery landed completely outside the pitch and was called a no-ball.

Pakistan need big win over Sri Lanka, favour from England to seal semi spot

New Delhi. (Agency)
Pakistan will need a commanding win over already-eliminated Sri Lanka and a favour from England to keep their semifinal hopes alive in the T20 World Cup when they play their final Super 8 match here on Saturday. Co-hosts Sri Lanka have already crashed out of the semifinal race after Super 8 defeats to England and New Zealand, while England have sealed their place in the last four.

Pakistan, placed third in the table, are locked in a battle with New Zealand for the second and final berth, but the Kiwis are in a far stronger position than Agha's side. With three points and a vastly superior net run rate of 3.050, New Zealand are in pole position compared to Pakistan's solitary point from two matches and a negative NRR of -0.461. But all hope is not lost for Pakistan, who can still qualify if England thrash New Zealand by a huge margin on



Friday and Agha's men, in turn, beat Sri Lanka just as comprehensively. However, it would be a big ask for Pakistan's batters and bowlers to put together a clinical show, having largely misfired in the tournament. Sahibzada Farhan stands head and shoulders above the rest with 283 runs at 70.75, including one century and two fifties, at a strike rate of 158.10. But beyond him, no other specialist batter in the Pakistan camp has crossed three figures in

this T20 World Cup. All-rounder Shadab Khan, whose role in the side has sparked a heated debate between two prominent former cricketers, has the second-best tally with 111 runs.

While skipper Agha (44 runs), Saim Ayub (70) and star batter Babar Azam (91) have only disappointed, Pakistan will have their hopes pinned on the dangerous Fakhar Zaman to deliver the goods.

Usman Tariq's 10 wickets have offered Pakistan some hope in the bowling department, along with Shaheen Shah Afridi showing signs of form against England, albeit in a game he could not turn around on his own.

For Sri Lanka, it will be imperative to give their passionate fans a win in their final appearance in the tournament. The last time Sri Lanka were co-hosts, they had finished as runner-up in 2011.

ENG vs NZ: Pakistan hold their breath as New Zealand chase semi-final spot

T20 World Cup: Pakistan will be keeping a close eye on the contest in Colombo as New Zealand and England lock horns in the Super 8 clash on Friday, February 27. A win for the Blackcaps will seal their spot and eliminate Pakistan from the tournament.

New Delhi. (Agency)
"When South Africa and the West Indies were battling it out in Ahmedabad, Arshdeep Singh revealed how the Indian team were glued on to the TV, watching the game closely. This is a similar situation that the Pakistan side will also be doing on Friday, February 27, as New Zealand and England will be facing off in the Super 8 clash at the

R. Premadasa stadium in Colombo. The Super 8 Group 2 match between England and New Zealand will be played at the R. Premadasa stadium in Colombo. The match will get underway at 7 pm IST. JioHotstar and Star Sports will provide livestreaming and TV coverage of the match.

The equation is simple for Salman Ali Agha and his men after their loss to England. Pakistan (NRR -0.461) must beat Sri Lanka by around 70 runs in their final match — and also hope England defeat New Zealand. England's winning margin will directly impact Pakistan's chances. If the England vs New Zealand game is washed out, the Kiwis go through. If England win by 20 runs, Pakistan would then need a 50-run victory over Sri Lanka to reach the semi-finals. With this in mind, the Blackcaps will be looking to get the job done against Harry Brook and their men to go through. Even a hard-fought loss can end up being enough for New Zealand at the end of the day, but



having been edged out in the 2024 T20 World Cup group stage by Afghanistan, Mitchell Santner's side will know that it is always better to keep destiny in your own hands.

BUTTLER WOES
When it comes to T20 cricket and the T20 World Cup, Jos Buttler is rightfully considered to be a legend. The former England skipper has single-handedly taken

games away from sides with the bat and has been dangerous for England right at the top of the order. However, in the ongoing ICC event, the wicketkeeper has just struggled to get going. In six matches, they have scored 62 runs in six matches with an average of 10.33 and a strike-rate just above 110. England has struggled for that one explosive start at the top and it has been directly connected to Buttler's form.

Harry Brook and Tim Southee have come in to defend the wicketkeeper, saying that it is all about just one game to change the tide. "I've played with Jos and played a lot against Jos. He's one of the most dangerous white-ball batters to have played the game. I think when you're that good and you have a little blip then I guess you feel a little bit more pressure, but he's hitting it as well as he has in the nets. I'm sure he's only a couple of good strikes away." Buttler has a decent record against the Blackcaps.

