

“Bhagwant Mann’s Vision for a Progressive Punjab”

Bhagwant Mann’s Industrial Policy 2026 Signals Strong Economic and Social Transformation Punjab’s Historic Industrial and Business Policy 2026: A Major Step Toward Growth and Prosperity

The Sikh Times Simmi Kaur Babbar

New Delhi 10 March, Punjab is witnessing a significant shift in its economic and governance landscape with the introduction of the Historic Industrial and Business Policy 2026. The policy is being seen as one of the most progressive industrial initiatives



in the country, aimed at revitalizing Punjab’s industrial sector, attracting investment, creating employment opportunities, and accelerating economic development.

Under the leadership of Punjab Chief Minister Sardar Bhagwant Singh Mann, the state government has taken decisive steps to strengthen Punjab’s industrial and business environment. The new policy is widely regarded as a forward-looking initiative that seeks to place Punjab among the most

competitive and investment-friendly states in India. The Industrial Policy 2026 focuses on encouraging new industries, supporting existing businesses, and simplifying administrative procedures for entrepreneurs and investors. The government aims to create an ecosystem where industries can grow smoothly while generating large-scale employment for the youth of Punjab.

The policy emphasizes infrastructure development, technological innovation, and industrial clusters that can boost manufacturing and services. By reducing bureaucratic hurdles and promoting ease of doing business, the Punjab government hopes to attract national and international investors. Experts believe that such policies can play a key role in strengthening Punjab’s economic base, especially at a time when states across India are



competing to attract industries and investment. Chief Minister Sardar Bhagwant Singh Mann has emerged as a strong and decisive leader among chief ministers across the country. His leadership style and focus on governance reforms have drawn attention from political observers and policy experts alike. Many citizens of Punjab see him as a leader who represents their aspirations for development, transparency, and social welfare. His government has

emphasized policies aimed at improving the lives of ordinary people while strengthening the economic structure of the state. Over the past months, the Mann government has taken several initiatives intended to improve administration, promote industrial development, and maintain law and order. For many residents of Punjab, Sardar Bhagwant Singh Mann has become a symbol of hope. People expect the government to bring positive changes in employment, infrastructure, and social welfare schemes. The government has also announced plans to introduce a monthly financial assistance scheme for women, under which every eligible woman in the state is expected to receive ₹1000 per month. The scheme is aimed at empowering women and providing financial support to families across the state.

Continued news page 2

In his swan song yatra, Nitish strikes optimistic note for Bihar; deputy says he’s not going anywhere

New Delhi. (Agency) Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, who embarked on his last political yatra as CM on Tuesday from Supaul, said the state would continue on the path of progress, while his deputy, BJP’s Samrat Choudhary, said Nitish is not going anywhere and would continue to “guide the NDA government”. Senior JD(U) leader and water resources minister Vijay Kumar Choudhary, who was also at the event, said Bihar is used to being “guided by Nitish Kumar”, and that the JD(U) would continue to guide

the state despite his decision to go to the Rajya Sabha. Nitish will travel through 10 districts, including four Seemanchal districts of Purnea, Katihar, Araria and Kishanganj, before his yatra concludes on March 14. Addressing the public meeting in Supaul, he requested the crowd to rise in endorsement of the work being done by the NDA government. “Bihar will continue to progress and soon find its place among developed states in the country... I request you all to rise



and tell me as much,” he said. The speech had no mention of his decision to step down from the post. “Unlike earlier (referring to the RJD regime), there is no atmosphere of

fear now. There is brotherhood and camaraderie. The state has been free from communal tension for years now. While we fenced cemeteries, we also fenced 60-year-old temples during the NDA government,” he said. The Bihar CM made special mention of how the state government had appointed 5.24 lakh school teachers. “We are working on doubling employment and income. In the coming five years, we will create one crore jobs and employment opportunities,” he said.

Trump speaks like acting PM of India, says Karnataka CM Siddaramaiah

New Delhi. (Agency)

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said on Monday that it is deeply humiliating that the United States is now openly saying it will “allow” India to buy Russian oil for 30 days. “No foreign government should ever be in a position to grant or deny India permission to run its economy. Yet this is the situation India finds itself in under Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Today it increasingly feels as if India’s capital is not New Delhi, but Washington DC. Donald Trump speaks like the acting PM of India, while Narendra Modi appears reduced to a puppet who merely follows instructions. A PM of a sovereign republic cannot allow such a situation to arise” the CM stated on social media platform X.

Siddaramaiah said India must speak with its own voice in the world. “At a time when the world is torn by war and bloodshed, India must show moral leadership and independent thinking, guided by our own history,” he said. The BJP hit back, stating this is not the UPA era, when the government functioned as a remote-controlled establishment under Sonia Gandhi, readily surrendering India’s sovereign interests at the slightest pressure from Washington. “The world has not forgotten how the then US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton openly confirmed that India had reduced oil imports from Iran under American pressure - that too in the presence of the UPA’s own External Affairs Minister.

West Asia conflict: India wants dialogue, diaspora safety, energy security, says Jaishankar

New Delhi. (Agency)

Stating that the unfolding conflict in West Asia has led to “numerous casualties, including at the leadership level in Iran”, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Monday outlined in the Rajya Sabha three broad messages of the Government: it favours a return to dialogue, views the security of the Indian diaspora as a priority, and considers energy security paramount.

In a suo motu statement “on the situation in West Asia”, amid protests and slogan-shouting by the Opposition which demanded a “full-fledged” discussion on the issue, Jaishankar also said that nearly 67,000 Indian nationals have returned from the region since the war began on February 28.



Referring to the sinking of an Iranian ship off the coast of Sri Lanka, he said Iran had requested permission on February 28 for “three ships” in the region to dock at Indian ports. The request was granted on March 1, he said. “We believe that this was the right thing to do and the Iranian Foreign Minister (Abbas Araghchi) has expressed his country’s thanks for this

humane gesture,” Jaishankar said.

On March 7, The Indian Express first reported that IRIS Dena, the Iranian frigate torpedoed by the US, had earlier been offered shelter by India at one of its ports in view of rising tensions between the US and Iran.

Jaishankar said India has also allowed another Iranian ship, IRIS Lavan, to dock in Kochi. Meanwhile, an Iranian warship, IRIS Bushehr, was allowed to dock by Sri Lanka at its eastern port of Trincomalee after it sought permission citing engine failure. While attempts have been made to remain in contact with Iran, engagement at the leadership level is “obviously difficult at this time”, the Union Minister said, adding that he has spoken twice to Araghchi.

Govt blocking debate on Iran war in Parliament, says Rahul

New Delhi. (Agency)

As the opposition stepped up its demand for a discussion on the West Asia situation in Parliament, Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi criticised Prime Minister Narendra Modi for not being in Parliament. He also said that the opposition party wanted a discussion on the rising fuel prices on account of the war between the US-Israel and Iran. Gandhi said that the discussion was crucial as it is tied to impact on the Indian economy. “These are people’s issues we consider important, and therefore we want to discuss that,” Gandhi told reporters outside the Parliament House complex.

He added that the happenings in West Asia had impacted the stock markets and blamed the India-US trade deal for hurting the Indian interest. “Modi has signed the US trade deal. The country is going to suffer a severe blow. So, what is the problem in discussing these issues?” he asked.



Gandhi said that the no-confidence motion moved by the Opposition against Speaker Om Birla could be taken up after a discussion on the West Asia situation. “We are demanding that, and then we will discuss other issues. What do you think, the West Asia issue is not important? Fuel price, economic devastation, are they not important?” he said.

Kharge seeks discussion on West Asia; irresponsible behaviour, says Nadda

As the External Affairs Minister started making the statement, MPs from the Congress and other Opposition parties rose from their seats and insisted that Kharge be allowed to complete his remarks.

New Delhi. (Agency)

THE RAJYA Sabha saw a stormy start to the second part of the Budget Session on Monday, with the Opposition demanding a short discussion on India’s energy security in view of the ongoing conflict in West Asia. Ahead of External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar’s scheduled statement in the House, the floor was given to the Leader of Opposition Mallikarjun Kharge.

Kharge said, “Sir, I would like permission for a short-duration discussion on India’s energy security as per Rule 176. The geopolitical situation in West Asia is not limited till there it is affecting India’s energy security.” He said 55% of India’s crude oil comes from the region, directly affecting the country’s economic stability. There were around 1 crore



Indians working in the region, with remittances of USD 51 billion coming in from the Gulf countries, and their security and livelihood depended on the situation there, he said. Kharge also raised the issue of cooking gas cylinder price rise by nearly Rs 60, burdening poor families.

Rajya Sabha Chairperson C P Radhakrishnan said he understood the subject and would come back after due consultation on Rule 176, giving the floor to Jaishankar. Other members also submitted notices under Rule 267 — which has remained a contentious issue. The Chair did not take that up, stating that ruling on Rule 267 had been given several times in the past.

As the External Affairs Minister started making the statement, MPs from the Congress and other Opposition parties rose from their seats and insisted that Kharge be allowed to complete his remarks. They raised slogans and demanded that a short discussion be allowed to which the minister should reply. Later, the entire Opposition staged a walkout from the House while the minister was making

his statement. Jaishankar went on to update the House on the ongoing situation in West Asia, what the Indian government and the embassies had done so far, and what was being done to bring back the people stranded in the Gulf nations. He said the region was key to India’s energy security and the government remained committed to ensure availability, taking into account the risks and costs.

After his statement, Leader of the House J P Nadda attacked the Opposition saying it was “irresponsible” in raising the issue when Jaishankar was already set to speak on the West Asia situation. He said the Opposition was not interested in debate or the interests of the country, but only in anarchy and creating “hooliganism”.

Front continued news

“Bhagwant Mann’s Vision for a Progressive Punjab”

This initiative, once fully implemented, could benefit a large section of society and strengthen economic security for women. Another major focus of the Punjab government has been its strong action against organized crime and gangster networks operating in the state. Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann has repeatedly stated that the government is committed to maintaining law and order and ensuring that criminal networks do not threaten public safety. Authorities have intensified operations against gangster groups, and strict measures are being taken to curb illegal activities. These actions are intended to restore public confidence and ensure that Punjab remains a safe environment for both citizens and businesses. Punjab’s Industrial and Business Policy 2026, combined with welfare initiatives and strong law-and-order measures, reflects the government’s attempt to usher in a new phase of development for the state. With growing expectations from citizens and businesses alike, the coming years will be crucial for the implementation of these policies. If executed effectively, the initiatives introduced by the Punjab government could play a major role in shaping the state’s economic and social future. For many people across Punjab, the leadership of Chief Minister Sardar Bhagwant Singh Mann represents a renewed sense of optimism and the possibility of a more prosperous and progressive state.

News box

Man tries to run over cab owner, friend; one injured

Noida.(Agency)

An FIR was registered against a man for allegedly trying to run over a cab owner and his friend with a car after threatening them for operating a vehicle in his area in Sector 57 earlier this month. The complainant suffered a fractured leg in the incident. Police said the incident took place on the morning of March 2. The complainant, Pravindr Singh, a native of Rajasthan who lives on rent in Wazirabad village, was travelling towards Rajasthan after learning about the death of a friend’s brother. In his complaint, Singh said that around 8am his vehicle had dropped a passenger from Sikandarpur to Sector 65. After the passenger got down and the driver stepped out, a man identified as Manoj allegedly stopped the vehicle, snatched the keys and the driver’s phone, and began threatening him. The driver later called Singh and handed the phone to Manoj, who allegedly abused Singh and warned him not to bring the vehicle to the area again, saying neither the vehicle nor the driver would return. While travelling towards Rajasthan, Singh checked the GPS location of his vehicle and found it about 200 metres away. He stopped at the spot to speak to the accused. According to the complaint, Manoj then arrived from behind in a car. Singh alleged that when he tried to stop him to talk, the accused first slowed down but then suddenly drove the vehicle towards him and his friend, Sakeem Kumar, before fleeing.

Eight flights from Hindon terminal suspended in Jan yet to resume operations



Noida.(Agency)

Flight services at the Hindon civil terminal remain reduced months after winter disruptions forced airlines to scale down operations, with several suspended routes yet to be restored. In Jan, daily flight movements from the terminal were cut from 20 to 12 due to cold-weather conditions affecting schedules. While airlines had indicated that operations would resume after the summer rescheduling, the suspended routes have not returned so far. Air India Express and IndiGo, two major airlines operating from the terminal, had halted flights to several cities from the terminal during the winter. According to terminal director Chilka Mahesh, Air India Express is currently operating only on the Mumbai and Bengaluru routes. Until Dec last year, the airline also ran services to Kolkata, Goa, Chennai, Patna and Bhubaneswar. IndiGo, which had earlier suspended operations on three routes, including Indore, Kolkata and one of its Mumbai flights, is currently running services to seven cities, including Mumbai, Bengaluru, Kolkata, Chennai, Ahmedabad, Varanasi and Patna. There has been no official statement from Air India Express explaining the continued suspension of several routes. However, sources in the Airports Authority of India said the airline is currently refurbishing at least 18 aircraft, which may have led to reduced operations from Hindon. Regional carriers continue to maintain limited services. Star Air operates flights to Nanded, Adampur and Kishangarh, while FlyBig Airlines stopped operating its Bathinda and Ludhiana routes last year. When the terminal opened in 2019 under the govt’s regional connectivity programme, it handled around 8,000 passengers annually. Footfall later rose to nearly 80,000 a year after AI Express and IndiGo expanded their services. But repeated winter disruptions and flight cancellations have slowed that momentum for the terminal being promoted as the third airport serving the NCR alongside IGI and the upcoming Noida airport.

Out in fields to harvest, woman jumps into well with 3 daughters in Nuh village; all 4 die

Gurgaon.(Agency)

A 28-year-old woman allegedly jumped into a well in Nuh’s Badopur village with her three young daughters - aged between 8 months and 7 years - in a tragedy police suspect was driven by domestic distress linked to her husband’s mental health issues. Police identified the woman as Sahila, originally from Rajasthan but who was living in Badopur since her marriage. Her daughters - Aksha (7), Samiya (3) and Sanaya (about 8 months) - also died. According to police, Sahila went to the family’s farmland on Sunday to harvest mustard. When she did not return home by evening, around Iftar, relatives began searching the nearby fields and surrounding areas, but found no trace of her. Sahila’s family returned to the fields the next morning, around 9am, to irrigate their paddy. “As they passed a well in the fields, they noticed a pair of slippers near the edge. They looked inside and saw the children’s bodies floating,” an officer said. Villagers gathered within minutes,



and police were informed soon after. Subhash Chandra, SHO of Firozpur Jhirka Sadar police station, reached the spot with a fire brigade team. With help from villagers, the bodies of Sahila and her three daughters were pulled out. Preliminary probe, police said, pointed to domestic tensions. According

to cops, Sahila’s husband, Shahid, had been struggling with mental health issues for quite some time, adding to stress in the household. “The family is likely to file a complaint. Once it is submitted, we will register a case and conduct a thorough investigation,” the officer said.

Relatives and villagers, however, alleged a

long-running conflict. Pappu Khan, a relative, said disputes between Sahila, her husband and in-laws had cropped up ever since their marriage. “Several panchayats were held to resolve it, but nothing changed. Whoever is responsible for the deaths should be punished. And justice must be ensured,” he said. Another relative, Idris Khan, alleged Sahila faced harassment from her in-laws. “They had been torturing her since her marriage. After panchayats, we sent her back home 4-5 times. We never imagined we would see a day like this,” he said. Idris said the family received a call during night prayers, asking whether Sahila had reached her parents’ home with the children. “We said she hadn’t. We tried calling the sarpanch, but couldn’t reach him. During Sehri, the sarpanch called again and asked about her. We said we didn’t know. We told him we were coming to the village. About 10 minutes later, he called and said she had been found,” he said.

MCG spends 85% of budget, earns 66% of revenue target for this fiscal in Gurgaon

Noida.(Agency)

MCG has utilised around 85% of its total budget allocation for the current financial year (FY 2025-26) while generating about 66% of its projected revenue so far. The total expenditure stands at Rs 1,282 crore out of Rs 1,497 crore, according to civic body data as of Jan 31. Among the major expenditure heads, road construction saw significant utilisation, with the civic body spending Rs 85 crore, which is about 77% of the allocated amount of Rs 110 crore. On the revenue side, MCG generated Rs 1,039 crore out of the projected Rs 1,562 crore. Property tax remains the biggest contributor to the civic body’s revenue, with Rs 295.3 crore collected against the estimated Rs 275 crore, already exceeding the target. In the sanitation and solid waste management sector, MCG already spent Rs 240 crore out of the Rs 390-crore allocation, accounting for 61.5% utilisation. Within this sector, door-to-door waste collection accounts for the largest share of spending. MCG spent Rs 156 crore out of the Rs 310

crore allocated for the service so far, even though the civic body relied on temporary measures for doorstep waste collection. Bids to get two contractors for the city’s doorstep waste collection for five years were deferred since MCG sought certain clarification from the Haryana urban local bodies (ULB) department. For operations and maintenance of sewage treatment plants (STPs), sewerage systems and water supply, the civic body spent Rs 43.2 crore against an allocation of Rs 28 crore, overshooting the sanctioned budget. Under repair and maintenance, the corporation spent Rs 304.9 crore against the allocated Rs 197.3 crore, significantly exceeding the approved outlay. However, utilisation under certain critical infrastructure maintenance heads remains low. Only Rs 1.9 crore was spent out of Rs 4 crore allocated for repair and maintenance of stormwater drains, while Rs 5.8 crore (58.6%) was spent from the Rs 10-crore allocation for road repairs. For operation and maintenance of water tankers and septage management tankers,

the corporation spent Rs 10 crore out of Rs 15 crore allocated in the current financial year. Under the development expenditure head, MCG allocated Rs 400 crore for 2025-26. Of this, Rs 310.9 crore, which is about 77%, was already spent. Out of this development expenditure, Rs 56.3 crore was already spent out of a budget allocation of Rs 111 crore on the purchase of land and building. For the purchase of bulk water supply, Rs 241 crore was spent against the allocation of Rs 100 crore. MCG pays this amount to GMDA. On the construction of STPs, sewerage system and water supply infra, the civic body spent Rs 69.4 crore against the allocation of Rs 70 crore. As for the revenue, MCG commissioner Pradeep Dahiya said, “We significantly increased it since our property tax collection reached Rs 305 crore as of Feb 28. Our property tax revenue target for the current FY was Rs 275 crore. The work was executed by our four joint commissioners to ensure maximum recovery.

Joint panel set up in Haryana to probe illegal tree felling, construction in Raisina Aravali Ghaziabad.(Agency)

Deputy commissioner Ajay Kumar has set up a joint committee to investigate illegal tree felling and unauthorised construction in the Aravali area of Raisina village in Sohna tehsil, following directions from National Green Tribunal (NGT). The panel was tasked with conducting a site inspection at Gair Mumkin Pahar land — uncultivable, rocky or steep hill — in Raisina. According to the DC’s order, the panel has been asked to “identify violations of environmental and forest laws”, if any, and recommend preventive and remedial measures. The four-member committee — comprising the Sohna sub-divisional magistrate as chairperson, district forest officer or a forest department representative, the executive officer of Sohna Municipal Council and the regional officer of Haryana State Pollution Control Board (HSPCB) as member secretary — has been asked to submit a detailed factual and action-taken report to enable the filing of an affidavit before NGT ahead of the next hearing on May 15. The matter is currently being heard by NGT after an application claimed that trees were being illegally cut and construction activities were taking place in the area, which falls within the Aravali landscape and is governed by environmental regulations. The tribunal had directed the Haryana chief secretary to ensure that no illegal construction or tree felling takes place in the area and asked authorities to submit an affidavit detailing action taken. Authorities were also directed to ensure that no illegal construction or tree felling takes place in the area while the case remains pending before the tribunal. The panel will suggest measures, which may include demolition of illegal structures, restoration of the landscape and environmental compensation where applicable.

Noida airport launch nears, but displaced families still wait for promised jobs

NEW DELHI.(Agency)

As Noida International Airport prepares for inauguration later this month, dozens of families who surrendered their land for the project have seen a crucial promise of jobs for their children remain unfulfilled. Hansraj Singh, a farmer from Dayanatpur village, gave up nearly 25 acres of farmland when the govt began acquiring land for the airport. Instead of taking the standard cash compensation of Rs 2,100 per sqm offered in phase 1, Singh opted for what officials described as a more secure future: employment for a member of his family. Years later, that promise has yet to materialise. “We were relocated to an R&R

(rehabilitation and resettlement) colony in Jewar,” Singh said, referring to the resettlement housing built for displaced families. “My elder son works as an inspector in Delhi Police. My younger son is 40, has a diploma in civil engineering from the Industrial Training Institute, Pusa, and is still jobless. We chose a job instead of compensation, but it seems we settled for less.” Singh’s frustration is shared by many families displaced by the airport project, which received its aerodrome licence from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), the final regulatory clearance before flight operations can begin, on March 6. According to residents and local representatives,

about 334 families chose employment over the compensation offered during the first two phases of land acquisition. Under the rehabilitation and resettlement plan, these families were to receive jobs linked to the airport project, primarily through its concessionaire, Yamuna International Airport Private Limited, under the oversight of Noida International Airport Limited. “So far, those assurances have not translated into actual appointments,” Singh said. The airport project has required large tracts of land across villages in the Jewar area. Authorities acquired about 1,334 hectares in the first phase and another 1,365 hectares in the second phase.

