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# The Sikh Times

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# PM Modi speaks to Sultan of Oman, Crown Prince of Kuwait, Amir of Qatar

### The Sikh Times

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke to Sultan Haitham bin Tarik of Oman, Crown Prince of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah and Amir of Qatar Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani on Tuesday, and expressed concern over attacks on their countries during the ongoing conflict in West Asia. During his telephonic conversations, Modi also condemned the violation of the three countries' sovereignty and territorial integrity and discussed with the leaders the welfare and security of the Indian community residing there. Over the last two days, the prime minister has spoken to the leaders of eight West Asian countries, in the wake of a coordinated offensive launched against Iran by the United States and Israel, in which the Islamic country's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, was killed. In retaliation, Iran has fired drones and missiles at Israel and US military installations around the Gulf, as also at the global business and aviation hubs of Dubai and Doha. Modi said he has spoken to Sultan Haitham bin Tarik of Oman and exchanged views on recent developments in West Asia. "Condemned the violation of

Oman's sovereignty and territorial integrity. We agreed that sustained diplomatic engagement is essential for earliest restoration of regional peace and stability. Deeply appreciated Oman's continued support to the Indian community," he said in a post on X. During Modi's talks with the Crown Prince of Kuwait, the two leaders underscored the significance of dialogue and diplomacy in restoring regional peace and stability. "Had a productive telephone conversation with Crown Prince of Kuwait, HH Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah. India condemns violation of Kuwait's sovereignty and territorial integrity and stands with its people in this difficult hour," the prime minister said. He appreciated the Kuwaiti leadership's continued support to ensure the safety and well-being of the Indian community in that country. During Modi's talks with the Amir of Qatar,

both leaders emphasised the urgent need to restore peace and stability in the region

conveyed his appreciation for the Amir's continued support and care for the Indian community in Qatar during this challenging time. Over the last two days, Modi has spoken to the King of Bahrain and the Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia, and condemned attacks on the two countries, asserting that India stands in solidarity with their people in this difficult hour. The prime minister has also spoken to King Abdullah II of Jordan and conveyed deep concern over the evolving situation in the region. Modi has spoken to United Arab Emirates (UAE) President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu too. Around 90 lakh Indians live in the Gulf and West Asia. About 10,000 Indian citizens live, study and work in Iran, while more than 40,000 live in Israel. Currently, the airspace of West Asia is almost closed. With flight services disrupted due to

the military escalation in West Asia, hundreds of Indians are stranded in Dubai, Doha and other key hub airports. The Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS), which met on Sunday, expressed concern over the safety and security of the large Indian-expatriate community in the region. The CCS also directed all departments concerned to take necessary and feasible measures to assist Indian nationals affected by the developments. "It (CCS) expressed serious concern over the safety and security of the large Indian expatriate community in the region," an official statement issued after the meeting said. India has in the past successfully evacuated thousands of its citizens from different parts of the world, including West Asia, amid conflicts. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has said Indian missions across the region are in continuous contact with Indian citizens and helplines have been activated. Khamenei was killed in a major attack on Iran launched by Israel and the US on Saturday. His death was confirmed on Sunday. US President Donald Trump has said the heavy and pin-point bombing of Iran would continue through the week or for as long as necessary.



through dialogue and diplomacy. "Spoke with my brother, HH Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, the Amir of Qatar. We stand firmly in solidarity with Qatar and strongly condemn any violation of its sovereignty and territorial integrity," Modi said. The prime minister also

# SC takes exception to trial court relying on AI-generated 'fake' verdicts

### The Sikh Times

Chandigarh: Chandigarh will formally join India's growing network of recognised arbitration centres on March 7, when Chief Justice of India Surya Kant launches Chandigarh International Arbitration Centre (CIAC). The event marks the CJT's first major interaction with the Bar after elevation in November last — a symbolic homecoming to the high court where he once served as a judge. The launch coincides with the first edition of India International Disputes Week 2026 (IIDW), scheduled from March 7 to 11. Organised by the Punjab and Haryana High Court, the event is expected to witness an in-person participation of more than 50 international speakers from the USA, the UK, Singapore, Canada, France and other countries. Conceived as a global, non-profit platform, IIDW will bring together judges, arbitral institutions, senior counsel, policymakers and academics to deliberate on arbitration, litigation reform and emerging dispute-resolution technologies. CJT Surya Kant's programme includes a seminar at the high court, where he will address the Bar, followed by the inauguration of the high court library. The CJT will also flag off 'Women's Day Walkathon' and plantation drive on March 8 from Sukhna

Lake (Police Post) to Open Hand Monument. Established under vision of the Punjab and Haryana High Court, CIAC is a specialised, high-level body conceived as a structured alternative to "ad hoc" arbitration. It offers professionally administered, time-bound arbitration — domestic and international — under a defined rules-based framework. CJT Surya Kant says: "The true strength of a justice system lies not only in adjudication, but in its ability to facilitate fair, timely, and effective resolution of disputes. Initiatives such as India International Disputes Week, being held in Chandigarh in 2026, encourage dialogue, capacity-building, and institutional strengthening — all essential to deepening the rule of law." Chief Justice Sheel Nagu is CIAC's patron, while the organising committee includes Justice Ashwani Kumar Mishra, Justice Suvir Sehgal, Justice Jasgurpreet Singh Puri, Justice Vinod S. Bhardwaj, and Justice Tribhuvan Dahiya. Chandigarh's selection as an arbi-

tral seat blends judicial stature with efficiency. As the seat of the Punjab and



Haryana High Court, the city offers access to an experienced pool of jurists in a neutral, well-planned setting. With dedicated facilities, international connectivity and comparatively lower costs and congestion than metropolitan hubs, it positions itself as a practical dispute-resolution centre for North India. CIAC will administer a broad spectrum of matters, including corporate

and commercial disputes, trade and investment claims, construction and engineering contracts, maritime issues, insurance, intellectual property, technology, and banking and finance disputes. As an independent and neutral institution, it will not represent parties or render legal advice. The establishment of CIAC comes amid increasingly complex cross-border transactions, infrastructure growth and technology-driven contracts. CIAC's framework provides for administration of domestic and international arbitrations, appointment and facilitation of arbitrators, a curated and periodically reviewed panel, structured case management, emergency arbitration for urgent interim relief, and online dispute resolution mechanisms. Chief Justice Nagu says: "The High Court of Punjab and Haryana has consistently encouraged efficiency and innovation in dispute resolution. As Chandigarh hosts India International Disputes Week 2026, it presents an opportunity to further position the city as a progressive centre for legal dialogue and institutional growth."

# Does PM Modi support head of state's assassination as way to define world order: Rahul

### The Sikh Times

New Delhi: Amid the US-Israel-Iran conflict, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday said Prime Minister Narendra Modi must speak up and answer as to whether he supports the assassination of a head of state as a way to define the world order. He said the unilateral attacks on Iran, as well as Iran's attacks on other Middle Eastern nations, must be condemned. "Silence now diminishes India's standing in the world," the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha said on X. His remarks come days after Iran confirmed that its Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, had been assassinated in targeted strikes carried out the previous day by the United States and Israel. Gandhi said escalating hostilities between the United States, Israel and Iran are pushing a fragile region toward wider conflict. "While security concerns are real, attacks



that violate sovereignty will only worsen the crisis. The unilateral attacks on Iran, as well as Iran's attacks on other Middle Eastern nations, must be condemned. Violence begets violence—dialogue and restraint remain the only path to peace," the former Congress chief said. "India must be morally clear. We should have the courage to speak plainly in defence of international law and human lives. Our foreign policy is rooted in sovereignty and the peaceful resolution of disputes—and it must remain consistent," Gandhi said. Does he support the assassination of a head of state as a way to define the world order, Gandhi asked. The United States and Israel launched a major attack on Iran on Saturday, with US President Donald Trump calling on the Iranian public to seize control of their destiny and rise against the Islamic leadership that has ruled their country since 1979.

# CM opens NDMC Flower Festival

### The Sikh Times

New Delhi: Delhi CM Rekha Gupta along with NDMC Chairman Keshav Chandra and Vice Chairman Kuljeet Chahal during the inauguration of the Flower Festival organised by the NDMC at Connaught place park in New Delhi on Tuesday. TRIBUNE PHOTO: MANAS RANJAN BHUI Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Tuesday inaugurated the four-day Flower Festival 2026, organised by the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) at Central Park in Connaught Place, describing it as an effort to make the national capital cleaner, greener and

of the city. Calling it a "Selfie Festival", she said the event has become a major attraction for citizens, especially during the festive month of Phalgun. Over 15,500 potted plants representing 48 varieties of flowers have been showcased across 18 themed sections at the venue. Seasonal blooms such as dahlias, petunias, pansies, salvias and marigolds form part of the display, alongside tray gardens, landscaped installations, large hanging baskets and terrariums. The exhibition also features Eastern and Western floral arrangements, including Ikebana, floral figures shaped like animals and birds, colourful boards, and specially designed pyramid, heart-shaped,

conical and cylindrical floral structures that serve as selfie points. A musical fountain with evening lighting has also been installed at the centre of the park. Gupta praised the efforts of NDMC's Horticulture Department, saying its work has transformed parts of the capital into a vibrant floral landscape. She urged other departments to take inspiration from such initiatives to further expand greenery across the city. NDMC Chairman Keshav Chandra said the flower festival is a long-standing tradition coinciding with the arrival of spring and Holi, adding officials and staff of the horticulture wing work tirelessly to maintain world-class standards.



more vibrant. Addressing the gathering, the Chief Minister said, as the national capital, it is a responsibility to enhance Delhi's beauty and global image. She noted while people once travelled to Kashmir to witness tulips, residents can now enjoy similar floral displays in the heart

### Air India operating 2 relief flights to Jeddah, Dubai amid Middle East crisis

New Delhi: Air India is operating two special relief flights to Jeddah and Dubai with wide-body planes on Tuesday to bring back passengers stranded due to the Middle East conflict. The airline will also be operating a special relief flight to Dubai from Mumbai on March 4. In a statement, Air India said it was deploying wide-body aircraft with higher capacity on its services to Jeddah and Dubai from Mumbai on March 3 and 4 to facilitate the return of passengers impacted by the ongoing situation in the Middle East. "A Boeing 777 aircraft with a capacity of close to 350 seats departed Mumbai for Jeddah this evening. This will be followed by a Boeing 787-9 with around 300 seats scheduled to depart Delhi for Dubai later tonight and another Boeing 787-8 aircraft with over 250 seats operating from Mumbai to Dubai in the early hours of 4 March," the airline said on Tuesday.

# SC takes exception to trial court relying on AI-generated 'fake' verdicts

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New Delhi: Taking exception to an Andhra Pradesh trial court relying on non-existent, AI-generated judgments, the Supreme Court has issued notice to Attorney General R Venkataramani, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta and Bar Council of India to find out ways to deal with the problem. "We take cognisance of the trial court deploying AI generated non-existing, fake or synthetic alleged judgments and seek to examine its consequences and accountability as it has a direct bearing on integrity of adjudicatory process," it said in its February 27 order. "This case assumes considerable institutional concern, not because of the decision that was taken on the merits of the case, but about the process of adjudication and determination," the top court said. "At the outset, we must declare that a decision based on such non-existent and fake alleged judgments is not an error in the decision making. It would be misconduct and legal consequences shall follow. It is compelling that we examine this issue in more detail," it said. Pending disposal of the matter before it, the bench directed the trial court not to proceed further in the case and posted the matter for hearing

on March 10. The misuse of non-existent, AI-generated judgments came to light during hearing a petition challenging a

Ramasamy (1071) 2 SCC 68, Lakshmi Devi v K Prabha (2006) 5 SCC 551 and Gajanan v Ramdas (2015) 6 SCC 223.



January order of the Andhra Pradesh High Court on a suit for injunction. The petitioners had challenged an Advocate-Commissioner's report by raising certain objections. The trial court had in August last year dismissed the objections, relying on Subramani v M Natarajan (2013) 14 SCC 95, Chidambaram Pillai v. SAL

However, the petitioner challenged the trial court's order on the ground that the verdicts relied on by the trial court were fake and non-existent. The high court considered the objection and realised that the judgments in question were AI-generated, the top court noted. Shocked by a non-existent judgment 'Mercy versus

Mankind' cited in a petition, the Supreme Court had on February 17 expressed serious concern over the growing trend of some lawyers filing petitions drafted with the help of AI tools. "We are alarmed to reflect that some lawyers have started using AI to draft petitions. It is absolutely uncalled for," a bench led by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant had said while hearing a PIL filed by academician Roop Rekha Verma seeking guidelines on political speeches. On January 20, the top court had expressed serious concern over the use of fabricated and AI-generated evidence in matrimonial disputes. Driven by desire to 'teach the other side a lesson' at any cost, couples were increasingly misusing technology to construct cases on the basis of false allegations, it had said. "Whenever the parties in a matrimonial dispute have differences, the preparation starts as to how to teach a lesson to the other side. Evidence is collected and, in some cases, even created, which is more often in the era of artificial intelligence. False allegations are rampant", a bench of Justice Rajesh Bindal and Justice Manmohan had said, dissolving a Delhi couple's marriage on the grounds of irretrievable breakdown of marriage.

# What to know about the deadly shooting at a Texas bar and gunman

Austin: A gunman in Texas opened fire on a crowded bar in Austin's busy nightlife district over the weekend before being fatally shot by police in an attack that authorities were investigating as a potential act of terrorism. The shooting early Sunday killed three people and wounded more than a dozen others. The suspect was wearing clothes with an Iranian flag design and the words "Property of Allah," a law enforcement official told The Associated Press. The mass shooting happened after the U.S. and Israel launched an attack on Iran. The FBI and Austin police said they were still looking into the motive behind the shooting, which sent people in the bar and surrounding streets scrambling for cover. Police said the gunman drove past Buford's Backyard Beer Garden before circling back and firing the first shots from his SUV at people on the sidewalk and inside the bar early Sunday. Some college students dove for cover while others were motionless inside the bar and across the street next to a food truck, trying to understand what was happening. The shooting stopped for a moment. The police chief said the suspect parked, got out with a rifle and began shooting at others before officers rushed to the intersection and shot him. University president says shooting affected students. The bar is on Sixth Street, a nightlife destination

filled with bars and music clubs near the flagship campus of the University of Texas system. The school is one of the nation's largest universities with 55,000 enrolled students. Nathan Comeaux, a 22-year-old



senior, spent the evening there with friends and said the bar was "full of college students, probably mostly UT kids, shoulder to shoulder, hundreds just enjoying their nights." Some of those affected included "members of our Longhorn family," University President Jim Davis said, using the name of the school's mascot.

Police taped off several square blocks around Sixth Street after the shooting. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives agents and other federal investigators joined local police at the scene.

Shooter was originally from Senegal and legally bought weapons. Both the FBI and police in Austin said Monday that it's too soon to identify the motive. Police identified the gunman as 53-year-old Ndiaga Diagne. The gunman legally bought the pistol and rifle he used in the attack several years ago in San Antonio, the police

chief said. Diagne was originally from Senegal, according to multiple people briefed on the investigation who spoke on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to publicly discuss the investigation. He first entered the U.S. in 2000 on a B-2 tourist visa, becoming a lawful permanent resident six years later after marrying a U.S. citizen, according to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. Associated Press reporters on Monday were unable to reach Diagne's family members in the Austin area or his ex-wife, who recently was listed as living near San Antonio. A person who answered the door at a house listed for his ex-wife declined to comment and told a reporter to talk with investigators. The entertainment district has a heavy police presence on weekends, and officers were able to confront the gunman within a minute of the first call for help, the police chief said. Comeaux, the UT Austin senior, filmed the suspect as he walked toward Buford's with his gun pointed at officers, and officers fired at him. "The shooter was walking towards where I was and towards where the bar was, where there could have been 10 times as much damage if he'd gone back to the bar where hundreds of students were hiding," Comeaux said. "So I'm just very grateful for the heroic police officers who were able to stop the suspect."

## AAI seeks info on fuel stocks from international airport operators amid Middle East crisis

New Delhi: The communication comes against the backdrop of the escalating conflict in the Middle East involving the US, Israel and Iran that threatens to impact global oil supplies. Photo: iStock State-owned Airports Authority of India (AAI) has asked all international airport operators in the country to provide details about available fuel stocks as well as estimated requirements for the next seven days amid the escalating Middle East



crisis, sources said on Tuesday. The communication comes against the backdrop of the escalating conflict in the Middle East involving the US, Israel and Iran that threatens to impact global oil supplies. One of the sources said the details have been sought as a "precautionary measure" to have a clear understanding about the fuel supply situation at the international airports. The sources said that following directions from the civil aviation ministry, AAI has sought details about the current fuel supply status from all the international airport operators. The operators have also been asked to provide details about average daily fuel consumption, estimated fuel requirement for the next seven days and date of next scheduled fuel replenishment, the sources said. India has 33 international airports, including at Delhi, Mumbai, Bangalore, Hyderabad and Chennai.

## Pakistan forces kill 67 Afghan Taliban personnel in overnight operations: Minister

Islamabad: People chant slogans in support of the Pakistan Army, following exchanges of fire between Pakistani and Afghan forces, during a protest in Karachi, Pakistan February 28,



2026. Image credits/Reuters Pakistan security forces killed another 67 Afghan Taliban personnel in overnight operations, repulsing their attacks at 16 locations along the southwestern border early Tuesday, officials said. Information Minister Attaullah Tarar provided updates on the ongoing Operation Ghazab lil Haq, launched on Feb 26 in response to the Afghan Taliban raids. Tarar said that 40 Afghan Taliban personnel were killed in overnight opera-

tions in the border region along the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. "Physical attack was attempted at one place, while a fire raid was conducted on 12 locations, which were all repulsed without any loss of life," he said in an update posted on X. "At least 40 Afghan Taliban were killed in the overnight operations in KP," he said, adding that "follow-up" operations continued. Separately, the Afghan Taliban resorted to physical attack from across the border on 16 locations in Northern Balochistan in Qilla Saifullah, Noshki and Chaman districts while engaging Pakistan troops on 25 locations in a fire raid. "The attacks at all the locations were

repulsed with Afghan Taliban suffering 27 killed and scores injured," he said. The minister also said that one soldier of the paramilitary Frontier Corps (FC) Balochistan North was killed while five soldiers were injured. On Monday, the minister said in a statement that Pakistani security forces killed 435 Afghan Taliban combatants and another 630 of them were injured. He said that 188 tanks and armoured vehicles were destroyed, 31 Afghan posts were captured and 51 locations across Afghanistan were successfully targeted in air strikes. Meanwhile, state-run PTV reported that the Pakistan armed forces successfully conducted an air operation in Afghanistan's Nangarhar province, destroying the Khogani base. "Fitna al-Khawarij and Afghan Taliban face massive setbacks on every front after unprovoked aggression," PTV reported, citing sources. It further reported that security sources said Operation Ghadab-ul-Haq is still ongoing and will continue until its objectives are achieved.

## 37 Indian-flagged ships with 1,109 sailors stuck in Persian Gulf, Gulf of Oman

New Delhi: As many as 37 Indian-flagged ships with over 1,000 seafarers are stuck in the Persian Gulf, the Gulf of Oman and the adjoining sea areas as the key shipping route through the Strait of



Hormuz is closed due to the ongoing military actions involving the US, Israel and Iran. While some ships are carrying crude oil and LNG to Indian ports, others are on the way to bring petroleum products from the Gulf nations. A total of 37 Indian-flagged ships with 1,109 sailors are stuck in the Persian Gulf, the Gulf of Oman and the adjoining sea areas due to the closure of the key shipping route through the Strait of Hormuz, an official privy to the development said. The Directorate General of Shipping is in regular touch with the shipping companies and is closely monitoring the situation. At least three Indian sea-

farers on board foreign-flagged vessels were killed, and one was injured in West Asia due to the current conflict. A dedicated quick response team has been set up by the Shipping Ministry to enable timely coordination among authorities, ensure immediate response to emerging situations and facilitate prompt assistance to Indian seafarers and their families. Shipping companies and Recruitment and Placement Service Licensees (RPSLs) have been advised to exercise caution in crew deployment and maintain regular communication with seafarers and their families. Helpline numbers have also been activated and shared with the families of the seafarers through RPSLs. The Directorate General of Shipping also issued an advisory for maritime operators to assess voyage-specific risks fol-

lowing the disruptions of the shipping route and closure of the Strait of Hormuz by Iran. It is closely monitoring the evolving maritime security situation in the Persian Gulf, the Strait of Hormuz, the Gulf of Oman and the adjoining sea areas, and the threats of the recent geopolitical developments, including missile and drone activity, electronic interference, and other maritime security concerns. On Tuesday, Shipping Minister Sarbananda Sonowal chaired a review meeting to assess the prevailing security environment in the Persian Gulf region and examine its implications for Indian maritime assets and personnel. Close coordination is being maintained with the Indian Navy, the Ministry of External Affairs, the Information Fusion Centre-Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR), the Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC) and Indian missions abroad. On Tuesday, American and Israeli airstrikes continued to pound Iran since killing its Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei on Saturday. Iran and its allies have hit back against Israel, the neighbouring Gulf states, and targets critical to the world's production of oil and natural gas.

