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# BJP Leaders Missing in Delhi Ads

**The Sikh Times Exclusive story**

New Delhi, 8 March : A serious controversy has emerged in the national capital regarding the manner in which Delhi Government advertisements are being issued through the Directorate of Information and Publicity (DIP). Senior media personality and Editor-in-Chief of Qaumi Patrika Punjabi National Daily, Gurcharan Singh Babbar, has raised strong objections and has written to Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah, alleging irregularities, political favoritism and the deliberate sidelining of senior Bharatiya Janata Party leaders in offcial government publicity.

According to Babbar, the issue came to light during the publication of full-page government advertisements in newspapers regarding the visit of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, who arrived in Delhi to inaugurate the Metro project. These advertisements were issued by the Directorate of Information and Publicity (DIP), Government of Delhi.

Babbar has alleged that in the advertisement published earlier, the name of the Lieutenant Governor of Delhi, Shri Vinay Kumar Saxena, was not included at all. After he raised strong objections and informed Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah, the situation changed in the next advertisement.

He stated that in today's full-page advertisement the name of Lieutenant Governor Vinay Kumar Saxena was suddenly added, which, according to him, appears to be an attempt by the Director of DIP to protect himself after the issue was raised publicly.

However, Babbar claims that the controversy does not end there. Even in the advertisement published today regarding the Prime Minister's programme, the names of several important leaders of the Bharatiya Janata Party in Delhi have not been included.

According to the complaint, the advertisement does not mention: Any senior leader of Delhi BJP, Any Cabinet

Minister of the Delhi Government, The President of Delhi BJP, The Lok Sabha Members of Parliament from Delhi.

Babbar alleges that this has created a clear impression that Delhi BJP leaders and senior ministers are being deliberately pushed into the background in government publicity, thereby reducing their political visibility and stature in the eyes of the public.

In his complaint, Babbar has further pointed out that the advertisement department of the Delhi Government functions under the control of the Chief Minister of Delhi, Smt. Rekha Gupta. The Director of DIP works under her authority and carries out the instructions issued by her office.

He has alleged that since Smt. Rekha Gupta became the Chief Minister of Delhi, government advertisements worth crores of rupees have been released across multiple platforms including television channels, print media, large outdoor hoardings, advertisements inside the Delhi Metro, advertisements on Delhi Transport Corporation buses, and various other publicity mediums.

According to Babbar, these extensive publicity campaigns appear to focus largely on projecting the Chief Minister as the dominant political leader in Delhi, while other senior BJP leaders, Members of Parliament, and even Cabinet Ministers of the Delhi Government are not receiving similar visibility in official advertisements.

Babbar has emphasized that the Bharatiya Janata Party has historically functioned on the principle of collective leadership. He recalled that former Chief Ministers of Delhi such as Shri Madan Lal Khurana and Shri Sahib Singh Verma always worked together with their party colleagues, senior leaders and ministers and never attempted to diminish the stature of other leaders within the party.

He expressed concern that the current pattern of government publicity gives the impression that public funds meant for government communication are being used in a highly centralized manner, which could create dissatisfaction among party supporters and the public.

Babbar also stated that as a senior member of the media fraternity and a long-time well-wisher of the Bharatiya Janata Party, he felt it was his responsibility to bring these issues to the notice of the country's leadership.

In his representation addressed to Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Babbar has requested that the matter be seriously examined and that an appropriate inquiry be conducted into the functioning of the Directorate of Information and Publicity (DIP), Government of Delhi.He has urged the Union Government to ensure transparency, fairness and accountability in the use of government advertisement funds, particularly when such advertisements are funded by public money and are meant to represent the collective leadership and achievements of the government.

Babbar expressed hope that the authorities will take the matter seriously and take necessary steps to ensure that government publicity reflects the contributions of all leaders and maintains fairness in the use of public resources.

The issue is likely to attract attention in political and media circles, as questions continue to be raised regarding transparency, fairness and representation in government-funded publicity campaigns in the national capital.

# India beat New Zealand by 96 runs to retain T20 World Cup title

**The Sikh Times**

New Delhi, Mar 8: India's Jasprit Bumrah celebrates with teammates after taking the wicket of New Zealand's Rachin Ravindra during the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026 final cricket match between India and New Zealand at Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad, Gujarat, on Sunday, March 8, 2026. PTI India beat New Zealand by 96 runs in the final at the Narendra Modi Stadium on Sunday to become the first team to retain the men's Twenty20 World Cup title. Put into bat, India posted a commanding total of 255-5 and restricted their opponents to 159 in 19 overs. Earlier, New Zealand skipper Mitchell Santner won the toss and elected to bowl against defending champions India in the final. The Kiwis brought back in pacer Jacob Duffy to their playing eleven in place of all-rounder and off-spinner Luke McConchie. India retained the same eleven from the semifinals against England at Mumbai. Abhishek Sharma, Sanju Samson(w), Ishan Kishan, Suryakumar Yadav©, Tilak Varma, Hardik Pandya, Shivam Dube, Axar Patel, Varun Chakaravarthy, Arshdeep Singh, Jasprit Bumrah. New Zealand: Tim Seifert(w), Finn Allen, Rachin Ravindra, Glenn Phillips, Mark Chapman, Daryl Mitchell, James Neesham, Mitchell

Santner©, Matt Henry, Lockie Ferguson, and Jacob Duffy. Jasprit Bumrah is deservingly named Player of the Match for his exceptional bowling performance, which was instrumental in India securing a dominant victory over New Zealand. His crucial wickets and tight lines stifled the opposition. New Zealand's innings concludes at 159 runs, falling short of India's formidable total. Despite Tim Seifert's valiant half-century, regular wickets, particularly from Jasprit Bumrah and Axar Patel, stifled their chase. Jasprit Bumrah bowls a fantastic over, conceding only 2 runs and picking up the crucial wicket of Mitchell Santner. New Zealand are now 154 for 9 after 18 overs, needing 102 runs from 12 balls. Arshdeep Singh bowls the 17th over, conceding 9 runs including a boundary from Mitchell Santner. New Zealand now requires 104 runs from 18 balls. Mitchell Santner dispatches Arshdeep Singh for a much-needed boundary, keeping New Zealand's slim hopes alive. A well-placed shot that races across the outfield. Jasprit Bumrah delivers a sensational over, picking up two crucial wickets while conceding just 4 runs. New Zealand is now 143 for 8 after 16 overs, with their chase looking increasingly difficult. Jasprit Bumrah bowls a sensational delivery that crashes into Matt Henry's stumps, sending him back to the pavilion for a duck. India picks up another crucial wicket.

# AAP Govt fulfills all poll promises with 'Saari Guarantiyan Puri' Budget: CM Mann

**The Sikh Times**

CHANDIGARH, March 8: Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann on Sunday announced that the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government has fulfilled its biggest electoral promise, unveiling the 'Mukh Mantri Mawaan Dhian Satkar Yojna' to provide monthly financial assistance to women across Punjab. Under the scheme, women will receive ?1,000 per month, while women from Scheduled Caste communities will receive ?1,500, with ?9,300 crore earmarked in the state Budget for its implementation. Describing the move as a major step towards strengthening women's financial independence, the CM said the AAP government's "Saari Guarantiyan Puri" Budget reflects its commitment to delivering on poll promises while expanding welfare measures such as free bus travel, free power and cashless healthcare to empower women and support

households across the state. Interacting with the media, Punjab CM Bhagwant Singh Mann congratulated the mothers, daughters and sisters of Punjab and prayed that they continue to script new success stories in every field. He said the Budget was presented on the day with a special focus on women, fulfilling a key promise made by the AAP government to empower them socially and economically. The Budget is pro-people and ensures that women and other sections of society receive support through welfare measures and public services. "The AAP government has fulfilled the biggest poll promise made to the people. Women in the state will now receive ?1,000 per month under the Mukh Mantri Mawaan Dhian Satikar Yojna, while women belonging to the Scheduled Caste community will get ?1,500 every month," said CM Bhagwant Singh Mann.

Contd.....page 3

# Will present next two budgets if top brass permits: CM Siddaramaiah

**Mysuru .(Agency)**

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Saturday said the state budget aims to boost the growth of the entire state and provide equal opportunities to all sections of society. Responding to criticism from the BJP regarding the budget, Siddaramaiah said the country's total debt has touched Rs 218 lakh crore during the tenure of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"PM Modi has also taken loans. Development cannot take place without borrowing. However, the debt taken by the state is within the limits specified under the Financial Responsibility Act," he told reporters at the helipad in Pillahalli village in Varuna taluk. According to the Act, the debt limit should be 25 per cent, while Karnataka's debt stands at 24.94 per cent, which is within permissible limit, he said. He added that of the total nation debt, Rs 165 lakh crore was borrowed after Modi assumed office, which comes to 55.6 per cent under the Act.

Responding to criticism by BJP leader R Ashoka that the budget benefits only a particular section, Siddaramaiah said the budget is focused on social justice and aims at the development of the entire state while ensuring equal opportunities for all sections of society.He also said the state is facing increased financial pressure because the Centre has not released grants that should have been fairly allocated to Karnataka.

# Cleared Class 10 but jobless? Bengal offers Rs 1,500 monthly allowance

**West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Saturday said that young job seekers aged between 21 and 40, with secondary education (class 10), will receive Rs 1,500 allowance every month to help them move towards a self-reliant future.**

Kolkata. (Agency)

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Saturday said that young job seekers aged between 21 and 40, with secondary education (class 10), will receive Rs 1,500 allowance every month to help them move towards a self-reliant future.

The TMC supremo made this announcement – on the eve of International Women's Day on March 8 – during her speech at the sit-in against large-scale deletion of names of voters by the Election Commission during Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.

"In the case of Yuva Sathi, all those who are still studying and are not beneficiaries of any schemes other than scholarships will receive the amount. We had earlier stated that the

money would be given on April 1. But since tomorrow is International Women's Day, as a gift, we have changed the payment date from April 1 to today (March 7)," she said.

Claiming that her government has generated employment opportunities to a great extent, Banerjee said, "The unemployment rate in Bengal has decreased by 40 per cent. We have provided skill training to at least 40 lakh people, out of which around 10 lakh are already employed."

"This has also happened because we have linked the websites of industrialists with those who have received skill training through Utkarsha Bangla. If migrant workers are interested, they will also be given opportunities. Recently, I heard that around 10,000 people are being trained in the jute industry, and they will also be absorbed into jobs," she added.

The CM said the state is giving Rs 10,000 to farmers every month.

"Even those with just one cottah of land used to receive Rs 4,000 earlier. Now we have also announced Rs 4,000 for landless farmers," she said.

Banerjee added that six economic corridors are being constructed to connect the entire state."Apart from that, two power plants of 1,600 megawatts (800 megawatts each) are being built in Salboni. We are also number one in IT. More people are employed here than in Bengaluru. Around 200 new companies have also come here.""Those who defame the state should know that we are number one in small and medium-scale industries. Around 1.5 crore people work in small-scale industries. Units from across the country have come here. In Bengal's leather hub in Bantala, at least 7.5 lakh people work there.

News box

## Farmer electrocuted after sprinkler pipe touches 11kV line in Gurgaon

**Gurgaon.(Agency)**

A 40-year-old farmer died of electrocution while shifting an aluminium sprinkler pipe that came in contact with a low-hanging 11,000-volt power line in a wheat field in Tirpari village on Thursday.The incident took place around 2pm when Surender Kumar, a resident of Tirpari, had gone to irrigate the field with his nephew Rahul, police said. Kumar cultivated about 6.5 acres of agricultural land on a sharecropping basis that belonged to Omkar, a resident of Jhund Sarai village.

According to the complaint filed by Rahul, the two had installed an aluminium sprinkler system for irrigation in the field. While shifting the pipe to another spot, it touched the electricity line and Kumar was electrocuted.

A villager, Keshav, who was passing by in his car, stopped to help them. Kumar was taken to SGT Hospital in Budhera, where doctors declared him dead.In his complaint, Rahul alleged that the electricity department has been informed several times that the power lines passing above the field were hanging dangerously low, but no action was taken.Police reached the hospital after receiving information about the death and shifted the body to the mortuary for a post-mortem examination.

Based on the complaint and initial enquiry, a case under Section 106 (causing death by negligence) of BNS was registered at Farukhnagar police station."The body was taken to the mortuary and handed over to the victim's family members after the post-mortem. Further investigation is underway," sub-inspector Devender Kumar said.

## Alcohol level 7 times limit, man faces FIR for drunk driving

**Noida.(Agency)**

Police have begun registering FIRs against motorists caught under the influence of alcohol, adding criminal cases to existing penalties such as challans, licence suspension and vehicle impoundment. The stricter enforcement, introduced last month, has already led to several FIRs being registered, though police said consolidated data is yet to be compiled.

In the latest case, an FIR was registered against a 49-year-old man, Subhash, for driving with an alcohol level above the permissible limit. He was caught during an alcohol check drive at Sati Chowk on Friday.

Police said ASI Vedpal and constable Navneet were deployed at the checkpoint when they stopped a black Maruti Brezza (HR26FW5295) approaching the barricade at high speed. The car was being driven negligently and recklessly. "A strong smell of alcohol came from the driver. When he took the test using an alco-sensor machine, the reading showed 335 mg of alcohol per 100 ml of blood, nearly seven times above the legally permissible limit of 30 mg," a cop said.

A case was registered at Kherki Daula police station under sections 281 (rash driving) and 125 (acts done so rashly or negligently that they endanger human life or personal safety) of BNS and section 185 (driving or attempting to drive under the influence of alcohol or drugs) of the Motor Vehicles Act. The vehicle was seized, police said.In cases of drunk driving, police earlier issued challans and suspended licences for three months, while vehicles were impounded only when alcohol levels exceeded the prescribed limit. Now, criminal cases will also be registered.Officials said the stricter action is aimed at deterring repeat offences and reducing road accidents linked to drunken driving.Police data shows that 26,122 challans for drunken driving were issued in the city last year. "This could be a major step to restrict drunk driving and save precious lives on the road. Such gross violations not only claim the life of the defaulter but also cause the death of others," a police officer said.

## Eway link, pilgrims' gateway complex part of Mathura Heritage City

**Noida.(Agency)**

Chief minister Yogi Adityanath on Saturday reviewed a revised Mathura Heritage City project draft drawn up by the Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority (YEIDA) during his visit to the district, where he also chaired a meeting of Braj Teerth Vikas Parishad.YEIDA said the agency will soon start land acquisition for the project and officials presented the plan before the chief minister.Yamuna Authority additional CEO Shailendra Bhatia said that the Rs 7,200-crore project, planned under the Raya Urban Centre near Vrindavan, will be spread across 753 acres and is envisioned as a major cultural, spiritual, and tourism hub inspired by Lord Krishna's Braj legacy."As part of the project, we decided to develop a pilgrims' gateway complex. This will be spread over 17.5 hectares and will have facilities like a food court, waiting area, handicraft shops, information centre, etc. We asked the Mathura district magistrate to identify the landowners and share land records details. Once they share the details, we will start the land acquisition process," he said.In addition, the Authority will also develop a 1.4km-long and 30m-wide road connecting the Yamuna Expressway to the Banke Bihari Temple. This project will need nearly four hectares of land and will facilitate people visiting the temple. The local district administration will also share the details of the land and landowners to start the land acquisition.The review followed concerns after parts of the proposed site were submerged during last year's monsoon. YEIDA had asked its consultant to conduct a fresh flood-risk and terrain assessment before the final alignment of the project was approved.YEIDA earlier planned to develop the project entirely on a public-private partnership (PPP) model. However, recent assessments found that the Authority needed to bear most of the land acquisition costs, making private investment less viable.

# From NGO worker who earned Rs 2.5k a month to Haryana's 'Millet Mom' supporting 150

**Gurgaon.(Agency)**

Pooja Sharma's story began much like that of many rural girls in Haryana. She studied till Class 10 and married at the age of 20. But some time between raising three children and manoeuvring financial pressures, the now 46-year-old entrepreneur quietly sketched her career not only as a financially independent woman but also one who transforms the lives of others.Once a beneficiary of the govt's "Lakhpati Didi" initiative, Pooja has been building a rural enterprise rooted in millets, dairy and women's collective strength. She formed a self-help group of women who began selling their products at govt-organised trade fairs, gradually building a customer base."We take whatever work comes our way," she says. In January 2025, she was invited to the At Home Reception at Rashtrapati Bhavan.

But the journey goes back to 2008. Her husband had no regular job and Pooja juggled household responsibilities in a family with limited income. Opportunities were scarce.That year, she joined an NGO with a monthly salary of Rs 2,500. The job involved working with women and children in villages, spreading awareness about health and education.For the first time, she stepped out of her home regularly, interacted with strangers and gained the confidence to earn and contribute to the family. She continued working with the NGO until 2010, but by then a seed of entrepreneurship had already taken root.In 2010, with limited resources but growing confidence, she started a dairy business with a single cow from a 150-year-old abandoned house structure. She repaired it and gradually increased the number of cows to seven, turning the space into a modest but functional dairy unit.The venture provided some stability, but the real change in her life came three years later.In 2013, a training organised by Krishi Vigyan Kendra introduced Pooja and several village women to the idea of making roasted soya products. Even attending the training was a challenge."At that time I did not even have money to cover my travel expenses to reach the training centre. KVK helped us with the transportation cost after adjusting the snacks provided at the training," Pooja recalls.With govt support, she formed a self-help group and began producing millet-based food products. "Farmers cannot decide the price of their produce," Pooja says. "But after value addition, farmers like us can sell our products at our own price."Participating in trade fairs across different cities required long hours and frequent travel. "We could not close our stalls before 8pm, and by the time I reached home it was late," she says.She even stopped wearing ankle bracelets to keep late evening movements discreet. "It was difficult and challenging to go against social norms, but I knew I had to move forward," she says.The next milestone came in 2017, when an NGO helped her set up a bakery unit at the same house where she once ran her dairy. "They provided training from a professional chef and helped us with marketing," Pooja says.

Just as the business began to gain momentum, the pandemic struck. The NGO, facing financial constraints, withdrew from the project. The sudden setback left Pooja struggling. At one point, she did not even have enough money to pay the electricity bill. But instead of shutting down, she adapted.

She started producing millet-based biscuits at an affordable price range. "We survived during Covid, and all the women working with us continued to have a source of income," Pooja says.Today, the operation has grown into a small but organised rural enterprise which provides direct employment to around 20 women and provides work and financial support to nearly 150 women. The group directly sources grains from farmers, operates its own flour mills, and manages production entirely in-house to maintain quality.

# Owner of school that failed to get admit cards arrested

**Noida.(Agency)**

Vineet Kataria, the chairperson of Educrest International School in Sector 9B, was arrested for allegedly enrolling students in classes 9 and 10 despite not having affiliation from CBSE and eventually failing to provide them admit cards, causing 11 of them to miss their boards.

Kataria (38), a resident of Sector 9, was arrested from Bilaspur Chowk on Friday. During questioning, he admitted that the school's CBSE recognition was only up to Class 8, police said."Motivated by financial gains, he misled parents and admitted Class 9 and 10 students by falsely claiming CBSE recognition, impacting the academic future of at least 25 children," police spokesperson Sandeep Turan said.A case against Kataria was registered at Sector 9A police station on Feb 18 for fraud, forgery and criminal conspiracy. Apart from him, the FIR also named principal Riddhima Kataria, vice-principal Simer Batra, coordinator Sonia and other staff.Police said the case began with a written complaint from a parent on Feb 18. The complainant alleged that the school claimed CBSE affiliation at the

time of admission and displayed a certificate carrying an affiliation number. Students were charged full fees —tuition, building fund, examination and computer fees — like any regular CBSE school.However, as the Class 10 board exams neared, students were not issued admit cards. While checking, the parent found that the school was not affiliated with CBSE beyond Class 8, and the Class 10 registration number shown to parents was fake.The management, according to cops, then tried to "adjust" 11 Class 10 students into other schools after failing to secure their CBSE admit cards. Educrest first attempted to place them in a Delhi school, but the plan collapsed after the school they approached lost affiliation. A second attempt to shift the students to a school in Palwal also failed because the enrolment process could not be completed in time.As a result, the students could not be registered for the CBSE Class 10 examinations. With the exam window closing, the 11 students missed their CBSE ppers.Nine of 11 parents approached Punjab and Haryana High Court, which allowed their children to appear for the Haryana Board exams. This was a strange predicament for the students, who studied the CBSE syllabus through the year.Turan urged families to verify affiliations before admission. "Parents should check official recognition and report any discrepancy immediately. Any act that jeopardises students' futures will be dealt with strictly under the law," he said.