Apple Pay to make India entry, engages leading banks, card networks

New Delhi.(Agency)

Apple is preparing to introduce its digital payment service -- Apple Pay -- in India, as the company holds discussions with leading Indian banks and global card networks. According to a report, Apple is in talks with ICICI Bank, HDFC Bank, and Axis Bank, and may roll out the service in the country by mid-2026. The company is also discussing its plans with payment networks Mastercard and Visa Inc.

India's digital payments market is already crowded with major global players like Google Pay, Walmart-controlled PhonePe, and Amazon.com, alongside strong domestic competitors like Paytm.

However, India's payments ecosystem is dominated by the Unified Payments Interface (UPI), which allows customers to instantly transfer money and pay bills without transaction charges. The core difference between Apple Pay and UPI lies in their structure and functionality. Apple Pay is a hardware-integrated digital wallet, while UPI is a bank-to-bank transfer protocol. In simple terms, UPI-based apps such as PhonePe or Google Pay allow users to scan QR codes to transfer money directly between bank accounts. Apple Pay, by contrast, uses near-field communication (NFC) technology to transform an iPhone into a contactless credit or debit card, enabling users to tap to pay at retail terminals without opening an app. Security mechanisms also differ significantly -- UPI requires a manual four- or six-digit PIN for each transaction, whereas Apple Pay relies on biometric authentication such as Face ID or Touch ID for instant authorization.

With more than 750 million smartphone users and strong government backing for digital payments, India has become one of the world's fastest-growing digital payments markets. This presents a significant opportunity for Apple to expand its services revenue in the region. Given the widespread adoption of mobile payments, the launch of Apple Pay could also drive demand for Apple's hardware ecosystem, as the feature is integrated into Apple Watches, iPhones, iPads, and Macs.

Apple has steadily increased its market share to around 10% of India's smartphone sales, leaving considerable room for further growth. Additionally, the company is strengthening India's role as a key manufacturing hub, exporting iPhones to the United States as part of its strategy to diversify production beyond China.

Raptee.HV launches high voltage EV T30; plans delivery centres in Chennai, Bengaluru

New Delhi.(Agency)

Chennai-based electric motorcycle startup Raptee.HV launched India's first high-voltage electric vehicle, T30, on Thursday here as the company plans to set up its delivery centre in the city's Velachery area and in Bengaluru by March or April. Raptee's parent company, Raptee Energy Private Ltd, plans to delivery of its EV bikes in Kochi, Hyderabad, Pune and Gurugram cities by the FY27, and aims to expand it to tier-2 cities by FY28. Dinesh Arjun, CEO and co-founder, told TNIE, "The company is rolling out its bike to first 15 customers, and gradually we will delivery to other customers. We have 1,000 booked customers in Chennai and another 7,000 who are in other geographies in the country. We want to grow in cities where we can have service centre set up. The company is the finalising of delivery and service centre facility in Bengaluru, which is expected to happen by March or April. We have finalised dealers." The vehicle has two different variants -- T30 and T30S -- with three separate colours. The company will deliver T30S, which is sportier in lookwise, in the next one week. The company provides eight-year battery warranty and three-year vehicle warranty with free services for the first year. It is founded by ex-Tesla employee Dinesh Arjun, Karthikeyan Adhikesavan, Keerthivasan Ravi, and Phunith Kumar Viswanathan in 2018-19 when it was an original equipment manufacturer (OEM) providing design, R&D support and supplying components to some of the big players in the industry.

Hyatt expects to five-fold its India footprint over next five years: CEO

New Delhi.(Agency)

Hyatt Hotels expects to quintuple its India footprint over the next five years, its chief executive said on Friday, as the US hotel operator bets on a surge in domestic travel and rising consumer spending in the world's most populous nation.

Global hotel chains are racing to expand in India, riding a post-pandemic rebound in leisure travel among wealthier consumers.

"Given the growth of the industry, I would say that in five years' time, we should have five times the number of hotels that we have today, because that's what the market would warrant," Hyatt Hotels President and CEO Mark S Hoplamazian said at the HOPE conference in Goa.

Hyatt, which operates 55 hotels in India across cities including New Delhi, Mumbai and Bengaluru, had earlier set a target of expanding its network to 100 properties by 2030. Globally, Hyatt has more than 1,400 hotels. India's population growth, rapid urbanisation and rising travel aspirations are driving an industry expected to nearly double to \$55.7 billion by 2031 from \$23.5 billion in 2025, according to consultancy Mordor Intelligence.

Rivals are also expanding. Hilton Worldwide last year said it plans to quadruple its India pipeline of hotel rooms over five years, while Leela Hotels on Friday said its fiscal 2027 outlook depends on affluent demand and a shortage of luxury rooms in the country.

