

From Diplomacy to Raj Niwas: Taranjit Singh Sandhu Takes Oath as Delhi's Lieutenant Governor

The Sikh Times Simmi Kaur Babbar New Delhi, March 11: In a significant political and administrative development for the National Capital, Taranjit Singh Sandhu today formally assumed office as the 23rd Lieutenant Governor of Delhi after taking the oath at the historic Raj Niwas. The oath of office and secrecy was administered by Devendra Kumar Upadhyaya, Chief Justice of the Delhi High Court, in a solemn ceremony attended by senior political leaders, government officials and distinguished guests. The event marked the beginning of a new chapter in Delhi's governance as Sandhu, a seasoned diplomat and former Indian Ambassador to the United States, stepped into one of the most important constitutional positions in the country's capital. Raj Niwas — the official residence of the Lieutenant Governor — witnessed a dignified oath-taking ceremony that symbolized the transfer of constitutional authority in the National Capital Territory. The ceremony was attended by Rekha Gupta, Chief Minister of Delhi, along with cabinet ministers, senior bureaucrats, members of Parliament and representatives from various diplomatic missions. Following the oath, Sandhu expressed his commitment to work for the development of Delhi and emphasized that the capital must transform challenges into opportunities through efficient governance and cooperation among all institutions. Before entering Raj Niwas, Taranjit Singh Sandhu built a distinguished career in diplomacy spanning more than three decades. A 1988-batch officer of the Indian Foreign Service, Sandhu held several key diplomatic assignments representing India



Some of his most prominent positions include: Ambassador of India to the United States (2020-2024), High Commissioner of India to Sri Lanka (2017-2020), Deputy Chief of Mission at the Indian Embassy in Washington, Senior postings at India's missions to the United Nations and in Europe. During his tenure in Washington, Sandhu played

a crucial role in strengthening the strategic partnership between India and the United States, particularly in areas such as defence cooperation, trade relations and technology collaboration. His appointment to Delhi's top constitutional office is widely seen as recognition of his administrative experience and international stature. The swearing-in of Sandhu also carries historical significance. He has become only the second Sikh to serve as Lieutenant Governor of Delhi, after Air Chief Marshal Arjan Singh who held the position in 1989. Contd.....page-3

Arvind Kejriwal hits out at PM Modi amid LPG crisis, calls him 'slave of Trump'

New Delhi.(Agency) Arvind Kejriwal on Wednesday launched a sharp attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi over 'heavy LPG shortage' affecting people across the country. He questioned India's position during the ongoing tensions between Iran and Israel, accusing the government of abandoning India's traditional foreign policy of neutrality. The former Delhi chief minister said, "There is a chance that almost 1 crore people would be unemployed because of the power shortage situation emerging," he said. "There is a heavy shortage of LPG in the country. The reason behind this is that 90 per cent of the LPG imported in India is from the Strait of Hormuz. Restaurants and hotels are facing shortages. In the next two days, 50 per cent of hotels are on the verge of shutdown, news is coming from Delhi NCR, Bihar," PTI quoted Kejriwal as saying. Kejriwal claimed that India's foreign policy had historically been rooted in the principles of the Non-Aligned Movement, but alleged that the Modi government had moved away from that approach by siding with the US and Israel. He questioned why the Prime Minister visited Israel and "hugged" Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu shortly before the conflict escalated, saying the move signalled India's alignment with the US-Israel bloc.



Nehru sat through debate, requested more time for oppn: Congress slams Rijiju for 1954 comparison

New Delhi.(Agency) The Congress slammed Union Minister Kiren Rijiju on Wednesday for contrasting the 10 hours allocated for a debate on the resolution for the Lok Sabha speaker's removal with the two-and-a-half-hour debate on a similar resolution in 1954, saying Jawaharlal Nehru had then requested the bulk of the time be allotted to the opposition. The debate is likely to conclude on Wednesday with Union Home Minister Amit Shah's response to the resolution. Congress general secretary in charge of communications, Jairam Ramesh, said that in Tuesday's debate in the Lok Sabha on the motion for the removal of the Speaker, Minister of Parliamentary Affairs Rijiju proudly claimed that 10 hours had been allotted for the debate, whereas in December 1954, only 2.5 hours had been set aside for a similar motion. "What he forgot to mention was that on December 18, 1954, the prime minister himself sat through and took part in the debate. While speaking, Jawaharlal Nehru requested the deputy speaker, who was presiding in the House, that the bulk of the time should be allotted to the opposition," Ramesh said on X. When the motion was moved in the Lok Sabha on December 1, 1954, the Congress had 364 MPs in a House of 489 members, he pointed out. "On December 18, 1954 (as on later occasions in 1966 and 1987), there was a deputy speaker in the Chair in the Lok Sabha while the motion against the Speaker was being debated.

AAP, Congress clash in Punjab Assembly over newly launched women's allowance scheme

Chandigarh. (Agency) The announcement of a monthly financial assistance scheme for women during the ongoing Punjab Vidhan Sabha Budget Session has triggered a sharp political confrontation between the ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and the Opposition Congress, with both sides accusing each other of disrespecting women. On March 8, coinciding with International Women's Day, the Punjab government announced a monthly allowance of Rs 1,000 for women, with Rs 1,500 proposed for women belonging to Scheduled

Castes under a new welfare scheme announced as Guarantee before polls. The government has earmarked Rs 9,300 crore for the initiative in the 2026-27 Budget. However, opposition parties questioned the timing and feasibility of the scheme, pointing out that the promise had remained pending for nearly four years. Leaders from Congress and BJP also sought clarity on the source of funds, citing Punjab's rising debt, which has reportedly reached around Rs 4.17 lakh crore. The issue took a political turn on Tuesday during the Budget



discussion in the Punjab Legislative Assembly after Congress MLA Sukhpal Singh Khaira shared a social media post referring to a YouTube interview. In the post, Khaira allegedly said: "Women dancing on the Rs 1000 announcement, how will they

contribute to Punjab's legacy and history?" though Khaira clarified later. The remark sparked immediate backlash from the ruling AAP, which termed it an insult to women. The Punjab State Commission for Women took suo motu cognisance of the matter in minutes and sought a response from Khaira. Meanwhile, AAP legislators moved a censure motion against him in the Assembly over the alleged remarks. Minister Harbhajan ETO talking to said "we have freedom express but we can't violate that by giving such statements against women, what khaira said is insult of women."

If opposition truly understood poverty, it wouldn't have opposed giving Rs.1,000 to women: CM Mann

The Sikh Times CHANDIGARH, 11th March: Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann on Wednesday said the opposition abandoned the Budget debate because it could not defend its opposition to giving 21,000 to women, asserting that parties which kept people poor for decades are now uncomfortable with the empowerment of ordinary families under the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government. Describing the fifth annual budget of the Punjab Government as the "Budget of the martyrs' dreams," the Chief Minister said the budget is aimed at fulfilling the aspirations of freedom fighters like Bhagat

Singh and Udham Singh, while reaffirming that the Punjab Government has delivered on all its election guarantees within four years and is now preparing its agenda for the 2027 Assembly elections. He also said the opposition already knows that a government led by Bhagwant Singh Mann will return to power in 2027, which is why it chose to run away from the debate instead of facing the truth before the people. Concluding the debate on the Budget for the financial year 2026-27 presented by Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann said, "For the first time in the history of Punjab, a government has fulfilled

all its election guarantees within four years. The manifestos of traditional parties were merely formalities. With the support of the people, we will continue serving them with the same spirit in 2027. For the first time, a government treated its budget as a sacred document and fulfilled every promise made to the people." Congratulating Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema for presenting a people-friendly budget, the Chief Minister said that the budget focuses on providing facilities to those whose progress is often hindered by financial constraints. "The budget includes providing benefits of the Mukh Mantri Mawan Dhian Satkar Yojna to 97% of women,

providing free ration to 40 lakh families under the 'Meri Raso' scheme, and offering cashless medical treatment up to ?10 lakh," noted CM Bhagwant Singh Mann. He added that earlier budgets were limited to paving streets and drains, whereas the present government is focusing on providing world-class education to children, quality healthcare services, and building medical colleges. The Chief Minister said that to provide quality healthcare facilities to people and enable youth to fulfil their dream of becoming doctors while staying in Punjab, seven medical colleges are being established in the state. Contd.....page-3

Dy CM DK Shivakumar: Being people's voice, protecting essence of democracy over last six years

New Delhi .(Agency) Some moments in public life stay with you long after they pass. They change how you see politics and remind you why you choose to be in public service in the first place. In September 2019, I spent 50 days in Tihar Jail. Life there is very different. The noise disappears. There are no meetings, no phones and no entourage. What remains is silence and time for reflection. When everything familiar is taken away, you get a different kind of clarity and insight. One incident from those days will always be etched in my memory. The day Mrs. Sonia Gandhi came to meet me in Tihar Jail. Without any fanfare or media. She just came to see how I was doing and to give me strength. That visit meant a great deal to

me. In politics, loyalty is often spoken about. But moments like that remind you what loyalty actually means. When you stand by your organization through difficult times, the organization stands by you when you need it. Not just that incident, I have been fortunate to learn from many great leaders who shaped my understanding of politics and informed my value system. When as a young party worker, I was not only given the space to speak to Mr. Rajiv Gandhi (when he was the PM) honestly about the state of turmoil in Karnataka politics and share my unabridged assessment of the party and its leadership. I was also handpicked by him to represent the Youth Congress in Korea. It left a deep mark on me on how leadership needs to be open and accessible.



Whenever we stand up to speak, we are stopped: Rahul Gandhi

New Delhi: Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday interjected a Lok Sabha debate on the resolution to remove Om Birla as Speaker, saying that he was stopped from speaking in the House on multiple occasions. Responding to BJP's Ravi Shankar Prasad, who cited parliamentary procedures to say that the leader of the opposition should measure his words carefully, especially on issues of national security, Gandhi said the House did not belong to any party but the entire country. "Whenever we get up to speak, we are stopped. Lok Sabha does not belong to one party but to the entire country," he said. Earlier, participating in the debate on the resolution against Birla, Ravi Shankar Prasad had said that the motion to remove the Speaker from his post should not be weaponised to "satisfy" the ego of a leader. He said it was painful that the House was discussing the resolution as it was the result of the ego of a leader. Quoting Practice and Procedures of Parliament, Prasad said the leader of the opposition should measure his words carefully, especially on issues of national security, and that he should eschew partisan politics. This led to an uproar from the opposition. Later, Dilip Saikia, who was chairing the proceedings, allowed Gandhi to respond to the allegations.

Fivb Beach Pro Tour Challenge 2026 At Kiit University Successfully Concludes

KIIT Makes History as First Indian University to Host FIVB Beach Pro Tour Challenge

Winners: Women's Gold Medal - United States: Durish/Koenig Men's Gold Medal - Belgium: Vercauteren/Van Langendonck

The Sikh Times New Delhi: The FIVB Volleyball World Beach Pro Tour Challenge 2026, hosted by KIIT University, concluded successfully at Dutee Chand Athletic Stadium after five days of high-intensity competition and international sporting spirit. The prestigious tournament brought together 83 teams from 52 countries, with more than 300 players and officials participating in the championship. KIIT University created history by becoming the first university in India to host an event of the FIVB Beach Pro Tour Challenge series, marking a proud moment

for the institution, the state of Odisha and the country. The tournament was formally

inaugurated on March 4 by Odisha's Minister for Law, Works and Excise, Prithiviraj Harichandan, in the presence of Dr. Achyuta Samanta, Founder of KIIT and

KISS, Mr. Blair Harrison, FIVB Technical Delegate, and Prof. (Dr.) Saranjit Singh, Vice Chancellor of KIIT University, along with several international delegates and sports officials. Throughout the tournament, spectators witnessed thrilling matches featuring some of the world's leading beach volleyball players. "All 300 players and officials were accommodated at KIIT Campus. We made very good arrangement for their stay inside campus. All of them were happy with KIIT hospitality," said Dr. Samanta. The championship also created a vibrant sporting atmosphere on the KIIT campus and attracted large numbers of sports

enthusiasts. Several international players and officials praised the world-class infrastructure, professional organisation and warm hospitality provided by KIIT University as the host institution. Many participants expressed appreciation for the excellent facilities and the welcoming environment created for athletes from across the globe. KIIT University became the first university in India to host an FIVB Beach Pro Tour Challenge event. The tournament featured 83 teams from 52 countries. More than 300 players and officials participated in the championship. The event was held for five days at Dutee Chand Athletic Stadium in Bhubaneswar. International players and officials praised the world-class infrastructure, organisation and hospitality provided by KIIT University.



News box

Bomb hoax triggers evacuation at Gurgaon schools

Gurgaon.(Agency)

Several schools received bomb threat e-mails from a foreign server on Tuesday, triggering mass evacuation and intensive security checks by bomb disposal squads and canine units. All threats were found to be hoaxes, an officer said. According to police, all bomb threats were sent by "Giang Do". The schools alerted the police and teams were dispatched to the campuses for combing operations. A threat e-mail was also sent to chief minister Nayab Singh Saini seeking his support for the Khalistan referendum. Senior politicians of the country were also mentioned in these e-mails.

The e-mails allegedly warned of blasts at the schools at 1.11pm as well as in several trains at 3.11pm. "Teams from the concerned police stations, along with canine squads, bomb disposal squad and other specialised units, were rushed to the locations. Officials conducted a detailed inspection of classrooms, buildings, school premises and nearby areas. No suspicious object or explosive material was found during the searches so far," police spokesperson Sandeep Turan said. Cyber experts were roped in to trace the origin of the messages and identify the sender. Various police teams are investigating the entire matter and verifying the authenticity of the e-mails and their source, Sandeep said, adding the law and order situation remains fully under control. In addition, he urged the public not to panic or spread rumours.

Haryana teen stabbed to death after spat over Rs 3k

Noida.(Agency)

A 17-year-old boy was stabbed to death by a man following a dispute over Rs 3,000 in Sector 14 on Tuesday afternoon. Police said the incident took place around 1.30pm when Keshav, a resident of Bada Baijpur village in Palwal district, was stabbed by Manu (24), whom he knew from his earlier workplace, following an altercation.

Based on the CCTV footage, police nabbed Manu, a resident of Gurgaon's Sheelta Colony, from the same area in the evening. "Keshav was stabbed on his left shoulder and one half of the knife got stuck in his body. Manu fled the spot with the other half," a police officer said. Two eyewitnesses rushed Keshav to a private hospital. He was later referred to Fortis Hospital for treatment, where he succumbed to his injuries. In Dec 2025, Keshav's friend Dheeraj had borrowed the money from Manu for his birthday. The officer said, "He did not return the money and therefore there was ongoing tension between the two. Keshav entered the scene and asked Manu not to pressure Dheeraj for the money."

Police said arguments between Keshav and Manu had taken place earlier as well. On Tuesday, Keshav went near the workplace of Manu, where the confrontation escalated into a physical fight, after which Manu allegedly pulled out a knife and stabbed Keshav.

Insurance cover up to Rs 20 lakh for 8 lakh traders, small biz units in Haryana

Gurgaon.(Agency)

In a first for the state, eight lakh businesses and traders will get an insurance cover from Rs 5 lakh to Rs 20 lakh, depending on their annual turnover, with Haryana govt rolling out two schemes aimed at strengthening the financial security of traders and small industrial units.

The initiative aligns with the Centre's emphasis on empowering MSMEs and the need to safeguard small enterprises from disruptions and financial shocks.

Officials expect the insurance scheme will replace the business owners' reliance on private insurance or self-managed risk buffers, which often leave small units vulnerable due to high premiums, limited coverage and low claim settlement rates.

Industry minister Rao Narbir Singh said, "The schemes are expected to enhance the state's disaster-response support system for businesses, ensuring quicker recovery and reducing economic interruption."

The first one is Mukhyamantri Vyapari Samuhik Niji Durghatna Beema Yojana (CM group traders insurance for personal accidents), which will provide an insurance cover of Rs 5 lakh to registered traders. The registration fee is Rs 50, making it accessible even for micro businesses. It covers permanent disability and death due to accidents. The second scheme is Mukhyamantri Vyapari Kshatipoorti Yojana (CM Traders Damage Scheme), which offers compensation for damage or loss of goods due to fire, riots or natural calamities. The insurance cover for this scheme ranges between Rs 5 lakh and Rs 20 lakh, depending on the annual turnover. Compensation will be provided for verified stock loss caused by unforeseen events.

Woman hit with brick trying to save son during fight, dies

Noida.(Agency)

A 40-year-old woman, Leela Devi, was killed when she tried to intervene in a fight involving her son and was hit on the head with a brick in Masuri's Bhudgadhi village. The fight took place between the deceased's son and a fellow villager over wages. Police said no complaint has been lodged by the victim's family in the matter but investigation is underway. According to ACP (Masuri) Lipi Nagayach, Devi's son, Anil Kumar (20), had gone to another villager on Sunday afternoon to collect Rs 1,400 in wages. Subsequently, a dispute broke out between the two over the money. The accused, along with an accomplice, allegedly started beating up Kumar. When Devi found out about the fight, she went to rescue her son, and was injured in the process.

"Someone from the area informed Devi about her son's fight. Immediately, she rushed to the spot and tried to save him. She registered her protest with the accused and asked for her son to be released. But the accused started misbehaving with her. Although she somehow managed to rescue her son, in the process, the accused struck her on the head with a brick. This caused serious injuries, leaving her drenched in blood," the ACP said.

Her family members said that after returning home, she fell asleep. On Monday morning, when she did not wake up, they took her to a nearby hospital.

Lab tests expose quality lapse in road work in Gurgaon, contractor faces action

Gurgaon.(Agency)

A road project undertaken by MCG in Ardee City has come under scrutiny after laboratory tests commissioned by residents indicated that the interlocking paver block tiles used were weaker than the strength specified in the tender. The issue was also escalated to the state govt's grievance portal, CM Window, by the Ardee City's residents' welfare association (RWA). Following the findings, MCG issued a notice to the contractor directing that the tiles already laid be dismantled and replaced with tiles that meet the approved specifications. Officials warned that failure to comply could lead to cancellation of the contract. "A notice has been issued to the contractor. Payment will be made only after the work is completed according to the specifications mentioned in the tender," an MCG official said, adding that no payment has been released to the contractor so far. The notice states that if the substandard tiles



are not removed and replaced within 10 days in accordance with tender conditions, the contract may be cancelled and proceedings for blacklisting the

agency initiated. According to the work order issued on Feb 27, 2025, the project, estimated at Rs 1.7 crore, was to be completed within six

months. The contractor was required to lay 100 mm-thick ISI-marked interlocking concrete paver blocks with an M50-grade cement design mix over a bed of fine sand.

However, photographs from the D14 lane of Ardee City show blocks embossed with 'M35', indicating a lower grade than the M50 specified in the contract. Residents said they sent samples to a private ISO-certified laboratory in Delhi for testing. The compressive strength readings of the samples were 29.7, 28.1, 32.2, 15.9, 24.2, 27.8, 24.6 and 24.7 megapascals (MPa), with an average of 25.9 MPa. By comparison, M50 concrete typically requires compressive strength of about 50 MPa.

"The contractor laid 8,523 sq metres of road using substandard tiles out of the 17,500 sq metres assigned. Nearly half the work was completed with M35 tiles, after which we raised complaints following the lab test results," said a resident.

FIR against husband, in-laws after woman & 3 daughters found dead in Nuh

Noida.(Agency)

The deaths of a 28-year-old woman and her three young daughters in a village well in Nuh have brought into focus allegations of prolonged harassment at home — from dowry demands and physical assault to taunts by her parents-in-law for not bearing a son. A murder case has now been registered against seven members of her husband's family after the woman's father alleged that the abuse had escalated in the days before the four were found dead.