## Depot-cum-workshop planned in Gurgaon sector 33, to serve new metro line

**Ghaziabad.(Agency)**

A depot-cum-workshop for the upcoming metro line between Millennium City Centre and Cyber City will be built in Sector 33, an official of Gurgaon Metro Rail Ltd (GMRL) said on Saturday, adding that the process to appoint a contractor for the facility has already started.The depot, estimated to cost around Rs 410 crore, will support train stabling, inspection and maintenance for the elevated metro line. Once construction begins, the project is expected to take around 21 months to complete.Planned over around 18 hectares of land, the project will include civil, architectural, and electrical and mechanical (E&M) works required for operating and maintaining the metro system.Most of the land required for the depot has already been cleared. "A small private parcel of around 0.8 hectare remains, which will be acquired under the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement (RFCTLARR) Act. The process will be carried out by a committee under the deputy commissioner, and compensation will be provided as per govt policy," the official said."Our effort is to resolve the land issue within around three months so that by the time the tender process is completed and the contractor is on board, the entire land parcel is available for construction," he added.An HVPNL substation located in the area also needs to be shifted to facilitate construction of the depot. Officials said the shifting process is being planned alongside the land acquisition exercise.The depot will serve the Millennium City Centre–Cyber City metro corridor, a 28.5 km elevated line, that will connect key residential and commercial areas of the city, including Subhash Chowk, Hero Honda Chowk and Udyog Vihar.The line is expected to ease traffic pressure on some of the city's busiest roads.In Aug last year, Dilip Buildcon Ltd and Ranjit Buildcon Ltd were tasked with construction of the first phase of the line for Rs 1,277 crore.The work is expected to take 30 months.

# Two men waving swords from Thar held, one a Merchant Navy officer

**Ghaziabad.(Agency)**

Two youths were arrested after police caught them driving a black Thar at high speed while brandishing swords in the air in Sector 10A on Friday, triggering panic among people.

Tarun Yadav and Tushar Sharma, both residents of Sector 10A, were apprehended at a check post near Himgiri Chowk. Sources said one of them is an officer in the Merchant Navy, while the other was recently discharged from a drug de-addiction centre. Investigators said the Thar, owned by Tushar, did not have a registration plate.A team from Sector 10A police station, led by ASI Devender, along with constable Naveen and driver constable Sagar, was on crime patrolling duty when they got information from the police control room about the two travelling in a black Thar around the Kadipur and Sector 10A area while brandishing swords and driving the vehicle recklessly.The police team set up a checkpoint at Himgiri Chowk and started checking vehicles. After some time, a black Thar without a number plate was seen approaching from Basai Chowk at high speed. When the driver was signalled to stop at the checkpoint, he attempted to turn the vehicle around in an effort to flee.Police personnel managed to stop the vehicle. During a search of the vehicle, four unsheathed swords and a long, sharp knife (khukri) were recovered."When asked to produce any licence or permit of the weapons, they failed to provide any valid documents. The swords measured around 2 feet 10 inches in length, while the khukri was approximately 7 inches long. All the weapons were sealed and taken into police custody," a police officer said.A case was registered against the two at Sector 10A police station under sections 281 (rash driving) and 125 (acts done so rashly or negligently that they endanger human life) .

# Cells to self-reliance: How former inmates are rebuilding their lives, one skill at a time

**Noida.(Agency)**

For years, the world for these women was reduced to high walls, iron gates and a daily fight to stay hopeful.

Now, they are piecing life back together — using vocational skills learnt in Dasna and Luksar jails to earn, raise children and reclaim dignity after release.

Reena (name changed on request) knows that journey intimately. Arrested in 2022 after being accused of her husband's murder, she entered Dasna jail at 22 with a criminal case hanging over her and a five-year-old daughter waiting outside. Last year, she secured bail and returned to Noida, determined to stand on her own feet.Today, she earns a modest income as a freelance beautician in her neighbourhood — work she learnt inside prison. "Before jail, I was a homemaker. My husband abused me regularly and I had no financial independence. In jail, I enrolled

in a beautician course. I decided that when I stepped out, I would earn on my own and not depend on anyone for household expenses," she said.

On Saturday, Reena joined other former inmates from the two jails at Delhi's Lodhi Garden for a Women's Day gathering organised by India Vision Foundation, a non-profit organisation founded by former IPS officer Kiran Bedi that works with women rebuilding their lives after prison. For several of them, it was their first public event since release. "Many didn't even know such a day existed until we told them," a coordinator said.Inside Dasna and Luksar, prison barracks often double as classrooms. Inmates spend hours each week learning trades such as beauty services, tailoring and sewing, crochet work, basic computer skills, and adult literacy for those who never had the chance to attend school. For many, it is the first time they acquire a professional skill that can translate into income outside."Many women come to jail with almost no financial independence or work experience. When they start learning these skills, it gives them confidence and the possibility of earning a livelihood once they are released," said Hussain Zaidi, who runs the foundation's rehabilitation programme in the two jails.

One former inmate from Luksar jail, arrested with her husband in a drugs case, spent nearly five years in custody before a court acquitted her.While in jail, she completed a basic computer course under the programme. After release, the certificate helped.

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# AAP Govt fulfills all poll promises with 'Saari Guarantiyan Puri' Budget: CM Mann

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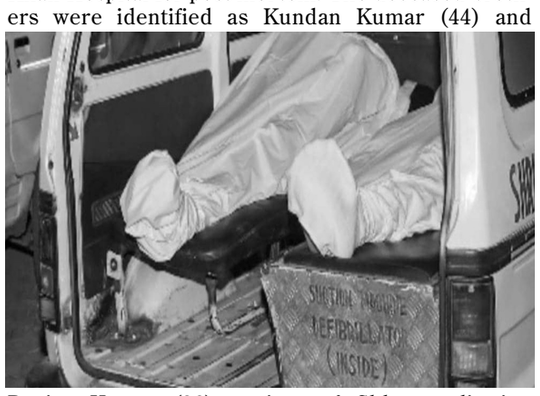
He added that special camps will be organised across the state so that women can easily complete the formalities required to avail the benefit of the scheme. The Punjab CM shared that the registration process for the financial assistance scheme will begin from the coming Baisakhi and will be carried out on a war footing so that all eligible beneficiaries can be covered at the earliest. Every girl above the age of 18 years will be entitled to receive the benefit under the scheme, ensuring that a vast majority of women in the state are covered. Describing the Budget as a milestone document, CM Bhagwant Singh Mann said it reflects the government's commitment to the welfare of the people and the progress of the state. "This is not merely a Budget but an affidavit of the progress of the state and the prosperity of its people," he said, congratulating Punjab Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema for presenting a Budget that takes care of every section of society. Taking a dig at previous governments, he added that earlier budgets often remained confined to announcements on paper and failed to deliver meaningful benefits to the people. During the tenure of earlier regimes, budgets were limited to rhetoric and poetic references rather than concrete policies aimed at improving the lives of citizens. Highlighting the broader welfare initiatives of the AAP government, CM Bhagwant Singh Mann said several schemes are being implemented to empower women, including free bus travel, free power and cashless treatment under the Mukh Mantri Sehat Yojna. "Cashless treatment, free bus travel, free power, ?1,000 per month and other initiatives will empower women and strengthen their role in society," he said. CM Bhagwant Singh Mann asserted that the government has adequate financial resources to implement its programmes effectively. "We have no dearth of money as our intentions are clear," he said, adding that the state government has improved financial management and ensured that public funds are used for welfare and development. The Punjab CM emphasised that the government is working honestly, which is why major improvements are visible in sectors such as education, healthcare and infrastructure. "We are working honestly due to which schools, hospitals, roads and Aam Aadmi Clinics are coming up across the state," he said. CM Bhagwant Singh Mann further stated that the government has taken significant steps to improve power supply, strengthen irrigation systems and ensure that farmers receive adequate electricity. Thermal power plants are being purchased, canal water is reaching tail-end farmers and electricity tariffs are being rationalised for the benefit of consumers. He added that in the past four years the state government has delivered all the guarantees promised to the people and also implemented several additional measures such as closing toll plazas that were burdening commuters. These steps reflect the government's commitment to ensuring that people receive tangible benefits from governance. Speaking about investments in education and sports, CM Bhagwant Singh Mann shared, "The Budget has increased the allocation for education by seven per cent, while ?1,791 crore has been earmarked for promoting sports infrastructure and activities across the state. Promoting sports is one of the most effective ways to channel the energy of youth in a positive direction." "With the promotion of sports, the unbounded energy of youth is being utilised for excelling in sports. Youth who are involved in sports have no time even to look at drugs because they are using all their energy to excel in their respective fields. Promoting sports will help the state government in its fight against drug abuse and will encourage young people to focus on building a healthier and more productive future," he asserted. CM Bhagwant Singh Mann said the government is carefully utilising every rupee of public money for the development of the state and the welfare of its people.

## Three held while betting on cricket match

Gurugram: GurugramThe police arrested three alleged bookies who were betting on an ongoing T20 cricket match between India and England on Thursday night. An FIR has been registered and police seized 11 mobile phones, three laptops, one LED television, one tablet and a mobile charger from their possession. Acting on a tip-off, a team from the Kherki Daula police station raided a flat in Ansal Height Society in Sector 81 on Thursday night, where the three were allegedly engaged in betting. The police apprehended all three, who were identified as Rahul, a resident of Sector 91, Amit of Sector 102, and Paras, also a resident of Sector 91 in Gurugram.

## 2 brothers found dead inside car in Faridabad

Faridabad: The deceased were found inside a car on Agwanpur Road. Initial investigation by the Faridabad police suggest the cause of death was asphyxiation. The bodies were sent to the Badshah Khan Hospital for post-mortem. The deceased brothers were identified as Kundan Kumar (44) and



Ranjan Kumar (38), natives of Chhapra district, Bihar, who were residents of Roshan Nagar area since the past 10 years. Kundan Kumar was a retired defence official. According to family members, they left home in their car on Friday morning. When they did not return until late evening, they started a search. Since their car was found parked at the same place for a long time, suspicion arose among local residents and the police was informed. "Locals said the car had been parked in the Naveen Nagar area since 10 am. The exact cause of death will be determined after the autopsy. We have seized their car and investigation is under way," said Yashpal, the spokesperson of Faridabad police.

## Gurugram pilot killed in Assam crash was soon to get married

Gurugram: Squadron Leader Anuj Vashisht, a resident of Gurugram, was one of two Indian Air Force (IAF) pilots who lost their lives after a Sukhoi-30 MKI fighter jet crashed during a routine training sortie from the Tezpur air force station in Assam. The news has left the millennium city in mourning, and Sector 22, where his family resides, is gripped with gloom. As the news spread, people gathered at his home to pay their respects to the brave officer who laid down his life in the line of duty. The loss has been particularly heartbreaking for the Vashisht family, as preparations were underway for Anuj's wedding later this year. The household had been filled with excitement and celebrations, with relatives discussing guest lists and wedding arrangements. What was meant to be a joyful time for the family has now turned into a moment of unimaginable grief. "His father was in the police and served the country. He was very proud of Anuj's career choice. The family had fixed the wedding and preparations were on in full swing. This accident has shattered them, and they are not in a state to say anything," said one of Anuj's uncles. According to preliminary information, the Sukhoi-30 MKI fighter aircraft took off from the Tezpur air force station around 10.30 am as part of a routine training mission. However, approximately half an hour after take-off, the aircraft lost contact with radar systems. A large search operation was immediately launched. After several hours of intensive efforts, wreckage of the aircraft was located in a dense forest nearly 60 km from Tezpur. Officials later confirmed that both pilots were unable to eject safely from the aircraft and were killed in the crash while on duty.

## Chief Secretary KAP Sinha conferred Director's award for service to society by alma mater IIT (ISM) Dhanbad

**The Sikh Times**

Chandigarh, March 8: In another feather to his cap, the Chief Secretary, Punjab, KAP Sinha has been conferred the prestigious Director's award for Service to the society. An official spokesperson further revealed that the award has been conferred on the Chief Secretary by his alma mater IIT (ISM) Dhanbad from where he did his B. Tech in Mining Engineering (1989 Batch). Mr. KAP Sinha has been awarded due to his immense contribution in serving the people as well as towards the societal development clearly exhibiting the leadership qualities and inspiring others.

## Delhi court sentences man to rigorous life term for shooting his mother dead in 2012

New Delhi: A Delhi court has sentenced a man to rigorous life imprisonment for murdering his mother in 2012. Additional Sessions Judge Babru Bhan was hearing arguments on the quantum of punishment for Ramesh, who had been earlier convicted under IPC Section 302 (punishment for murder). According to the prosecution, Ramesh was convicted of shooting his mother—Shanti Devi—dead, in north Delhi's Vijay Colony area on May 15, 2012, over a property dispute. Additional Public Prosecutor Ghanshyam argued that the convict did not deserve any leniency. "On the date of the incident, there was no grave provocation or reason for the convict to kill the deceased. Considering the close relationship of convict and deceased, maximum punishment be imposed upon the convict," he said. In an order dated December 15, the court said, "Ramesh is hereby sentenced to undergo rigorous imprisonment for life and to pay a fine of Rs 40,000 for the offence punishable under Section 302 of IPC." Earlier, on December 6, the court had convicted Ramesh saying, the prosecution had proved beyond reasonable doubt that he had murdered his own mother by shooting her with a country-made pistol.

## Couple found dead inside house in northeast Delhi

New Delhi: A man and his wife, both middle aged, were found dead in separate rooms of their house in Jyoti Nagar in northeast Delhi, an official said on Friday. Preliminary inquiries suggested that the couple might have died by suicide, though the exact circumstances surrounding their deaths have not yet been established. According to the police, information about the incident was received at 12.05 am on Friday at the Jyoti Nagar police station, following which a police team rushed to the spot. Upon reaching the house, officials found the bodies lying in different rooms. A forensic team was called to the scene to examine the premises and collect evidence. The bodies were later shifted to Guru Teg Bahadur (GTB) Hospital for post-mortem to determine the exact cause of the deaths. The police said proceedings under Section 194 (police procedures for investigating suspicious, accidental, or suicidal deaths) BNSS were being conducted. The police sources said the man had his own business and suffered losses. It is suspected that the financial difficulty might have caused stress in the family, though the police are examining all possible angles. "They had shifted to this location almost a year ago and were staying with their two sons, aged 29 and 25," the source said. The man and his wife, aged 55 and 50, respectively, had hanged themselves with a "chunni" , the sources added.

# 7 arrested after man dies in neighbourhood clash during Holi celebrations in Uttam Nagar

New Delhi: Seven people including a juvenile were arrested following a neighbourhood quarrel that reportedly began with a water balloon being thrown during Holi celebrations, turned fatal in west Delhi's Uttam Nagar area, with a 26-year-old man succumbing to injuries, police said on Saturday. According to Delhi Police, the incident was reported late on March 4, after a PCR call was received at around 11:09 pm regarding a fight between neighbours belonging to different communities. Police said the altercation began when a water balloon thrown by a girl hit a woman, triggering a heated argument between the two families. Members from both sides soon gathered on the street and the argument escalated into a physical clash. During the scuffle, eight people sustained injuries-three from one family and five from the other. Except for one person who remained hospitalised, all the injured were discharged the same day, police said. Initially, a case was registered under the relevant provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita at the Uttam Nagar Police Station. However, the case took a serious turn the next day when Tarun, 26, who had been admitted to hospital with injuries, died in the afternoon of March 5. Following his death, police added the charge of culpable homicide under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita. Investigators said the two families had been neighbours for nearly five decades and had earlier disputes over minor issues such as parking and garbage disposal. Police said six adults have been arrested while one juvenile has been apprehended in connection with the case. Deputy Commissioner of Police (Dwarka) Kushal Pal Singh said police acted swiftly to control the situation and warned against attempts by anti-social elements to give the incident a communal colour. "The situation is under control. Strict action is being taken against anyone trying to disturb law and order," the officer said, urging people not to believe rumours or hearsay. Meanwhile, police had deployed paramilitary and police personnel in the area. Security was tightened in the locality and additional forces were deployed as a precautionary measure to maintain law and order, the official said.

**NAME CHANGE**

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

**NAME CHANGE**

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

**NAME CHANGE**

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

**NAME CHANGE**

I, Pradeep Kumar S/o Prem Chand R/o D-754/A, Gali No.1, Ashok Nagar, Shahdara, Delhi-110093 have changed the name of my minor son from Arjun to Arjun Vaidwan.

**NAME CHANGE**

I, Anupama D/o Pradeep Kumar R/o D-754/A, Gali No.1, Ashok Nagar, Shahdara, Delhi-110093 have changed my name to Anupama Chaudhary.

**NAME CHANGE**

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

**NAME CHANGE**

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

**NAME CHANGE**

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

**NAME CHANGE**

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

**NAME CHANGE**

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

**NAME CHANGE**

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

**NAME CHANGE**

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

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

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

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

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

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

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

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

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

**NAME CHANGE**

I, MOGHAL FATHIMA BAIG Wife of JC-335017L Rank-NB/SUB Name-MOGHAL MOHAMMAD BAIG Presently residing at 9-5-5, ANDHRA RATNA NAGAR, PERALA HIGH SCHOOL, PERALA, CHIRALA PRAKASAM DISTRICT, ANDHRA PRADESH-523157, have changed my name from MOGHAL FATHIMA BAIG to FATHIMA SHAIK for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 16/07/2025 before First Class Magistrate, Shillong, Meghalaya.

**NAME CHANGE**

I Jugal Kishor S/o Lila Dhar R/o H.No-196 S/F, Kh.No-619/21, Chattar Pur, South Delhi, Delhi-110074 have changed the name of my minor daughter namely Krishna Devi aged 16 years and she shall hereafter be known as Priya.

**NAME CHANGE**

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

**NAME CHANGE**

I hitherto known as Atif S/o Manzoor Khan R/o 1/99-C, 4F/F, Gali No-5, Guru Harkrishan School Wali Gali, Kabir Nagar, Gokal Pur, North East Delhi, Delhi-110094 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Atif Khan.

**NAME CHANGE**

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

**NAME CHANGE**

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

**NAME CHANGE**

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

**NAME CHANGE**

I Tajinder Kaur W/o Jaspreet Singh Baweja R/o 52/43 Ramjas Road Karol Bagh Delhi -110005 Have Changed My Name To Tajinder Kaur Baweja For All Purpose.

**NAME CHANGE**

I, Sansare Amrut Narayan father of No.4580889H Rank-Hav Name Sansare Ravindra Amrut residing at Vill. Deolali Pravara, Tehsil - Rahuri, District.Ahilyanagar, Maharashtra - 413716 have changed my name from Sansare Amrut Narayan to Amrut Narayan Sansare vide affidavit dated 15.07.2025 executed before Notary Public, Delhi.