What are Life Cycle Funds and how can they make your retirement planning easier

Life cycle funds are designed to adjust their asset allocation automatically as an investor moves closer to a specific goal, usually retirement.

New Delhi.(Agency)

India's mutual fund rulebook is changing, and one of the most important additions is the introduction of life cycle funds. Under its latest circular on scheme categorisation and rationalisation, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has allowed fund houses to offer this new category aimed at longterm goals such as retirement. The move is expected to make investing simpler, especially for people who do not want to constantly adjust their portfolios.

A SHIFT TOWARDS GOALBASED INVESTING

Sebi's revised framework focusses on giving fund managers more flexibility while also making schemes clearer for

investors. Life cycle funds stand out because they automatically change how money is invested over time, depending on how far an investor is from their financial goal. This approach addresses a key limitation seen in many traditional retirement products, where asset allocation remains fixed and may not reflect changing risk needs as retirement approaches. Radhika Gupta, Managing Director and CEO of Edelweiss Mutual Fund, said the change is part of a broader evolution in India's investment ecosystem. She wrote on X, "Over the last few years, Sebi has meaningfully expanded what asset managers can do. Debt passive regulations, Specialised Investment Funds, and now Life Cycle Funds are good examples. These aren't cosmetic changes, rather they widen the solution set. It's genuinely one of the most exciting times to be building in this business." HOW LIFE CYCLE FUNDS WORK

Life cycle funds are designed to adjust their

asset allocation automatically as an investor moves closer to a specific goal, usually retirement. In the early years, these funds invest more heavily in equities, which offer higher growth potential but also come with higher risk.



As the goal gets closer, the fund gradually shifts more money into safer options such as bonds and other fixed income instruments. This helps reduce market volatility and protects accumulated savings. Because the allocation changes automatically, investors do not need to keep rebalancing their portfolios

themselves. This can help maintain discipline and avoid emotional decisions during market ups and downs.

Gupta highlighted this benefit, saying, "The introduction of Life Cycle Funds under the new scheme categorisation framework is a big step for goalbased investing. Asset allocation automatically aligns to an investor's time horizon, gradually moving from equity to lowerrisk assets as the goal nears. That reduces the need for constant decisionmaking, keeps investors disciplined, and does so within a taxefficient structure. Simple in concept. Powerful in outcome. And very practical for longterm financial planning."

WHY THIS MATTERS FOR INVESTORS

Many investors struggle with deciding when to move from highgrowth assets like equities to safer instruments. Moving too early may reduce returns, while moving too late may expose savings to sudden market falls.

Block's 4,000 job cuts: Why layoffs are no longer a sign of crisis

Block said it would cut more than 4,000 jobs, nearly half its workforce, reducing staff from over 10,000 to just under 6,000. This was not a company in distress. It was a company growing.

New gency)

Layoffs at a company usually spelled trouble. Investors worried. Employees feared the worst. It was a sign that something was wrong. Sales had slowed. Losses were mounting. A company was under pressure.

But that old signal is starting to blur. Talk of artificial intelligence replacing workers felt like a future risk. Economists debated it. Executives discussed it. Employees worried about it. Block said it would cut more than 4,000 jobs, nearly half its workforce, reducing staff from over 10,000 to just under 6,000. The announcement sent

shares of the payments firm up 25% in after-hours trading.

Chief Executive Jack Dorsey was direct in his message. "We're not making this decision because we're in trouble. Our business is strong," he wrote. Gross profit continues to grow and profitability is improving, he said, but "something has changed".



That change, according to Dorsey, is artificial intelligence.

AI-DRIVEN OVERHAUL

Block said the job cuts are part of a wider overhaul to embed artificial intelligence across its operations.

"Intelligence tools have changed what it means to build and run a company. We're already seeing it internally. A

significantly smaller team using the tools can do more and do it better," Dorsey said in a statement. He added, "I don't think we're early to this realisation. I think most companies are late." In a post on X, he said the company chose one deep round of layoffs instead of repeated smaller cuts over time. Repeated rounds, he argued, damage morale and trust. A smaller organisation, he said, would allow Block to grow "on our own terms" rather than react to market pressure. The company expects to incur between \$450 million and \$500 million in restructuring charges.

GROWTH AND CUTS AT THE SAME TIME

Block's financial performance adds to the shift in narrative.

The company posted adjusted earnings of 65 cents per share for the quarter ended December 31, up from 47 cents a year earlier. Gross profit rose 24%, helped by a 33% jump in its Cash App business. For the first quarter, Block forecast gross profit growth of 22% to \$2.80 billion.