Southern Peripheral Road elevated corridor from Vatika Chowk-NH8 in 3 years

Noida.(Agency)

Interchanges, loops and ramps at key junctions to allow smooth entry and exit of traffic — a 4.2km elevated corridor is coming up on Southern Peripheral Road (SPR) between NH8 and Vatika Chowk. GMDA has invited requests for proposals (RFP) to build the elevated corridor. Estimated to cost Rs 755 crore, the project aims to turn the busy stretch into a signal-free corridor and improve connectivity between major highways and the fast-developing residential and commercial sectors along SPR. The project is expected to take around 30 months to complete once the contract is awarded. At that pace, it would take over seven months to build 1km of the corridor. The elevated structure will run along the existing road. Officials said the design will be similar to grade-separated access systems developed along Dwarka Expressway. Once completed, the corridor is expected to

provide faster connectivity between Dwarka Expressway, NH8 and Delhi-Mumbai Expressway, while reducing pressure on key junctions such as Vatika Chowk and Subhash Chowk. The project involves upgrading the SPR stretch between Vatika Chowk and NH8 into a signal-free route, which authorities said will help manage rising traffic volumes and improve travel time along one of the city’s key links. A GMDA official said, “The agency selected through the tender will not only construct the corridor but will also be responsible for its operation, management and maintenance for 10 years after completion.” GMDA CEO PC Meena said, “Gurgaon is witnessing rapid urban expansion and the development of high-capacity road infrastructure remains a key priority to support the city’s growing mobility needs and sustain its economic growth. The proposed infrastructure

upgrade will benefit residents and commuters from several sectors located along and around the SPR corridor, including newly developing residential and commercial clusters. This project is part of our continued efforts to strengthen the city’s road infrastructure and create a more efficient and future-ready urban mobility network.” Under this plan, an eight-lane elevated corridor will be constructed between Vatika Chowk and NH8. The project also includes a six-lane surface road with a provision for two-lane service roads on each side. Two-lane ramps will be provided at key intersections to ensure smoother traffic flow, while an interchange will be built at NH8 to provide seamless connectivity with the national highway. Officials said an interchange at Vatika Chowk is planned as part of Phase II, which will further strengthen connectivity between SPR and the Sohna elevated corridor.

“The documents are being prepared and the tender for this will be floated soon,” a GMDA official said. SPR emerged as one of the city’s key mobility corridors, linking Golf Course Extension Road, Sohna Road, Dwarka Expressway and Delhi-Gurgaon Expressway. Rapid residential development along the stretch significantly increased traffic over the past few years, leading to frequent congestion at intersections. Officials said the project will also offer an alternative route for commuters travelling between Dwarka Expressway, southern Gurgaon and Sohna or Faridabad, reducing dependence on congested intersections within the city. Before construction begins, authorities will have to shift several utilities along the route. “The required right of way is available, so there should be no major issue on that front. In the project estimate, around Rs 40 crore was kept for utility shifting,

which includes high-tension power lines and underground utilities such as gas pipelines. Most of the ROW is clear.

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Press Area, ITO, New Delhi
Editor-in-Chief
Gurcharan Singh Babbar
Mob : 9654077232, 9971359517
Website : www.sikhtimes.in
Email : sikhtimesindia@gmail.com

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Gambler under heavy debt kills wife, 3 daughters in Delhi; nabbed from Rajasthan

The Sikh Times
New Delhi: A 42-year-old habitual gambler allegedly killed his wife and three minor daughters by slitting their throats at his home in outer north Delhi's Siraspur area before fleeing to Rajasthan, police said on Sunday, adding that he was arrested after a 72-hour multi-state manhunt. The accused, identified as Munchun Kewat alias Ashish, is a vegetable seller at Azadpur Mandi. He was in debt and had a quarrel with his wife over the issue before the murders. He was apprehended from Kishangarh in Ajmer district of Rajasthan. The bodies of Anita (30) and her three daughters—aged three, four and five years—were found inside their one-room house in Chandan Park, Siraspur, on February 25. All four

had their throats slit with a sharp-edged weapon. A PCR call was received in the morning, following which a police team from Samaypur Badli police station reached the spot. Kewat was found missing from the house and immediately emerged as the prime suspect. An FIR under section 103(1) (Murder) of the BNS was registered. Investigators analysed footage from over 800 CCTV cameras

and used Facial Recognition System (FRS) technology to trace the movements of the trigger. The police said he had borrowed around Rs 2 lakh from his in-laws in recent months, of which Rs 60,000 was used to repay a lender identified as Mithilesh, Rs 40,000 to a ginger supplier, while the remaining amount was lost in cricket betting and gambling, both online and offline. The police said on February 23, the accused had a heated argument with Mithilesh over the money, "during which threats were allegedly issued". Enraged, he purchased a knife used for cutting jackfruit for Rs 90 from the market (mandi) and hid it at home. In the early hours of February 25, at around 4 am, he allegedly slit his wife's throat while she was asleep. When his

eldest daughter woke up and began crying, he killed her as well, followed by the two younger children. He allegedly attempted to kill himself but fled instead. After the murders, he briefly returned to the mandi, slept in the market yard and survived on roadside food before escaping to Ajmer, police said. Kewat, a native of Patna in Bihar, had previously been found involved in a theft case registered at PS Adarsh Nagar in 2025. He had also worked in Chennai and Ajmer as a labourer engaged in loading and unloading work. The weapon used in the crime is yet to be recovered. The accused is in police custody and further investigation is underway, the police added.

Shopkeeper 'robbed' of Rs 14 lakh at gunpoint in Delhi's Model Town
New Delhi: Three unidentified men allegedly robbed a 22-year-old shopkeeper of Rs 14 lakh at gunpoint and knife-point in northwest Delhi's Model Town area, police said on Saturday. According to the police, a PCR call regarding the incident was received at Model Town police station on Friday. "The complainant, Kartik, a resident of Mahendru Enclave, told police that he was watching a film inside his shop when three unknown men entered on the pretext of updating their mobile number in Aadhaar details," a senior police officer said. One of the accused bolted the shop door from inside, while another allegedly pointed a pistol at the victim's head. The third suspect reportedly placed a knife to his neck and demanded cash, Kartik told police in his complaint. A case has been registered, and efforts are underway to identify and apprehend the accused. CCTV camera footage from nearby areas is being scanned, he added.

sent to judicial custody while her brother was granted bail," a spokesperson for Nuh Police said.

Police then moved in and arrested the siblings red-handed with Rs 75,000 in their possession. "An FIR has been registered against the siblings at Sadar Nuh police station. Both were produced in a local court today, from where the woman was

Siblings arrested red-handed in Nuh extortion case

Gurugram: The police have arrested a brother and sister for allegedly blackmailing a resident of Adbar village in Nuh and demanding Rs 5 lakh. The duo were caught red-handed while allegedly attempting to extort Rs 75,000 from the complainant by threatening to file a false rape case against him. According to a complaint filed by Soyeb, a resident of Adbar village, the incident dates back to last year when he had gone to a school in Tapkan village for his nephew's examination. While he was sitting in his car, a woman took his mobile phone on the pretext of calling her brother and did not return it. A few days later, the woman allegedly began calling him from his phone to his other mobile number. Despite repeatedly asking for his phone back, Soyeb said the woman refused and continued calling him, pressuring him to meet her. "It was on February 4 that the woman told me over the phone that she was coming to my house. Fearing this, I went to Sonkh village, where I found the woman. Soon after, her brother arrived and assaulted me. After this, the brother and sister threatened that I must either pay Rs 5 lakh or they would file a false rape case against me," Soyeb said in

his complaint. He alleged that the two left the spot into action. On Thursday, a police team laid a trap and handed Rs 75,000 in cash to the complainant's brother. When he reached the location indicated by the accused, near a tile company on the road from Nalhar to Saunkh village, he signalled the police

but continued to call him from different numbers, demanding Rs 5 lakh. On March 1, the woman allegedly called him several times between 12:00 pm and 4:30 pm, again demanding Rs 5 lakh and giving him a five-day ultimatum. After receiving the complaint, police swung

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Handcuffs used during the arrest of the siblings in the extortion case.

NAME CHANGE
I Santosh Devi W/O Naresh Kumar R/O VPO-Fazilpur, District Sonapat Haryana 131001 have changed my name to Santosh for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE
I Harish Kumar S/O Jagdish Prasad R/O E-317 A, Block-E, Street No-8, Near Durga Mandir, East Vinod Nagar, Patparganj, East Delhi, Delhi-110091 have changed the name of my minor son HARDIK aged 9 years and he shall hereafter be known as HARDIK KUMAR.

NAME CHANGE
I Leelaavathi Mother of JC-332457N, Rank-SUB, Name-KUNWAR SINGH YADAV residing at VILL-EKAGHARA, PO-SHAMBUHUA, TEHSIL-KANPUR, DIST-KANPUR NAGAR, UTTAR PRADESH-209308 have changed my name from LEELAVATHI to LEELAVATI for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 10/03/2026 before Notary Public, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE
I Smriti Nangia D/O Papinder Kumar Nangia R/O 142-B, GG1, Vikaspur, New Delhi-110018, have changed my son's name from Tavish Gulati to Tavish Nangia for all future purpose.

NAME CHANGE
I Pappu Kumar S/O Kishori Bhagat R/O A-167, Near Shiv Mandir, Patparganj, East Delhi, Delhi-110091 have changed the name of my minor son ASHISH PRASAD aged 9 years and he shall hereafter be known as ASHISH KUMAR.

NAME CHANGE
I hitherto known JILEBA W/O SURESH R/O C-445, Mangolpuri, Mangolpuri N Block, North West Delhi, Delhi-110083 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as SANGEETA.

NAME CHANGE
I Md Noman Khan son of Abdul Basar Khan resident of 503B, Second Floor, Gali no. 5A, Govind Puri, New Delhi-110019, have changed my minor son name Mohammad Abdulla Khan to MD ABDULLA KHAN for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE
I hitherto known as HARI RAM S/O SHEETALA PRASAD R/O T-899, MANGOLPURI, MANGOLPURI N BLOCK, NORTH WEST DELHI, Delhi-110083 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as BAJNATH.

NAME CHANGE
I hitherto known as ROHAN S/O SHIV KUMAR SONI R/O G-19/23, Gali No-10, Swami Shradhanand Park Bhaswa Dairy, Pansali, Samal Pur, North West Delhi, Delhi-110044 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as AJAY SONI.

NAME CHANGE
I hitherto known as HARI RAM S/O SHEETALA PRASAD R/O T-899, MANGOLPURI, MANGOLPURI N BLOCK, NORTH WEST DELHI, Delhi-110083 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as BAJNATH.

NAME CHANGE
I hitherto known as RAM KUMAR S/O JEET SINGH R/O House Number - 464/A, Prahlad Garhi, Vasundhri, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh - 201012 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as RAMU.

NAME CHANGE
I Christina John, Christina John D/O Hari Mohan W/O Karan Sharma R/O H. No-B-30, Christian colony, Near Patel Chest, Delhi-110007 have changed my name to Deepanjali Sahu for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE
I Gour Chandra Datta S/O Nalini Mohan Datta R/O 3, Khalisha Kola Pally, Near Manimela Math North Dum Dum(M), North 24 Parganas West Bengal- 700051, have changed my name to Gour Chandra Dutta

NAME CHANGE
I hitherto known as RAM KUMAR S/O JEET SINGH R/O House Number - 464/A, Prahlad Garhi, Vasundhri, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh - 201012 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as RAMU.

NAME CHANGE
I FATEEN AHMED SHAMSI S/O FIROZ AHMED SHAMSI R/O 287, 1st Floor Ghali Apartment, Parwana Road Pitampura, Saraswati Vihar, North West Delhi, Delhi - 110034 declare that name of mine and my father have been wrongly written as FATEEN AHMED and FIROZ AHMED in my 10th and 12th class educational documents. The actual name of mine and my father are FATEEN AHMED SHAMSI and FIROZ AHMED SHAMSI respectively which may be amended accordingly.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given to the General Public that Mrs. Nishu W/o Mr. Dinesh Kumar in respect of Built up Third Floor, with roof rights, area measuring 50 Sq. Yds., i.e., 41.80 Sq. Mtrs., Built on Property No. F-63, out of Kharsa No. 466/1, Situated in the area of Village Ghonda Gujran, Khadar in the Abadi of Block-F Block, Gali No. 4, Subhash Vihar, North Ghonda, Village Shahdara Delhi-110053, by virtue of Regd. Family GPA dated 01.01.2026, Notarized Family Gift deed and Notarized Family Will deed, executed by Mr. Pradeep Kumar S/o Mr. Panna Lal and said property to be sold to Mrs. Pinki and same to be finance by SMFG India Home Finance Co. Ltd., General public hereby informed, that if anybody has any charge/interest in the said property or any kind of dispute kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 07 days of the present.

NAME CHANGE
I, ROSHANIBEN wife of No-7432175L, Rank-HAV, Name-DAMOR DITABHAI BHIMABHAI residing at VILL-KHARI, PO-DABHELA, TEHSIL-AMIRGADH, DIST-BANASKANTHA, GUJARAT-385130, have changed my name from ROSHANIBEN to DAMOR ROSHANIBEN DITABHAI for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 09/03/2026 before Notary Public, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE
I MOHD KHALID S/O ABDUL SATTAR R/O D-43 DDA FLAT, MATA SUNDRI ROAD, DARYA GANJ, CENTRAL DELHI, DELHI-110002, have changed my name to KHALID SATTAR for all future purpose.

NAME CHANGE
I PRAVEEN W/O SHAHJAD ALI R/O 46A, BEGA, BEGAH (1), BEGA, DIST: SONIPAT, HARYANA-131101, have changed my name to PARVEEN for all future purpose.

NAME CHANGE
I, No-6505690M Rank-SEP/ASH Name-HANDE SANDEEP RAJARAM Presently residing at VILL-SHIVANKHED (KD), PO- KUMATHA (BK), TEH-AHMEDPUR, DIST-LATUR, MAHARASHTRA-413514, have changed my father's name from HANDE RAJARAM to RAJARAM GUNAJI HANDE for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 10/03/2026 before Notary Public, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE
I, RAHUL GOEL S/O VIJAY KUMAR GOYAL residing at H NO-X-101, STREET NO-13, BRAHMUPUR MAUJUPUR, SEELAMPUR SHAHDARA DELHI-110053, have changed my name to RAHUL GOYAL for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE
I, RAHUL GOYAL, S/O VIJAY KUMAR GOYAL, residing at H NO-X-101, Street No. 13, Brahmupur Maujupur, Shaheed, Delhi-110053. My father's name is misspelled. My school certificate states that my father's name is VIJAY KUMAR GOEL to VIJAY KUMAR GOYAL for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE
I, SHWETA W/O PRAVEEN CHAUDHARY residing at H NO-28A, DHADHAN MOHALLA, BADARPUR VILLAGE, DELHI-110044, have changed my name to SWETA CHAUDHARY for all future purposes.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given to the General Public that Mr. Dineeraj Sharma W/o Mr. Ram Gopal Sharma is the owner of Ground Floor, without its roof/terrace rights, area measuring 30 sq. Yds., Property No. R7-D-3/133, Built on Plot No. 18, out of Kharsa No. 89, Gali no. 4, situated in the area of Village Nasirpur, abadi known as Mahavir Enclave, New Delhi-110045 by virtue of Sale Deed dated 16.12.2025 executed by Mrs. Puja Roy W/o Mr. Shashi Bhushan Roy and in the property chain Original Sale Deed dated 17.01.2015 executed by Mr. Kapil Dev in favour of Mrs. Vijay Laxmi Shah, vide duly regd. as Doc. No 492, has been lost and already online FIR lodged vide Application No. 128629/2026, on dt. 25.02.2026, and same to be finance by Shubham Housing Development Finance Company Ltd., General public hereby informed that if anybody has any charge/interest in the said property or any kind of dispute kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 07 days of the present.

NAME CHANGE
I, MANJEET KAUR (Aadhar Card No 6411-1519-8532), D/o Sh. Sham Singh, W/o Sh. Pawan Kumar R/O E-68, J.J. Colony Sector-1, Dwarka, South West Delhi, Delhi-110075, declared that before marriage my name was SUKHWANT KAUR as per my School Leaving Certificate (School Record) during the academic year 2002-2004, but after marriage my name is MANJEET KAUR as per my Aadhar Card No. 6411-1519-8532.

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to inform you that Mrs. Sita Devi is the owner of Plot No. 56 (Western Portion), measuring 55 sq. yds., out of Kharsa Mustali No. 20, Kila No. 21, 221, Mustali No. 33, Kila No. 1/1, Mustali No. 19, Kila No. 25, and Mustali No. 33, Kila No. 1/2, situated in Waka Mauja Jharseli, Tehsil Ballabgarh, District Faridabad (Haryana). The original owners of the entire property were Mr. Shiv Ram and Mr. Tej Ram, who sold the same to M/S. Iris Infra Project Pvt. Ltd. through a Sale Deed dated 25.01.2010. M/s. Iris Infra Project Pvt. Ltd. thereafter sold the said property to Mr. Parmod Mangla through a Sale Deed dated 26.09.2018. Mr. Parmod Mangla subsequently transferred the property to Mr. Saurav Dudeja through Registered GPA, Agreement to Sell and Will dated 01.03.2019. Mr. Saurav Dudeja further transferred the property to Mr. Mustak Khan through Registered SPA, Agreement to Sell and Will dated 16.06.2022. Mr. Mustak Khan finally sold the property to Mrs. Sita Devi through a Sale Deed dated 10.06.2025. Consequently, Mrs. Sita Devi is the absolute and lawful owner of the aforementioned property. The property is free from all kinds of litigation, encumbrances, liens, charges, or claims. Please note that the said property is proposed to be financed by REL Bank Ltd., Okhla Branch, New Delhi. If any person(s) object to and regarding subject property, then kindly may submit his/her objection within 07 days from the date of the Notice in writing. The said objection may be kindly sent to the undersigned by way of the Registered Post on the address given below and by E-mail, failing which, the claim as per aforesaid shall be treated as null and void in respect of the subject property.

NAME CHANGE
I, No-16024162M Rank-NK Name-SATEENDRA SINGH Presently residing at BALAJI NAGAR, NARAYACH, RAMBAGH, AGRA, UTTAR PRADESH-282006, have changed my mother's name from KRISHANA DEVI to KRISHNA DEVI for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 10/03/2026 before Notary Public, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE
I, BHARTI KUMARI W/O Shallesh Kumar R/O 59A, Gupta Enclave, Veeer Bazar Road, Vikas Nagar, Delhi-110059, have changed my name to BHARTI TIWARI permanently.

NAME CHANGE
I, PRINCE S/O Mukesh Pal R/O RZ-190, T-extn., Vishwas Park , Uttam Nagar, Delhi-110059, have changed my name to PRINCE CHAUHAN permanently.

NAME CHANGE
I, Satbir Singh Jain S/O Kewal Ram Jain R/O h.no-144/12 Krishan pura sanatan bada mandir Ganaur sonapat haryana 131101, Changed my name to Satbir Jain.

NAME CHANGE
I, Nirmal Jain W/O Satbir Jain R/O h.no-144/12 Krishan pura sanatan bada mandir Ganaur sonapat haryana 131101, Changed my name to Nirmela Jain.

NAME CHANGE
I, Jayson S/O Joseph Pottaiy Aype R/O A 204 1st Floor Kh.no 3792 Greenacre home delhi 110074, Changed my name to Jayson Joseph.

NAME CHANGE
I, Shilamma W/O Jayson Joseph R/O A204 1st Floor Kh.no 3792 Greenacre home delhi 110074, Changed my name to Shilamma Jayson.

Man in Rs 1.37cr cheating case lands in police net

New Delhi: In a major breakthrough, the Delhi Police Crime Branch arrested Mohsin Mohammed (36) from New Rajendra Nagar, Delhi, in a high-profile cheating and fraud case involving Rs 1.37 crore and USD 80,000. The accused allegedly duped victims by posing as a large-scale meat exporter with international operations, including Dubai. The case was registered under at Crime Branch police station following a complaint by Arjun Arora, who alleged that Mohsin Mohammed, along with his associates, induced him to invest large sums by promising profits from a non-existent meat export business. Investigations revealed that the accused siphoned Rs 67.70 lakh via bank transfers from the complainant's father and arranged USD 80,000 through Dubai-based associates. Mohsin also issued cheques knowing there were insufficient funds, intending to deceive and delay legal action. The accused was tracked to a double-storey residential block in New Rajendra Nagar associates, induced him to invest large sums by promising profits from a non-existent meat export business. Investigations revealed that the accused siphoned Rs 67.70 lakh via bank transfers from the complainant's father and arranged USD 80,000 through Dubai-based after credible intelligence was developed by the Crime Branch. A raiding team comprising SI Mohit, SI Dinesh, ASI Deepak, HC Pankaj and HC Ashwini apprehended him following the confirmation of his identity. The Crime Branch said Mohsin Mohammed had previously been involved in a fraud case registered at the EOW police station.

He has been arrested in accordance with the Supreme Court guidelines, and his family has been informed. The police confirmed that further investigation is underway to trace co-accused and recover the cheated funds.

NAME CHANGE
I hitherto known as GARV KUMAR S/O: Moti Ram, R/O Shop No-11, LSC Shoop, Sarai Pijal Trala, Adarsh Nagar, R/O: N.S. Mandi, DIST: North West Delhi, Delhi-110033, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as GAURAV KUMAR.

NAME CHANGE
I, MANJEET KAUR (Aadhar Card No 6411-1519-8532), D/o Sh. Sham Singh, W/o Sh. Pawan Kumar R/O E-68, J.J. Colony Sector-1, Dwarka, South West Delhi, Delhi-110075, declared that before marriage my name was SUKHWANT KAUR as per my School Leaving Certificate (School Record) during the academic year 2002-2004, but after marriage my name is MANJEET KAUR as per my Aadhar Card No. 6411-1519-8532.