**NAME CHANGE**

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

**NAME CHANGE**

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

**NAME CHANGE**

I, ANITA BANSAL W/O PAWAN BANSAL residing at B-504, MAYURDHWAJ APARTMENT, I.P EXTN. EAST DELHI-110092 have Change my name to ANITA RANI BANSAL for all future purpose.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

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

**NAME CHANGE**

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

**NAME CHANGE**

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

**NAME CHANGE**

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

**NAME CHANGE**

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

**NAME CHANGE**

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

**NAME CHANGE**

I, SANTOSH KUMAR S/O VISHVA NATH PRASAD residing at PLOT NO-58&59, FLAT NO-B-2, STREET NO-5, HAVENS GARDEN MATIALA, DELHI-110059 have changed my name to SANTOSH KUMAR GUPTA for all future purposes

**NAME CHANGE**

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

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

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

**NAME CHANGE**

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

**NAME CHANGE**

I, S VANITHA W/o No. 14838283N Rank-HAV/MT Name-RAMESH P R/o VILL-SEDRAMPUTTU, PO-SEDRAMPUTTU, TEH-POLUR, DIST-THRUVANNAMALAI, TAMIL NADU-632315, have changed my name from S VANITHA to VANITHA R for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 15/07/2025 before Notary Public, Kupwara.

**NAME CHANGE**

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

**NAME CHANGE**

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

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

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

**NAME CHANGE**

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

**NAME CHANGE**

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

**NAME CHANGE**

I Tajinder Kaur W/o Jaspreet Singh Baweja R/o 52/43 Ramjas Road Karol Bagh Delhi -110005 Have Changed My Name To Tajinder Kaur Baweja For All Purpose.

**NAME CHANGE**

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

NEWS BOX

## 'World can't return to law of jungle': China blasts Iran war, urges US to manage ties

**BEIJING. (Agency)**

China's top diplomat condemned on Sunday the war in the Middle East and urged the United States to iron out its differences with Beijing.

Wang Yi told a press conference in the Chinese capital that the war, which was sparked by US and Israeli strikes on Iran, "should never have happened."

"A strong fist does not mean strong reason. The world cannot return to the law of the jungle," he told reporters.Yi made the comments during China's annual political gathering, known as the "Two Sessions", which began this week.

The parallel meetings of China's parliament and political consultative body are closely watched for signals as to Chinese leaders' geopolitical strategy, as tensions with the United States and regional rivals persist and wars in the Middle East and Ukraine rage.

"This year is indeed a big year for Sino-US relations," Wang said.Ties between China and the United States have been strained since US President Donald Trump returned to the White House last year, followed by a trade war that saw the two countries impose tit-for-tat tariffs on each other's products.Beijing has previously blasted US and Israeli military actions in Iran, with which it has diplomatic and trade ties, and condemned in particular the killing of the country's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

Wang told reporters on Sunday that China and the United States must "make careful preparations, create a suitable environment, manage existing differences, and eliminate unnecessary interference".

He also maintained that China's relations with Moscow, which have been criticised by Western countries as sustaining the war in Ukraine, remained "steadfast and unshakeable"."Amidst the turbulent and complex international environment, China-Russia relations remain steadfast and unshakable," he said.

## Explosion Hits US Embassy In Oslo, Causes Minor Damage, Thick Smoke

**world. (Agency)**

The U.S. embassy in Oslo was hit by a loud explosion early on Sunday, causing minor damage but no injuries, Norwegian police said.The blast was heard from the embassy compound in western Oslo at around 1 a.m. (0000 GMT), and smoke was seen rising from the area, eyewitnesses said.

"There was a very thick layer of smoke on the street," said Sebastian Toerstad, 18, a high school student who drove past the embassy at the time of the incident.

"There was some damage to the entrance," Toerstad told Reuters.Oslo police said the blast had occurred at the entry to the consular section.Two police technicians wearing white overalls were later seen working at the site.No further explosive devices had been found in the area, police said.

"Investigations have been carried out at the scene with the aid of dogs, drones and a helicopter, searching for one or more potential perpetrators," the Oslo police department said in a statement.The embassy did not immediately respond to a request for comment outside of regular business hours.

## "Without Human Authorisation...": OpenAI Robotic Head Quits Over US Deal

**world. (Agency)**

The head of OpenAI's robotics team resigned Saturday, citing the company's deal to deploy its artificial intelligence models within the Pentagon's classified network as the cause.

"This wasn't an easy call," Caitlin Kalinowski wrote in a post on X. "AI has an important role in national security. But surveillance of Americans without judicial oversight and lethal autonomy without human authorization are lines that deserved more deliberation than they got."OpenAI confirmed Kalinowski's departure in an email statement and said it believes the agreement with the Defense Department "creates a workable path for responsible national security uses of AI while making clear our red lines, no domestic surveillance and no autonomous weapons."

"We recognize that people have strong views about these issues and we will continue to engage in discussion with employees, government, civil society and communities around the world," the company said. TechCrunch previously reported Kalinowski's resignation.

alinowski joined OpenAI in November 2024 as a member of the company's technical staff in robotics after leading development of augmented reality glasses for Meta, according to her LinkedIn profile.

OpenAI struck its deal with the Pentagon in late February following the breakdown of talks between the Trump administration and Anthropic PBC, which pressed for assurances that its technology wouldn't be used for mass surveillance of Americans or for fully autonomous weapons. OpenAI hasn't said whether its services for the Pentagon will replace the work previously done by Anthropic. President Donald Trump ordered all government departments to stop working with Anthropic, and the Pentagon declared the company and its products a supply-chain risk. Anthropic, in turn, has said it would challenge the designation - which previously was reserved for entities of adversary nations such as China's Huawei Technologies Co. - in court. Read More: Anthropic at Risk of Huawei-Like Ban After Pentagon PunishmentOpenAI Chief Executive Officer Sam Altman said earlier this month that the company's rush to reach a deal with the Defense Department looked "opportunistic and sloppy." OpenAI also publicly disagreed with the blacklisting of Anthropic.

# Pak Driver Killed As Debris From Aerial Interception Falls On Vehicle In Dubai

In a post on X, the Dubai media office shared that authorities had confirmed a minor incident on the facade of a tower in Dubai Marina, with no injuries reported.

**Dubai. (Agency)**

Dubai Media Office has confirmed that debris from an aerial interception fell onto a vehicle in the Al Barsha area, resulting in the death of a Pakistani driver.In a post on X, it also shared that authorities had confirmed a minor incident on the facade of a tower in Dubai Marina, with no injuries reported.As conflict deepens in West Asia and the Gulf, the IRNA claimed on Sunday, citing the IRGC, that a refinery was hit in Haifa.It said in a post on X, "IRGC : The Haifa refinery was struck by Kheibarshekan missiles.Al Jazeera Breaking reported that air strikes targeted an oil storage facility in Tehran. It also mentioned that Hezbollah said it launched missiles at Haifa naval base and that it targeted Kiryat Shmona with rocket fire.

Citing IDF sources, the Jerusalem Post reported that on Saturday night, the Israeli Air Force had attacked significant oil resources in the Tehran region of Iran. As per the sources, the oil resources attacked are directly connected to Iran's military industrial complex.

Earlier, IRNA said in a post on X on Saturday, "Gholam-Hossein Mohseni-Ejei: Intelligence from Iran's armed forces indicates that certain regional states' territory is being made available to the adversary, both overtly and covertly, and is being utilized to launch aggression against Iran."It added, "Retaliatory strikes against these positions will persist. This policy is active and enjoys full consensus between the government and all branches of the establishment."The conflict in West Asia has now brought into its fold several countries of the Gulf region.

These developments come in the wake of escalating tensions after a joint US-Israel military strike on February 28 on Iranian territory resulted in the death of its Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and other senior figures, prompting a fierce response from Tehran.In response, Iran retaliated by launching ballistic missiles and drones at US assets and allies across the region, including Israel, Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Jordan, further widening the conflict in West Asia and heightening risks for civilians and expatriates alike.

## Balen Shah: A millennial in the Himalayan hot seat poised to steer Nepal

**CANBERRA. (Agency)**

A 36-year-old man of great determination has emerged as the leader most young Nepalis looked up to when politics appeared bleak to them. Balendra Shah, popularly known as Balen, is more or less confirmed as the next Prime Minister of the Himalayan nation.The 2026 election for Nepal's House of Representatives triggered a wave that the Rastriya Swatantra Party (RSP) rode towards a two-thirds majority. One major reason for the wave was Balen joining the party. His meticulous sartorial style is now a trademark among Nepal's youth and his songs are on their lips.Born to Ram Narayan Shah and Dhruvadevi Shah, Balen is the youngest of four siblings. His parents hail from Mahottari district of Madhesh province bordering India. His father, a government worker, was transferred to Kathmandu to serve at the Naradevi Ayurvedic Hospital.

Balen was born in Kathmandu on April 27, 1990—the year Nepal restored democracy after the end of the Panchayat system and absolute monarchy.Although Balen did not witness the authoritarian Panchayat era, he grew up during a period when the political forces that had fought to establish democracy had come to be viewed as corrupt. Since 1990, Nepal has held several parliamentary and two constitutional elections. Yet, the country has seen remarkable political instability, with more than 30 governments in this period, none completing a full five-year term.Growing up in this environment, Balen witnessed frequent political changes and public protests, including the Maoist insurgency that ultimately led to the establishment of the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal in 2008. These events shaped the political consciousness of many in his generation.Balen earned a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from Himalayan Whitehouse International College in Kathmandu, followed by a master's in structural engineering from Visvesvaraya Technological University in Karnataka, India. He gained recognition for building low-cost housing following the devastating earthquakes of 2015.

But from an early age, Balen was drawn to music. While in the ninth grade, he wrote a song titled 'Sadak balak' (Street child). Released in 2012, it quickly gained popularity. In 2013, he entered the YouTube rap battle series Raw Barz and won Season 2.

## Explosive Devices Thrown Outside Zohran Mamdani's New York Home During Anti-Muslim Protest

**World. (Agency)**

Police detained a man who threw what officers said were "ignited devices" near far-right protesters demonstrating at the residence of New York's mayor Saturday, AFP correspondents saw. NYPD Commissioner Jessica Tisch said the devices contained nuts, bolts and screws as well as a fuse -- but it was not yet clear if they were functional improvised explosive devices, or hoax imitations.

There was no indication the incident was related to the ongoing hostilities in Iran, she added.Far-right influencer Jake Lang was demonstrating against alleged "Islamification" and calling for an end to "public Muslim prayer" in New York in front of Gracie Mansion, the residence of mayor Zohran Mamdani, who is Muslim. His protest drew around 20 people, police said, while counterprotesters numbered approximately 125.A man wearing a dark hooded sweatshirt and beige cargo pants was handed a device wrapped in tape and billowing smoke by a fellow activist. He dropped it near a line of police before vaulting a crash barrier.The man also threw a similar device near Lang's group of protesters.

"Witnesses reported seeing flames and smoke as it travelled through the air before it struck a barrier a few feet from police officers," Tisch told a briefing, naming the suspect as Amir Balat, 18.

"Mr Balat then...gets a second device from a man.

"Mr Balat lights the device and starts running with it. He then drops the device."Moments later, he and the other man were detained by police, who were heavily deployed to the protest.

'An idiot'

"The bomb squad responded and...based on a preliminary examination and X-ray imaging, the devices which were a bit smaller than a football appeared to be a jar wrapped in black tape -- importantly with nuts, bolts and screws along with a hobby fuse that could be lit," Tisch added.

"We don't yet know if they contained energetic (explosive) material."The man, apparently a counterdemonstrator opposed to Lang, shouted "Allahu akbar" ("God is the greatest"), an AFP correspondent at the scene heard.A demonstrator opposed to Lang, teacher Mia Kurzer, 23, told AFP she "showed up because we have to show that hate has no place in our city."

"We democratically elected a mayor who is Muslim -- and that's New York. We have different cultures, and we have to celebrate those cultures."She added that "I think (Lang) is an idiot. I think he underestimates the power of the people."There were some scuffles, apparently between protesters and counterdemonstrators.A protester in Lang's group used pepper spray against counter-protesters and was arrested, Tisch said, adding that there were three other arrests for disorderly contact.

## Australia could help protect Gulf states from Iran attacks: Foreign Minister Penny Wong

**SYDNEY. (Agency)**

Australia will consider a request by Gulf states for assistance against Iranian drone and missile attacks, Foreign Minister Penny Wong said Sunday.

Speaking to national broadcaster ABC, Wong said "we've had many countries which are non-participants have been attacked by Iran through this... we have been asked for assistance".

Asked whether that meant assistance in protecting them from Iranian drone and missile attacks, Wong said "correct"."We will work through that in accordance with the position I have outlined, which is, we are not participating in offensive action against Iran, and we've made clear we would not participate in any ground troop deployment into Iran," she said.

The United States and Israel launched strikes on Iran last week that killed its supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and triggered a war in the Middle East.Iran responded with

drone and missile strikes targeting Israel as well as Gulf states like the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Qatar.The attacks have forced busy Gulf hubs including Dubai and Doha to suspend flights, leaving passengers stranded around the world.Australia backed the US-Israeli strikes as necessary to prevent Tehran from acquiring nuclear weapons.It has a small military presence in the Middle East -- around 100 personnel, many stationed at the Al Minhad base in the UAE.Officials have said Canberra has no plans to take part in any military action against Iran.But the country has close military ties with the United States.As of last month, around 70 Australian military personnel are currently serving on American nuclear submarines, Canberra has said.Prime Minister Anthony Albanese has said that three Australian personnel had been on board a US submarine when it sank an Iranian ship on Wednesday.The personnel were on the submarine as part of training arrangements under AUKUS, a multi-decade defence pact with Britain and the United States, Albanese said.

# 'No One Will Be Left To Say 'We Surrender'": Trump Attacks Iran President

**World.(Agency)**

U.S. President Donald Trump said he is not interested in negotiating with Iran and raised the possibility that the Iran war would only end once Tehran no longer has a functioning military or any remaining leadership in power.Speaking to reporters aboard Air Force One on Saturday, Trump said the air campaign could make negotiations a moot point if all potential leaders of Iran are killed and the Iranian military is destroyed."At some point, I don't think there will be anybody left maybe to say 'We surrender,'" Trump said.

IRAN PRESIDENT'S APOLOGY CAUSES STIR

Israel and Iran traded numerous attacks on Saturday as the U.S.-Israeli war against Iran entered a second week. Iran's president apologized to neighboring states for its attacks on U.S. facilities in those countries, in an attempt to cool anger across the Gulf, but stirred criticism from hardliners at home. "I personally apologize to neighboring countries that were affected by Iran's actions," Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian said, urging them not to join U.S.-Israeli attacks on Iran.He dismissed Trump's demand for the Islamic Republic's unconditional surrender as "a dream," but said its temporary leadership council had agreed to suspend attacks on nearby states unless strikes on Iran originated from their territory.Amid possible divisions within Iran's leadership over Pezeshkian's remarks, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, in a televised address, said any members of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps who laid down their arms would be unharmed.Ali Larijani, Iran's secretary of the Supreme National Security Council, said on state television there was no rift among Iranian officials over its handling of the war.In Oslo, the U.S. embassy was hit by an explosion early on Sunday, causing minor damage but no injuries, Norwegian police said. Smoke was seen rising from the area around the embassy compound, eyewitnesses told Norwegian daily Verdens Gang. It was not immediately

clear what caused the blast or who was involved.The U.S. State Department did not immediately respond to a request for comment.Saudi Arabia has told Tehran that continued Iranian attacks on the kingdom and its energy sector could push Riyadh to respond in kind, four people familiar with the matter told Reuters.Saudi Arabia foiled a drone attack on Riyadh's diplomatic quarter, the Saudi defense ministry said early on Sunday. No injuries were reported.Pezeshkian's comments caused a political stir in Iran, prompting his office to reiterate Iran's military would respond firmly to attacks from U.S. bases in the region. Hours later, the president repeated his statement on social media but left out the apology from his speech that had angered hardliners, including the powerful Revolutionary Guards.

The judiciary chief, Mohseni-Ejei, a hardline member of the three-man council temporarily holding the powers of supreme leader, said the territory of some regional countries was being used for attacks against Iran and retaliatory strikes would continue.

Hours after Pezeshkian's announcement, the Revolutionary Guards said their drones struck a U.S. air combat center near Abu Dhabi, capital of the United Arab Emirates.

NEWS BOX

## 55-year-old woman assaulted by daughter and son-in-law over domestic dispute in Maharashtra

**Thane. (Agency)**

A 55-year-old woman was allegedly assaulted by her daughter and son-in-law after a domestic dispute turned violent in a Wagle Estate tenement area, officials said Saturday. A case has been registered against the couple.Authorities said the clash erupted on Friday in the low-income settlement in the Indira Nagar area after water spillage from the daughter's upper-floor unit into her mother's room downstairs. This ignited an already simmering property-related dispute between the mother and daughter, leading to a fresh argument that eventually resulted in the assault.

"The 38-year-old daughter financed the house redevelopment, and ever since, she has frequently argued with her mother over vacating the premises. On Friday, water from a pipe used to lift water to the upper floor spilled into the mother's room, triggering an argument.

The daughter's husband intervened and allegedly attacked his mother-in-law with a bamboo stick," police said.

## Lack of arena hardest obstacle for Thoothukudi gymnasts

**THOOTHUKUDI. (Agency)**

The absence of a dedicated gymnastic facility has turned into a major stumbling block for all the athletes from the district, forcing them to train exclusively in private sports facilities with limitations in equipment. Despite having a number of gymnasts in the district, the lack of facilities has prevented the athletes, in several cases, from taking part in state and national-level competitions, which require dedicated equipment and facilities for training.

Gymnastics features 10 events, with six for men -- floor exercise, vaulting table, parallel bar, horizontal bar, roman rings, and pommel horse -- and four for women -- floor exercise, vaulting table, balancing team, and uneven bar. The sport requires a specialised indoor arena equipped with safety infrastructure, including mattresses, springboards, and crash mats, along with washrooms and dressing rooms for the athletes.

Thoothukudi District Amateur Gymnastics Players Association president E Rathnakumar said, "We were training at the indoor badminton stadium in Tharuvai ground and the district playground in Thoothukudi, but the officials closed the facilities for gymnastics training." For over 35 years, several athletes from the district, both men and women, have secured medals in state-level tournaments after receiving training from private academies, he said. However, even the SDATs' district-level events are conducted in Tirunelveli grounds, due to the lack of arenas in Thoothukudi, he said, urging the authorities concerned to build a dedicated arena for gymnasts.

## PIL seeks awareness boards on RTE Act in all private schools in Telangana

**Telangana. (Agency)**

The Telangana High Court on Friday issued notices to state authorities in a suo motu Public Interest Litigation (PIL) seeking directions to install awareness boards and display fee details in all private school premises as part of implementing the Right to Education Act, 2009.

A division bench converted a letter received from Challa Ravindar Reddy, a resident of Siddipet, into a PIL. The court directed the respondent authorities to file their responses within three weeks and posted the matter for further hearing thereafter.

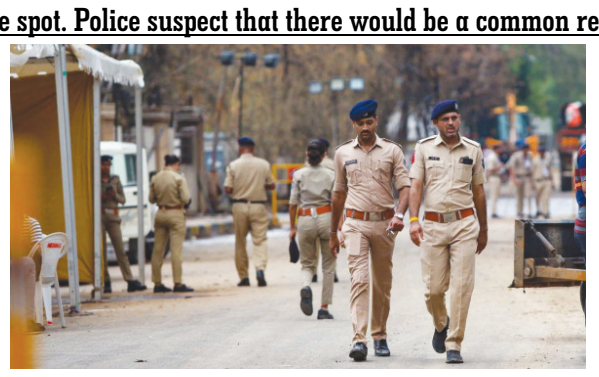
In his letter, the petitioner stated that there appeared to be a delay in the full implementation of the Right to Education Act in Telangana and contended that due to a lack of public information, particularly in private schools, many poor families remained unaware of the benefits guaranteed under the Act.

The petitioner urged the court to direct the State Education department, District Education Officers and Mandal Education Officers to install clear boards or flex displays detailing the RTE provisions in every private school across the state to improve awareness among parents and students.He sought directions for displaying key provisions of the Act, including free and compulsory education for children aged 6 to 14 years, reservation of 25 per cent seats in private schools for children from economically weaker and disadvantaged sections, and prohibition of donations or screening tests during admissions.