Rs 583 crore returned, full-page ads out -- is IDFC First Bank's trust push enough

New Delhi.(Agency)

IDFC First Bank is trying to turn one of its toughest moments into a display of transparency. Days after a suspected Rs 590-crore insider-job fraud involving Haryana government accounts came to light, the bank not only refunded the entire amount with interest, but also took the unusual step of splashing a full-page advertisement across major newspapers under the headline, "Living By Customer-First Principles. When it matters most." The ad did more than announce the reimbursement. It reproduced the bank's stock exchange filing and stressed that the money had been paid back even though the investigation was still underway. It framed the decision as a natural extension of the bank's customer-first

DNA and presented the bank as a principled institution. It also listed financial metrics and credit ratings to reassure readers of the bank's strength. This was a deliberate, aggressive communication strategy. Most banks retreat into silence during crises. IDFC First Bank chose the opposite. It leaned in, drew attention to itself, and tried to seize control of the story. In pure optics, it was an attempt to convert a reputational crisis into a trust-building opportunity. But the polished advertisements and strong messaging cannot change the underlying fact that a fraud of this size happened inside the bank. It was not an external cyberattack or an outsider hacking into accounts. This was an inside job involving collusion, government funds and a

failure of internal controls. The incident surfaced only when a government department attempted to close an account and noticed discrepancies. For all the marketing heft, the breach raises uncomfortable questions about oversight, detection and culture inside the institution.

CAN IDFC FIRST BANK'S APPROACH REBUILD TRUST?

Dr Jones Mathew, Professor of Marketing and Principal at Great Lakes, Gurugram, said this episode attacks the psychological foundation on which banking relationships rest. "A bank is a custodian of the customer's money. Money is more than currency. It is safety, self-confidence and self-esteem. All of this is based on implicit trust," he told India Today.in.

Sensex opens 277 points lower, Nifty below 25,400; Infosys up 2%

New Delhi.(Agency)

Benchmark stock market indices opened lower on Friday, as auto and FMCG shares recorded losses in early trade. However, IT stocks gained against some resistance to the downward movement.

The S&P BSE Sensex was down by 389.29 points to 81,866.32, while the NSE Nifty50 lost 154.55 points to 25,342.00 as of 9:50 am.

Dr. VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Investments Limited, said that at the index level the market has been on a consolidation mode for three months now, without any significant breakouts or breakdowns. But within the index, there are significant up moves and down moves. Last one month alone saw a huge 20% cut in Nifty IT index following the Anthropic shock," he added. At the opening bell, IT stocks traded higher in early trade. Eternal Ltd led the Sensex gainers, rising 1.64%. It was followed by Infosys Ltd, which gained 1.47%. HCL Technologies Ltd moved up 1.25%, while Tech Mahindra Ltd added 0.75%. Tata Consultancy Services Ltd also opened higher, rising 0.46%.



UltraTech Cement Ltd saw the sharpest fall, dropping 2.19%. Hindustan Unilever Ltd declined 1.71%, Bharti Airtel Ltd was down 1.37%, Maruti Suzuki India Ltd slipped 1.31%, and Bajaj Finserv Ltd fell 1.29% in early trade.

If we extend this to the last one year, some interesting trends are discernible. While Nifty delivered 13% return during the last one year, six stocks in the index delivered above 50% return with Striram Finance leading from the front with 92% return. Perhaps more importantly, five stocks in the Nifty delivered above 20% negative returns during this period. The significant takeaway from this divergent performance is that this is a stock picker's market. This trend is like continue. Therefore, the focus of the investors has to stock-specific, rather than big index level movements. From the valuation perspective, financials are fairly priced.

Silver jumps over Rs 8,000: Time to invest, hold or sell

Silver shot up by over Rs 8,000, marking a fresh high in recent trading. With momentum high but volatility looming, the big question is: is it time to invest or sell

New Delhi.(Agency)

Silver has been on a remarkable journey since the start of 2026, shooting up at a meteoric pace and capturing the attention of investors across India. The metal began the year on a strong upward trajectory, riding high on persistent supply shortages and surging industrial demand. According to I Finance Research, silver surged an astonishing 122% in 2025, fuelled by a fifth consecutive year of supply deficits and increasing consumption in sectors like solar energy and electronics. Despite the impressive gains, silver has now entered a consolidation phase, as investors pause to evaluate the market and prices stabilise after last year's steep rise. On February 27, silver was trading at Rs 267,631, up Rs 8,031 or 3.09%, signalling

that while momentum remains, the metal is taking a breather. Gold, meanwhile, continued to hold its ground at Rs 160,375, rising Rs 666 or 0.42%.