## War in Middle East declared on exact day of issuing Balfour Declaration, says Palestine Ambassador

Washington: Former US President Bill Clinton stands with Jeffrey Epstein in this image released by the Department of Justice in Washington, DC, as part of a new trove of documents from its investigations into the late financier and convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein. US Justice Department/Handout via Reuters Former President Bill Clinton told lawmakers that President Donald Trump told him he had "some great times" with convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein before their relationship soured, according to a video released on Monday. In a videotaped deposition to the House of Representatives Oversight Committee, the former Democratic President said under oath that Trump brought up Epstein at a golf tournament in 2002 or 2003, after Clinton left office and more than a decade before Trump was elected President. "Somehow he knew I had



flowed in Jeffrey Epstein's aircraft," Clinton told the committee. "He said, 'You know, we had some great times together over the years, but we fell out all because of a real estate deal.'" Trump has said the relationship soured after Epstein hired young women who worked at Trump's Mar-a-Lago club. Clinton said the exchange did not lead him to believe Trump was involved with anything improper involving Epstein. Both Clinton and Trump associated with

Epstein before the well-connected financier pleaded guilty in 2008 to soliciting prostitution from a minor. Both have repeated federal sex-trafficking charges. His death was ruled a suicide. Under Trump, the Justice Department has released millions of records from its investigations into Epstein, including photos of Clinton with women whose faces have been redacted. Clinton has repeatedly denied wrongdoing and has said he regrets his association with Epstein. In last week's testimony, Clinton said he was introduced to Epstein by his former Treasury Secretary Larry Summers, who described Epstein as a donor who was willing to fly Clinton and his staff around the globe as he set up a charitable AIDS foundation. Clinton said he flew on Epstein's jet on trips to Asia, Africa and Europe, and once from Florida to New York, but moved on to other donors after 2003. "I thought Mr. Epstein was an interesting man, but I didn't think he was really interested in what I was doing," Clinton said. Clinton said he never had sexual contact with anyone introduced by the late financier or his associate Ghislaine Maxwell, but did receive a neck massage from a flight attendant later identified as an Epstein abuse survivor. Clinton said he did not know that Epstein had abused girls whom he had recruited as masseuses. "I didn't think it was anything unusual. I can't tell you how many airplanes I've been on where rich people asked me to go and they had someone offering massage. All these boats that you go on and all that, they all do that. And usually I don't do that," he said. Clinton said he never visited Epstein's Caribbean island and did not know that Epstein had visited the White House 17 times during his 1993-2001 presidency. The Republican-led panel also subpoenaed former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, who testified last week that she did not recall ever meeting Epstein.

## Why did Ayatollah Ali Khamenei keep his right hand hidden?

Chandigarh: Years before becoming Iran's Supreme Leader, Ali Khamenei survived a dramatic assassination attempt that left his right hand permanently paralysed — an injury that later became part of his powerful public image. On June 27, 1981, while serving as the President, Khamenei was addressing worshippers at a mosque after returning from the Iran-Iraq war frontlines. During the interaction, a man placed what appeared to be a tape recorder on a desk in front of him. Minutes later, the device emitted a sharp sound and exploded. The blast severely injured Khamenei, damaging nerves in his arm and leaving his hand paralysed for life. Inside the device, investigators reportedly found a message claiming responsibility from the Furqan Group, a militant faction opposed to Iran's clerical leadership. The failed assassination not only reshaped his physical life but also became a defining chapter in the story of his political rise. Khamenei survived the assassination on a Saturday, however, decades later, another Saturday got him.

## War in Middle East declared on exact day of issuing Balfour Declaration, says Palestine Ambassador

New Delhi [India], March 3 (ANI): Palestine Ambassador Abdullah Abu Shawash on Tuesday condemned the ongoing conflict backed by the United States between Iran and Israel that has escalated tensions in the Middle East, bringing the region to a standstill. He said the events that are unfolding between Iran, Israel and other Gulf countries can't be discussed without highlighting the issuing of the Balfour Declaration on November 2, 1970. Shawash added that Palestinians view it as the exact day when war in the Middle East was declared. "When you talk about our view as Palestinians, and it should be reprehensible for any human being," the Palestinian Ambassador to India told ANI. Shawash argued that the current conflict between Iran and



Israel was related to the Middle East issue, and the "Palestinian question" was at the centre of it. "But when it came to this issue, we could not isolate it as to what is happening right now between Iran, the Gulf States and Israel. We cannot isolate it from its root, which we as Palestinians take back to November 2, 1970, by issuing the Balfour Declaration - the war in the Middle East was declared on that exact day. We should analyse and discuss the battle that is going on right now, and at a macro-level, it is related to the Middle East issue, and in the centre of it is the Palestinian question," he added. The Balfour Declaration was a letter, signed by Arthur James Balfour, who was the British Foreign Secretary, addressed to Lord Walter Rothschild that declared "sympathy with Jewish Zionist aspirations". The letter talked about the British government's support for establishing a "national home for the Jewish people" in Palestine. Meanwhile, talking about the impact of Iran's counter-strikes on Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries, the Palestine Ambassador said

that even though the US and Israel started this war, there was no way to figure out how to end the war. "Israel and the USA started this war, started this battle. But how to end this war, no one knows how this war will end, or who can end this war. So, unfortunately, Iran also attacked the Gulf States, attacked the UAE, Kuwait, and Saudi Arabia. This is completely unacceptable from our side," Shawash said. The conflict in the Middle East has entered its fourth day following the US and Israeli strikes on Iran that killed Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei, along with other key figures in the Persian Gulf country. In retaliation, Tehran has responded with counter-strikes targeting American military bases and other Israeli assets across the region.

# Ayodhya once saw bullets for devotees, now it showers them with flowers: CM Adityanath

The Sikh Times

New Delhi: Police sources say several syndicates are deliberately deploying women to avoid suspicion, manage logistics, supply narcotics and lure targets. While some entered the criminal ecosystem following personal crises, others were motivated by financial gain, ambition or proximity to senior gang leaders. In a recent operation, the police arrested sharpshooter Bobby Kabootar, an aide of Lawrence Bishnoi, who was wanted in multiple murder cases, including the killing of Punjabi singer Sidhu Moosewala. Arrested alongside him was Khushnuma Ansari, also known as Neha or "Madam Zeher", who is believed to be linked to the same network. Though she ran a beauty parlour in north-east Delhi and maintained a large following on Instagram, investigators allege she was operating a drug supply cartel behind the façade. The police say she is not an isolated case and that several women are playing critical behind-the-scenes roles within the gang. In March 2024, the police arrested Pooja Sharma from Chandigarh for allegedly working with the Bishnoi network. During interrogation, she reportedly admitted to aspiring to become a gangster and to her involvement in planning a courtroom

killing. Originally from Jhunjhunu, with Rohit Godara and Goldy Brar. Her assignment was to pose as a lawyer and kill gangster Bhupinder Rana inside a court complex — a plan thwarted before it could be executed. Another case that drew attention was the stabbing of a 17-year-old boy on April 17, 2024, during which three assailants attacked the victim, while a 19-year-old woman, Zikra Khan — widely known as the "Lady Don" of Seelampur — allegedly stood by at the scene. The arrest of Anuradha, popularly known as "Madam Minz", further underscores the trend. Detained by the Delhi Police Special Cell along with gangster Kala Jathedi, Anuradha reportedly entered the criminal world after a failed share-trading venture left her deeply indebted. Highly educated, she is accused of serving as the chief strategist for Anandpal Singh, planning crimes and modernising his public image through local criminals and later connected



Rajasthan, she was allegedly recruited through local criminals and later connected before his death in a police encounter. She

later allegedly aligned herself with other major gangs operating across north India. Another high-profile arrest involved Anu Dhakhar, associated with gangster Himanshu Bhat, who was apprehended near the Nepal border. She was wanted in connection with the 2024 Burger King shooting in Rajouri Garden, during which around 40 rounds were fired. The police allege she used a fake social media profile to befriend the victim and lure him to the location where the shooters carried out the killing. "Women criminals can be colder than men. While male gangsters often seek notoriety, these women focus on outcomes," a senior police officer said. Their paths into crime vary widely — some rose from poverty through petty offences, while others became involved through relationships with gangsters and later assumed control after their partners were jailed or killed, the officer mentioned. What distinguishes them, is their ability to blend invisibly into everyday life, exploiting perceptions of vulnerability before re-emerging as decisive actors in violent crimes, the cop added.

Over 800 attend mega legal services camp

New Delhi: The Delhi State Legal Services Authority (DSLSA) organised a mega legal services camp in the North-West District at MCD Boys School, Mangolpur Kalan. The camp witnessed an impressive turnout of over 800 beneficiaries from Mangolpur Kalan and nearby areas. A wide range of services, including enrolment and updation of Aadhaar cards and labour cards; facilitation of child welfare schemes such as Ladli Scheme and Sukanya Samridhi Yojana; welfare schemes for women; and social security schemes for unorganised sector workers; were made available during the camp. Several government departments, including Revenue, Labour, Education, Construction Workers Welfare Board and MCD, took part. A medical camp and a mental health helpdesk were also organised for the benefit of residents. The camp was held under the leadership of Justice V Kameswar Rao, Judge, High Court of Delhi and Executive Chairperson, DSLSA. Addressing the gathering, he emphasised the crucial role of legal services institutions in ensuring that access to justice and welfare entitlements meaningfully reach the most vulnerable sections of society.

## Excise Inspector sacked after conviction in Rs7 lakh bribery case

Gurugram: Inspector Sumitra Godara of the Excise and Taxation Department, who was sentenced to five years' imprisonment in a bribery case, has been dismissed

Following the court's decision, Commissioner Vinay Pratap Singh ordered the dismissal of Inspector Sumitra Godara. A senior official said the Commissioner has the

building material supplier, had applied for a GST number to start his business in Faridabad. His application was initially rejected by ETO Roshan Lal citing discrepancies. When he reapplied, he was allegedly asked to meet Inspector Sumitra Godara, who was posted in Gurugram. The complainant alleged that Godara demanded a bribe for issuing the GST number. During a meeting in Sector 34, she allegedly demanded Rs 7 lakh. Acting on the complaint, the ACB laid a trap and arrested Godara on May 9, 2022, while she was allegedly accepting Rs 2 lakh as bribe. The ACB also arrested ETO Lal and clerk Pawan from Faridabad.



from service by Excise and Taxation Commissioner Vinay Pratap Singh. A recommendation has also been sent to the state government for the dismissal of another convict, Excise and Taxation Officer (ETO) Roshan Lal, in the same case. On January 9 last month, the court of Additional Sessions Judge Sunil Diwan sentenced ETO Roshan Lal, Inspector Sumitra Godara and a clerk to five years' imprisonment each after finding them guilty in the bribery case. The court also imposed a fine of Rs 1 lakh each on the trio.

authority to dismiss an Inspector, while the recommendation for the ETO's dismissal has been forwarded to the state government. Officials indicated that dismissal of the ETO is also likely, as conviction in such cases leaves little administrative discretion. The officials were arrested on May 9, 2022, by a team of the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB), Karnal, for allegedly accepting a bribe to issue a GST number. The clerk was later arrested and an FIR registered at the Faridabad ACB police station. According to the complaint, Mohit, a

## Lawyers defrauded, real estate firm Vipul Ltd's CEO arrested in Gurugram

Gurugram: The Gurugram police have arrested Puneet Beriwalla, the CEO of real estate enterprise Vipul Limited, for allegedly cheating several lawyers of Rs 6 crore by fraudulently investing money in a project and promising good returns. Beriwalla (62) of Malviya Nagar, Delhi, was living in Sector 42, Gurugram. The police took him on two days of remand after producing him in a city court on Saturday. Some lawyers had filed a complaint on October 1, 2025, that in 2024, they had invested Rs 6 crore with Vipul Limited for a project. Vipul Limited's CEO Beriwalla had promised them good returns, but after taking the money, he stopped responding. They alleged that despite repeated requests, their money was not returned. In August last year, the complainant lawyers had staged a protest outside V Club, raising slogans and demanding strict legal action against Beriwalla. Based on the complaint, an FIR was registered under relevant sections at Shivaji Nagar Police Station against Beriwalla and his associates Sunil Bhandari and Praveen Gupta. The investigation of the case was assigned to the police's economic offence wing (EOW-2). While investigating, the team of EOW-2 arrested the Beriwalla on Friday who confessed that instead of returning the money to the complainants, he invested it in other projects. "We are questioning the accused after taking him on police remand and are conducting raids to nab his associates," said a spokesperson for the Gurugram police. Despite several attempts, Vipul?

building material supplier, had applied for a GST number to start his business in Faridabad. His application was initially rejected by ETO Roshan Lal citing discrepancies. When he reapplied, he was allegedly asked to meet Inspector Sumitra Godara, who was posted in Gurugram. The complainant alleged that Godara demanded a bribe for issuing the GST number. During a meeting in Sector 34, she allegedly demanded Rs 7 lakh. Acting on the complaint, the ACB laid a trap and arrested Godara on May 9, 2022, while she was allegedly accepting Rs 2 lakh as bribe. The ACB also arrested ETO Lal and clerk Pawan from Faridabad.

# Delhi Police arrests man for Rs 1.37 crore investment fraud in meat export business

New Delhi: A 36-year-old man was arrested for allegedly cheating a businessman of around Rs 1.37 crore on the pretext of investing in a meat export business, an official said on Saturday. The accused, Mohsin Mohammed, was apprehended from New Rajendra Nagar in Delhi. Police said a complaint was filed by Arjun Arora, who alleged that Mohammed induced him

to invest substantial amounts by projecting himself as a large-scale meat exporter with business links in Dubai. "The accused, along with his associates, allegedly created a false impression of running a profitable export venture and assured high returns on investment," the officer said. He further said that Mohammed dishonestly obtained Rs 67.70 lakh through bank transfers

from the account of the complainant's father. The accused further persuaded the complainant to arrange USD 80,000 in Dubai through his associates as part of the purported business expansion. "To gain the complainant's confidence and delay legal action, the accused allegedly issued cheques of two private banks

despite being aware that sufficient funds were not available," the officer said. Acting on an input, a team arrested Mohammed from Double Storey Residential Block in New Rajendra Nagar on February 20.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I. Apoorva D/O Virender Singh, 33 PKT-13, SECTOR 45, HIG Narela, Delhi 110040 have changed my name to Apoorva Lamba for all future purposes.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I. Virender Singh S/O Sumar Singh, 33 PKT-13, SECTOR 45, Narela, Delhi 110040 have changed my name to Virender Singh Lamba for all future purposes.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I. Chaitanya Gandhi S/O Yash pal Gandhi R/O H-32/114, 2nd floor Sector-3, Rohini, New Delhi - 110085, have changed my Minor Daughter name from Shanaya to Shanaya Gandhi.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I. I hitherto known as RUBY D/O NAZIR KHAN W/O MUGEEESH KHAN R/O H.No. 213, Gali No. 4, Near Almorina Masjid, Ramghat, Wazirabad, North Delhi, Delhi-110084, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as RUBEENA PARVEEN.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I. I hitherto known as AHAMAD RAJA S/O AHAMAD NOOR R/O 303A, GALI NO-1, C-BLOCK, NEHRU VIHAR, MUSTAFABAD, NORTH EAST DELHI, DELHI-110094 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as AHMED KHAN.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I. I hitherto known as ANJALI D/O Virender R/O H.No. A-104, Street No. 5, Kamal Vihar, karawal nagar, North East, Delhi-110094 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Anjali Panchal.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I. I hitherto known as SARAVANA KUMAR S/O RAMA CHANDRAN R/O HOUSE NO-821, 2nd FLOOR, SUNLIGHT COLONY-2, VTC ASHRAM, SUB DIST DEFENCE COLONY, SOUTH DELHI-110014 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as R SARAVANA KUMAR.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I. It is for general information that I, Khalid Saifi S/O Alimuddin Khan R/O H No-B-401, Street No-1/9, Rajiv Nagar, Mandoli, Saboli, North East Delhi, Delhi-110093 declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as Khalid in my 10th Class Educational Documents. The actual name of mine is Khalid Saifi.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I. CHANDAN VISHVAS S/O DASHRATH VISHVAS R/O BHARMI, POST-BAGHELLI, SIDDHARTH NAGAR, UTTAR PRADESH-222006 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO CHANDAN VISHVAS ALL FUTURE PURPOSE.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I. BHAGORA JAMANA BAHAN Mother of No-4289302F Rank-Lnk Name-BHAGORA AJAYKUMAR MAGANBHAI Presently residing at VILL-JODHPUR, PO-VANKANER, TEH-BHILODA, DIST-ARAVALLI, GUJARAT-383245, have changed my name from BHAGORA JAMANA BAHAN to JAMANA BAHAN for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 03/03/2026 before Notary Public, Delhi.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I. MANOJ KUMAR S/O HARI RAM R/O TOWER J PH 01, FREEDOM PARK LIFE, SECTOR-57, BPTP GURGAON, HARYANA-122011, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO MANOJ ROHILLA FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSES.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I. SAJIAN S/O PARMANAND R/O D/54A FF, ARDEE CITY, NEAR GATE NO-4 SECTOR-52, KANWH(73) GURGAON, HARYANA-122003, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SAJIAN SINGH ALL FUTURE PURPOSES.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I. DHANNA SINGH Father of JC-252842K Rank-NB RIS Name-INDERJIT SINGH residing at VILL-DHATOUNDA, PO-CHALAILA, TEHSIL & DIST-FATEHGARH SAHIB, PUNJAB-140407, have changed my name from DHANNA SINGH to DHANA SINGH for all future purposes, in my son's service record my date of birth wrongly mentioned as 01/07/1961 instead of my correct date of birth as 15/05/1959 Vide Affidavit dated 03/03/2026 before Notary Public Delhi.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I. NABI JAAN S/O KAALU residing at E 16/A-275 T HUTS NEW SEELAMPUR NORTH EAST DELHI-110053, have changed my name to NABI JAAN S/O KALLU for all future purposes.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I. JASPAL KOOR Mother of JC-252842K Rank-NB RIS Name-INDERJIT SINGH residing at VILL-DHATOUNDA, PO-CHALAILA, TEHSIL & DIST-FATEHGARH SAHIB, PUNJAB-140407, have changed my name from JASPAL KOOR to JASPAL KAUR for all future purposes, in my son's service record my date of birth wrongly mentioned as 01/07/1963 instead of my correct date of birth as 01/01/1962 Vide Affidavit dated 03/03/2026 before Notary Public Delhi.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I. JASPAAL KOUR Mother of JC-252842K Rank-NB RIS Name-INDERJIT SINGH residing at VILL-DHATOUNDA, PO-CHALAILA, TEHSIL & DIST-FATEHGARH SAHIB, PUNJAB-140407, have changed my name from JASPAAL KOUR to JASPAAL KAUR for all future purposes, in my son's service record my date of birth wrongly mentioned as 01/07/1963 instead of my correct date of birth as 01/01/1962 Vide Affidavit dated 03/03/2026 before Notary Public Delhi.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I. MANOJ KUMAR S/O HARI RAM R/O TOWER J PH 01, FREEDOM PARK LIFE, SECTOR-57, BPTP GURGAON, HARYANA-122011, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO MANOJ ROHILLA FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSES.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I. SAJIAN S/O PARMANAND R/O D/54A FF, ARDEE CITY, NEAR GATE NO-4 SECTOR-52, KANWH(73) GURGAON, HARYANA-122003, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SAJIAN SINGH ALL FUTURE PURPOSES.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I. DHANNA SINGH Father of JC-252842K Rank-NB RIS Name-INDERJIT SINGH residing at VILL-DHATOUNDA, PO-CHALAILA, TEHSIL & DIST-FATEHGARH SAHIB, PUNJAB-140407, have changed my name from DHANNA SINGH to DHANA SINGH for all future purposes, in my son's service record my date of birth wrongly mentioned as 01/07/1961 instead of my correct date of birth as 15/05/1959 Vide Affidavit dated 03/03/2026 before Notary Public Delhi.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I. NABI JAAN S/O KAALU residing at E 16/A-275 T HUTS NEW SEELAMPUR NORTH EAST DELHI-110053, have changed my name to NABI JAAN S/O KALLU for all future purposes.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I. JASPAL KOOR Mother of JC-252842K Rank-NB RIS Name-INDERJIT SINGH residing at VILL-DHATOUNDA, PO-CHALAILA, TEHSIL & DIST-FATEHGARH SAHIB, PUNJAB-140407, have changed my name from JASPAL KOOR to JASPAAL KAUR for all future purposes, in my son's service record my date of birth wrongly mentioned as 01/07/1963 instead of my correct date of birth as 01/01/1962 Vide Affidavit dated 03/03/2026 before Notary Public Delhi.