# ChatGPT query on phone, anaesthesia injections by side, two women found dead in temple toilet

**Three syringes were recovered from the spot. Police suspect that there would be a common reason behind their alleged deaths by suicide.**

**Ahmedabad.(Agency)**



TWO WOMEN aged 18 and 20, both childhood friends, were found dead inside a bathroom of the Swaminarayan temple in Surat's Dindoli area on Saturday with anaesthesia injections and syringes by their side. On their mobile phones, the police found ChatGPT searches on 'how to commit suicide' and a news clipping of a nurse who had allegedly died by suicide in the same area using anaesthesia injections.

Three syringes were recovered from the spot. Police suspect that there would be a common reason behind their alleged deaths by suicide.

Dindoli police told The Indian Express that the younger girl was a first-year BCom student at Wadia Women's College, Athwa, while the other was a second-year BCom student at Udhna Citizen College.Police said that on Friday morning, the duo left their homes as usual for college, but did not return home in the afternoon. Their parents enquired with the colleges and learnt that they had not attended classes. Worried, the families searched for them and finally lodged a missing person's report with the Dindoli police.

The police tracked their mobile phones and the family members found one of the girl's two-sheeler outside the Swaminarayan temple.

Police said family members contacted Swaminarayan temple authorities and CCTV camera footage showed the girls going inside a toilet. The family members reached the washroom and broke open the locked door in the presence of the temple authorities.Inside, the girls were found on the floor in an unconscious state and they were rushed to a hospital, where doctors declared them dead.

Dindoli police reached the hospital after being informed. The family members handed four bottles of anaesthetic drugs, one empty syringe and three injections to the police that they had found at the spot. Police also took in possession the mobile phones of both the girls.

Dindoli police has registered an accidental death case and started a probe.Talking to The Indian Express, Assistant Commissioner of Police N P Gohil said, "On checking their phones, we have found that they had searched on ChatGPT 'how to commit suicide'… We also found a news clipping about a hospital nurse who had allegedly died by suicide using anaesthesia injection … we have handed their mobile phones to the forensic science laboratory. The cause of death will be learnt in the coming days.""We are waiting for the FSL report to get access to their WhatsApp chats which can provide us a clearer picture," he added.

# Telangana govt introduces stricter rules, QR codes in ad policy

**To strengthen monitoring and transparency, every permitted advertisement must display a QR code linked to permit details such as validity, dimensions and location.**

**Hyderabad . (Agency)**

The state government has approved a Comprehensive Outdoor Advertisement Policy for the Core Urban Region (CURE), introducing stricter regulations, zoning norms and technology-based monitoring of hoardings and outdoor advertisements across the Hyderabad metropolitan area.

Issued through a GO, the policy will apply to CURE across the jurisdictions of GHMC, Cyberabad Municipal Corporation and Malkajgiri Municipal Corporation. It replaces all earlier guidelines and seeks to establish a uniform regulatory framework.

To strengthen monitoring and transparency, every permitted advertisement must display a QR code linked to permit details such as validity, dimensions and location. All advertisements will also be geo-tagged, enabling real-time tracking.

The government will constitute an Advertisement Regulatory Committee (ARC) as the nodal authority to approve and regulate all outdoor advertisements in CURE. No advertisement will be allowed without ARC approval. The committee will coordinate with departments and agencies, approve zoning plans and examine location-specific proposals to ensure uniform implementation.

Areas have been classified into four zones: Zone S (high-density premium areas such as central business districts and major transit hubs), Zone A (developing commercial zones), Zone B (mixed-use areas) and Zone C (developing residential areas with lower advertising potential).

Advertisement rights, particularly on public spaces and government infrastructure, will be allotted mainly through open auction or tender. The standard allotment period is capped at five years, though longer tenures may be permitted in public-private partnership projects with government approval.

Applications for self-advertisements on private properties and vehicles can be submitted online, with permissions also limited to five years.

## Govt appoints administrators to take over functioning of 6 civic bodies

**Ahmedabad.(Agency)**

THE STATE government on Saturday issued orders appointing administrators to the Municipal Corporations of Ahmedabad, Vadodara, Surat, Rajkot, Jamnagar and Bhavnagar to take over their functioning as the term of the elected bodies of the civic bodies is set to end on March 9 (Monday).The Urban Development and Urban Housing Department of the Gujarat government issued similar orders for the municipal corporations that will see their five-year term coming to an end next week.

As per the orders of the state government, Principal Secretary of the Education Department, Mukesh Kumar has been appointed as Administrator of the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation while Managing Director of Gujarat Urja Vikas Nigam Ltd. (GUVNL) Shalini Agarwal has been appointed as the administrator for Vadodara Municipal Corporation. In Surat, Education Secretary Milind Torwane has been appointed Administrator while Remya Mohan will take charge of the Rajkot civic body and Aarti Kanwar will be the Administrator of Jamnagar. Social Justice and Empowerment Secretary Harshad Patel has been appointed administrator for Bhavnagar Municipal Corporation.

Mohan was Rajkot District Collector from 2019 to 2021, while Torwane was Surat Municipal commissioner between 2014 to 2016 and Agarwal was Vadodara Municipal commissioner from 2021 to 2022.

The order issued for Vadodara under the Gujarat Provincial Municipal Corporations Act, 1949, states that the VMC councillors, chosen by direction election as per the Act in February 2021 are scheduled to complete the stipulated term on March 9, 2026.

# Nyaya Sanhita Exhibition generates curiosity, draws crowd in Bhubaneswar

**BHUBANESWAR. (Agency)**

The Nyaya Sanhita Exhibition, organised by Odisha Police, is drawing the crowd from different walks of life with its inventive ways to create awareness about the country's revamped criminal justice system.

From crime skit playing fictional incidents to depict how the justice system works to exhibition on the prowess of the police force, the event is creating a buzz. Organised at the Exhibition Ground, it will continue till March 10.

The exhibition highlights the implementation of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam (BSA), which came into effect on July 1, 2024, replacing the outdated colonial laws.

The Nyaya Sanhita Exhibition was inaugurated by Union Home minister Amit Shah in the presence of Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi on Friday.As part of the programme, the police are exhibiting a crime skit titled 'Nyaya Path: Dandaru Nyaya Parjyanta and Nyayara Nutana Parichaya' which is based on a fictional murder and dacoity case within Pahala police station limits on the outskirts of Bhubaneswar.

In the act, a group of three robbers enter a house, loot jewellery using weapons and attack a couple in front of their daughter. The man succumbs and the woman sustains serious injuries in the incident. The entire sequence of events from police investigation, arrests, filing of the chargesheet and the court sentencing the three to life imprisonment is enacted in the play by a group of students.

On the day, students of various schools in the capital city, ASHA workers and general public witnessed the crime skit play and found out how the new criminal laws, with a focus on forensic investigation and advanced technology, can help crack cases and ensure conviction of the accused. The play is performed four times a day.Apart from the play, cyber awareness is also being created during the exhibition. Various stalls including Odisha Police's Special Operation Group (SOG) have been set up to highlight its successes in anti-Naxal operations. ODRAF has put up a stall to inform the citizens about its equipment and role in rescue operations during disasters.

# Hit by water scarcity, 500 Melur families spend Rs 1.5K per month

**The settlement is located roughly four kilometres from Melur town, which gets water supplied through the Melur Combined Water Scheme.**

**Madurai .(Agency)**

Insufficient water supply has allegedly forced around 500 families -- who were allotted houses in Karuthapuliyampatti in Therkutheru panchayat in Melur taluk -- to purchase domestic and potable water from private water tankers at Rs 20 per pot. The residents rely on just one borewell, which is severely inadequate to meet their water needs.

During 2020-2021, the TN Urban Habitat Development Board (Madurai Division), in partnership with the PMAY-Urban, constructed 512 houses at a total cost of Rs 47.27 crore, according to sources. The settlement is located roughly four kilometres from Melur town, which gets water supplied through the Melur Combined Water Scheme.

R Muthu, one of the residents, told TNIE that residents in the neighbourhood have been facing an acute water shortage for last three years. He claimed that the residents encountered the issue on the very first day they had moved to the settlement, as there was only one borewell for the entire neighbourhood. He said, "It (borewell) is insufficient even for drinking purposes, forcing us to purchase water for cooking and drinking. Most of the families here are from economically disadvantaged backgrounds; many work as daily-wage labourers. For the last three years, we have been forced to spend at least Rs 800 to Rs 1,500 every month on water."

# Maharashtra minority status row: 20 trusts' schools must now reserve 25% seats under RTE Act

**After minority status approvals for 72 educational institutions run by 20 trusts were kept in abeyance amid the Ajit Pawar death controversy, the state has directed their schools to join the RTE admission system and reserve 25% seats.**

**Mumbai. (Agency)**

In an important development in the controversy surrounding the grant of minority status certificates to several educational trusts in Maharashtra in the aftermath of former Minority Development minister Ajit Pawar's death, schools run by 20 trusts whose approvals have been kept in abeyance will now have to reserve 25 per cent of their seats for children from socio-economically disadvantaged families under the Right to Education (RTE) Act.

Minority-run institutions are exempt from the RTE Act, which mandates that private unaided schools reserve 25 per cent of seats for students from economically weaker and disadvantaged backgrounds. However, with the minority status of these trusts temporarily suspended pending a probe, the exemption will no longer apply.

Acting on a list recently issued by the Minority Development Department, the Directorate of Primary Education has directed district-level officials to identify schools run by the 20 trusts and include them in the RTE admission portal if they had earlier been excluded on account of minority status, according to Director of Primary Education Sharad Gosavi.

"The list includes 20 trusts. Each trust may run one or more schools, some of which could be primary schools. Local officers have been asked to verify the schools and include them in the system accordingly," he told this newspaper.

Among the trusts whose minority status certificates have been kept in abeyance are Shri Mata Kanyaka Seva Sanstha in Chandrapur; Sevadas Maharaj Shikshan Prasarak Mandal and Shrimati Laxmibai Raghogi Ingle Shikshan Prasarak Mandal in Yavatmal; multiple Podar trust institutions based in Parel, Mumbai; Danish Welfare Society in Amravati; Azad Education and Multipurpose Sanstha in Buldhana; and Gurukul Pisa Foundation in Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar, apart from education societies located in Thane, Gondia, Nagpur and Kolhapur.

Of the 20 trusts, six are located in Mumbai district — the highest in the state — followed by four in Yavatmal and two in Thane, while one trust each is located in Chandrapur, Amravati, Buldhana, Nagpur, Gondia, Kolhapur, Pune and Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar.

Officials said the move is likely to increase the number of seats available under the RTE admission process, which is currently underway in Maharashtra.

"If any of the newly added schools fall within a one-kilometre radius of a child's residence, parents can apply for admission there," Gosavi said, adding that applicants should keep checking the RTE admission website as the system is updated. The current application window will remain open until March 10.

The exact number of additional seats that will become available under the RTE quota is not yet known. "The number will be clear only after these schools are reflected in the RTE admission system," Gosavi added.

# Patience is not a woman's virtue

AS in the spring a young man's fancy lightly turns to thoughts of love, so on International Women's Day (March 8), our thoughts once more turn — however fleetingly — to the status and condition of Indian women.Are women moving forward towards social and economic equity and equality, freedom from fear and want, safety and security or not? And what is the pace of it all?

Counter currents abound. Even as one wave of policy or practice seems to carry women towards the shore, the undertow of culture and tradition pushes them down into the shoals.Annual assessments show that more women are engaging in economic activity than ever before. In five years, women's labour force participation has nearly doubled. But the majority still work in the agriculture sector, usually as low-paid unskilled labour but too often as unpaid workers. Whether it is in boardrooms or brick kilns, women earn 20-70% less than men for the same work.

Politically, women should be making strides. Reservations in Panchayati Raj institutions have brought millions into decision-making. Despite the usual derision about 'pradhan pati' proxies, in many states women in third-tier governance now exceed quotas, gaining visibility, legitimacy and shifting rural gender norms.Yet, a confident grassroots leadership has not tempted political leaders to draw from there to populate their higher reaches. Between 2019 and 2024, women's representation in state Assemblies remained stagnant at 9-10%. In Parliament, the count actually dipped slightly to 14.4% in the 17th Lok Sabha. This is well below the global average of around 27% and much below the ever pending 33% reservation target.

This reluctance to include women in the upper echelons is emblematic of trends everywhere. Illustratively in the justice sector, where equality and equity should have been baked in as a first priority, a healthy 38% of women judges in the lower judiciary reduces to just over 13% at the high court and 3.1% in the Supreme Court. And so it goes.It is now routinely acknowledged that workforce parity could lift India's GDP by as much as a quarter. Yet, in the interlocking skein of constraints that hold women back, the prevailing culture is a cardinal factor.The sustaining culture believes strongly in hierarchy. Place is pre-determined by caste and gender; and each person is expected to stay uncomplainingly right there. In that scheme of things, constitutional values of individual freedoms, choice and privacy and what it means to be an active empowered citizen can bring down consequences heavily on the head that dares to stay unbowed.

Still, it is not a stagnant pool. There is a churning, not least created by social and mass media. The whole population is screen-stuck. Women's viewership is multiplying faster than male.

The year's most popular shows depict women cutting through adversity to rise up into unconventional leadership roles. At the same time, prurient adult viewing — read porn — is fully active in reinforcing women's subordination, revels in her humiliation and enjoys violence as pleasure.Yet, every small screen beams forth new values even as it sustains old ones. It is in the friction of debates at home — where stereotypes are reinforced or broken — that change happens. That conflict will decide whether culture or the Constitution prevails.It is time to have that conversation and who better to lead it than those whose bounden duty is to further the Constitution at every turn.On the one hand, women — and increasingly the wider public — are not taking misogyny lying down. The audible outrage and outcry that follows absurd denigratory remarks from high-profile figures, particularly those holding public office, makes that clear. On the other, those with the power to move the country steadily toward parity are reluctant to come down unequivocally in favour of equality, instead dressing up unfettered patriarchy as "protections for the weaker sex".are retained within political and institutional folds tells its own story.

# Nepal's 'pairo': RSP's landslide victory signals end of old guard, new era in politics

## RSP has crossed the First Past the Post (FPTP) number alone to 110 and Proportional Representation (PR) seats will be 80, taking the aggregate to nearly 200

In Gorkhali, there's a word that is both feared and respected — 'pairo', or landslide, which can lead to entire hills to slip away and whole forests to vanish. Nepal was in the grips of a countrywide 'pairo', the only way to describe the Rashtra Swatantra Party (RSP)'s astounding victory; the most optimistic estimate rated their seat tally at 110 for a party which made its electoral debut in 2022 with 21 seats. RSP has crossed the First Past the Post (FPTP) number alone to 110 and Proportional Representation (PR) seats will be 80, taking the aggregate to nearly 200. That's more than two thirds seats in a 275-member legislature. The US, China and India are all watching with shock and awe. The result will have a profound effect on emerging geo-politics.How did this happen? People were determined to punish old parties and reward RSP especially after rapper and former mayor of Kathmandu, Balen Shah, joined the party. The only other time Nepal saw this kind of electoral outcome was in 2008 when CPN Maoist came to power after a 10-year civil war securing a near two thirds majority. This time, the transformation was triggered by the 36-hour GenZ protests last year. RSP's strength in the House will be more than Nepali Congress, CPN UML and CPN Maoist (now rechristened as Nepal Communist Party) all put together.The traditional parties discredited for their record of corruption and misgovernance did attempt an image makeover. NC's youthful Gagan Thapa executed a bloodless coup overthrowing the old guard but it was too little too late. UML's ousted PM KP Oli had bitterly criticised the GenZ protests and learnt no lesson from the students' revolt. In an attempt to dislodge Oli from the party failed, Maoist supremo Prachanda regrouped the Left parties to form NCP. These cosmetic changes by NC and NCP could not arrest the declining fortunes of the mainstream parties. Gagan Thapa and four-time PM Oli were both defeated. So was another prime minister, Madhav Nepal, by first-time RSP candidates. RSP's sputnik rise is also attributed to the young and charismatic leaders, a fearless party, and a smart campaign – and also due to the wholesale rejection of the old parties by the electorate. Further, Nepalese abroad were urged to advise their friends and relatives to vote for RSP.From my vantage points in Pokhara and Kathmandu, I witnessed the campaigning programmes of different parties, establishment of voting booths and the 2 per cent drop in voter turnout to 58 per cent compared to the 2022 election. Meeting party candidates one could discern the differences in style and substance between the ageing and tired candidates of the traditional parties from the young, energetic and enthused RSP hopefuls, many first-timers. Surprisingly, not many GenZ members joined the political party or former their own party except one prominent leader, Sudan Gurung, who joined RSP. It was Sudan Gurung

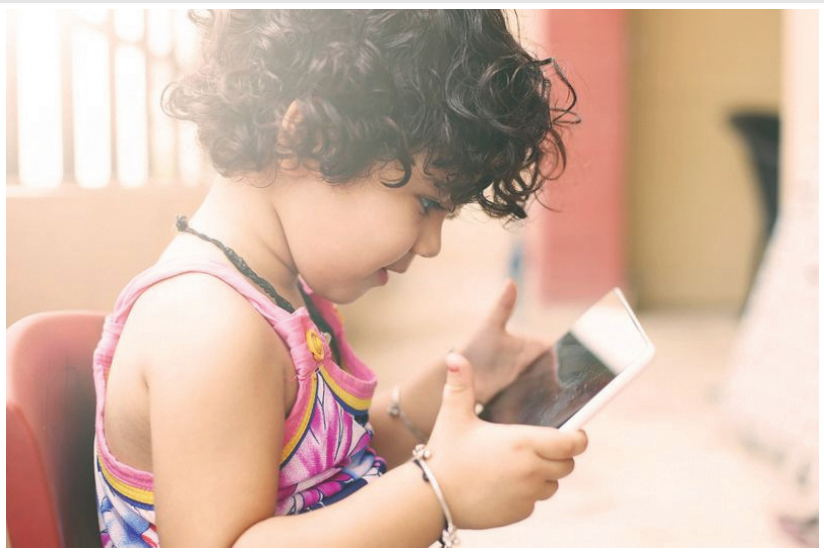
who used to meet President Sushila Karki and had negotiated several agreements with her, many of which have not seen closure. The most prominent and weighty is the ten-point agreement which encompasses GenZ's reform agenda. While NC and RSP have incorporated its essence in their manifesto its implementation will be eagerly awaited. Some reforms like changing the mixed electoral system will require constitutional amendments. With RSP, achieving a two-thirds majority, their implementation will not be difficult provided there is some consensus in the House.Since 2008, the profile of the legislature has been dominated by Left parties, the Communists – Marxists, Leninists and Maoists. That will change now. Their strength in the House of 60 per cent of the members will reduce to 35 per cent, a significant drop in their influence. This will not please China which has strived to form a united Left party of all communists under NCP banner which had a short life-span in 2017-18. China was conspicuously silent during this election – no rallying call for Left parties but only good wishes for a successful election. Beijing is heavily invested in Pokhara and Kathmandu even as the Lhasa-Kirung-Katthmandu railway line is back on the radar. The long-delayed BRI was signed by Oli last year when he attended the victory parade in Beijing.The US is a significant third player in Nepal after China and India. The USD 500-million MCC programme is on pause; but embedded in the Indo Pacific strategy. Adm Samuel Paparo, Indo Pacific Theatre Commander, was in Kathmandu last month reportedly persuading Nepal to join State Partnership Programme (SPP) – a mil-to-mil programme run by the US National Guard. US is trying to rope in Nepal Army in various programmes like disaster relief, peacekeeping, mountain and high altitude rescue, US has been trying since 2022 to get Nepal Army to join SPP but like the initial hurdles it encountered with MCC, there is considerable resistance and Nepal Army has refused to join it. I was informed by a retired Nepali General that US wants to establish a training school in the high Mustang region which is close to the Chinese border. Thanks to strategic geography, India is Nepal's most active political, military and economic partner. The decline of the Communist majority in parliament could encourage the new RSP government to clear the Agniveer scheme which has been in suspended animation for five years and resulted in not a single Nepal Domiciled Gorkha being recruited in the Indian Army.