SILVER SEES CORRECTION, LONG-TERM STILL BULLISH

Ponmudi R, CEO of Enrich Money, said, "COMEX Silver is trading near \$85-\$90 after retracing from highs above \$121. Despite the correction, the higher timeframe bullish structure remains intact. Strong buying interest is visible in the \$70-\$75 support zone. A sustained recovery above \$92-\$96 may re-establish upward momentum toward \$100-\$105. Industrial demand fundamentals and supply constraints continue to support the medium- to long-term outlook, though short-term volatility may persist."

He added, "MCX Silver futures are trading in the 2,50,000-2,60,000 band following consolidation. While the broader long-term bullish bias remains valid, near-term price action reflects corrective

undertones. Key structural support is positioned at 2,25,000-2,35,000. A sustained hold above this zone could pave the way toward 3,00,000-3,25,000 in the medium term. A decisive break below



support, however, may intensify short-term pressure."

PRECIOUS METALS RALLY SHOWS UNEVEN TRENDS

According to I Finance Research, the rally in precious metals has been uneven. Gold has held its gains on multiple structural supports, while silver surged more sharply due to tightening supply and rising

industrial demand. For 2026, silver is given a neutral outlook with a risk rating of 3/5. Positive drivers include multi-year supply deficits, rising industrial demand in solar and electronics, and China's supply restrictions. On the other hand, risks include a stronger US dollar and profit-taking after last year's extraordinary 122% gain.

Animesh Hardia, SVP of Quantitative Research at I Finance, said, "2025 rewarded people who chased narratives. 2026 is a different game. Rate cuts are slowing, geopolitical risks are recurring rather than one-off, and India is at an inflexion point. The investors who do well this year will be the ones who understand which macro phase we're in and position accordingly. The data says India has transitioned from slowdown to recovery. The asset allocation needs to reflect that shift before it becomes obvious."

WHAT THIS MEANS FOR INVESTORS

For investors, silver's current consolidation indicates a pause after last year's extraordinary gains.



Uorfi Javed

Wears A Cake Dress, Internet Asks 'Iske Ke Andar Ghusi Kaise?'

Uorfi Javed's unique fashion choices always get the internet talking, and she has done it once again. This time, she wore a dress made from an actual cake, and yes, it was just as surprising as it sounds. What truly stands out about Uorfi is not just her bold ideas but the confidence with which she carries them. She does not just wear unusual outfits, she owns them, and this cake dress was no different.

Uorfi Javed Makes A Cake Her Outfit And We Are Shocked

Uorfi Javed stepped out for an event in what looked like a dramatic black strapless gown. At first glance, the outfit appeared heavy and sculpted, with beautiful detailing that instantly grabbed attention. Uorfi kept her styling on point with sleek hair and soft makeup, letting the outfit do all the talking as she confidently posed for the cameras.

But there was a surprising twist. The dress was actually made from cake. In the paparazzi video, Uorfi was seen posing as usual when someone from her team cut a slice straight out of her dress. As the cake was being cut, she told the photographers, "This is India's first wearable cake dress." The moment ended



with cheers from both Uorfi and the paparazzi, turning the entire act into a fun and unforgettable fashion moment.

In another paparazzi video, Uorfi was also seen feeding a piece of the cake to one of the photographers. While doing so, she jokingly told the paparazzi, "Usko aana padega khane ko, main nahi ja sakti," which instantly made everyone laugh and added a fun, playful moment to the whole interaction.

Internet Reacts To Viral Cake Dress

Reacting to Uorfi's latest fashion outing, a user wrote, "Wow!" Another one added, "Yeh alag hi kism ki prajati hai." Someone commented, "Something unique always." An individual remarked, "She's getting better day by day." "Kuch bhi kaho ladki mein baat toh hai," added someone. A user questioned, "Cake ke andar ghusi kaise yeh batao pehle."

The internet is amused, curious, and impressed all at the same time, and honestly, that is no surprise. Once again, Uorfi has managed to grab everyone's attention with a bold and unexpected idea. This is not the first time she has set social media buzzing, and knowing her, it definitely will not be the last. If anything, moments like these only make people excited to see what she comes up with next.