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to inform you that Mr. Anshu intends to purchase a plot of land measuring 105 sq. yards (i.e., 87.8 sq. meters) out of Kharsa No. 1600, situated at Sikandrabad (outside the Nagar Palika area), District Bulandshahr, Uttar Pradesh, from Mr. Subhash Gaur, the original owner of the entire property was Mr. Shiv Lal S/o Mr. Jumma, who sold the same to Mr. Khadali Gaur through a Sale Deed dated 12.12.1996. Thereafter, Mr. Khadali Gaur executed a registered Will dated 15.07.2014 in favour of his grandson, Mr. Subhash Gaur. Unfortunately, Mr. Khadali Gaur S/o Mr. Ram Gaur passed away on 27.10.2020. Consequently, Mr. Subhash Gaur became the absolute owner of the aforementioned property. The property is confirmed to be free from all kinds of litigation, encumbrances, liens, charges, or claims. Please also note that the said property is proposed to be financed by Vastu Housing Finance Corporation Ltd., Noida Branch, Uttar Pradesh. If any person(s) object to and regarding subject property, then kindly may submit his/her objection within 07 days from the date of the Notice in writing. The said objection may be kindly sent to the undersigned by way of the Registered Post on the address given below and by E-mail, failing which, the claim as per aforesaid shall be treated as null and void in respect of the subject property.

NAME CHANGE
I hitherto known as Km Trannum Anansi alias Tanni D/o Babu Hamid R/O H.No-78/1, Gali No-3, Brahmupur, Shastri Park, Near Ganj Nawaz Masjid, Seelampur, North East Delhi, Delhi-110053 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Km Trannum Anansi.

NAME CHANGE
I, Lajay S/O Surender Kumar R/O H no. 76-A Vikas Nagar Uttam Nagar Delhi 110059 have changed my name to Ajay Kumar

NAME CHANGE
I, Irshad S/O Afazav V/O 150, School Wall Gali, Khureji Khas, Krishna Nagar, Shahdara, Delhi-110051 have changed my name to Irshad Baig.

NAME CHANGE
I, Mehjabin V/O Irshad Baig R/O 150, School Wall Gali, Khureji Khas, Krishna Nagar, Shahdara, Delhi-110051 have changed my name to Mehjabin.

NAME CHANGE
I, VINOD PALIWAL S/O MOOL CHAND R/O HOUSE NO-A-88/1, DEVLI EXTENSION, SOUTH DELHI, NEW DELHI 110080 have changed my name from VINOD PALIWAL to LALIT, and henceforth I shall be known as LALIT for all future purposes. That VINOD PALIWAL and LALIT both names belong to the same and one person.

NAME CHANGE
I, MONIKA RUHIL W/O AJAY KUMAR R/O B-12, SHRI RAM ENCLAVE, MARUTIKUNJ ROAD, BHONDSI, BHONDSI(168), GURGAON, HARYANA-122102, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO MONIKA FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSES

NAME CHANGE
I, DURGESH KUMAR NARANG S/O CHARAN JIT LAL NARANG R/O FLAT NO-990, SECOND FLOOR, SECTOR-45, KANAHI (73), GURGAON, HARYANA-122003 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO DURGESH NARANG FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSES

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is for general information that I Harry Arora S/O Vipin Kumar Arora, R/O T-60, JAIN COLONY, PART 1, NEAR DURGA MANDIR, D.K.Mohan Garden, West Delhi, Delhi-110059, declare that name of my father has been wrongly written as Vipin Arora in my 10th class educational documents. The actual name of my father is Vipin Kumar Arora, respectively which may be amended accordingly.

NAME CHANGE
I Monika D/O Satish R/O 500/20, Block-28, Gali No. 14, Vishwas Nagar, Shahdara, East Delhi, Delhi-110032 hereby undertake that I Monika want to change my gender as Male. I Monika henceforth be known as Monika S/O Satish. The above statement made by me is true & correct to the best of my knowledge and belief. If any legal issue arises in this regard at any stage, I will be personally responsible for the same and, the Department of Publication will not be liable for any consequences arising therefrom.

NAME CHANGE
I Jay Sharma S/O Sunil Dutt Sharma R/O H.No-E-70, Street No. 1, Subhash Vihar, North Ghonda, Bhajan Pura North East Delhi-110053 have changed the name of my minor son Avyukt Sharma aged 1 years and he shall hereafter be known as Medhir Sharma.

NAME CHANGE
I hitherto known as Km Trannum Anansi alias Tanni D/o Babu Hamid R/O H.No-78/1, Gali No-3, Brahmupur, Shastri Park, Near Ganj Nawaz Masjid, Seelampur, North East Delhi, Delhi-110053 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Km Trannum Anansi.

NAME CHANGE
I, Lajay S/O Surender Kumar R/O H no. 76-A Vikas Nagar Uttam Nagar Delhi 110059 have changed my name to Ajay Kumar

NAME CHANGE
I, Irshad S/O Afazav V/O 150, School Wall Gali, Khureji Khas, Krishna Nagar, Shahdara, Delhi-110051 have changed my name to Irshad Baig.

NAME CHANGE
I, Mehjabin V/O Irshad Baig R/O 150, School Wall Gali, Khureji Khas, Krishna Nagar, Shahdara, Delhi-110051 have changed my name to Mehjabin.

NAME CHANGE
I, VINOD PALIWAL S/O MOOL CHAND R/O HOUSE NO-A-88/1, DEVLI EXTENSION, SOUTH DELHI, NEW DELHI 110080 have changed my name from VINOD PALIWAL to LALIT, and henceforth I shall be known as LALIT for all future purposes. That VINOD PALIWAL and LALIT both names belong to the same and one person.

NAME CHANGE
I, MONIKA RUHIL W/O AJAY KUMAR R/O B-12, SHRI RAM ENCLAVE, MARUTIKUNJ ROAD, BHONDSI, BHONDSI(168), GURGAON, HARYANA-122102, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO MONIKA FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSES

NAME CHANGE
I, DURGESH KUMAR NARANG S/O CHARAN JIT LAL NARANG R/O FLAT NO-990, SECOND FLOOR, SECTOR-45, KANAHI (73), GURGAON, HARYANA-122003 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO DURGESH NARANG FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSES

Government of Manipur
Public Works Department, Office Of The Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, Manipur, Dated, Imphal, 9th March, 2026
The Chief Engineer, PWD, Manipur, on behalf of the Governor of Manipur invites item rate tenders in single coverbid through open tender from registered and eligible contractors of PWD for 21 works in Bishnupur Division; 31 works in Imphal West Division; 3 works in Tengnoupur Division; 8 works in Tamenglong Division; 14 works in Senapati Division; 10 works in Ukhrul Division; 29 works in Thoubal Division; 4 works in Chandel Division; 5 works in Jiribam Division; 5 works in Pherzawl Division; 4 works in Noney Division; 22 works in Kachhing Division; 20 works in Kangpokpi Division; 72 works in Imphal East Division; 19 works in Churachandpur Division; 4 works in Kamjong Division; 50 works in Highway South Division. The procurement officers are the Executive Engineer of the respective divisions of PWD Manipur. The tender details and documents shall be available from 11/03/2026 to 11/03/2026 at the office of the Executive Engineer of the respective division. Bid submission start date - 11/03/2026 (at 11.00am). Bid submission end date - 17/03/2026 (at 03.00pm) Date of opening of Bid-17/03/2026 (at 03.30pm) Venue-Of/O the Executive Engineer Sd/- Chief Engineer, PWD, Manipur.

NORTHERN RAILWAY	
OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE	
No. -128-W/SR.DEN-C/NIT-15-25-26-WC	Dated: 10.03.2026
The Sr. DEN/C, Northern Railway, Delhi Division for and on behalf of President of India invites E-Tender on prescribed form for the following work.	
Invitation of tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement System)	
1) Name of work	TSR(P)-130 TKM / TRR(P)-19.70 TKM with TRT machine over Delhi Division.
2) Approx cost of work	Rs. 18,17,98,117.57/-
3) Earnest money	Rs. 10,59,000/-
4) Date and Starting time for filing e-tender & Tender opening time	Starting time for filing e-tender is Date- 17.03.2026 at 15:00 hrs. & Tender opening time is Date- 02.04.2026 at 15:00 hrs.
5) Website particulars, published e-tender, notice location etc. complete details of tender can be seen and web site where the tender form can be downloaded	Above tender available on IREPS site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 801/26	

NEWS BOX

War Mojtaba's Trump card after Khamenei

BENGALURU. (Agency)

Very little is known about Mojtaba Khamenei, the second son of late Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and Iran's new Supreme Leader. Mojtaba, 56, was selected as the Islamic Republic's Supreme Leader on Sunday by the 88-member Assembly of Experts—the clerical body that appoints the Rahbar (supreme leader). "Mojtaba has managed to keep himself in the shadows. Only a regime insider would know of his influence. He is a student of theology, as far as can be found, and thus has no specialisation in Fiqh (jurisprudence) which is the constitutional mandate for the post of Rahbar," Prof Kingshuk Chatterjee of Department of History, University of Calcutta, said. He added that after the death of Khomeini, even Khamenei did not have a specialisation in Fiqh, and was selected arguably for his political acumen (the other requirement for the post since 1989). "Mojtaba has neither. Khamenei as the Supreme Leader enjoyed more power than was originally mandated in the constitution. It would be interesting to see if Mojtaba gets to do the same or not, since unlike Khamenei he does not have the credentials of a revolutionary. It would be perfectly possible to



reduce the powers of the office to its original form, or even a more reduced one," said Chatterjee. The foundational doctrine of the Islamic Republic of Iran, developed by Ayatollah Khomeini, establishes that a senior Islamic jurist (faqih) has the authority to rule. The system is based on velayat-e faqih (Guardianship of the Jurist). "Mojtaba's election as the Supreme Leader is therefore surprising. If the US and Israel had not launched the war, Iranians would have been on the streets opposing his election," he said, adding the ongoing war is "driven by the Israeli quest for security".

Electric Air Taxis In US To Be Launched Soon As Pilot Projects Approved

World. (Agency)

Electrically powered air taxis will start taking to the skies in some states and cities across the US, including in New York, after the government approved several pilot projects under a program meant to accelerate their integration into the US airspace. The US Transportation Department said Monday that it selected eight proposals under the so-called advanced air mobility and electric vertical takeoff and landing integration pilot program, which was first outlined in an executive order released by President Donald Trump last year. The government received more than 30 proposals, it said. The selected projects will span more than two dozen states, the department said in a statement shared with Bloomberg. They include a partnership between the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey and companies Joby Aviation Inc., Archer Aviation Inc., BETA Technologies Inc., and Electra.aero Inc. That project will explore several different operational concepts, including air taxi passenger operations at the Manhattan heliport.

"This is the clearest sign yet from the White House, the FAA and the DOT that bringing air taxis to market in the United States is a real priority," Adam Goldstein, Archer's founder and chief executive officer, said in an emailed statement. Joby shares rose as much as 8.4% in US postmarket trading while Archer gained 2.2%. Proposals from the Texas Department of Transportation, the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation and the North Carolina Department of Transportation were also among those chosen.

US Adds Afghanistan To Wrongful Detention List Over Taliban Hostage Diplomacy

WASHINGTON. (Agency)

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio announced Monday he has designated Afghanistan as a "State Sponsor of Wrongful Detention," demanding Taliban authorities release two Americans and commit to ending its "hostage diplomacy." "The move comes just over a week after Iran became the first country added to Washington's new "wrongful detention" blacklist. President Donald Trump in September signed an executive order that created the blacklist, similar to designations by the United States on terrorism. "The Taliban continues to use terrorist tactics, kidnapping individuals for ransom or to seek policy concessions," Rubio said in a statement. He said it was "not safe for Americans to travel to Afghanistan because the Taliban continues to unjustly detain our fellow Americans and other foreign nationals." "The Taliban needs to release Dennis Coyle, Mahmoud Habibi, and all Americans unjustly detained in Afghanistan now and commit to cease the practice of hostage diplomacy forever," he added. Habibi, an Afghan-American businessman, previously served as Afghanistan's director of civil aviation. He was arrested in August 2022 in Kabul along with dozens of other employees of his telecommunications company, according to US authorities. The State Department has issued a reward of \$5 million for information leading to Habibi's return. Coyle is an academic from Colorado who worked for two decades in Afghanistan before being detained in January 2025, according to the James Foley Foundation.

Inside China's Plan That Could Stop US F-35 Jets Without Firing A Single Shot

Beijing has expanded export-control regimes to cover more rare-earth elements, adding licence requirements and new compliance rules that give it finegrained leverage over global supply.

Dubai. (Agency)

It is a war plan for a war the United States is not fighting because it is too busy fighting the wrong one. While Washington pours billions into fighting Iran and global headlines track oil prices and missile trajectories, Beijing has quietly released a document that could shape the balance of power for decades. China's 141-page 15th

Five-Year Plan, unveiled at the National People's Congress on March 5, lays out an ambitious strategy to dominate the technologies, materials and industries expected to define the next generation of economic and military strength. LIVE UPDATES "Nobody is paying attention. That is the point," writes investment analyst and author Shanaka Anslam Perera in a post on X. The blueprint reads less like a routine economic policy document and more like a national technological mobilisation. Artificial intelligence is threaded through the text, with Beijing signalling a push to embed AI across the bulk of its economy over the next decade. Humanoid robotics has been designated a pillar industry, with production expected to double within five years. The plan also commits China to building space-Earth quantum communication networks, accelerating nuclear-fusion research and advancing brain-computer interface technologies. The economic ambition is



equally striking. AI-related industries alone are expected to exceed 10 trillion yuan in value over the plan period, roughly 1.4 trillion dollars at current exchange rates. The scale resembles a coordinated national industrial push that links frontier technologies with manufacturing and state policy to build long-term economic strength rather than short-term battlefield advantage. Perera argues that the breadth of the strategy is what makes it strategically significant. "This is not an economic plan," he wrote. "It is a war plan for a war the United States is not fighting." Washington's

main answer to China's technological rise so far has been the CHIPS and Science Act, signed in 2022. The law committed 52.7 billion dollars to strengthen domestic semiconductor manufacturing, including 39 billion dollars in direct grants and generous tax incentives. It has triggered hundreds of billions of dollars in private investment across more than 140 announced projects and created large numbers of high-skilled jobs across the United States.

It is not about the Chips But the effort is focused largely on one critical sector: chips. China's strategy spans far wider territory. Artificial intelligence is intended to spread across the entire economy, from heavy industry to services. Robotics is meant to anchor industrial production. The plan pushes parallel investment in quantum computing, space infrastructure and, crucially, the raw-material and processing capacity that underpins advanced electronics—especially rare earths. Perera sums up the contrast in simple terms:

Trump warns Tehran of 'much, much harder' strikes, says Iran war will be 'short-term excursion'

DORAL. (Agency)

US President Donald Trump on Monday pushed the idea of the Iran war ending soon, but remained vague on a timeline for ending the attacks that have rocked the Middle East and shaken the global economy.

Markets jumped when Trump suggested to CBS News that the US-Israeli assault was "very complete," but during a later speech and press conference he offered shifting accounts of what to expect. "I think soon. Very soon," Trump told reporters at his Doral National golf club near Miami, Florida, when asked if he thought the war could end in days or weeks. "Everything they have is gone including their leadership." But Trump also pressed for what he called "ultimate victory" against Tehran's clerical establishment, which over the weekend picked the son of slain supreme leader Ali Khamenei as its new chief. Trump said the United

States was saving some of the "most important" targets in Iran for possible later strikes if needed, including the country's electrical grid. The US leader also threatened an attack of "incalculable" size if Tehran blocks oil supplies coming through the Strait of



Hormuz, as crude prices spike over the Middle East war. "And if Iran does anything to do that, they'll get hit at a much, much harder level," Trump told the news conference. "We will hit them so hard that it will not

be possible for them or anybody else helping them to ever recover that section of the world, if they do anything." At the same time Trump played down the scale of the conflict, which has not been approved by the US Congress, repeatedly calling it an "excursion" rather than a war. Republican Trump has faced criticism over the mixed messages coming from his administration about the goals of the Iran war, particularly over whether he is seeking full-scale regime change or not. He declined to say whether new leader Mojtaba Khamenei had a target on his back, saying only that his appointment was "not good." But the US president, who has said he should be involved in picking Iran's new leader in the same way as with Venezuela in January, said he preferred an "internal" candidate rather than an external one.

Why Jeffrey Epstein's Death Wasn't Immediately Ruled A Suicide

World. (Agency)

The medical examiner who conducted convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein's autopsy hesitated before ruling his death a suicide, newly released federal documents reveal.

Dr Kristin Roman, New York City medical examiner, delayed the final ruling even though she said the evidence strongly suggested suicide, according to The NY Post. In a transcript included in the released files, she said it was "pretty clear cut" that Epstein had died by suicide after she examined his body. She explained that she wanted to be "100 per cent certain" before officially declaring the cause of death because of the high-profile nature of the case. The newly released records are part of millions of files related to the Epstein investigation that were recently made public by the Justice Department. Epstein, a disgraced financier, was found dead in

August 2019 inside his jail cell at the Metropolitan Correctional Center in Manhattan while awaiting trial on federal sex trafficking charges.

"If he had been a less high-profile person who there weren't people wanting to kill, I would have probably called it a hanging on the day of autopsy," she told the investigators, adding, "But this was thoroughness that made me look for these things before I called it a suicide." Roman also said she wanted to gather more details from the prison staff before concluding her findings. She said the conversation would help clarify exactly how Epstein's body was found inside the cell. Roman explained that she had specific questions about the scene. Was he fully hanging? Where was he hanging? That kind of stuff," she said. She also wanted to visit and inspect the jail cell where Epstein died to see the scene herself. Roman also told investigators that she

considered other possibilities while reviewing the case. "I would have been a little bit more circumspect if there had been another inmate in there with him who had made threats," Roman told the investigators. However, Roman said she was not allowed to do either of these things and she ruled his death as suicide based on medical evidence. "Even without an investigation, and although I wanted one, just because of the nature of the case, even without an investigation, this case, autopsy-wise, looked like a very clear-cut hanging," she said. Later, Epstein's family hired a forensic pathologist who believed that Epstein's death was not a suicide and that he might have been killed. However, Barbara Sampson, the chief medical examiner of New York City, said the medical examiner's office still stands by its original finding. We stand by that determination.



protect civilians from the impact of hostilities and to avoid damage to health facilities, schools, water systems and other essential infrastructure," Dujarric said. Several oil facilities in Iran were targeted by Israeli strikes Sunday, and Iran has also launched strikes on oil facilities in the region.

Iran fires more drones on Gulf states as US President sends mixed messages

World. (Agency)

Iranian fired drones towards Saudi Arabia and Kuwait early Tuesday as US President Donald Trump sent contradictory signals about how long the war could last, fueling uncertainty that's causing markets to swing. The Saudi Defense Ministry said it has destroyed drones over the kingdom's oil-rich eastern region, while in Kuwait, the National Guard said it shot some down in the country's northern and southern areas.

Iran's latest attacks on neighboring Gulf States come as Trump late Monday told Republican lawmakers that the war was likely to be a "short excursion." "It's going to be ended soon, and if it starts up again they'll be hit even harder," Trump told a news conference in Florida, after telling lawmakers that the campaign would be a "short-term excursion." Yet, hours later, he threatened in a post on social media that US would dramatically increase attacks if Iran tried to close the Strait of Hormuz. "If Iran does anything that stops the flow of

Oil within the Strait of Hormuz, they will be hit by the United States of America TWENTY TIMES HARDER than they have been hit thus far," Trump wrote on Truth Social. "Additionally, we will take out easily destroyable targets that will make it virtually impossible for Iran to ever be built back, as a Nation, again — Death, Fire, and Fury will reign upon them — But I hope, and pray, that it does not happen!" the US President added. Meanwhile, in an apparent response to Trump's remarks published in Iranian state media, a spokesperson for the Revolutionary Guard, Ali Mohammad Naini, said "Iran will determine when the war ends." Trump's remarks came on the first day in power for the 56-year-old son of slain leader Ali Khamenei, with Iranian forces launching a fresh wave of missile and drone attacks on Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar, the UAE and Israel.

Another missile was also fired at NATO member Turkey, the second such incident

in five days, with the alliance's air defenses intercepting it before it could reach its target. Diplomatic efforts focused Monday on the highly strategic Strait of Hormuz, which has been blocked to nearly all oil



tankers -- sending shockwaves across the global economy. Rallies Iran faced a fresh blitz of US and Israeli strikes after its Assembly of Experts, the top clerical body, appointed its first new

supreme leader in 37 years. Iranian state media carried images of tens of thousands of people celebrating Mojtaba Khamenei's selection in central Tehran, many carrying his picture. Iran's rebel Houthi allies in Yemen and the Hezbollah armed group in Lebanon pledged allegiance, while Russian President Vladimir Putin on Monday promised "unwavering support." Trump told reporters he was "disappointed" about Khamenei's appointment, but remained open to a replacement from inside the Islamic republic, citing the recent transition of power in Venezuela as "a formula that has been very good so far."

Ali Ansari, a professor of Iranian history at the University of St Andrews in Scotland, told AFP the new supreme leader was a hardliner who had "been involved in all the most violent repressions that have taken place over the last 15-16 years."

NEWS BOX

Bomb hoax prompts security sweep at Gujarat High Court and Ahmedabad Rural Court



Ahmedabad .(Agency)
The Gujarat High Court and the Ahmedabad Rural Court were thoroughly searched for explosives Monday after they received bomb threats, which were later found to be hoaxes.