The RSP government will be politically inexperienced and PM Balen Shah, quite inscrutable. It can form a national government incorporating talent and experience from other parties. This is a real opportunity for RSP to meet the aspirations of the people and change the quality of their lives. A real new Nepal could be in the offing.

# Social media curbs: Karnataka takes the lead with under-16 ban

## If other states take a cue from Karnataka, the Union government will find it harder to justify its wait-and-watch policy

KARNATAKA, one of India's premier states in the digital arena, has decided to ban the use of social media by children under 16. The move, announced in the 2026-27 state Budget, indicates a growing recognition of the risks posed by unchecked digital exposure. As India's first state to take this step, Karnataka has joined the global debate about how to protect young minds in an increasingly online world. The intent is commendable, but the path to effective implementation is fuzzy.Psychologists and child health experts have repeatedly warned that excessive social media use can adversely affect adolescents' mental and emotional development. The issue was also flagged in the 2025-26 Economic Survey. Karnataka's initiative reflects a precautionary approach to a fast-evolving technological landscape. The neighbouring state of Andhra Pradesh is keen on blocking social media access to children below 13. However, this action plan raises practical questions. In a digital-first era, smartphones and apps have become embedded in



education, communication and daily life. Many schools rely on messaging apps, online portals and digital platforms for assignments and updates. Distinguishing between "educational" and "social" usage may prove difficult. Moreover, without robust age-verification systems or cooperation from tech companies, a blanket ban may end up as a symbolic exercise. The widespread sharing of devices within Indian families further complicates enforcement.Countries such as Australia have already implemented the under-16 social media ban, while others are considering stricter digital safeguards. Indeed, children require stronger digital protection, but regulation alone cannot solve this vexed problem. Ultimately, meaningful change will depend on a balanced approach involving governments, schools, tech platforms and — most importantly — parents. If other states take a cue from Karnataka, the Union government will find it harder to justify its wait-and-watch policy.

# A peculiar silence in the heart of Delhi

## THE GREAT GAME: India should not be in faux alignment with powers that bomb girls' schools in Iran

THE Americans have allowed India a 30-day waiver to buy Russian oil stranded on the high seas. That was the message from the Trump administration, bright and early this Friday morning.Now it's not clear whether the Modi government is irritated by these directions from the Trump administration, at being told what to do, including who to buy oil from, how much, and when to start or stop. Remember that only last month, when Trump announced he was removing the 25 per cent extra tariff from India-US trade as part of the trade deal, he had made clear that if India went back to buying Russian oil, the tariff would be back.And so, in the back-and-forth around the Modi government's foreign policy since the Iran crisis exploded a week ago, in which both Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi have since intervened, questions are being raised on this newest version of atmanirbharta, or self-reliance, as an instrument of foreign policy.Perhaps the Ministry of External Affairs believes, as part of its much-vaunted pragmatism, that it should not antagonise the most powerful man in the world, Donald Trump, and therefore it's better to fall in line with the bombing of Iran. By that measure, Indians should have never fought the freedom struggle against the British Raj, because, remember that under the Raj, the trains always ran on time, mass education was introduced and social evils like sati were banned.

Others would argue that atmanirbharta, really, means something else. It is the constant struggle to be aware, to understand the complexities of the world, to choose different sides when the need arises — actually, to play all sides, because only then can you protect your national interest. (Jawaharlal Nehru called it "non-alignment," but let's leave that argument for another day.)

Truth is, New Delhi has incredible experience in leveraging the shifting sands of global realpolitik. Which is why it boggles the mind why India is so openly aligning with both Trump and Bibi Netanyahu. The Israelis have antagonised half of Europe and Trump openly woos Pakistan every other day. Meanwhile, Trump and Vladimir Putin talk to each other at least once a month — even as America threatens India not to buy Russian oil. Soon, at least before the Iran crisis, Trump was planning a China visit — but China, a partner and ally of Iran, is now said to be offering to mediate between Trump and Iran.

That's why atmanirbharta means choosing wisely, to act in the national interest by both doing or not doing. It meant postponing your visit to Israel, not just because the whole world, including yourself, knew that war was around the corner; not because India and Iran have age-old ties, but because 44 per cent of India's oil traffic passes through the Iran-controlled waterway, the Strait of Hormuz. It meant holding off on that call to the ruler of Abu Dhabi, Mohammed bin Zayed or MbZ, who these days is not on talking terms with his once-best friend Mohammed bin Salman of Saudi Arabia — not just because you buy oil from both or because Pakistan is a strategic partner of Saudi Arabia, but because a large Indian community lives in both countries, 4 million in the UAE and about 2.5 million in Saudi.

It meant not waiting till Sonia Gandhi wrote a piece in the Indian Express, questioning India's silence on the assassination of Iran's Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei — finally, five days after his killing, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri was ordered to pull his car out of the garage and drive the 2 km or so to the Iran embassy in the heart of Delhi, where he signed the condolence book on behalf of India. Meanwhile, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar finally called his Iranian counterpart Seyed Abbas Araghchi.On Friday evening, the Israeli foreign minister told the media that PM Modi, who flew out of Israel 48 hours before, was not aware when the Israelis-US were going to bomb Iran. Now you can legitimately have two kinds of reactions to the Israeli admission. First, what kind of friend are the Israelis not to tell their best friend, India, about their best-laid plans?

How many remember today the February 1979 incident, when then Foreign Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee was on a convivial visit to China, and China attacked Vietnam to "teach it a lesson" — Vajpayee was so upset that he cut short his visit and returned home. Following which, then PM Morarji Desai expressed "profound shock and distress" at the incident and India-China ties went into a new deep freeze.Of course the circumstances are different, 47 years later. Just as India debated the offering of its condolences to Iran, it took New Delhi five days to react to the US torpedoing of the IRIS Dena, an Iranian warship that had just sailed out of Indian waters after participating in the International Fleet Review. For a country that is part of the Quad — consisting of the US, Japan, Australia and itself — and is proud that it is the only country in the world after whom a whole ocean is named, a peculiar silence that speaks volumes is these days emanating from the heart of the capital.

On the other hand, one should thank god the Israelis didn't tell the PM about their bombing of Iran when he was in Tel Aviv — Modi must finally understand how best friends hold their cards close to their chest and not tell. Or, notwithstanding the vibrant Indian Jewish community which relocated to Israel a few decades ago and believes that "Israel is the fatherland and India their motherland," a phrase used by the PM during his speech to the Knesset; or that India is Israel's largest buyer of defence equipment — Modi must know that India is not part of the Israel-US sanctum sanctorum.

That's why atmanirbharta remains fundamental to India's existence. PM Modi's promotion of this concept tells us that India should not be in faux alignment with powers that bomb girls' schools in Iran. That Delhi mustn't be afraid to speak up when things go out of hand — even though we have our own dark corners, including a friendship with the Taliban, which permits the beating of your wife as long as you don't break her bones.

Fact is, today's India is stronger, the fourth largest economy in the world, has a better GDP per capita (about $2,800 in 2025 compared to $1,486 when Modi took charge in 2014), a strong and vibrant diaspora that exercises influence and sends remittances home.

## Another Amrit Bharat for South likely by March-end

**Hyderabad.(Agency)**

Rail connectivity between Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu is set to improve with a new Amrit Bharat Express likely to be introduced by the end of March between Cherlapalli near Hyderabad and Nagercoil in Tamil Nadu.

The proposed weekly service will operate with sleeper and general second class coaches. According to railway officials, the train will provide direct connectivity from Hyderabad to several key towns and pilgrimage centres across Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. The route is expected to include stations such as Kumbakonam, Chidambaram, Tambaram, Chennai, Nellore, Ongole, Chirala, Bapatla, Tenali, Guntur, Miryalaguda and Nalgonda.

Currently, two Amrit Bharat Express services operate from Cherlapalli. One connects Muzaffarpur in Bihar with Hyderabad (15293/94), introduced in September 2025, while another links Thiruvananthapuram in Kerala with the city (17041/42), launched in January this year.

Another service, the Jogbani–Erode Amrit Bharat Express (16601/02), introduced in September 2025, also passes through the Telugu states, including Mancherial, Warangal, Khammam, Vijayawada, Ongole, Gudur and Naidupeta.

## TGSPDCL rules out power tariff hike this year

**Hyderabad.(Agency)**

In a major relief to power consumers, the Telangana Southern Power Distribution Company Ltd (TGSPDCL) has announced that there will be no power tariff hike for 2026–27.Participating in the public hearing conducted by the Telangana Electricity Regulatory Commission (TGERC) here on Saturday on the Aggregate Revenue Requirement (ARR) filed by the Discoms, TGSPDCL Chairman and Managing Director Jithesh V Patil said that the annual revenue requirement for 2026–27 was estimated at Rs 50,242 crore, while the expected revenue under the existing tariff stood at Rs 40,659 crore.

He expressed hope that the deficit of Rs 9,583 crore would be borne by the Telangana government. It is estimated that the Discom will have to pay Rs 38,492 crore to power generators during 2026–27.

Stating that there are 1,20,95,963 consumers within the SPDCL jurisdiction, the CMD said the number of consumers had increased by 12,09,563 compared to 2024–25.

Patil said that the connected load had reached a record 35,175 MVA. The total power generated during the current financial year up to December 2025 was 39,556 million units. The household sector accounts for 23 per cent of the total demand, followed by industry (31 per cent), agriculture (21 per cent), the commercial sector (16 per cent), and others (nine per cent).

The CMD said distribution and transmission losses had been reduced to 8.04 per cent from the earlier 8.30 per cent. These losses were as high as 9.6 per cent in 2020–21, he said, adding that the Discom had significantly improved its performance.TGSPDCL is currently providing free power to about 30 percent of domestic consumers and had generated Rs 5.44 crore zero bills till February 2026.

## Seven-year-old boy kidnapped, murdered in Bissamkatak

**BERHAMPUR.(Agency)**

Hours after he was kidnapped, a seven-year-old boy was found murdered - his throat slit and packed in a sack - in Rayagada district's Bissamkatak on Saturday morning.Police suspect ransom demand could be the motive behind the kidnapping and subsequent murder of the boy, identified as Rushi Gantayat. His paternal uncle, Chandan Gantayat (24), has been detained on suspicion of the crime.

Rushi was abducted from Old Station Basti under Bissamkatak police limits on Friday. After he went missing, his family reportedly received a message from an unknown mobile number demanding `4 lakh as ransom for his release. Police said, the message warned the family not to inform the police or anyone else, threatening serious consequences if the demand was not met.

Family members and relatives began a frantic search for the child in nearby areas. After a thorough search late at night, a sack was recovered from behind the victim's house. When the sack was opened, Rushi's body was found inside with his throat slit.

On receiving information, Bissamkatak police, led by IIC Samarpita Swain, reached the spot and launched an investigation. The body was sent to Rayagada district headquarters hospital (DHH) for postmortem. Scientific experts were also informed to assist in the investigation.

Rayagada SP Swathy S Kumar, who also visited the spot, said a forensic team went to the crime scene on Saturday and collected evidence. She said a case has been registered at Bissamkatak police station and the investigation is underway. The SP is supervising the investigation.

A senior police officer said that the child might have identified the kidnapper and possibly attempted to escape, following which he may have been killed. The incident has sparked outrage and fear in the locality, with residents demanding swift justice for the deceased.

# International Women's Day: Women staff keep Mumbai's suburban railways moving

**From platform patrols to ticket inspections, employees of Central Railway describe working across the crowded Mumbai Suburban Railway.**

**Mumbai. (Agency)**

Every day, millions of commuters move through the Mumbai Suburban Railway, one of the world's busiest urban rail systems. Among those managing its crowds and enforcing safety rules are women working as security personnel, ticket inspectors and operations staff.Ahead of International Women's Day, women employees of Central Railway described the challenges of working on the suburban network, where crowded platforms, ticket violations and passenger safety concerns are routine.

At Dadar railway station, Railway Protection Force constable Sonam Vishwakarma spends much of her shift responding to incidents on platforms, including passengers attempting to board moving trains or cross railway tracks.

"During rush hours people try to board moving trains or cross the tracks," Vishwakarma said. "When we see that happening, we have to stop them immediately and pull them back."

Vishwakarma has worked in the suburban section for six years. Her duties include patrolling platforms, preventing trespassing on tracks and responding to safety complaints from passengers.

She said women officers are frequently approached by female passengers seeking assistance, particularly during late-night travel.

"If a woman travelling alone feels unsafe, she can message us and we will attend to her at the next station," she said.The Railway Protection Force operates the Smart Saheli initiative, which allows women passengers to message officers for assistance at the next station. However, Vishwakarma said crowd sizes at major stations such as Dadar railway station and Thane railway station can make it difficult to monitor every incident.

"Many incidents happen daily; we cannot manage the entire crowd alone," she said.

Officials from Central Railway said the zone currently employs 8,197 women across departments including train operations, station management, signalling, ticket checking and the Railway Protection Force.

Inside the trains, travelling ticket inspectors conduct checks across suburban services.Varsha Tayde, who joined Central Railway in 2007 as a travelling ticket inspector, spends much of her shift moving through crowded coaches checking tickets and identifying violations.

"It is very challenging," she said. "There are many people travelling without tickets, and arguments happen."Tayde said inspectors sometimes encounter passengers presenting altered season passes or screenshots instead of valid digital tickets generated through the railway's mobile ticketing system."Sometimes arguments happen and passengers even hit us," she said. "But we have to stay calm and explain the rules."

# NFR RPF Arrests Offenders, Recovers Contraband in Week – long Operations

**The Sikh Times**

Maligaon, 8th March: The Railway Protection Force (RPF) of Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) has carried out a series of successful operations between 28th February and 4th March, 2026, demonstrating its strong commitment towards ensuring passenger safety and safeguarding railway property. Through coordinated vigilance and proactive action, RPF personnel across various stations and trains under NFR apprehended offenders, recovered contraband items and rescued vulnerable passengers. During this period, RPF teams took strict action against unlawful activities affecting railway safety. On 2nd March, 2026, RPF personnel at Hojai apprehended a person involved in stone pelting on Train No. 13176 DN between Dhalpukhuri and Lanka section, which caused damage to a window glass though no passenger was injured. Similarly, on 4th March, 2026, RPF staff at Kamakhya arrested another individual for stone pelting on Train No. 15946 DN after crossing the Saraighat Bridge, which resulted in injury to a passenger. Appropriate cases under relevant sections of the Railway Act were registered in both incidents. RPF teams also achieved major success in preventing illegal transportation of prohibited items. On 2nd March, 2026 RPF and GRP personnel at New Alipurduar recovered 50.900 kg of unclaimed ganja worth approximately Rs 25.45 lakh from Train No. 01666 DN. Additionally, several recoveries of unclaimed liquor were made at stations including Guwahati, Rangiya, Katihar, Kishanganj and Barsoi between 1st March to 4th March, 2026, with the seized items handed over to the concerned Excise authorities for further legal action. Apart from enforcement activities, RPF personnel also carried out humanitarian initiatives. Between 2nd March, 2026 and 4th March, 2026, several runaway minors and vulnerable passengers were rescued at stations such as Guwahati, Badarpur, Lumding and Kamakhya. The rescued individuals were safely handed over to Childline authorities or their guardians after following due procedures. These operations highlight the continuous efforts of the RPF under Northeast Frontier Railway to maintain a safe, secure and passenger-friendly railway environment across its jurisdiction.

## Coimbatore court awards life imprisonment to three men in gang rape case

**Coimbatore.(Agency)**

Exactly 125 days after a 21-year-old student was gangraped near the Coimbatore airport, a District Mahila Court on Saturday found the three men accused of the crime guilty and sentenced them to life imprisonment till death. The horrific crime had sparked widespread outrage across the state amid fears that Tamil Nadu was becoming more unsafe for women.

The verdict, pronounced by Judge (in-charge) V Sundaraj, marked the conclusion of the fast-tracked trial.

T Karuppasamy alias Satheesh (30), his brother T Kaleeswaran alias Karthik (21) from Sivaganga and their relative M Guna (20) from Madurai were convicted under seven sections of the law and sentenced as per Section 70 (1) of BNS (gangrape), which attracts a minimum of 20 years of rigorous imprisonment, extending up to life imprisonment (for the remainder of their natural life), with a fine of Rs 2,500.

**Court orders TN govt to give Rs 7 lakh to survivor, Rs 2 lakh to her male friend**

The judge also ordered the state to pay the woman survivor a compensation of Rs 7 lakh, and her male friend, who had been assaulted by the trio, Rs 2 lakh.

The crime occurred at a deserted place behind the Coimbatore International Airport on the intervening night of November 2 and 3, 2025, when the victim and her male friend were inside a car on the mud road connecting Brindhavan Nagar and SIHS Colony. According to public prosecutor B Jisha, the three men assaulted the victim's friend and abducted her from the car around 10.45 pm on November 2. They took her to an isolated area nearby and gangraped her. Alerted by the male friend, passersby informed the Coimbatore city police. With the help of local residents, police rescued the woman around 4 am on November 3.

Subsequently, the police traced the three men, who were living in a rented room in Irugur, around 4 km from the crime scene. The men, who had prior criminal records, were shot in their legs as they allegedly attempted to flee. They were caught at Vellakinar near Thudiyalur.

# Govt appoints administrators to take over functioning of 6 civic bodies

**Ahmedabad.(Agency)**

THE STATE government on Saturday issued orders appointing administrators to the Municipal Corporations of Ahmedabad, Vadodara, Surat, Rajkot, Jamnagar and Bhavnagar to take over their functioning as the term of the elected bodies of the civic bodies is set to end on March 9 (Monday).The Urban Development and Urban Housing Department of the Gujarat government issued similar orders for the municipal corporations that will see their five-year term coming to an end next week.

As per the orders of the state government, Principal Secretary of the Education Department, Mukesh Kumar has been appointed as Administrator of the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation while Managing Director of Gujarat Urja Vikas Nigam Ltd. (GUVNL) Shalini Agarwal has been appointed as the administrator for Vadodara Municipal Corporation.

In Surat, Education Secretary Milind Torwane has been appointed Administrator while Remya Mohan will take charge of the Rajkot civic body and Aarti Kanwar will be the Administrator of Jamnagar. Social Justice and Empowerment Secretary Harshad Patel has been appointed administrator for Bhavnagar Municipal Corporation.

Mohan was Rajkot District Collector from 2019 to 2021, while Torwane was Surat Municipal commissioner between 2014 to 2016 and Agarwal was Vadodara Municipal commissioner from 2021 to 2022.

The order issued for Vadodara under the Gujarat Provincial Municipal Corporations Act, 1949, states that the VMC councillors, chosen by direction election as per the Act in February 2021 are scheduled to complete the stipulated term on March 9, 2026.The order states, "… Section 6B of the said Act provides that the election to constitute a Corporation shall be completed before the expiration of its duration.

## Do not allot govt drivers, conductors other duties: Madurai Bench of Madras HC

**Madurai.(Agency)**

The Madurai Bench of Madras High Court recently told the state transport department to strictly ensure that drivers and conductors working in the State Transport Undertakings should not be allotted other work, except when they suffer disability while on duty and are found unfit to continue in their respective posts.

A bench of justices N Sathish Kumar and M Jothiraman made the observations while hearing a petition filed by Arasu Pokkuvarathu Thozhilalar Sangam in 2019, alleging that nearly 208 drivers and conductors, who are members of Anna Thozhir Sangam affiliated to the then ruling AIADMK party, were drawing salary without performing their respective duty under the pretext of being engaged 'on other duty', such as administrative works.

According to the petitioner association, the state transport department had passed a GO on October 31, 2018, directing Tamil Nadu State Transport Corporation (TNSTC)- Madurai, to streamline existing staff strength in the offices of Depots, Regions and Head Office of the department based on the number statement annexed in the GO, which revealed that 184 drivers, 81 conductors and 135 technical staff were working in excess in the department.While analyzing the

expenditures related to the State Transport Undertakings, the government found that 71% of the cash utilisation is currently spent on manpower costs, and there are no clear restrictions on the number of employees at any given station, the GO said. Instructions were given to TNSTC that the posts of drivers and conductors may continue.