The 50: Monalisa, After Eviction, Slams Foul Language Used By Khanzaadi, Chahat Pandey



As the reality show The 50 inches closer to its grand finale, the drama inside the Lion Palace is higher than ever. Since its premiere, the show has kept viewers hooked with its unique format, heated controversies, and shocking eliminations. Monalisa was amongst the contestants who recently got evicted from the house. After her exit, she opened up about Khanzaadi's derogatory language inside the show. Khanzaadi got eliminated during the February 11 episode, finishing in 45th position. During her time, her heated altercation with actress Chahat Pandey became a major highlight of the show. Monalisa reflected on Khanzaadi's misconduct with Chahat Pandey and the way she body-shamed Nehal Chudasma during the games.

Monalisa On The Foul Language Used By Khanzaadi and Chahat Pandey in The 50

In an interview with Times Now, Monalisa spoke about the foul language used by Khanzaadi and Chahat Pandey on the show, where, instead of uplifting one another, the women were seen pulling each other down. She said, "Ye meri parvarish nahi hai and uske dekh ke bhi aisa nahi lagta hai ki uski bhi hogi. Aap ek show me jaate ho and fir bhool jaate ho ki cameras hai, karoro janta आपको dekh rahi hai, आपके fans आपको dekh rahe hai toh आपको maintain karna chahiye. Aap bolo, apna point of view rakho par ek limit hona chahiye. Itne galat shabd use karke, what are you trying to prove?"

While sharing her take on the on-set clash between Khanzaadi and Chahat Pandey, Monalisa said that viewers and fellow contestants only saw Khanzaadi's actions, while no one knows what happened privately with Chahat. Their argument took place in a different room and that hasn't come on record. Talking about post-argument reactions, Monalisa said, "That was very wrong, agar kuch hua bhi tha toh abahar aake sabse shamne bolna nahi chahiye tha. Usne actions char bar repeat kiya aur bola, 'usne mujhe aisa aisa bola,' referring to the derogatory language.

She added, "Aap wo aapas mein bhi solve kar sakte the. But everyone was so shocked ki 'aise koi kaise baat kar sakta hai, demean kar sakta hai' That was very wrong."

'Parineeti' Fame Ankur Verma Marries Longtime Partner Leena In Intimate Ceremony



Television actor Ankur Verma, popularly known for his role in the well-liked daily soap opera Parineeti, has begun a new phase in his personal life. The TV actor married his long-time partner, Leena, in a private ceremony on February 25 that was attended by close friends and family. Owing to the stunning viral images and clips on social media, fans have been showering the newlyweds with love and blessings for their new journey together. Fans and coworkers alike were thrilled by the small wedding, which was characterised by warmth and simplicity.

Warmest Congratulations to Mr and Mrs Verma

The modest wedding style reflected the couple's inclination for seclusion above opulence. The ceremony, which was attended by close friends and family, was centred on sentimental moments and customary rites. One Instagram user shared a clip from Ankur and Leena's Haldi ceremony, where the couple can be seen sharing the same spot during the ritual.

While attendees were dressed in yellow, the couple sported twinning vibrant purple-coloured outfits, serving major couple goals. Ankur wore a purple-coloured kurta-pyjamas, while Leena opted for a purple lehenga set.

A kid approaches Ankur and the two pose for the camera. "Mamu ki shaadi," was written over the video. The SBS Exclusive (Saas Bahu Aur Saazish) shared another update, showing the newlyweds in their traditional wedding attire. Ankur wore a white sherwani suit, along with a matching turban, and Leena donned a traditional red lehenga.

About Ankur Verma

Ankur Verma is an actor with talent and versatility. He began his theatrical career with MGR Theatre Group in Gurgaon and Shri Ram Centre Mandai House in Delhi from 2017 to 2019. He moved to Mumbai after graduation and worked on numerous advertisements for various companies, such as Closeup, IPL Tata Harrier, and Samsung. He made his screen debut as the lead in Balaji's Colours production of Parineeti (2022-). Ankur made his web debut in Sonakshi Sinha-starrer Dahaad (2023).

Sargun Mehta's

Fashion Game Remains Unmatched In Her Blue Gown: 'Very Bebo Of Me'

Apart from being admired for her powerful performances, Sargun Mehta continues to impress fans with her impeccable fashion sense. The actress recently shared a series of photos wearing a striking, shiny blue outfit and she looks nothing short of breathtaking.

Backless Blue Gown, High Slit and Elegant Styling

Sargun opted for a long, backless blue gown featuring a high neckline and a bold thigh-high slit. The outfit showcased beautifully draped fabric around the neck that flowed down the back, adding drama and elegance to the overall look. Her long, dark hair was styled in soft, loose waves, perfectly complementing the sophistication of the gown.