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**NAME CHANGE**  
I. Parveen Kumar Gupta S/O Suresh Chand Gupta, B2 / 161, B2 Block, Yamuna Vihar, North East Delhi - Delhi-110053; have changed my name to Praveen Kumar Gupta for all future purposes.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I. SANJEEV AGGARWAL S/O VIJAY KUMAR AGGARWAL, D-2/1 FIRST FLOOR RANA PRATAP BAGH, NORTH DELHI, DELHI-110007 have changed my name to Sanjeev Kumar Aggarwal for all future purposes.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I. Ram Narain C/O. JP Mathur, 65-66 3rd Floor, Pocket-9 Rohini, Near Hanram Sweets, Sector-24 Rohini, North West Delhi, Delhi-110085 have changed my name to Ram Narain Mathur for all future purposes.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I. KM VANDANA W/O SANJAY KUMAR VERMA R/O H NO-B-5478, GALI NO-115, B-BLOCK, NEAR GURUDWARA, SANT NAGAR, BURARI, DELHI-110084, have changed my name to VANDANA VERMA for all future purpose.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I. ASHVINI BHARAT RAUT Wife of No-14836242L Rank-HAV, Name-RAUT BHARAT BALIRAO, RESIDING VPO-CHINCHOLI MALI, TEHSIL-KAJI, DIST-BEED, MAHARASHTRA-431123, in my husband's service record my date of birth wrongly mentioned as 06/08/1990 instead of my correct date of birth as 06/09/1991 vide affidavit dated 03/03/2026 before Notary Public Delhi.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I. SURBHI AMAN wife of No-903845T, Rank-JWO, Name-ASHUTOSH AMAN residing at SHIV NAGAR COLONY, CHHOTKI DELHA, PO-RS, PS-DEHLA, DIST-GAYA, BIHAR-823002, have changed my name from SURBHI AMAN to SURBHI SAJAL for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 03/03/2026 before Notary Public, Delhi.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I. Maitreyee Gupta W/O Lalit Gupta, EE-2135, SALT LAKE, BIDHANANagar, EAST NORTH 24 PARGANAS PIN CODE- 700091 have changed my name Maitreyee Chakrabarti for all future purposes.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I. Mohan Lal S/O Bed Lal Goad R/O Bagodar, Shitta Para, Bagodar, Post Chuhui, Dist Dhamtari, Chhittorgarh-493773, have changed my minor son's name from Vauman Goud aged 5 years to Vaman Dhruw forever

**NAME CHANGE**  
I. Shally Mouya D/O Jai Kumar Mouya and W/o Yuvraj Karyar R/O 41/8, M.R.C Road, Farwar Line Lal Kuri Bazar, Sagar, Madhya Pradesh-470001, have changed my name to Shally Karyar

**NAME CHANGE**  
I. Yuvraj Dumar S/O Rajendra Kumar R/O Anand Nagar Gali No.03 House No.286, Makroniya, Makroniya Muhal, Sagar, Madhya Pradesh - 470004, have changed my name to Yuvraj Karyar

**NAME CHANGE**  
I. Dheeraj Thakran S/O Ram Kumar Thakran R/O Patti Pachya, Village - Jharsa, Gurgaon, Gurgaon, Haryana - 122001 have changed the name of my Minor Daughter Preya aged 10 years and she shall hereafter be known as Preyashi

**NAME CHANGE**  
I. SABANA BEGAM W/O SAQI AHMED ANSARI residing at A-483, A-BLOCK, NEAR JAMA MASJID, OLD SEEMAPURI, DELHI-110095, have changed my name to SABANA BEGUM for all future purposes.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I. SAFI AHMED ANSARI S/O INAYAT residing at A-483, A-BLOCK, NEAR JAMA MASJID, OLD SEEMAPURI, DELHI-110095, have changed my name to SAFI AHMED for all future purposes.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I. LALIT S/O KANWAL NAIN R/O H NO-B-76, MANSAROVER GARDEN, RAMESH NAGAR, DELHI-110015, have changed my name to LALIT ARORA for all future purposes.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I. MONIKA W/O LALIT ARORA R/O H NO-B-76, MANSAROVER GARDEN, RAMESH NAGAR, DELHI-110015, have changed my name to MONIKA ARORA for all future purposes.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I. KM VANDANA W/O SANJAY KUMAR VERMA R/O H NO-B-5478, GALI NO-115, B-BLOCK, NEAR GURUDWARA, SANT NAGAR, BURARI, DELHI-110084, have changed my name to VANDANA VERMA for all future purpose.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I. SURBHI AMAN wife of No-903845T, Rank-JWO, Name-ASHUTOSH AMAN residing at SHIV NAGAR COLONY, CHHOTKI DELHA, PO-RS, PS-DEHLA, DIST-GAYA, BIHAR-823002, have changed my name from SURBHI AMAN to SURBHI SAJAL for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 03/03/2026 before Notary Public, Delhi.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I. Maitreyee Gupta W/O Lalit Gupta, EE-2135, SALT LAKE, BIDHANANagar, EAST NORTH 24 PARGANAS PIN CODE- 700091 have changed my name Maitreyee Chakrabarti for all future purposes.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I. Mohan Lal S/O Bed Lal Goad R/O Bagodar, Shitta Para, Bagodar, Post Chuhui, Dist Dhamtari, Chhittorgarh-493773, have changed my minor son's name from Vauman Goud aged 5 years to Vaman Dhruw forever

**NAME CHANGE**  
I. Shally Mouya D/O Jai Kumar Mouya and W/o Yuvraj Karyar R/O 41/8, M.R.C Road, Farwar Line Lal Kuri Bazar, Sagar, Madhya Pradesh-470001, have changed my name to Shally Karyar

**NAME CHANGE**  
I. Yuvraj Dumar S/O Rajendra Kumar R/O Anand Nagar Gali No.03 House No.286, Makroniya, Makroniya Muhal, Sagar, Madhya Pradesh - 470004, have changed my name to Yuvraj Karyar

**NAME CHANGE**  
I. Dheeraj Thakran S/O Ram Kumar Thakran R/O Patti Pachya, Village - Jharsa, Gurgaon, Gurgaon, Haryana - 122001 have changed the name of my Minor Daughter Preya aged 10 years and she shall hereafter be known as Preyashi

**NAME CHANGE**  
I. JHA RANI VIDHYANAND W/o Anil Kumar Chaudhary R/O 17-G, Pocket-B-6, Mayur Vihar Phase-3, Delhi-110096, have changed my name from JHA RANI VIDHYANAND to RANI VIDHYANAND permanently

**NAME CHANGE**  
I. MOHD JAHANGIR S/O Mohammad Alam Gazi R/O 92, Indra Gandhi Camp-2, Taimoor Nagar, Delhi-110085, have changed my name from MOHD JAHANGIR to MOHAMMAD JAHANGIR GAZI permanently

**NAME CHANGE**  
I. MOHD ALAM S/O Charnad All Gazi R/O 92, Indra Gandhi Camp-2, Taimoor Nagar, Delhi-110085, have changed my name from MOHD ALAM to MOHAMMAD ALAM GAZI permanently

**NAME CHANGE**  
I. SUMITRA DAWAR W/O Radhey Shyam Dawar R/O 550/1A Sidhi Vinayak Homes Mansarovar Park Shahdara Delhi 110032 Changed my name to SUMITRA DAWAR

**NAME CHANGE**  
I. MOHAMMAD SAMIULLAH S/O Fazle Inam R/O D - 133 And B.F /F Kh No 601 Krishna Park, Devli Khanpur Delhi 110062 Changed my name to Danish Samiullah

**NAME CHANGE**  
I. RADHE SHYAM MATHURIYA S/O BRILLAL R/O B-10, South Ganesh Nagar, New Patparganj, Delhi-110092 have changed my name to RADHEY SHYAM.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I. MOHAMMAD RUHAN S/O MOHD KAMRAN residing H NO-672, GALI NALBAND, KASHMIRI GATE, DELHI-110006, have changed my name to MOHD RUHAAN for all future purposes.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I. MOHAMMAD KAMRAN S/O MOHD IRFAN residing H NO-672, GALI NALBAND, KASHMIRI GATE, DELHI-110006, have changed my name to MOHD KAMRAN for all future purposes.

**CHANGE OF NAME AND DOB**  
I. MAHADEVI Mother of No-2626383Y Rank-SEP Name-ARUNKUMAR RAMESH VARAGANNANAR presently residing at VILLAGE-NICHANAKI, PO-NICHANAKI, DIST-BELGAUM, KARNATAKA-591115, have changed my name from MAHADEVI to MAHADEVI R VARAGANNANAR for all future purposes and in my son's service records my date of birth wrongly mentioned as 01/08/1981 instead of my correct date of birth as 01/06/1980 vide Affidavit dated 03/03/2026 before Notary Public, Karnataka.

**CHANGE OF NAME AND DOB**  
I. RAMESH Father of No-2626383Y Rank-SEP Name-ARUNKUMAR RAMESH VARAGANNANAR presently residing at VILLAGE-NICHANAKI, PO-NICHANAKI, DIST-BELGAUM, KARNATAKA-591115, have changed my name from RAMESH to RAMESH B VARAGANNANAR for all future purposes and in my son's service records my date of birth wrongly mentioned as 01/01/1971 instead of my correct date of birth as 01/08/1968 vide Affidavit dated 03/03/2026 before Notary Public, Karnataka.

**CHANGE OF NAME AND DOB**  
I. RAMESH Father of No-2626383Y Rank-SEP Name-ARUNKUMAR RAMESH VARAGANNANAR presently residing at VILLAGE-NICHANAKI, PO-NICHANAKI, DIST-BELGAUM, KARNATAKA-591115, have changed my name from RAMESH to RAMESH B VARAGANNANAR for all future purposes and in my son's service records my date of birth wrongly mentioned as 01/01/1971 instead of my correct date of birth as 01/08/1968 vide Affidavit dated 03/03/2026 before Notary Public, Karnataka.

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**  
Name of work and its location : 34-R2-SRDEE-G-DLI-225-26 Repair, servicing, overhauling & strengthening of 11 KV HT installation at colonies over DLI division.  
Approx cost of the works in : Rs. 1,43,93,868/-  
Address of the office : Sr. Div. Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi.  
Earnest Money : Rs. 2,22,000.00/-  
Last Date & time of submission of tender : 25.03.2026, 16.00 Hrs.  
Opening of tender : 25.03.2026, 16.00 Hrs.  
Website & notice board : www.ireps.gov.in & Sr. Div. Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi.

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**  
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Address of the office : Sr. Div. Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi.  
Earnest Money : Rs. 2,22,000.00/-  
Last Date & time of submission of tender : 25.03.2026, 16.00 Hrs.  
Opening of tender : 25.03.2026, 16.00 Hrs.  
Website & notice board : www.ireps.gov.in & Sr. Div

**With monsoon settling in, youngsters are geared up for exciting treks in and around Aurangabad.**



**Weekends are all about**

# Monsoon Treks

Jautala Autramghat Wildlife Sanctuary, Shuli Khanjan hill, Brazen Glen group of caves and Jogababa hill are some of the hotspots for trekkers. City based trekking organizations say that monsoon treks over the weekend is quite popular and reveal that this year, enquiries have been pouring in due to early monsoon. Most organisers have decided to prepone their trekking dates. Gishor Gathadi, an experienced trekker says, "This year we are starting our trekking programmes earlier than usual. Generally we start from July as the monsoon is at its peak. But this time due to early rains we start from June 13. There are a lot of engineering students who will be part of the treks this year, since most of them have just finished their exams. We have 60 entries so far and the number is increasing on a daily basis." Ravi Choudhary of another organization adds, "More than 50 students have enrolled with us so far. With early showers it's not a surprise that nature lovers want to get started with adventure

activities."

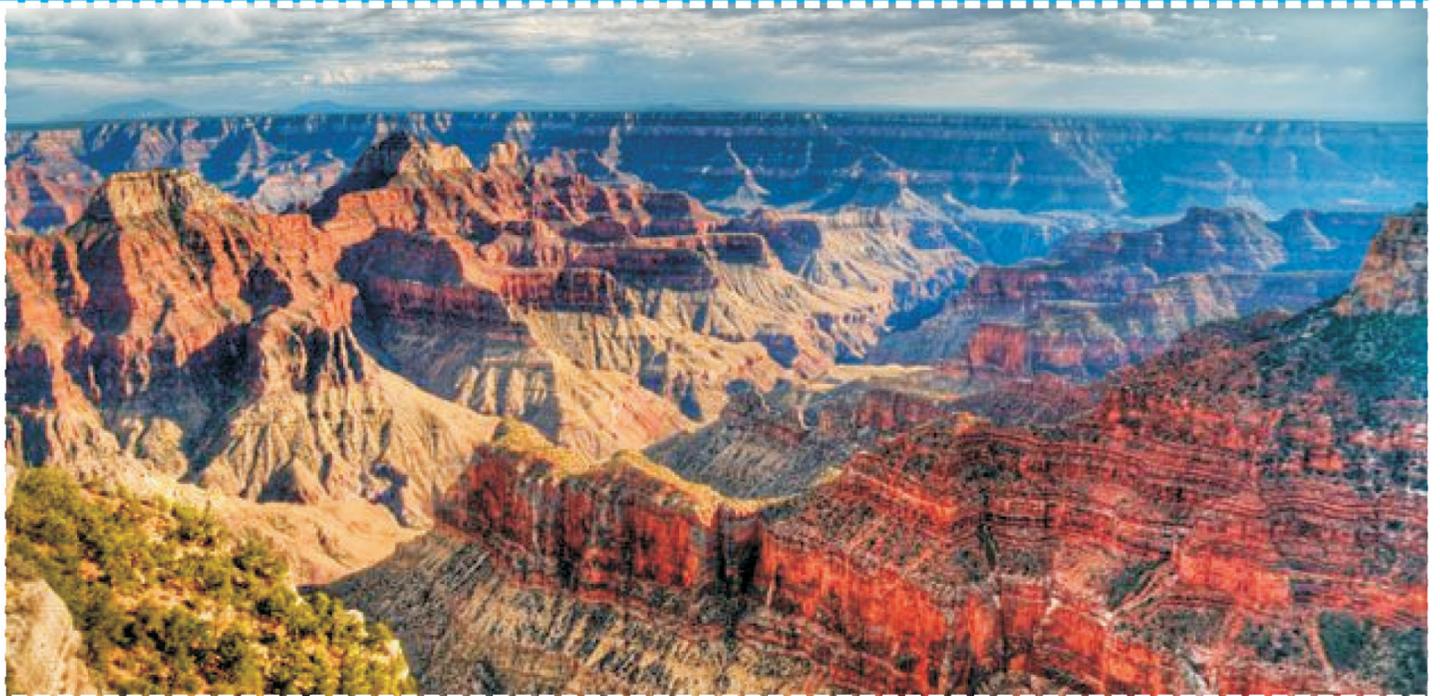
For most students trekking is an exciting activity that gets them close to nature and also helps stay fit naturally. Mansi Mahadik, student of Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University says, "I'm looking forward to having a lot of fun trekking this year as the rains have been good." Kshitija Bardapurkar a student from Marathwada Institute of Technology College adds, "I cherish the memory months later after a trek. It provides a respite from the drab routine of city life. Nature also inspires me to write poetry."

But it isn't only limited to being a fun activity and also provides an opportunity to learn new things and spread environmental awareness for some. Ravi adds, "While conducting treks, we encourage the trekkers to clean the plastic littering the area and also plant seeds."

Prakash Kulkarni, a student of Maulana Azad College who is all set to plant 500 neem seeds during his trek says, "Trekking is no doubt fun and a great form of exercise. But I also like to contribute to the environment in my own way. I have bought 500 neem seeds which I will sow along the stretch that I pass during my trek." Meanwhile Rahul Ingle, another student from Maulana Azad College who has been an avid trekker since past five years, has plans to teach rappelling to new trekkers.

Expert trekker Utsav Helambkar doles out some advice to new student trekkers. "Students should follow all the instructions given by their trekking head so as to avoid any mishap. Sometimes, girls tend to wear incorrect footwear during trekking. Wearing the right footwear, carrying enough food and water and a first aid box is very important. Also trekkers should walk in groups to reduce the risk of losing their way," ashokumarmundetiya.S

The western Grand Canyon was largely carved out by about 70 million years ago when dinosaurs roamed the earth, an analysis of mineral grains lying at the bottom of these hulking shapes reveals.



## Grand Canyon

**was carved out while dinosaurs roamed**

large part by an ancestral waterway of the Colorado River that was flowing in the opposite direction millions of years ago, said Flowers.

"An ancient Grand Canyon has important implications for understanding the evolution of landscapes, topography, hydrology and tectonics in the western U.S. and in mountain belts more generally," said Flowers.

The new research pushes back the conventionally accepted date for the formation of the Grand Canyon in Arizona by more than 60



million years, says Rebecca Flowers, assistant professor of geological sciences at the University of Colorado Boulder.

The team used a dating method that exploits the radioactive decay of uranium and thorium atoms to helium atoms in a phosphate mineral known as apatite, said Flowers, who co-authored the study with Kenneth Farley, professor at the California Institute of Technology, the journal Science reports.

The helium atoms were locked in the mineral grains as they cooled and moved closer to the surface during the carving of the Grand Canyon, she said, according to a Colorado statement.

Temperature variations at shallow levels beneath the Earth's surface are influenced by topography, and the thermal history recorded

by the apatite grains allowed the team to infer how much time had passed since there was significant natural excavation of the Grand Canyon, Flowers said.

"Our research implies that the Grand Canyon was directly carved to within a few hundred meters of its modern depth by about 70 million years ago," said Flowers.

Flowers said the entire modern canyon may not have been carved all at the same time. Different canyon segments may have evolved separately before coalescing into what visitors see today.

Over a mile deep in places, Arizona's steeply sided Grand Canyon is about 280 miles long and up to 18 miles wide in places.

Visited by more than five million people annually, the iconic canyon was likely carved in



# President launches 4 welfare schemes for women

New Delhi, President Droupadi Murmu on Monday launched four major welfare schemes for women in Delhi in the national Capital. The officials described the schemes as a historic step towards women-led development. The mega programme, titled "Sashakt Naari, Samridh Delhi," was held at the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium in the presence of Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena and Chief Minister Rekha Gupta. The President formally launched the Delhi Lakhpati Bitya Yojana, the Saheli Pink Smart Card, a scheme to provide free LPG cylinders on Holi and Diwali to ration card holders, and the transfer of over Rs 100 crore through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) to 40,642 girls under the Ladli scheme. Under the "Meri

Punji, Mera Adhikar" initiative, Rs 100.25 crore was transferred directly into Aadhaar-linked bank accounts of eligible beneficiaries. In an earlier phase, around '90 crore had been transferred to nearly 30,000 girls. The scheme aims to ensure transparency and timely delivery of benefits. Addressing the gathering, President Murmu said women's empowerment is essential for building a developed India by 2047. She said true empowerment means giving women the ability to make independent decisions, live with dignity, and access education and equal rights. She added that women are excelling in fields such as science, sports, administration, and defence, but challenges like violence and economic inequality must still be



addressed. The President said Delhi, as the national Capital, must present a model of women-led development for the country. She

urged society to ensure safety, dignity, and equal opportunities for daughters. The Delhi Lakhpati Bitya Yojana has been introduced

as a digital and incentive-based replacement for the Ladli scheme. Under it, Rs 61,000 will be deposited in stages from birth until grad-

uation. The amount will grow to around Rs 1.25 lakh with interest by the age of 21, subject to conditions such as completing graduation or a vocational diploma. A budget provision of Rs 128 crore has been made for the scheme. Girls living in child care institutions will also be included, with the Government acting as guardian. The scheme will operate through a fully digital portal, and its financial management will be handled by SBI Life Insurance Company Limited. The Saheli Pink National Common Mobility Card was also launched to provide free travel for women in Delhi Transport Corporation buses. The card aligns with the One Nation-One Card vision and will eventually be integrated

with other public transport systems, including Metro and RRTS. Chief Minister Rekha Gupta described it as a "dignity card" that ensures safety and mobility for women. In addition, ration card-holding families in Delhi will receive free LPG cylinders on Holi and Diwali starting in 2026. The benefit will be delivered through DBT. Around Rs 130 crore has already been transferred under this initiative. Lieutenant Governor V.K. Saxena said the schemes will directly benefit lakhs of women and strengthen financial security from birth to higher education. He said empowerment must include safety, dignity, and equal participation. Chief Minister Rekha Gupta said the four schemes aim to provide security from birth, investment in education,

freedom of travel, and relief in household expenses. She said empowering women will pave the way for a prosperous Delhi and a developed India. "When a daughter is empowered, families become stronger. When women become self-reliant, society becomes more confident, and when women progress, the path toward a developed Delhi becomes clearer. This day will be remembered as a historic milestone in Delhi's journey, as it celebrates the entire journey of a daughter from birth to self-reliance throughout her life," she said. The event was attended by Union Minister of State Harsh Malhotra, Delhi Cabinet Ministers Sardar Manjinder Singh Sirsa and Dr. Pankaj Kumar Singh, and thousands of beneficiaries.