# No land, no pod taxi: How red tape is derailing Mumbai's ambitious transit experiment

**Mumbai. (Agency)**

More than 15 months after it was cleared with much fanfare and a three-year rollout promise, Mumbai's pod taxi project for the Bandra Kurla Complex (BKC) — the city's premier financial and business district — remains grounded. Land acquisition disputes over terminal sites have held up the Rs 1,016-crore plan, forcing the Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA), the agency responsible for the city's infrastructure development, to escalate the issue to the Chief Minister's War Room, a body set up to fast-track priority projects and resolve inter-departmental bottlenecks.

The pod taxi system, formally called the Automated Rapid Transit System, was pitched as a solution to BKC's last-mile connectivity problem: the difficulty commuters face in getting from transit hubs to their final destination amid heavy traffic congestion. But it has not moved beyond the drawing board as authorities wrangle over suitable plots of land for its terminals.

**The Bandra East dispute**

The first flashpoint is in Bandra East, where the dispute centres on a 4,000 square metre plot on Anant Kanekar Marg near the railway station. The land forms part of a larger 45,000 square metre parcel controlled by the Rail Land Development Authority (RLDA), a government body that manages land owned by Indian Railways, and was leased to Indian Railway Construction International Limited (IRCON), a state-owned infrastructure company.

Western Railway, which operates train services in this part of Mumbai, has objected to MMRDA's plans to take over part of the land, arguing it is needed for future expansion.

"The IRCON plot is of importance for planning and development of various railway infrastructure in order to augment train services originating from Mumbai," state minutes of a January 2026 meeting between Western Railway and MMRDA. Though the land was handed to RLDA, railway officials have maintained it remains under their operational control.

When asked to suggest alternative plots, a Western Railway spokesperson said an internal assessment was carried out and alternatives presented, including a plot in Behrampada and another currently used as a parking lot by the Slum Rehabilitation Authority, a government body that oversees resettlement of slum dwellers. "Since conveying the proposal, we have not received any response from their end," said the spokesperson.

MMRDA, however, has continued to press its claim and has not been shy about using its planning authority as leverage. Under development regulations, any plot above 2,000 square metres must reserve 10 per cent of its area as amenity space, which is land set aside for public use. Since RLDA's 45,000 square metre parcel would require such a reservation, MMRDA is arguing it is legally entitled to claim the 4,000 square metre slice for the pod taxi terminal, not merely demanding it as a favour. MMRDA plans to classify the pod taxi terminal as an amenity through the state government.

"As the special planning authority of the area, MMRDA has a right over the amenity plot," said a senior official. "MMRDA has informed RLDA that their development plan will not be approved unless the 4,000 sqm plot is handed over to us for the pod taxi."

# Delhi records highest early March temp in 50 years as mercury rises across north

**New Delhi.(Agency)**

Several north Indian states have been witnessing a steady rise in mercury, with Delhi on Saturday recording a maximum temperature of 35.7 degrees Celsius, the highest reading logged in the first week of the month in the past 50 years, an IMD official told PTI.According to weather data from the past 50 years, earlier the highest maximum temperature reading during the first seven days of March at Safdarjung, the city's base weather station, was 34.8 degrees Celsius logged on March 5, 1999.

With the mercury touching 35.7 degrees Celsius on Saturday, it is now the hottest day in the first week of March during the 50-year period, the IMD official said.India Meteorological Department (IMD) data 2011 onwards shows that the second-highest temperature reading during the first week of March was recorded in 2016, when the mercury settled at 33.6 degrees Celsius on March 4.

Safdarjung, the city's primary weather station, recorded a maximum temperature of 35.7 degrees Celsius on Saturday, 7.3 degrees above normal, and a minimum of 17.4 degrees Celsius, 3.4 notches above normal.

In neighbouring Haryana, the average maximum temperature was markedly above normal by 6.2 degrees Celsius. The highest temperature in the state was 36.3 degrees Celsius at Hisar.

In Uttarakhand, temperatures have been rising steadily in Dehradun and other parts of the state for the past few days. According to official data, the minimum temperature in Dehradun rose sharply over the past two to three days, from 12 degrees Celsius to 17.8 degrees Celsius on Saturday, six degrees Celsius above normal.

Maximum temperatures have hovered around 30-31 degrees Celsius for the past two to three days.

The maximum temperature on Saturday was 31.5 degrees Celsius, five degrees Celsius above normal.

According to the Meteorological Centre in Dehradun, maximum temperatures in both the plains and hilly areas of Uttarakhand have been significantly above normal in the past 24 hours.

Most parts of Jammu and Kashmir continued to reel under above-normal temperatures on Saturday, though there was an appreciable drop in day temperatures compared to the previous day, an official of the Meteorological department said.

However, the conditions are likely to change in the coming days with the meteorological department predicting a spell of wet weather from March 10 to 12 under the influence of an approaching western disturbance.

Jammu recorded a maximum of 30 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 19.1 degrees Celsius, which was 4.6 and 5.6 notches above normal during this part of the season, respectively.

Jammu had recorded a high of 31.8 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 19.1 degrees Celsius the previous day.Katra, the base camp for the pilgrims visiting Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine, also recorded a maximum of 28 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 17.8 degrees Celsius, which was also several degrees above normal.

Rising trend in Mercury continued in Himachal Pradesh, and Shimla Met office has predicted heat wave in four districts of Kangra, Kullu, Mandi and Solan on Sunday.Heat wave was witnessed in Sundernagar, Bhuntar Solan and Dharamshala, Met office said on Saturday.

Una was hottest during the day recording a high of 32.8 degrees Celsius, while Tabo was the coldest in the night with a low of 1.8 degrees Celsius.

## L-G Taranjit Sandhu visits Moti Bagh gurdwara

**New Delhi.(Agency)**

Newly appointed Lieutenant Governor of Delhi Taranjit Singh Sandhu visited the Moti Bagh Gurdwara on Saturday and offered prayers.Speaking to the media, Sandhu said he had lived in the neighbourhood during different phases of his life and frequently visited the gurdwara."I used to live in this area when I was studying at Jawaharlal Nehru University, and later stayed in Chanakyapuri. After that, I lived in New Moti Bagh," he said.

"I used to come here often and offer prayers. Even today, I have come here with the same devotion. There is no special occasion for the visit," he said.Emphasising the need for collective efforts to develop the national capital, the Lieutenant Governor said the city would continue to grow with cooperation from all stakeholders. "Delhi has been one of the leading capitals and will continue to be so. It is the prime minister's vision and we will all work together to fulfil that dream," he said.

Responding to a question about his message to the people of Delhi, Sandhu said citizens should actively participate in development of capital. "My message is that development requires the involvement of all. We should move forward together towards progress and development," he added.

## Perjury proceedings can't be initiated on conjecture or suspicion: Delhi HC

**New Delhi.(Agency)**

The Delhi High Court has held that perjury proceedings cannot be initiated on mere suspicion or conjecture and must be backed by clear and convincing evidence demonstrating commission of the offence.

Justice Tejas Karia made the observation while hearing applications arising from a trademark dispute filed by Britannia Industries Ltd. over the alleged misuse of its "GOOD DAY" mark by another firm.

The court was dealing with a lawsuit filed by Britannia alleging unauthorised use of the "GOOD DAY" trademark by Desibites Snacks Pvt. Ltd. while selling confectionery products.

During the hearing, the respondent filed an application seeking initiation of perjury proceedings against Britannia's representative, alleging that false

statements had been made on oath before the court.

The High Court noted that the allegations stemmed from a discrepancy relating to the corporate identity of the defendant company.The plaintiff had placed on record an extract from the Ministry of Corporate Affairs showing the name "Desi Bites Foods Pvt. Ltd.", whereas the correct corporate name was "Desibites Snacks Pvt. Ltd."

The discrepancy, the court observed, involved the insertion of a space between the words "Desi" and "Bites", along with the substitution of the word "Foods" in place of "Snacks."

However, the judge also pointed out that the defendants themselves had used an incorrect description of the company name on their product packaging, where it appeared as "Desi Bites Snacks Pvt. Ltd.", again inserting a space between "Desi" and "Bites.""It is settled law that perjury proceedings cannot be initiated on mere surmise or suspicion and that there must be clear evidence of the commission of the offence of perjury," the court said."In the present case, the defendants' claim is based on mere surmise and conjecture, and there is no unimpeachable evidence against the plaintiff to make out a prima facie case for initiating such proceedings," the judge added.

## West Asia conflict: Delhi Police step up intelligence gathering, vigil on social media amid fears of 'foreign hand'

**The Centre has asked state police forces to upscale protection for Israeli interests, citing intelligence inputs pointing to elevated risks for Israeli diplomats, establishments, and citizens.**

**New Delhi.(Agency)**

In the wake of escalating tensions in West Asia, Delhi Police Commissioner Satish Golchha has directed all district units, the Special Cell, and the Special Branch to intensify social media surveillance and step up intelligence gathering in the national capital.

According to top officers, the move comes amid concerns that foreign-based agencies or terrorist groups may attempt to exploit the situation to incite unrest, particularly among youth. "Monitoring of social media platforms has been increased, with strict instructions to act promptly on any inflammatory or provocative content," a senior police officer said.

"Intelligence gathering on both planned and spontaneous demonstrations has also been stepped up, with instructions to keep a close watch on the involvement of any foreign-based entities or organisations," the officer added.

According to a directive issued to senior officers, security has been specifically strengthened at sensitive locations, including the US Embassy, the American Centre on Kasturba Gandhi Marg, the American Embassy School in Chanakyapuri, synagogues and cemeteries on Humayun Road, Chabad Houses and synagogues at Paharganj and Vasant Vihar – which also houses several foreign diplomats. "Senior officers have directed that all these sites be monitored through CCTV cameras, with SWAT teams and PCR vans deployed at prominent junctions," the officer added.

"Field units have been directed to carry out intensified checks at hotels, guest houses, and other potential hideouts. Adequate measures are in place to ensure law and order," said another senior police officer, adding that daily reports will be submitted by the Special Commissioners (Intelligence and Law & Order Zones) both in the morning and evening on the latest developments.

The latest directives follow a nationwide advisory from the Union Home Ministry, which urged all DGPs and security agencies to strengthen vigil around Iranian and Israeli missions, consulates, and cultural centres. "Specific instructions were issued to enhance security at the Embassy and Consulates of the Islamic Republic of Iran, its cultural establishments, and the residences of diplomats across major cities," an officer said.

## Outer Delhi factory owner, son suffocate to death in well at pickle-making unit

**New Delhi.(Agency)**

A man, along with his son, died as they suffocated after falling into a 10-foot well at a pickle manufacturing factory set up inside a residential building in Outer Delhi's Nangloi on Saturday evening.

Police identified the deceased as Anil (60), the owner of the factory, and his son Neeraj (32).

According to the police, they received a PCR call in the evening regarding two or three persons falling into a well at a pickle-manufacturing factory in Rao Vihar. When a police team reached the spot, the officers found that the factory operated from the ground floor of a residential building. Anil stayed on the first floor with his family.

Police said there were four to five wells, each approximately 10-foot deep, in the factory, which were used in the pickle manufacturing process. The four wells were covered with wooden covers, they added.

"Initial reports indicate that a labourer went into one of the wells and lost consciousness, as he suffocated. In an attempt to rescue him, Anil and his two sons, Neeraj and 28-year-old Sandeep, also descended into the well. They also fell unconscious due to the lack of oxygen," said an officer.

All four men were eventually pulled out of the well by Anil's brother, Subhash, with the help of local residents. "While the labourer and Sandeep regained consciousness, Anil and his Neeraj did not. They were rushed to Sanjay Gandhi Memorial Hospital, where doctors declared them brought dead. The labourer and Sandeep are under treatment," the officer said.

Police said they have registered a case. "Prima facie, it is suspected that they had inhaled some gas inside the well. However, the postmortem examination reports will ascertain the exact cause of the deaths," the officer added.

## 52,000 Indians Returned From Middle East After Airspace Reopened Partially

**New Delhi.(Agency)**

India on Saturday said it is continuously monitoring the evolving situation in West Asia, especially in the context of the safety of its citizens stranded in the region.In a late night statement, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said more than 52,000 Indians have returned to the country following the partial opening of the airspace across the region.It also urged all Indian nationals in the region to follow the guidelines of the local authorities and the advisories issued by the Indian missions.

The safety and welfare of Indian nationals abroad is of utmost priority to the government and it remains engaged with the governments across the region to work towards facilitating all those in need of assistance, the MEA said.

The security situation in West Asia remains precarious as the US and Israel continue their bombardment of Iranian targets while Tehran retaliates with strikes against Israeli positions and US military bases across the region."The government of India is continuously monitoring the evolving situation in West Asia and the Gulf region, especially with regard to the welfare of Indian nationals who have been stranded there during transit or on short duration visits," the MEA said.

"All Indian nationals in the region are advised to follow the guidelines of the local authorities as well as the advisories being issued by the Indian embassy or consulate in their location," it said.

The MEA said Indian missions in the region have issued detailed advisories and set up 24x7 helplines to assist Indians.

"Following the partial opening of airspace across the region in the last few days, Indian and foreign airlines are operating commercial flights, including non-scheduled flights, to enable the return of Indian passengers who were in transit or on short-term visits in these countries," the MEA said."By now, more than 52,000 Indians have availed of these flights and travelled safely from the Gulf region to India between March 1-7, 32,107 of whom have travelled on Indian carriers. More flights are planned in the coming days," it said."In those countries where commercial flight operations are unavailable, Indian nationals are advised to contact the concerned embassy/consulate for information and advice regarding the nearest available commercial flight options," the MEA said.

## Gandhi Nagar Market set to be revamped, consultant appointed to prepare plan

**Officials said the redevelopment work will be taken up by the Trans Yamuna Area Development Board as part of its initiative to improve infrastructure and boost economic activity in the Jamna-Paari region of Delhi.**

**New Delhi.(Agency)**

To improve infrastructure and provide better experience for shoppers, the Delhi government is planning to take up the long-pending redevelopment of the iconic Gandhi Nagar Market – Asia's largest wholesale garment hub.

Officials said the redevelopment work will be taken up by the Trans Yamuna Area Development Board as part of its initiative to improve infrastructure and boost economic activity in the Jamna-Paari region of Delhi. A consultant has been appointed to conduct a survey of the market and prepare a detailed redevelopment plan, they added.

"Gandhi Nagar Market is regarded as one of the most iconic markets and hub of wholesale garments. But sadly, it lacks even basic amenities like proper roads, sewage lines, toilets and drinking water facility… The traders have been demanding such facilities for a long time," said Trans Yamuna board Chairman Arvinder Singh Lovely, also the MLA from Gandhi Nagar.

The market sells everything from readymade clothes to fabrics, zippers, buttons, threads and sewing machines. Traders said buyers from Afghanistan, Pakistan and major showrooms also purchase garments in bulk here.

Located across the Yamuna river in Northeast Delhi, the market began in a small room of a house in a residential colony in the area. Now spread across 3 km, it houses more than 15,000 shops and 5,000 readymade cloth manufacturing units.

Officials said the market provides about 1 lakh direct jobs and three lakh indirect jobs to people, including woman who mostly work in the manufacturing units. The per day turnover is between Rs 250-300 crore, they added.

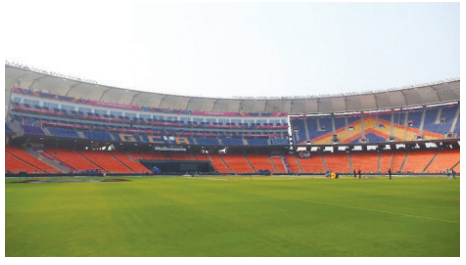
Howver, despite its popularity and daily turnover, the market lacks basic amenities and infrastructure facilities, especially washrooms, drinking water supply, parking facility and proper connectivity. It has about 15-20 lanes, many of which suffer from congested and broken roads, overflowing sewers, low hanging electrical wires and garbage lying on the streets.Officials said this is not the first time that such a makeover has been attempted. The previous AAP government, in its 2022-23 Budget, had proposed a mega revamp plan. But it failed to take off."The AAP government made tall claims of converting this market into great garment hub but nothing happened… Unlike them, we will not make announcements but start the work on ground and show the results," Lovely said.

NEWS BOX

## Ahmedabad Crime Branch nabs two for black marketing T20 World Cup final tickets

**New Delhi. (Agency)**

The Ahmedabad City Crime Branch has arrested two individuals for illegally selling tickets for the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026 Final at inflated prices, ahead of Sunday's blockbuster clash between India and New Zealand at the Narendra Modi Stadium.Acting on a tip-off, the Crime Branch laid a trap near the Usmanpura Gujarat Vidyapith S.T. bus stand, where two men were stopped and searched. Eight match tickets were recovered from them.The accused had bought the tickets online in advance and were selling them at three times the original price, charging fans Rs 10,000 per ticket. All tickets have been seized, and legal proceedings have been initiated against both individuals. Police are also investigating whether a wider network is involved in the racket.The arrests come after Ahmedabad Police Commissioner GS Malik had warned on Saturday that black marketeers would face strict action. Speaking to reporters ahead of the final, Malik said the police had put elaborate security arrangements in place for the big day."Tomorrow, a historic T20 World Cup



final is going to be held here at the Narendra Modi Stadium. For this, the police have completed all preparations. We are deploying over 3,000 police personnel and around 1,000 home guards," he said, according to On the issue of black marketing, Malik was clear. "If any such activity comes to our attention, the police will file a case. We also have clear instructions from higher authorities to take immediate action against anyone involved in black marketing," he addedMalik also said that holding areas had been set up near Gate 1 and Gate 2 to manage the crowds and prevent any overcrowding or stampede-like situation near the stadium entrance.Sunday's final is a landmark occasion for Indian cricket. Suryakumar Yadav's side has the chance to become the first team to win the T20 World Cup on home soil and also the first to successfully defend the title back-to-back.With over 100,000 fans expected to pack Narendra Modi Stadium, demand for tickets has been nothing short of overwhelming, creating fertile ground for touts looking to make a quick profit.

# T20 World Cup final: Will Ahmedabad turn silencer for Gautam Gambhir's critics

**PARIS. (Agency)**

The undisputed boss of Indian cricket is once again on the cusp of proving his naysayers wrong, having guided his team to the final of the 2026 T20 World Cup. The Men in Blue will be playing their second successive final of the tournament, with a chance to become the first team to defend their title and also lift the coveted trophy on home soil.All of this has happened under the coaching of the man often portrayed as the 'bad guy' of Indian cricket — Gautam Gambhir. The India head coach has faced considerable criticism in recent times for the team's poor performances in Test cricket and for some of his team selections.All of this has happened under the coaching of the man often portrayed as the 'bad guy' of Indian cricket — Gautam Gambhir. The India head coach has faced considerable criticism in recent times for the team's poor performances in Test cricket and for some of his team selections.Under his leadership, India are playing a fearsome brand of cricket in which reaching 250 in T20Is almost feels routine. Since the inception of T20 internationals, India have posted scores of 200 or more on 49 occasions, 15 of which have come in the last 20 months. During the same period, India have crossed the 250-run mark five times and have also recorded their highest-ever total of 297.

**Building team's new identity**

During Gambhir's tenure, the average strike rate of Indian batters has been 158.09 — the highest among full-member nations. The head coach has not only carried forward the philosophy of aggressive intent introduced during the captaincy of Rohit Sharma, but has taken it several notches higher.

India captain Suryakumar Yadav spoke about Gambhir's influence on the team ahead of the final, highlighting how the coach has removed the emphasis on personal milestones and shifted the focus entirely to collective success."The main thing is that they have removed the idea of personal milestones from the team. No one focuses on individual records. It's a team game. Nothing is more important than the team's goal. If someone wants to hit a six off the first ball, he should do that. And if someone wants to approach the innings differently, that's fine as well. That's the philosophy of this team," Suryakumar said during the pre-match press conference ahead of the final.Gambhir's influence is evident not only in the team's batting prowess but

also in the backing he has given to players he believes in. Soon after taking charge, Gambhir brought Varun Chakravarthy back into the T20I set-up, and the wrist-spinner responded by rising to the number-one spot in the bowling rankings within a year.