Luxury Vibes With Silver Heels and a Red Car

Elevating the glamour quotient further, Sargun paired her outfit with silver, sparkly high-heeled shoes. Posing confidently beside a red luxury car, she exuded a bold and refined aesthetic that caught instant attention on social media.

Caption, Music Choice and Fans' Reactions

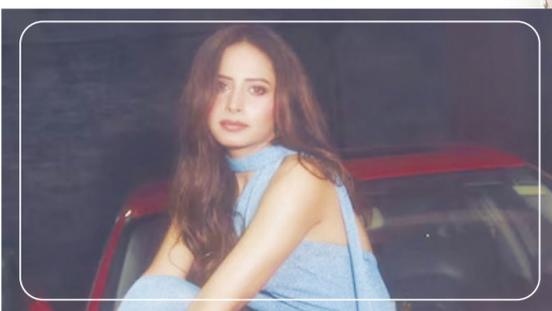
She shared the pictures with the song Bebo playing in the background and captioned the post, "Very bebo of me". The comments section quickly filled with admiration from friends and fans alike. Actress Ayesha Khan commented, "Didn't breathe for a minute, wow", while one fan wrote, "Very bebo for me sargun".

Sargun Mehta Shuts Down Pregnancy Rumours

This glamorous post comes shortly after Sargun

addressed and dismissed persistent pregnancy rumours circulating online. Taking to Instagram, she shared a strongly worded note, urging people to stop spreading unverified and baseless claims.

In her statement, Sargun wrote, "News apparently knows before us about our 'pregnancy' for the last two years. According to them, I've been pregnant. That's one long pregnancy! Just calm down and stop spreading baseless news. It wouldn't take much time to ask our team or us if the news is genuine before writing about



More Than an Actress: Sargun Mehta, the Entrepreneur

Sargun Mehta has proven that she is much more than just a talented performer. Along with her husband, Ravi Dubey, she co-founded Dreamiyata Entertainment. The production house has successfully expanded into television, digital content, and music, making a strong impact across multiple platforms.



There are an array of things to choose from when it comes to picking the right hobby idea for your child.

Hobby ideas for your Child

Choosing a hobby idea when your little one is ready for summer holidays is not rocket science. Just you need to take care of the following things:

Know his or her interest: It is very important. Not knowing what interests the most to your child may backfire if you get him or her into a wrong hobby class. So, seek their opinion first and ask them which class they want to go for.

Don't press for one:

If your child wants to enjoy some fun moments at home and is comfortable this way, let it be. It does not

mean that since everybody is doing a hobby class, should your child too does it.

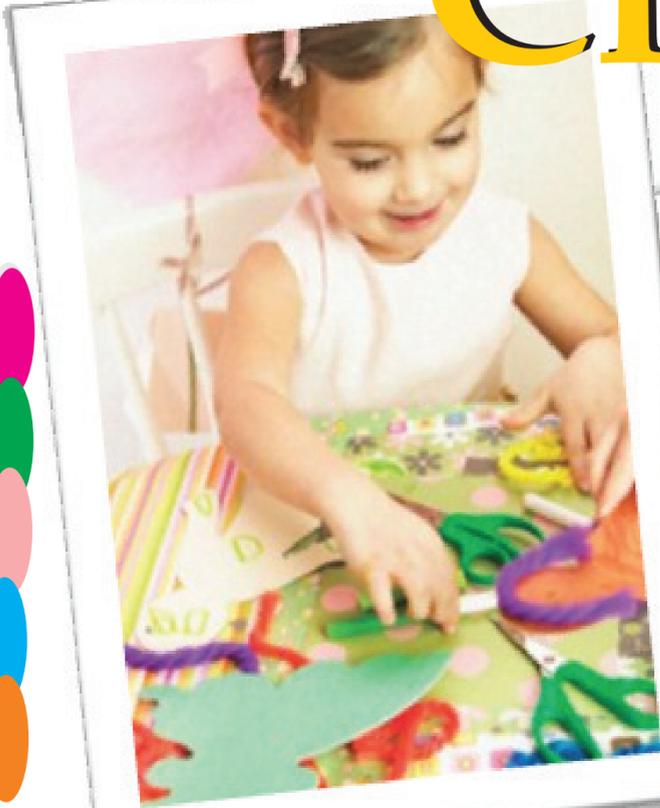
Make your home a hobby destination:

Home is where most of the fun is. So during the vacation, turn your home into a camping zone at night by installing a tent and hosting a camping party in the garden. You can invite your child's friends and let them have a blast in the party.

Popular hobby ideas:

Painting, drawing, cooking, baking, musical interments like guitar are some of the popular ideas one can pursue. Also in vogue are calligraphy and the art of gift wrapping. Creative writing is also one of the sought after hobby ideas.