## Speaker Gupta advises students on power, welfare

New Delhi, Delhi Assembly Speaker Vijender Gupta addressed the students of the Indian Institute of Democratic Leadership (IIDL) on Monday. The Speaker told the students that power is a sacred public trust and must be used for the welfare of the last citizen. Addressing Cohort IX students during their visit to the Delhi Legislative Assembly, Gupta said democracy draws strength not only from laws but from the ethical grounding of those who serve. He urged the students to see themselves as future architects of the nation and to act with responsibility and humility. The visit was organised as part of IIDL's structured field study programme in the national Capital. The Speaker welcomed the initiative and praised institutions that train youth in democratic leadership.



He said that classroom learning must be complemented by exposure to real legislative institutions to gain a deeper understanding of governance and public policy. In his keynote address, Gupta spoke about the vision of 'Viksit Bharat'. He said becoming a developed nation is not just an economic goal but a commitment to inclusive and transparent governance. He stressed that India needs lead-

ers who can take informed decisions in the national interest and uphold constitutional values. "A prosperous nation is built on responsible legislators, efficient administrators, and an aware citizenry," he said. Sharing insights into his role, Gupta explained the daily functioning of the Assembly. He said debate, deliberation, and scrutiny form the foundation of a healthy democracy. He added

that discipline and mutual respect inside the House are essential to maintain its dignity and effectiveness. The Speaker called upon young aspirants to put the nation above self and duty above convenience. He said technological and economic growth must be guided by human sensitivity and ethical leadership. Highlighting reforms in the Delhi Legislative Assembly, Gupta said the House has transitioned into a fully paperless and solar-powered "green legislature" through the National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA). He described it as a step towards modern and transparent governance. He also announced that the Assembly building will be transformed into a Heritage Site and opened to the public to preserve the spirit of democracy. In addition, Gupta spoke about his proposal for a

National Legislative Index (NLI) to evaluate the performance of legislators. He said the idea is gaining national momentum and aims to promote accountability and measurable outcomes. The session concluded with an interactive dialogue between the Speaker and the students. Participants raised questions on governance, legislative reforms, and ethical leadership. Representatives of Rambhau Mhalgi Prabodhini (RMP) and IIDL thanked the Speaker for his guidance. They said such interactions bridge the gap between academic theory and the practical realities of nation-building. By opening the Assembly to young learners, the event provided first-hand exposure to democratic functioning and reinforced the message that leadership is rooted in service and integrity.

## Mayor urges property owners to grab tax amnesty deal

Delhi Mayor Sardar Raja Iqbal Singh on Monday urged property owners to avail the benefits of the Property Tax Amnesty Scheme 2025-26, Sumpattikar Niptaan Yojana (SUNIYO). The scheme has now been extended till March 31, 2026. He said the scheme will not be extended further. Addressing citizens, the Mayor called it a "golden opportunity" to settle outstanding property tax dues without paying penalties or interest. He appealed to all eligible taxpayers to take advantage of the final extension and clear their dues before the deadline. According to official data, over 1.87 lakh taxpayers have already benefited from the scheme and paid property tax amounting to Rs 1,089.97 crore up to March 1, 2026. Out of this, Rs 211.44 crore was collected from 1,34,666 residential properties, while Rs 878.52 crore came from 52,759 non-residential properties. The Mayor said citizen participation in the amnesty scheme has been encouraging. He highlighted that 1,02,201 new taxpayers paid property tax for the first time under SUNIYO. The total tax collected from these first-time taxpayers stands at Rs 395.96 crore. Under the scheme, taxpayers can avail a complete waiver of property tax, along with interest and penalties, for the period prior to the financial year 2020-21. However, they must pay the principal tax amount, without interest or penalty, for the current financial year 2025-26 and the previous five financial years from 2020-21 to 2024-25. The Mayor also clarified that the late fee has not been increased. It remains at 5 percent, the same rate that was applicable during the extended period in February from February 1 to February 28, 2026. Highlighting the overall tax collection figures, the Mayor said the total property tax collection for the current financial year, including collections under SUNIYO, has reached Rs 2,893.86 crore from 12,78,445 taxpayers as on March 1, 2026. During the corresponding period last year, the collection stood at Rs 1,937.44 crore from 10,56,528 taxpayers. This reflects a 49.37 percent increase in tax collection and a 21 percent rise in the number of taxpayers compared to the same period last year. The Mayor noted that the total tax collection for the entire financial year 2024-25 was Rs 2,132.29 crore from 11,33,161 taxpayers, which is significantly lower than the current year's collection so far. The Mayor reiterated that the scheme aims to provide relief to taxpayers while improving revenue collection. He urged all remaining defaulters to act promptly and avoid a last-minute rush. With the March 31 deadline approaching, the civic body expects more property owners to come forward and regularise their dues under the amnesty scheme.

## 14 JNU students who were held in protest march released

New Delhi, Fourteen Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) students who were arrested during a protest march last week have been released, student leaders said on Monday, calling the development a relief for the university community. Those released include JNUSU president Aditi Mishra, vice-president Gopika K Babu, joint secretary Danish Ali, former JNUSU president Nitish Kumar, and AISA All India president Neha, among others. A Delhi court on Sunday ordered the immediate release of the 14 students who were arrested in connection with a protest demonstration at the Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) campus recently.

## Namo Bharat, Meerut Metro to run from 5 pm to 10 pm on Holi

New Delhi, Namu Bharat and Meerut Metro services will operate for a limited window, from 5 pm to 10 pm, on the occasion of Holi on March 4, the National Capital Region Transport Corporation said on Monday. The services will remain suspended during the morning and afternoon hours on the day of the festival and will resume operations in the evening to facilitate essential travel, the NCRTC said. The corporation added that on all other days, including Sundays, both Namu Bharat and Meerut Metro will run daily from 6 am to 10 pm, with the schedule maintained across the week for commuter convenience. The services connect key stretches in the National Capital Region, including Meerut, and are aimed at providing faster and more comfortable urban and regional mobility.

## Delhi Police busts multi-State job scam

Delhi Police has arrested a proclaimed offender allegedly involved in a multi-State job scam, cheating several aspirants of crores of rupees by promising Government jobs in the Ministry of Home Affairs, officials said on Sunday. The accused, identified as Suresh, was apprehended on Saturday near the Dwarka Expressway after a brief chase, they said. "According to the complaint lodged by Yogesh, a resident of Gurugram, the accused had allegedly taken '8.55 lakh between 2021 and 2022 on the pretext of securing him a Lower Division Clerk (LDC) post in the Ministry of Home Affairs.

New Delhi, Senior BJP leaders on Monday joined hundreds of journalists at the Delhi BJP Media Department's annual Holi Milan, where political messaging mixed with festive celebrations. Delhi BJP President Virendra Sachdeva used the occasion to attack AAP leader Arvind Kejriwal, saying Delhiites have already rejected him and will not be misled again. The Holi Milan was attended by BJP National General Secretary (Organisation) BL Santosh, BJP National General Secretary Arun Singh, Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, Union Minister of State Harsh Malhotra, and several MPs, including Manoj Tiwari, Nishikant Dubey, and Kamaljeet Sehrawat. Addressing the gathering, Sachdeva said Delhi has witnessed a visible transformation over the past year, and the city's image will improve further in the coming year. He said that when municipal elections are held, people will vote on the basis of the work done. Targeting Kejriwal, Sachdeva said the former chief minister tried to prove himself innocent under the cover of a lower court but has already been sent out of Delhi by the people's verdict. He added that Delhiites will not fall prey to deception again. Chief Minister Rekha Gupta said that under Prime Minister Narendra



Modi's leadership, the resolve for women's empowerment has gained new strength. She said it is not just about welfare schemes but about building an empowered woman and a prosperous, developed Delhi. The Chief Minister added that development works are progressing steadily and foundation stones for several projects are being laid. She said after Holi, the pace of development will increase further. The

Government, she said, remains committed to the people of Delhi round the clock. MP Nishikant Dubey described Holi as a symbol of harmony and brotherhood. He said the festival conveys the message of forgetting differences and working together for the nation's progress. The event was organised under the chairmanship of Sachdeva. Media Head Praveen Shankar Kapoor, along with members of the media team, welcomed guests and journalists with gulas and a shower of flowers. Four members of the Mahila Morcha applied sandalwood tilak to distinguished guests. Renowned folk singer Johnny Sufi performed Holi folk songs and bhajans. Journalists and leaders were seen dancing together. Traditional dishes from Old Delhi were also served. Among those present were National Office Secretary Mahendra Pandey, Delhi Ministers Parvesh Sahib Singh and Ravindra Indraj Singh, former MP Ramesh Bidhuri, NDMC Vice Chairman Kuljeet Singh Chahal, Assembly Deputy Speaker Mohan Singh Bisht, and several MLAs and party office-bearers. The gathering brought together editors, anchors, digital communicators, influencers, and photographers from across Delhi. Leaders from the stage extended Holi greetings to journalists and party workers. The annual Holi Milan has become a key outreach event for the Delhi BJP, combining celebration with direct engagement with the media fraternity.

## Delhi Police arrests people for cyber fraud of Rs 1.5 crore

New Delhi, The Delhi Police has arrested 27 men in connection with cyber fraud cases involving more than Rs 1.5 crore, from 11 States, following a week-long pan-India operation. According to the police, the accused were involved in at least 10 major

cyber fraud cases amounting to more than Rs 1.5 crore, while scrutiny of their suspected bank accounts revealed transactions of over Rs 13.91 crore. Around 150 complaints lodged on the National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal (NCRP)

have been linked to the mobile numbers and bank accounts allegedly operated by the accused, police said. The cyber syndicates were engaged in investment fraud, APK file fraud, social media impersonation, credit card fraud, task-based fraud and visa-related fraud. The police constituted multiple teams to trace and apprehend them and conducted simultaneous raids in 11 states, Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab, Uttarakhhand, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan,

Maharashtra, Bihar and West Bengal, leading to the arrest of 27 accused, they said. According to the police, the syndicates lured victims by promising high returns through fake investment schemes, sent malicious APK files posing as bank officials

## Security beefed up at embassies; 15,000 cops out for Holi

Delhi Police has stepped up security across the diplomatic enclave of Chanakypuri and increased patrolling outside the embassies of the United States, Israel, and Iran amid escalating tensions following the killing of Iran's Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei in a joint US-Israeli military strike on Sunday. Police said prohibitory orders under BNSS Section 163, which bars gatherings, have been imposed across the diplomatic area. Barricades have been put up around the US and Israeli embassies, and additional personnel have been deployed. Security has also been increased at big markets and religious places that often see high footfall. Police officers said intelligence agencies are monitoring the situation in the West Asian countries closely, as well as its impact on India's internal security. Meanwhile, the Ministry of Home Affairs has asked States to keep an eye on pro-Iran radical preachers giving inflammatory statements that may result in violence in the wake of the Israel-US attack on Iran, officials said. In a letter circulated to all States on February 28, the Ministry also asked all states and UTs to keep vigil on social media activities of extremists and global terror group



handles, they said. Advising the states to ensure that no law-and-order issues arise, the ministry has asked the States to heighten vigilance, as global events might have a domestic ripple effect through rhetorical statements, they said. The

circular asked the states to increase security at consulates, embassies, and other diplomatic offices of the USA and Israel in their jurisdictions, and at other entities of the two countries to prevent any untoward incident and maintain peace and tranquillity. One Sunday, visuals showed groups of people outside the Iran Cultural House in Delhi, where a meeting was scheduled to mark Khamenei's death. Some protesters were also seen raising slogans in parts of Jor Bagh, expressing grief over the Iranian leader's death. According to police, more than 15,000 police personnel will be deployed across Delhi on Wednesday to maintain law and order during Holi celebrations, with special focus on preventing drunken driving and motorcycle stunts. Police said elaborate security arrangements have been put in place to ensure that the festival of colours is celebrated peacefully and safely. Senior officers said teams will be stationed at sensitive locations, major intersections, markets and residential areas to prevent any untoward incident. Police personnel, including district police staff, traffic personnel and PCR units, will conduct intensified patrolling across the

city. Special checking drives will be carried out to curb drunken driving, rash driving and dangerous stunts on motorcycles. Multiple pickets will be set up at prominent roads and border points, officials said, adding that traffic police teams equipped with breath analysers, speed checking metres will conduct checks throughout the day to identify and prosecute those driving under the influence of alcohol. "Action will also be taken against triple riding, over-speeding and performing wheelies or other stunts on two-wheelers. Adequate arrangements have also been made to ensure a quick response to PCR calls. Anti-sabotage checks will be conducted at crowded places, and plainclothes personnel will be deployed to keep a watch on mischief-makers," a senior police officer said. The officer further said Delhi Police extends heartfelt greetings to the people of Delhi on the occasion of Holi. "We urge everyone to celebrate the festival safely and responsibly," the officer said. Police have also appealed to citizens to respect public order, avoid forceful colouring and refrain from creating a nuisance in public places.

## Lessons from India's Maritime Footprint

India and the Indian Ocean have been inseparably connected by geography and history. This region has been a cradle of civilisations. Major religions and faiths of the world are all represented in the littoral and island nations of the Indian Ocean. We know how geography exerts great influence on politics and security, particularly in matters 'maritime'. It is in this context that the Indian Ocean acquires importance. On its waters are carried half of the world's container shipments, one-third of bulk cargo traffic and two-thirds of oil. About one-third of the world's population inhabits the littoral straits and islands of the Indian Ocean. Four of these countries have populations in excess of one hundred and forty million people, namely, India, Pakistan, Indonesia and Bangladesh. Millennia before Columbus sailed the Atlantic and Magellan crossed the Pacific, the Indian Ocean was an active thoroughfare of cultural and commercial traffic. It was around 45 AD that the discovery was made of how to use the monsoon winds too directly cross the Arabian Sea instead of hugging the coast. The Indian navigators, though, had already sailed and discovered Socotra long before the first century AD. They had navigated the Red Sea using the magnetic needle, the Matsya Yantra, for determining direction. The existence of prosperous Hindu colonies in Malaya, Sumatra, Java, Cambodia and modern-day Vietnam clearly indicates that the Bay of Bengal had been mastered long before the First Century AD. That peninsular India was maritime in its tradition is borne out by the writings of Fa Hien, a Chinese visitor to India between AD 400 and 410. He was transported by sea from Sri Lanka to Sri Vijaya along with 200 merchants. There are numerous references to the Mauryas and the Andhras about the Eastern Seas. The Chinese had an extensive sea trade along the Malabar Coast. Hsien Tsang, who visited India in the 7th Century AD describes the vast overseas trade during the Gupta period. There are numerous mentions of the Chola emperors and their powerful sea-faring capacity. A vibrant trade route through sea linked the east with the west, from the West Coast of Japan, through islands of Indonesia, India and to the land of the Middle East; and from there across the Mediterranean to Europe. The links were formed by traders through buying and selling from port to port. They traded mainly in spices. The use of monsoon winds in the Indian Ocean was a boon to sailing ships. It helped them in their travels to and from India. Artefacts of the Saraswati-Sindhu Civilisation have been found in middle-east and Egypt dating back 5000 years. Large colonies of Romans lived in the port cities of India, especially on the eastern coast in Tamil Nadu, in the first millennium. Some of the earliest seafaring ships plied between the coast of Kerala and the Middle East. The second-oldest mosque in the world was constructed in Kodungalur in Kerala in 629 AD. Buddhism spread to all corners of Asia through sea and land routes. Centres like Sukhothai, Ayodhya, Angkorvat in the East, or Swat, Bamiyan or Dun Hwang, are manifestations of vibrant cultural links of India with the regions around the Indian Ocean. Ramayan was the most popular story told in this region.

# PM Modi's inauguration strategy

PM Modi's inauguration streak is well known. He inaugurates frequently and across scales, from railway stations and highways to housing clusters and redevelopment projects. Critics argue that this risks voter fatigue. More than that, it magnifies political exposure. When a Prime Minister associates himself with hundreds of projects, the likelihood that a single defect, delay or quality failure will reverberate nationally increases. Why concentrate reputational risk at the very top? In most political systems, leaders minimise exposure. They reserve landmark projects for themselves and delegate most other ribbon cuttings. They preserve distance from granular execution and retain plausible deniability. Narendra Modi appears to do the opposite. The branding explanation is obvious: permanent campaigning, credit consolidation. Yet this reading is incomplete because it treats inaugurations as spectacle rather than as incentive design. The deeper question is structural. If exposure carries asymmetric downside, why persist? Why repeatedly link the highest office to assets whose execution cannot be personally supervised? The answer lies in his economics of governance. India's execution challenge has rarely been a shortage of announcements. There has been a shortage of disciplined completion. Projects pass through ministries, state governments, regulators, public sector undertakings, consultants and contractors. Responsibility is widely distributed. Coordination is layered. This constraint intensified as public capital expenditure expanded at a scale India had not previously attempted. Infrastructure spending as a share of GDP doubled over the past decade. In nominal terms, annual infrastructure outlays multiplied several times over. The Economic Survey estimates the infrastructure investment multiplier at roughly 2.5 to 3. Every rupee of public capex can generate multiple rupees of output over time. But that multiplier fires only if the asset functions. Sanctioned funds do not produce growth. Completed infrastructure does. When allocations grow at this pace, the binding constraint shifts decisively from funding to execution. The Prime Minister cannot inspect every foundation or audit every tender file. He cannot eliminate discretion across thousands of decision nodes. But he must ensure that rising public investment translates into functioning assets. In such a system, incentives must be deliberately engineered. Frequent Prime Minister-level inaugurations alter the payoff matrix inside the state. A project inaugurated quietly by a lower authority remains locally bounded. When the Prime Minister inaugurates the project, it carries national salience. If quality falters or timelines slip, scrutiny widens. Media attention intensifies. Opposition attention intensifies. The expected cost of negligence rises. Here, the strategy becomes clear. Political risk is not being avoided. It is rather concentrated. By attaching his office to a broad set of assets, the Prime Minister raises his own reputational exposure. That exposure becomes leverage. Officers and contractors internalise that failure will not remain buried in administrative silence. The inauguration functions as a public commitment device, compressing accountability in a system long accustomed to dif-

fused responsibility. There is also a time-binding dimension. Modi has repeatedly stated that he intends to inaugurate the projects whose foundation stones he lays. In many political systems, foundation ceremonies generate immediate credit,



while delays are quietly absorbed by future administrations. Linking the foundation to the inauguration narrows that escape route. The benefit of promising is no longer detached from the cost of delivering. Files move differently when completion is tied to visible expectation. This visibility strategy is supported by institutional architecture. The PRAGATI platform, launched in 2015, institutionalised direct Prime Ministerial review of major infrastructure projects, bringing together central secretaries and state chief secretaries in a structured digital forum. As of 2026, PRAGATI has reviewed projects worth over 85 lakh crore and resolved nearly 3,000 systemic bottlenecks. Complementing this, PM GatiShakti integrates geospatial data layers across ministries

and states to reduce planning friction and coordination delays. These platforms constitute the administrative backbone that makes exposure credible rather than symbolic. The empirical record reflects this combination of fiscal scale and monitoring discipline. Highway construction accelerated sharply over the past decade. Rail electrification expanded to cover nearly the entire broad-gauge network. Metro networks multiplied across cities. Airport and port capacity rose while turnaround times fell. Train accident-related deaths declined significantly compared to the previous decade. These gains occurred alongside a massive expansion in project volume. The deeper contrast emerges when viewed historically. In the previous investment cycle, rising project pipelines coincided with stalled assets, banking stress and what was widely described as policy paralysis. Scale exposed institutional weakness. In the current cycle, the project pipeline is far larger, yet a systemic execution freeze has not re-emerged at a comparable magnitude. Time overruns persist. Land acquisition and environmental constraints remain binding. But the system has absorbed scale without collapsing into gridlock. Visibility can compress the construction phase slack. It cannot repeal geography or regulatory complexity. Yet the absence of systemic paralysis under unprecedented infrastructure expansion is not trivial. It suggests that execution elasticity has improved. Overexposure fatigue remains a political hazard. Governance, however, is not only about applause cycles. It is about incentive alignment within large institutions. In a vast federal state where coordination failure once diluted outcomes, pressure is scarce capital. Concentrated visibility creates pressure. The economics of PM Modi's extensive inauguration streak is therefore not about ribbon cutting. It is about risk concentration as a tool of discipline. By accepting exposure, the Prime Minister tightens the loop between promise and delivery. Whether this model ultimately embeds higher standards beyond individual leadership will determine its durability. But the structural principle is clear.