**Backing Players Through Criticism**

Since his return to the format, Chakravarthy has been the leading wicket-taker among full-member nations, claiming an impressive 70 wickets in 36 innings at an average of 14.88. Following his success in T20Is, Chakravarthy was drafted into the ODI set-up out of nowhere ahead of the 2025 Champions Trophy, where he went on to play a pivotal role in India's triumph.

Gambhir has also faced criticism for consistently backing fast bowler Harshit Rana. However, the youngster has gradually established himself in ODI cricket, claiming 26 wickets in just 14 matches. Rana could prove particularly useful on the fast and bouncy pitches in South Africa during the 2027 ODI World Cup, especially as age begins to catch up with Mohammed Shami.

Another area where Gambhir has drawn criticism is his apparent preference for all-rounders over specialist players. As a result, players such as Rinku Singh and Kuldeep Yadav have found themselves on the bench more often than expected.

## T20 World Cup final: Ahmedabad weather forecast, livestreaming details and more

**T20 World Cup 2026 Final: India look to become the first team to retain the T20 World Cup title as they face New Zealand in front of 100,000 fans at Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad on Sunday, with history on the line for both sides.**

**New Delhi. (Agency)**

India arrive at the ICC T20 World Cup final as the world's top-ranked T20 side with history in their sights, looking to become the first team to retain the title. Over 100,000 fans will pack the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad, willing Suryakumar Yadav's men home.But New Zealand will not read the script. Their nine-wicket demolition of previously unbeaten South Africa in the semi-finals was a statement of intent, and Finn Allen's record-breaking hundred showed exactly what this side is capable of on the big occasion.India have finals pedigree but painful memories at this venue. New Zealand have the hunger of a team that has never won a global white-ball title. On Sunday, one of them gets what they came for.IND vs NZ, T20 WORLD CUP FINAL: AHMEDABAD WEATHER FORECAST

Clear skies and no rain will greet players at Narendra Modi Stadium for tonight's ICC T20 World Cup Final, though the heat will be a major talking point. As per Accuweather, Ahmedabad is forecast to hit 39 degrees at 6 PM, with temperatures gradually cooling to the high 20s past midnight. Wind gusts of up to 20 km/h could influence conditions during the powerplay.

The extreme heat in Ahmedabad on Saturday means dew is likely to be a significant factor as the evening progresses, and that could make this a toss final. Chasing sides typically benefit when dew makes it harder for bowlers to grip the ball in the second innings.Interestingly, Suryakumar Yadav had indicated in Mumbai that India would have preferred to bat first, but dew changed the equation entirely on Sunday. Whoever wins the toss may well opt to bowl, leaving the opposition to deal with the difficult conditions up front. It would be a shame if such a marquee final is ultimately decided before a ball is bowled.IND vs NZ, T20 WORLD CUP FINAL: LIVESTREAMING, TELECAST DETAILS

India meets New Zealand in the final at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad at 7 pm IST. The match will be televised on Star Sports and streamed live on JioHotstar in India.

## Lakshya Sen vs Lin Chun-Yi, All England Open final: All you need to know

MELBOURNE. (Age

Lakshya Sen secured his spot in the All England Open 2026 men's singles final with a hard-fought victory over Canada's Victor Lai in Birmingham. The Indian shuttler prevailed in a tense three-game encounter, winning 21-16, 18-21, 21-15 after 1 hour and 37 minutes of play. This result marks Sen's second appearance in the final of this prestigious tournament, following his runner-up finish in 2022.Sen demonstrated resilience throughout the match, especially after dropping the second game to Lai, who is currently ranked world No.16. Sen's composure and tactical adjustments in the decider proved crucial as he closed out the match to advance to Sunday's championship round.

The defining moment came in the third game, where Sen broke away after a close mid-game

interval. His sharp net play and consistent smashes saw him overcome LSen's performance has set up a final against Lin Chun-Yi of Chinese Taipei on March 8. A victory would make him only the third Indian to win the All England Open in men's singles—a feat last achieved by Pullela Gopichand in 2001.

India's history at the All England Open has seen only two men's singles champions: Prakash Padukone in 1980 and Pullela Gopichand in 2001. Notable finalists include Prakash Nath in 1947 and Saina Nehwal in 2015, though both fell short in the final hurdle.ai's challenge, sealing the contest and earning another shot at the title.The 2026 campaign is particularly significant as India has waited 25 years for another men's singles winner at this event. Sen's run to the final has rekindled hopes of ending that long drought.

Sen's journey to the final highlights his growth on the international circuit, adding to his status as one of India's top badminton talents. Reaching two All England finals is a rare achievement for any Indian shuttler.

## Santner rallies NZ fans before T20 World Cup final: We're a bit outnumbered here

**LONDON. (Agency)**

New Zealand captain Mitchell Santner issued a rallying cry to the Blackcaps supporters back home ahead of the T20 World Cup final against India in Ahmedabad on Sunday. New Zealand will be heading into the contest aiming to win their first T20 World Cup title. This is the fifth ICC white-ball event final the Blackcaps have reached since 2015, failing to win a single one.With the crowd inside the Narendra Modi stadium expected to be one-sided, Santner decided to send a message to the fans back home on Sunday. Taking to X, the New Zealand

skipper said that the team will be outnumbered in Ahmedabad in terms of support, but he was confident that the fans would have their back during the game."KIA ORA AOTEAROA BLACKCAPS captain Mitch Santner here. Sorry to disturb you on a Sunday. Now, I'm not really one for big speeches or rallying cries. But I did want to remind you all about our ICC T20 World Cup Final against India in Ahmedabad on Monday morning (2.30am NZT)."

"It's fair to say we're a bit outnumbered over here – 1.4 billion team India fans and all that. And I'm pretty sure most of the 130,000 seat Narendra Modi Stadium will be cheering for them too. But that's all good – because we know back home you'll have our backs," said Santner.By the time the final starts in Ahmedabad, it will be 2:30 am on Monday back in New Zealand. Santner said that he understands that it will be tough for the fans but told them to get around the team one more time. The New Zealand skipper also said that the fans could tell their bosses and teachers to excuse them for being late the next day for work and school by telling his name."Although you're not with us – we see the photos, the posts, we hear the stories, and we know about the late nights & early starts. We feel your aroha.

## Billion dreams: Surya & Co hope to rise to the occasion

**AHMEDABAD. (Agency)**

On Friday, the IMD issued a heat wave for parts of Gujarat. Ahmedabad didn't figure in the list of places but it was scorching on Saturday afternoon. Some of the weather apps revealed it was close to 37*c. If you were outside, you could have even seen a mirage. But none of that stopped fans and vendors from occupying the main gate of the new Motera. The vendors, as is custom before an Indian game, were selling replica jerseys. And fans, also as is custom in these parts, were milling about, hoping to score a ticket as if by magic.There was some danger that the city — hosting its second global final in two-and-a-half years — would have to make do without India in the summit

clash. But Suryakumar Yadav & Co took care of business thanks to three highly impressive batting performances in as many must-win clashes. It's why they start Sunday's final against New Zealand as favourites but the mood in the camp isn't reflective of what's at stake and that's in a good way. Previous India teams have allowed the pointy end of ICC events to affect them.This team welcomes pressure home and gives it a cup of coffee. Suryakumar Yadav said as much in the pre-match press conference. That kind of change in ethos was brought about by Rohit Sharma when he was given the go-ahead to imprint his philosophy. It led to a sea-change in fortunes as India won back-to-back white-ball ICC crowns for the first time in their history.Watching the team's final training session on Saturday night, it was evident that they would be treating this as just another game.

# T20 World Cup Final: Can New Zealand pull a WWE-style heel turn in Ahmedabad

**T20 World Cup Final: For years, New Zealand won hearts for their efforts on the field, portrayed as the good guys in cricket. On March 8, they have the chance to break Indian hearts and win their first T20 World Cup title. Will the Blackcaps capitalise and pull off the biggest heel turn?**

**New Delhi. (Agency)**

If you're a fan of WWE, you're likely familiar with the concept of a heel turn. If you're not, in simple terms, it is when a good guy becomes a bad person. Over the years, we have seen many such changes. The Rock, before he became the famous superstar that he is these days, was a happy-go-lucky wrestler who wasn't appreciated by the crowd at all. But once he took up the Brahma Bull and, most recently, the Final Boss personas, he quickly struck a chord with the fans.John Cena also pulled off a shocker when he went heel during his retirement run, which captured the imagination of the fans. Now, you may be wondering, what's the point of this in a cricket article? Well, for years, New Zealand was always considered to be the good guys of cricket. Playing the game in the right spirit and winning hearts with their spirited performances, it was rare to find the Blackcaps in the bad books of anyone.However, this has never translated into silverware. Since 2015, the Blackcaps have made it to four white-ball finals in ICC events and have failed to win even one.

So, when a journalist asked Mitchell Santner if the Blackcaps were looking to be the bad guys on Sunday in Ahmedabad and silence the crowd, you sort of expected the usual answer from the New Zealand skipper.You expected the media-trained response where he will say that they will look to play good cricket and hope to win.

Instead, what we got was the first sign of a heel turn that you would see in a WWE superstar. An answer that made heads turn and, if you're

an Indian cricket team fan, gave you flashbacks of the Pat Cummins presser on the eve of the ODI World Cup final in 2023.

"It's obviously a challenge. Everyone knows we're probably not the favourite, but we don't mind, we know we can if we do our little things well and put in a strong team performance, you know, put us in a pretty good position to hopefully lift the trophy. But yeah, one might break a few hearts to lift the trophy for once," said Santner.

Now, this doesn't mean New Zealand will go for some underhand tactics, like we see in WWE. They will play their brand of cricket that is different from their usual one.

So, can they finally end their wait for an ICC trophy after almost 26 years? Can they really silence the crowd in Ahmedabad, which will be one-sided?Whenever you take the case of New Zealand, they have always had destructive batters at the top. You had the likes of Brendon McCullum, Martin Guptill and Jesse Ryder, who were known for giving aggressive starts.But then, there was always a bit of finesse that would temper that aggression. The likes of Stephen Fleming and Devon Conway brought a sense of calm to proceedings.

## FPIs withdraw Rs 21,000 crore in last four trading sessions amid West Asia conflict

**New Delhi,.(Agency)**

Foreign investors pulled out Rs 21,000 crore (around USD 2.3 billion) from Indian equities over the last four trading sessions amid deteriorating global risk sentiment triggered by the West Asia crisis.

The latest sell-off comes after foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) infused Rs 22,615 crore into Indian equities in February, the highest monthly inflow in 17 months.Prior to that, FPIs had been net sellers for three consecutive months. They withdrew Rs 35,962 crore in January, Rs 22,611 crore in December, and Rs 3,765 crore in November, according to data from the depositories.The latest outflows occurred during March 2-6, when FPIs sold equities worth about Rs 21,000 crore in the cash market.

March 3 was a trading holiday on account of Holi.

Market experts attributed the pullout primarily to the rising geopolitical tensions in West Asia.The US and Israel launched a major attack on Iran on February 28 which killed Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, triggering conflict in the region.

Vaqarjaved Khan, Senior Fundamental Analyst at Angel One, said fears of potential disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz pushed Brent crude prices above USD 90 per barrel, triggering a global risk-off sentiment.Other factors contributing to the outflows include rupee depreciation beyond the 92-per-dollar level, elevated US Treasury yields drawing capital back to safe-haven assets, and mixed early outlook for Q4 FY26 corporate earnings, particularly margin pressures in the IT and consumption sectors, he added.VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist at Geojit Investments, said "uncertainty surrounding the Middle East conflict, the recent market correction, the Indian economy's vulnerability to a sharp rise in crude prices, and the depreciation of the rupee have all contributed to sustained FPI selling in the cash market".Himanshu Srivastava, Principal Manager Research at Morningstar Investment Research India, noted that higher crude prices increase risks related to inflation, the current account deficit, and currency stability, which typically weigh on foreign investor sentiment toward emerging markets.

## 'A lot of youngsters left behind': India's economy is booming, but uneven growth clouds ascent

**Kolkata.(Agency)**

For years India's economy was driven by its vast services sector that saw millions of people working away in low-cost back offices providing consultancy for predominantly western companies.

But over the past decade they have given way to centres that allow firms to tap top-tier talent and technology, where white-collar staff perform tasks ranging from IT and data analytics to innovation and design. Today, these centres are the shiniest parts of India's red-hot economy but not everyone has been able to enjoy the boom times as opportunities remain uneven.Amazon's biggest office in the world is now located in southern India, and top financiers like JPMorgan have roughly 20 percent of their workforce scattered across Indian cities.The government says the country is now home to about one-fifth of the world's chip design engineers, helped by hiring from firms like Qualcomm and MediaTek. This has boosted services sector growth and helped make India the fastest-growing major economy -- a title it has firmly held onto since 2021.

Alouk Kumar, the head of an Indian consultancy that helps global giants set up offshore business centres, says his phone hasn't stopped buzzing in recent weeks. "Demand and interest have been crazy... the number of calls I have got from European firms has soared," he said."The way it is increasing, the next 10 years will belong to India."

The surge in growth saw Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government declare in December that India had overtaken Japan as the world's fourth-largest economy. But figures last month indicate the announcement was premature, with the crossover unlikely to happen for at least another year.

## US deal likely to be worked out in 3-4 months: Officials

**New Delhi.(Agency)**

The US is expected to work out trade deals with partners, including India, in the next three-four months, once it finalises its strategy to deal with the legal issues related to tariffs, a senior govt official said on Saturday.The official said that New Delhi is "staying" with the deal, but the final details will be worked out once there is clarity in DC on how US President Donald Trump intends to impose tariffs going forward after the US Supreme Court struck down the use of International Emergency Economic Powers Act to impose additional duties.While Trump has used powers under Section 122 of the Trade Act to impose 10% additional tariff on all countries, he is likely to increase the levy to 15%, which can be in place for up to 150 days. Trump can also invoke other provisions, including some that have never been used, to impose levies on trade partners.The US administration has stated its intent to increase the duty to 15% in the coming days but is weighing the implications on deals such as those with the UK and the EU, wherein it had agreed to lower levies.The official said that India has managed good deals for its farmers, including opening up the market for goods such as mangoes, without making any commitments related to farm or dairy products.Allaying fears over domestic producers of apples and walnuts getting hit under the deal, the official said that the quantities allowed were much lower than what was already being imported and they came with safeguards. Besides, in the case of products such as cotton, Indian textiles industry needed long staple fibre.

# Heard rumours of petrol, diesel shortages in India? You need to know what oil companies have said

**Both Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) and Indian Oil Corporation (IOCL) on Friday dismissed rumours of fuel shortages, calling them "completely unfounded" and "baseless".**

**New Delhi,.(Agency)**

PSU oil marketing companies have also confirmed that fuel stocks remain adequate amid rumours of petrol and diesel shortages.Both Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) and Indian Oil Corporation (IOCL) on Friday dismissed rumours of fuel shortages, calling them "completely unfounded" and "baseless".In a post on its X handle, BPCL said India's energy supply remains reliable and resilient, with ample petroleum reserves and uninterrupted supply chains.There have been some rumours about shortages of petrol and diesel in certain areas, which are completely unfounded," the company said, adding that there is no reason to be alarmed about fuel availability.

"BPCL is fully operational and steadfast in ensuring a smooth fuel supply for all customers," it added.Meanwhile, IOCL said reports on social media suggesting a shortage of petrol and diesel are baseless."India has sufficient fuel stocks, and supply and distribution networks are functioning normally," it said."IndianOil is committed to maintaining uninterrupted fuel supply across the country. Citizens are requested not to panic or crowd fuel stations and to rely only on official sources for accurate information," the company added in a post on its X handle.Shares of oil marketing companies Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited and Indian Oil Corporation on Friday ended in the negative zone, with BPCL falling nearly 2 per cent to Rs 352.95 and IOCL declining about 2 per cent to Rs 168.10 on the National Stock Exchange of India.

Domestic and commercial LPG price hiked

Meanwhile, state-owned oil marketing companies (OMCs) on Saturday raised the prices of domestic and commercial LPG cylinders, with household cooking gas becoming costlier by Rs 60 and commercial cylinders by Rs 114.5, amid rising global energy prices linked to the ongoing conflict in the Middle East.

According to the Indian Oil Corporation, the price of non-subsidised domestic LPG used by most households has been increased to Rs 913 per 14.2-kg cylinder in New Delhi - up from Rs 853 earlier.

This marks the second price hike in less than a year for domestic LPG cylinders.

Commercial LPG cylinders -- typically used by hotels, restaurants and other businesses -- have also seen an increase of Rs 114.5 per unit.According to industry officials, the recent surge in global energy prices follows the escalation of military tensions in the Middle East.The conflict has disrupted energy market sentiment and raised concerns over supply stability in key global oil and gas routes.The rise in LPG prices comes amid broader volatility in energy markets, with crude oil prices climbing in recent weeks as geopolitical tensions intensify in the region.

# Cipla's US unit recalls 400+ cartons of generic anti-cancer drug: USFDA

**New Delhi.(Agency)**

A US-based subsidiary of drugmaker Cipla is recalling over 400 cartons of generic anti-cancer medication due to a manufacturing issue, according to the US Food and Drug Administration (USFDA).Warren (New Jersey)-based Cipla USA, Inc is recalling Nilotinib Capsules in two strengths (150 mg and 200 mg), the US health regulator said in its latest Enforcement Report.The company is recalling the affected lot (271 and 164 cartons) due to "failed tablet/capsule specifications", it stated.Cipla USA, Inc initiated the Class III voluntary recall on February 18 this year.

According to the USFDA, a Class III recall is initiated in a "situation in which use of, or exposure to, a violative product is not likely to cause adverse health consequences".Nilotinib works by blocking the action of the abnormal protein that signals cancer cells to multiply. This helps to stop or slow the spread of cancer cells.India has the highest number of USFDA-compliant pharmaceutical plants outside of the US.

Indian pharmaceutical companies supply a substantial proportion of drugs to US residents, with four out of 10 of all prescriptions filled in the US in 2022 being supplied by Indian companies.

## Jaquar Group eyes scaling lighting business revenue to1,700 cr in 3 yrs

**New Delhi,.(Agency)**

The Ministry of Shipping, Ports and Waterways has asked ports to allow temporary storage of Middle East-bound cargo as transhipment, and consider waivers or reductions in port charges during the crisis period. The Director General of Shipping, India's statutoryegarding losses incurred due to perishable items being stuck. Moreover, several exporters and freighters said that surged storage charges at terminals, demurrage levied by shipping lines, and port-related charges have been skyrocketing as cargo remained stationary.The government asked the port to consider requests from users regarding the reduction, waiver or remission of certain charges during the crisis period, though specific decisions would be taken on a case-by-case basis.Port authorities have been directed to coordinate closely with agencies such as Customs, the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) and other relevant bodies to ensure the timely implementation of the measures.The group had reported a total turnover Rs 7,493 crore in FY 2024-25. It is targeting USD 1 billion (approximately Rs 8,300 crore) revenue in FY26."For Jaquar Lighting, we expect to close the current financial year at approximately Rs 700 crore, with strong growth ahead," Mehra said.When asked about future investments, he said,"We have planned an investment of over Rs 100 crore for the new lighting plant at Bhiwadi." Given the rapid pace of technological upgrades in lighting, he said additional investments may follow.Over the next two to three years, this could increase by Rs 50-60 crore," Mehra said.On the future areas of focus of expansion, Jaquar Group Vice President & Head Marketing Communications, Sandeep Shukla said,"Going forward, we plan to expand our outdoor and landscape lighting portfolio, along with architectural indoor lighting. We are collaborating with new designers to develop innovative products for the range." With the new plant, he said,"We also plan to begin manufacturing lighting poles." "Outdoor lighting is becoming a key segment, driven by demand from government projects, infrastructure development, and institutional spaces," Shukla said.On exports, he said,"Currently, around 15-16 per cent of our lighting business comes from exports, primarily to the Middle East and Africa." With rapid development across the region, particularly in Abu Dhabi, Shukla said,"We expect this share to grow to around 20 per cent in the coming years, driven by strong infrastructure expansion in markets such as the UAE."