The police said the Special Operations Group (SOG), along with the Bomb Detection and Disposal Squad (BDDS) and the Dog Squad, rushed to the courts, evacuated them, and conducted a thorough check. However, no suspicious materials were found at either court. The cybercrime police said it registered First Information Reports (FIRs) in these matters, and is investigating the cases.

The incident is part of a series of threats targeting courts, schools, and government offices across Gujarat over the past year.

The cybercrime police recently arrested a man from West Bengal for sending such bomb hoax threats to courts and schools in Gujarat.

Black-topping on MG Road only at night: Civic body

BENGALURU. (Agency)
Taking note of traffic if white-topping is taken up on the MG Road Stretch from MG Road to Kasturba Road Junction to Trinity Circle covering 1.5 kms, the Bengaluru Central City Corporation has taken up black-topping work.

As per officials, the project will be completed by April 4. "The project cost is Rs 10 crore, including GST. Even before the bitumen is laid, milling is being done for the last three days, and these works are done at night after 10 pm. That is why nobody is able to notice or even facing any traffic issue," said an engineer and added that the white-topping on the stretch may take at least three months.

The road was originally selected for whitetopping, but the stakeholders and traders in the surrounding MG Road, Brigade Road and Church Street, Lavelle Road, Museum Road, Dickenson Road, Parade Road, Richmond Road, Primrose Road, Brunton Road and others expressed deep concern as the 1.5 kms stretch, which is a nerve center for Bengaluru, which has houses, shopping complexes and number of office spaces, will be deeply impacted.

"Before 2007, there were a lot of borewells near the area surrounding, like Ashoknagar Mcgrath Road and surroundings, and once the tunnelling work began, the aquifers dried up, and many borewells dried up. Now, with the underground metro for the pink line project, the groundwater is further impacted. Now, if concrete work is allowed on one of the busiest roads, not just the traffic but also the heat will increase in the surroundings," said Suhail Yusuf, Secretary, Brigade Shops and Establishments Association.

Four injured as drunk driver rams into two bikes, drags one for a km in Hyderabad

HYDERABAD. (Agency)
A car allegedly driven under the influence of liquor rammed into two motorcycles in Mailardevpally in the early hours of Monday, injuring four persons. The driver, allegedly too drunk to realise that one of the motorcycles had got wedged underneath the car, continued to drive for nearly a kilometre before being intercepted by locals at Hafizbabanagar.

According to police, the incident occurred around 2.30 am when the car driver, identified as 44-year-old Kishore, was returning after attending a function. Kishore, a bank employee, was driving a Skoda Slavia and



was accompanied by a friend in the car at the time of the incident.
Police said that upon reaching Palle Cheruvu in the Mailardevpally area, Kishore lost control of the vehicle and crashed into two motorcycles carrying four youths from Shadnagar, who were travelling towards Charminar. The impact left the riders injured and one of the motorcycles lodged underneath the car. The driver, allegedly unimpaired of the situation, continued to drive the vehicle for nearly a kilometre with the motorcycle stuck beneath it until alert locals who witnessed the incident intercepted the car at Hafizbabanagar. Police said the locals confronted the driver and realised that he was in an inebriated state. In the ensuing commotion, they allegedly thrashed him and also damaged the car before handing him over to the Mailardevpally police.

Maharashtra shuts down bike taxis again

Transport Minister says Ola, Uber and Rapido failed to meet conditions under e bike taxi policy; state to act against illegal operators

Mumbai.(Agency)
Bike taxi services will once again disappear from Maharashtra's roads after the state government revoked the provisional licences granted to aggregators Ola, Uber and Rapido, Transport Minister Pratap Sarnaik announced in the Legislative Council on Monday.

Sarnaik said the companies had been granted temporary permission for a month but failed to submit the required documents and comply with conditions under the state's e bike taxi policy. "Rapido, Ola and Uber were given permission for just a month and were required to submit certain documents. If they have not furnished the documents, their temporary licences must be revoked. We are cancelling the provisional licences so that illegal bikes do not ply on the roads," Sarnaik said.

The minister said the Maharashtra government had introduced the Maharashtra E Bike Taxi Rules 2024 to create employment opportunities for local youth and provide commuters with a cheaper travel option. In August 2024, the state cabinet permitted the operation of electric bike taxis in cities with a population of more than one lakh.

Under the policy, vehicles were required to be electric and aggregators were asked to complete all compliance requirements within 30 days before applying for permanent

licences. However, the companies allegedly continued operations without meeting the conditions. Sarnaik said a large number of bike taxis currently operating in Mumbai and the Mumbai Metropolitan Region were illegal. He added that Regional Transport Office officials had complained about a lack of cooperation



from bike taxi operators. The minister has directed authorities to register cases against vehicle owners rather than only the riders. He also said the government had received complaints related to accidents and concerns over women's safety involving bike taxi services.

According to the transport department, enforcement agencies have taken action against 130 bike taxis since April 2024 and

collected fines of more than Rs 33 lakh. The decision is the latest turn in Maharashtra's long running and often inconsistent approach to regulating bike taxis. App based operators began offering bike taxi services in cities such as Mumbai and Pune in the mid 2010s as a cheaper last mile mobility option. However, transport authorities repeatedly said privately registered motorcycles could not be used to ferry passengers commercially under existing rules. In January 2023, the state government issued a government resolution prohibiting the use of private or non transport category two wheelers for app based passenger services, effectively banning bike taxis. Despite the ban, several operators continued to run services, prompting police to register cases against some riders and aggregators.

A policy shift came in 2024 when the government decided to formally regulate the sector through an electric bike taxi framework aimed at promoting green mobility and generating employment. In 2025, the state notified the Maharashtra Bike Taxi Rules and granted provisional licences to aggregators to operate in the Mumbai Metropolitan Region, with a minimum fare of Rs 15 for the first 1.5 km and per kilometre rates based on the Khatua Committee formula used for taxis and autorickshaws.

As Iran conflict enters 10th day, a fourth of ceramic units in Gujarat's Morbi shut down amid fuel shortage

The Morbi ceramics industry runs on two types of fuel: propane and natural gas. An average of 55 lakh cubic metres of propane per day is consumed in the industry and is used by about 500 units.

Ahmedabad . (Agency)
AS THE Iran conflict entered its 10th day on Monday, a fuel shortage caused by the shutting down of the Strait of Hormuz led to nearly a quarter of the tile industry units halting production.

There has been a 50 per cent curtailment in the supply of natural gas to the ceramics industry in Gujarat's Morbi — the epicentre of the sector in India — due to fuel shortages caused by the blockade of the Strait of Hormuz enforced by Iran amid the ongoing war with the United States and Israel.

This comes in light of the already diminished propane supplies that are said to have caused a shutdown of a number of ceramic units dependent on the fuel, which mainly comes from Qatar and other Gulf nations. The Indian Express first reported on the looming crisis on March 3. The Morbi ceramics industry runs on two types of fuel: propane and natural gas. An average of 55 lakh cubic metres of propane per day is consumed in the industry and is used by about 500 units. Propane-LPG is

delivered to these units in tankers by road through Indian Oil Corporation Limited, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited, and Hindustan



Petroleum Corporation Limited, via local traders.

Consumption of natural gas is approximately 25 lakh cubic metres per day and is supplied to about 150 units by Gujarat Gas Limited, a state-run company.

Morbi is the second-largest tile manufacturing cluster in the world and accounts for about 90 per cent of India's ceramic manufacturing business. A 2024 report by the Industrial Extension Bureau (INDEXTb), a Gujarat government arm, pegged exports of ceramic tiles from India at \$2.5 billion.

Among the 125-plus countries to which India exports tiles are Saudi Arabia, Mexico, Kuwait, United Arab Emirates, Iraq, Oman, Indonesia, the United Kingdom, and Poland, with Russia and Latin America emerging as newer markets. According to the report, Morbi has more than 1,800 ceramic and tile manufacturing units.

Haresh Bopaliya, President of the Wall Tiles division of the Morbi Ceramic Manufacturers Association, told The Indian Express, "About 150 of the 650 units have shut down, but the others are still receiving supplies. The exact condition of propane stocks for industrial use is not yet certain. We should have a clearer picture in the coming days."

Holi argument turns deadly in UP: 60-year-old man from minority community shot dead

Lucknow. (Agency)
Tension erupted in a village in Uttar Pradesh's Ghazipur district after a 60-year-old man, Aas Mohammad, was shot dead on Sunday following a dispute with another family on Holi.

Police said the main accused, Pinkal Pandey (22), and a few of his associates have been detained for questioning. According to police, on March 3, Pinkal and Aas Mohammad's sons got into a fight over remarks allegedly passed by the former but it was resolved after local residents intervened.

On Holi, things came to a head as they got into another argument over throwing colours and a clash broke out between them. Police intervened and brought those involved in the matter to the police station; they were released the following day.

On Sunday, Aas Mohammad and his son were on their way to deliver food to his other sons, who work at a brick kiln. Just as they crossed Pinkal's home, he allegedly passed remarks at the victim —

triggering a heated exchange of words that escalated as several others joined the altercation. Police said that's when Pinkal suddenly ran to his house, returned with a rifle and opened fire. One of the bullets struck Aas Mohammad. He was immediately rushed to a nearby hospital, where doctors declared him dead on

arrival. Pinkal fled the spot. Aas Mohammad's family lodged a complaint and police registered an FIR against Pinkal and his four associates at Karanda police station. Ashok Kumar, Station House Officer of Karanda police station, said Pinkal's involvement came to light during their preliminary inquiry.



A resident of Chadipur village, Aas Mohammad is survived by his wife and seven children. A police team is deployed in the village, which has a mixed population, to avoid any untoward incident. Speaking to , Sonu, the victim's son, alleged Pinkal often picked fights with his family, particularly targeting the children of his elder brother, Kaleem, by passing objectionable remarks at them. He alleged that such behaviour had become frequent and had created tension in the village. "Everyone in the village was fed up with him because he kept passing remarks at people," Sonu claimed, adding that Pinkal's repeated attempts to allegedly provoke and harass others had led to several disputes in the past as well.

Circle Officer, Ghazipur, Shekhar Sengar, said police are also probing the role of Pinkal's associates who have been named in the case. The rifle allegedly used in the crime is a licenced weapon in the name of Pinkal's father, Arvind Pandey, a businessman.

BENGALURU.(Agency)
Even after spending a whopping Rs 427.43 crore, Bengaluru fails to meet prescribed air quality standards under the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP). The city had received Rs 541.1 crore under the 15th Finance Commission's Million-plus City Challenge Fund, of which 79% has been utilised so far for air-quality improvement.

Replying to a question by Bengaluru Central MP PC Mohan in the Lok Sabha, Minister of State in the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) Kirti Vardhan Singh on Monday stated that Bengaluru has been classified as a "non-attainment city" under NCAP, indicating that it has not met the prescribed national air quality standards. As part of the programme, a source apportionment study was conducted to identify major pollution sources and guide mitigation strategies.

Iran war-linked LPG shortage hits Mumbai kitchens; restaurants rethink menus, slow-cooked dishes at risk

Mumbai.(Agency)
Love that slow-cooked dal makhani or the taste of shezwan sauce at Gypsy, the decades-old Chinese institution in Dadar? It may not taste the same. Gypsy's roast chicken or Peking duck might also be taken off the menu.

Restaurateurs across Mumbai, from Nariman Point to Dahisar to Mulund, are beginning to tweak menus, shorten cooking processes and consider dropping slow-cooked items as a shortage of commercial LPG cylinders disrupts kitchens. Suppliers have linked the disruption to the conflict in the Middle East.

India is the world's second-biggest importer of LPG. It consumed 33.15 million metric tonnes of cooking gas last year. The bulk of India's LPG demand is met through imports, and over 80 per cent of these volumes come via the critical chokepoint of the Strait of Hormuz, where vessel movements have effectively come to a halt due to the West Asia conflict.

At Gypsy, whose fans include political leaders like Raj Thackeray, actor Nana Patekar and the late musical legend Lata Mangeshkar who celebrated her 75th birthday at the restaurant, the Limaye family is thinking of shortening the menu.

"We may take off items that demand prolonged use of gas, like roast chicken which needs to be cooked overnight or Peking duck. Or specialty items like Shingara sheera which needs 1.5-2 hours of cooking. For 40 years, our shezwan sauce has been made in-house but if the problem persists, we might figure out an alternative — maybe bottled shezwan sauce. My father (Rahul Limaye) is very worried about it," said Aditi Limaye Kamat, adding that despite their decades-old relationship with the gas agency, supplies have not come.

Despite spending Rs 427 crore, Bengaluru fails to meet air quality standards

BENGALURU.(Agency)
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The city's action plan focuses on road dust control, management of construction and demolition activities, decongestion of traffic junctions, greening of open spaces and medians, and promotion of clean mobility. Authorities have also deployed mechanical road sweeping machines and introduced mitigation



measures at identified pollution hotspots, Singh said. The response also added that nine high-emission zones have been identified in the city, and targeted action plans have been prepared to address pollution sources in these areas.

Maharashtra Assembly passes bills to use grazing land for public works, speed up stamp duty refunds

Amendments to Land Revenue Code and Stamp Act decentralise powers, allow use of fallow grazing land in municipal areas and raise financial limits for faster disposal of refund applications

Mumbai. (Agency)
The Maharashtra Legislative Assembly on Monday passed two key revenue related bills aimed at improving administrative efficiency and unlocking unused government land for development works.

The House cleared the Maharashtra Land Revenue Code Amendment Bill and the Maharashtra Stamp Act Amendment Bill 2026, which seek to decentralise administrative powers, enable the use of unused grazing land within municipal limits for public works and speed up the disposal of stamp duty refund cases. Introducing the bills, Revenue Minister Chandrashekar Bawankule said the amendments

would reduce delays in decision making and allow local bodies to undertake development works using government land lying idle within municipal areas. The Assembly unanimously approved the amendment to the Land Revenue Code, allowing municipal corporations and municipal councils to utilise uncultivated grazing land, known as gairan land, within their jurisdiction for public purposes.

According to the government, about 7,700 hectares of land in municipal corporation areas, around 4,000 hectares in municipal areas and

nearly 3,000 hectares in municipal council areas could be made available for development works under the new provision. Bawankule said the ownership of the land would continue to remain with the state government and

local bodies would be allowed to use it only for public interest projects after obtaining permission from the district administration. "These lands can only be used for public interest works and cannot be used for commercial purposes. They will be recorded as Collector's land and prior approval from the district collector will be mandatory," he said.

Officials said the land would first be measured and documented and encroachments, if any, would be removed before it is handed over for development

works. The Assembly also passed the Maharashtra Stamp Amendment Bill 2026, which aims to reduce the backlog of stamp duty refund applications by increasing the financial powers of authorities under the state's revenue department.

At present, under Section 52A of the Maharashtra Stamp Act 1958, authorities can grant refunds of stamp duty up to Rs 20 lakh, while cases involving higher amounts must be referred to the Chief Controlling Revenue Authority. The amendment raises the financial limits for several officials to allow more cases to be resolved at district and regional levels.



Women, mountains and a chemo ward

The first thing you notice in the 'day-care oncology unit' at IGMC is that it looks more like a modest dental clinic that has accidentally wandered into oncology. There are reclining dental chairs instead of luxe chemo recliners, IV poles that sway like deodars in a storm, and visitors who treat masks as optional accessories rather than mandatory gear. Between the antiseptic scent and the rustle of shawls, strangers become family, and this modest Himachal ward feels like a place where hope quietly drips into your veins with the chemo.

The women in this ward could each carry a novel. There is Neetu, the policewoman with cropped hair who takes her drip in uniform and worries more about pending files than white blood cell counts. And there is the daughter-in-law who quietly hides her mother-in-law's stage-4 diagnosis because she wants to gift her a few more months of an unafraid days. Around them, attendants pass steel tiffins, IV poles creak theatrically, and the beeping machines perform a hesitant background score.

My own journey as a stage-3 cancer patient began far from Shimla in the City of Angels, Los Angeles, where cancer centres resemble boutique hotels with attached coffee bars. I could have gone to Chandigarh or Delhi, of course, with their glossier reputations, but I wanted my oncology care in IGMC — close to the mountains that have held every other crisis of my life. In L.A., chemo arrives on a platter; numbing sprays are offered before injections; there are latte menus and soft, coordinated blankets. Coming from that to IGMC feels like checking into a busy rural guesthouse. The linens may not match, but someone will always find you a pillow.

One day, my very serious sounding injection appeared in the chemo ward without its usual ice accompaniment. It was the kind of injection that looks as if it was designed for cooperative cattle rather than anxious humans. The young doctor on duty studied the syringe and then looked up at me and asked, "Do you know how to put this?" As a wrong kind of doctor, I could honestly say I knew where it went, but not how it should go in. So, we did what modern medicine and patients sometimes do together: watched a quick YouTube video, nodded gravely at the instructions, and shared a laugh that was half humor, more than half prayer.

She loaded the formidable syringe. "It'll pain a little," she warned gently, in the same calm tone someone might use before saying, "Now, let's teach you how to cross the formidable Himalayas."

Not all pain here comes in syringes and drips. Getting treatment at a government hospital in the hills is an endurance sport. First, the token counter is up; the regular OPD is further up; the doctor's office is down; the chemo ward is in another building, also down; and the photocopy shop, naturally, is back up again. By lunchtime, you've done a yatra: administrative mountaineering with chemo side-effects.

Amrit Pharmacy — amrit meaning elixir — adds its own modest healing touch. In a world where bills can feel more dangerous than biopsies, it is oddly soothing to have a chemist who suggests the generic. The ward is also a place of unexpected, intimate encounters. One afternoon, an old man in his chemo session became fascinated by my broad Burberry spectacles. He gazed at them, finally asking me if he could try them on. I handed them over; he turned his head and searched for a reflection in the shiny surfaces around us. So, I flipped my phone to the camera and held it up. He peered at his reflection, and smiled at himself. For those few seconds, the chemo ward blurred out; we were just two people at an optician's shop, trying out frames. "Bohot badhiya lag raha hoon," he said. "Kahan se liye?" he asked. In that moment, the spectacles stopped being designer; they were simply borrowed vision, a tiny holiday from being a patient.

War with Iran: An Analysis

- Deepak Kumar

Today, the war between Israel and Iran has entered the middle of second week, and it has led to involvement of armies of 15 Gulf countries as well as European countries as a result thereof. On account of their small geographic areas, the Gulf countries have been made to suffer serious economic losses due to this war. If we see the history of Iran, it looks like as if it has waged a sort of holy battle against Israel, the way Ottoman Empire used to do in the earlier times. Even in that era, the European countries used to ally with the Jews against the Ottoman Empire. In the same manner, they have sided with Israel currently, isolating Iran in the process. Whether the President of Iran seeks apology or not, by attacking the Gulf countries, he has largely made this struggle as a Shia-Sunni conflict. Due to massive attacks on it, Iran is gradually getting reduced to rubble with large scale depletion of its Navy and Air Force, and its capacity to shield itself from missiles and bombs has got considerably eroded. It is precisely for this reason that despite bombarding the whole of Iran with drones, it has not been able to bring down even a single aircraft. The world should bear in mind that it is fighting against a government resting upon a fundamentalist, religious organisation which is cadre-based with a definite hierarchy. In this war, the first and second layers of their organization has got wiped out, and it is only when their third and fourth layers get erased, they will become devoid of leadership. This is what I believe in this whole case. I am of the firm opinion that, had their first and second layer leadership been existent today, they would not have attacked upon the Gulf countries, but rather would have given it the name of Islamic Jihad. The third layer of any cadre-based organisation is imbued with the feeling of religious fanaticism and the spirit of sacrifice, and it is not pragmatic in its approach. The United States has created conditions of a civil war in Iran because, in the course of bombardment, has not spared even the police squads and police pickets. When even this third layer would also get destroyed, Iran would not be left with any agency to control the law & order situation in the country. It has come to notice for the first time after the WW II that Europe and NATO countries have not stood with America on an issue. When I was in London few years back, most people used to say to me that Britain was a laggard of the United States. However, the UK has granted permission to use its military bases 48 hours after the start of the operation, and attack on its bases located in Cyprus by Iran. Today, it has signaled to send its aircraft carrier to the region. German Chancellor, Friedrich Merz, though met President Trump in Washington, just 4 days after the launch of the attack, he has not pledged any military support to Iran in the joint statement except denouncing Iran. Currently, as a result of the policies of Trump, within just a period of one-and-half years, both

Europe and NATO countries have made a distance from the US. It must be certainly being felt by the American people as well as President Trump that whether their country is at all heading towards the direction of "Make America Great Again" or, contrary to that, it is getting isolated. Clearly, new international equations are getting created which will give rise to more American competitors. Prior to the Russia-Ukraine War, the European countries used to import 27% of their requirement of oil from Russia, but now they do so only 3%. Their alternative source for Russia is America or the Gulf countries. Hence, military attachments, including fighter aircrafts and warships, of UK, France, Italy, Netherlands and Spain are moving towards the Middle-East, that is, region where Qatar, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Oman, UAE, Cyprus, Lebanon, Kuwait, Iraq and Jordan are located.