Sahila, married to Sahid of Badopur village in 2018, was found dead along with her daughters — Aksha (5), Saniya (2.5), and four-month-old Sanaya — in a well in the agricultural fields on Monday. Her father Hanif, a resident of Alwar in Rajasthan, told police that substantial dowry had been given to her in-laws at the time of marriage, including a motorcycle, Rs 1.1 lakh in cash and household items, but the family was "never satisfied". In his complaint, Hanif said the harassment began early in the marriage, with repeated demands for a Hyundai Creta. He alleged that Sahid, Sahila's brothers-in-law Zubair and Saddam, father-in-law Isab,

and other relatives — Maqsoodan, Maimuna and Sanji — subjected her to sustained mental and physical abuse.

According to the complaint, the torture worsened after Sahila gave birth to daughters and not a son. "From the beginning, they kept pressuring and harassing my daughter for a Creta," Hanif said in his complaint, adding that he repeatedly tried to reason with the family and, at times, brought Sahila back to her parental home to shield her from the abuse.

"We went to their house several times and pleaded with them not to torment her. But their behaviour did not change," he added.

Hanif also alleged that about six months ago, Sahila was locked inside a room and thrashed. Her jewellery, including bangles, necklaces and chains, were also taken away. When Hanif sent his son Rashid to check on her,

Rashid, too, was allegedly assaulted and confined. He later called police, who rescued him. The incident led to a complaint at Ferozepur Jhirka police station, where a community meeting was held. According to the family, Sahila's husband and in-laws admitted they were

wrong and the matter was settled then. But Hanif said the situation deteriorated again after Sahila gave birth to her third daughter around four months ago. Two days before the deaths, Sahila called her father and told him that her in-laws had beaten her badly and were threatening to kill her, according to the FIR. Around 8.30pm on Sunday, Hanif received a call from a person in Badopur, asking if Sahila had reached her parental home. Hanif tried calling her marital family through the night to find out about his daughter, but got no response.

The next morning, while on his way to the village, he was informed by the village headman that Sahila and her daughters had been found dead in a well. Police said Sahila went to the family's farmland on Sunday to harvest mustard. When she did not return home by evening, relatives began searching the nearby fields and surrounding areas, but found no trace of her. When her family returned to the fields the next morning, around 9am, they noticed a pair of slippers near the edge of a well. They looked inside and saw the children's bodies floating," an officer said.

GDA plans to revamp 10 key junctions across Ghaziabad to tackle snarls

Ghaziabad.(Agency)

As part of an initiative to curb traffic jams, the Ghaziabad Development Authority has identified 10 key roundabouts, cross-sections and road stretches across the city where it will carry out revamp work. The development authority will also engage Rail India Technical and Economic Service (RITES) to prepare a comprehensive mobility plan for the city. Among the identified spots, the Hapur Chungi roundabout is a key junction, as traffic merges at this spot from Kavinagar, Rajnagar Extension, DM office, and towards the police line.



According to a GDA official, they plan to construct an elevated road from RNE towards Kavinagar and Shastri Nagar, bypassing Hapur Chungi, thus enabling the free flow of traffic to and from the police line side. The 1.5km-long, four-lane stretch is set to come up at a cost of Rs 10 crore.

"GDA will use its infrastructure fund for this project," the official added.

Other areas to be revamped include DPS cross-section to Leelawati cross-section, Madhuban Bapudham roundabout, Bunkar Mart Chowk, River Heights roundabout in Raj Nagar Extension, Holy Child roundabout, Holy Child roundabout, Hapur tri-section on Hapur Road, Hint Chowk, Ajnara roundabout in Rajnagar Extension, Seth Mukundlal roundabout. In 2018, the Central Road Research Institute (CRR) had prepared a comprehensive mobility

Court acquits Delhi-based HR manager of rape charges, orders action against woman for 'false FIR'

Noida.(Agency)

A fast-track court has acquitted a Delhi-based HR manager accused of rape after the complainant retracted her allegations during trial, telling the court that the police had drafted the complaint themselves. Additional sessions judge Priyanka Singh also ordered proceedings against the woman under Section 344 of the Code of Criminal Procedure for filing a false case and giving false evidence. An FIR in the case was registered at the Phase III police station in Noida on March 25, last year. In her complaint, the woman alleged that her colleague, HR manager Karan Gujral, had first raped her in 2023 after allegedly mixing an intoxicant in her food and drink. She claimed that he repeatedly called her to a hotel and raped her for more than a year on the promise of marriage. According to the FIR, the two later married at a temple in Feb 2024 and



began living together. The woman told police that she became pregnant in Nov but the accused later stopped responding to her calls. When she approached his family, she was allegedly told that he was already married. Police registered a case under IPC Section 376 and recorded her statement before a magistrate under Section 164 of the CrPC. The accused was arrested on April 4, and the chargesheet was filed 10 days later. The case was

subsequently transferred to a fast-track court for trial. However, the prosecution's case weakened when the complainant took the witness stand. During her testimony, she contradicted the claims made in the FIR and said she had been working at the same company where the accused served as HR manager. She told the court that her job had not been regularised and she was upset about the delays in salary payments. The woman said that colleagues had

advised her to approach the police. When she went to the station with company officials to complain about the salary dispute, she alleged, the police themselves drafted the FIR. She also told the court that the statements recorded before the magistrate had been made at the police's behest. During cross-examination, she denied that the accused had called her to hotels or had sexual relations with her. She also admitted that she had never met him alone. The woman acknowledged that she was about six months pregnant when the FIR was filed, but said the child was not fathered by the accused. The prosecution declared her a hostile witness, but the court noted that her testimony substantially undermined the case. Medical evidence also failed to support the allegations. The doctor who examined the complainant testified that there were no

visible injuries and no forensic indications of sexual assault. The court said the medical findings did not establish.

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If opposition truly understood poverty, it wouldn't have opposed giving Rs.1,000 to women: CM Mann

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 "These colleges will be built in Hoshiarpur, Kapurthala, Sangrur, Shaheed Bhagat Singh Nagar, Lehragaga, Malerkotla and Ludhiana, which will add 600 MBBS seats," stated CM Bhagwant Singh Mann. He further noted that 881 Aam Aadmi Clinics have recorded five crore OPD visits, reflecting people's trust in the healthcare services. Taking note of the criticism of the Mukh Mantri Mawan Dhian Satkar Yojna by opposition leaders, the Chief Minister said that wealthy leaders of traditional parties are deliberately insulting poor people. "Traditional parties never worked for the welfare of the poor, due to which many families still struggle with poverty and find it difficult to arrange two meals a day," stated CM Bhagwant Singh Mann. He added that these leaders are uncomfortable with the economic empowerment of the poor and pointed out that while they educate their

own children in convent schools in the hills, they want poor families to remain deprived of quality education. The Chief Minister said that after the Punjab Government started Schools of Eminence, children from underprivileged families are now clearing examinations such as JEE, JEE Mains and NEET. "The Meri Rasoi scheme will ensure nutritious food for 40 lakh families, especially their children," added CM Bhagwant Singh Mann. He explained that under the scheme each family will receive a kit containing 2 kg sugar, 2 kg pulses, 1 litre mustard oil, 200 grams turmeric and 1 kg salt. Highlighting employment generation, the Chief Minister said that the creation of 10,000 posts in the Punjab Police will provide opportunities for youth and further strengthen the force. "The Punjab Government has already provided around 64,000 government jobs to youth so far," stated CM Bhagwant Singh Mann.

He also said that the 650th birth anniversary of Sri Guru Ravidas Ji Maharaj will be celebrated on a large scale and 2100 crore has been allocated in the budget for this purpose. Criticising the opposition for constantly opposing welfare initiatives, the Chief Minister said that earlier claimed that free electricity could not be provided, yet the Punjab Government successfully fulfilled the promise. "They also claimed that Bhagwant Singh Mann would not remain Chief Minister even for a year, yet I have been serving as Chief Minister for four years," noted CM Bhagwant Singh Mann. He asserted that he will continue to serve as Chief Minister even after the 2027 elections. Reiterating his stand on Punjab's rights, the Chief Minister said that neighbouring states often call Punjab their "elder brother" but simultaneously attempt to exploit its resources. "Himachal Pradesh sometimes calls Punjab its elder brother while demanding a share in Chandigarh and

royalty on water, while Haryana raises the demand for the SYL canal," stated CM Bhagwant Singh Mann. He added that because of the firm stand taken by the Punjab Government, for the first time Haryana has not allocated funds for the construction of the SYL canal in its budget. Taking a dig at the absence of opposition members during the debate, the Chief Minister said that opposition leaders have never been serious about the issues of their constituencies and predicted that they will also disappear from the political map in 2027. "The Congress party is suffering from internal factionalism and cannot return to power," stated CM Bhagwant Singh Mann. He added that the party's condition has deteriorated to such an extent that it now wants to contest Assembly elections without declaring a Chief Ministerial face. Holding the Shiromani Akali Dal responsible for damaging Punjab's generations, the Chief Minister said that

the party pushed youth into the quagmire of drugs and the path of gangsterism, which ruined entire generations. "Zomato was formed much later, but during the Akali government drugs were transported in government vehicles," stated CM Bhagwant Singh Mann. The Chief Minister further remarked that the Shiromani Akali Dal, which finished third in the Zila Parishad and Block Samiti elections, is day dreaming about forming the government in Punjab. "The Punjab Government is fully committed to the well-being of Punjab and the prosperity of its people, and no stone will be left unturned to achieve this goal," affirmed CM Bhagwant Singh Mann, adding that the government will continue safeguarding the interests of the people of Punjab and take every possible step for their welfare.

Six of looters' gang held after 8-day hunt across J&K, Punjab

New Delhi: The Delhi Police cracked an interstate robbery case involving a planned ambush using false allegations, leading to the arrest of five accused persons and the complete recovery of property worth Rs 45 lakh, officials said on Friday. The case was registered at Timarpur police station, following a complaint by Ramesh Lal, a mobile trader from Jammu, who was robbed after arriving in Delhi on February 17, they added. The arrested were identified as Maneeva Akhtar (24), Juna Begum (31), Hashu Bibi (23) Tariq Hussain Fareedo (33) and Mohammad Farooq. According to police, the complainant was carrying Rs 15 lakh cash and 22 iPhones worth about Rs 30 lakh while travelling by a private bus from Jammu to Delhi for business. At around 7.15 am, after getting down at Majnu ka Tila, he was surrounded by three men and three women who had travelled on the same bus. As he tried to board an auto-rickshaw, the group accused him of molestation, creating a scene and robbing him of his bags. While the male accused fled with the bag containing cash and phones, the three women were apprehended on the spot with public assistance. The incident was captured on CCTV, said Deputy Commissioner of

NAME CHANGE
 I, VANDANA W/O RAJIV JAKHAR R/O 601, TOWER-10, M3M MERLIN, SOUTH CITY-2, SECTOR-67, GURGAON, HARYANA-122018, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO VANDANA JAKHAR FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSES

NAME CHANGE
 I, RAJIV S/O RAMDHAN JAKHAR R/O 601, TOWER-10, M3M MERLIN, SOUTH CITY-2, SECTOR-67, GURGAON, HARYANA-122018, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO RAJIV JAKHAR FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSES

NAME CHANGE
 I, PRAMOD SINGH S/O SHIVSHANKAR SINGH R/O I-66 Shera Mohalla Garhi New Delhi South Delhi Delhi-110065 have changed the name of my minor daughter JYOTI KUMARI aged 17 years and she shall hereafter be known as MANI KUMARI.

NAME CHANGE
 I, NAND KISHOR S/O DOMI SHARMA R/O N-414, HAR- GOVIND ENCLAVE, RAJ PUR KHURD, IGNOU, SOUTH DELHI, DELHI-110068, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO NAND KISHORE SHARMA FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSES

NAME CHANGE
 I, JC-880714A Rank-NB SUB Name-AKHILESH YADAVA residing at VILL-BHAROTA, PO-BAIKANT PUR, TEHSIL-DEORIA, DIST-DEORIA, UTTAR PRADESH-274001 have changed my name from AKHILESH YADAVA for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 11/03/2026 before Notary Public, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE
 I, NAFISA AHAMAD Wife of JAKKI AHAMAD R/O 152/01, VIKRAM BAZAR VIHAR, SADAR BAZAR, C.V.D. PO: DELHI CANTT, DIST: SOUTH WEST DELHI, DELHI-110010, have changed my name from NAFISA AHAMAD to NAFISHA AHAMAD for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE
 I, GOURAV ANAND S/O JITENDER ANAND residing at H NO-574, RISHI NAGAR, RANI BASTI, SHAKUR BASTI, DELHI-110034 have changed my minor son name from AARON ANAND to DEVAANSH ANAND for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE
 I, SOMYA D/O SACHIN SARAN residing at W-99, GREATER KAILASH PART-2, DELHI-110048, have changed my name to SOMYA SARAN for all future purposes

NAME CHANGE
 I, BRAHMANAND S/O BHANWAR LAL R/O House No.175-176-177, T.F.Pocket-15, Sector-24, Rohini, PO Rohini Sector-7, Dist North West Delhi, Delhi-110085 have changed my name to Brahmanand Pareek for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE
 I, JEEVAN TAXAK S/O VANSH PRAKASH TAXAK R/O FLAT NO-259, DDA MIG FLATS, PRASAD NAGAR, PS-PRASAD NAGAR PHASE-1, KAROL BAGH, CENTRAL DELHI, DELHI-110005 have changed the name of my minor daughter namely NETRA TAXAK aged 11 years and she shall hereafter be known as NETRA TOKAS.

NAME CHANGE
 I, MADHU W/O DAVINDER KUMAR R/O RZH 867, RAJ NAGAR-2, NEAR KENNEDY PUBLIC SCHOOL, PALAM COLONY, DELHI-110077, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO MADHU PORIA FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSES.

NAME CHANGE
 I, JAGDISH KUMAR S/O BARU RAM R/O HOUSE NO-12A, BLOCK-H, ASHOK VIHAR PHASE-3 EXT, GURGAON, HARYANA-122001 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO JAGDISH KUMAR DHULL FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSES

NAME CHANGE
 I, BENI PARSAD S/O BENKAT LAL R/O 26 BHATT CAMP MOHAN COMPARATIVE AREA BADARPUR NEW DELHI 110044 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO BENI PRASAD

NAME CHANGE
 I, RAKESH KUMAR S/O SHANTA R/O 145 MAIN GATE BADARPUR NEW DELHI 110044 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO RAKESH

NAME CHANGE
 I, Nabeel Ahmad s/o Syed Siddique Naseem R/O E-43 ABUL FAZAL ENCLAVE PART 1 JAMIA NAGAR NEW DELHI 110025 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO Syed Nabeel Ahmad

NAME CHANGE
 I, Sabina W/o Syed nabeel ahmad R/O E-43 ABUL FAZAL ENCLAVE PART 1 JAMIA NAGAR NEW DELHI 110025 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SABINA ABRAR

NAME CHANGE
 I, RAJKUMAR S/O LAXMAN DAS R/O 397 SECTOR 28 FARIDABAD HARYANA 121008 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO RAJKUMAR MENDIRATTA

NAME CHANGE
 I, DINESH KUMAR MANDIRATTA S/O LAXMAN DAS MANDIRATTA R/O 397 SECTOR 28 FARIDABAD HARYANA 121008 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO DINESH KUMAR

NAME CHANGE
 I, ANU DEVI Wife of No-4282754F Rank-HAV Name-SHYAMBODH KUMAR SINGH Presently residing at VILL/SO-BARWA, PS-LAKHAURA, TEH-MOTIHARI, DIST-EAST CHAMPARAN, BIHAR-845302, have changed my name from ANU DEVI to ANNU SINGH for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 11/03/2026 before Notary Public, Delhi.

Name Change
 I ANUBHAV S/O RAKESH KUMAR GUPTA R/O H NO C-1289 GALI NO-5 NEW YADAV ENCLAVE PREM NAGAR-3 KIRARI SULEMAN NAGAR DELHI -110086 have changed my name to ANUBHAV KUMAR Permanently for all future purpose

NAME CHANGE
 I, MAHADEVI Mother of No-2621853P Rank-SEP Name-MAHESH HALALLI residing at VPO-AIGALI, TEH-ATHANI, DIST-BELGAUM, KARNATAKA-591248, have changed my name from MAHADEVI to MAHADEVI APPASAB HALALLI for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 11/03/2026 before Notary Public, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE
 I, APPASAB Father of No-2621853P Rank-SEP Name-MAHESH HALALLI residing at VPO-AIGALI, TEH-ATHANI, DIST-BELGAUM, KARNATAKA-591248, have changed my name from APPASAB to APPASAB RAMU HALALLI for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 11/03/2026 before Notary Public, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE
 I, SHASHI BALA W/O Praveen Goel R/O 231 near Sarai Rohilla Police station vivekanand puri north delhi Sarai Rohilla Delhi 110007, Changed my name to Shashi Goel.

NAME CHANGE
 I, Busat Bano W/O Mohd Alimuddin R/O C34 2nd floor Abul Fazal enclave part 1 jamia nagar delhi 110025, changed my name to Busat Alim.

NAME CHANGE
 I, VARNIKA BAJAJ BAJAJ D/O ROHIT BAJAJ R/O C-49, FIRST FLOOR, VIPUL WORLD, SOHNA ROAD, SECTOR-48, GURGAON, HARYANA-122001 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO VARNIKA BAJAJ FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSES

NAME CHANGE
 I, PREM LATHA is a real mother of No 15671948L Rank HAV Name VIKAS KASHYAP presently residing VILLAGE VAHANPUR, POST-KALORA, DISTRICT-HATHRAS, TAHSIL-HATHRAS, (UTTAR PRADESH)-204102 have changed my name from PREM LATHA TO PREMLATA for all future purposes. Vide Affidavit Dated 11/03/2026 Before Notary Public New Delhi.

NAME CHANGE
 I, hitherto known as DEEPAK KUMAR AGGARWAL alias DEEPAK AGGARWAL S/o Mahabir prasad agarwal R/O 345,D Block, Indira Park, najafgarh, South West Delhi, Delhi, 110043 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as DEEPAK KUMAR AGGARWAL.

NAME CHANGE
 It is certified that I have compiled with other legal requirements in this correction

NAME CHANGE
 I, JOGINDER SINGH S/O AMAR SINGH SALUJA R/O JORA FHATAK ROAD, NEAR KABRISTHAN, BASANT VIHAR COLONY, DHANBAD, JHARKHAND-826001, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO JOGENDRA SINGH SALUJA FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSES.

NAME CHANGE
 I, YASHPAL KASHYAP is a real father of No 15671948L Rank HAV Name VIKAS KASHYAP presently residing VILLAGE VAHANPUR, POST-KALORA, DISTRICT-HATHRAS, TAHSIL-HATHRAS, (UTTAR PRADESH)- 204102 have changed my name from YASHPAL KASHYAP to YASH PAL SINGH for all future purposes. Vide Affidavit Dated 11/03/2026 before Notary Public New Delhi.

NAME CHANGE
 I, KALE PRABHAVATI SURYABHAN, is legally mother of Army No. 2810645K, Rank - Sep, Name - KALE DHANYAKUMAR SURYABHAN, presently residing at Vill - Kalegaon, Post - Chaneagaon, Teh - Barshi, Dist - Solapur, State - Maharashtra - 413403, have changed my name from KALE SURYABHAN NVRUTTI to SURYABHAN NVRUTTI KALE and my date of birth from 13/05/1958 to 01/01/1961 for all future purposes. Vide affidavit dated 10/03/2026 before Notary Public Delhi.