# Swiggy, magicpin, Zomato see food delivery regain growth momentum in Q3FY26

**New Delhi.(Agency)**

India's top three food delivery players -- Swiggy, magicpin and Zomato -- regained growth momentum in the October-December period after a period of slower expansion, on strong order volumes led by festive demand, affordability-focused offerings and expanding user bases.

With continued investments i marketing, product innovation, and value-led propositions, industry executives said the sector expects the momentum in order growth to sustain in the coming quarters."It has been a phenomenal October-November-December quarter for us, marked by strong growth and sharper execution across markets. Our unit economics at an order level have improved by over 60 per cent, reflecting greater efficiency and improved monetisation," magicpin Founder and

CEO Anshoo Sharma told PTI.While mature markets such as Delhi-NCR remained steady, the company reported more than 40 per cent growth in gross order value in cities, including Bengaluru, Hyderabad, and Mumbai.

The magicpin CEO said affordability-led consumption is a key growth driver, with an average order value of Rs 150-Rs 300 encouraging frequent ordering among users.According to Swiggy's Q3 FY26 shareholder letter, the company's gross order value (GOV) grew 20.5 per cent year-on-year to Rs 8,959 crore, marking the fastest growth in the last three years.Swiggy said the acceleration was driven by stronger adoption of new propositions across speed, selection and affordability. Its average monthly transacting user (MTU) base grew 22 per cent year-on-year to 24.3 million during the quarter from 17.8 million a year ago, while total orders rose to 294 million from 234 million during the period.Zomato's food delivery business also reported improving growth trends during the quarter under review.The company posted 16.6 per cent year-on-year net order value (NOV).

# India's LPG prices still lower than neighbours despite price hike

**New Delhi.(Agency)**

Despite the Rs 60 increase in the Domestic 14.2 kg Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) cylinder, LPG prices in India remain lower than in several neighbouring countries, people familiar to the matter told ANI. On Saturday 14.2 kg cylinder prices were increased by Rs 60, costing about Rs 913 in Delhi compared with around Rs 1,046 in Pakistan, Rs 1,241 in Sri Lanka and Rs 1,207 in Nepal.People familiar with the matter said the latest hike translates to an increase of about 80 paise per family per day, or roughly 20 paise per person per day for cooking expenses. The revision comes amid fluctuations in global LPG prices and is part of what officials describe as a calibrated adjustment aimed at balancing consumer protection with the financial sustainability of Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs).Person familiar to the matter said that despite the recent revision, domestic LPG prices continue to remain below market-linked levels. The market determined price of a 14.2 kg cylinder in Delhi on March 6, 2026 was around Rs 987, while it was

being sold to consumers at Rs 853, roughly Rs 134 lower than the market price. The pricing calculations indicated that the required increase could be around Rs 134 per cylinder, yet the government approved only Rs 60, absorbing the rest to protect consumers.For Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) beneficiaries, the impact on household cooking expenses remains modest. The estimated cost of cooking per day using LPG for a PMUY household has increased from about Rs 7.31 to Rs 8.11, an increase of less than Rs 1 per day.

India imports more than 60 per cent of its LPG requirement, making domestic prices closely linked to international benchmarks such as the Saudi Contract Price (CP). Global LPG prices have witnessed sharp volatility in recent years, rising from around USD 415 per metric tonne in 2020-21 to USD 712 per metric tonne in 2022-23, though the government has not passed on the full impact of these increases to consumers.Despite elevated international prices, the government and OMCs have absorbed substantial losses to keep household LPG affordable.

OMCs incurred losses of around Rs 40,000 crore during 2024-25 while maintaining lower domestic prices, with the government approving compensation of about Rs 30,000 crore to ensure uninterrupted supply and protect consumers.The Government compensated OMCs Rs 22,000 crore in FY 2022-23 to cover under-recoveries arising from keeping domestic LPG prices lower than international levels.

# Divya Agarwal

## Opens Up About The 50's Format After Eviction

Divya Agarwal opened up following her eviction from The 50. The actress who got eliminated from the show weeks before the grand finale sat for a press conference and shared that she felt the show's format was not right for her.

During the interview, the former contestant revealed that having friends inside the show turned out to be a major disadvantage for her.

**Divya Agarwal Says The 50 Had A 'Wrong Format'**

Talking about her disadvantages, the actress shared, "Disadvantages tabhi tha jab mujhe samajh aya there's no exchange of the same respect and value."

She continued, "Yaha pe humne dekha agar koi task pe achha bhi perform kar raha hai toh bhi use koi matlab nahin hai. Jab andar jaake tum actually voting system mein baithoge, tab tumhari game completely different ho jaati hai."

Talking about the format of the show, Divya added, "It was a very wrong format for me to be in the whole thing. Everyone is looking like a problem here. When Prince is playing it too much, people say 'too much game'; if they are not playing anything at all, it's not a game. Yuvika ko bhi log bol rahe hai, Shiv ko bhi troll kar rahe hai."

**Divya Agarwal Reacts to Gold Digger Claims**

During the press conference Divya Agarwal also reacted to allegations made by fellow contestant Bhavya Singh. On the show Bhavya claimed that Divya is separated from her husband and called her a 'gold digger'. After her exit, Divya opened up about the claims and shared, "Yes, I am living separately from my husband, Apurva Padgaonkar. I stay close to my workplace, and he stays closer to his workplace. We still meet like girlfriend and boyfriend."

The Splitsvilla 10 finalist further added, "Our marriage and love are still alive. People have half the information. I am not a gold digger but would love to call myself a diamond digger. My husband is a diamond."

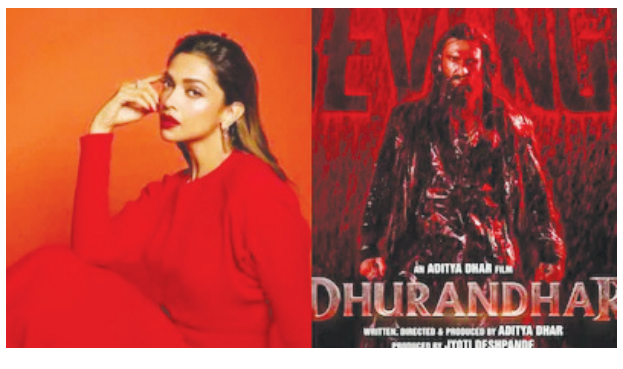
She further shared how her husband was there for her when she got eliminated from The 50. "When I came out, Apurva fed me a lot of delicious items. I think only food can fix me. He is so far away from my world. He just wants me to stay happy and healthy," she shared.

# Deepika Padukone

## Gives A Shoutout To Husband Ranveer Singh's Dhurandhar 2 Trailer

Ranveer Singh is winning hearts as DHurandhar 2 trailer has finally released. Celebrities including Alia Bhatt, Hrithik Roshan and others have showered praises. And now Deepika Padukone has also cheered for husband. The film is releasing on March 19.

She took to social media to give a special shoutout to Ranveer and the film's team, adding to the excitement surrounding the much-anticipated sequel. Earlier, Yami Gautam shared the trailer and wrote, "Ladies &




gentlemen, you are still not ready for this. A celebration awaits you, March 19, 2026." Fans also immediately reacted. One of the fans wrote, "All set to break some records! Great work @adityadharfilms and team." Another wrote, "This will be fireeeee.' Earlier also many celebrities praised trailer. Alia Bhatt reposted the trailer and praised its intensity. In her caption, she wrote, "Beast mode on!!! This trailer is out of control!" Ram Gopal Varma shared his reaction online. He shared a post on X and kept his message short but enthusiastic. The filmmaker wrote, "This is STRATOSPHERIC LEVEL .. Aditya Dhar is on a RAMPAGE of REVENGE, Dhurandhar 2."

Directed by Aditya Dhar, Dhurandhar: The Revenge marks Ranveer Singh's return as Jaskirat Singh Rangi who continues his rise in a dangerous power struggle in Lyari. The story hints at an intense revenge arc while also exploring how he was trained to become Hamza Ali Mazari.

The glimpses of his backstory and transformation have sparked curiosity among viewers.The sequel also features several familiar faces returning in powerful roles. Arjun Rampal and Sanjay Dutt appear in fierce avatars in the trailer, sending fans into a frenzy. The film also stars R Madhavan, Sara Arjun, Rakesh Bedi and Danish Pandor in key roles.

Dhurandhar: The Revenge follows the journey of an Indian spy who infiltrates criminal networks operating in Lyari while secretly working to eliminate terror groups targeting India. As he navigates the underworld and climbs the ranks, the film promises high-stakes confrontations.

Initially, Dhurandhar 2 was expected to clash with Toxic: A Fairytale for Grown-Ups starring Yash. But the makers later postponed that film's release to June 4 due to concerns that tensions in the Middle East could impact box office performance. On the other hand, the Aditya Dhar film is scheduled to release in theatres on March 19, with paid preview shows planned for March 18.

## Sonam Bajwa Refuses To Pose For Paparazzi, Internet Says 'Everyone Is Mad At Her'

Sonam Bajwa was recently spotted in Bandra after one of her casual outings. Soon, social media users began comparing her behaviour with the shutterbugs that to the anger her on-screen lover Harshvardhan Raane had towards her in the romantic movie, Ek Deewane ki Deewaniyat.In a video posted on Instagram, Sonam Bajwa was seen being papped while exiting some event. She looked stunning in her chic avatar. However, she refused to wait and pose for the paparazzi. After the shutterbugs consistently requested her to strike some cool poses for the lens, the actress asked, "Kya wait karu idhar (Why should I wait here)?"

The Baaghi 4 actress even asked the paparazzi to let her walk towards her car and said, "Thora side ho jayiye (Move a little to the side)." As she boarded her car, the shutterbugs bid her adieu, and she joined them, while waving with a smile.

**Sonam Bajwa's Chic Look In Latest Outing**

The 35-year-old was dressed in an off-white coloured, sleeveless tank top and styled it by tying a knot at one side. She teamed it with a pair of full-length, wide-leg blue denim jeans. For accessories, she carried a small black shoulder bag, a bracelet and a sleek watch. Her long, brown hair was left open to cascade down in layers, and she complemented her look with minimal makeup. Overall, she was exuding pure effortless glam.

**Internet's Reaction To Sonam Bajwa's Attitude With The Paps**

The video soon sparked a wave of attention on social media. A user hilariously said, "Now I realised why Harsh Vardhan was mad at her," highlighting both the actors' on-screen roles in the romantic movie, Ek Deewane ki Deewaniyat. Another added, "Everyone is mad at her, yaar."

Some of her fans even complimented the actress for her chic avatar, with one of them writing, "She is beautiful, cutie." Many other comments read, "Beautiful," "So sweet," and "Cutie." "Bigg fan sonambajwa ka punjab ludhiana to," said a person. While someone said, "So gorgeous look," another fan shared, "Very beautiful."

## Hardik Pandya's Girlfriend Mahieka Joins Gen Z Fashion Trend. Seen Yet?

Hardik Pandya and his girlfriend, Mahieka Sharma, are currently garnering a lot of attention on social media. From their adorable birthday posts to glimpses of their outings, the duo has been constantly painting the town red. Mahieka's bond with her boyfriend's son, Agastya, even served pure goals.

In a recent Instagram video, Hardik Pandya's girlfriend, Mahieka Sharma, was spotted after one of her casual outings. She looked stunning in a blue co-ord set, which included a sleeveless crop top and a loose-fitting skirt in a matching hue. She accessorised her look with minimal jewellery and carried a beige-hued purse. Subtle makeup and her hair left open finished off her look.

**Hardik Pandya's GF Mahieka Sharma's Take On Styling**

However, joining the GenZ trend, the diva put her hairclip attached to the strap of her purse's handle, which resonated with many fashionistas who prefer a comfortable styling. A text overlaying the video read, "Gen Z Style-'Hair Clip On Purse'."

The video was further captioned, "Hardik Pandya ki girlfriend Maheika Sharma ka naya fashion trend!" Reacting to the video, a user said, "Necessary." Many others revealed that the trend has been continuing for ages.

**Hardik Pandya's Wish For Mahieka Sharma On Her B'Day**

The Indian cricketer recently celebrated his ladylove's 25th birthday on February 19. To mark her special day, he took to his Instagram handle and dropped a romantic video featuring the two. In the clip, they were seen spending some quality time together. Alongside this, Hardik expressed his love for Mahieka and penned, "Happy birthday my princess. Thank you for coming in this world 25 years ago. You are the most amazing person I know. I love you," he wrote.

**When Hardik Pandya Confirmed His Relationship With Mahieka Sharma**

The cricketer was previously married to Natasa Stanković, and together they have a son named Agastya. After parting ways with Natasa in 2024, Hardik was also linked to British singer and TV personality, Jasmin Walia.

# Compact space solutions for Your interiors

Big-size couches, antique dining tables that take up a lot of space and unnecessary shelves and cupboards that leave our homes with little place to walk, is how most houses look. Here's a look at some compact housing solutions that can be easily adapted without making major changes along with being pocket-friendly.

### The foldables

One of the best ways to save space is to have a lot of foldable furniture in the house. Hydraulics is the solution; and it is the best option for those who face the challenge to accomodate more in less. From hydraulic beds with internal storage that can be folded to fit into a wardrobe, to foldable tables can be brought down whenever needed, you have several choices. In fact, these foldable furniture pieces, if properly made, can look extremely stylish. Although, it is mostly wrought iron that is used to design hydraulic furniture, considering it's safe, wood, too, can be used to make lighter stuff like tables, etc.

**While, we all complain of builders wasting spaces and the very fact that most houses in Mumbai are anything but spaced-out, not many people experiment with compact interior solutions.**

### Drawers et al

We all have a fetish for collectibles, however, it becomes slightly difficult to give every piece its right visibility, due to lack of space. This is when drawers come to the rescue. You can make drawers anywhere in the house, be it your TV cabinet to the gaps in your couch. In fact, a very smart way to store a large number of things is to make a floor drawer. Just give a slight elevation to a certain section of your house, either for the sitting area or the dining space, and the elevation can be converted into a spacious drawer. Solid wood seaters with storage can also be used to store stuff like cushion covers and coasters while chests can be used as coffee tables.

### Adjustable kitchen

Service windows are a great way to save space because not only do they serve as a quick option to transfer food from the kitchen to the dining area, but also serve as a potential dining table when needed. Attach a foldable table to your service window and it can well serve as a dining table. Bring in a few chairs and you are set. Two long-stem bar chairs can also be accomodated inside a cabinet that fits right under your kitchen service window to make it a live bar counter when required. Also, make sure you have several layers of shelves and drawers in your kitchen, so the you utilise the horizontal as well as vertical space properly.

### Bring it in

Remove flower beds and accomodate them in the room, this will help proper utilisation of space, as walls use a considerable amount of space. You can either have a single chair hammock in the extension, that overlooks the surroundings or single cane baithaks that use less space. Moreover, you can also use it to store things that are less important like bills, envelops, etc. by setting up vertical wall-mounted hydraulic drawers that take very less space and can be easily hidden behind side curtains.

### Wardrobe wall-function

We all like stylish wardrobes, however, a wardrobe is something that occupies a lot of space. A wall cavity is a smart solution to accomodate a huge wardrobe. It would hardly take two to three inches of floor space for the doors (preferably sliders) and would allow enough usage of space. You can make a smilar set-up for your washing machine and dishwasher, especially if you are not blessed with extra drying space. A wall cavity either in your kitchen or the corridor next your bathroom can accommodate them easily, without restricting movement.

### Inside out

This is the most interesting piece of compact furniture. A set of round or square coffee table and four well fitted seaters inside it will help you make the right utilisation of space. You can either sit down and use it as low dining or coffee table or just pull out the seaters (with storage of course) when you have more heads.

**Tip:** Make sure you have large French windows in every room. They make the house look spacious and beautiful since they usually overlook the surroundings outside. Also, use colours like ivory white or beige, as they attract sunlight to make you home look visibly bigger.

# Create a container garden in your home

**A container garden is a great way to utilise the space in your house and also add greenery. This is how you can do it...**

**Map the area where you want to make the garden**

Since this type of a garden can make your home look cluttered, always select one specific area in your house where you would like to have it. This can be a space, either in your living area, your balcony or a place in your dining room.

**Go for plants that can sustain for a long duration**

Mostly built indoors, choose plants that can survive with minimum or no sunlight for days at end. However, you must remember to water them from time to time, so that they remain fresh.

**Go for bright blooms**

Instead of going in only for green plants, you can also opt for flowers in bright colours — marigolds, lilies, etc are good options. They not only add to the beauty of the room, but also lend a calming effect. Make sure you choose flowering plants that are not seasonal.

**Do not opt for too many planters**

Build the garden in such a way that it does not overpower your room. Since you also have to maintain uniformity, having about three to four planters placed side by side will make the garden look complete. This will also lend a neat look to your room and the plants will have enough breathing space.

**Place them on faux grass**

To give the garden a more authentic look, you can have the planters placed on fake grass. If you are planning to do this in your bedroom, make sure that you choose an area (possibly near the windows, so that your plants can get sunlight). You can alternatively also use pebbles for non-flowering plants that need less water to keep them clean.

# 7 things to help organise Your living area

However, if do not want to spend a lot and still want your house to look organised, then here's a tip. Just get rid of these seven simple things and you can change the look of your living room instantly.

### 1. Bills, envelopes and invites

Most living rooms have a stack of unimportant papers lying everywhere. From various utility bills to credit card statements, and from envelopes to wedding invites, we always tend to dump all this on our coffee table or our TV cabinet in the living room, Get rid of empty envelopes and bills older than three years, and organise the rest in drawers, so that they're hidden.

### 2. Extra cushions

Cushions lend a sense of style to the living room; vibrant coloured and abstract design cushions help the living area come to life. However, too much of anything is a bad idea. Do not overcrowd your living rooms with cushions, limit them to your couch or a baithak. Don't overdo it by keeping them on chairs, window seats, recliners or by simply increasing their number.

### 3. Big-size music system and CDs

That big four-CD-changer home theatre system with four massive speakers covering a complete wall of your living room, might have emotional value, but it definitely adds to the clutter. Simply replace it with a sleek sound bar that would be hardly noticed but has effective sound quality, and you will notice that the room looks less cluttered.

### 4. Candles

You definitely had a romantic evening in mind when you picked up those scented candles. However, they are now lying unattended in various corners coated with loads of dust. Get rid of those candles and buy lights that are easy to clean and can be used for a longer duration. Make sure they are all hanging lights so that the floor remains de-cluttered.

### 5. Bean bags

A lot of people buy bean bags to create a relaxed sitting arrangement, however, they are rendered redundant after a while as they trigger back problems. They then just lie there in clumps, occupying a lot of space and we end up dumping things on bean bags which adds to the clutter. Make way for a smart pair of antique wooden or recliners that will occupy less space and will prove useful as well.

### 6. Artificial plants

This is one of the most useless things in anybody's living room, as they do not add any charm to the room whatsoever. In fact, Feng Shui and vastu experts warn about keeping artificial plants in homes as they have some kind of negative energy. Get rid of them as they attract a lot of dust and occupy unwanted space. Invest in real plants instead.

### 7. Miniature artifacts

Not many people can maintain art-house like interiors, as it needs a lot of cleaning. Miniature artifacts and handicrafts enhance the look of your living room and make it look arty. These objects makes your house look dingy and unkempt if they are not dusted and maintained from time to time. If de-cluttering your house means having a clear space, then miniature artifacts need to be got rid off. In fact, a less-cluttered house looks bigger and better.

**If you have been thinking to renovate your home and get rid of the clutter for the longest time, then this is the right time to start.**