## Can India shape the machine age's moral compass?

In every civilisational turning point, nations are tested not merely by their technological prowess but by the values they embed within that technology. Artificial intelligence is one such moment. As algorithms increasingly influence governance, healthcare, finance, education and warfare, the world is not just asking who builds AI - it is asking who guides it. India's articulation of "AI for People, Planet & Progress" is not a slogan. It is a philosophical positioning. In a global landscape where AI leadership has largely been framed as a contest between superpowers, India is attempting to redefine the narrative: from dominance to democratisation, from profit to purpose. India's strength lies in its paradox. It is both a technological powerhouse and a developing nation grappling with scale. With one of the world's largest digital public infrastructures — Aadhaar, UPI, and a thriving startup ecosystem — India has already demonstrated how technology can leapfrog legacy barriers. Its model of digital public goods has attracted attention across the Global South. If AI is layered onto this foundation with intent and inclusion, India's voice could carry moral authority in global forums. India's regulatory framework for AI is still evolving. The emphasis so far has leaned towards enabling innovation — encouraging start-ups, fostering research, and attracting investment. This is essential. Overregulation at an early stage could stifle growth. Yet the absence of clear accountability frameworks raises questions about



bias, surveillance, data privacy and algorithmic transparency. Infrastructure, too, presents a dual narrative. Urban innovation hubs are world-class; rural digital access remains uneven. Compute capacity, semiconductor dependency, and high-quality datasets are areas where India must invest aggressively if it seeks to move from consumer to creator of foundational AI models. Without sovereign AI infrastructure, rule-making risks becoming rhetorical rather than structural. The shift has begun - diplomatically and ideologically. By convening global dialogues and foregrounding inclusivity, India is positioning itself as a bridge between advanced economies and the developing world. It understands both the anxieties of job displacement and the promise of productivity gains. This dual lens gives it credibility. But rule-making requires more than convening power. It demands domestic coherence. Policies must balance innovation with accountability - protecting citizens without paralysing entrepreneurs. Ethical AI frameworks must be enforceable, not advisory. Public trust must be cultivated deliberately. If India succeeds, it could offer the world a third path: neither laissez-faire acceleration nor restrictive technocracy, but responsible innovation rooted in human dignity. The real question is not whether India can shape global AI governance. It is whether it can align its regulatory courage with its technological ambition. History rarely waits. The machine age is writing itself. The pen, this time, may well be coded.

# Cross-border strikes and a fragile region

Pakistan is once again messing up its relations with its western neighbour, Afghanistan. Though the relations between the two countries have never been cordial and border skirmishes are common, the recent airstrikes violating Afghanistan's sovereignty take the conflict to the next level. The seeds of conflict go back to the time when the Durand Line was drawn way back in 1893 by the British, which Afghanistan refused to recognise. After 9/11, Pakistan sided with the US in its operations against Afghanistan; the later Taliban phase also led to much consternation. In recent times, following the Taliban's return to power in 2021, militant attacks inside Pakistan increased. Islamabad has since carried out cross-border strikes, claiming self-defence. At the heart of the dispute lies the unresolved question of the Durand Line. This territorial disagreement is compounded by accusations of militant safe havens and cross-border insurgency, with each side blaming the other for harbouring armed groups that carry out attacks across the frontier. Decades of conflict have also generated massive refugee flows, placing social and economic pressure on Pakistan. The bigger issue, however, is that escalation in the region is a threat to its peace and stability. The region remains volatile, and any escalation could invite the involvement of bigger powers to exploit the situation. In this context, India's sharp condemnation of Pakistan's recent airstrikes on Afghan territory is rightly placed as it underscores the gravity of a situation that threatens to destabilise an already volatile region. The strikes, which reportedly targeted mili-



tant hideouts but resulted in civilian casualties, including women and children during the holy month of Ramadan, have drawn criticism. India has described the action as yet another attempt by Pakistan to "externalise its internal failures" and has reiterated its support for the sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of Afghanistan. Islamabad claims that the strikes were conducted in retaliation for recent militant attacks within its territory and that dozens of terrorists were eliminated, but this tells only a partial truth. However, the deeper context suggests a more complex motive. Pakistan has been grappling with rising internal insecurity, particularly in its border regions, where militant groups have intensified attacks against security forces. By striking across the border, Islamabad appears intent on sending a message of resolve to domestic audiences. The airstrikes thus shift the focus from internal governance and intelligence lapses to an external adversary. Second, they pressure the Afghan authorities to take stronger action against groups allegedly operating from their soil. Yet, such unilateral military actions risk violating Afghan sovereignty and undermining fragile diplomatic channels. The airstrikes are an outright act of violation of the sovereignty of a nation, with a broader humanitarian dimension as they take place in the holy month of Ramadan. Interestingly, Pakistan's denunciation of cross-border terrorism underscores a striking irony: the very strategy it once employed now appears to be rebounding upon it. Karma!

## Mastering fortune through thoughts and actions

We all have good days and bad days. What amounts to a good day for one person may equate to someone else's bad day. When a person says that he is having bad days, what he generally means is either that some people are criticising him bitterly without fault on his part and are accusing him without any basis, or that whatever role he plays and whatever job he does turns into a complete failure and he flops. He does his best and yet success eludes or evades him. He loves some people and has good wishes for them, yet these people get estranged from him or turn into his enemies or rivals. He has not done any bad act and yet his mind is empty of peace and he feels that happiness is totally missing from his heart. Those very people whom he had helped in their dire need have now turned their backs on him and show not even a little concern for his well-being. There is no one even to encourage him or at least to utter a word of sympathy. On the other hand, they unashamedly point to his shortcomings, hit hard at his weaknesses and try to open or scratch his wounds. A person who is having good days, when people easily help him, appreciate his work and qualities and like or love him, feels that there is happiness in relationships. He has stamina and good health and does not have to beg money from anyone but is fairly comfortable. He feels that people do not misbehave with him and that he generally meets success whatever the venture he embarks upon. History is full of examples of kings becoming beggars or of ordinary men ascending to thrones. But what we need to remember is that

the shift in our fortunes or the change in our days is brought about by the change that took place in the past in the quality of our own actions. The change in days, some say, is due to a change in our stars, but even stars in the sky change due to the actions of souls which are also the stars now on earth. Remember, the whole of nature is influenced by our own actions and, therefore, we are the makers of our own fortune. We determine our own destiny. Since our bad days are a consequence of our actions, we cannot run away from them but must bear with them, whether happily or with a heavy heart. We have to adopt a posture, a strategy, a line of action or a plan to remain unaffected as we possibly can. There is no use cursing our stars or accusing people of having left us or caused misery to us. On the other hand, we should take lessons from these hard tests and consider them as exercises in self-development or opportunities for crisis management. Also, when anyone is having good days, he should not boast of his wisdom, achievements, knowledge or circle of friends, because one never knows when one will be hauled up on live coals. So, let us not be proud to the point of boasting, bragging or praising ourselves. Instead, we must always keep in mind that whether our days are good or bad, we should always be good in our actions, our state of mind, our dealings and relations with others, our attitudes and our response to various situations. If we follow this process, we can turn even bad days into good ones. So, let us stop thinking about good or bad days and become masters of our own fortune.

# Cheap Drones, Costly Wars

Drones have captured global military imagination, dominating conflicts from Eastern Europe to the Middle East and creating the impression that mass and saturation now determine victory. Yet how wars actually end tells a different story. Some conflicts have de-escalated swiftly after decisive air campaigns, while others have dragged on despite extensive drone use. For India, this distinction is critical, shaping how future sub-continental conflicts may be fought and how swiftly they can be decisively concluded. At the heart of this debate is the distinction between Tier-1 and Tier-2 airpower. Tier-1 airpower represents the pinnacle of military aviation: modern fighters, fused sensors, AI-enabled planning, and crucially - doctrine, training, integration, and intent. It is designed to conduct air campaigns that target an adversary's decision making capacity, with precision, intelligence fusion, command and control, and escalation management as core attributes. Tier-2 airpower, by contrast, relies on mass-especially drones - for steady attrition. Despite its technological sheen, it mirrors World War-I trench warfare in the air, producing prolonged conflicts, marked by rising costs rather than decisive outcomes. Recent experience indicates that Tier-1 airpower is far more effective at compressing conflict timelines. Operation Sindoor illustrates this clearly. The campaign relied on precision air strikes, tight command and

control, and careful escalation management. IAF fighters, employing precision stand-off weapons and electronic warfare, penetrated Chinese-origin Pakistani air defence systems to conduct deep strikes against terror camps and PAF bases. Instead of seeking marginal effects through low-impact drone attrition, Indian planners delivered a swift and sharp demonstration of capability that constrained the adversary's choices. Pakistan's drone and missile responses were neutralised by India's layered and integrated air defence network. Within four days, the conflict ended, with the regional military balance decisively signalled through airpower. This logic echoes the Tier-1 airpower masterstroke of Israel's Operation Rising Lion against Iran. In a volatile region prone to escalation, Israel prioritised rapid air superiority through pre-emptive SEAD (Suppression of Enemy Air Defences), using AI-sifted intelligence for hyper-precise strikes. Follow-on attacks targeted key nuclear facilities at Natanz and Fordow, while Iran's retaliatory drones and missiles were intercepted with a very high success rate. The outcome was a short and intense confrontation that conveyed strategic resolve without sliding into prolonged war. For India, facing nuclear-armed adversaries, the lesson is clear: speed, clarity, and control are strategic necessities, not optional advantages. The contrast with the Russia-Ukraine

war is stark. Despite ubiquitous drone use for reconnaissance, strikes, and harassment, neither side has achieved decisive advantage. Instead, the conflict has degenerated into a grinding contest of endurance, exposing Tier-2 airpower's fatal flaws as incremental gains are purchased at immense human and economic cost. Global think tanks quantify Tier-1's edge with hard data. A 2025 CSIS study comparing Israel-Iran and Russia-Ukraine shows that Tier-1 forces like Israel achieved air dominance in four days with about 200 sorties, at an estimated cost of roughly \$2 billion. By contrast, Russia has spent around \$500 million per day for years with limited gains. SIPRI data further shows that prolonged wars drive exponentially rising military expenditure across entire regions, not just the belligerents. The verdict is clear. Tier-1 airpower - precision and doctrine over drone deluges - doesn't merely prevail; it ends conflicts faster and at lower overall cost. Attrition-based, drone-heavy warfare may appear affordable per unit, but it becomes ruinously expensive over time. Prolonged conflicts drain national attention, slow economic growth, and heighten risks of horizontal or vertical escalation. World Bank and SIPRI studies show that long wars impose costs far beyond the battlefield - lost GDP, deferred development and reconstruction burdens. By contrast, short, decisive campaigns, even with

high upfront investments, are typically cheaper across their lifecycle. India's strategic calculus is clear. As a rising power seeking sustained growth and regional stability, it must not fall into the trap of a war of endurance. Its geography and threat environment already raise the prospect of a two-front contingency, where time matters as much as terrain. Tier-1 airpower addresses this challenge by shaping outcomes rapidly, limiting conflict duration, and preserving strategic flexibility. This does not render drones irrelevant. They remain valuable, versatile and complementary enablers in modern warfare. However, drones alone do not deliver a strategic advantage; they lock adversaries in cycles of retaliation rather than compel resolution. Recent conflicts show that technology without doctrine prolongs war. India's evolving airpower posture, emphasising precision strike, integrated air defence, intelligence fusion and integrated planning reflects a clear understanding of this reality. The real choice is not between manned aircraft and drones, but between decisive outcomes and protracted conflict. In an era captivated by FPV drone footage, India's experience offers a more enduring lesson: wars end faster when airpower targets an adversary's ability to decide, not merely its capacity to endure. That is the true advantage of Tier-1 airpower and why India's bet on it matters.

# TIME TO Treat your Tootsies

Going sans pedicure during winter is no big deal as your feet are usually covered. But this is the season when you end up wearing strappy sandals, exposing your feet to the scorching



heat and elements that be. Not only are you exposing your tootsies to pollutants galore, it's also a time when sweat and grime can make a heady cocktail and lead to blisters — never a pretty sight. Here's what all you could do...  
Happy feet, happy you  
For well-kept feet, you don't need to spend a bomb on salon pedicures. It's easy to get happy feet at home...  
Always keep your feet clean. This will avoid problems like smelly feet, fungal infection or eczema. Wash your feet thoroughly as soon as you get home, and pat them dry. Moisturize daily.

Scrub your feet once or twice a week to get rid of tanning and dead cells. To prepare natural scrub, mix together 2 tsp sugar, 1 tsp lemon juice and 1 tsp coconut oil. Apply the scrub all over your feet and gently massage for 3-4 minutes till the sugar granules get dissolved. Wash it off with water.  
Use foot powder before putting on socks to avoid smelly feet. Wear cotton socks, as it absorbs sweat better.  
Use sunscreen before going out, especially when wearing open footwear.  
Keep toe nails clean and trimmed. Cut the

nails straight to avoid ingrown nails.

#### Weekend foot ritual

In a bucket, fill lukewarm water, some rose petals and raw milk. Soak your feet in it. Raw milk contains lactic acid which exfoliates the skin and milk proteins provide nourishment. After soaking for 10 minutes, massage feet with rose petals. Wash with water and pat dry. Finish by applying a heavy-duty moisturizer.



## 8 Benefits of Rose water

The delicate rose has so much more to it than just its beauty and fragrance. An essential component of various beauty products and regimes, its derivative, rose water, has as many benefits. A look at few of them...

1. It helps in softening the skin by hydrating, moisturising and revitalising it.
2. Its antioxidant properties helps strengthen skin cells and regenerate skin tissues. It also keeps wrinkles aside.
3. Its moisturising and nourishing properties help in enhancing one's quality of hair. In addition to this, it helps treat dandruff and slight scalp inflammations.
4. Before Indians used medicated eye drops, it has often been used to clean and soothe one's eyes. Also, it helps prevent and cure dark circles and puffiness around the eyes.
5. It helps in treating skin rashes caused due to the scorching heat. Spraying it helps relieve sunburns and itchy skin.
6. Adding few drops of rose water to your regular creams can be used for its moisturising properties.
7. It can also be used as a cleanser to get rid of the dirt and dead skin off your face.
8. Finally, it can be used to treat acne. Mix lemon juice and rose water in equal quantities, apply it and keep it on for half an hour before finally cleaning it with water helps reduce acne. Following this regime for two to three weeks creates visible effects in reducing scars and blemishes.

The rain may fall gently on your window pane, but it's far from being kind to your hair. In fact, it is during the monsoon season that hair gets dry and brittle and more susceptible to breakage. But a spa need not always be a solution to regaining hair health back. With a few of these home-made masks, your tresses will regain their bounce and shine.

#### 1) Banana-coconut milk mask:

For hair softness  
Bananas are known to have immense value to your diet, but this time try them on your scalp, too. Mashed with a tablespoon of coconut milk, they add shine and softness to your hair. Apply the mask for about 20 minutes and rinse off.

#### 2) Avocado-olive oil mask: To hydrate the hair

Ripe avocados are just what you need to nourish the hair. Mix this with a little olive oil in a bowl and leave it on the hair to revitalise it. Apply this and leave it on for half an hour and wash off with warm water.

#### 3) Papaya-hibiscus: For split ends

Mash some ripe papaya (without the skin). Add some hibiscus juice to this. Apply the paste on your hair.



Try these

## Hair mask

to beat hair problems in the monsoon

Rinse off with warm water.

4) Curry leaves mask: To stop hair loss  
Suffering from falling hair? Use curry leaves to help. The leaves are packed with beta-carotene and proteins and have vitamin B, which restores colour to the hair by strengthening the roots. Boil the leaves with your hair oil. Let it cool a little. Apply and wash off.



# New Regimes, Ancient Hunger: Women as First Casualty

There is a question beneath the question whenever a society turns its full legislative attention to what a woman wears, where she walks, whether her voice may be heard in a public space, and how much pain her body may absorb before the law takes notice. That deeper question is never asked aloud, because to ask it would be to expose the one who is asking. The surface question is about morality, order, divine commandment or civilisational continuity. The deeper question is about what kind of mind requires all this legislation in the first place; what it is so afraid of, and what it so desperately wants. In the years before 1996, women in Afghanistan made up around 40 percent of the country's doctors, particularly in urban centres such as Kabul. They also held a significant presence in the civil service and formed the backbone of the education system in major cities. Under the first Taliban government, they were removed from all of these positions within months; windows were painted black so women could not be seen from the street; shoes that made sound were prohibited; a woman's laughter audible to men became a punishable offence. The Republic era that followed restored a portion of what had been destroyed: by 2021, 3.5 million girls were back in classrooms, over a quarter of parliamentary seats were reserved for women, and the 2009 Elimination of Violence Against Women law had criminalised domestic violence and forced marriage. When the Taliban returned in August 2021, the dismantling resumed. Girls above sixth grade were banned from school, then women from universities. Parks, gyms, and bathrooms were closed to them. In 2024, enforcement of the Taliban's "virtue and vice" regulations extended to women's voices in public, treating even speech as something to be veiled. And in February 2026, the new criminal code repealed the 2009 law and replaced it with its precise opposite: a provision permitting husbands to beat their wives and children, provided no bones are broken and no wounds remain visible. Rights granted, stripped, partially restored, stripped again. The arc alone is the argument, before any analysis is attempted. Whatever was built from the outside proved reversible the moment the outside changed. The question that arc forces is the one this piece proposes to



examine: why is the woman's body always the first territory claimed when a new power consolidates itself, and what does that tell us about the nature of the power doing the claiming? A society's legal imagination is its most honest self-portrait. Consider what the February 2026 provision actually reveals. The men who drafted it did not spend their legislative energy on agricultural policy, on infrastructure, on the country's severe youth unemployment, or on the widespread food insecurity affecting a large share of the population. They spent it calculating how much damage a woman's body may absorb before the damage becomes legally inconvenient. The bones must not break, the wounds must not show. Within these parameters, the beating is licit. What quality of mind produces such a provision? Not merely a cruel one, though cruelty is present. A mind for which the woman's body is the primary object of attention; a mind that, when it sits down to

govern, finds the female body the most pressing legislative matter before it. This is not governance, it is confession. Watch what happens when a man demands that a woman cover herself completely, that her clothing seal every surface from public view, that even her voice not carry beyond the walls of her home. He presents this as moral hygiene, as the protection of social order, as fidelity to divine commandment. What he does not present, because he cannot see it, is what the demand discloses about himself. If lust fills the eye, a wrist becomes a provocation; a strand of hair becomes a crisis requiring enforcement. The morality police who arrested Mahsa Amini in September 2022 for what they judged to be improper hijab were not enforcing some divine law. Amini died in their custody three days later, and her death set off the 'Women, Life, Freedom' movement that continues burning through Iranian society. What those men were enforcing was the terror of minds that cannot encounter a woman without the encounter becoming, for them, entirely sexual. The veil is not placed on the woman. It is placed on the man's inability to see her as anything other than a body. This is why the impulse, when left unchecked, never stops at clothing. The December 2024 ban on women's voices is the same logic carried one step further: if even a fully covered woman cannot prevent a man from experiencing her as a body, then her voice must also be silenced, because the voice is the last remaining evidence that a person is present and not merely a surface. The endpoint of this logic, followed to its conclusion,

is not a woman who is modestly dressed. It is a woman who does not exist as a person at all, only as an object whose properties must be regulated. Iran's trajectory makes the principle visible across a longer arc. In the years before 1979, Iranian women sat in parliament, managed government ministries, and comprised a third of the student population. Many of them marched for the revolution that would strip them of nearly all of this within months. They wore the hijab to those marches, not from religious compulsion but as a gesture of solidarity against a Shah widely understood to be a foreign-backed autocrat. The revolution promised dignity; within one month of its success, mandatory veiling was announced. In the early 1980s, the minimum legal marriage age for girls was reduced to nine (in lunar years), before later being raised again with exceptions remaining, the right to divorce was curtailed, and the Family Protection Law that had guaranteed women equal standing in custody proceedings was annulled. The women who helped topple one regime became the first significant casualties of the regime they installed. Reza Shah had banned the veil by force in 1936; pious women who wore it from genuine conviction were traumatised by the compulsory unveiling. The Islamic Republic made it mandatory under penalty of imprisonment. The instrument of control worked identically in both cases, pointed in opposite directions. What remained constant was not the garment but the shared assumption of both the secular moderniser and the theocrat: that the woman's body is available for political deployment, that it is terrain, and that whoever controls it controls the meaning of the social order. The woman's body is the ego's oldest possession. Before there were nations, before there were property laws, before there were armies, the female body was the boundary marker of lineage, of honour, of a man's legible identity within his community. Her control is not incidental to social order; it is its announcement. When she is controlled, the consolidating power has declared its territory. When she moves freely, the collective ego remains unsettled, for she represents the limit of its jurisdiction. The unexamined ego consumes. It consumes forests, having stripped vast portions of the earth's tree cover.