NAME CHANGE
 I, KALE PRABHAVATI SURYABHAN, is legally mother of Army No. 2810645K, Rank - Sep, Name - KALE DHANYAKUMAR SURYABHAN, presently residing at Vill - Kalegaon, Post - Chaneagaon, Teh - Barshi, Dist - Solapur, State - Maharashtra - 413403, have changed my name from KALE PRABHAVATI SURYABHAN KALE and my date of birth from 13/05/1958 to 01/01/1961 for all future purposes. Vide affidavit dated 10/03/2026 before Notary Public Delhi.

NAME CHANGE
 I, MOHD ASHRAF S/O MOHD SAMI R/O H.NO-25, THIRD FLOOR, LANE NO-7, NOOR NAGAR, EXT JOHRI FARM, SUKHDEV VIHAR, SOUTH DELHI-110025 declare That MOHD ASHRAF & MOHD ASHARAF both are the same and one person name.

NAME CHANGE
 I, hitherto known as Byuti Kumari W/o Anil Kumar R/O B-66, Vijay Vihar Phase - 2, Rohini, Rohini Sector-7, North West Delhi, Delhi-110085 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Sangeeta Kumari.

NAME CHANGE
 I, hitherto known as Toyear Hassan S/O M D Akbar R/O B-387, Gali No-13/10, Main Abdul Hamid Marg, B-Block, Subhash Vihar, Garhi Mendu, PO: Seelampur, Dist: North East Delhi, Delhi-110053 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Md Tahir.

NAME CHANGE
 I, hitherto known as Md Wasim Alam S/O Md Alam R/O Near Gurudwara, Munirka Village, J.N.U., PO: J.N.U., DIST: South West Delhi, Delhi-110067 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Md Wasim Akram.

Public Notice
 It is for general information that I, PIKETI SHARMA W/O TEKAM CHAND R/O WE-26 Block-W E. Mohan Garden, Uttam Nagar, West Delhi, Delhi-110059, declare that name of my minor son has been wrongly written as SHIVAY in my minor son namely TEJAS aged 12 years in his Aadhar Card No. 341165770308. The actual name of my minor son is TEJAS which may be amended accordingly.

NAME CHANGE
 I, Ravinder S/o Vishwam R/O H.No-A-71 Kri.No-15/5/02, Gali No-4, Khajani Nagar, Jhohnpur, Jivan Pur Aliaz Johri Pur, North East Delhi, Delhi-110094 have changed the name of my minor daughter Mithi aged 9 years and she shall hereafter be known as Harshita.

NAME CHANGE
 I, KALE PRABHAVATI SURYABHAN, is legally mother of Army No. 2810645K, Rank - Sep, Name - KALE DHANYAKUMAR SURYABHAN, presently residing at Vill - Kalegaon, Post - Chaneagaon, Teh - Barshi, Dist - Solapur, State - Maharashtra - 413403, have changed my name from KALE PRABHAVATI SURYABHAN KALE and my date of birth from 13/05/1958 to 01/01/1961 for all future purposes. Vide affidavit dated 10/03/2026 before Notary Public Delhi.

NAME CHANGE
 I, hitherto known as Md Wasim Alam S/O Md Alam R/O Near Gurudwara, Munirka Village, J.N.U., PO: J.N.U., DIST: South West Delhi, Delhi-110067 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Md Wasim Akram.

Public Notice
 I, MOHD ASHRAF S/O MOHD SAMI R/O H.NO-25, THIRD FLOOR, LANE NO-7, NOOR NAGAR, EXT JOHRI FARM, SUKHDEV VIHAR, SOUTH DELHI-110025 declare That MOHD ASHRAF & MOHD ASHARAF both are the same and one person name.

NAME CHANGE
 I, hitherto known as Byuti Kumari W/o Anil Kumar R/O B-66, Vijay Vihar Phase - 2, Rohini, Rohini Sector-7, North West Delhi, Delhi-110085 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Sangeeta Kumari.

NAME CHANGE
 I, hitherto known as Toyear Hassan S/O M D Akbar R/O B-387, Gali No-13/10, Main Abdul Hamid Marg, B-Block, Subhash Vihar, Garhi Mendu, PO: Seelampur, Dist: North East Delhi, Delhi-110053 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Md Tahir.

NAME CHANGE
 I, hitherto known as Md Wasim Alam S/O Md Alam R/O Near Gurudwara, Munirka Village, J.N.U., PO: J.N.U., DIST: South West Delhi, Delhi-110067 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Md Wasim Akram.

NAME CHANGE
 I, hitherto known as Ravinder S/o Sukhram R/O House No - 520, J Block, Mangol Puri, North West Delhi, Delhi-110083 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Ravinder Kumar.

NAME CHANGE
 I, hitherto known as Md Wasim Alam S/O Md Alam R/O Near Gurudwara, Munirka Village, J.N.U., PO: J.N.U., DIST: South West Delhi, Delhi-110067 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Md Wasim Akram.

Public Notice
 General Public is hereby informed that I, Nipun sharma have been allotted and in possession of Unit No.OCCLD/5101 OCCLD/SECOND/D/148F3in the Project situated at Omaxe chowk "chandni chowk" and during the scrutiny of Original Property documents regarding the above said property it has been found that all Original Title Chain Documents i.e.Builder buyer agreement and rent agreement were lost/misplaced from our custody. I, the owner of property have tried our level best to find all possible places the aforesaid original documents, but yet not traceable and has lodged online lost complaint video Complaint/LR No. 157998 dated 11/03/2016 at Vikas Puri. If anybody find/trace the above said original documents then, please intimate/inform physically/telephonically - +91-11-41896680-85, 41893100 or send email at care@omaxe.com. if anybody has any legal objection regarding such lost Original Title Chain Documents and also the property in question then please make objection to the Company, M/s Omaxe Heritage Pvt. Ltd. within 7 days from the date of this publication. If no claim is received it shall be presumed that the property is free from all kinds of encumbrances.

NAME CHANGE
 I, SHINGAR KESHAV NIVRUTTI, is legally father of Army No. 2821633P, Rank - Sep, Name - SHINGAR SAGAR KESHAV, presently residing at Vill - Badapur, Post - Pimploga, J. Teh - Yeola, Dist - Nashik, State - Maharashtra - 423401, have changed my name from SHINGAR KESHAV NIVRUTTI to KESHAV NIVRUTTI SHINGAR for all future purposes. Vide affidavit dated 10/03/2026 before Public Notary Delhi.

NAME CHANGE
 I, SANGITA, is legally mother of Army No. 2821633P, Rank - Sep, Name - SHINGAR SAGAR KESHAV, presently residing at Vill - Badapur, Post - Pimploga, J. Teh - Yeola, Dist - Nashik, State - Maharashtra - 423401, have changed my name from SANGITA to SANGITA KESHAV SHINGAR and my date of birth from 29/09/1976 to 21/09/1976 for all future purposes. Vide affidavit dated 10/03/2026 before Public Notary Delhi.

NAME CHANGE
 I, KALE SURYABHAN NIVRUTI, is legally father of Army No. 2810645K, Rank - Sep, Name - KALE DHANYAKUMAR SURYABHAN, presently residing at Vill - Kalegaon, Post - Chaneagaon, Teh - Barshi, Dist - Solapur, State - Maharashtra - 413403, have changed my name from KALE SURYABHAN NIVRUTTI to SURYABHAN NIVRUTTI KALE and my date of birth from 01/01/1961 for all future purposes. Vide affidavit dated 10/03/2026 before Public Notary Delhi.

NAME CHANGE
 I, KALE PRABHAVATI SURYABHAN, is legally mother of Army No. 2810645K, Rank - Sep, Name - KALE DHANYAKUMAR SURYABHAN, presently residing at Vill - Kalegaon, Post - Chaneagaon, Teh - Barshi, Dist - Solapur, State - Maharashtra - 413403, have changed my name from KALE PRABHAVATI SURYABHAN KALE and my date of birth from 13/05/1958 to 01/01/1961 for all future purposes. Vide affidavit dated 10/03/2026 before Notary Public Delhi.

NAME CHANGE
 I, KALE PRABHAVATI SURYABHAN, is legally mother of Army No. 2810645K, Rank - Sep, Name - KALE DHANYAKUMAR SURYABHAN, presently residing at Vill - Kalegaon, Post - Chaneagaon, Teh - Barshi, Dist - Solapur, State - Maharashtra - 413403, have changed my name from KALE PRABHAVATI SURYABHAN KALE and my date of birth from 13/05/1958 to 01/01/1961 for all future purposes. Vide affidavit dated 10/03/2026 before Notary Public Delhi.

NAME CHANGE
 I, KALE PRABHAVATI SURYABHAN, is legally mother of Army No. 2810645K, Rank - Sep, Name - KALE DHANYAKUMAR SURYABHAN, presently residing at Vill - Kalegaon, Post - Chaneagaon, Teh - Barshi, Dist - Solapur, State - Maharashtra - 413403, have changed my name from KALE PRABHAVATI SURYABHAN KALE and my date of birth from 13/05/1958 to 01/01/1961 for all future purposes. Vide affidavit dated 10/03/2026 before Notary Public Delhi.

NAME CHANGE
 I, KALE PRABHAVATI SURYABHAN, is legally mother of Army No. 2810645K, Rank - Sep, Name - KALE DHANYAKUMAR SURYABHAN, presently residing at Vill - Kalegaon, Post - Chaneagaon, Teh - Barshi, Dist - Solapur, State - Maharashtra - 413403, have changed my name from KALE PRABHAVATI SURYABHAN KALE and my date of birth from 13/05/1958 to 01/01/1961 for all future purposes. Vide affidavit dated 10/03/2026 before Notary Public Delhi.

NAME CHANGE
 I, KALE PRABHAVATI SURYABHAN, is legally mother of Army No. 2810645K, Rank - Sep, Name - KALE DHANYAKUMAR SURYABHAN, presently residing at Vill - Kalegaon, Post - Chaneagaon, Teh - Barshi, Dist - Solapur, State - Maharashtra - 413403, have changed my name from KALE PRABHAVATI SURYABHAN KALE and my date of birth from 13/05/1958 to 01/01/1961 for all future purposes. Vide affidavit dated 10/03/2026 before Notary Public Delhi.

NAME CHANGE
 I, KALE PRABHAVATI SURYABHAN, is legally mother of Army No. 2810645K, Rank - Sep, Name - KALE DHANYAKUMAR SURYABHAN, presently residing at Vill - Kalegaon, Post - Chaneagaon, Teh - Barshi, Dist - Solapur, State - Maharashtra - 413403, have changed my name from KALE PRABHAVATI SURYABHAN KALE and my date of birth from 13/05/1958 to 01/01/1961 for all future purposes. Vide affidavit dated 10/03/2026 before Notary Public Delhi.

NAME CHANGE
 I, KALE PRABHAVATI SURYABHAN, is legally mother of Army No. 2810645K, Rank - Sep, Name - KALE DHANYAKUMAR SURYABHAN, presently residing at Vill - Kalegaon, Post - Chaneagaon, Teh - Barshi, Dist - Solapur, State - Maharashtra - 413403, have changed my name from KALE PRABHAVATI SURYABHAN KALE and my date of birth from 13/05/1958 to 01/01/1961 for all future purposes. Vide affidavit dated 10/03/2026 before Notary Public Delhi.

NAME CHANGE
 I, KALE PRABHAVATI SURYABHAN, is legally mother of Army No. 2810645K, Rank - Sep, Name - KALE DHANYAKUMAR SURYABHAN, presently residing at Vill - Kalegaon, Post - Chaneagaon, Teh - Barshi, Dist - Solapur, State - Maharashtra - 413403, have changed my name from KALE PRABHAVATI SURYABHAN KALE and my date of birth from 13/05/1958 to 01/01/1961 for all future purposes. Vide affidavit dated 10/03/2026 before Notary Public Delhi.

NAME CHANGE
 I, KALE PRABHAVATI SURYABHAN, is legally mother of Army No. 2810645K, Rank - Sep, Name - KALE DHANYAKUMAR SURYABHAN, presently residing at Vill - Kalegaon, Post - Chaneagaon, Teh - Barshi, Dist - Solapur, State - Maharashtra - 413403, have changed my name from KALE PRABHAVATI SURYABHAN KALE and my date of birth from 13/05/1958 to 01/01/1961 for all future purposes. Vide affidavit dated 10/03/2026 before Notary Public Delhi.

From Diplomacy to Raj Niwas: Taranjit Singh Sandhu Takes Oath

Contd.....Front page
 His appointment has therefore been welcomed by many observers as an important moment of representation and leadership within the national capital's governance structure. Sandhu succeeds Vinai Kumar Saxena, who served as Delhi's Lieutenant Governor since May 2022. Saxena has now been appointed as the Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh as part of a wider administrative reshuffle of governors and constitutional heads across several states and union territories. The office of Lieutenant Governor serves as the constitutional head of the National Capital Territory of Delhi, representing the President of India and overseeing important administrative matters of the Union Territory. In his first remarks after assuming office, Sandhu emphasized that Delhi, as the capital of the world's largest democracy, carries a special responsibility. He underlined that cooperation between the central government, the Delhi government and civic agencies will be essential to address key challenges such as urban infrastructure, pollution control, transportation, housing and public services. Observers believe Sandhu's diplomatic experience and ability to navigate complex institutional relationships could play a significant role in strengthening governance in the National Capital Territory. The majestic Raj Niwas in Civil Lines, also known historically as Ludlow Castle, has been the official residence of Delhi's Lieutenant Governors for decades. Beyond being a residence, it serves as the centre of constitutional administration in Delhi where major official meetings, policy discussions and ceremonial functions take place. From Independence Day receptions to diplomatic engagements, Raj Niwas remains one of the most prominent government establishments in the capital. With the swearing-in of Taranjit Singh Sandhu, Delhi begins a new phase of constitutional leadership. Political observers believe his international exposure, diplomatic skill and administrative experience may bring a fresh perspective to the governance of India's capital city. As Delhi continues to expand as a global metropolis, the role of the Lieutenant Governor will remain crucial in balancing constitutional responsibilities, ensuring coordination among institutions and guiding the capital toward sustainable development.

Public Notice

Notice is hereby given to the General Public that Mrs. Rajanti Devi W/o Mr. Vijay Singh in respect of Plot No. A 501 (Old Plot No. 1A), area measuring 30 Sq. Yds., out of Kharsa No. 7/3, situated in the area of Village Mirzapur, colony known as Mahavir Enclave, Part-II, Gali No. 13, New Delhi-110059, by virtue of Notarized, G/A dated 14.11.2022, ATS and Will, executed by Mr. Anoop Verma S/o Mr. Sattar Singh and said property to be sold to Mrs. Gudiya 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.

Rahul Raj, Advocate,
 SG Associates (Law Firm)
 B-01, Plot No. 20, Kaushambi, Ghaziabad-201010.
 E-MAIL: sgassociatespl@gmail.com
 Ph: 8130309204.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Information is given to general public at large that our client Mrs. Mamta is the owner of Freehold Residential Plot No. 04 (Old Plot No. 61) area measuring 20 sq. yds. Out of Khatwa no. 122 Khatoni no. 196Min, Mu no. 120 Killa no. 3, 7/2, 8 & 13/2 Situated at Jatwani Mauza Badkhal SGM Nagar Tehsil & Distt Faridabad Haryana. by virtue of Sale Deed dated 08.04.2010 vide Doc no. 351 Book no. 01 SRO-FDB., in the chain documents below mentioned documents not available i.e. SMC of Late Mr. Prem Nath in now our client is declaring that any other person does not have any right over the said property, and same property sold to be Mr. Sukanta Roy and same has been financed by Tata Capital Housing Finance Limited Branch: FF Soco-04, Sector-16 (Near HDFC Bank) Faridabad Haryana. If any person(s) have any objection(s) or claim(s) with respect to the right, title or interest in the said Property then contact us within 07 days from the date of Publication of this notice and or the same to the undersigned if found by anyone. Thereafter no claim shall be entertained

[NAVEEN KUMAR VERMA]
 Advocate
 F-21, Sector-3, Vaishali, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201010 (Contact at 09958871432)

NAME CHANGE

I, SHIVAJI SAKHARAM AMBARE, is legally father of Army No. 2822239W, Rank - Sep, Name - AMBARE SHUBHAM SHIVAJI, presently residing at MMA 73-14 Bharat Sevak Samaj Rahivashi Sangh, Khardeo Nagar, Chembur, VTC - Mumbai, Post - Chembur, Teh - Kurla, Dist - Mumbai Suburban, State - Maharashtra - 400071, have changed my name from SHIVAJI SAKHARAM AMBARE to SHIVAJI SAKHARAM AMBARE for all future purposes. Vide affidavit dated 11/03/2026 before Public Notary Delhi.

NAME CHANGE

I, SANJIWANI, is legally mother of Army No. 2822239W, Rank - Sep, Name - AMBARE SHUBHAM SHIVAJI, presently residing at MMA 73-14 Bharat Sevak Samaj Rahivashi Sangh, Khardeo Nagar, Chembur, VTC - Mumbai, Post - Chembur, Teh - Kurla, Dist - Mumbai Suburban, State - Maharashtra - 400071, have changed my name from SANJIWANI to SANJIWANI SHIVAJI AMBARE for all future purposes. Vide affidavit dated 11/03/2026 before Public Notary Delhi.

NAME CHANGE

I, GITABAHEN Army No 2803522P, Rank - Hav Name - Makawana Anvansin Jalusinh, At - Gadghada, Post - Agood, Tes - Vijapur, Dist - Mahesana,

NEWS BOX

Injured Or Hiding Iran's New Ayatollah Remains Missing From Public View

world. (Agency)

It's been nearly four days since Iran named Ayatollah Mojtaba Khamenei as its next Supreme Leader, but his whereabouts and the circumstances of his elevation remain shrouded in mystery. He has not appeared before the supporters or shared a video address. He or his office has not even issued a written statement, as state media leant into archival footage to introduce him. Reports in Iran's state media indicate that the 56-year-old cleric was likely injured in the ongoing US-Israeli strike on Iran, which the Iranian regime has named the Ramadan War. Iran's state TV has referred to him as "Jaانباز of Ramadan", meaning an "injured war veteran". The anchors on Iranian state TV reports describe Mojtaba Khamenei as a 'jaانباز,' or wounded by the enemy, in the 'Ramadan war' while reporting on his ascension as supreme leader. They did not elaborate further, fuelling speculation about his physical condition, particularly given that he has not been seen publicly since the war began.

This could explain the lack of an in-person or a video address to the nation, but the lack of a written statement still remains a mystery. But even though Mojtaba Khamenei remains unseen, the public pledges of allegiance continue rolling in. Videos from Tehran show that the historic Valiasr Square has a new mural showing the younger Khamenei receiving the flag from his dead father, Ali Khamenei, as the founder of the Islamic regime, Ruhollah Khomeini, watches on. The Valiasr Square mural, often used to portray the state narratives, is seen as an attempt by the theocratic regime to project the handover of power as seamless, despite the contradiction of a father-to-son succession in a system born from a revolution against monarchy. Iranians also rallied in Tehran on Tuesday to pledge their allegiance to their new leader. The rally was reportedly organised in response to US President Donald Trump's remark claiming Iran's new leader should be chosen with his approval. "We want to show that the leader of Iran is chosen by Iranians themselves," a protestor told RT.