Although these European countries have claimed that they want to provide the air defence to the Gulf countries, but the fact of the matter is, indirectly, they too have become a part of the Gulf War for the reason that almost all European countries have a security treaty with the Arab countries, the latter being supplier of oil to them. The stance of the European countries will be of great help to US-Israel combined in form of providing defence from the Iranian missiles attack. The attack launched by Iran on Azerbaijan has been perhaps because it also sells oil to Europe. Hamas and Hizbollah used to be very strong organisations who fought for the Palestinian cause, but both of them owing to their misdeeds are on the verge of getting petered out. These organisations shall not be getting any support from the Lebanese Government which they had been getting all this time. The Lebanese Government has asked Hizbollah to lay down its arms. This will, in fact, be for the good of the people of Lebanon because, in future, no militant group shall be to thrive ever after. However, as a result of their wrongdoings, a beautiful city like Lebanon has also got destroyed, in the process on. The US-Iran War is going to have a deleterious effect on the economy of our country because we buy around US \$70-75 billion worth crude oil from the Middle-East. As a result of the war and incidental losses to the Gulf countries, it is not possible that they would be at all able to provide a continuous supply of this much quantity to us. Apart from this, we also import LNG

worth US \$13.2 billion, including fertilizers, diamonds, industrial raw material, limestone, metals, etc. Only recently, the cost of LPG cylinders in India has gone up by Rs. 60, and it is quite probable that the price of the petrol would be also hiked soon. The other hand some state government declare barred on commercial used of gas. Pakistan, with the help of China, has developed Gwadar Port, which is a naval and commercial base, and in order to counter it, the Indian Government had been developing the Chabahar Port in which we had made an investment of US \$500 million, but during the course of this war, due to the attack by the US Forces, this port has got completely devastated. Pakistan had closed its airspace to us due which our aircrafts used to reach Central Asia and CIS countries via Afghanistan and Iran. Now, this also has come to an end. As a result of the current situation, our airlines will be required to incur more costs on fuel, and the passengers will have to double up extra fare as well as put up with additional flying hours. Prior to trade deal with the US, it was a precondition of America that India stops buying oil from Russia. We had accepted their stipulation unofficially as a consequence of which import of oil from Russia has reached at 0.2% level, from the earlier 20%. But, owing to the prevailing war, Russia has again offered us to sell oil, which we have accepted. Concurrently, the US too has allowed us to purchase oil from Russia for another one month. The situation confronting

us will assume more serious dimensions in the coming times. Presently, the US has launched attack on the oil refineries of Iran as well as its oil wells which comprise the backbone of the country's economy. This way, Iran would not be able to export oil and its economy will be able to reach to its present level only after many decades. Another news that is trickling in is that the United States is going to press in its Parachute Battalion which will undertake ground operations. In the same way, it wants to lay siege upon the Uranium deposits lying with the Iran so that the eventuality of making a nuclear bomb by the country in future is preempted. In these conditions, the Indian Government should strive to ensure that the oil reserves, which it usually keeps for 70 days, should be ramped up to meet our 4-months requirement. Since last some years, the role of our media has been to spread panic among the people. Today, our television anchors do not read out the news but rather shout like drumbeats. Consequently, on the one hand, people lose faith in the media, the morale of our security forces comes down, on the other. A war comes with its grimness and attendant consequences, and it is not like an electric switch that can be used to put on or off a light, at will. To the best of my knowledge, the history of Iranian people has been of belligerency. In fact, the first empire of the world was the Persian Empire, often referred to as Ahmadiyya Empire. Iran waged a battle for about 8 years with Iraq in the 1980s before emerg-

ing out victorious. The Muslim community is a blind follower. They act first and think later, and to kill somebody is a part of their sacred rituals. Hence, they lack humanness compared to the followers of the other religions. Nevertheless, the war which Iran is waging currently with America is more for its survival rather than for defence. And, whatever news that is coming is either from the American media or from the Gulf countries. Army generals have a different priority for achieving their targets; they do not work upon their priorities by what is circulating in the media. So, propagating news that Trump or America has lost and Iran has won, is laughable. It also shows the lack of seriousness and maturity on the part of our media. It is being widely spread in media that 3 US fighter aircrafts were shot down and 6 American soldiers were killed. It should be acknowledged that commanding such a large force along with a huge area (spanning 4 lakh sq. miles) comes with its own limitations. Hence, mistakes do occur, but the consequences of these mistakes is borne by the army and the public. Even we also have committed similar types of mistakes in the wars fought by us. As a case in point, we lost 20 jawans in the 2020 Galwan clashes. So, if the US and Iran are waging such a large-scale war, then losing six of their soldiers should not mean that "America has lost the war". In my opinion, the media should act more responsibly. It is true that on an international level, the Muslim community is faced with many serious political problems in major countries. But solution to these problems is only political, and not a war whether it be the case of India-Pakistan, Palestinian issue, Afghanistan conundrum, or for that matter, the infighting between the Arab factions. All of these groups have fought many times without any result, and the problem remains as it is. In order to promote their interests, extremist groups have sprung up in these countries who wage violence in the whole of the world. Remarkably, the local Muslim organizations of these regions have never castigated the activities of these terrorist groups, not even as a tokenism. When the political leaders are questioned personally in the matter, they reply that there is nothing wrong in what is happening. So many terrorist attacks occur in our country, but the Muslim people, or their organisations, never take up to streets to decry their nefarious acts. Terrorist organisations like Hezbollah (Lebanon), Hamas (Gaza), Houthis (Yemen), Kata'ib Hezbollah (Iraq), Palestinian Islamic Jihad (Gaza), Iraqi Shiite Militas (Iraq), Marakat Al-Nujaba (Iraq), Asaib Ahl Al-Haq (Iraq), Syrian Regime Militants (Syria), Al-Ashtar Brigades, Saraya Al Mukhtar, Bahraini, etc. have not only carried out extremist activities against America and Israel but also have attacked trade routes and ships faring in high seas after which they celebrate themselves. These terrorists even used to commit atrocities like gang rapes of non-Muslim girls and film the act, and no Muslim cleric has condemned these acts. For this reason, I wrote earlier that Muslims, in general, are devoid of any human touch.

Universe: Dalai Lama's warning on war as spectacle

— A civilisation is tested not only by how powerfully it can strike, but by whether it can remain human while force is used in its name

War no longer comes to us first as testimony, dispatch, or the delayed stillness of a newspaper photograph. It comes as a video. Missiles streak across the night in luminous arcs. Interceptors rise to meet them. Screens fill with light. Experts discuss range, payload, and deterrence. We watch. We scroll. And somewhere, almost beneath notice, the moral fibres begin to fray. The Dalai Lama begins elsewhere. Not with strategy, borders, or the language of enemies, but with something simpler and harder to evade: every human being wants happiness and does not want suffering. So do the soldier, the civilian, the refugee, the prime minister. Forget that, and war becomes easier to narrate than to feel.

What modern warfare has perfected is not only reach but remoteness from ordinary experience. The more precise it becomes, the less bodily it seems. A missile launched hundreds of kilometres away, guided by algorithms, appears on screen almost as an abstraction. One sees light, velocity, and impact. One does not smell burning concrete. One does not hear the silence after the blast. One does not sit beside the mother who cannot wake her child. Destruction expands. Felt encounter recedes. The Dalai Lama's language of compassion speaks directly to this condition. He does not use the word to mean softness or sentiment. He means training the mind: the effort required to keep another's suffering in view when modern life invites us to look away, simplify, or move on.

War now reaches us through several filters: first as spectacle, then as analysis, then as market signal. A strike lands and, before the dead are counted, attention shifts to oil prices, shipping lanes, inflation, and defence stocks. Human suffering arrives late, often as a number. And numbers do not bleed. His Holiness has long put the obscenity in plain view. Nations, he says, spend trillions on armaments in the name of security, when the same money could fund hospital beds, schools, and homes.

Such waste does not merely prolong poverty and disease. It squanders human intelligence itself. War, in his words, is not glamorous but monstrous, like a fire in the human community whose fuel is living beings. Peace, then, cannot mean only the absence of conflict. It must mean a world in which people are fed, cared for, and free.

We watch interceptors rise into the night in clean arcs of light, and the eye adjusts too easily to the beauty of the image. Each interceptor can cost around Rs 50 lakh, enough to provide hundreds of thousands of school meals in India. Some of the most advanced interceptors cost well over Rs 100 crore each, at more than the cost of building a new Kendriya Vidyalaya. None of this means states have no right to defend themselves. The Dalai Lama himself has never taken refuge in easy innocence. He has opposed violence in all its forms consistently, yet he has also acknowledged the tragic complexity of life. I was present at an Amnesty International event on capital punishment during his visit to Oslo for the Nobel Peace Prize. He firmly rejected capital punishment. But he also introduced a demanding Buddhist nuance. He recounted a traditional story of a caravan crossing the Tibetan plateau, where it is discovered that thieves intend to murder the travellers. A compassionate monk decides to kill them rather than allow many others to die, fully prepared to take upon himself the negative karma of the act. The point was not to carve out an easy exception. It was to illuminate the moral seriousness of intention in Buddhist thought. Because karma is shaped above all by motivation, an act undertaken in complete altruism and without hatred would not carry the same moral weight as ordinary violence. Yet that very possibility sets an almost-impossibly-high bar. It is no doctrine for states or armies, all of whom can too easily claim necessity while acting from fear, self-interest, or delusion. The story is less a justification of violence than a warning: how easily

human beings mistake self-deception for compassion.

Language of war

That nuance has largely vanished from the public language of war. Wars are announced as necessary, righteous, existential. Every escalation is regrettable but unavoidable. Every civilian death is tragic but collateral. The moral burden disappears beneath rhetoric.



What drives wars in the first place? We speak of nations, but wars are often shaped by the ambitions and insecurities of particular leaders: the need for legitimacy, the urge to appear strong, the temptation to distract from domestic failure or legal jeopardy. Private motives are dressed up as national interest. Ordinary people are then asked to die inside narratives they did not author.

We ask who won when we ought to ask what winning did to the winner. Militarised budgets entrench themselves. Security-state habits deepen. Public scrutiny contracts. Violence coarsens political culture. And defeat? Humiliation settles into memory. It seeds the next cycle.

The Dalai Lama's response to history is instructive. Tibet was independent before 1950, yet it does not demand the restoration of a lost empire. He asks for genuine autonomy, human rights and authentic preservation of its rich civilisational heritage. He understands that memory can dignify a people, but when used as a weapon, it keeps resentment alive. One cannot build a future by sacralising grievance. For more than six decades, he has led Tibetan resistance through non-violence despite the genocide of its people, Chinese occupation and exile. Tibet remains unfree. He has won no territory and freed no prisoners. Yet he has preserved what conquest seeks to erase: a people's moral identity, civilisational continuity, and the legitimacy of their cause. I remember being with him in the Kullu valley decades ago when news reached us of a brutal Chinese assault on Tibetans inside Tibet. This was before the age of instant video. Reports arrived in fragments. I saw how deeply shaken he was, moved to tears for his people. What stayed with me was the revelation that spiritual realisation had not made him less vulnerable to suffering, but more open to it, and yet more inwardly composed: as responsive to the beauty of a bud unfolding as to the anguish of his people, and to the suffering woven through the lives of all sentient beings. Enlightenment is not anaesthesia. It is tenderness disciplined by wisdom. He did not turn Tibetan suffering into political theatre. He did not use it to consolidate personal power. The Chinese state tried to frame Tibet as merely "the Dalai Lama issue". His response moved in the opposite direction. He had already begun democratising the Tibetan polity in exile, and in 2011, he voluntarily relinquished his formal political authority, transferring leadership to democratically elected institutions.

Mother fights off leopard to save son in UP's Moradabad

Moradabad (UP). (Agency)

A mother risked her life to rescue her three-year-old son from the jaws of a leopard in Moradabad, police said.

The incident took place around 8 pm on Tuesday in Taraf Daltal village under the Thakurdwara police station area. Ravi Kumar's house is located close to forests and sugarcane fields. His three-year-old son Moksh Kumar, also known as Titu, was playing outside with his mother Pinki and his elder brother.

Unnoticed by the family, a leopard was hiding in a nearby sugarcane field. As the child moved slightly ahead, the animal suddenly attacked and clamped its jaws around the boy's neck, dragging him toward the dark fields. Hearing her child's desperate cries, Pinki rushed outside. Despite the terrifying sight, she did not hesitate. She grabbed a thick sugarcane stalk lying nearby and began striking the leopard repeatedly on the head and body.

The sudden counterattack startled the animal. After several blows, the leopard released the child and fled into the forest.

The child sustained severe injuries in the attack. The leopard chewed off half of his ear and inflicted deep wounds on his head and neck. Villagers rushed the injured boy to Sahota Hospital in Kashipur, where doctors provided initial treatment and said he required urgent neuro and plastic surgery.

He was later referred to a higher medical center in New Delhi.

J&K disengages 3 Jal Shakti employees over alleged anti-national activities

Srinagar. (Agency)

The Jammu and Kashmir government has disengaged three employees of the Jal Shakti Department over their alleged involvement in anti-national and subversive activities, officials said on Tuesday.

The employees include Liyaqat Ali Bhagwan, a need-based casual labourer (NBCL) and a resident of Bhagwan Mohalla, Huller in Kishtwar district; Kousar Hussain Bhagwan, also an NBCL, resident of Hunjala in Kishtwar district; and Showkat Ahmad Zargar, a daily rated wagger (DRW) from Iqbal Mohalla, Bijbehara in Anantnag district.

According to separate government orders issued by Financial Commissioner (ACS), Jal Shakti Department, Shaleen Kabra, on March 9, the action was taken in the interest of administration following references from the Home Department and the registration of criminal cases against the individuals under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA).

As per the orders, Liyaqat Bhagwan has been named in an FIR registered under various sections of the UAPA, which relate to allegations of involvement in terrorist acts, conspiracy to commit terrorist acts, harbouring terrorists and membership or support of a terrorist organisation.

Officials said after completion of the investigation, a chargesheet was filed under the Act and the case is currently under trial. Similarly, Kousar Bhagwan has also been named in the same FIR registered under various provisions of the UAPA for alleged involvement in terrorist activities and related offences.

Chronic Kidney Diseases have doubled in the past decade in India: Expert

Hamirpur (HP). (Agency)

Kidney disease is causing a silent epidemic in the country, with India having the highest number of renal patients in the world, health experts warned, pointing out that cases of Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) have doubled in the past decade in India and Himachal Pradesh due to rising diabetes, hypertension, and obesity.

Sharing insight on this issue after addressing a seminar on "Agony of CKD" organised by the Chamba-based Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru Government Medical College on the occasion of World Kidney Day, Principal Investigator of the Association of Studies for Kidney Care, Dr Naresh Purohit, said that CKD accounts for 2-3% of all deaths in India, with approximately 1.5-2 lakh deaths annually.

"Kidneys play a vital role in filtering waste and excess fluids from the blood, maintaining electrolyte balance, and regulating blood pressure. However, if left untreated, kidney diseases can lead to severe complications, including kidney failure," he said.

Noted epidemiologist Dr Purohit pointed out that around two lakh diabetes cases, along with hypertension, account for 70 per cent of CKD cases. While high blood sugar levels damage the blood vessels in the kidneys, a similar condition is caused by uncontrolled high blood pressure. He stressed the importance of lifestyle management for kidney health. He advised people to maintain hydration, adopt a balanced diet, monitor blood pressure and blood sugar levels, limit alcohol consumption, quit smoking, exercise regularly, manage stress, and undergo routine check-ups.

Advisor, Pradhan Mantri National Dialysis Programme (PMNDP), said that kidney disease can affect anyone and often progresses silently.

Rs 1,000 scheme for women: Opp frustrated, knows AAP returning to power in 2027, says Mann

Chandigarh. (Agency)

The opposition parties are frustrated at the announcement of Rs 1,000 per month financial assistance for women and it reflects their fear of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) returning to power in Punjab in 2027, Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann Monday said.

Winding up the debate on the motion of thanks to the Governor's address in the Vidhan Sabha, Mann alleged that while the Shiromani Akali Dal, BJP and Congress repeatedly betrayed the public by reneging on their election promises, the AAP government treated its manifesto as a "sacred commitment" and fulfilled every guarantee in just four years.

Mann said there was a time when no one even read election manifestos because traditional parties released them merely as a formality a few days before elections. "Traditional parties used to fill the manifestos with discussions on religion and caste, but AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal made a historic initiative by placing quality health and education for the common people at the centre of the manifesto," Mann said.

Before announcing the Mukh Mantri Mavaan Dhian Yojna, the AAP government had already fulfilled other promises including free electricity,

free bus travel for women, and free treatment with up to Rs 10 lakh health insurance. He also claimed that 63,943 youths have been recruited in four years. Under the Mukh Mantri Mavaan Dhian Yojna, women aged above 18 from the



general category will receive Rs 1,000 per month, while women from the Scheduled Caste category will receive Rs 1,500 per month as financial assistance."

For ordinary people, especially the poor, Rs 1,000-Rs 1,500 is a significant amount. This amount is a mark of respect for mothers and daughters, and the smile on women's faces due to this scheme gives me great satisfaction," he said, adding registration for the scheme will begin on April 13, he said.

Mann further said that under the Meri Rasoi scheme, 40 lakh families will receive sugar, pulses, mustard oil and salt in their ration, and a budget of Rs 1,000 crore has been allocated for this scheme.

The CM made the remarks when Congress members were not present in the House. The Congress had earlier staged a walkout to protest against Speaker Kultar Singh Sandhwan for not allowing a Zero Hour during the session.

Continuing to highlight his government's achievements, Mann said people's trust in 881 'Aam Aadmi Clinics' continues to grow, and the number of OPD visits has crossed a record 5 crore. He reminded the House about the 'Mukh Mantri Sehat Yojna' which offers cashless treatment up to Rs 10 lakh per family. "Around 900 government and private hospitals have been empanelled under this scheme. Even in developed countries like Canada, people have to pay insurance premiums for healthcare, but in Punjab, treatment is being provided free of cost," he said. The chief minister said medical colleges will be set up in Lehrgaga, Sangrur, Malerkotla, Hoshiarpur and Kapurthala to provide quality health services to people. He said that since 2022, as many as 934 doctors had been recruited for government hospitals.

Himachal Govt to transfer school uniform funds directly to students' bank accounts

Shimla. (Agency)

Himachal Pradesh Directorate of Elementary Education has directed all district authorities to ensure the direct transfer of school uniform funds to eligible students under the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) system for the academic session 2025-26.

According to instructions issued to all Deputy Directors of School Education (Elementary), an amount of Rs 600 per student has been sanctioned for girls and boys belonging to Scheduled Caste (SC), Scheduled Tribe (ST), and Below Poverty Line (BPL) categories studying in Classes I to VIII.

The benefit would be provided to students studying in all government schools except PM SHRI Schools, in accordance with guidelines issued by the Government of India.

Officials said the required funds have already been released to district-level accounts based on the demands submitted by them. Deputy Directors have been directed to ensure that the sanctioned amount is credited directly into the bank accounts of eligible students.

In cases where students do not have bank accounts, the amount would be transferred to the bank account of the student's mother.

The state government has adopted the DBT mechanism following repeated complaints regarding delays and lack of quality control in the supply of school uniforms. Under the revised system, students will receive the uniform allowance, which also includes stitching costs, allowing families to procure uniforms according to their requirements.

To ensure smooth implementation, districts have been instructed to launch a special drive to open bank accounts for students from Classes I to VIII who do not yet have one.

Authorities have been asked to complete the transfer of funds within one month from the date of release at the state level so that students can receive the allowance before the commencement of the new academic session.

After completing the disbursement process, district offices would be required to submit a utilisation certificate to the Directorate within one week.

'Trauma, emergency services top priority'

Chandigarh. (Agency)

With over two decades of experience at Government Medical College and Hospital (GMCH-32), Dr Ravneet Kaur has taken charge as the new Director-Principal of the institution. A senior faculty member from the Department of Blood Transfusion, Dr Kaur claims her immediate focus will be on strengthening trauma and emergency services, which are witnessing a sharp rise in patient numbers.

Having been associated with GMCH-32 for around 25 years, Dr Kaur says she has seen GMCH-32 evolve over the years and is familiar with its strengths and areas where there is scope for improvement. According to Dr Kaur, several colleagues and staff members have expressed confidence that her leadership will bring positive changes that will ultimately benefit patients. "The increasing number of

patients is not really in our ambit. But we can certainly work together to ensure better care and facilities with the available resources and staff support," says Dr Kaur.

One of the first areas she plans to focus on is the trauma and emergency department, where patient numbers have been rising in recent months. "As we witnessed on Holi evening, when several emergency cases arrived at the same time. We all had to put our heads and hands together to manage the situation. I was in the hospital for many hours along with the team," she said.

According to hospital officials, festive occasions and weekends often bring a spike in trauma cases, road accidents, and other medical emergencies. This places additional pressure on emergency services and requires coordinated efforts from doctors, nurses, and support staff.

Dr Kaur says that the experience highlighted the need to strengthen emergency preparedness and ensure that the hospital team can respond efficiently during peak hours. GMCH-32, one of the major



Emergency and Trauma Block at Government Medical College & Hospital, Sector 32, Chandigarh, was inaugurated in August last year, and it is the largest in the region. In just over two months, the new block is witnessing almost a three times increase in patients from across the region, overburdening the healthcare staff and the facilities here. With more than 100 per cent occupancy, with around 300 patients daily, the system is facing a lot of pressure, and as per experts, till health services are improved on the periphery, and the system of referrals is executed, government hospitals in Chandigarh will face this unprecedented rush and no matter how many beds are increased, there will always be a need for trolleys, especially in the emergency and trauma departments of the hospitals.