## Reservation: India cares for the marginalised

"Reservation is an instrument of affirmative action by the State... to ensure an all-inclusive march towards... an egalitarian society while counteracting inequalities," ruled the Supreme Court. For decades, India has employed similar policies to help historically marginalised populations gain access to school, employment, and politics. The Constitution allows the State to establish "special provisions for the advancement of any socially or educationally backward class... or for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes" and reserve public posts for any backward class "not adequately represented". In practice, this has translated into legally guaranteed quotas known as "reservations" for disadvantaged castes in government positions and colleges, as well as reserved seats in elected organisations. According to many, "India has a long history of affirmative action policies for Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs), which were later extended to Other Backward Classes (OBCs) in the 1990s." In a recent Supreme Court ruling, Justice Pankaj Mithal argued that this remedy should not become a perpetual advantage for the same families. He stated that once a family benefits and "achieved higher status", its descendants should not indefinitely take special seats. His own words were: "Reservation, if any, has to be limited only for the first generation or one generation." In other words, if a member of a backward community wins a government job or a college seat through reservation, the next generation will compete with everyone else. This notion is similar to the "creamy layer" criterion, which is already utilised for OBC quotas. Limiting quotas to one generation would prevent affluent families from monopolising benefits within a community. Critics of unfettered quotas point out that more affluent SC/ST families frequently send numerous members to reserved postings, in contrast to many poorer families who continue to get no benefits. Introducing a generational cap or periodic review would free up seats for people who have never advanced through the system. According to one study, eliminating the advanced segment "prevents their capture of benefits... improving reach to the most marginalised". In practice, this means greater possibilities for children from the poorest homes, rather than benefits going down through generations of the same family. The Indian Constitution specifically allows for caste-based quotas. Article 15(4) makes particular provisions for SC/ST and other backward classes, while Article 16(4) allows for the reservation of government posts for under-represented backward classes. As a result, current central policies allocate approximately 49.5 per cent of government employment and college seats to SCs, STs, and OBCs (15 per cent for SC, 7.5 per cent for ST, and 27 per cent for OBC). These quotas apply to all public-sector jobs, including universities and legislatures. (Some states go much further, such as Tamil Nadu, which reserves 69 per cent of seats, exceeding the 50 per cent cap.) In local administrations (village and city councils), constitutional amendments have also reserved seats for SC/ST members in proportion to their population, and women have been guaranteed one-third of all panchayat/municipal seats since 1994. The 73rd and 74th Amendments thus give a voice to disadvantaged groups in grassroots politics. Over time, India has expanded affirmative action to include additional communities. In 2019, the Government passed the 103rd Constitutional Amendment, which allows for reservations only on economic grounds. It introduced Clauses 15(6) and 16(6), which allow up to 10 per cent of jobs and college seats to be reserved for "Economically Weaker Sections" (EWS) who are not already classified as SC/ST/OBC. This 10 per cent EWS limit is "in addition to the existing reservations" and was confirmed by the Supreme Court in 2022-23. A split bench stated that the normal 50 per cent reservation cap (introduced in 1992) is "not inflexible" in doing so. The Court held that EWS quotas, which target poor upper-caste households, are constitutionally acceptable and broaden India's affirmative action net beyond caste alone. India's quota system is still based on caste. According to studies, SC/ST quota beneficiaries come from poorer households and districts than general-category students. For example, one study discovered that after the 1993 implementation of OBC reservations, the average OBC student received an additional 0.8 years of education compared to earlier generations. These findings imply that quotas have increased educational achievement for backward castes. Similarly, political science research shows that reserving parliamentary seats for SCs/STs and women has resulted in significant poverty reductions and increased social spending in such regions. Beyond caste and class, India has moved to expand quotas to other disadvantaged groups. The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act of 2016 requires a 4 per cent reserve of government jobs for people with baseline disabilities. (This is often divided into 1 per cent each for blindness, hearing impairment, locomotor difficulties, autism/intellectual disability, and so forth.) States are now implementing this; for example, Uttar Pradesh has announced a 4 per cent quota for disabled candidates in all government job openings. Education regulations also promote inclusion: the 2009 Right to Education Act mandates private schools to reserve 25 per cent of first-grade seats for disadvantaged (mostly low-income or rural) children, providing them with free education through eighth grade. India's Constitution also protects minority rights. Articles 29-30 protect the cultural and educational rights of religious and linguistic minorities, and institutions run by minorities can even set their own admission standards. For example, the State provides financial support to help minorities establish schools and scholarships. However, there are no separate religious quotas at the national level. The Supreme Court and top scholars have consistently said that India's reservation policy is based on caste and class, not faith. The RSS (a national ideological entity) stated in 2025 that "the Constitution does not allow religion-based quota", and courts have already rejected attempts to reserve positions specifically for Muslims. In actuality, some disadvantaged Muslim communities benefit indirectly: many "OBC" lists include Muslim castes, and certain states, like Karnataka and Andhra, have attempted sub-quotas under OBC for Muslims (subject to judicial challenges).



## The humble button that might save the planet

When we think of saving the planet, we imagine sweeping gestures. Solar farms stretching across deserts. Wind turbines pose heroically against sunsets. Electric cars are humming silently down highways. Rarely - if ever - do we picture a button. Yes, a button. That tiny, often-ignored disk that quietly holds your shirt together, keeps your jacket respectable, and prevents wardrobe malfunctions of global consequence. It turns out that this modest little fastener may have more environmental influence than we give it credit for. Let's talk about sustainability - and how something as small as a recycled plastic button can make a surprisingly meaningful difference. At its heart, sustainability is actually quite simple. It means meeting our present needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet theirs. It is about balance. Thoughtfulness. Responsibility. And if we're honest, it's also about paying attention to details. It lives in the everyday choices - what we buy, what we wear, how things are made, and crucially, what they're made from. And this is where our little hero enters the story. When we speak about buttons, we are not talking about polyester fabric. We are talking about plastic buttons - specifically polyester resin, the material commonly used in button manufacturing. Traditional buttons are made using virgin polyester plastic. Recycled polyester used in buttons is not made by crushing old buttons. Instead, it is typically derived from post-consumer PET - plastic bottles and other materials that have already served a purpose. These are collected, cleaned, processed, crushed into flakes or pellets, and then blended in specific percentages with virgin polyester. For a product to qualify as recycled plastic, at least 30 per cent recycled content is generally required. But manufacturing advancements have pushed that inclusion even further. Today, many buttons can incorporate up to 50 per cent - almost a 100 per cent recycled material while still maintaining strength, durability, and aesthetic precision, along with meeting the statutory chemical contents requirements prevalent in most continents. Designers demand colour consistency and finish - and modern manufacturing has evolved enough to achieve this even with blended materials. Now you might reasonably ask: "It's a button. How much difference can it really make?" A typical shirt button weighs approximately 0.35 grams. Ten buttons on a shirt equal 3.5 grams of plastic - ball park. On 100,000 shirts, that becomes 350 kilograms of plastic. If 50 per cent of that material is recycled, 175 kilograms of virgin plastic are avoided. Quietly. Precisely. Intentionally. And remember - the apparel industry produces garments in the millions. Multiply that calculation across brands, uniforms, workwear, school wear, and fashion lines, and the scale grows rapidly. That's only just the shirt. Sometimes sustainability isn't about dramatic reinvention. It is about responsible refinement. One of the most compelling ideas in sustainability is the circular economy - moving from "take-make-dispose" to "make-use-reuse-recycle." A plastic bottle and other food-grade plastic vessels are used, discarded, collected, processed, and transformed into usable material again. Waste becomes resource. The lifecycle extends. There is something quietly elegant about that transformation. One of the most overlooked aspects of sustainability is durability. The longer something lasts, the fewer resources are needed to replace it. A well-engineered button made with blended recycled material can withstand daily wear and multiple washes without compromising performance. If a button fails easily, the garment risks being discarded prematurely. One missing button can demote a perfectly good shirt to the back of the cupboard. The next time you button your shirt, pause for a moment. Consider that what seems insignificant may carry intention within it - a percentage of recycled material, a conscious manufacturing decision, a quiet reduction in virgin plastic use. Sustainability is rarely built on a single grand gesture. It is built through accumulation. 0.35 grams at a time. One shirt at a time. One decision repeated thousands - even millions - of times. Recycled-content buttons may be small, but they represent progress.

## Land titles warrant respect for mutations, not new labels

The first layer arises from survey and settlement operations. Historically, cadastral surveys, boundary verification, public notices, and objection hearings have been designed to establish a legally authenticated baseline of ownership.

India's land dispute crisis is often described as a problem of imprecise records, administrative inefficiency and pending cases. Yet these explanations only address the symptoms. The deeper problem lies in how India understands land title itself. For decades, policy discussions have revolved around achieving "conclusive" land titling, as though ownership can be permanently fixed through a single legal exercise. This ambition, however well-intentioned, rests on a flawed premise. Land title is not static. It evolves continuously with every lawful transaction. Trying to make it conclusive is, in effect, a conceptual mistake. The terminologies dominating the debate - "conclusive title" and "presumptive title" - are themselves misleading. These expressions, borrowed from foreign jurisdictions, fail to reflect Indian administrative realities. Instead of chasing linguistic perfection, India must recognise what already exists in practice: a dual structure consisting of a foundational title and a derived or current title, supported by two interconnected layers of Record of Rights. The first layer arises from survey and settlement operations. Historically, cadastral surveys, boundary verification, public notices, and objection hearings have been designed to establish a legally authenticated baseline of ownership. Settlement proceedings has brought order to fragmented claims. They have produced an archival Record of Rights that carries institutional legitimacy because they emerge from a structured public process. These exercises were designed to resolve accumulated uncertainty and provide a stable baseline for governance. To take it home further, some states enunciated clear-cut laws mandating an annually updated record of rights. Yet settlement never creates permanent ownership. The moment land is sold, inherit-



ed, or partitioned, the original record, though historically accurate, becomes factually outdated. Its true value lies in providing a starting point - a foundational title - from which future transactions derive legitimacy. Calling such title "conclusive" misunderstands its role. Settlement stabilises land relations; it does not freeze them. Law courts frequently observe that mutation entries are meant only for fiscal purposes and do not confer title. Mutation is also quite often dismissed as mere evidence of possession, as though it reflects nothing more than physical occupation. Borne out of a strata of judicial precedents, these pronouncements undermining mutation have successively failed to appreciate the quasi-judicial genesis and process of mutation. In practice, mutation cases are based on specific Acts and rules. Revenue authorities do not alter records casually; they do so after issuing notices, hearing parties, perusing records and passing orders only after an application for mutation is received. When a mutation is approved, the State formally recognises that ownership has changed. Governments do not collect land revenue from arbitrary occupants. Unlike electricity or

water charges, which may be recovered from users irrespective of ownership, land revenue is assessed only against persons recognised as legitimate holders in official records. The State is bound to demand rent from those it considers bona fide landholders, not from encroachers or trespassers. Revenue authorities do not alter records casually; they do so after administrative scrutiny. When a mutation is approved, the State formally acknowledges that the recognised holder of land has changed. Mutation, therefore, reflects legal possession grounded in recognised ownership. It is attained through a legally mandated best-claim principle, i.e., among competing claims for legal ownership of land, the claim validated and recorded through a quasi-judicial process enjoys presumptive legitimacy, unless further displaced through due process. The updated transactional or mutated Record of Rights, thus decided, is in practice, India's closest functional definition of current title for all practical purposes. India, thus, already operates with two parallel but complementary systems: an archival Record of Rights created through settlement and a transactional Record of Rights continuously updated through mutation. States that have digitised these layers demonstrate that the model works when allowed to function coherently. The real problem is not the absence of records but the absence of doctrinal clarity about their legal status. Recognising a derived title based on updated revenue records would also help distinguish lawful possession from encroachment. When mutation records are given appropriate legal respect, they create a clear evidentiary line between bona fide holders and illegal occupants. Today's ambiguity encourages litigation precisely because lawful possession is not institutionally trusted. Citizens approach civil courts merely to confirm what revenue records already acknowledge, turning litigation into a preventive strategy rather than a corrective mechanism. Authentic State-notified foundational titles combined with legally respected derived titles can provide stability without constructing an entirely new titling regime. At present, India effectively operates a system

of case-based titling, where ownership ultimately depends on judicial declarations obtained after prolonged litigation. Civil courts, designed to resolve disputes between parties, have inadvertently become substitute land settlement authorities. This institutional mismatch explains why title suits frequently extend across generations. Ironically, the titular status of the plots which do not part of any civil suit, concluded or pending, hangs perpetually in the balance, for want of a judicial stamp! A shift toward recognising foundational and derived titles would restore propriety and balance, vis-à-vis land titles through a continuously updated record-of-rights that establishes an authoritative snapshot of lawful holdings at a particular point in time. Administrative systems may establish and maintain titles, while courts would be free to intervene where genuine disputes arise. This would reduce litigation, improve market confidence, and restore public faith in land governance. The renewed push toward nationwide conclusive titling risks overlooking this reality. Draft reform proposals attempt to survey and title all forms of immovable property without even clearly defining land itself, instead relying on expansive notions of immovable assets. Such an approach faces enormous practical barriers. Urban properties, informal subdivisions, layered tenure arrangements, and historically evolved holdings cannot be exhaustively surveyed and permanently fixed in a single exercise.

The danger is that such an endeavour becomes an expedition chasing a mirage, seeking absolute certainty where only interim reality is possible. India does not lack authentic, digitised land records; it lacks alignment between legal doctrine and administrative practice. Land title certainty does not require theoretical perfection. It requires legal honesty. Land titles change with times. Land records evolve with it. State-authenticated derived and mutated records deserve institutional respect. Replacing the misleading binaries of conclusive and presumptive title with the more grounded concepts of foundational and derived title would align Indian land law with lived reality. The path to reform lies not in inventing new abstractions but in recognising the strength of systems already operating across the states, and giving them the legal clarity they have long lacked.

# Why Holi Feels Like Home with Khoya

The freshness of the khoya anchors every recipe. It makes the care put into the cooking obvious from the very first bite. If you are skipping sugar this year, the spread is still massive. The Pink Coconut Ladoo, Bikaneri Barfi, Roasted Besan Ladoo, and Kesar Barfi mean no one has to sit out.

Holi is nothing without sweets, and in Indian culture, a sweet is a simple gesture of love. For us, a box of mithai is the primary language of our blessings for every festival. This deep bond is found in our culinary history, where recipes were once treated like royal secrets in ancient kitchens. These treats represent a craft that links our heritage to the way we celebrate today. Holi is essentially defined by these traditional sweets, which serve to bring people together through the collective experience of the festival. Sid Mathur, the founder of Khoya Mithai, noticed that traditional sweets were losing their soul to mass production. He spent years researching old food texts to find the original spirit of these recipes. He believes that a sweet is a gesture of love and should be treated with the highest respect. By using organic ingredients and traditional methods, he has redefined the meaning of a festive gift. As the clouds of pink and yellow gulal rise, the kitchen becomes the true centre of the world. The star of the season is the gujiya, which comes with a surprise this year. The Motichoor Gujiya is a marvel. It is filled with tiny pearls that release a burst of ghee the moment you bite through the crust. Then there is the Apple Cinnamon Gujiya. The classic



version remains a favourite. Its brittle, golden shell shatters to reveal a heart of velvet khoya. Moving past the gujyas, the rest of the sweets act as a map of our culinary heritage. You will spot the delicate Rose Peda sitting right next to the nutty Mewa Vatti. Then there is the Milkcake, offering deep, caramelised notes that melt slowly. Every single piece feels

like a quiet nod to traditional craft. The absolute classics, like Kesar Motichoor Ladoo, aromatic Mathura Peda, and Rose Coconut Barfi, are included. Then a modern Chocolate Barfi shows up right next to a rich Mysore Pak and soft Khoya Malai Ladoo. There is a Date and Nut Barfi tucked in there too. The rest of the plate sticks to familiar favourites

like Mohanthal, Pista Barfi, Walnut Peda, and a colourful Sangam Barfi to round out the whole spread.

The freshness of the khoya anchors every recipe. It makes the care put into the cooking obvious from the very first bite. If you are skipping sugar this year, the spread is still massive. The Pink Coconut Ladoo, Bikaneri Barfi, Roasted Besan Ladoo, and Kesar Barfi mean no one has to sit out. This pure ingredient gives the treats a melting quality that stays on your tongue. Every piece is prepared with the sweetest care to ensure that your celebration feels like a warm embrace. Holi is always a loud, messy blur. But right in the middle of the noise, a simple box of mithai brings everyone back to the table. It ties years of old memories right into the present. Let the gulal get stuck in your hair and completely ruin your best white clothes. Some traditions actually need to be tasted instead of watched from the sidelines. Open up a box, share a story, and let the first real celebration of the year begin. A sharp contrast of salt and spice is exactly what you need to balance out the sugar. The classic Raj Kachori is an absolute beauty. Its crisp shell holds a world of tang and crunch. We have all eaten regular Dahi Bhalla. But have you ever tried the Avocado Dahi Bhalla? The vibrant green colour and silky texture are a total revelation. It offers a cool break from the sun and leaves a modern, buttery finish on the tongue. If you crave heat, the spicy Pav Bhaji is the answer. It comes dripping with melting butter and delivers a massive punch of flavour. And we absolutely cannot forget the real blast of flavours from a tall glass of classic Thandai.

## Escape into the painted lanes

"The world will be saved by beauty." Dostoevsky wrote that down, probably never thinking a quiet corner in Delhi would actually prove him right, one brick at a time. For the longest time, Lodhi Colony was a sea of bureaucratic grey. It was a rigid, symmetrical leftover from the 1940s built to house the cogs of the British Raj. For decades, those arched gateways were there. They were functional. They were nothing more than the background noise of a city always in a rush. But that heavy silence has finally broken. Today, it is replaced by a permanent, defiant explosion of colour. It is like a never-ending Holi painted onto the very skin of the city. It is a place where the festival of colours refuses to wait for a date on the calendar. It lives there, every single day.



Strolling these lanes feels like wandering into the city's private diary. What was a quiet government estate has blossomed into India's first open-air museum. It is a gift to all, showing every ordinary building has a story. These walls carry the street's lively spirit. With Lodhi Art District marking 10 years alongside St+art India Foundation and Asian Paints, the colony now feels like home-art for one and all. Here, the city finally finds its voice. That wall's turned into a huge, colourful garden doorway where two worlds bloom together. High on the scaffolding, Artist Suso33 from Madrid paints with a dancer's grace. Right beside him, his wife Annabelle is busy capturing the whole transformation. She tells us that Indian people are so full of colour that Suso felt he simply had to reflect that spirit in his work. If you ask what drives a project this big, the answer is actually quite simple: it is love. That love is what gets the art onto the stone, a shared passion that fuels every stroke. Working alongside local artists like Ishan and Tarini, they are creating a visual handshake. This is slow, thoughtful work. It involves the residents who stop to offer a word of encouragement or stand in awe. By the time the final stroke is placed, the flags of India and Spain will meet on the brickwork as a gift of friendship. The creativity spills right off the walls and onto the wheels moving through the city. Down a nearby lane, artists are busy turning ten rickshaws into bright, rolling masterpieces. In a time when fewer people pick this old-school way of travel, these painters give the rickshaw a new soul.

They paint them so well that you want to hop in for a ride. This keeps the heritage of the streets alive, turning a boring commute into a walk through a gallery. A local artist from Kotla, who has spent ten years doing this, smiles while wiping a smudge of yellow paint off his hand. This spirit of inclusion defines Lodhi. It is a place where the art belongs to everyone, regardless of status. The streets are a theatre and every person walking by is a guest of honour. Of all the stories on these walls, one hits deep. The mural Water: Past, Present, Future brings together Raissa Pardini from the UK and the late Hanif Kureshi, a true visionary. They walked the crowded lanes of Old Delhi, talking to traditional sign painters to capture the perfect visual language. This was the last design Hanif Kureshi finished before he passed. It is a vivid tribute to a man who always said the streets make the best gallery. The mural ties ancient Indian stepwells to the crises ahead. We are the ones who must guard our heritage. From the sharp lines of Bartek Swiatecki to the playful stories told by Jumu from Berlin, Lodhi has turned into a global village. But the real magic is just in noticing things. It is the way the morning sun hits a mural of a bird in flight, or how a plain wall can suddenly make a stranger feel a bit less alone. Lodhi lanes have shown Delhi that beauty belongs to everyone. It turns a quick walk to the shops into a discovery. In these lanes, every day feels like Holi, and every wall celebrates what it means to be alive together. The best part is that the gates stay open. Anyone can wander these streets and find a spot they love. Those walls are just waiting for you to look up. Just stop. Park the car, pocket the phone. The real magic of the Lodhi lanes is how the light hits a three-storey bird at four in the afternoon. These walls spent eighty years watching the city grow, and now, they are finally talking back. When you wander through, you naturally slow down. You find yourself breathing a bit deeper and looking at everything like a kid again. It is rare to find a spot that wants nothing but your time, yet somehow makes you feel like you belong. The paint is fresh, the stories go deep, and the streets are wide open for you. Who hates the mess of a spray bottle or hands covered in colour? The lanes of Lodhi walls show exactly how much a bit of paint can change your mood. You can still volunteer or just get totally lost in these art-filled paths. So, go ahead. Wander. You are walking right through the heart of Delhi. Once you see the city in these colours, the plain grey walls everywhere else just do not cut it anymore.