Container Ship Hit By Unknown Projectile Off UAE Coast: UK Maritime Agency

World. (Agency)

A container ship was hit off the coast of the United Arab Emirates by an unidentified projectile, a British maritime security agency reported Wednesday, as Iran carries out a retaliation campaign in the Gulf in response to US-Israeli strikes. "The Master of a container vessel has reported that the vessel has sustained damage from a suspected but unknown projectile," the United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations (UKMTO) said, adding the extent of the damage was unknown but all crew members were safe. The incident took place 25 nautical miles (29 miles) northwest of the emirate of Ras Al Khaimah, the agency said. It called on vessels to transit the region "with caution" while authorities investigate the incident. Iran's elite Revolutionary Guards have said they had "complete control" of the Strait of Hormuz, a crucial chokepoint into the Gulf and one of the world's most vital shipping routes for energy.

The crucial waterway -- less than 30 miles (48 kilometers) across at its narrowest point -- is shared by Iran on one side and Oman on the other. At least 10 oil tankers in or near the strait were struck, targeted, or reported attacks between March 1 and 10, according to data compiled by the UK Maritime Trade Organisation, the International Maritime Organization, and Iranian authorities.

US President Donald Trump warned Iran on Tuesday of unprecedented military consequences if it mines the Strait of Hormuz, after Tehran vowed that no Gulf oil would pass through the key waterway.

The White House said earlier Tuesday that the United States has not escorted any oil tanker through the Strait of Hormuz, after the energy secretary's social media account posted but then deleted a claim that it did so.

6 Killed, 5 Injured As Bus Catches Fire In Switzerland: Cops

WASHINGTON. (Agency)

A bus caught fire in western Switzerland on Tuesday killing at least six people and injuring five others in what police said may have been a deliberate act. The fire broke out on the bus in the main street of the small town of Kerzers, around 20 kilometres (12 miles) west of the Swiss capital Bern, at about 6:25 pm (1725 GMT). Videos circulating on social media showed flames several metres high bursting out from the windows, and black smoke rising into the sky.

The fire "left at least six dead and five injured, three of them seriously", Fribourg cantonal police sergeant Frederic Papaux told AFP. The police are currently treating the fire as a man-made incident, and even a deliberate act," he said, without providing further details. At a press conference, police would not be drawn on potential hypotheses including suicide or an act of terror. In a statement, Fribourg police said a criminal investigation had been opened by public prosecutors "to determine the exact circumstances of the tragedy". The burnt-out shell of the bus was screened off behind white tarpaulins set up across the road, an AFP journalist saw. The scene was cordoned off, with police standing guard at the tape. Firefighters and fire trucks were also present.

"Emergency services rushed to the scene and found the vehicle completely engulfed in flames. Firefighters carried out rescue and extinguishing operations. A security perimeter was set up," the police statement said. Several ambulances and a helicopter were sent to the scene and three injured people were taken to hospital.

Iran launches new wave of attacks on Israel, Gulf nations as G7 weighs oil reserve release

Tehran intensified its assault on targets in the region, announcing that it carried out its own "most intense and heaviest" salvo, firing missiles for three hours at cities across Israel.

TEHRAN. (Agency)

Iran unleashed a wave of attacks against Israel and Gulf nations on Wednesday, including targeting a Saudi oilfield, as reports of a proposed record release of oil reserves helped calm markets and prices.

The war sparked by US-Israeli strikes on Iran has spread across the region and beyond, causing spiking energy costs, fuel rationing, and even school closures. The Group of Seven (G7) leaders will meet by

video conference later on Wednesday to discuss the war's economic consequences, particularly the "energy situation", the French presidency said, and the International Energy Agency will decide on a proposal for its largest-ever oil reserve release, the Wall Street Journal reported.

The United States on Tuesday said it was hitting Iranian ships capable of mining the Strait of Hormuz, the crucial passageway for oil that has been effectively closed by Iranian threats. The US military posted video footage of Iranian boats blasted apart, saying it had destroyed 16 minelayers near the strait through which one-fifth of the world's oil passes. "If for any reason mines were placed, and they are not removed forthwith, the Military consequences to Iran will be at a level never seen before," US President Donald Trump wrote on social media. Trump faces mounting political risks over the surging cost of oil, months before US elections. Crude prices spiked five percent late Tuesday, before turning lower Wednesday after the reserve release report. Trump has said the US

military could accompany tankers through the strait, but his administration acknowledged that a post by the energy



secretary announcing a first such escort was untrue. Early Wednesday, the UK maritime agency said a container ship off the coast of the United Arab Emirates had been hit by an "unknown projectile," illustrating the ongoing risks to transport through the region. With an eye on jittery markets, Trump on Monday said the war would be short, although his defence secretary, Pete Hegseth, then said Tehran would be hit by unprecedented fire on

Tuesday.

"Not seeking ceasefire" The Israeli-US attacks came weeks after Iranian authorities ruthlessly crushed mass protests, although the United States and Israel say they are not necessarily seeking to topple the Islamic republic. Iranian authorities warned against dissent at home, with the country's police chief saying protesters will be viewed and dealt with as "enemies". "All our forces are also ready, with their hands on the trigger, prepared to defend their revolution," said national police chief Ahmad-Reza Radan in comments aired by IRIB. Tehran also intensified its assault on targets in the region, with the government announcing it carried out its own "most intense and heaviest" salvo, firing missiles for three hours at cities across Israel. AFP journalists heard air raid sirens and explosions in Jerusalem. Emergency services reported no immediate injuries, although Channel 12 said several people were hurt in Tel Aviv.

Trump says Reliance may partner in first new US oil refinery project in 50 years

DORAL. (Agency)

US President Donald Trump on Wednesday said that India's Reliance Industries is expected to invest or partner in the first new US oil refinery project in 50 years in Brownsville, Texas. In a social media post, Trump said the project could be a historic \$300 billion investment.

"America is returning to REAL ENERGY DOMINANCE! Today I am proud to announce that America First Refining is opening the FIRST new U.S. Oil Refinery in 50 YEARS in Brownsville, Texas. THIS IS A HISTORIC \$300 BILLION DOLLAR DEAL, THE BIGGEST IN U.S. HISTORY, A MASSIVE WIN for American Workers, Energy, and the GREAT People of South Texas! Thank you to our partners in India, and their largest privately held Energy Company, Reliance, for this tremendous investment," said Trump in a social media post Truth Social. The statement comes amid volatility in global oil supply and heavy dependence on West Asia for crude. As the war between Iran and Israel escalated, it has affected the global

supply of fuel, particularly as the Strait of Hormuz, a narrow waterway in the Persian Gulf, has been disrupted. The disruption has pushed crude and gas prices higher globally and made supplies more vulnerable.



"It is because of our America First Agenda, streamlining Permits, and lowering Taxes, that have attracted Billions of Dollars in Deals coming back to our Nation. A new Refinery at the Port of Brownsville, will fuel U.S. Markets, strengthen our National Security, boost American Energy production, deliver Billions of Dollars in Economic impact, and will be THE CLEANEST REFINERY IN THE WORLD. It will power Global Exports, and bring THOUSANDS of long

overdue Jobs and Growth to a Region that deserves it. This is what AMERICAN ENERGY DOMINANCE looks like. AMERICA FIRST, ALWAYS!," said Trump.

Reliance Industries operates the Jamnagar complex in Gujarat, the world's largest single-site refining hub, with a capacity of 1.24 million barrels per day. The company accounts for more than 70% of India's refined product shipments and is a major supplier to Europe and the United States. Meanwhile, as the country faces a potential LPG supply shortage, Reliance Industries said it will maximise LPG production from its refining and petrochemicals complexes at Jamnagar, the world's largest integrated refining hub.

In a press note, the company said its teams are working around the clock to optimise refinery operations and enhance LPG output for the domestic market. It also said that all natural gas produced from the KG-D6 Basin will be diverted to support supply to priority sectors, in line with national energy priorities and government guidelines.

We "Respect" Iran's Choice Of New Supreme Leader: North Korea

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. 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 I believe 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.

Such actions "deserve worldwide

criticism and rejection as they can never be tolerated," the official added. The United States has for decades led efforts to dismantle North Korea's nuclear programme, but summits, sanctions and diplomatic pressure have had little impact. In recent months, the Trump administration has mounted a push to revive high-level talks with Pyongyang, eyeing a potential summit between the US president and the North's Kim Jong Un this year. After largely ignoring those overtures for months, Kim recently said that the two nations could "get along" if Washington accepted Pyongyang's nuclear status. Terrible consequences' Pyongyang's state media also said on Wednesday that North Korea's leader oversaw another test-firing of strategic cruise missiles from the naval Choe Hyon destroyer.

US says it destroyed 16 mine-laying vessels as Iran threatens to block Gulf oil exports

The U.S. said it took out more than a dozen mine-laying Iranian vessels Tuesday, and the Islamic Republic vowed to block the region's oil exports, saying it would not allow "even a single liter" to be shipped to its enemies. As concerns grew about the war's effect on a strategic waterway, the American military said it destroyed 16 minelayers, though President Donald Trump said in social media posts that there were no reports of Iran planting explosives in the Strait of Hormuz, through which 20% of the world's oil is shipped. The American military released the figure, along with unclassified footage of some of the vessels, after Trump threatened to hit Iran at "a level never seen before" if the country failed to immediately remove any mines it might have deployed in the channel

Both sides sharpened their rhetoric as the war entered its 11th day. U.S. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth promised the most intense strikes yet while the Pentagon detailed the

broader toll of injuries sustained by U.S. troops. The conflict's effects rippled across the Middle East and beyond. Iranian leaders ruled out talks, threatened Trump and launched new attacks against Israel and Gulf Arab countries. In Iran, residents of Tehran said they experienced some of the war's heaviest strikes. A woman said she saw a residential building get hit. She and others reached by The Associated Press spoke on condition of anonymity to prevent reprisals. Tens of thousands of Iranians have sought shelter in the countryside.

Lebanon reports more deaths Multiple Israeli strikes across southern Lebanon killed seven people, the Lebanese Health Ministry said early Wednesday. Other deaths included a Red Cross member who died early Wednesday after an Israeli strike targeted his team Monday while they were rescuing people following an earlier attack, the health ministry said. On Tuesday, Israeli airstrikes killed four



people, including a paramedic who worked for the Hezbollah-affiliated Islamic Health Authority who was treating the wounded.

Also Tuesday, an Israeli strike killed a Lebanese soldier, the Lebanese army said, bringing the number of troops killed there to five since the conflict began. Israel said it was working to intercept missiles from Iran and Hezbollah, which began firing on Israel after the start of the war. Saudi Arabia's Defense Ministry said early Wednesday that it intercepted multiple missiles launched toward several

sites, including Prince Sultan Air Base, a major U.S.- and Saudi-operated air facility. The ministry said it also destroyed drones near two major cities and more headed toward the kingdom's vast Shaybah oil field in the Empty Quarter desert.

In Iraq, drones targeted military bases inside Baghdad International Airport late Tuesday, two security officials told AP on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to the press. Some drones fell near Iraqi security positions, while others landed near logistical support sites used by U.S.-led coalition forces, one official said. The United Arab Emirates said early Wednesday that its air defenses were firing at incoming Iranian fire. The wealthy Gulf nation — home to the business and travel hub of Dubai — said Iranian attacks have killed six people and wounded 122 others. Bahrain sounded sirens early Wednesday, warning of an incoming Iranian attack.

Microsoft urges Pentagon pause blacklisting Anthropic

UNITED NATIONS. (Agency)

Microsoft on Tuesday warned a judge that the Pentagon blacklisting of Anthropic could hamper US warfighters and imperil the country's drive to lead in artificial intelligence.

In a brief, Microsoft backed Anthropic's request for an order stopping the Pentagon from implementing its ban on the use of Anthropic AI until the matter is settled in court. Anthropic filed suit this week against the Trump administration, alleging the US government retaliated against the company for refusing to let its Claude AI model be used for autonomous lethal warfare and mass surveillance of Americans. In the complaint, filed in federal court in San Francisco, Anthropic seeks to have its designation as a national security supply-chain risk declared unlawful and blocked. Anthropic is the first US company ever to have been publicly punished with such a designation, a label typically reserved for organizations from foreign adversary countries, such as Chinese tech giant Huawei. The label not only blocks use of the company's technology by the Pentagon, but also requires all defense vendors and contractors to certify that they do not use Anthropic's models in their work with the department. AI overhaul Microsoft argued in an amicus brief that blacklisting Anthropic was an unprecedented response to a contract dispute that portended ill for the technology sector as well as the US military. "This is not the time to put at risk the very AI ecosystem that the administration has helped to champion," Microsoft said in the brief. A temporary restraining order would allow time to avoid disrupting the American military's ongoing use of advanced AI, Microsoft argued.

"Otherwise, Microsoft and other technology companies must act immediately to alter existing product and contract configurations used by Department of War." This could potentially hamper US warfighters at a critical point in time. "The row erupted days before the US military strike on Iran. Anthropic's Claude is the Pentagon's most widely-deployed frontier AI model and the only such model currently operating on its classified systems. Anthropic had infuriated Pentagon chief Pete Hegseth by insisting the technology should not be used for mass surveillance or fully autonomous weapons systems. President Donald Trump subsequently ordered every federal agency to cease all use of Anthropic's technology. "AI should not be used to conduct domestic mass surveillance or put the country in a position where autonomous machines could independently start a war," Microsoft said in the filing.

NEWS BOX

'Gas trouble' likely to hit Bengaluru's 178 Indira Canteens

BENGALURU (Agency)
With the escalation of the conflict in West Asia, the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) is beginning to face the heat. Having around 11 centralised kitchens which depend on 85 commercial cylinders daily to prepare the food served at Indira Canteens, the top officials say the situation at present is manageable but in a few days, there may be issues.

As per officials, there are over 177 public canteens across Bengaluru city, and the poor public who get breakfast for Rs 5 and meals at Rs 10 may suffer.

A senior staff member from the REWARDS agency that supplies food to 133 Indira Canteens in five city municipal corporations, said, "In a day, we need 70 cylinders. We can run the show till Tuesday evening and supply food. From Wednesday, we cannot cook in case the cylinders are not supplied," said the agency staffer. The member said the issue was discussed with GBA chief M Maheshwar Rao. "He said he will meet Food and Civil Supplies Commissioner and address the concerns," said the member.

Similarly, ChefTalk agency, which operates with three centralised kitchens in Dasarahalli, Gandhinagar and Nayandahalli, supplies food to 44 Indira Canteens in Dasarahalli in West City Corporation, Gandhinagar and Chamrajpet assembly in Central City Corporation, stated that, to supply food, 15 cylinders of 19.5 kg are needed daily.

Delivery location row turns violent in Bengaluru

BENGALURU (Agency)
A 27-year-old private firm employee was allegedly assaulted by a gig worker over a delivery location dispute in Angalamma Layout in the Koramangala police station limits on March 7. The assault resulted in a nasal bone fracture.

The victim, Paul J Vithayathi, is a resident of 8th Block, Koramangala, a native of Kerala. Speaking to TNEI, Vithayathi said that on March 7, he ordered snacks from Blinkit. The delivery executive went to the fourth floor of another block of the apartment instead of his flat. "I called him and asked him to come to the second floor of another block, but he initially refused, claiming that he had already climbed four floors. Later, he came to the second floor, where he allegedly picked up an argument and spoke abusively in Tamil. During the altercation, the accused punched me in the face multiple times," the victim said. He added that despite apologising, the delivery person continued to assault him.

The victim's relative later posted about the incident on X, tagging Blinkit. In response, the company said, "We are extremely concerned to hear about this and would like to assure you that we have a zero-tolerance policy towards such actions. We are investigating this on priority and will share an update soon."

Police said the victim sustained severe bleeding injuries near his nose and lips, and his nasal bone was fractured. Initially, an NCR (Non-Cognisable Report) was registered. On Tuesday, an FIR was registered under Sections 117, 126, and other sections of the BNS. Police are analysing CCTV footage to trace the accused, identified as Joseph.

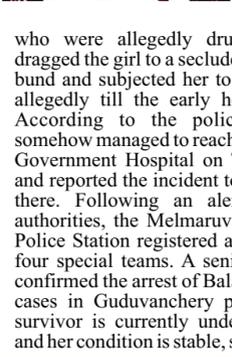
Minor riding with friends on bike chased and gangraped near Madurantakam in Chennai

CHENGALPATTU (Agency)
A 14-year-old girl was allegedly gangraped by a history-sheeter and his associate on the banks of a waterbody near Madurantakam on Monday night. While the police have arrested one suspect, a history-sheeter named 'Kakka' Balaji of Thiruverkadu, search is on for his accomplice.

Preliminary inquiries revealed when the girl along with two others — a 17-year-old boy and a 16-year-old girl — were heading from Tambaram to Keelakandai village near Madurantakam on a bike, they were intercepted by the men, who were following them on another two-wheeler, near Devathur.

In a bid to evade the pursuers, the boy accelerated but lost control of the vehicle, causing it to fall. In the ensuing chaos, when the men closed in, the boy and the other girl managed to escape on the bike, leaving behind the 14-year-old, who was injured in the crash.

The two men, who were allegedly drunk at the time, dragged the girl to a secluded area near a lake bund and subjected her to rape and assault, allegedly till the early hours of Tuesday. According to the police, the survivor somehow managed to reach the Chengalpattu Government Hospital on Tuesday morning and reported the incident to the duty doctors there. Following an alert from hospital authorities, the Melmaruvathur All Women Police Station registered a case and formed four special teams. A senior police official confirmed the arrest of Balaji, who has many cases in Guduvanchery police limits. The survivor is currently undergoing treatment and her condition is stable, sources added.



MMRDA turns to ads, fibre leasing to boost MTHL revenue

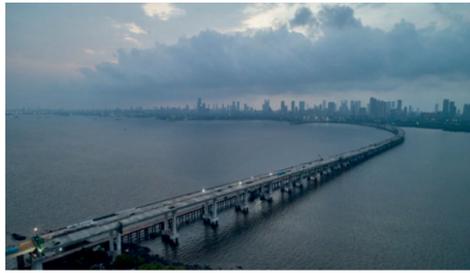
Mumbai (Agency)
With traffic on the Mumbai Trans Harbour Link falling below projections, the Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority is exploring new revenue streams on the 21 km sea bridge, including advertising rights and leasing optical fibre cable (OFC) infrastructure.

The authority has invited bids to monetise advertising space on hoardings and kiosks along the bridge and expects to earn at least Rs 2.5 crore annually from the initiative. In parallel, it plans to licence optical fibre cables running along the bridge to telecom and internet operators as part of efforts to boost non fare revenue.

Opened to traffic in January 2024, the bridge generated Rs 32.26 crore in toll revenue in its initial months of operation. In 2024-25, toll collections rose to Rs 182.11 crore. From April 2025 to December 2025, the collection stood at about Rs 160 crore.

However, traffic volumes remain significantly below projections. The last time the MMRDA released detailed usage data, it said the bridge had recorded an average daily traffic of 22,689

vehicles in its first year since opening. The sea bridge, inaugurated by Narendra Modi on January 13, 2024, was expected to see around 40,000 vehicles per day in its first year,



according to projections from a study conducted by MMRDA and the Japan International Cooperation Agency.

Officials said toll revenue also reflects the lower than expected traffic. "Average daily toll earnings are around Rs 27 lakh to Rs 30 lakh, about 30 per cent lower than projected

estimates," said a senior MMRDA official. Authorities attribute the shortfall to incomplete approach infrastructure, including the Sewri Worli Connector, the link to the Mumbai Pune Expressway and connectivity to the upcoming Navi Mumbai International Airport.