Assam Receiving New Railway Strength Under the Leadership of Prime Minister Modi Commitment to Connect Every Corner of the Northeast

The Sikh Times

Maligaon, 10th March: For decades, the railway story of Assam and the Northeast was marked by limited connectivity and slow progress. Difficult geographical conditions, limited investment, and incomplete projects remained major obstacles to the region's development. However, this situation is now changing rapidly. Under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Assam and the entire Northeast have emerged as a key focus of India's railway transformation, opening new avenues of modern connectivity, safety, and economic opportunities. The most visible sign of this transformation can be seen in the railway budget allocation. During 2009-14, the average annual railway budget allocation for Assam and the Northeast was around Rs. 2,122 crore. This has increased to Rs.11,486 crore in 2026-27, nearly a fivefold increase. This growth reflects not only higher investment but also the Central Government's strong commitment towards the development of the region. This significant investment is accelerating large-scale railway transformation in Assam and the Northeast. Currently, railway projects worth over Rs.72,468 crore are progressing at various stages in the region. These include construction of new railway lines, station modernization, and several important safety-related initiatives. To enhance passenger experience, 60 railway stations in Assam and the Northeast are being redeveloped under the

Amrit Bharat Station Scheme. With an estimated investment of about Rs.2,101 crore, these stations are being upgraded with modern passenger amenities, improved accessibility, contemporary design, and digital facilities. Among them, the redevelopment work of Haibargaon station has already been com-



pleted. Railway network expansion has also gained remarkable momentum. Since 2014, nearly 1,900 kilometres of new railway lines have been constructed in Assam and the Northeast. This expansion is greater than the entire railway network of Sri Lanka. Railway electrification has also witnessed unprecedented progress. States such as Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Tripura, and Mizoram have achieved 100 percent electrification, while Assam is also close to achieving full electrification. To ensure safer and

smoother travel, 502 rail flyovers and underpasses have been constructed, reducing issues related to level crossings and ensuring safer movement for passengers and vehicles. Significant progress has also been made in railway safety. India's indigenous 'Kavach' Automatic Train Protection System is being implemented in Assam and the Northeast.

While approval has been granted for the same in 1,197 route kilometres, work and tendering processes are currently underway for 235 route kilometres. Modern train services have also been expanded to improve connectivity. The region now operates advanced train services such as Vande Bharat Express, Vande Bharat

Sleeper Express, and Amrit Bharat Express, providing faster, safer, and more comfortable rail connectivity between the Northeast and the rest of the country. In continuation of these efforts, the Hon'ble Prime Minister will dedicate and launch several important railway projects and train services for Assam. These initiatives aim not only to make travel easier but also to accelerate the region's economy, trade, tourism, and social development. The Prime Minister will lay the foundation stone for the Furkating-Tinsukia

Doubling Project (194 km), which is considered highly important for Upper Assam. After completion, the doubling of this line will increase train capacity on the route and ensure smoother movement of both passenger and freight trains. The foundation stone will also be laid for a POH Workshop at Bashbari, which will be used for the maintenance and repair of railway coaches and wagons. Development of such modern maintenance facilities in the Northeast will significantly improve railway operational efficiency. In addition, the electrification of the 558 km Rangiya-Murkongselek railway line, the 571 km Chaparmukh-Dibrugarh railway line, and the 315 km Badarpur-Silchar and Badarpur-Churairabi railway lines will be dedicated to the nation. Furthermore, three new train services will also be flagged off: Kamakhya - Charlapalli Amrit Bharat Express, Guwahati-New Jalpaiguri Express, and Narangi-Agartala Express. These services will further strengthen connectivity between Assam and other parts of the country, boosting trade, tourism, and social interaction. Today, Assam and the entire Northeast are witnessing a new railway revolution. This transformation goes beyond the expansion of tracks and trains; it represents new economic opportunities, regional development, and stronger national integration. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Indian Railways is building a robust and modern transport network that will play a crucial role in realizing the vision of "Viksit Northeast - Viksit Bharat."

Man held for killing 5-year-old cousin to teach his mother 'lesson'

The Sikh Times

New Delhi: A 22-year-old man has been arrested for allegedly strangling his 5-year-old cousin and slitting his throat to "teach the boy's mother a lesson" over frequent disputes with her husband, officials said on Saturday. The accused has been identified as Ravi Kumar, a labourer who sold fish by the roadside, they said. "A PCR call was received at 12.20 pm on March 5 reporting that the body of a five-year-old child with sharp injuries on the neck had been found in an under-construction building in Mohan Garden, about 50 yards from his house," a senior police officer said. The victim's father, Pachu Mahto, told the police that his son had been missing since March 3, and Ravi Kumar had first noticed the body around noon on March 5. Initially, Mahto suspected his wife of having killed their son as she had recently left the house following family disputes. Police analysed her call detail records and traced her to Chhapra in Bihar, where she was questioned. She denied any involvement and said she had left home due to frequent quarrels. Investigators later analysed CCTV footage from the area and spoke to local vendors and shopkeepers. The footage showed the child last seen with Ravi Kumar at around 3.24 pm on March 3, raising suspicion against him, officials said. He told the police that he was angry at the boy's mother over frequent disputes with his maternal uncle (her husband) and wanted to teach her a lesson. On March 3, after consuming alcohol, he took the child to an under-construction building, pushed him to the ground and strangled him. He then slit the boy's throat with a kitchen knife, police said. He covered the body with a jacket and left the spot. Two days later, he returned to the building under the pretext of collecting firewood, brought the body to his house and falsely told family members that the child had been found dead there, they said. A post-mortem examination of the child was conducted at Sanjay Gandhi Memorial Hospital on March 6, and a case under Section 103(1) (murder) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita was registered.

UPGRADATION OF LHB COACHES
Tender No.: M-249-RSP-2025-26, DRG-26. Dated: 05-03-2026. E-Tender are invited by the undersigned for the following work:
Name of Work: Upgradation of Toilets for 150 (ICF-30 & LHB-120) coaches at C & W Workshop, N.F. Railway, New Bongaigaon.
Advised Value: ₹18,20,67,026.40/-
Earnest Money: ₹10,60,300/-
Date & time of closing of tender at 15:00 hrs. on 17-03-2026. For complete information above e-tender will be available in website <http://www.ireps.gov.in>
CWM, New Bongaigaon
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
Serving Customers With A Smile

MECHANIZED CLEANING CONTRACT
Bid Number: GEM/2026/B/726723, Dated: 05-03-2026. E-tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following work. Item Category: Custom Bid for Services - Mechanized Cleaning Contract of Alipurduar Jn. Railway Station and Its Circulating Area for a period of Four Years (1461 Days). Estimated Bid Value: ₹3,80,96,639/- EMD Amount: ₹3,40,500/- Bid End Date/Time: 27-03-2026 at 13:00 hrs. Bid Opening Date/Time: 27-03-2026 at 13:30 hrs. The above tender Notice has already uploaded in the website <https://gem.gov.in>
Sr. DME/Diesel, Siliguri Jn.
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
Serving Customers with a smile

COMPREHENSIVE ANNUAL MAINTENANCE CONTRACT
E-Tender Notice No.: 125-SGUD-AMC-EOT-2026; Dated: 05-03-2026. E-tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following work.
Name of Work: Comprehensive Annual Maintenance contract of 05 Nos. Different make EOT Cranes at Diesel Loco Shed/ Siliguri Junction for a period of 03 years. Tender Value: ₹29,41,911.76. Bid Security: ₹58,900.00; E-Tender will be closed at 15:00 hrs. on 27-03-2026 and Opened at 15:30 hrs. on 27-03-2026. The complete information with the tender document of above e-tender will be available upto 15:30 hrs. of 27-03-2026 in website <http://www.Gem.gov.in>
Sr. DME/Diesel, Siliguri Jn.
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
Serving Customers with a smile

How Iran war is forcing restaurants in Mumbai, Bengaluru, Chennai to shut

New Delhi.(Agency)

The shockwaves of a war being fought around 3,000 km away in Iran are now being felt in India's kitchens and by hotels and restaurants that rely heavily on commercial LPG cylinders. The ripple effect of the Iran conflict and the effective closure of the Strait of Hormuz, a global energy chokepoint, has led to an LPG cooking gas crunch. Over the past few days, videos have emerged of serpentine queues outside LPG agencies. But the crisis is being felt even more sharply by restaurants and hotels in Bengaluru, Chennai, Mumbai and Lucknow.

Behind the crisis is a stark reality -- India imports over 60% of its domestic LPG requirement, and nearly 85-90% of these imports pass through the Strait of Hormuz, making supplies vulnerable. India consumes around 31 million tonnes of LPG annually. Out of this, 87% is used in the domestic sector for households, while the remaining

share goes to hotels and restaurants.

WHY ARE HOTELS THE WORST AFFECTED?

With the conflict now entering its second week, the disruption in the supply of commercial cylinders has started to impact the hospitality sector. It has raised a worrying prospect. Your humble vada pav or masala dosa could soon become costlier, or temporarily disappear from menus if the supply crunch continues. A key reason behind this is the fact that the hospitality sector depends heavily on commercial LPG for daily kitchen operations, as a majority of restaurants lack alternatives such as PNG connectivity or large-scale electric cooking systems. This has affected the operations of eateries not only across metro cities but also in areas like Pune and Puducherry.

MUMBAI RESTAURANTS STARE AT SHUTDOWN

The crisis is acute in Mumbai. AHAR, which

is the Mumbai Hotels Association, has stated that around 20% of hotels and restaurants have already shut down. It has warned that up to 50% of hotels could shut within the next two days if supplies do not improve.

Already, eateries in popular areas like Dadar and Andheri have begun shortening their menus. Operating hours are also being curtailed to conserve remaining stocks.

One possible factor behind the LPG crunch being faced by restaurants could be the government's move to prioritise cooking gas supplies for households. On Monday, the Centre invoked the Essential Commodities Act to ensure an uninterrupted supply of domestic cooking gas. Moreover, LPG meant for non-domestic use is being prioritised for essential sectors such as hospitals and educational institutions. Restaurant owners have claimed that commercial LPG supplies have largely



stopped since Sunday.

BENGALURU ALSO IMPACTED

The situation is not much different in Karnataka's IT hub, Bengaluru. The Bangalore Hotels Association has said operations across the city were likely to be affected starting March 10.

The association said the sudden stoppage was a "big blow" despite previous assurances from oil companies that supply wouldn't be affected for around 70 days.

Bengaluru's iconic Vidyarthi Bhavan, a famous breakfast joint, now appears to be staring at a shutdown. "As of now, I have five gas cylinders left, which might last until tomorrow afternoon. After that, if I don't have gas, I will have to shut down. I have already put off two tawas to conserve gas," the owner of Vidyarthi Bhavan told.

CHENNAI FACES DEPLETING LPG STOCKS

The story is the same in Tamil Nadu, with several restaurants in Chennai being forced to close shop. "Commercial LPG distributors have completely stopped supplying cylinders, stating that they have no stock available.

As a result, many restaurants are forced to shut down," the Chennai Hotel Association said in a letter to Petroleum Minister Hardeep Puri. The popular Hotel Annapoorna has decided to reduce its menu offerings and has reduced its operations.

Strait of Hormuz crisis: India mulls escorting stuck ships amid mounting tensions

New Delhi.(Agency)

A number of ships in the Strait of Hormuz region have been struck as tensions between Iran and Israel-US alliance continues to mount.

What's being discussed

Keeping in view the volatile situation, the government is mulling escorting Indian-flagged ships out of the crisis-hit Strait of Hormuz region as maritime traffic through one of the world's most critical oil routes faces disruptions, a senior maritime regulator told Hindustan Times. The ships are adhering to upgraded safety protocols, including increased frequency of reporting to authorities. All 36 Indian-flagged vessels which are at present in and around the strait and adjoining waters are safe and have adequate provisions on board, but none has been able to transit the area till now, said PC Meena, deputy director general (crew) at the Directorate General of Shipping, told the news outlet.

Meena, who leads the government's core response team monitoring the situation, added that high-level discussions ongoing and various options being considered to help them safely navigate out of the area, including the option to escort India-flagged vessels out of the region. However, he pointed out that things are yet to be finalised.

As the war escalated, Iran sounded a warning that tankers in the Strait of Hormuz will be attacked. Strait of Hormuz is a narrow maritime corridor that carries around a quarter of the world's seaborne crude oil trade. Iran's action is disrupting traffic through this route.

What's the core group working on

The government's core group is monitoring the situation. It will submit situational reports after every three hours besides "developments observed and the condition and location of affected seafarers", as per an order of shipping ministry.

Viral claim says QR code on Class 12 maths paper redirects to Rick Astley video, CBSE responds

New Delhi.(Agency)

A claim about a QR code on a Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) Class 12 mathematics exam paper has sparked buzz online. Screenshots of the question paper began circulating on social media shortly after the exam was conducted on March 9.

CBSE rickrolled students?

According to several students, scanning the QR code printed on the paper redirected them to the music video for Never Gonna Give You Up by Rick Astley. The unexpected link effectively "rickrolled" those who tried scanning it, leading to surprise and amusement across the internet. The claim gained traction, particularly on online communities such as Reddit, where students shared screenshots and reactions.

However, it remains unclear whether the QR code on all versions of the exam paper led to the same link or if the viral image represents a single or limited instance. Because of this uncertainty, the episode currently sits somewhere between an exam-day curiosity and an internet rumour.

Rickrolling

The viral claim revolves around the concept of rickrolling, a long-running internet prank in which people are tricked into opening the music video for the 1987 pop hit instead of the content they expected to see. The meme first emerged in the mid-2000s and has since become one of the most recognisable online jokes, frequently resurfacing across social media platforms.

As images of the CBSE Class 12 question paper circulated online, many students responded with disbelief and humour. In one Reddit discussion thread about the alleged incident, a user wrote, "The Central Board of Secondary Education, India Rickrolled 2.5 million students by printing a Youtube QR code on the Maths question paper."

However, it remains unclear whether the QR code on all versions of the exam paper led to the same link or if the viral image represents a single or limited instance. Because of this uncertainty, the episode currently sits somewhere between an exam-day curiosity and an internet rumour.

Centre Planning Women's Reservation From 2029 Polls: Sources

New Delhi.(Agency)

The Centre is exploring options to expedite the implementation of women's reservation in Parliament and state assemblies, with a constitutional amendment potentially arriving in the current session, sources have said.

Amid growing concerns over delays, the Modi government aims to ensure the 33 per cent quota is operational in time for the 2029 Lok Sabha elections. While the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam of 2023 originally linked the reservation to the completion of the census and subsequent delimitation process, the government is now considering decoupling these

requirements. Since the cabinet only approved the two-phase digital census in December 2025, the standard timeline for population counting and



the formation of a delimitation commission would likely push the implementation beyond 2029. Current estimates suggest the census may

not be finalised until March 2027, followed by several years of redrawing constituency boundaries.

To avoid this timeline, the government is vetting the possibility of a legislative shift that would allow the reservation to take effect regardless of the delimitation status.

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju has hinted at the introduction of a significant bill during the ongoing session, though he stopped short of confirming the specific details.

This move follows long-standing criticism from opposition parties who previously argued that tying the quota to the census was a tactical delay. The government is now reaching out to various political factions to gauge support for this revised approach.

Planning to gatecrash a wedding? Here's what the law says about punishment

New Delhi.(Agency)

Planning to gatecrash a wedding or function without an invitation? You could face a fine, jail time, or both if caught and handed over to the police. The issue has come into focus after a warning board outside a function hall in Telangana went viral on social media and several users have shared their own experiences of outsiders attending functions and consuming food meant for invited guests.

The flex board, cautioning uninvited guests of legal action, was put up at the entrance of a function hall in Telangana's Mahabubabad.

Fine of Rs 5,000 and a prison sentence

According to the message on the board, written in Telugu, unwanted guests caught at the venue could face three



months in prison and a fine of Rs 5,000 under Section 441 (criminal trespass). The notice also mentions that, on average, 100 to 150 outsiders attend

weddings and other ceremonies held at function halls, consume food meant for invited guests and cause inconvenience to both the host families and the invitees.

Offence under Section 329 of BNS

The notice appears to refer to IPC Section 441, but the Indian Penal Code has since been replaced by the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). Under the new law, criminal trespass falls under Section 329 of the BNS, which provides for imprisonment of up to three months, or a fine of up to Rs 5,000, or both. The section deals with unlawfully entering or remaining on another person's property with the intent to commit.

"Love Not A Crime": Kerala Minister Who May Lose Post Over Infidelity Row

Bindhu Menon, the estranged wife of the 60-year-old minister, has accused him of infidelity and claimed she caught him with another woman

New Delhi.(Agency)

Kerala transport minister KB Ganesh Kumar may have to step down weeks before the Assembly polls as the Pinarayi Vijayan-led Left Democratic Front (LDF) government tackles the challenge arising out of serious allegations Kumar's wife has levelled against him.

Local media reports said Chief Minister Vijayan may ask the Kerala Congress (B) leader to resign as minister to counter the political attacks by the Congress-led United Democratic Front ahead of polls. Bindhu Menon, the estranged wife of the 60-year-old minister, has accused him of infidelity and claimed that she caught him in an inappropriate situation with another woman at their home. She has also said she called up the Chief Minister's daughter, Veena, and told her about the incident, putting the state

government in a spot.

Who Is KB Ganesh Kumar

Kumar is a five-time MLA from Pathanapuram in Kollam district and has won the seat five times in a row. He is the chairperson of Kerala Congress (B), a breakaway faction of the KJ George-led Kerala Congress. The party was founded by Kumar's father, late R Balakrishna Pillai, who served as a state minister, MP and MLA during his long political career. Earlier in the UDF, the Kerala Congress (B) is now in the LDF camp, and Kumar is its lone MLA, who also bagged a ministerial berth.

What His Wife Has Said

Bindhu Menon, Kumar's wife, has said marital problems emerged a few years after their 2014 wedding, but worsened

after Kumar became minister in 2023. She has said she recently caught Kumar with a woman in their bedroom. She started



taking photographs when members of Kumar's staff tried to snatch her phone. "I lost control emotionally, but I did not assault anyone or use abusive language," she said, accusing the minister of claiming

that she was mentally unstable.

Bindhu Menon said police refused to intervene in the matter. She said she did not intend to harm Kumar or the LDF government.

The Minister's Clarification

Amid the chatter in political circles, Kumar said the Opposition was targeting his personal life for political mileage. "Whether the allegations are true or not, they are personal matters, and no one else should interfere," he said, adding that he has never behaved indecently with any woman. "Love is not a crime. Everyone experiences love. It will continue," he said. Kumar said he has never been corrupt, and the people of his constituency won't believe such accusations.

Indonesia seals landmark BrahMos missile deal with India

This strategic procurement significantly bolsters Indonesia's national security infrastructure and maritime defensive capabilities. While the official contract value remains undisclosed, estimates range from \$200-350 million.

New Delhi.(Agency)

In a significant stride toward modernising its national security infrastructure, Indonesia has officially entered into an agreement with India to procure the advanced BrahMos supersonic cruise missile system.

The deal was confirmed on Monday by Rico Ricardo Sirait, a spokesperson for the Indonesian Defence Ministry. He hailed the deal as a pivotal element in the nation's ongoing effort to upgrade its military hardware and bolster its defensive capabilities, particularly within the maritime sector.

While the official value of the contract remains



undisclosed by the Indonesian government, previous disclosures from BrahMos, a prominent joint venture co-owned by the Indian and Russian governments, indicated that the two nations had been in advanced negotiations regarding a package estimated to be worth between 200 million dollars and 350 million dollars.

This procurement follows the path set by Indonesia's Southeast Asian neighbour, the Philippines, which became the first foreign customer for the BrahMos system in 2022 with a 375 million dollars order for a shore-based anti-ship variant.

Headquartered in New Delhi, the BrahMos company produces a highly versatile missile system capable of being deployed from land-based launchers, aircraft, ships, and submarines. Although neither the Indian Defence Ministry nor BrahMos representatives issued an immediate response to the latest announcement, the agreement marks a major milestone for the joint venture as it expands its footprint in the region.

NEWS BOX

Well played, coach sahab: Time Gautam Gambhir gets the credit he deserves

New Delhi. (Agency)

He may have famously picked Marcus Rashford when asked to choose between Ronaldo and Messi, but when it comes to spearheading India's T20 revolution, Gautam Gambhir has not missed the mark. In Ahmedabad on Sunday night, as the final New Zealand wicket fell and the Narendra Modi Stadium dissolved into a symphony of blue, Gautam Gambhir did something truly remarkable. It was a brief, almost reluctant flick of the lips, but it was enough to end a 603-day social media hiatus from a man who broke a nearly two-year silence to acknowledge the triumph. "Coach Sahab, the smile looks great on you," MS Dhoni posted on Instagram minutes later. "Intensity with a smile is a killer combo. Very well done." Coming from Dhoni, the high priest of process and composure, it was the ultimate blessing for a man who has spent much of the last year framed as the villain in a Greek tragedy. For the better part



of 18 months, Gambhir has been the favourite punching bag of the Indian cricketing commentariat. When New Zealand completed an unprecedented 3-0 Test whitewash on Indian soil, it was blamed on Gambhir's rigid ego. When South Africa repeated the dose, it was Gambhir's lack of technical nuance. Even a solitary ODI series loss in Sri Lanka was framed not as a sporting anomaly, but as proof of a coach struggling to swim in a sea he didn't understand. The narrative was set: a tactical dinosaur whose intensity was deemed toxic to a dressing room built on the gentle care of Rahul Dravid. Yet, standing amidst the ticker-tape on Sunday, Gambhir did not look like a man seeking vindication. He looked like a man who had simply completed a project.

NO TO PERSONAL MILESTONES

"I don't believe in data, honestly," Gambhir had said earlier in the tournament, dismissing the obsession with spreadsheets that defines modern sport. "I have never seen data. I don't even know what data is all about. T20 is about instinct."