Not only these hobbies let your child pick up extra skills, but also will let them look at things with a different perspective.



Does your little one suffer from diaper rash?

The main cause for that annoying rash on the bum and thighs of your baby are nappies or wet diapers that cause great discomfort.

Although the main cause for diaper rash is excessive wetness, other causes include tight diapers, humid climate, and not washing cloth nappies properly, which



- Change your baby's nappy as often as you can so as to keep their bottoms clean and dry.
- Letting your baby stay without a diaper for a few minutes helps the rash heal faster.
- Applying aloe vera gel on the rash keeps the skin free of moisture.
- When you keep dirty nappies for a wash, add half a cup of vinegar to the water and rinse the diapers without using any detergents, which might be causing the

rash in the first place.

- Petroleum jelly goes a long way in curing diaper rash effectively.
- Avoid using perfumed soaps or detergents to wash nappies — it might be the cause for the rash.
- Use a mild soap and lukewarm water instead of wipes to clean your baby.

- Always let the diaper area dry completely before making your baby wear another nappy.
- Add a little oatmeal to warm water when you're giving your baby a bath.
- Avoid using diapers that have plastic edges.

- Dry your babies bottom gently with a soft towel or cotton — don't scrub it.
- As much as you can, try and avoid using talcum powder on your baby, it can get into the little one's lungs.

Being a parent is difficult and so is coming off as a proud child. It's only human to give vent to your rage by using harsh words. However, when the recipient of your outrage is your own child, it might have uncertain and unmanageable repercussions.

We list 9 insensitive things that you should avoid saying to your child.

1. I was much more responsible when I was your age

Comparing your child and giving him an example of what all you were capable of when you were a kid is the first big mistake parents make. Their irritation stems from 'expectations' - expectations of bringing up the 'perfect' kid. Try and recall your shortcomings as a child and what all troubles you bothered your parents with. You are the elder one in the relationship hence you ought to know more. A statement such as this will break your child's confidence.

2. You always end up taking wrong decisions Don't penalise your kid for being immature. Everyone is allowed to make mistakes and it is in fact a part of the learning process. He might have taken up a field of study that doesn't interest you or perhaps working with a company that you're not very proud of, but that doesn't mean you accuse him of the decision

9 things never to say to Your child

your partner's animosity on your kid, that's when he begins to lose respect.

3. Why can't you be more like your brother/sister?

This is once again an unreasonable comparison and a common one at that. Avoid seeding in animosity between your children by comparing their abilities. Doing so may create a fissure between the siblings. You don't want your kid to harbour negative feelings for you, hence avoid assessing your kids.

4. Leave me alone!

Adults have huge responsibilities to take care of, responsibilities that children are innocently oblivious of.

And there are times when we want to be left alone too. Kids are incapable of understanding the gravity of such situations. An impatient outburst of 'Leave me alone!' can make your child feel neglected, unwanted and depressed at the same time. Show some patience and avoid saying something bad to him.

5. You should be ashamed of yourself

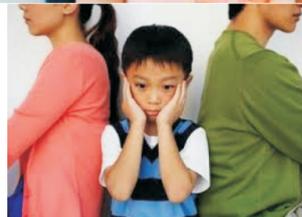
This statement is outright harsh and saying such an awful thing to any child is simply 'bad'. Yes, there are mischievous kids who go about pestering people with a devil-may-care attitude but that does not mean you reprimand him like this. There are better and milder ways to make the child understand the difference between good and bad.

6. You're just like your father/mother Not all married couples are happy living together and the bitterness in their relationship often translates into exchange of unkind words against each other. Some relationships end in separation too. Either ways, kids are a witness to this mutual hostility and criticism. So when you shower

7. You always find ways to hurt me

There are times when children hurt their parents' sentiments by going against their wishes. Most times it is unintentional but there are kids who do so on purpose. However, saying something like the above statement would make your child feel guilty about his/her decision. He might comply with your demands to make you happy but you'd be taking away his right to happiness in the long run. Let your children take their own decisions and let them live a guilt-free life.

8. It's better to be childless than have a kid like you



The above statement is mostly an extreme emotional outburst but can have grave consequences on the kid. Unquestionably, it is the most hurtful thing you can ever say to your child. No matter what the crisis

is, saying something like this could make you regret for life.

9. Get rid of the bad company of your friends We (read adults) don't think before making friends. Neither do children. The only difference is that we know how to stay away from bad company and children don't. Their friends mean the world to them and therefore you cannot just order them to get a new set of 'good' friends.