To augment revenue, the authority plans to allow advertising across about 4,100 sq m of space on the bridge. This includes 11 illuminated hoardings measuring 40 by 40 feet, both digital and static, as well as around 1,212 smaller kiosk hoardings measuring 3 by 6 feet along the divider. Additional advertising space of 80 by 30 feet will be created at toll plazas. Advertising rights will be awarded for 10 years to the bidder offering the highest revenue share.

The MMRDA is also looking to monetise two 50 mm OFC ducts along the bridge, which can be leased to telecom and wireless internet providers to improve network connectivity across the corridor. Officials did not disclose the expected revenue from the OFC licensing.

Ceramic exporters' woes continue: 1,500 containers stuck at ports or in transit; shipping lines impose war risk surcharge

The Central Government, on March 6, issued a notification laying down Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for major ports to mitigate the impact of geopolitical disturbances in West Asia.

Ahmedabad (Agency)
The blocking of the Strait of Hormuz has left 1,500 containers of ceramic exports either stuck at ports or in transit, raising the prospect of exporters having to bear not only shipping surcharges and demurrage charges — fees imposed by shipping lines when cargo containers remain at a port beyond the permitted time period — but also a war risk surcharge imposed by shipping companies.

The containers largely carry wall tiles, floor tiles, vitrified tiles and sanitaryware destined for countries in West Asia. Each container carries goods worth an average of Rs 4-4.5 lakh and is stuck either at Mundra Port in Kutch or at ports in the Gulf, an industry leader said.

The size of the ceramic market in India is about Rs 75,000 crore with Morbi in Gujarat accounting for about 90% of India's production in the sector. The West Asia conflict has affected earnings from orders that have already been dispatched for delivery.

Notably, India's ceramic exports stand at approximately Rs 21,000 crore, of which the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) nations and nearby countries account for around Rs 6,000



crore — roughly 25%. Industry leaders have raised concerns that exporters are not only facing shipping surcharge costs, demurrage charges and uncertainty over

deliveries, but are also having to make payments for goods already shipped, compounding losses caused by the conflict.

Speaking to The Indian Express, Nilesh Jetpariya, Chairman of the Panel for Ceramics at the Chemical and Allied Products Export Promotion Council (CAPEXIL), said: "The biggest challenge at the moment is that there are 1,500 containers already loaded for Gulf countries and other destinations affected by the war. They are either lying at Indian ports, are on transiting ships, or are at ports in those countries. The average container freight cost is between \$300 and \$600. Shipping lines have imposed a war risk surcharge of \$4,000-5,000. This doubles the price of the product, and if the buyer refuses to take delivery at this rate, the exporter will have to pay the surcharge along with the return freight cost as well."

The average profit per container is about \$300, which is completely wiped out by these charges, Jetpariya said.

10 days after Iran-Israel conflict tanker strike, Company admits Mumbai seafarer's body still trapped onboard

Mumbai (Agency)
Ten days after Mumbai seafarer Dixit Solanki died in a missile strike on the oil tanker MT MKD Vyom off the coast of Oman, his body remains onboard the damaged vessel with the shipping company now admitting that it had initially miscommunicated to the family that his remains had been recovered, has learned.

In an email sent to the family on March 9, V. Ships India, the crewing manager for the tanker, told Dixit's father Amratlal and his sister Mitali that earlier communication claiming his body had been retrieved from the engine room and moved to the vessel's deck was "inaccurate".

The clarification, Solanki's father told this newspaper, has deepened the anguish of the family, which says it had been repeatedly told since the day of the March 1 attack that the body had been recovered but could not be repatriated due to

safety concerns. Dixit, a Kandivali resident and an oiler aboard the ship, died when the Marshall Islands-flagged tanker was hit by what authorities believe was a projectile or drone boat about 52 nautical miles off Muscat, triggering an explosion and fire in the engine room.

engine room when the projectile struck the vessel near the starboard quarter above the waterline. "Immediately following the explosion, the Master requested a headcount of the crew in order to determine whether any crew members were missing or injured. Following extensive search efforts, Mr. Dixit A. Solanki was located in the engine room near the area of the hull breach. Tragically, he was identified as deceased by the Master due to the severe injuries he had sustained as a result of the explosion and resulting fire," the email read.

The email said that the remaining 21 crew initially attempted to extinguish the fire using portable extinguishers and buckets of water, while attempting to access the engine room to recover Dixit, but conditions in the engine room were extremely dangerous and the blaze later reignited.



Gujarat cuts industrial gas use by 50 per cent; Hotel association warns of impact on small eateries

Ahmedabad (Agency)
Despite recent industrial gas supply restrictions, Gujarat's Energy and Petrochemicals Minister Rushikesh Patel said on Tuesday that there will be no disruption in the supply of domestic gas cylinders.

The state is prioritising household LPG and PNG needs amid ongoing disruptions linked to the West Asia conflict.

The Gujarat government has imposed a 50 per cent cut in gas supplies to industries and a 40 per cent cut for fertiliser and milk processing units to prioritise household cooking fuel. While assuring that domestic LPG distribution remains uninterrupted, Patel said: "The state government is constantly working to ensure that no household is left without a cylinder. We are in continuous contact with the central government regarding this.

The state and the Centre are coordinating closely to ensure that households do not face any shortage of cooking gas cylinders.

Measures are being taken in line with periodic guidelines issued by the central government to prevent panic and ensure the steady availability of LPG for households. "We have

imposed a 50 per cent cut in gas supply to industries. For fertiliser and milk processing units, there is a cut of about 40 per cent in gas supply. The decision is aimed at ensuring that domestic users get cooking gas without any disruption. The state government is committed to maintaining a regular and steady supply for households," he added.

The minister denied that there was any directive to hotels and restaurants regarding restrictions on commercial gas cylinders, saying there is no cut as far as commercial cylinders are concerned. He said the government's immediate focus is to ensure that domestic kitchens continue to function normally, for which the state and the Centre are working closely.

However, Narendra Somani, president of the Gujarat Hotels and Restaurant Association, told The Indian Express that the regular supply of commercial gas cylinders across the state has been disrupted.

He added that 70-80 per cent of the 10,000 hotels and restaurants in Gujarat run on PNG supplied by Adani Gas, while the remaining 20 per cent — largely small eateries — are the most affected.

Antilia bomb scare case: HC rejects former police officer Pradeep Sharma's discharge plea

The HC found no grounds to interfere in the special court order and observed that whether evidence collected against Sharma was sufficient shall be decided during the trial.

Mumbai (Agency)
The Bombay High Court on Tuesday rejected the appeal of retired ACP Pradeep Sharma against a special court order that rejected his discharge plea in connection with the National Investigation Agency's (NIA's) Antilia terror scare case and Mansukh Hiran murder case.

The HC found no grounds to interfere in the special court order and observed that whether evidence collected against Sharma was sufficient shall be decided during the trial. Sharma was taken into custody by the NIA in June 2021 and was booked for offences, including murder, criminal conspiracy,

kidnapping, causing disappearance of evidence, and destruction of evidence under the Indian Penal Code (IPC) along with provisions of Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, and the Arms Act.

The NIA claimed he was involved in the plot to kill Thane resident Hiran, connected to the SUV placed outside Antilia, the Mumbai residence of industrialist Mukesh Ambani, on February 25, 2021. The vehicle was allegedly parked by the key accused, dismissed police officer Sachin Waze. Special court judge

A M Patil on February 15, 2025 had examined the material on record and prima facie held it was

Sharma then approached the HC through advocate Niranjani Mundargi, who argued that there were no sufficient grounds to frame charges against him and the NIA had raised mere suspicion about him. Additional Solicitor General (ASG) Anil Singh for NIA opposed the appeal claiming sufficient evidence to prove Sharma's involvement in the case and he cannot be discharged from the case. "What is the role played by the co-conspirators and whether the incriminating circumstantial

evidence collected against the appellant are sufficient to rope him in for the offence under IPC shall be a matter for trial. At this stage when an accused, who is facing the aforementioned offences cannot contend that the charges cannot be framed against him on the allegation of criminal conspiracy," a bench of Chief Justice Shree Chandrashekar and Justice Suman Shyam of the HC observed in its order.

The bench noted that the "test in law at this stage is of a prima facie case" and it was "not required to assess whether the materials collected against the appellant in the course of the investigation are sufficient for his conviction".

Surat civic body office Mughal Sarai, built during Shah Jahan's reign, renamed Tapi Bhavan; Muglisara to be called Tapipura

Surat (Agency)
The 17th-century Mughal Sarai building, which houses offices of the Surat Municipal Corporation (SMC), will now be called Tapi Bhavan, while Muglisara, the area where it is located, will be renamed Tapipura. The decision was taken on Tuesday by the BJP-ruled civic body during the last general board meeting before the end of the elected body's term ahead of the upcoming urban local body elections.

The renaming proposal was tabled by Mayor Daxesh Mavani in the general board — the highest decision-making body of the municipal corporation — and was cleared by a majority.

In 2018, BJP corporator Vijay Chaumal had sent a request to then mayor Dr Jagdish Patel to change the name of Mughal Sarai to Tapi Bhavan or Suryapur Bhavan, the latter being the ancient name of Surat.

After the decision, Chaumal told The Indian Express, "I am very happy as, after six long years, my dream to rename Mughal Sarai has come true."

Sarai described as 'heaven' According to the Surat Municipal Corporation (SMC) website, Mughal Sarai was a travellers' inn built during the reign of Mughal emperor Shah Jahan in 1644 A.D. by Eshak Beg Yazdi, a chief guard of the family of Mumtaz Mahal, the wife of Shah Jahan.

In the 18th century, the British used the building as a jail. Since 1867, the building has been occupied by the present municipal corporation.

The inscriptions in Arabic on marble stones that describe the history of the sarai are now preserved at the Prince of Wales Museum in Mumbai (now the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya), according to the SMC website.



"true that the larger conspiracy is hatched by the accused in secrecy and acceptability of evidence can be considered at the stage of trial".

Narratives, pretensions and reality

Yes, yes, Bharat is mahan, very great, aspires to be vishwaguru or world teacher. And our leadership is also the best and smartest in the world, with every other great world leader a personal friend. We garner awards from all corners of the world, even countries ordinary citizens may never have heard of. All in the nation's name, of course; nothing personal about it.

And, if we are to believe an overwhelming section of the media and the commentariat, the United States is not only a declining power but has already lost its war with Iran. Notwithstanding the stark reality of a decimated Iranian leadership, air defence totally destroyed and the missile capacity degraded substantially. No, it's not a case of wishful thinking or mass delusion. People believe whatever they need to. Those who lose wars—hot or cold—must content themselves with preaching and propaganda. Narratives as the opiate of the masses. He who shall not be named said something similar, remember, but about religion? It has happened before. The erstwhile Soviet Union lost to the US, but its leftist supporters found cushy and tenured positions in Western academia as post-colonialists. Closer to our own pain point, the progressive Muslim Left lost to their sectarian and separatist Partition-mongering co-religionists. Pakistan was born a day before India, a blood-soaked severance of the sacred soil of Mother India. But they captured Bollywood. Lahore penetrated Mumbai.

Similarly, we see China losing to the US in most theatres the world over, but its propaganda machine has infiltrated right into the heart of American politics, media and civil society. And ours too, in all probability? Russia, too, far from a swift victory in Ukraine, is entrapped in a four-plus year war, from which it finds it very hard to extricate itself. It has also given up the Middle East, with its sponsored proxy regime overthrown, and its erstwhile dictator, Bashar al-Assad, now living in Russia under Russian protection.

But we can't criticise Russia or its lifelung, 'elected leader'. He is a friend of India. Just as China's president for life is. We can—and must—criticise the US and Israel. Because they are occupying, colonising powers, no? Yes, both Ukraine and Iran, to a huge extent, are proxy wars. And in both cases, the Western alliance led by the US seems to have the upper hand. But don't forget the US is an ever-declining power. The idea behind propaganda is simple, if dangerous. If major powers lose their resolve to rule, defeating them becomes easier. With Europe's colonial guilt and managed decline well underway, a similar abdication, sooner than later, across the Atlantic is only to be expected. Oh, but there's the inconvenient phenomenon called Donald J Trump. Hated by the opposition parties both in the US and India. There is, however, a popular saying, "Cometh the hour, cometh the man." That Trump represents something much deeper, the US belief in its own exceptionalism and its refusal to cave in, can easily be glossed over through ad hominem homilies.

The other side has been drumming it into us for decades: the decline of the US and the rise of China is a foregone conclusion. Who can dispute that? Why bother if Red China has not been able to provide an alternative to the Western world order, militarily, financially or politically within its own country? The dollar will fall, of course, but wouldn't we rather have it than any other opaque and manipulated currency? The Chinese line, promoted by so many of its paid or unpaid champions, is that the US better step down gracefully from its pedestal. Its time is over; it has neither the moral authority nor the means to be the global hegemon. Consequently, the world, we were told, far from being uni- or even bi-polar, is definitely and verifiably multipolar. But is it? Can power—hard, soft, smart or any which way you slice and dice it—be countered just by bluff, bluster or propaganda.

The Union must not devour its States

Overcentralisation suppresses the very diversity of strategies from which innovation arises

SINGAPORE's first Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew once observed, with characteristic bluntness, that India is not a nation but a set of countries held together by a British railway line. The remark stung when it was made. It still stings because it contains enough truth to be uncomfortable. The framers of our Constitution understood this instinctively. They did not pretend that India was a natural nation-state in the European mould. Article 1 declares simply: India, that is Bharat, shall be a Union of States. Not a Union with States. Not a Union above States. A Union of States. The distinction is not grammatical. It is constitutional. That distinction is now under sustained assault. The Justice Kurian Joseph Committee, which was constituted by the Tamil Nadu government in April 2025 and submitted Part I of its report last month, has produced the most comprehensive accounting yet of how far Indian constitutional practice has drifted from this founding design. The committee's findings on the Governor's office have been borne out by the latest gubernatorial appointments and resignations. West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee tweeted that she was not even consulted about the transfer of RN Ravi to her state. Ravi, who has had a combative relationship with Tamil Nadu CM MK Stalin, has been transferred in time for an unusually fraught election in West Bengal. Some have even speculated that Ravi might be an instrument of recommending President's rule in Bengal.

The Governor's office was conceived as a neutral constitutional link. It has become a partisan instrument. Bills passed by elected legislatures are held back for months or years. Raj Bhavans have been turned into outposts of the ruling party at the Centre. The Supreme Court found occasion to rebuke this conduct of RN Ravi in *State of Tamil Nadu v. Governor of Tamil Nadu* in 2025. The committee's remedy is straightforward: Governors must act on state Bills within 15 days with deemed assent on expiry, and Article 155 should be amended to require appointment from names approved by the state legislature. These are the minimum conditions for treating state legislatures as legitimate constitutional institutions. The Tamil Nadu government, under MK Stalin, deserves commendation for commissioning this inquiry. In an era when States are expected to remain quietly grateful for whatever autonomy the Centre permits, this act of constitutional assertion is itself a form of public service. The committee's central finding will surprise no one who has watched Indian federalism at close quarters. Centralisation, once a founding necessity born of Partition anxieties and the integration of over 560 princely states, has hardened into an inherited reflex, a habit mistaken for principle.

The erosion has not come through any single dramatic stroke. It has crept in through successive constitutional amendments, expansive Union legislation in Concurrent List subjects, conditional Finance Commission transfers and Centrally sponsored schemes that convert States from governments into implementing agencies of Union policy. The cumulative pattern is an interconnected web of federal erosion. Even K Santhanam, a member of the Constituent Assembly, had cautioned that the Union's strength lay not in the indiscriminate accumulation of functions, but in the disciplined refusal of responsibilities that did not properly belong at the



national level. We have forgotten the caution and retained only the accumulation.

There is a persistent illusion, which CM Stalin has articulated forcefully, that the Union becomes stronger by diminishing its States. It is wrong. The Union and the States are not competitors in a zero-sum contest. No authority sitting in New Delhi, however enlightened, can tailor policy with equal sensitivity to every linguistic region, agricultural ecology or labour market.

Tamil Nadu's noon meal scheme, Kerala's achievements in public healthcare, Maharashtra's employment guarantee initiative — all began as state experiments before informing national policy. Overcentralisation suppresses the very diversity of strategies from which innovation and discovery arise.

History teaches a harder lesson too, one that those in Delhi would do well to hear. Overcentralisation does not produce passive acceptance. It produces reaction. Punjab's tragedy in the 1980s did not emerge from nowhere. The Anandpur Sahib Resolution of 1973 was at its core a constitutional demand: for the redefining of Centre-State relations, for genuine devolution of powers and for recognition that Punjab's identity and political aspirations deserved constitutional respect. Those

demands were not secessionist in origin. They were federal. The failure to engage with them constitutionally, the preference for dismissal over dialogue, contributed to a decade of violence that cost thousands of lives.

The lesson is not complicated. When legitimate constitutional grievances are denied constitutional remedies, they seek other outlets. A Union that mistakes suppression for unity should not be surprised when States seek more than they were denied.

One recommendation deserves particular attention because it addresses a wound that has not healed. The Justice Kurian Joseph committee proposes that no territorial reorganisation Bill may be introduced in Parliament when the affected state is under President's rule. This speaks directly to what was done to Jammu and Kashmir in August 2019. A constituent state was bifurcated into two Union Territories by parliamentary majority, with its legislature suspended and its leadership under detention. The constitutional provision notionally requiring the state legislature's view was rendered meaningless through the fiction of Presidential rule. The Centre, having imposed President's rule, then consulted itself. If a state can be extinguished when its legislature is conveniently suspended, the indestructibility of States is not a constitutional guarantee but a constitutional pretence. The committee's proposed remedy, that all territorial reorganisation require the affected state's genuine concurrence, would restore what the framers intended when they wrote that India shall be a Union of States. On language, the committee exposes a statistical manipulation that has underwritten decades of cultural imposition. By misclassifying 53 independent languages, including Bhojpuri, Rajasthani and Chhattisgarhi, as dialects of Hindi, the Census has artificially inflated Hindi speakers' base from around 25 per cent to a claimed 43.6 per cent. Nearly 250 Indian languages have become extinct in the past 50 years. Another 400 face extinction in the next 50. The committee recommends constitutionally entrenching English as a permanent official language and recognising all Eighth Schedule languages as official languages of the Union. Federations flourish when linguistic diversity is protected. They fracture when one language is imposed. On the GST, States surrendered their most productive taxing powers in exchange for promises of revenue growth and stability that remain largely unredeemed. The GST Council, where the Union holds a structural veto, has functioned as an extension of the Union Finance Ministry. The committee's proposals include requiring Union decisions to secure the concurrence of at least 20 States, rotating the chairpersonship among state finance ministers and establishing an independent Secretariat and a statutory Dispute Settlement Authority.

Nepal votes for a new dawn

The rise of the RSP and its 35-year-old rapper-turned-politician Balendra Shah signals a dramatic rejection of the country's entrenched political order.