## Colourful chaos

Play the festival of colours with such wild abandon that, looking at the photographs the next day, people ask who actually is in the picture. This is one specific thing that happens in every house come spring. Picture someone standing right in front of a mirror, soaked. They are staring back at a complete stranger. Silver glitter is stuck in their eyebrows. Their ears are dripping with this crazy mix of red, yellow, green, and indigo. Every shade of the rainbow is caked onto every single inch of their face. They turn to a friend standing right there and start cracking up out loud. They tease their companion about how those dark purple stains will never wash off before Monday morning. Then they catch their own reflection again and realise they look significantly worse. The laughter bubbles up out of control and that exact moment holds the real heart of the celebration. They stand there, soaking wet, while the floor turns into a disaster zone of muddy water. Catching one final look at themselves makes them burst into giggles because of the beautiful, colourful mess.

This is Holi. It is a celebration that paints whole streets and every house with wild, uncontrollable joy. The festival strips away the serious faces people wear all year long. A strict office manager and a young student look the same when they are covered in thick layers of colours. No one cares about pressing deadlines or social rules when a water balloon flies through the air towards them. India feels Holi right down in its bones. The whole country moves to the heavy thud of a street dhol. It is like watching an entire nation take one massive breath out, exhaling a giant cloud of pink and yellow gulal to finally let go. Familiar old folk songs bounce off the brick walls for a single loud afternoon. This is when the tall barriers of class and status melt. They wash down the alleyways in a thick river of bright green and indigo water. How exactly did a terrifying story about a blazing pyre turn into the most joyful street party in the world? The deep cultural roots of this chaos go back thousands of years. Families gather around massive bonfires the night before to remember the legend of a young boy named Prahlad. His faith saved him from a blazing pyre while the evil Holika turned to ash. Even today, people enact the scene of Holika burning to ashes every single year. It stands as a deeply emotional reminder that goodwill will always defeat evil. In several states, especially in the north, crowds burn towering effigies of Holika in huge bonfires. There is even a fierce practice of hurling cow dung into the fire and shouting obscenities at it, treating the flames like the demon herself. They watch the bad burn away to make room for the good. Then the mood suddenly shifts, and everywhere one hears echoing shouts of "Holi-hai! Holi-hai!" The tradition of burning Holika is religiously followed in Gujarat and Odisha also. Here, people render their gratitude to Agni, the god of fire. They offer gram and green stalks from the new harvest with complete humility, praying for a good season ahead. By the time the sun gets higher, bright colours take over everything. The tradition of throwing gulal goes way back. It started with a playful story about Krishna. He was feeling pretty self-conscious about having dark skin. He smeared colour on Radha, so their faces would match perfectly. That one vulnerable move created a tradition that forces a massive social reset today. This brings absolute equality to the streets. The celebration spills everywhere. It goes straight from the muddy back lanes right into the bright blue swimming pools. You get the older folks holding their ground. They just blast "Holi Khele Raghuvera" from some old beat-up speaker. Meanwhile, the younger crowd completely takes over the pool area. They are out there dancing to "Balam Pichkari" with these massive plastic water guns. Eventually, everyone gets hungry and just swarms the snack tables. Whole platters of gujyas vanish in a few seconds. It is so hilarious watching a friend try to chew this massive bite of sweet khoya while dodging water balloons coming from every direction. Sticky sugar syrup drips down fingers that are already stained blue and red. Beyond the colourful water and stained shirts, the day carries a heavy weight. Thousands of people spend the festival in a silent apartment's miles away from their mother's kitchen. A stray pink smudge on a pavement or the smell of roasting cardamom triggers a sharp ache for a family hug. But that is the hidden magic of the festival. It acts as a bridge.

## Israel is a land of History Beauty & Revival

Israel may appear small on the map, but it is vast in experience, emotion, and historical depth. There is a famous Hebrew line that reflects the country's essence: "Nothing can stop a person who believes in their own strength." This single line captures the spirit I encountered across Israel — a blend of resilience, faith, and an unbroken will to live fully. During my recent journey through this extraordinary land, that spirit surrounded me everywhere: in the ancient stones of King David's Jerusalem, the old port city of Jaffa where St Peter is said to have stayed, the monumental remains of Herod the Great in Caesarea, Jerusalem and Masada, the serene waters of the Sea of Galilee where Jesus walked, and the perfectly manicured terraces of the Bahá'í Gardens in Haifa. Moving from the dry, dramatic landscapes near the Dead Sea to the breezy Mediterranean coast, I was reminded of another well-loved Hebrew saying: "From the desert to the sea, Israel is full of beautiful contrasts." What I offer here is not fiction or hearsay — but a truthful account of what I experienced firsthand. For me, there are two Israels, and both are deeply real. One is strong — born out of conflict, courage, and an unwavering fight for what is right. The other is beautiful — a place of history, spirituality, culture, and warmth, unlike anywhere else in the world. My relationship with Israel is framed by two sharply distinct moments. In 2023, I was on the ground reporting in the aftermath of the horrific October 7 terrorist attack. I wore a bulletproof jacket, moving through tense streets and uncertain skies, witnessing a nation grappling with one of the darkest chapters in its history. Fear and grief were heavy in the air, but so was unity. Israeli society came together with a kind of strength and focus that is difficult to describe unless you are standing in the middle of it. In 2025, I returned to the same country, this time under warm sunshine, wearing casual and fashionable clothes, seeing Israel through a completely different lens. The contrasts could not have been sharper. The cafés were alive again. Beaches were full. Markets buzzed. Families travelled. Life had returned to the streets, proving once again that Israel does not simply survive challenges — it rises above them. I arrived at Ben Gurion Airport on November 2, 2025, and headed toward Tel Aviv for the first part of my journey. Over the next three days, I saw a city transformed yet familiar — lively, energetic, and completely



unafraid to express itself. Tel Aviv lives 24 hours a day. The city's streets are filled with people rushing to offices, cafés, bookstores, restaurants, fashion boutiques, tech hubs, and local markets. The aroma of freshly brewed coffee floats from corner to corner. Bicycles and e-scooters zip through narrow lanes, buses roll past museums, and small dogs trot happily along the sidewalks. One of the most noticeable elements of Tel Aviv — unchanged since 2023, yet richer in depth — is the street art. The walls are canvases and Graffiti of emotion. "Bring Them Home" murals, painted in powerful colours, reflect the country's continuing plea for the return of hostages. Surrounding them are vibrant artworks filled with messages of unity, hope, love, and resilience. These murals are not just art — they are the city speaking directly to you. A special thanks goes to Ella, our guide through Tel Aviv's food and wine world. She led us to the heart of Levinsky Market, where we tasted excellent red and white wines, sampled local cheeses, herbs, and pastries, and learned how food in Israel is more than a meal — it is a story of culture, migration, and family traditions from across the

world. Tel Aviv transforms dramatically at night. With the help of Avital from D-TLV Pub Crawl, I explored a nightlife that is almost unmatched in the region. Bars, pubs, underground clubs, and rooftop lounges open a world of stories, music, and energy. You hear Hebrew, English, Russian, and French — a reflection of the country's diverse population. There is jazz in some corners, pop music in others, and everywhere a sense that Tel Aviv simply does not want to sleep. After Tel Aviv's liveliness, Jerusalem brings you to a different world altogether. During my travels, I met tourists from several European nations, the Philippines, and other parts of Asia at major attractions such as Masada, Jerusalem, and Caesarea. But Jerusalem was where the diversity of travellers became most visible. Pilgrims, students, artists, historians, and families — all converged on this ancient city for reasons of faith, learning, curiosity, or simply peace. Stepping into Jerusalem is a spiritual experience. Whether you are religious or not, you feel something profound and sacred the moment you enter its ancient gates. It is a city that whispers history in every stone. No trip to the Holy City is complete without visiting the City of David. To miss it is to leave out a central chapter of human civilisation. The underground tunnels, archaeological findings, immersive lighting shows, and breathtaking views all help bring biblical history alive. I also spent time at the Austrian Pilgrim Hospice, a historical guesthouse established in 1863. It remains one of the most peaceful spots inside the Old City, with its European-style architecture, quiet gardens, and a rooftop terrace offering one of the best panoramic views of Jerusalem and sunset. Jerusalem remains the heart of tourism, drawing millions each year to sites such as the Western Wall, Church of the Holy Sepulchre, and Temple Mount. Tel Aviv, meanwhile, continues to grow as a Mediterranean cultural powerhouse. Nature lovers have no shortage of breathtaking locations — from the Dead Sea, the lowest point on Earth, to the Galilee, favoured by hikers and pilgrims alike. My journey through Israel reminded me of something profound: this land is never just one thing. It is ancient and modern, tough and tender,

fast and slow, resilient and welcoming. From wearing a bulletproof jacket in 2023 to walking confidently in fashionable clothes in 2025, my experience reflects the country's own journey — a constant balance between strength and beauty. Special thanks to our guide from Israel, Mr. Amri Wandel, for providing us with detailed and highly impressive insights throughout our tour.

### Alchemist's hands: When wood and wire breathe

Just pulling a single string can bring different worlds together, turning a simple piece of wood into something that actually has a soul. This year, the Ishara International Puppet Theatre Festival has turned the India Habitat Centre into a place where these silent characters finally get to talk. As you could tell, this was like a living room for stories, breathing life into old traditions and the things we worry about today. Opening day felt huge for the arts. The Department of Posts actually released a special set of stamps for it, basically telling the world that puppetry is a massive part of India's history. These eight stamps show off the whole range — everything from the shadow puppets down south to the string ones in the north. It is a real shout-out to the master artists who have kept these stories alive for hundreds of years. Opening night really belonged to South Korea's Doong Doong Alert. Put together by Culture Art Bakery FFWANG, the show felt like something out of a dream. Directed by Hwang Seokyoung, the story follows a kid named Jiho who lives with his grandad and starts seeing these strange, floating "Doong Doong" spirits. They are actually a modern take on Eoduksini Korean folklore that supposedly get bigger and scarier the more you are afraid of them. The whole performance is a way to look at what goes on in a child's head, specifically helping kids figure out and name that invisible weight of anxiety. By mixing psychology with old traditions, the show gives these big, messy feelings a real physical shape you can actually see. By mixing shadows with real objects, the show gives a physical shape to that invisible weight of childhood anxiety. It is a real lesson in being tough; as Jiho finds his way, you watch these "monsters" turn from scary giants into playful friends.

**There might be a surfeit of food shows on TV but they will never replace the good old cookbooks, says chef Milind Sovani, who has, in his three-decade-long career, served Bollywood stars like Amitabh Bachchan, Madhuri Dixit and Sanjay Dutt - and created awareness about Indian cuisine in Singapore where he worked for 13 years.**

"In the time of internet and TV, printed cookery books are facing a challenge of existence...but, no, things are not all that bad yet. We have to accept the forces of change, but still there are many positives in owning and using cookery books - and of course writing them too," Sovani told us in an e-mail interview.

"Cooking with the help of a cookery book in the kitchen is always the best help around. You can keep it on your table, you do not require electric connections, or WiFi and the like. You can always mark some points on them, make earfolds for important pages, make small notes on them for your future reference and pass them down to the next generation or even share them easily with friends," added Sovani, who has worked with establishments like New Delhi's Hotel Samrat and Hotel Jaipur Ashok.

Then, books are always handy to keep, loan and borrow and have good mobility. This apart, "in a country like India, where internet or TV signals are not widely or easily available, books can be of great help in any place and location. The visual charm of using a cookery book, which is attractively and artistically printed with appetizing photos, is always a delight. Coffee table books also look good on your book shelves," Sovani maintained. Elaborating on the theme, Sovani said: "While cooking using a cookery book, your imagination is also at work and you tend to draw from the experience and skill of the writer. Books can be handed over from one generation to another, especially books rich in traditional and regional cooking for newly-wed brides. Books are a rich source of history tradition and culture too."

"Lastly, but most importantly, I feel cookery books are more trusted than the cookery shows on TV or internet recipes. As these books are written by experts or chefs, they are also considered more authentic and

accurate too," Sovani explained.

Now, he is penning an autobiography to inspire others with his journey. Writing a book on his life has been on the mind of the 52-year-old for the last five years, but it was in 2012 when he returned to India from Singapore that he gave it a serious thought.

"I have been working on it for a year and half now. I want to share with readers, especially youngsters, about the journey of a chef, the hardships faced and the sweet success moments. I wish to do this to inspire people and also spread awareness among the masses. Recipes... anyone can write, but the experiences I have and can share are unique," Sovani said.

# TV shows will never replace Cookbooks



To be available on stands after six months, the book "will be a very good read for everyone".

"It covers stories of my celebrity interactions, glorious moments, mega banquets, international experiences, my cookery tips, guidance to aspiring chefs and more," he said. The chef often travels to Singapore as he has his own consultancy firm, Hospitality Innovations Pvt Ltd, which works for innovations in restaurants and cuisines. He was even honored with the 'Culinary Trail Blazer of Singapore' award by 'Michelin Star Guide' for his work of transforming the image of Indian cuisine from a mundane, ordinary five-to-seven-dollar-cuisine to a modern high-end one.

Asked how one can popularize Indian food in other

countries, he said: "Firstly, you need to be honest with your roots and have in-depth knowledge of Indian cuisine."

"Secondly, understand the market need of that country, the current perceived image of Indian cuisine and how you can develop the taste buds of the local population towards Indian cuisine. Open Indian restaurants which can offer good, healthy and modern food."

But, as of now, he has plans of increasing the number of branches of his restaurant April Rain, which has two outlets in Pune. "I plan to take this brand pan-India and the next outlet would surely be in Mumbai," said the Mumbai-based chef.

## Two quick ways to cook corn



Hot corn tastes great in the monsoon. Here's how to cook with it in these two easy ways...

### CORN SALAD

#### Yield:

Ingredients: Corn kernels - 1 cup Red bell peppers - 1 tbsp Onions and spring onions chopped - 1 tbsp each Chopped Kairi - ¼ tsp Celery stalk, diced - 1 tsp Cherry tomatoes - 5 Pineapple diced - 1 tbsp Parsley - 1 tsp Cilantro leaves - 1 tsp Basil - 3 leaves Avocado, diced - ½ each Olive oil - 1 tbsp Lemon juice - 2 tsp Black salt - to taste Tacos - 3 shells

Method: Blanch the corn in hot water with salt. Do not overcook it. Drain and set aside. Now, cut the onions, peppers, pineapple, kairi (raw mango), celery and avocado. Also dice the cherry tomatoes and add the herbs like basil, parsley and cilantro basil to the



vegetables. Season this. Add the lemon juice and olive oil. Toss it well and serve it in the shells with herb buttered rice on the side.

### Corn broth

#### Yield:

Ingredients: Onions, chopped - 1 Leeks, chopped - ½ cup Celery, chopped - ½ cup Potatoes, diced - 1 cup Corn kernels - 2 cups Yellow peppers, chopped - ½ cup Garlic, chopped - 1 tbsp Vegetable stock - 1 litre Milk - a cup Parsley - 1 tsp Chives - 1 tsp Cream - ¼ cup Olive oil - 1 tbsp Butter - to taste

Method: Heat a pan and drizzle the butter into it. When it melts add some of the oil and the onions, chopped potatoes, leeks, celery plus the yellow bell peppers and corn kernels, taking care not to over cook it. Add the garlic and saute too. Add the milk and vegetable stock. Cook till the vegetables turn soft. Blend this and add cream plus the seasoning, as well as the chopped herbs. Serve hot with garlic bread.

Don't be scared by the word Gourmet.

Here we list some fancy ingredients along with easy ways to use them at your next party at home.

### Vanilla Beans

The sweet aroma of vanilla can live up the most bland dish and that hold true even more for toothy desserts. You might have tasted vanilla in the form of artificial essences and now its turn to upgrade and treat yourself to the real deal. Even though a bit expensive vanilla beans can be used in desserts such as ice cream or waffle syrup and they will make you feel like you've seen heaven! Look for whole vanilla beans that are about 6 to 8 inches in length for best results. Glossy dark brown in colour and ever so slightly moist are the best ones.

### Fish Sauce

Just the mention of fish sauce makes people rethink altogether. They probably imagine their dish soaked in fish liquid. The truth being much different, first fish sauce should be used in mild quantities. It is tangy in nature that adds zest to the preparations. Here are a few ways to include fish sauce in your food:

You can use a spoon of fish sauce in the marinade of a large chicken waiting to be grilled. Use a drop or two in pastas and salads. Be careful not to use more than required as it may ruin your dish. For all Thai food lovers, a pinch of fish sauce can add a punch to your gravy.

### Exotic Salts

You cannot even imagine any dish without salt. If normal salt can add such value to your food imagine what different gourmet salt can take the level of your food onto. Gourmet salt is mostly used to finish the dish and therefore sprinkled just before serving the dish. Some of the top gourmet salts are Black salt, Himalayan Pink salt, Sea Salt, Kosher Salt and Fleur de sel. Here are a few **useful tips:**

## Gourmet products you must use in your kitchen

### Flake salts do wonders to salads.

Japanese salts are ideal for fish preparations.

Hawaiian Black Salt makes meat even more delectable.

### Flavored Vinegars

Well, this ingredient may not be considered as gourmet but can definitely add X factor that will turn an ordinary dish to extraordinary. Balsamic Vinegar is best for Italian preparations. You can also whip it along with salad dressings and you're

good to go.

Wine Vinegar is also a result of fermented wine and does wonders to prep up a dish. Use it in sweet and sour dishes, pickles and even chutneys.



# Tips to crack your job Interview

**The most important task before preparing for a job interview is to start with a self assessment of whether you suit the position and organization in question.**

Here are a few tips on how you can sail through your first job interview. The foremost issue all organizations face is that candidates do not match up to the needs of the job. Many job aspirants look at their careers from a myopic view of brands and fancy designations coupled with fat salaries. The first five years of one's professional life are formative, which is why this period should be utilized to gather profound professional experience. This is not the time to hunt for a cozy post.

The most important task before preparing for a job interview is to start with a self-assessment of whether you suit the position and organization in question. Visualise yourself as a part of the organization: How confident do you feel about being there? Is the work in line with your interest and natural abilities? The inner call, backed up by research, is crucial before you choose to go for the interview. There is a job for everyone; they just need to be in the right place.

- A lot of engineers may actually do well in creative positions than technical roles. If technical expertise is your area of interest and prowess, go for it. Evaluate which subject or activity you are best at. It shows your interest and natural inclination. If the inner call says, 'choose an alternative career,' please do so. Do not succumb to social pressure. It is better to succeed than to 'ape' and remain mediocre.

- The interviewer has been entrusted with the task of hiring the best in a competitive environment. It is thus your responsibility to convince him/her of your capabilities. Data and facts always help, so converge on tangible information rather than abstract points.

However, the statistics must be focused on competencies.

- Provide information on your strengths with evidence of its practical application in real life.

- Talk about your extracurricular activities and the difficult choices you made in life; it shows leadership attributes and job-fit skill sets.

- Talk about facts that show you make

your choices and are not led by others alone. Highlight team activities you have undertaken - it shows your ability to collaborate.

- Elaborate on situations that make you feel proud - it shows confidence and self-motivation.

- Discuss instances when you have helped others - it is a sign of empathy. Finally, in a positive way, share instances of personal challenges that

fits in the grand picture of your career, the interviewer is most likely to choose you because it creates certainty.

This is rare because many engineering graduates are disillusioned and openly talk about being explorers. Be clear where you wish to go. Employers would not like to waste time, money and effort on individuals who are continually

exploring. If that is the case, go for career advice or seek other professional help before interviews. In the case of engineers, interviewers' expectations are going to be specific. They look for thought leadership, precision in all you do, the ability to comprehend a problem and create solutions, an innovative mindset and critical thinking. As an engineer, your ability to lead a team will carry tremendous weight. Above all, one must "look and feel" like an engineer and not a casual person from nowhere. Lastly, understand that rejection has nothing to do with you personally. It is about an understanding that your abilities do not suit the job. So, gear up for the next opening.

## Recruitment as a Career option after 40

Looking for a career post 40? Maybe you can turn to recruitment.

You have been working for about 15-18 years. You have seen your role grow and expand and you have matured as an individual, but on the work front, there is a lot of operational maintenance and opportunities for growth may be getting limited both laterally and upwards.