ISL 2025/26: Punjab's Nsungusi Jr cancels out Parthib strike

LUDHIANA. (Agency)

Two second half goals saw Punjab FC hold NorthEast United FC to a 1-1 draw in their Indian Super League 2025-26 match, here at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, on Monday.

Parthib Gogoi gave NorthEast United FC the lead at the hour mark, only to see home-side Punjab FC's Nigerian striker Nsungusi Jr. Effiong equalise three minutes later.

The 1-1 result meant Punjab improved one spot to move up to eighth on the table with four points with a game in hand, while the Highlanders remained on 10th with three points after four games. Going into the final match of gameweek four, NorthEast gaffer Juan Pedro Benali opted for one change from their previous 1-1 draw against Mumbai City FC, bringing in Macarton Nickson in midfield. His Punjab counterpart Panagiotis Dilimperis, on the other hand, chose to put faith in the same XI that got them the season's first win against



Bengaluru FC in the previous encounter. The visitors had the better of exchanges in the first quarter of an hour, a couple of early corners leading to Spanish centre-back Michel Zabaco missing a golden opportunity, after Lalrinzuala had found him free with a measured cross from the left flank. A minute later, NorthEast United winger Jithin MS also found some space to dink one across and above the keeper, but he too missed the target. Punjab then had a good spell and Spanish midfielder Daniel Ramirez missed a free header, followed by Effiong having his first shot on target.

Dilimperis was forced onto a double substitution at the half-hour mark as Nikhil Prabhu got injured and Suhail created two chances near the close of the half. Gogoi, though, had the last great chance of the half, but the dreadlock could not be broken. The second half initially saw some scrappy play with three bookings in the first few minutes, but soon the goal came when Parthib latched on to a loose ball after Rinzuala was boxed in by three defenders.

The player debate was Sanju vs Ishan. The answer turned out to be both

New Delhi. (Agency)

Just when you think you have Indian cricket all figured out, it does something to make you think again. Coming into the T20 World Cup, the debate had a clean shape to it. Sanju Samson or Ishan Kishan. One spot, two contenders, and a selection call that felt like it had already been made.

When India announced their squad and Kishan's return became the big talking point, it felt like the final nail in the coffin for Samson's hopes of playing. The experts had weighed in. The timelines had moved on.

And then, as cricket so often does, it laughed at all of us. Not only did Samson play, but he also became the Player of the Tournament. Three consecutive match-winning knocks against the West Indies, England and New Zealand. A player who was not even supposed to be in the XI ended up being the architect of India's third T20 World Cup title. And the punchline? In the final itself, it was Samson and Kishan, the two players who spent months pitting against each other, who came together to give India a rollicking start and help set a mammoth 256-run target. The rivalry we had constructed so carefully, the either-or debate that filled columns and timelines for weeks, turned out to be a false

choice all along.

THE NARRATIVE WE BUILT

Here is the thing about selection debates. From the outside, they always look like a war. Player A versus Player B. One wins, one loses. Social media picks sides. Experts draw battle lines. Columns are written. Hot takes are served. But that is rarely how it works inside a dressing room, especially one as professional as this Indian setup. Samson himself gave us a glimpse of the reality in a conversation with Star Sports. He spoke about how Gautam Gambhir pulled him aside in the gym and simply told him he was going to play the next game. No drama. No grand gesture. Just a quiet conversation between a coach and his player, while the rest of the world was busy writing him off.

"Honestly, I don't like competing with my own teammates for a spot. But once we are together and fighting for a cause, I bring out the best in me," Samson said on Star Sports following the T20 World Cup win.

That one line cuts through months of noise better than any analysis could.

WHEN THE NOISE SEEPS IN

This was not the first time Samson found himself on the wrong end of a selection call.

Cast your mind back to the Asia Cup in 2025. He looked set to open alongside Abhishek Sharma. Then Gambhir changed course to accommodate Shubman Gill's growing role as a future leader across formats, by slotting



him in at the top instead. Gill is by no means a slouch when it comes to the shortest format. He has been amongst the runs during the IPL, and it only made sense that he get his preferred slot at the top. Soon after, when Ishan Kishan made his return, he looked to be in his best form in the lead-up to the T20 World Cup. But the Ishan-Abhishek combination carried a tactical vulnerability that opposition teams were quick to identify.

With two left-handers at the top, sides began deploying right-arm off-spinners early, targeting the angle into their stumps and disrupting India's rhythm before the powerplay was even done. Strong individual performances were not enough to offset the lack of a settled, threatening opening stand. The consequences were felt down the order. When the top does not fire, the middle is left chasing, batting under pressure. It contributed directly to India's defeat to South Africa, a result that nearly threw their World Cup defence into serious jeopardy before it had properly begun.

Samson paid the price regardless. He struggled in the games he got, and the doubts began to creep back in. The Sanju versus Ishan conversation, which had never really gone away, grew louder again. Except that the people having it were mostly on the outside. Inside, a different calculation was already underway.

RUTHLESS, BUT FAIR

What is easy to miss about Gambhir is that the same ruthlessness that costs a player his spot is also what earns it back. He is not sentimental, but he is also not vindictive. If you are dropped.

Neymar back in Brazil friendly squad: Big boost ahead of FIFA World Cup

Ahmedabad. (Agency)

Brazil's all-time leading scorer Neymar has been handed a crucial opportunity to revive his international career after being included in the preliminary squad for Brazil's upcoming friendlies. The veteran forward has been named in the provisional list for matches against France national football team and Croatia national football team later this month, fixtures that could shape the final selections ahead of the 2026 FIFA World Cup. Brazil's head coach Carlo Ancelotti is expected to use the international break as a final assessment window before locking in his World Cup plans. For Neymar, the call-up to the expanded squad offers a lifeline after a difficult run of injuries that have kept him away from the national team since late 2023. Now back at his boyhood club Santos FC, the 34-year-old has shown glimpses of form since returning to action earlier this year. Neymar came off the bench in a match against Velo Clube before starting games against Novorizontino and Vasco, scoring twice

and providing an assist in the process. However, the path back to the national team is far from straightforward. The forward was expected to be closely



observed by Ancelotti during Santos' Brazilian league clash against Mirassol, but he was left out of the squad due to load management concerns. That decision has effectively left Neymar with only one more domestic opportunity—against Corinthians—to convince the coaching staff that he is physically ready for international football.

NEYMAR'S INJURY PROBLEMS CONTINUE

Neymar's absence from the Mirassol match has raised concerns at a critical time. The Brazilian Football Confederation had reportedly arranged for Ancelotti and national team director Rodrigo Caetano to attend the fixture specifically to watch the No. 10 in action. Instead, the forward was sidelined due to lingering muscle fatigue. Santos described the decision as precautionary, but the timing has complicated Neymar's push for a return to the national team setup. The attacker has endured a difficult recovery period since suffering a serious knee ligament injury in October 2023 while playing for Brazil. The injury kept him out of international football for more than a year and disrupted his rhythm at club level. Since returning to Santos in January 2025 following his stint in Saudi Arabia, Neymar has struggled to maintain consistent match fitness. While flashes of his creativity and finishing ability remain evident, he has yet to string together a sustained run of games.

Coaches talked technique, but it was Dad's words that unlocked Abhishek Sharma

Ahmedabad. (Agency)

Abhishek Sharma's maiden T20 World Cup began as a nightmare. Three consecutive ducks left the young opener under immense pressure, his place in the side under scrutiny before the tournament had even hit its halfway point. The support network rallied around him quickly, but it would take something unexpected to turn things around.

Yuvraj Singh, his mentor since his early days, was on the phone almost every day through the difficult stretch, working through the technical details with him. The conversations covered everything: how to read spinners, how to set up against pacers, how to construct a plan at the top of the order. Head coach Gautam Gambhir, a left-handed opener himself, also lent his experience, speaking to



Abhishek from a place of genuine understanding. A fifty against Zimbabwe offered some relief, but the big stage still awaited.

THE MESSAGE THAT CUT THROUGH

It was at this point that his father stepped in, not with a tactical blueprint, but with something far simpler. According to a report in the Indian Express, his father kept it brief. "Each player sees ups and downs. You don't have to tremble. This time will also pass," he told his son. No footage analysis. No grip adjustments. No plans for the short ball. Just a parent's quiet conviction that his son had what it took to come through. It was the kind of reassurance that no coaching manual can provide. Yuvraj could sharpen his technique. Gambhir could speak to the pressures of opening the batting at the highest level. But only a father could remind him of something more fundamental: that this moment did not define him.

WHEN IT MATTERED MOST

In the final against New Zealand, Abhishek walked out and delivered the innings that mattered most. A half-century on the biggest stage of his career, helping India post a target that New Zealand never came close to chasing.

Australia grants asylum to 5 members of the Iranian women's football team

WELLINGTON. (Agency)

Australia has granted asylum to five members of the Iranian women's football team who were visiting the country for a tournament when the Iran war began, Australia's Home Affairs Minister Tony Burke said Tuesday. The announcement followed days of urging by Iranian groups in Australia and by U.S. President Donald Trump for the Australian government to offer help to the women, who had not spoken publicly about a wish to claim asylum. The team drew widespread speculation and news coverage in Australia when players didn't sing the Iranian anthem before their first match. In the early hours of Tuesday morning local time, Australian federal police officers transported five of the women from their hotel in Gold Coast, Australia "to a safe location" after they made asylum requests. There, they met with Burke and the processing of their humanitarian visas was finalized, the minister told reporters in Brisbane hours later. "I don't want to begin to imagine how difficult that decision is for each of the

individual women, but certainly last night it was joy, it was relief," said Burke, who posted photos to social media of the women smiling and laughing as he signed documents. "People were very excited



about embarking on a life in Australia." The women granted asylum were happy for their names and pictures to be published, he said. Burke added that the players wanted to make clear that they were "not political

activists." Future remains unknown for 21 in squad and others

The Iranian team arrived in Australia for the Women's Asian Cup last month, before the Iran war began. The team was knocked out of the tournament over the weekend and faced the prospect of returning to a country under bombardment. Iran's head coach Marziyeh Jafari on Sunday said the players "want to come back to Iran as soon as we can," according to Australian news agency AAP. An official squad list named 26 players, plus Jafari and other coaching staff. Burke said the offer of asylum was extended to all on the team. "These women are tremendously popular in Australia, but we realize they are in a terribly

difficult situation with the decisions that they're making," Burke said. "The opportunity will continue to be there for them to talk to Australian officials if they wish to."

USA's Nathan Martin wins LA Marathon by 0.01 seconds, dramatic finish goes viral

→ Nathan Martin produced a stunning late surge to win the Los Angeles Marathon by 0.01 seconds. A viral video of rival Michael Kamau briefly running off course added drama to the race's closest finish.

INDIAN WELLS. (Agency)

The 2026 Los Angeles Marathon produced a finish that felt more like a Hollywood script than a marathon. American runner Nathan Martin pipped Kenya's Michael Kimani Kamau by a jaw-dropping 0.01 seconds, clocking 2:11:17 to win the race on Sunday. The blink-and-you-miss-it finish quickly

turned into a viral moment online. Videos of the chaotic final stretch, the sprint to the line, and a costly late mishap by Kamau have been widely shared, turning the race into one of the most talked-about marathon finishes of the year. "I made an actual move five miles out when I saw no one else was picking up the pace," Martin said after the race. "I decided I needed to push." At a mile and a half to go, I could see the leader and with 800 meters to go, I was thinking, 'I'm catching him.'" The win carried historic significance as well. Martin became the first African-American winner of the Los Angeles Marathon. The 36-year-old balances elite running with his work as a high school cross-country coach and substitute teacher, making the moment even more special. Martin is already a notable name in American distance running. His 2:10:45 personal best from the Grandma's Marathon in 2023 made him the fastest U.S.-born Black marathoner in history. According to the National Black

Marathoners Association, he is also the first U.S.-born Black runner to win a major city marathon since Ted Corbitt achieved the feat in the 1950s and 1960s.



NATHAN MARTIN EDGES PAST MICHAEL KAMAU

For most of the race, Kamau looked firmly in command and seemed on course for victory. But the final moments delivered an

unexpected twist that ultimately shaped the outcome. With roughly 300 metres left, Kamau briefly ran off course after following the lead motorcade at a fork in the road. A now-viral video shows the escort vehicles taking a turn toward an exit lane, with Kamau mistakenly following them for a few seconds.

A spectator carrying a Kenyan flag could be seen running nearby as Kamau moved toward the wrong lane before a cyclist alerted him to the mistake. The Kenyan runner had to stop, turn around and rejoin the course—losing precious seconds in the process. In a marathon decided by 0.01 seconds, those few moments proved crucial.

Martin, sensing his chance, launched a final surge in the closing stretch and powered across the line just ahead of Kamau in a thrilling sprint finish that had spectators roaring.

Sensex jumps 500 points, Nifty above 24,100; IndiGo up 4%

New Delhi..(Agency)

Benchmark stock market indices opened green over comments made by US President Donald Trump about de-escalation in the Iran war.

The S&P BSE Sensex added 379.79 points to 77,945.95, while the NSE Nifty50 jumped 106.40 points to 24,134.45 as of 9:28 am. Dr. VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Investments Limited, said that extreme volatility in crude prices has triggered heightened volatility in stock markets, too, across the world.

"The panic reaction in crude prices which took Brent crude to near \$120 yesterday has seen a reversal this morning plunging Brent crude to \$89. This kind of extreme swing of near \$30 in one day is reflective of the huge uncertainty surrounding the impact of the West Asian conflict on global crude supplies," he added. After the opening bell, InterGlobe Aviation Ltd led the Sensex gainers, rising 3.36%. It was followed by Asian Paints Ltd, which gained 2.31%. UltraTech Cement Ltd moved up 2.10%, while Mahindra and Mahindra Ltd added 1.60%. Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Ltd also opened higher, rising 1.45%. Reliance Industries Ltd saw the sharpest fall, dropping 1.47%. Infosys Ltd declined 1.03%, HCL Technologies Ltd was down 0.77%, Tech Mahindra Ltd slipped 0.64%, and Eternal Ltd fell 0.44% in early trade. Dr Ravi Singh, Chief Research Officer, Master Capital Services Limited, said that during periods of geopolitical tension, some sectors tend to hold up better than others.

"Energy-related companies usually benefit when crude oil prices rise, as higher oil prices can improve the earnings outlook for oil and gas producers, refiners, and exploration companies. Defensive sectors like FMCG and pharmaceuticals also tend to attract investor interest during uncertain times," he added. Singh added that defence and infrastructure companies could see increased attention, especially when global security concerns rise and governments focus more on defence spending.

Crude plunges, stocks rally as Trump says war 'pretty much' complete

HONG KONG.(Agency)

Oil prices tanked and equities rallied Tuesday following a wild day of swings that came after Donald Trump said the US-Israel war on Iran would be ending earlier than thought.

As the crisis in the crude-rich Middle East continued into a second week, with seemingly little sign of a conclusion on the horizon, the US president said that the campaign was far ahead of his initial timeline of around a month. "I think the war is very complete, pretty much. They have no navy, no communications, they've got no air force," Trump told CBS News by phone. "If you look, they have nothing left. There's nothing left in a military sense," he added. Trump told the US broadcaster that the United States was "very far" ahead of his initially stated war time frame of four or five weeks. He later told a news conference in Florida that "it's going to be ended soon, and if it starts up again they'll be hit even harder". When asked if he thought the war could end in days or weeks, he replied: "I think soon. Very soon." The US leader also threatened an attack of "incalculable" size if Tehran blocks oil supplies coming through the Strait of Hormuz, through which a fifth of global supplies pass. His remarks come just days after he issued a statement saying Iran's "unconditional surrender" was the only acceptable outcome for ending the war, which sent shivers through markets fearing an elongated war.

Flipkart completes shift of holding company to India, moves closer to domestic listing

New Delhi.(Agency)

Walmart-owned ecommerce marketplace Flipkart has completed the process of shifting the domicile of its holding company from Singapore back to India, marking a key step as the company moves towards a potential listing on Indian stock exchanges.

The move follows the final approval from the Union government under Press Note 3 rules, people aware of the matter said. The company had earlier received a nod from the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) in December for the restructuring but was awaiting central government clearance because Chinese technology company Tencent holds about a 5-6% stake in Flipkart. Under Press Note 3 norms introduced in 2020, investments from countries that share a land border with India require government approval. With the clearance now in place, Flipkart has secured all regulatory approvals needed to complete its redomiciliation. The development also clears the way for the company to move ahead with plans for a domestic initial public offering (IPO).

News reports said Flipkart has already begun early discussions with merchant bankers and aims to file its draft prospectus later this year. Founded in Bengaluru by Sachin and Binny Bansal, Flipkart moved its holding structure to Singapore in 2011, a step many Indian startups took at the time to access global capital under simpler regulatory regimes. As part of the restructuring, several Singapore-based entities, including the parent company, have been merged into Flipkart Internet Private Limited. These include holding companies for logistics arm Ekart, fashion platform Myntra, fintech platform Super.money, travel platform Cleartrip and healthcare platform Flipkart Health. Following the restructuring, investors will hold their stakes directly in Flipkart Internet. Flipkart's investors include Walmart, Microsoft, Canada Pension Plan Investment Board and SoftBank. Walmart acquired a 77% stake in the company in 2018 in a \$16 billion deal.

Govt increases booking period for LPG cylinder -- Here's how long it will now take to book domestic LPG cylinder refill

The step has been taken as there was a surge in demand of 15 to 20 per cent due to panic booking, due to fears that supply would be disrupted because of the escalating war in the Middle East.

New Delhi..(Agency)

The government has increased the minimum waiting period for booking a domestic LPG cylinder refill from 21 days to 25 days to prevent hoarding, as there were signs of panic buying taking place in the market amid the uncertainties due to the Iran war. Officials said that there is a sufficient supply of LPG available in the country, and the booking time for LPG cylinders has been increased as a measure to manage inventory effectively. The step has been taken as there was a surge in demand of 15 to 20 per cent due to panic booking, due to fears that supply would be disrupted because of the escalating war in



the Middle East. Average households consume 7-8 LPG cylinders of 14.2 kg in a year and should normally not need a refill in less than 6 weeks, an official pointed out. A senior official said that petrol and diesel prices will not be

increased for now despite international crude oil rates crossing \$100 per barrel. Oil marketing companies-- Indian Oil, Bharat Petroleum and Hindustan Petroleum-- are expected to absorb the current cost pressure for the time being.

He said the government is closely monitoring global oil markets, but there is no immediate plan to raise retail fuel prices. Meanwhile, the Parliament was informed on Monday that India currently has a total capacity for storage of crude oil and petroleum products for 74 days, which can help to tide over disruptions in case of adverse situations such as geopolitical conflicts.

"The government has established Strategic Petroleum Reserves facilities with a total capacity of 5.33 million metric tonnes (MMT), which can act as a buffer for short-term supply shocks such as geopolitical conflicts. This is meant to provide for about 9.5 days of crude oil requirement. In addition, Oil Marketing Companies in the country have storage facilities for crude oil and petroleum products for 64.5 days. Hence, the current total national capacity for storage of crude oil and petroleum products is 74 days," Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas Suresh Gopi told the Rajya Sabha in a written reply.

Advance tax deadline ends on March 15: Check who needs to pay and penalty for missing it

Mumbai.(Agency)

The due date for filing the final advance tax installment for the fiscal year 2025-26 ends on 15 March 2025.

What is advance tax?

Income other than salaries, such as rent, capital gains, business, etc is subject to advance tax. Instead of being paid in full at the end of the fiscal year, it is paid in installments throughout the year. Advance tax is also called "earn and pay tax" system. What is the deadline to pay advance tax?

June 15 is the due date for the first installment, which represents 15% of the entire tax. Taxpayers are required to pay 45% of the total tax, including the first installment, by September 15. By December 15, the third installment, which raises the total sum paid to 75%, must be made. By March 15, the last installment, which covers the entire 100% tax liability, must be completed.

Who needs to pay advance tax?

All taxpayers with projected tax liabilities of at least Rs 10,000 (after tax deducted at source, or TDS) from the previous year are required to pay



advance tax under section 208 of the Income Tax Act, 1961.

You can be exempt from paying advance tax if you have a job and TDS is deducted from your income. However, advance tax may have to be paid if you have any additional sources of income beyond your salary, such as rental income, capital gains from real estate or the stock market, or

income from your business or freelancing. Similarly, advance tax must be paid if you are a doctor, lawyer, or consultant. Who is exempt from paying advance tax?

However, a resident senior citizen, a person of the age of 60 years or above, who does not have any business or professional income during the relevant fiscal year, is exempt from paying advance tax. What is the penalty for missing advance tax payment? Advance tax payments could be made both online and offline.

The advance tax default is subject to penalty interest under sections 234B and 234C. A penal interest of 1% per month or part thereof is levied in each section. In the event of a delay or shortfall in advance tax payment, Section 234B is imposed. For nonpayment or short payment of individual advance tax installments, Section 234C is applicable.

Rupee rebounds from all-time low, up 7 paise to 92.14 against US dollar in early trade

MUMBAI.(Agency)

The rupee rebounded from its all-time low in early trade on Tuesday, rising 7 paise to 92.14 as global oil prices fell after US President Donald Trump said the war with Iran may end soon.

A weaker greenback and a strong opening at the domestic equity markets further supported the local unit while heavy FII outflows capped sharp gains, forex traders said. At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened at 91.92 but fell to 92.14, up 7 paise from its previous close.