NEPAL has made a clean break with the past. The sweeping victory of the Rashtriya Swatantra Party (RSP) in the national elections and the rise of 35-year-old rapper-turned-politician Balendra Shah, popularly known as Balen, signal a dramatic rejection of the country's entrenched political order. In a nation where fragile coalitions have long been the norm, the electorate has delivered a powerful message: the old guard has failed miserably. The fledgling RSP's spectacular electoral show reflects deep public frustration with legacy parties such as the Nepali Congress and the Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Marxist-Leninist). Even stalwarts like former Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli suffered humiliating defeats. Balen himself defeated Oli by a huge margin, such was the intensity of voters' anger against the established political elite. Balen's march has been remarkable. Having first gained prominence when he won the Kathmandu mayoral poll as an Independent in 2022, he has successfully channelled Gen Z frustration into a national political



movement. His victory embodies the aspirations of

Nepal's youth, who mobilised through street protests and social media to demand an end to corruption, nepotism and misgovernance. Balen is poised to become Nepal's youngest PM and its first Madhesi to occupy the coveted post. The mandate for change is unmistakable. Nepal has seen 14 governments in the past 18 years, with veteran leaders playing musical chairs for the PM's post. The challenges before the new rulers are formidable: tackling corruption, reviving a struggling economy and ensuring political stability.

For India, the outcome carries significant strategic implications. Political tremors in Kathmandu have slowed down bilateral projects, even as pro-China leaders such as Oli have often struck a discordant note. If the RSP government pursues pragmatic diplomacy, Nepal stands to gain by reinforcing its traditional ties with India.

Iran war shakes Gulf's faith in US protection

Arab ambassadors in Moscow sought Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov's help in bringing peace in West Asia

FOR the first time in their post-colonial history, Arab Gulf states are victims of war, not its victors. Quietly, money, including Indian money, is moving to destinations away from economies hit by the war in West Asia. The region's big sporting event after cricket, the Formula One Grand Prix races in several countries, scheduled for next month are likely to be cancelled. Had Pakistan's participation in the just-concluded T-20 cricket matches been in the United Arab Emirates as once planned, instead of Sri Lanka, they would perform have been in jeopardy if Pakistan had advanced to semi-finals. The Gulf has been where the Middle East, North Africa, South Asia (MENASA) turned to for several past decades when their own regions faced turbulence. Such disruptions to good life aside, geopolitics and geo-economics post the ongoing conflict — howsoever it ends — will be very different for the six Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries. Anger against the US, the protector of the Gulf since Saddam Hussein's 1990 invasion of Kuwait, is not just simmering. It is boiling over at times. And the censorship-prone governments in the region are not trying to stem the overflow of such feelings.

Ahmed Al-Tuwaijri is a former Dean at King Saud University and a member of the Shura Council (nominated Consultative Assembly) of Saudi Arabia. He wrote recently in the kingdom's Al-Jazirah newspaper (not the Al-Jazeera TV conglomerate) of Trojan horses within the Arab world. In an interview to Deutsche Welle television, Saudi writer and political researcher Munif Ammash Alharbi spoke of militias being propped up in Sudan, Libya, Somalia and Yemen to undermine Arab nation-states. Dubai billionaire Khalaf Ahmad Al-Habtoor's outburst against US President Donald Trump for dragging the Gulf states into war has been widely reported in the Indian mainstream media last weekend. "Who gave you the right to turn our region into a

battlefield?" Al-Habtoor asked Trump in an open letter. He is no stranger to Trump. The billionaire has met Trump at his Mar-a-Lago resort.

These are not stand-alone free-thinkers in a region which has suppressed free thinking. When the royalty in the region also speaks out against Trump, it is clear that the ruling elite has empathy for the Arab street on this issue. Influential Saudi Prince Turki Al-Faisal told CNN on Wednesday: "This is Netanyahu's war. He somehow convinced the (US) President to support his views."

The grandson of Saudi Arabia's founder, King Abdulaziz Al-Saud, Prince Turki was the kingdom's chief of intelligence and Ambassador to the United Kingdom and the US. Prince Turki has been consistently outspoken in his opposition to the Abraham Accords, which Saudi Arabia has not joined.

A major topic of conversation at iftar parties of elites in Gulf capitals last week was grievance among regional leaders, conveyed to the US in private, that the Pentagon's forces had not adequately protected their expensive skylines against Iran's relentless missile and drone onslaughts. When US Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth addressed a press conference at the Pentagon to mark "the first 100 hours of Operation Epic Fury", he was on the defensive against such complaints. "We cannot stop everything (that comes from Iran), but we ensured that the maximum possible defence and maximum possible force protection was set up before we went on offence." He said the US had spared "no expense or capability" to enhance air defence systems to protect allies in the Gulf.

Frustrated Gulf military leaders have now been reduced to seeking help from Ukraine, which has experience in intercepting Iranian drones, which are used by Russia in the war between the two countries, Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has acknowledged.

Another topic of conversation is the abrupt absence of US civilians at such iftars because they have left the Gulf. US Assistant Secretary of State Dylan Johnson said on March 7 that 28,000 American citizens have "safely returned" to the US from the war-affected countries. He said many others are in transit homewards. His figure did not include those who have relocated elsewhere in West Asia. The Arab street is aghast that after plunging the region into a war, the US government is evacuating



Americans at such speed although many US citizens may be doing work that is critical for Gulf countries gripped by crisis.

This is in contrast to Indian expatriates doing similar work who have refused the option to leave when the host countries need their services.

Blacked out by international news agencies and by virtually the entire Anglo-Saxon media on both sides of the Atlantic, on March 5, Arab ambassadors in Moscow,

in one voice, sought Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov's help in bringing peace in West Asia. Their dean, Bahrain's Ambassador Ahmed Abdulrahman Al-Saati, said at an Ambassadors' Roundtable that "Russia has stronger positions on this issue (the West Asia conflict) and can help put an end to the aggression against our countries." Lavrov then did some reality check. He asked Al-Saati: "Did you condemn what the US and Israel started doing? Did you condemn the death of 170 schoolgirls?" He went on: "We are against the suffering of the Gulf countries... But we also cannot accept (that) Iran's actions are deemed unacceptable while everything the US and Israel are doing is beyond discussion. Do you see my point?" One certainty after this war must be borne in mind. This is a turning point for the Gulf just as Iraq's occupation of Kuwait changed history in that region. At the request of Arab ambassadors, Lavrov outlined Russia's "Concept of Collective Security in the Gulf." He said "the core idea is very simple... Come together and discuss existing problems. Each participating country would set out the threats or the risks to its security as it sees them. Then we could begin with an agreement on transparency in military activities; transparency and perhaps limitations on the number of exercises that each country along the Gulf coast conducts. That would include mutual visits by military personnel and joint economic and trade projects." Lavrov promised to send details to Gulf ambassadors. Of course, any such Collective Security process can only start after the end of the war and only if Iran survives as a sovereign state. But the proposal offers promise.

Karni Sena protest in Lucknow; several injured during effigy burning

Lucknow.(Agency)
Supporters of Karni Sena staged a protest in the Hazratganj area here on Tuesday against an allegedly objectionable remark made targeting Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath by Maulana Abdullah Salim. During the demonstration, protesters raised slogans and burned an effigy of Salim. A fire brigade team was present at the scene as a safety measure to control the fire. However, chaos broke out shortly after the effigy burning when a firefighter allegedly mishandled a fire extinguisher while attempting to put out the flames. According to reports, the direction of the extinguisher's powerful discharge suddenly changed, spreading flames and sparks toward nearby journalists and protesters. As a result, several media personnel and demonstrators sustained minor burn injuries. Some victims were given first aid at the spot. Authorities are reviewing the incident and ensuring safety measures at protest sites.

Himachal: One held with five grams of chitta in Hamirpur village

Hamirpur.(Agency)
A team of Bhoranj Police Station, during routine patrolling and traffic checking near Takauta Bhatta, close to Shani Dev Temple, apprehended a suspicious person who attempted to discard his bag on seeing the police. On search, 5 grams of Chitta (Heroin) was recovered. The accused, identified as Anmol Singh of Khuthri, Tehsil Bhoranj, has been booked under Sections 21, 61, 85 NDPS Act, according to SP Hamirpur, Balbir Singh. Bhoranj Police remains committed to achieving the goal of a drug-free state through sustained enforcement.

Indian Navy personnel arrested by UP ATS for alleged espionage for Pakistan's ISI

Lucknow/Agra.(Agency)
The Uttar Pradesh Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) has arrested an Indian Navy personnel for allegedly spying for Pakistan's intelligence agency, the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), officials said today. According to ATS officials, intelligence inputs indicated that an individual had come in contact with a Pakistan-based ISI agent and was passing sensitive information related to India. Acting on this information, the UP ATS developed the lead through electronic and physical surveillance. During the investigation, the suspect was identified as Adarsh Kumar alias Lucky, a resident of Agra and currently serving as a Lance Naik in the Indian Navy, posted at the Southern Naval Command in Kochi, Kerala. Investigators found evidence suggesting that Adarsh Kumar had established contact with a Pakistan-based ISI handler. He allegedly transferred money from his bank account to the agent and shared photographs of strategically sensitive military assets, including warships and related installations. After verifying the facts during the course of investigation, the ATS concluded that Adarsh Kumar was involved in anti-national activities and had criminal links with the intelligence network of Pakistan. He was arrested on March 10, 2026, and produced before a competent court as per legal procedure. The court subsequently sent him to judicial custody. Officials added that further investigation is underway to determine the full extent of the information shared and to identify any additional links in the espionage network.

Roads and boundary walls demolished with JCB in two illegal colonies

Kaithal.(Agency)
The District Town Planner (DTP) office, in collaboration with the district administration, demolished two illegal colonies being developed in Kyorak and Kathwad areas in Haryana on Tuesday. Duty Magistrate and DTP Praveen Kumar was himself present during the action. DTP Praveen Kumar said that colonies were being developed illegally without any departmental permission on about 6.5 acres of land in the revenue estates Kyorak and Kathwad. The District Town Planning Department, while taking action against these colonies, demolished the illegally constructed kutchra roads and boundary walls with the help of JCB machines in the initial phase itself. During this time, SHO and other officers of the Enforcement Branch were also present on the spot. DTP said that earlier, the department had issued notices under various sections of the HDR Act 1975 and given instructions to stop the construction work. Despite this the construction work continued. The District Town Planner appealed to the common people and said that they should not be lured by cheap plots and waste their hard-earned money in illegal colonies.

NJHPS crosses 150 billion units power generation milestone: SJVN

Shimla.(Agency)
The Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam (SJVN)'s Nathpa Jhakri Hydro Power Station has achieved a historic milestone by crossing 150 billion units (BU) of cumulative power generation, reaffirming its major role in clean energy production and strengthening the northern power grid. Congratulating the team, Bhupender Gupta, Chairman and Managing Director of SJVN, said the country's largest underground hydro power station has consistently demonstrated operational reliability since its commissioning in May 2004. Celebrations to mark the achievement were held at the project's powerhouse in the presence of Gupta, Ajay Kumar Sharma, Director (Personnel), and other senior officials of SJVN.



Speaking on the occasion, Gupta said, "The Nathpa Jhakri project has emerged as a cornerstone of the northern grid by delivering

dependable green energy and ensuring grid stability, particularly during peak demand periods. The project has achieved several operational benchmarks over the years."

According to SJVN, the station recorded its highest-ever annual generation of 7,610.257 million units in FY 2011-12. It also achieved a record monthly generation of 1,222.170 million

units in July 2024, with the highest daily generation of 39.572 million units on August 13, 2024. Director (Personnel) Ajay Kumar Sharma lauded the contributions of present and former employees associated with the project and said, "The hydro power station has played a crucial role in driving regional development and economic growth." Rajeev Kapoor, Head of Project at NJHPS, expressed gratitude to SJVN management, the Ministry of Power and the Government of Himachal Pradesh for their continued support. He also acknowledged the role of employees, contractors and the local community in achieving the milestone.

The 150 BU generation mark also carries significant environmental value, reflecting the displacement of large volumes of fossil-fuel-based power generation and contributing to reduced greenhouse gas emissions, thereby supporting India's clean energy transition.

Himachal amends HPLP Act provisions to allow felling of infested chir pines outside 10-year plan

Shimla.(Agency)
Nearly three months after an expert study recommended the removal of heavily infested and fire-killed chir-pine trees, the state government has amended the provisions of the Himachal Pradesh Land Preservation Act (HPLPA) to facilitate the removal of heavily infested and dried trees. The state government has inserted a new proviso in Section 7 of the Act, allowing the felling of dried chir pine trees damaged due to natural calamities, disease or insect attacks, provided the activity is carried out in accordance with the approved 10-year felling programme of the forest department. According to an order issued by the office of Additional Chief Secretary (Forests) Kamlesh Kumar Pant, permission for the felling of such trees will be granted by the competent authority under the existing framework of the 10-year working plan.

The order further provides for a special mechanism for exceptional cases, where dried chir trees fall outside the prescribed 10-year felling programme. In such situations, the Conservator of Forests (CF) concerned can recommend cases for government approval for felling up to a cumulative 500 trees per year for an entire forest circle.

However, such recommendations will only be considered after physical verification by an officer not below the rank of Deputy Conservator of Forests or Divisional Forest Officer (DCF/DFO). Sources with the forest department said the amendment was issued with the approval of former Himachal Pradesh Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla. The move was essential as an expert study conducted by scientists from Dr Y S Parmar University of Horticulture and Forestry, Nauni, recommended the removal of severely damaged chir pine trees to prevent the spread of insects and fungal pathogens across vulnerable forest ecosystems. The study was ordered by the chief minister after receiving several complaints of dried trees in Solan, Shimla and Sirmour districts.

Sukhu launches prepaid taxi service to 26 locations from Tutikandi ISBT

Chandigarh.(Agency)
Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu on Tuesday launched a prepaid taxi service from Tutikandi ISBT in Shimla. The Taxi Union-operated prepaid taxi service, comprising a total of 115 vehicles, will cover 26 locations in Shimla city and two additional destinations, Chandigarh International Airport and Chandigarh city.



Under this facility, passengers will have to book taxis from the prepaid taxi counter at ISBT, Tutikandi, after making the payment at the counter, and they will receive a payment slip, which must be shown to the taxi driver. The driver would then drop the passenger at the designated destination. After returning to the station, the driver

would submit the slip at the counter to receive payment for the journey. The Himachal Pradesh Transport Department has revised the fare rates for pre-paid taxis operating on a point-to-point basis from the Inter-State Bus Terminal (ISBT), Shimla, to Chandigarh. A government spokesperson said, "The revised fares have been

notified under the provisions of the Himachal Pradesh Pre-Paid Taxi Scheme-2004. As per the revised rates, the fare from ISBT, Shimla, to Chandigarh (City) has been fixed at Rs 3,000 for taxi and Rs 5,000 for maxi, while the fare from ISBT, Shimla, to Chandigarh International Airport has been fixed at Rs 3,500 for taxi and Rs 5,500 for maxi."

As the fare would be paid in advance, passengers would not face any inconvenience or disputes with drivers regarding fares, the spokesperson added.

Sukhu said, "The initiative will ensure transparency as the Transport Department has notified the fare rates, and it will also enhance passenger safety and will benefit both tourists and residents."

Unseasonal fog envelopes several cities in Uttar Pradesh, reducing visibility; rain expected from March 15

Lucknow.(Agency)
A thick layer of haze and light fog suddenly descended on several cities in Uttar Pradesh on Wednesday morning, nearly blocking sunlight and significantly reducing visibility in many areas. People in several districts, including Lucknow, Kanpur, Prayagraj, Pratapgarh, Varanasi, Mirzapur, Meerut, and Agra, faced the fog. According to the Meteorological Department, visibility was extremely low in some areas due to the fog. It dropped to about 30 meters in Prayagraj, 100 meters in Meerut, and nearly 500 meters at the Varanasi airport. Weather experts say such conditions were previously seen in March in 2008. Manish Kumar, Director of the Lucknow Meteorological Centre, said that due to moisture brought by moist easterly winds, haze and fog persisted in many parts of the state even during the day. He added that this situation could continue for the next two days. There will be no significant change in temperatures for the next 4-5 days, which will keep the heat wave conditions in check. However, light rain is expected around March 15. According to meteorologists, intense heat during the day and relatively cool weather at night are contributing to the development of radiation fog. In

this process, moisture in the air condenses into tiny droplets near the ground at night. Scientists explained that calm winds contribute to the prolonged haze, while dust and pollution particles in the air help the moisture condense, leading to fog and smog in the morning. The outskirts of Varanasi, Sonbhadra, Mirzapur, and Ghazipur in eastern Uttar Pradesh were also shrouded in fog on Tuesday morning. According to Prof. Manoj Kumar Srivastava, a geophysicist and meteorologist at BHU, fog was also observed in districts like Pilibhit, Lakhimpur-Kheri, and Bahraich in eastern Uttar Pradesh and the Terai region due to western winds and increased humidity. Meanwhile, dense fog persisted in several areas of Bundelkhand, including Hamirpur, Orai, Banda, and Mahoba, until around 9 a.m., limiting visibility to a few meters.

Experts believe that climate change and changing weather patterns could be a reason behind these unusual conditions. Meteorologists have warned that a possible western disturbance in the third week of March is likely to cause thunderstorms, lightning, and strong winds. This may bring some relief to temperatures and provide relief from the heat, but there is also a possibility of damage to standing crops.

SAD committed to turning Khanna, Jagraon into districts: Sukhbir Badal

Shimla.(Agency)
At a rally in Khanna, Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) president Sukhbir Singh Badal announced that once the party forms government in Punjab, it would give Khanna and Jagraon the status of districts, on Tuesday. The rally was a part of the party's Punjab Bachao campaign. While addressing the rally, along with SAD leader Yadwinder Singh Yadu, the Akali Dal president said, "I am committed to honouring the demand of the people of this area who want their towns to be turned into districts to boost their economies as well as ensure easy redressal of grievances." The SAD president also said the Khanna grain market, which is Asia's largest such market, would be modernised. At present the infrastructure and the facilities in the market are not up to the mark, he said. Badal also said once the party forms government, it would endeavour to raise the commission on wheat and paddy to 2.5 per cent — given during Parkash Singh Badal government. The commission was recently capped

at 1.5 per cent. "This is necessary as once the livelihood of the Arhatiyas (commission agents) is threatened the farmers too will feel the pinch." Badal also said the party was committed to bringing the IT industry to Punjab: "We have identified Mohali and Amritsar as cities most suitable for inviting investment in the IT sector." He also asserted the SAD stood for development of the border districts of Punjab and its Kandi belt. "We feel a special industrial package alone can develop these regions... new industry will ensure much needed employment... (will) ensure that at least 75 per cent of jobs are reserved for Punjabi youth." The SAD chief also condemned Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann for passing disparaging comments against women on the occasion of International Women's Day. Badal also condemned the CM for wasting resources amounting to Rs 4,400 crore on pasting his pictures across Punjab even as farmers still awaited compensation for crop damage.

Woman wheelchair user forced to protest for FIR after financier 'throws' her, elderly mother out of home

The complainant, Jasdeep Kaur, who uses a wheelchair, alleged that the accused financier forged documents using blank signed papers and thumb impressions taken earlier during loan transactions to grab their property.

Jalandhar.(Agency)
A physically challenged woman from Bilga area in Jalandhar district of Punjab was forced to stage a protest to get an FIR lodged against a local financier who not only allegedly cheated her family but also forcibly threw her and her elderly mother out of their house in the middle of the night and demolished several parts of their home. The complainant, Jasdeep Kaur, who uses a wheelchair, alleged that the accused financier forged documents using blank signed papers and thumb impressions taken earlier during loan transactions to grab their property. According to the complaint mentioned in the FIR, her late father Bholu Singh had longstanding financial dealings with Gurnam Finance run by a financier and his associates from village



Khela in Jalandhar district. Because of this association, the family also borrowed money when needed. Jasdeep alleged that during these transactions the financier took signatures and thumb impressions of family members on blank stamp papers and documents and also collected blank cheques and cheque books of State Bank of India and HDFC Bank as security, assuring the family these would be returned after repayment. However, the documents were never returned despite repeated

requests, the FIR added. She said that when the family again approached the financier for a loan of about Rs 3 lakh due to financial difficulties, the firm collected Aadhaar cards, photographs and more blank signed papers. The financier transferred Rs 50,000 to her account and later Rs 63,000 on November 26, 2025, promising repayment within 60 months. Jasdeep alleged that the accused also took her mother's ATM card and withdrew pension money from her account.