Even if you move to another company, after the initial months of being onboarded and throwing yourself into work, you may realise that there is nothing new being added to your experience. You are in a limbo as to where your career is heading. What can you do that will keep you engaged intellectually, put to best use your network and knowledge and at the same time, give you back your zest for risk taking and FINANCIAL rewards?

**Does this sound familiar?**

If yes, have you considered professional executive recruit



- As a candidate, how was your experience of working with recruiters?

- Lastly, how many times did you meet work with a recruitment partner who came from a similar background and understood you and your need thoroughly and were able to meaningfully contribute to the discussions?

The truth is that there is a dearth of professional executive recruitment service providers in a vast MARKET like India. And more than ever, with the war for talent brewing in many industries, this is

the right time to get into the recruitment business and start mentoring the careers of people who

lack direction.

You may ask, "I don't have a recruitment HR background, how will I recruit?" So, we will let you in a little secret recruitment begins as a science. It's highly methodical you learn it by the book and over a period of time, you hone it into a fine art. And here is another open secret anybody can recruit. Not convinced yet? Here are two great reasons why recruitment becomes a choice of vocation in your 40s:

**Your experience:**

By the time you are 40, you have gained enough experience in the MARKET - this gives you an edge over many recruiters who recruit with no industrial knowledge. You know the industry by its length and breadth, understand what talents and skills are required to fill a role, know how the remuneration cycle works within that industry and the kind of talent that is available in the market.

**Your network:**

During your tenure with a particular industry, you've probably met all the movers and shakers within your industry and that again gives you the edge over your competitors. Aside from the connections you already have, you're decades ahead of the competition in terms of interpersonal skills.

There is also movement of employers preferring to work with niche recruiters

Niche recruiters are specialists they don't cater to all sectors; they cater to the industry market that they are familiar with and confident about; and this is what makes them successful. They know the needs of their clients and understand talent in their sector and hence are able to understand the best talent for their clients.

## Here's how to influence People at work

**Being authoritative is not the only way in which you can exercise power within a team or an organization. Here are a few simple tips to help you influence those around you in the workplace without coming across as too bossy.**

Take a situation where you have just been promoted and are now in charge of leading and motivating others. You want to drive new initiatives and will need others to agree and cooperate with you. How will you inspire action? If you think formal authority alone is enough to be persuasive, think again.

To quote Kate Blanchard, co-author of One Minute Manager, "In the past, a leader was a boss. Today's leaders must be partners with their people. They can no longer lead solely based on positional power." The authority that stems from your position as manager is just one of the many sources of power that you can rely on to get things done. Your knowledge, network, reputation, character and personal charm are other sources you can and should tap into in order to accomplish your mission.

Here are some strategies to activate your other power bases that will allow you to make a difference in your organization:

- GAIN CENTRALITY AND

**ENHANCE YOUR CREDIBILITY**  
"Knowledge is power" ~ Francis Bacon

It can hardly be debated that people who lack formal power can exert very little influence on others. Your recent promotion might have brought you more formal power than you had before, but it may not be enough to fulfill your high-level ambitions. If you aspire to gain access to important organizational resources or visibility with top-level executives, you must enhance your credibility and gain centrality in the organization.

To achieve this, ask yourself if you have something unique to offer to your organization that will make you indispensable. Perhaps you enjoy an enviable reputation for being honest or dependable; how about your knowledge and expertise? Knowledge indeed is power. If people perceive you as someone knowledgeable, hard-working or trustworthy, they are more likely to be influenced by you.

- DEVELOP NETWORKS AND ALLIANCES

"If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together" ~ Old

within the organization (such as your peers, supervisors or direct reports) as well as people outside the organization (such as customers, vendors, and competitors). You cannot demand commitment from people; you have to earn it.

One way to do this is by building networks and alliances to accomplish your goals. Create opportunities to spend time with your supervisor, peers or customers. You can do this at office as well as in less formal settings such as over lunch. Be open to being an active participant in your organization. Getting involved in community projects or other special organizational initiatives will allow you to get to know people from other divisions.

- DEVELOP AND EMPLOY ELOQUENCE

Studies have shown that people who are more expressive generally have a greater ability to lead and influence others. Why?

Because they are more aware of their ideas, emotions and reactions; they, therefore, have a tendency to reach a greater audience than less expressive people. So, the final recommendation would be to develop your communication skills and eloquence. It will allow you to inspire and motivate people. However, remember, that if you don't walk your talk, an 'inspiration gap' will surface which will eventually cause you to lose credibility.

In conclusion, it pays to remember that power is not about having absolute control, exploiting people in selfish ways or manipulating others. The proper attitude to have towards power is to see it as a tool to influence people in an ethical way to achieve desired organizational outcomes. Staying true to your core values and beliefs and engaging others when exercising power will allow you to use it in a more authentic and responsible manner.



ment as a business opportunity? To help you understand why this could be a meaningful proposition for you, think back to your corporate life and ask yourself:

- How did you find people to talent for your team?

- What were your expectations from your recruitment partners and how well were they met?

- Have you ever wished you could recruit your team members yourself, but couldn't due to paucity of time?



## Everybody wants Sanju to do well: Sunil Gavaskar

The iconic Sunil Gavaskar says Sanju Samson is such a "nice guy" that everyone wants him to do well and his clutch knock against the West Indies must have taken the pressure off everyone's shoulders. Samson broke his sequence of low scores with a match-winning 97-run knock at the big stage in a high-stakes T20 World Cup game against the West Indies in Kolkata on Sunday night.

"This knock of 97 not out takes the weight off not just Sanju Samson's shoulders, but off everyone who knows what a fine player he has been. He has had ups and downs, and we have felt them too because he is such a nice guy. Everybody wants him to do well," said Gavaskar on a Star Sports show. Samson endured a lean patch in the lead-up to the World Cup, with a string of low scores failing to reflect his true potential. "All Indian cricket fans will be happy that this sincere cricketer has



got the success he deserves." India will now face England in the semi-finals in Mumbai on Thursday. Gavaskar said a match-winning performance capped with a century would be the icing on the cake for Samson. "To be the Man of the Match in a

must-win game is a dream come true. You could see the emotions on Sanju's face after he hit the winning runs. He was three runs short of a hundred and it would have been fantastic had he reached the three-figure mark. "But maybe another hundred is on

the way in some other match. It was not an easy target to chase down, but this set of players didn't give up and they pulled off the unbelievable." Breaking down how India managed a tough 196-run chase against a formidable side, Gavaskar said avoiding too many dot balls was the key. "Having a set batter at one end is very beneficial. The other batter can look to knock singles and give more strikes to the set batter. That way, there are not too many dot balls. In T20 cricket, the idea is to have as few dot balls as possible," he said. "I think the Indian team has realized that. If you look at the teams with the lowest percentage of dot balls, India are pretty high up there. I am not saying they are the best, but they are up there. That is where half the battle is won. "Out of 120 deliveries, if you score runs off 80 to 85 balls, you give yourself a real chance to chase scores like 190 to 200 and India did exactly that against the West Indies."

## After Zaheer, BCCI reaches to Harbhajan for off-spinners camp

Former India greats Zaheer Khan and Harbhajan Singh have been approached by the BCCI for specialized camps at the Centre of Excellence (COE) in Bengaluru, with the "Targetted Players" asked to attend them. The list of the targeted players is prepared by the BCCI on the basis of potential senior India prospects who have done well at the age group and first-class levels, and have also played for India A and, maybe, a few games for the senior team.

Former left-arm seamer Zaheer Khan is already in Bengaluru for a five-day camp with the young pacers who could be knocking the doors of the senior side or have played a few games for them. It is learnt that the COE's Head of Cricket, VVS Laxman, approached his former teammates for specialised camps — four to five days — to help the Gen-Next of Indian cricket match-ready. "Laxman approached Zaheer, Harbhajan and Anil Kumble for specialised camps. Bhaji is trying to work out the dates for four-five day 'Off-spinners' camp'. He is looking forward to help the upcoming prospects who have done well at the age-group and India A level and work with them. "This is a welcome initiative where those who have played 100-plus Tests for India are sharing their experiences with Gen-Next," a BCCI source privy to development told PTI on conditions of anonymity. There is a chance that Anil Kumble, the highest Indian wicket-taker across Tests and ODIs, has been requested to hold a wrist spinners' camp. It is understood that the specialised camps will be held before the start of the Indian Premier League as a lot of these players will have to link up with their respective IPL teams. Inviting former greats for specialised camps at the erstwhile NCA started at the time when Jagmohan Dalmiya took charge as BCCI chief.



## Gukesh blunders to hand Abdusattorov another victory

The fortunes of World Champion D Gukesh did not change for the fifth day running as the Indian blundered from a position of strength to lose to nemesis Nodirbek Abdusattorov at the Prague International Chess Festival here.



Just a month back, Gukesh had lost to Abdusattorov through a blunder from a decent position during the Tata Steel Masters but the fifth round here was even more heartbreaking as the Indian did everything right for the major part of the middle game and seemed like cruising through to an easy victory. Employing a new strategy as black, Gukesh tormented the white king early in the opening and created enough weaknesses for the computer to volunteer that he was closing in on his first victory in the Masters section of the tournament.

However, the ticking of the clock had its final say as the Indian faltered in the closing stages of the first time-control.

Abdusattorov almost returned the favour but this was simply not Gukesh's day as another blunder saw white advancing his pawn to glory. If Nodirbek was lucky, there seems no stopping the Dutch Grandmaster Jorden van Foreest, who climbed to number 11 in the world ranking in live ratings following his fourth victory in five games.

On the receiving end was Hans Moke Niemann of the United States, who made a single error that cast the dye decisively in Foreest's favour.

The day produced all decisive games in the 10-player round-robin tournament and defending champion Aravindh Chithambaram succumbed to his third defeat in five games, giving David Anton Guijarro of Spain something to rejoice before the lone rest day.

Local star David Navara continued with his excellent run and grinded Uzbek Nodirbek Yakubboev, which was certainly the game of the day, while in the other duel, Iranian Parham Maghsoodloo scored over Vincent Keymer of Germany. With Foreest on four points, Abdusattorov and Navara are close on his heels, a half point behind. Guijarro is the lone occupant on the fourth spot on 3 points, half a point clear of Maghsoodloo, while Vincent Keymer is joint sixth on two points alongside Yakubboev.

## Stranded Sindhu to miss All-England Championship

Two-time Olympic medalist PV Sindhu is set to miss the All-England Championships starting here on Tuesday after being stranded in Dubai since the US bombing of Iran and the resultant airspace closure in the Gulf region.

Travel disruptions have marred the build-up to the Super 1000 event, with Sindhu stuck in Dubai since Saturday after flights were suspended amid following US and Israeli strikes on Iran and the subsequent retaliation by Tehran.

Sindhu and her team, including Indonesian coach Irwansyah Adi Pratama, had a narrow escape after an explosion near their place of stay. They were subsequently moved to a secure location as tensions flared across the Gulf.

The Indian ace was scheduled to face Thailand's Supanida Katethong in the opening round but with Dubai airspace and airport

continuing to be closed, she will be forced to pull out of the tournament.



BWF is also keeping a close watch, maintaining "real-time oversight of the situation and stand ready to assist delegations experiencing delays or route changes." "This includes reviewing and preparing potential contingencies within the competition schedule should any players experience delayed arrival," it said. While Sindhu's participa-

tion remains uncertain, some of her fellow shuttlers have managed to reach

Ayush is up against Indonesia's Alwi Farhan in the opening round.

For Lakshya, a former semi-finalist and runner-up here, it will be another tough test against Shi, against whom he has lost four of his five previous meetings against the Chinese.

Ayush, the US Open Super 300 champion, will look to turn the tide against Farhan, having lost three of their five encounters, including the most recent one at the Indonesia Masters in January.

In women's singles, Malvika Bansod faces a stiff opening challenge against Tokyo Olympics champion Chen Yufei of China.

Unnati Hooda, whose flight was cancelled on Sunday, forcing her to travel via Africa, will need to overcome jet lag when she takes on Thailand's eighth seed Pornpawee Chochuwong in her opener.

In men's doubles,

Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty, a former world No. 1, will spearhead India's challenge against Malaysia's Kang Khai Xing and Aaron Tai in the first round.

The women's doubles pair Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand, who registered back-to-back semifinal finishes at the event in 2022 and 2023, will face Japan's Sayaka Hirota and Ayako Sakuramoto.

In mixed doubles, Dhruv Kapila and Tanisha Crasto are up against Malaysia's Hoo Pang Ron and Cheng Su Yin, while Rohan Kapoor and Ruthvika Shivani Gadde will meet fifth seeds Thom Gicquel and Delphine Delrue of France.

Prakash Padukone (1980) and Pullela Gopichand (2001) remain the only Indians to have won the All-England title. Besides them, only Saina Nehwal (2015 runner-up) and Lakshya (2022 runner-up) have come close in recent years.

## Switched off phone, social media: Samson on dealing with lows

India opener Sanju Samson shut down his phone and social media accounts to ensure that he did not lose self-belief during a lean patch that ended with a match-winning knock in the do-or-die T20 World Cup game against the West Indies here.

Samson smashed a 50-ball 97, dotted with 12 fours and four sixes, to steer the side home in a steep chase of 196 in the must-win Super Eight game here on Sunday.

The 31-year-old was brought back to the opening slot following India's heavy loss to South Africa in the Super Eight opener, to break the left-handed monotony of the defending champions' struggling top-order.

"Shot selection was something I kept working on. I did not want to change too much because I knew I had performed with the same setup, so I kept believing in myself, switched off my phone, switched off social media and listened to my own self," Samson said on Star Sports after India's five-wicket win here on Sunday.

"I am very happy it happened in a very special game." Samson was, in fact, a lone warrior last night with some support from skipper Suryakumar Yadav (18) and Tilak Varma (27). "It was a bit of a difficult chase. Looking at our batting power, I felt that chasing 190-odd at Eden Gardens, when dew comes in, gets a bit easier, but losing wickets at regular intervals made it challenging," the wicket-keeper-batter acknowledged.

"To be honest, that's where my experience and my role played a big part. I got a good start, but when the wickets kept falling, I felt I needed to finish the game and take it till the last moment. "Normally you feel like doing it, but it doesn't happen all the time, so I am very grateful it happened in this game...When you are chasing a score like this in a pressure game, you take different options and play more boundaries rather than looking at risk-taking options," he added. Speaking on his run of underwhelming scores prior to last night, including the home series against New Zealand, Samson elaborated on the changes he made to his technique.

"Our human nature is that we often start from a negative thought like, 'Can I do it? I don't think I can.' When I have that thought, I try to alter it with a very positive one. When I had a series like New Zealand where I wanted to perform and be part of the World Cup team, things did not work out well, but luckily, I got a 10-day gap," he said. "I did not play any games and was not in the side. I kept thinking, 'Sanju, what else? Why didn't it work? What else should I do?' So I did some soul-searching. I worked on my base, how I set myself up, and came back to it.

## Messi, Segovia rally Inter Miami victory over Orlando City

Lionel Messi scored twice in a four-goal second half, defender Telasco Segovia added a goal and two assists and defending champion Inter Miami rallied to beat Orlando City 4-2 on Sunday night, winning for the first time at Inter and Co. Stadium.

Messi took a pass from Segovia and scored in the 57th minute to pull Inter Miami (1-1-0) even at 2-2 and Segovia scored unassisted in the 85th for the lead.

Messi put the finishing touch on the victory when he scored off a free kick in the 90th. The reigning MVP's first two goals of the season give him 52 in his first 55 regular-season MLS matches - 51 of them in his last 49 appearances.

Marco Pasalic took a pass from Ivan Angulo and scored in the 18th minute to give Orlando City (0-2-0) a 1-0 lead. Pasalic has scored in four straight matches against Inter Miami.

Defender Griffin Dorsey set up Martin Ojeda for a goal six



minutes later for a 2-0 advantage that stood through half-

time.

Inter Miami cut it to 2-1 four minutes into the second half on Mateo Silvetti's first career goal. Defenders Segovia and Facundo Mura had assists as the 20-year-old forward found the net in his fifth career appearance.

Segovia had eight goals and six assists as a rookie last season, while Mura collected his first assist in his first season. Dayne St. Clair, the reigning goalkeeper of the year, turned away three shots — all in the second half of his second start with Inter Miami.

Maxime Crepeau had four saves in his second start for Orlando City.

Teenager Colin Guske, 19, will miss Orlando City's next match after the rookie picked up two yellow cards in his first start — the second one led to his exit in the 88th minute.

Inter Miami, which had never won in its previous nine trips to Orlando, was coming off a 3-0 road loss to Los Angeles FC.

Orlando City swept Inter Miami during the regular season last year and leads the all-time series 8-7-4.

## Diksha Dagar finishes T-20 at NSW Open

Diksha Dagar, the lone Indian to make the cut, finished with yet another solid round to pick up a top-20 finish at the Women's NSW Open, here.

Diksha, who began the week with a 6-over 77 and was in danger of missing the cut, finished the week with a round of 68 on Sunday that gave her an 8-under total of 276 for a T-20 finish.

Agathe Laisne was crowned the Ladies European Tour (LET) winner after overcoming a crowded leaderboard on a dramatic final

day. The French golfer followed up her third round 64 (-7) with a 65 (-6) in the final round to secure a one-shot victory over Thailand's April Angurasarane and Korean amateur Soomin Oh on 16-under par. This came after opening with rounds of 72-67 during a rain-hampered first couple of days.

The other three Indians in the field, Hitaashee Bakshi, Pranavi Urs and Avani Prashanth missed the cut in the weather-hit event.

Laisne has in the past won

one Epson Tour title, which came in 2023 and two LET Access Series (LETAS) wins which both came in 2020. She also becomes the second LET winner of the season after Charley Hull won the PIF Saudi Ladies International.

In solo fourth finished English rookie Charlotte Heath on 13-under par. The LET debutant finished with a flurry at Wollongong Golf Club, going six-under par for her final six holes.

Australia's Sarah Kemp, Germany's Alexandra

Forsterling and England's Caley McGinty finished the week T5 on 12-under par.

Eight players rounded off the top-10 in T8 on 11-under par, including Australian amateur Amelia Harris.

Laisne moves into a tie for 1st with Hull after collecting 500 points for the win. Angurasarane moves into T2 with South Africa's Casandra Alexander after her brilliant week — one which included a hole-in-one on Saturday. Heath soars into fifth after collecting 180.00 points.

Next up on the LET's 2026



Australia swing is a trip north of Sydney to Magenta Shores for the Australian Women's Classic.

## For too many years, we only spoke about certain contributions: Gambhir

For Gautam Gambhir, the essence of team sport is acknowledgement of every contribution, big or small, which, according to him, was missing in Indian cricket for long.

Had Shivam Dube not smashed a couple of boundaries in the penultimate over, no one would have spoken about Sanju Samson's match-winning 97 against West Indies on Sunday, said the Indian head coach. Gambhir asserted that till he is the coach, every contribution will get an honourable mention. "Glad you're talking about

every contribution because for many years, we've only spoken about certain contributions. This is a team sport, and this will always remain a team sport," Gambhir said, speaking in his inimitable style, although without referring to certain contributions.

"For me, Shivam's two boundaries are as important as Sanju's 97 because if he hadn't hit those two boundaries, you won't even spoken about it (97-run knock)."

"The big contribution makes headlines. The small contribution, the contribution that



can help the team win, cross that line, are very important." Gambhir has underlined his

team philosophy and till he is around, there won't be any special contribution.

"And that's why I say that this is going to be the philosophy going forward till I am there." My coaching mantra is based on instinct, not data: While most coaches across the globe would tell you that data has a huge role to play in T20 cricket, Gambhir believes in the old school methodology of relying on gut feel.

"I don't believe in data, honestly. I've never seen the data. I don't even know what data is all about. I

absolutely do not believe in it, because I feel it's more about instinct," Gambhir said but his comment was surprising since the team relies much on data analyst Hari Prasad.

"T20 cricket is about instinct and backing your instinct as well. Whatever knowledge I have about the game and the T20 format, I try and probably give it to the captain, try and help him out as much as I can.

"But ultimately, it's the captain that takes the final call. But data and all, I don't believe honestly, because it's very overrated. For me, I

think we are very fortunate that we've got world-class players.

"We've got guys who we can use differently, because not many teams have that luxury. Imagine someone like Jaspreet (Bumrah) or Arshdeep or even Varun, we can use them at any phase of the game.

"And from the batting point of view, you've got power. That is something which is very important. When you've got power, you're never away from the chase. You're never out of the game as well." On the semi-final against

England, Gambhir termed Harry Brook's side as "world-class" and Wankhede as a very tough venue.

"They (England) are a world-class team, they're a quality team, they've got a lot of quality players as well and we all know that is a tough venue.

"Hopefully, we can turn up and see that we have another opportunity to do something special for the team, for the country and hopefully we play a best game as well. That is going to be very important," Gambhir said.