The rupee crashed to its all-time closing low of 92.21 against the US dollar on Monday, losing 39 paise during the session, as global crude oil prices saw a sharp spike, and the greenback strengthened. "The rupee fell to its lowest (on Monday). But oil prices have since fallen after G-seven countries decided to utilise their strategic reserves to sell oil and bring prices down," Anil Kumar Bhansali, Head of Treasury and Executive Director, Finrex Treasury Advisors



LLP, said. "Later, Trump said the war could be over as soon as his goals have been accomplished. Later he also weighed on easing Russia sanctions and other measures to cool off oil prices. The Brent prices cooled off this morning in the Asian trade," he said, adding that the rupee is expected to move within a range of 91.50 to 92.10. Meanwhile, Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, was trading lower by 4.69 per cent at USD 94.32 per barrel in futures trade as the war between S-Israel and Iran intensified.

The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading 0.26 per cent lower at 98.92. On the domestic equity market front, the Sensex rose 809.57 points to 78,375.73 in opening trade while Nifty climbed 252.75 points to 24,280.80. Foreign institutional investors sold equities worth Rs 6,345.57 crore on a net basis on Monday, according to exchange data.

Govt says fuel price hike only if crude oil goes past \$130

New Delhi.(Agency)

Even as crude oil surges past \$100 a barrel, the government continues to maintain that oil marketing companies are unlikely to increase petrol and diesel prices in the country in the foreseeable future. Government officials said the companies can absorb losses until crude prices cross \$130 per barrel.

The ongoing conflict between Iran and Israel has begun to take a toll on global crude prices, with oil crossing the \$100-a-barrel mark for the first time in four years. Brent crude touched an intraday high of \$119 per barrel before cooling to around \$102.1 per barrel at 19:51 IST, while US WTI crude was trading at \$100.2 per barrel. The surge comes after US crude prices jumped 36% and Brent crude rose 28% last week.

"When crude prices were low in the international market, these companies made profits, and when crude prices

were high, they would absorb the losses. Revision of petrol and diesel prices is unlikely in the foreseeable future," said the official.

The last time crude crossed \$100 per barrel was in late February 2022 following Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Brent crude reached an intraday peak of \$139.13 per barrel on March 7, 2022, while WTI crude hit \$130.50 per barrel during the same period. Meanwhile, US President Donald Trump claimed the price surge is temporary and will come down. In a social media post, Trump said the rise in oil prices is short-term and will drop once the destruction of the Iran nuclear threat is over. "Short term oil prices, which will drop rapidly when the destruction of the Iran nuclear threat is over, is a very small price to pay for USA, and world, Safety and Peace," Trump said in a social media post.

The sharp rise in crude prices comes after

major oil suppliers halted production when their facilities were hit by missiles or rockets. In addition, the closure of the Strait of Hormuz, a key waterway for global crude supply, has added to market fears. Several producers have also curtailed output due to storage constraints and export disruptions.

As crude prices surged, G7 countries decided to release 400 million barrels of crude from their strategic reserves. However, the petroleum ministry said India will not release crude from its strategic reserves as it is not part of the International Energy Agency (IEA) group. In India, petrol and diesel prices have not been increased so far, with the government maintaining that fuel supplies remain adequate. However, the government on Saturday raised the prices of domestic and commercial LPG cylinders by ₹60 and ₹115 respectively.

When crude oil hit a record \$147 per barrel in 2008 and the reason was not war

Crude oil briefly touched \$120 amid Gulf tensions, reviving memories of the historic 2008 oil shock when prices hit \$147. But unlike this conflict, the 2008 surge was not driven by war or geopolitics. So what pushed oil prices so high? Read on to find out.

New Delhi.(Agency)

Crude oil prices have surged sharply amid the ongoing Gulf conflict, reviving fears of a potential disruption in global energy supplies. While current prices remain well below historic highs, Monday's brief rally to \$120 per barrel has brought back memories of 2008, when crude oil surged to a record \$147 per barrel, triggering one of the biggest energy shocks in modern economic history. The episode remains one of the clearest examples of how quickly oil markets can spiral when strong demand collides with supply risks.

LOOKING BACK AT THE RECORD SPIKE

On July 11, 2008, Brent crude oil touched

\$147 per barrel, the highest level ever recorded in global oil markets. According to data from the US Energy Information Administration (EIA), oil prices had already been rising rapidly in the years leading up to the peak, climbing from around \$30 per barrel in 2003 to over \$100 by early 2008. The surge reflected a dramatic shift in global energy demand.

While it may sound surprising, the surge in oil prices in 2008 was not triggered by war or geopolitical conflict. Instead, it was largely driven by rapid economic growth in emerging markets, particularly China and other Asian economies. Research by economists at the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas found that the surge in global oil prices between 2003 and 2008 was largely driven by unexpectedly strong global economic growth and rising energy consumption. China's rapid industrialisation played a major role. According to the International Energy Agency (IEA), China accounted for a significant share of the growth in

global oil demand during that period as manufacturing and transportation activity expanded sharply. While demand surged, oil production struggled to keep pace.

The IEA has noted that global spare production capacity during the mid-2000s



had fallen to very low levels, leaving the market vulnerable to supply shocks.

Many large oil fields were already mature and declining, while new projects required years of investment. With limited spare capacity, even minor disruptions or

geopolitical tensions could push prices higher. Financial markets also played a role in amplifying the rally. A study by the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis found that increased investor participation in oil futures markets during the mid-2000s

may have contributed to higher price volatility. Large flows of capital into commodity markets, particularly from hedge funds and institutional investors, added momentum to rising oil prices once the rally had begun. The record oil rally ended abruptly when the global financial crisis erupted in 2008. As economic activity collapsed across major economies, fuel demand dropped sharply.

According to the IMF, crude oil prices fell more than 70% within months, plunging from \$147 per barrel in July 2008 to around \$30 by the end of the year.

The dramatic collapse highlighted how closely oil prices track global economic growth.

Selena Gomez

Celebrates Benny Blanco's 38th Birthday With Unseen Wedding Photos

Selena Gomez shared a sweet birthday message for her husband, Benny Blanco. The singer and actress celebrated the music producer's 38th birthday by posting a set of special photos on social media. Along with the pictures, she wrote a short message to show how much he means to her. The post included several throwback and unseen moments from their time together. Selena also shared a few black and white pictures from their wedding, which took place five months ago in September. The photos showed beautiful memories from their ceremony and reception, giving fans a small glimpse of their big day. Some of the images captured the couple smiling, hugging and enjoying simple moments together. Along with the pictures, Selena wished Benny a happy birthday and wrote how much he means to her.



Selena Gomez' Sweet Birthday Post For Benny Blanco

Among the photos Selena Gomez shared on Instagram, a few special moments from her wedding day also stood out. One picture shows Selena and Benny Blanco happily walking together, while guests around them watched and celebrated the moment. The image captured the joy of the couple right after they exchanged their vows.

The post also included a photo from their date night at the 2026 Golden Globes in January, where the two attended the event together. Along with the glamorous moment, Selena also shared another memory of the couple enjoying a calm evening at home while eating fast-food tacos. Selena Gomez wrote, "Happy birthday my love. I love you with all my heart."

In the comments section, Benny Blanco wrote, "You are the best birthday present I could ever ask for."

Selena Gomez And Benny Blanco's Journey

Selena Gomez and Benny Blanco made their relationship public in December 2023. By that time, the couple had been dating for about six months. Their relationship soon caught the attention of fans, as they often shared happy moments on social media. A year later, Selena surprised everyone by announcing their engagement on Instagram. She posted a series of photos from the special moment, which took place during a picnic. The proposal had a personal touch, as it included her favourite fast food, Taco Bell. Selena also shared close-up pictures of her diamond engagement ring. After their engagement, the couple took the next step in their relationship and got married in California in September 2025.



Meenakshi Chaudhary Opens Up On Bhagam Bhag 2: 'It Felt Like Pure Laughter'



Bhagam Bhag was a cult favourite, and fans of the film have reason to celebrate as it is all set to return with a sequel. Bhagam Bhag 2 will be directed by Dream Girl filmmaker Raaj Shaandilyaa. Alongside Akshay Kumar, Meenakshi Chaudhary will join the cast. Known for films like Lucky Bhaskar, Guntur Kaaram, and The Greatest Of All Time, Bhagam Bhag 2 marks her Hindi film debut. She recently spoke about her role in an interview with Variety India.

For Meenakshi, Bhagam Bhag 2 Came At The Right Time For Her

Meenakshi said, "I feel like it came at a time when I was looking for something exactly like this." She shared that she had been searching for scripts that families would enjoy and having watched the first Bhagam Bhag when she was younger, she loved it. Being part of the sequel felt like perfect timing for her.

She added that many other projects she received didn't appeal to her. About Bhagam Bhag 2, Meenakshi said, "When this came along, it just felt like pure laughter." She believes that regardless of age or language, the story and her character will resonate with audiences everywhere. "You are going to enjoy it regardless of the language you watch it in," stated the actress.

About Bhagam Bhag 2

Akshay Kumar and Paresh Rawal will return for Bhagam Bhag 2, the sequel to Priyadarshan's 2006 hit comedy thriller. While they reprise their iconic roles, Govinda will not be part of the film. Manoj Bajpayee has been confirmed to replace him in the second instalment. Alongside Meenakshi Chaudhary, Ayesha Khan, known for her performance in Dhurandhar's blockbuster track Shararat, will also feature in the film, bringing fresh energy to the cast.

Meenakshi Chaudhary will portray the role of Daksha in Vrushakarma, alongside Naga Chaitanya, Sparsh Shrivastava, Satya, and Jayaram, among others. The film is directed by Karthik Dandu and bankrolled by BVS N Prasad under the banners of Sri Venkateswara Cine Chitra and Sukumar Writings. The film is touted to be a unique mix of mythology, horror and suspense. Meenakshi was last seen in blockbuster film Anaganaga Oka Raju, alongside Naveen Polishetty.

Ashish Chanchlani Confirms Ekaki Had A Budget Equal To Tumbbad



Ashish Chanchlani, one of YouTube's top content creators, has once again proven his talent with his latest series Ekaki. He wrote, directed, produced, and starred in the sci-fi series, which has been a major success for him. The final episode has already crossed 20 million views on YouTube. Speaking to Hindustan Times about the show's success, Ashish shared insights on managing the budget and hiring the best action team for his project.

Ekaki's Success Has Motivated Ashish To Take More Risks

Ashish said, "The only thing that came to my mind was how grateful I am because long form (content) in India, and actually everywhere in the world, is not working right now." He added that, apart from creators like MrBeast and IShowSpeed, very few manage to consistently create successful long-form content. Ashish shared that in India, only a handful of creators are thriving, and sketch comedy often struggles to get views. So, the overwhelming success of his own long-form series brought him a lot of satisfaction.

Dedicating the success of his series to his loyal fanbase and his own hard work, Ashish said that the success of Ekaki has made him more 'risky'. He remarked, "The only thing that has changed for me now is that I will take even more risks. Risk always rewards you. It's a big gamble. But success doesn't affect me the same way that failure does." Ashish also pointed out that if you ever compromise on honesty in your work, it becomes visible in your content and audiences notice.

Ekaki's Budget

Bringing Ekaki to life was not an easy task, especially financially. The series' budget ended up matching that of the cult horror film Tumbbad, which was reportedly made for around Rs 15 crore. Ashish explained that they had carefully calculated the daily shooting costs, but even a single extra day on set added at least Rs 5 to 6 lakh. Despite planning each day's expenses in detail, the budget went off track during the very first schedule. Ashish recalled, "I remember calling my bank from Nashik and telling them I needed a loan immediately."

Kriti Sanon

Pens Sweet Birthday Wish For 'Jiju' Stebin Ben: 'Happiest To Call You Family'

Actress Kriti Sanon has penned the sweetest birthday wish for her "Jiju" Stebin Ben as he turned a year older on Monday. Sharing a goofy yet adorable photo with Stebin on her Insta Stories, Kriti penned a heartfelt note in which she revealed that she feels the happiest to call the singer a part of her family.

Kriti further admitted that she is in awe of Stebin's talent. Expressing her pride in his incredible journey so far, Kriti wrote on the photo-sharing app, "Happiest Birthday Stebsss!! Proud of your journey, in awe of your sheer talent & happiest to call you Fam! Always rooting for you!! (sic)" The 'Tere Ishk Mein' actress dropped another picture with her brother-in-law, giving him a warm hug, and wrote, "Brother from another mother! Love you!!"

Kriti's sister, Nupur Sanon, also compiled a heartmelting wish for her husband on social media, saying, "Words could never express how grateful I am for you... for the extraordinary man that you are. You are my safe place, where I get to be soft, silly, and completely me."

Nupur and Stebin tied the knot this January in Udaipur as per both Hindu and Christian rituals after being in a relationship for some time.

Kriti, who shared multiple glimpses from the wedding festivities on her social media handle, disclosed in one of the posts that Nupur and Stebin dated for around five years before getting hitched. The 'Bareilly Ki Barfi' actress also said that after her sister Nupur's wedding, she did not just gain a brother-in-law but also a friend for life.

"Words can never be enough to explain what I'm



feeling.. still hasn't sunk in. My little one is married! From holding you in my arms for the first time when I was 5, to now holding your chaadar and seeing you all dressed up as the prettiest bride I've ever seen. My heart is so full seeing you so happy, in love and beginning the next and the most beautiful chapter of your life with the Best life partner we could ever ask for you," Kriti wrote.



Jaipur's drooling over not-so-

Jaam mango



fare this summer

From mango pasta and mango mojito to mango mousse cupcake - there's nothing 'aam' about these mango dishes at eateries in Jaipur.

Forget mango tarts and puddings. To make your mango-eating experience even more divine, hotels and restaurants in Jaipur have come up with delectable mango dishes and drinks this summer. From mango cheesecake, mango ravioli and mango pasta to mango mojito - we scanned the city for this delicious fare and spoke to Jaipur's mango lovers who are wasting no time gorging on these. Aakriti Sharma, a college student, says, "Mango is my favourite fruit and I can't miss eating it in summers. I make aam panna at home, but I always love trying new mango dishes. There are many mouth-watering mango-based desserts and drinks available at eateries in the city. Mango cheesecake is my favourite." Another mango lover Neeraj Agarwal says, "I've stocked mangoes at home to make shakes, but I can't miss the mouth-watering dishes in the city either. I tried a mango smoothie and panna cotta a few days ago at an eatery and I simply loved it." Meenal Rajpurohit, a homemaker, says, "While shopping, I always stop to enjoy mango lassi at restaurants. But I was in for a surprise when I saw interesting mango dishes in the menu. So I took my family out for dinner the other day and tried raw mango curry at a city-based hotel, which was served with bread. It was amazing!"



Mango Patch Pancake
WHERE: The Chocolate Room, World Trade Park
Vanilla pancake with fresh mangoes, cream, vanilla ice cream and mango sauce - what more can you ask for?

Mango Cheesecake
WHERE: OTH
It's a simple and light dessert. Cheesecake with fresh mangoes used in it makes for a lip-smacking dish. "Our inclusion of mango cheesecake in the menu has paid off. People are loving it. This dish is easy to make and ideal for summers," says Dushyant Singh, owner.
Mango Ginger Smoothie
WHERE: The Floating Leaf Cafe
If your body needs a reboot, than this tasty smoothie is a must. A yummy cure for sluggish body systems - this smoothie features mango and ginger which adds an extra 'zing' to the flavour.
Mango Chocolate Cream Roll
WHERE: Brown Sugar

This tempting cream roll has chocolate truffle and mango butter cream. "It's for the first time that we tried making mango chocolate cream rolls. There are plenty of takers for this. We have also come up with many other mango-based desserts," says Vishal Jalani, owner.

Mango Mousse Cup Cake
WHERE: Auram, The Hilton Hotel

These are soft, fruity cupcakes with a smooth buttercream on it. The buttercream tastes fresh and sweet, and is full of mango flavour.

Mango and Coconut Panna Cotta

WHERE: Okra, Jaipur Marriott Hotel

This Italian dessert has been given an interesting twist by using mango pulp and coconut milk together. Along with that, the dish also has fresh cream,

vegetarian gelatin and a few drops of vanilla essence. It is garnished with mint leaves and served cold.

Mango Mille-Feuille

WHERE: Four points by Sheraton Jaipur

This is a three layered pastry - each is topped with mango pieces and pastry cream. "I've used Alphonso mangoes that are sweet and rich in flavour. The demand for this dessert is increases by the day," says Arun Pratap Avasthi, executive chef at the hotel.

Mango Stuffed Ravioli
WHERE: 24/7 Multi-cuisine restaurant, The Lalit Hotel

This main course dish is served with Ratnagiri mint puree and avocado chutney. Fresh mangoes are chopped

and mixed with mango chunda (preserve), cheese and seasoning. This mixture ball is stuffed into ravioli (kneaded dough with egg and salt) with proper sealing and is blanched for 10-12 minutes. The result is epic!

Mango Cheese Date Parcel

WHERE: Pantheon, Shakun Hotel

This dish is served with fresh mango sauce. The stuffing is done with chopped dates, cream cheese, butter and chopped mangoes. It is garnished with chopped garlic, chiffonade basil, half tablespoon sugar, among other items.

Breast of Chicken marinated in raw mango pesto

WHERE: Marigold, Hotel Golden Tulip

This has marinated chicken, mango flavoured mash potatoes and vegetables. The chicken breast is served on plate and mango salsa is poured on top. Saute vegetables are placed on side. You can also order chilled mango and coriander soup along with the dish.

Mango Mojito

WHERE: Jammies Kitchen

It's an ideal drink for summers. The goodness of alphonso mango, mint and lemon makes it a refreshing drink for both kids and adults.



Although it isn't always convenient to invite them into the kitchen to help, it can be a fun activity for both of you as you get together to rustle up some delicious meals. Here are a few options...

Kids of different age groups learn different lessons

Younger children can watch and help out with small tasks, like stirring, shifting or setting the table.

Slightly older ones can be taught to do easy things like buttering bread, boiling pasta, cracking eggs or mixing ingredients while baking.

Teenagers would like to enhance their cooking skills and take important tips for future. Older ones will be interested in experimenting with different cuisines.

Beginners can see how the dishes are done and put together.

They can also enhance their math skills while trying to measure and combine ingredients for recipes. Tip Cooking time can also be used to talk about issues as well as good nutrition. It can lay the foundation for healthy eating and living for the future

Here's how you can go about it

Take a lot of time Cooking with kids cannot be a hasty affair; it should not be done on a tight time schedule. Involving them while cooking a quick meal is not a great idea.

Set a menu Plan in advance what you'll prepare together. Beginners should consider starting with simple dishes with less than seven ingredients, so that they can remember them easily. A pizza or a mix pasta salad can be a good starter projects.

Do it stepwise Before starting to cook, list the ingredients and the method on a neat piece of paper or a magic board and fix it close to the counter. Discuss the steps that your child can do independently. Make sure you follow the right order of preparation so that your child doesn't get confused with the sequence. Make note of small steps like turning off the fire while adding the cream or keeping boiled potatoes in cold water for five minutes before peeling them, to ensure convenience.

Give it a cookery show feel to it Prepare the ingredients in advance, and set them in separate bowls and containers on the kitchen counter. This will not just make it easy for the child to pick up ingredients while cooking,

Share some Kitchen time with kids this summer



but also give him/her the feel of being on a cookery show, where chefs always have things laid out in front of them. This will make the exercise even more interesting.

Teach them post-cooking cleaning Kids cannot be counted on to be neat in the kitchen, hence, be prepared for some extra mess while they are at it. However, make sure that you

seek their help while clearing up the kitchen after the cooking is done, so that they learn the importance of maintaining hygiene and keeping things in order.

Veggie crunch pizza
Ingredients
- Pizza base -7 inch
Pizza sauce -2 cups

Grated mozzarella cheese -2 cups
Sliced bell peppers (red and yellow) -1 cup
Blanched and diagonally cut baby corn -1 cup
Tomatoes cubed -1 cup
Onion cubes -½ cup
Dry red chilli flakes (paprika) -1½ teaspoon
Dried mixed Italian herbs (readymade) -1½ teaspoon
Olive oil -1 tablespoon
Salt to taste

Method
Take the pizza base, and spread a layer of pizza sauce evenly on it
Add grated mozzarella cheese on this layer
Then add the onions, bell peppers, baby corn, tomatoes, chilli flakes, mixed herbs and salt
Finally, sprinkle the remaining mozzarella cheese evenly over it
Place the pizza on a greased baking tray and bake in a pre-heated oven at 200°C (400°F) for 15 minutes (help them with the microwave settings)

Cut into equal wedges and serve immediately

Mango strawberry smoothie

Ingredients
Ripe mangoes peeled and chopped-3 (substitute with strawberries as per your choice)
Yogurt-5 tablespoons

Chilled milk-3 cups

Ripe mango peeled, and cubed -1

Method

Take the yogurt in a blender
Add mango pieces and milk and blend till smooth

Pour the smoothie into a glass, and add some crushed ice

Garnish with more mango cubes

Mix pasta salad

Ingredients

Macaroni, penne and fusilli -2 cups

Red and green bell peppers chopped -2

Tomato -1 cup

Olive oil -1 tablespoon

Mayonnaise -1 cup

Mushrooms -1 cup (can be substituted with chicken)

Bean sprouts -½ cup

Oregano mix -1 tablespoon

Method

Boil a large pot of lightly salted water, and add the different pastas to it and cook till they get soft

Drain, and rinse with cold water, and transfer them to a large bowl

Stir in red and green bell peppers, tomato, mushrooms (or chicken), bean sprouts and olive oil

Mix in mayonnaise, and sprinkle the oregano mix; toss the salad properly

Refrigerate for a few hours before serving

The kitchen is just the place to help your kids look beyond playing their favourite games through the day during summer vacations. It's also a learning ground, where they can see grown-ups at work, watch the steam rise from pots on the stove, and smell and experience all that goes into the making their daily meals.