The situation escalated when Jasdeep's mother fell ill and was taken to Amritsar for treatment in November 2025. Taking advantage of the family's absence, the accused allegedly broke into their house on December 15, 2025 and removed household items including beds, mattresses, iron drums, storage boxes, refrigerators, coolers and

grains. When the family returned on February 20, they found parts of their house damaged, including rooms, the kitchen and bathroom built on the upper floor. According to the complaint, the most shocking incident occurred on March 5 around 9 pm, when several persons including the financier and a woman identified as Usha Rani allegedly forced their way into the house. Jasdeep alleged they came with six to seven other people who started breaking ceilings and demolishing parts of the house, dragged her elderly mother out of bed and forced both women out of the house. The attackers allegedly took away goods including an inverter with battery, water pump, water tank, LPG cylinders, utensils, a motorcycle and television, causing losses of over Rs 2 lakh.

Supreme Court questions delay in deciding aid for cadets disabled during training

A bench of Justices BV Nagarathna and Ujjal Bhuyan expressed concern over the delay, noting that the court had earlier taken suo motu cognisance of the issue but had not received a substantive response from the concerned ministries.

New Delhi.(Agency)

The Supreme Court of India on Tuesday sharply questioned the delay by the Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of Finance in deciding on medical and financial assistance for armed forces cadets who suffer serious injuries during training and are subsequently boarded out. The matter arose during the hearing of a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) seeking a framework to provide medical treatment and financial aid to cadets who are forced to leave training academies after sustaining severe injuries. These cadets, often discharged before commissioning, are currently left without long-term institutional support. Appearing for the Union government, Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati informed the bench that the chiefs of the three armed services had already given a positive recommendation to ameliorate the conditions of such cadets. However, she submitted that the issue remains unresolved because a final decision is yet to be

taken by the Defence and Finance ministries. A bench of Justices BV Nagarathna and Ujjal Bhuyan expressed concern over the delay, noting that the court had earlier taken suo motu cognisance of the issue but had not received a substantive response from the concerned ministries.

"We fail to understand why, despite suo motu cognisance and time being given for response by this court, there is no response from the Defence Ministry and Finance Ministry," the bench observed. The court pointed out that the timing was particularly significant since the annual budget process under the Finance Act, 2026 is currently under consideration in Parliament. "This period would have been the most appropriate time for the government to evaluate the financial requirements," the bench

observed. "This is the time when the budget is being considered. Why have you not sent the recommendation now? It should have been



taken up. You should have advised them," the court remarked during the hearing. The bench directed that a copy of its order be sent

to the Defence Secretary and the Finance Secretary, emphasising that sufficient time had already been granted to the concerned ministries to act on the matter. The court further warned that if no progress is made within the next two weeks, it may be compelled to summon the personal presence of the two senior officials to explain the delay in decision-making.

The judges also questioned why no specific budgetary provision had yet been proposed to extend medical treatment and financial assistance to cadets injured during training, especially when the service chiefs had already endorsed the proposal. The court underscored that the issue concerns young cadets who suffer serious injuries while undergoing rigorous military training and are subsequently discharged without adequate support. The matter is scheduled for further hearing on March 24.

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

New Delhi.(Agency)

The Uttar Pradesh Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) has arrested a 24-year-old Indian Navy Lance Naik on charges of spying for Pakistan's intelligence agency, the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), and sharing sensitive information related to naval assets. The accused, identified as Adarsh Kumar alias Lucky, is a resident of UP's Agra.

While speaking to a senior official said that the arrest was made on March 10, following intelligence inputs indicating that an individual had established contact with a Pakistan-based ISI handler and was allegedly involved in espionage activities targeting India. He further added, "The UP ATS received information suggesting that the suspect had been communicating with the ISI and passing on sensitive information. Acting on these inputs, the ATS initiated a detailed investigation and placed the suspect under electronic as well as physical surveillance."

During the probe, the identity of the suspect was established as Adarsh Kumar alias Lucky, son of Balveer Singh, a native of Chitapur village under Kagarol police station in Agra district. Officials revealed that he was serving as a Lance Naik in the Navy and was posted at the Southern Naval Command in Kochi.

According to the UP ATS, the investigation confirmed that Adarsh had come in contact with a Pakistan-based ISI agent and allegedly maintained communication with the handler over a period of time. Authorities claim that he transferred money from his bank account to the ISI handler and also shared photographs and information related to strategically sensitive naval warships. Officials believe that the information shared by the accused could have had serious national security implications, as it allegedly involved images and details of naval assets considered strategically important. After verifying the evidence during the course of the investigation and establishing his involvement in anti-national activities and espionage for the Pakistan-based intelligence network, the UP ATS arrested the accused on March 10.

Social Media Ban For Children: Why The Policy May Be Hard To Enforce

New Delhi.(Agency)

The decision by Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh to move towards banning social media use for children marks one of the boldest policy interventions yet in India's rapidly evolving digital landscape. Karnataka has proposed a blanket ban on social media platforms for children below the age of 16, while Andhra Pradesh has announced plans to prohibit access for children under 13, with the possibility of extending the restriction up to 16 years. The stated objective in both states is clear: to curb rising addiction to smartphones, social media and especially short-form "reels" that increasingly dominate the attention spans of children and adolescents.

There is little doubt that the intent behind these moves is laudable. Teachers, parents and mental health professionals across the country have been sounding alarm bells about what many now describe as a new-age mental health challenge. Social media addiction, fuelled by algorithm-driven content and instant gratification, has been linked to anxiety, reduced attention spans, sleep disorders and declining academic performance. In schools, complaints about children being unable to focus without constant digital stimulation have become routine. As Dr Yatan Pal Singh Balhara, a psychiatrist at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi who has spoken extensively on the subject of social media addiction, has warned, platforms are deliberately designed to hook young minds, making self-regulation particularly difficult for children whose cognitive control is still developing. In that sense, the state stepping in to protect minors mirrors earlier public health interventions against other addictive behaviours. Dr Balhara runs a cyber de-addiction clinic at AIIMS.

However, as the initial applause fades, hard questions about feasibility and enforcement come sharply into focus. India's regulatory ecosystem presents a fundamental contradiction. The legal age to buy a SIM card in India is 18, yet it is an open secret that a large number of juveniles already possess personal mobile numbers. Many obtain SIM cards through informal or illegal channels, or use SIMs registered in the names of parents, relatives or even domestic help. A ban on social media does not automatically address this underlying access to connectivity. If anything, it risks pushing children further into grey or unregulated digital spaces where oversight is even weaker.

Air India Express jet stuck on Phuket runway after losing nose wheel during landing

New Delhi.(Agency)

An Air India Express flight from Hyderabad made a hard landing at Phuket International Airport in Thailand on Wednesday, damaging the aircraft's nose landing gear and forcing authorities to shut the runway for nearly six hours.

All 133 passengers on board flight IX938 were safely deplaned, and no injuries were reported in the incident. Airport officials said the runway was closed until around 6 pm local time to allow for inspection and clearance after the incident. Initial reports indicated that the aircraft's nose

landing gear was damaged during the landing, which resulted in the hard touchdown on the runway. Airport authorities temporarily suspended operations while teams assessed the



situation and ensured the runway was safe for further flights.

Responding to the incident, Air India Express said its Hyderabad-Phuket flight experienced a nose wheel issue at Phuket Airport, but all passengers were safe.

"We confirm that on 11 March, our Hyderabad-Phuket flight encountered an issue with the nose wheel at Phuket Airport. The crew followed all standard protocols, and all passengers were safely deplaned. We thank our guests, Phuket airport authorities, and all stakeholders for their cooperation," the airline said in a statement.

Further details about the cause of the incident were not immediately available.

Regulator's New Rules For Foreign Airlines Wanting To Launch Ops In India

New Delhi.(Agency)

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has issued a fresh set of guidelines for foreign airlines seeking to operate flights to and from the country, detailing the approval process, documentation requirements and compliance obligations before services can begin. The aviation regulator said foreign carriers must obtain specific operating authorisation before launching flights in India, even if air services are permitted under bilateral agreements between India and their home countries.

Designation Under Bilateral Agreements
Under Bilateral Air Services Agreements (BASA) signed between India and other countries, foreign airlines must first be formally designated by their respective governments before they

can apply to operate flights to India. Only airlines nominated by their home governments will be eligible to seek operating permission from the Indian regulator. The designation must be made in writing through diplomatic



channels, identifying the airline and specifying the type of air services it is authorised to operate under the agreement.

The DGCA will grant operating authorisation only after confirming

that substantial ownership and effective control of the airline remain with the country that designates it or its nationals.

The regulator will also ensure that the designating country maintains adequate safety and aviation security oversight in line with the provisions of the bilateral agreement.

Mandatory Registration On DGCA Portal

Before submitting an application, foreign airlines must register on the DGCA's e-Governance of Civil Aviation (eGCA) portal and create a login ID. During registration, the airline will be required to submit key documents, including its Air Operator Certificate (AOC), company registration certificate, headquarters address and details of its organisational and management structure.

Menus cut, restaurants shut, long queues for cylinders as LPG crisis deepens

A nationwide LPG shortage triggered by the Middle East conflict continues to hit hotels and restaurants primarily, forcing eateries to shut kitchens, cut menus or switch to alternative fuels.

New Delhi.(Agency)

A shortage of LPG cylinders, triggered by disruptions in global gas supplies amid the conflict in the Middle East, is continuing to ripple across several parts of India, forcing hotels, restaurants and public canteens to cut operations, switch to alternative fuels and, in some cases, shut temporarily.

Restaurants, especially in urban centres, appear to be among the worst affected, with many establishments reporting a severe shortage of commercial LPG cylinders used for cooking. Several eateries have been forced to trim menus, suspend certain dishes or shift to alternative cooking methods to stay operational. In Delhi, Gagandeep Singh Sapra, an entrepreneur running a cloud kitchen in Vasant Kunj, said vendors had

refused to supply LPG cylinders, severely affecting his business.

"There's no LPG available in Vasant Kunj. Vendors have clearly told us they cannot supply cylinders," Sapra said in a social media post, adding that nearly 80 per cent of the menu at his outlet, Tadka Rani, had gone offline because most items relied on tandoor-based cooking.

In Mumbai, restaurants are already cutting back on dishes that require high gas consumption. At the popular eatery Vasant Bhuvan, the live counters serving dosa and pav bhaji have been temporarily shut as kitchens shift to induction and coal-based cooking. Restaurant owners say the crisis could force them to halt operations entirely if supplies do not improve soon. The shortage has also hit Chennai hard. Sources in gas distribution companies said



the situation had turned critical after the supply of nearly five lakh commercial LPG cylinders was halted. Hotels and industries have been advised to look for alternative fuel sources, as the next batch of cylinders is expected only by March 28. The impact has already led to closures in parts of Tamil Nadu. A hotel in Chennai displayed a notice outside its premises declaring a holiday on March 11 due to the

lack of LPG supply, leaving early morning customers who had arrived for tea and breakfast disappointed.

In Hyderabad, the popular restaurant chain Shah Ghouse Caf has shifted to traditional firewood stoves to cook its signature biryani as commercial LPG cylinders became scarce during the ongoing Ramadan season, a peak period for food businesses.

Restaurant owners in the city said several eateries have been forced to cut down menus or reduce operations as LPG supplies dwindled. The impact of the shortage was visible even in the national capital. At the Delhi High Court lawyers' canteen, a notice pasted on tables informed visitors that cooked meals could not be served due to the unavailability of LPG cylinders.

Justice Pardiwala tears up while delivering Harish Rana euthanasia verdict

Justice JB Pardiwala was visibly moved and briefly teared up while delivering a landmark judgment allowing passive euthanasia for Harish Rana, a 32-year-old man who has remained in a persistent vegetative state for 13 years.

New Delhi.(Agency)

In an emotional moment inside the Supreme Court of India on Wednesday, Justice J. B. Pardiwala was visibly moved and briefly teared up while delivering a landmark judgment allowing passive euthanasia for Harish Rana, a 32-year-old man who has remained in a persistent vegetative state for 13 years. A bench of Justices J. B. Pardiwala and K. V. Viswanathan permitted Rana's parents to withdraw life-sustaining medical treatment, holding that the central question in such cases is not whether death is in a patient's best interest, but whether continuing life-sustaining treatment serves the patient's best interest.

"He experiences sleep-wake cycles but exhibits no meaningful interaction and has been dependent on others for all activities of self-care. Harish has been on CAN administered through a PEG tube, and his condition has shown no improvement," the Bench noted on his condition.

"In line with our considered view, it would be permissible for the medical board to exercise its clinical judgment regarding the withdrawal of treatment in accordance with the guidelines laid down in Common Cause v. Union of India," the judgment said.

The court's order came in a case that has drawn national attention to the right to die with dignity. Rana suffered severe brain injuries after a fall 13 years ago and has since remained in a persistent vegetative state.

Reading out the judgment, Justice Pardiwala noted that Rana had once been "a bright young boy" pursuing his studies before the accident changed the course of his life. The judge became emotional during the proceedings while recounting the circumstances of the case.

The bench also clarified that clinically administered nutrition constitutes a form of medical treatment. It ruled that such treatment can be withdrawn if medical boards examining the patient conclude there is no meaningful prospect of recovery and recommend withdrawal of life support. The ruling is expected to have significant implications for future cases involving passive euthanasia and the withdrawal of life-sustaining treatment in India.

NEWS BOX

Virat Kohli's preparations begin, hits the nets ahead IPL 2026: Watch

New Delhi. (Agency)

Virat Kohli has been spotted hitting the nets ahead of IPL 2026. The Indian batting great is putting in the hard yards early as the tournament draws closer, and fans will not need much more motivation to get excited about the new season. In a video shared on his Instagram handle, Kohli was seen working on a wide range of shots. From aggressive lofted hits to classical drives, he went through his paces alongside a throwdown specialist. It is a sight that will excite cricket fans across the country as anticipation builds rapidly for the new season. Kohli could join RCB camp on March 15 while his participation has not been officially confirmed. Kohli could be part of the squad assembling in Bengaluru on March 15. RCB, the defending IPL champions, will be eager to have their talisman available from the outset as they look to retain the title.

The franchise will play five league matches at the Chinnaswamy Stadium this season, including the tournament's opening fixture. That announcement ended months of uncertainty over whether the iconic venue would be cleared in time for the season. It was a significant relief for the Bengaluru



faithful. RCB will also use the Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh International Cricket Stadium in Raipur as a second home venue, hosting two league matches there. Raipur holds fond memories for Kohli, who scored a century against South Africa at the ground in December 2025 during the ODI series. Schedule Delay Due to State Elections

The BCCI is yet to announce the full IPL 2026 schedule. Secretary Devajit Saikia confirmed the announcement would come within days. The delay has been attributed to upcoming state elections in Assam, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, and Kerala. The board is waiting for the political calendar to settle before finalising and releasing the fixtures.

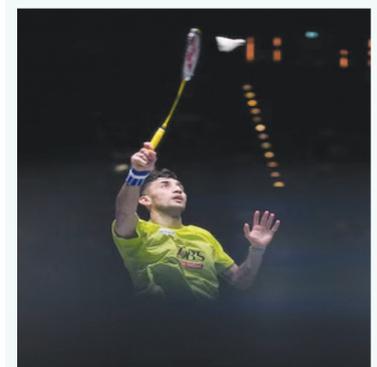
As defending champions, RCB will carry significant expectations into IPL 2026. Kohli's early preparations suggest he is taking nothing for granted. If his net session is anything to go by, he is determined to hit the ground running when the season gets underway.

Sen in Zen mode: Lakshya swaps the sprint for a steady, mature ascent

New Delhi. (Agency)

The silence of the backstage corridors at the Utilita Arena Birmingham offered a sharp contrast to the deafening roar of an All England final. For Lakshya Sen, the walk following the 2026 title match was a time for quiet reflection.

The All England Open final had been a bruising, 57-minute test of resolve that ultimately swung in favour of Chinese Taipei's Lin Chun-yi. As the adrenaline began to ebb, replaced by the familiar ache of a Super 1000 campaign, the 24-year-old found himself in a headspace that felt remarkably different from his previous appearances on this stage. In 2022, a



younger, more combustible Lakshya had reached the final as a whirlwind of kinetic energy, falling to the legendary Viktor Axelsen. Back then, he was the wunderkind of Indian badminton, playing with nothing-to-lose freedom. Four years later, the face was leaner, the movement more economical, and the mindset markedly more profound. Despite the 15-21, 20-22 scoreline marking his fifth consecutive defeat to the formidable Lin Chun-yi, Sen's composure remained unshaken. "The first time I reached the final in 2022, I think I was still kind of dreaming throughout the week," Sen, World No. 12, said during a media interaction, speaking with a calm that suggested his Zen mode wasn't just a media catchphrase, but a lived reality. "It's such a big tournament and reaching the final felt surreal. I was playing freely and enjoying the experience without too many expectations."

India's next T20 dynasty: Sanju Samson and Co carry Rohit-Kohli's legacy forward

New Delhi. (Agency)

"Time for the next generation to take the T20 game forward." When Virat Kohli said those words after India lifted the ICC Men's T20 World Cup, it sounded like the closing line of an epic film. The hero had delivered the climax, the crowd was on its feet, and the screen slowly faded to black. Except Indian cricket rarely stays quiet for long. Along with Kohli, captain Rohit Sharma and the ever-reliable Ravindra Jadeja also stepped away from T20 internationals. For a generation of fans, it felt like the end of a golden chapter. Rohit's fearless powerplay hitting, Kohli's calculated chases, and Jadeja's three-dimensional magic had defined India's T20 identity for years. Naturally, the question arrived before the celebrations had even settled. Who fills the gap now?

Two years later, the answer came with fireworks.

India didn't just defend their crown at the ICC Men's T20 World Cup. They did it with a team that looked like the natural continuation of everything the previous era had built. It wasn't about replacing Rohit, Kohli or Jadeja. Instead, a new generation quietly picked up those responsibilities and shaped them into something of their own.

At the centre of that story stood Sanju Samson, who walked into the tournament as just another talented batter and walked out as Player of the Tournament. Around him were names who had long been hovering around India's T20 plans. Ishan Kishan, Axar Patel and Shivam Dube each stepped into roles that suddenly looked bigger than before. It was less of a reboot and more of a perfect sequel. The kind where the original heroes are still felt in the story, but the new characters make the film their own.

If the Rohit-Kohli-Jadeja era was the original blockbuster, this new group made sure the sequel did not disappoint. **SAMSON THE NEW STANDARD**

If one player summed up India's transition, it was Sanju Samson. His World Cup did not even begin in the playing XI. Samson spent the first half of the tournament on the bench while India tested combinations. But when the knockout stage arrived, the management threw him into the deep end as an opener.

Samson responded like a man who had been waiting years for this script. First came an unbeaten 97 against West Indies in Kolkata in a must-win Super 8 clash. Then he

produced 89 in the semi final. When the final arrived, he calmly delivered another 89. By the end of the tournament, Samson had scored 321 runs in five innings, the most by an Indian in a single T20 World Cup.



Former India captain Anil Kumble described him as a blend of Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli and it actually made sense watching him bat. At times Samson looked like Kohli. Calm, watchful and fully in control of a chase. At other moments he switched gears and attacked like Rohit in the powerplay,

caring more about the scoreboard than personal milestones. When a reporter asked if he was disappointed about missing two possible centuries against West Indies and England, Samson brushed it aside. A 97 and an 89 meant nothing if his team did not win. Now that is a kind of reply which has Rohit Sharma written all over it.

ISHAN KISHAN OWNS NO.3

For years, India carried a small but persistent question in T20 cricket.

Who is our batter at number three? At the 2026 World Cup, Ishan Kishan answered it loudly. Kishan finished with 317 runs in nine matches at a strike rate touching 193. Three half centuries later he ended up as the fourth highest run scorer in the entire tournament. Kishan forced his way back into the national side after leading Jharkhand to the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy title as captain. When India hosted New Zealand soon after, he made sure the comeback had headlines. Kishan smashed a T201 century in the final match of that series.

Jasprit Bumrah to focus more on ODIs after T20 World Cup triumph

New Delhi. (Agency)

India pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah is expected to prioritise ODIs over T20Is in the coming months as the team begins planning for the 2027 ODI World Cup. A BCCI source told PTI that Bumrah will likely play more 50-over matches while bilateral T20I series will take a back seat in order to manage his workload.

The shift in focus comes soon after India's T20 World Cup triumph, with the team now beginning preparations for the next major global event in the 50-over format. Bumrah, who leads India's pace attack across formats, will remain a key figure in both Test cricket and the ODI setup as the team builds towards the 2027 tournament. According to the BCCI source, managing Bumrah's workload will be a crucial part of India's planning in the coming years. Obviously Bumrah's fitness is as always key to any of India's global campaign and hence the Indian team management will have to be very careful and prioritise the formats. Keep Test cricket aside, which he will obviously play, but in the 50-over World Cup cycle, he will concentrate more on ODIs," the source

said. "There will be around 30-35 odd games and one can't take chances," the source added.



Jasprit Bumrah was at his lethal best during India's T20 World Cup title defence in 2026. The pace spearhead finished as the tournament's top wicket-taker with 14 wickets, all while keeping things tight with a superb economy rate of 6.12.

HOW HAS BUMRAH'S ODI INVOLVEMENT BEEN?

Bumrah has not played a single ODI since India's defeat to Australia in the 2023 ODI World Cup final in Ahmedabad. The fast bowler has largely been managed carefully since then because of recurring back issues.

He was also ruled out of the 2025 ICC Champions Trophy due to a lower-back injury and was replaced in the squad by Harshit Rana. Over the last few years, India have taken a cautious approach with Bumrah's workload, ensuring that he remains fit for major tournaments and key Test matches. A similar approach is expected to continue as the team prepares for the next ODI World Cup cycle.

INDIA FOCUSED ON 2027 ODI WORLDCUP

India's preparations for the 2027 ODI World Cup are expected to begin after the IPL season this year. Once the tournament concludes, the national selection committee along with the BCCI's Centre of Excellence and the team management will start working on a long-term plan.

PSG president Nasser Al-Khelaifi stranded in Qatar amidst ongoing West Asia crisis

New Delhi. (Agency)

Paris Saint-Germain president Nasser Al-Khelaifi has been stranded in Qatar for more than a week due to flight disruptions caused by the ongoing war in West Asia, leaving him scrambling to return to Paris ahead of his club's Champions League round-of-16 first leg against Chelsea on Wednesday.

According to the Associated Press (AP), Al-Khelaifi has been unable to fly out of Doha since hostilities escalated following U.S. and Israeli strikes on Iran on Feb. 28. The source spoke on condition of anonymity as they were not authorised to comment publicly.

He was attempting to secure a flight out of Doha on Tuesday evening or Wednesday morning, the person added. With commercial flights operating at limited capacity, passengers have been left waiting until close to departure before being confirmed to fly. The disruption has made even confirmed bookings unreliable, with many travellers only notified



of their approval to board shortly before takeoff. Travel Chaos Spreads Across the Region

The conflict has severely disrupted air travel across the region, stranding hundreds of thousands of passengers.

Airports across the Gulf, which serve as critical transit hubs connecting Europe, Africa, and Asia, have been hit hardest, with airspace closures forcing airlines to cancel flights or reroute flights to significantly longer routes. Iran's retaliatory strikes against Gulf states have only deepened the disruption.

As per AP, last week, U.S. citizens described growing frustration and fear as they encountered airport closures and widespread cancellations across the region. The ripple effects have extended well beyond the immediate conflict zone, affecting travellers with no direct connection to the crisis.

Gautam Gambhir slams Kirti Azad after T20 World Cup remark: Degrading your own players

New Delhi. (Agency)

India coach Gautam Gambhir slammed Kirti Azad after the former cricketer slammed the team for their visit to the temple after the T20 World Cup win. Azad slammed Gambhir, ICC chairman Jay Shah and Suryakumar for visiting the Hanuman temple in Ahmedabad right after India defeated New Zealand in the final of the T20 World Cup 2026. The 1983 World Cup winner raised concerns over the trophy being taken only to a temple, asking why it wasn't brought to other places of worship as well, and termed the move discriminatory. Gambhir, while talking to ANI, said it was not a remark that even needed answering and defended the decision from the team. The Indian coach said that it just dilutes the achievement of his side and it wasn't fair on the players. "It is not even worth answering this question.

Answering that question, it is a big moment for the entire country. If you ask me, then it's a huge moment for our whole country. I think it's important that we celebrate the



World Cup winner. That's why I said certain statements; there is no point picking up certain statements, because these statements will only dilute your

achievement. If you want to dilute the achievements of those 15 players and their efforts, then tomorrow anyone can give any statement, and we start taking it seriously, which isn't fair to the boys," Gambhir while talking to ANI. **'LITERALLY DEGRADING INDIAN TEAM'** Gambhir said that the Indian team deserved to be celebrated in their own way without any religious or political interference. The Indian coach further said that Azad's comments were basically degrading the Indian team and their achievements.

"Imagine that the boys have gone through so much -- the amount of pressure they've been under after losing one match in South Africa, the kind of pressures the boys were under. Today, if you are giving such a statement, you're literally degrading your own players and degrading your own team, which should not be done," said Gambhir.

Gambhir responds to MS Dhoni's viral post, explains why he doesn't smile in dugout

Gautam Gambhir responded to MS Dhoni's viral smile remark after India's T20 World Cup win and explained why he chooses to keep a serious face during matches. Dhoni's special message to Gambhir after the T20 World Cup win went viral.

NEW DELHI. (Agency)

Gautam Gambhir reacted to MS Dhoni's viral remark after the T20 World Cup 2026 win, where the former Indian captain praised him for his smile. Gambhir explained why he keeps a serious demeanour while being in the

dugout during matches. Right after India won the T20 World Cup title, Dhoni broke his social media silence and praised the team for their performance. He had a special message reserved for Gambhir, saying that the smile suited him a lot, and it was a killer combo alongside the intensity that he carried. Speaking to ANI, the Indian coach thanked Dhoni for the comment but admitted that sometimes it is tough to keep a smile on the face during an international game. Gambhir said that losing is not an option in India and that the weight of expectations makes him sport a serious face. But that's why, being a coach, I feel that sometimes it is very difficult to be in a situation where people commenting on it have never actually been in that position. But good on him that he tweeted that, honestly. However, I feel that when you are sitting in the dugout, there is so much at stake. "There are always huge expectations from the

Indian team. Even if you want to laugh or smile -- and of course everyone would like to -- many times you just cannot. Especially when you are playing a tournament like the



World Cup. Because in India, unfortunately, losing is not considered an option. That's true, but it can still happen. If losing was not an option, then India would have won every World Cup, but that's not how it works," said

Gambhir to ANI. **'NO GUARANTEE OF RETURNS'**

Gambhir said that sports is something where there is no guarantee of returns despite the amount of hard work that is put in to further reiterate why a serious demeanour had to be maintained. "This is sport. You invest your entire life into something, but there is no guarantee of returns. It's not like equity or the share market where you know what kind of returns you will get on your investment. Here, you work hard for one and a half years, you invest everything, and there is still no guarantee that you will win the World Cup."

"Just think about it -- if we had not won the World Cup or if we had lost in the semi-final, then the return would essentially be zero, right? After putting in so much effort and making such a huge investment. That's why I say sport is very different from other professions," said Gambhir.

PNB Griha Vatika: Punjab National Bank launches digital loan to promote rooftop organic cultivation

New Delhi,(Agency)

Public sector lender Punjab National Bank (PNB), has launched PNB Griha Vatika, which is a digital loan scheme. PNB Griha Vatika aims at promoting sustainable living and community well-being. The initiative encourages households to cultivate vegetables in urban spaces such as rooftops, terraces, balconies, and courtyards, turning homes into centers of nutrition and self-reliance, PNB said in a statement. "The scheme provides financial support for organic inputs and modern cultivation infrastructure, including hydroponic systems, vertical gardens, and drip irrigation kits. By enabling families to grow fresh, chemical-free vegetables, PNB seeks to foster healthier lifestyles while also creating opportunities for supplementary income," PNB said. "With rising food costs, growing health awareness, and environmental concerns, home-based organic farming is gaining popularity across India. PNB Griha Vatika reflects the Bank's commitment to customer-centric innovation, financial inclusion, and sustainable development, envisioning a greener future built on healthier families and self-reliant citizens," the bank added.

Stock markets decline in early trade

MUMBAI.(Agency)

Benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty drifted lower in early trade on Wednesday after a day's breather amid the ongoing tensions in West Asia and sustained foreign fund outflows. Selling in blue-chip bank stocks also dragged the markets lower. The 30-share BSE Sensex dropped 96.12 points to 78,109.86 in early trade. The 50-share NSE Nifty declined 22.95 points to 24,238.65. From the 30-Sensex firms, Kotak Mahindra Bank, ICICI Bank, Axis Bank, HDFC Bank, Hindustan Unilever and Bajaj Finserv were among the major laggards. InterGlobe Aviation, Adani Ports, Tata Steel and NTPC were among the gainers. Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, dipped 0.39 per cent to USD 87.46 per barrel. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 4,672.64 crore on Tuesday, according to exchange data. Domestic Institutional Investors (DIIs), however bought stocks worth Rs 6,333.26 crore. "Although equity markets staged a technical rebound on Tuesday, the underlying sentiment remains cautious as the deepening crisis in the Middle East begins to influence global financial markets through higher energy prices, disruptions to key shipping routes, and shifting investor risk appetite," Ponmudi R, CEO of Enrich Money, an online trading and wealth tech firm, said. From an equity market standpoint, geopolitical disruptions of this nature tend to trigger sharp bouts of volatility as global investors rotate toward safer assets and reduce exposure to risk-sensitive markets, he added. In Asian markets, South Korea's Kospi climbed over 3 per cent, while Japan's Nikkei 225 traded 2.5 per cent higher.

Agentic AI begins replacing corporate departments: Xebia CEO

New Delhi.(Agency)

Artificial intelligence systems capable of planning and executing complex tasks are beginning to replace entire corporate departments, as companies move beyond experimentation and deploy "agentic AI" in real operations, Anand Sahay, global CEO at Xebia, told TNIE. Unlike earlier AI tools that mainly helped employees work faster, agentic systems can autonomously perform complex operational tasks that previously required teams of people. Sahay cited the example of a large global apparel retailer that has automated a major part of its supply-chain ordering process. The company sources clothing components such as fabric, buttons and zippers from multiple countries, including China, India and Bangladesh, and must decide which factories to use, how much to order, and whether suppliers meet regulatory rules. Previously, teams of employees handled these decisions by analysing supplier reliability, compliance restrictions and delivery timelines. That function has now been largely automated. "Our AI is able to make a better determination and calculation of which factory is the best for this, how much from where, equaling the total quantity you need," he said. Human involvement has been reduced to minimal oversight. "You can imagine its departments, a very small number of people who are now just brought as a human in the loop to say this is what is getting ordered, any questions, one button." The impact on staffing has been significant. "So productivity is reaching another level that way. It's two months with 100 people, now you need one guy and maybe less than three days," Sahay said. However, he said many organisations are still struggling to capture similar gains because they apply AI to existing processes instead of redesigning them. Tech has become much simpler. Tech is very clear now," he said. "It is the businesses which have to rethink how they want to run their business." As a result, many companies remain stuck in proof-of-concept projects rather than large-scale deployment. Financial services firms are among the sectors moving quickly, particularly insurance companies, which he said are using AI to automate processes that were previously manual. But the technology also raises regulatory and legal risks. Banks in particular are concerned that automated lending decisions could introduce unintended bias. In the United States, financial institutions are worried that errors could emerge years later. What if I make a mistake and then we found three years later that for a particular kind of minority, the lending rates were higher by mistake," he said.

India eases FDI rules for neighbouring countries: What the new 10% rule means

The decision was approved by the Union Cabinet and the changes are intended to boost foreign investment, help startups access global funding and support manufacturing growth in India.

New Delhi,(Agency)

India has relaxed some foreign investment rules for countries that share a land border with it, a move aimed at making it easier for businesses to raise funds while keeping safeguards on who controls Indian companies. The decision was approved by the Union Cabinet and the changes are intended to boost foreign investment, help startups access global funding and support manufacturing growth in India. WHAT HAS ACTUALLY CHANGED? Until now, any investment from countries that share a land border with India required government approval. This

applied even if the investment was very small. The rule was introduced in 2020 to prevent opportunistic takeovers of Indian companies when markets had weakened during the pandemic.

Under the revised policy, investors from neighbouring countries can now hold up to 10% beneficial ownership in an Indian company without needing government approval, provided the investment does not give them control over the company.

Such investments will be allowed through the automatic route, meaning companies do not have to wait for clearance before accepting funds. However, the policy still ensures that majority ownership and control remain with Indian citizens or Indian-owned entities. The government has also clarified the definition of "beneficial owner", using the criteria followed under the Prevention of Money Laundering Rules. This helps authorities identify who ultimately

owns or controls the investment. WHY DID INDIA CHANGE THE RULES? While the earlier restrictions were introduced for security reasons, they



also slowed down investment flows over time. Many global venture capital and private equity funds have investors from countries that share a land border with India. Because of this, even small investments in Indian startups often required government approval, which delayed funding.

Industry groups had argued that these

rules were making it harder for Indian startups and technology companies to raise money. By allowing small non-controlling investments through the automatic route, the government hopes to unlock funding from global investment funds while maintaining safeguards. HOW WILL THIS HELP COMPANIES?

The government believes the new rules will make it easier for Indian companies to attract foreign investment and form technology partnerships.

The policy is expected to particularly support manufacturing sectors such as electronic components, capital goods and solar manufacturing. These industries often rely on foreign technology and partnerships to expand production. To speed up investments in these areas, the government has also introduced a 60-day timeline for approvals in certain manufacturing sectors that still require government clearance.

Sensex, Nifty trade flat in early session; Reliance gains, banks weigh

Mumbai.(Agency)

Indian benchmark indices traded largely flat in early trade on Wednesday as gains in select heavyweights were offset by weakness in banking stocks, while easing crude oil prices supported market sentiment.

At around 9:18 a.m., the BSE Sensex was at 78,279.66, up 73.68 points or 0.09%. The Nifty 50 stood at 24,256.90, down 4.70 points or 0.02% after touching an intraday high of 24,292.35. Shares of Reliance Industries rose about 1.45% to Rs 1,429.20, emerging as one of the key supports for the benchmark indices. Among other gainers on the Nifty, Sun Pharmaceutical Industries climbed around 1.49%, while Wipro gained about 1.45%. Airline operator InterGlobe Aviation also advanced more than 1% in early trade. However, banking stocks weighed on the indices. Shares of HDFC Bank fell around 0.7%, while ICICI Bank declined about 0.6%. Kotak Mahindra

Bank slipped over 1%, adding pressure on the benchmarks. Other stocks trading lower included Bharti Airtel, Mahindra & Mahindra and Shriram Finance. Market participants are closely tracking foreign investor



flows and sectoral trends. According to VK Vijayakumar, a key trend in the market is the continued divergence between foreign and domestic institutional investors.

"There are some important market trends that investors should analyse and try to understand now. One, the FII vs DII game is back to the last one-year pattern of sustained selling by

FIIs being more than matched by sustained buying by DIIs. Given the continuing indifference of FIIs towards India and the sustaining inflows into Indian equity mutual funds, this game is likely to continue in the near-term," he said. He added that despite broader market weakness, some sectors are showing resilience.

"Segments like pharmaceuticals and domestic consumption themes such as telecom, automobiles and defence are exhibiting resilience," Vijayakumar said. He also noted that sustained foreign investor selling has made large banking stocks more attractive for long-term investors. Sustained FII selling has made large banking stocks, which constitute the largest segment of FIIs' assets under management, attractive. These stocks have the potential to reward investors who can buy and hold them for at least two years. Here patience is the key," he said.

Gold, silver rates 11 March 2026: Prices drop further over profit booking

New Delhi.(Agency)

Gold and silver prices eased on Wednesday as investors booked profits, though a softer US dollar and lingering geopolitical uncertainty capped the decline. MCX gold April futures lost 0.52 per cent to Rs 1,62,452 per 10 grams around 11.15 am on an intraday basis. Meanwhile, MCX silver May futures declined 1.69 per cent to Rs 2,73,150 per kg. The profit booking followed the MCX gold April futures contract rising almost 2 per cent and the silver May futures surging 4 per cent in the previous session. The US dollar weakened 0.07 per cent on an intraday basis to 98.75 cent, making dollar-priced bullion cheaper for holders of other currencies. Meanwhile, crude oil fell below \$90 a barrel, cooling off inflation concerns of traders that had earlier bolstered demand for

gold as an inflation hedge. Brent crude oil price fell 0.99 per cent to \$86.93 a barrel, while US West Texas



Intermediate (WTI) futures dropped 0.75 per cent to \$82.82. Overnight, both futures had settled down more than 11 per cent, marking the steepest single-day decline in four years after the International Energy Agency proposed the largest release of emergency

reserves in its history.

Investors booked profits amid uncertainty over the trajectory of the war after confusing signals from US President Donald Trump, who earlier suggested war could be nearing its end, followed by US and Israel subjecting Iran to an intense air strike overnight.

Investors remain keen on cues from the Personal Consumption Expenditures index, due on Friday to gauge US inflation and chances of Fed rate cuts.

The medium to long-term outlook of COMEX Silver remains constructive despite short-term volatility, a market participant said. MCX Gold has support at Rs 1,61,800 to Rs 1,60,350 zone while resistance at Rs 1,64,400 and Rs 1,66,600 levels. MCX silver has support at Rs 2,744,000 and Rs 2,68,000, and resistance is at Rs 2,81,000 and Rs 2,85,500," an analyst said.



national energy priorities and government guidelines. "Reliance Industries is taking proactive steps and in line with the Government guidelines, to maximise LPG production from our refining and petrochemicals complexes at Jamnagar — the world's largest integrated refining hub. Our teams are working around the clock to optimise refinery operations and enhance LPG output so that supplies to the domestic market remain stable and reliable," said the company. Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said that India is securing its energy needs by diversifying import sources beyond West Asia amid rising geopolitical tensions in the region, assuring citizens that domestic gas supplies remain stable. Puri said India continues to receive energy imports through different sources and supply routes, ensuring stability in the country's fuel availability despite the ongoing conflict in the region.

Pakistan's petrol price hike indicates deeper energy crisis amid geopolitical tensions: Report

While the government has attributed the increase to global oil volatility and tensions in the Middle East, the latest crisis exposes deeper structural weaknesses in Pakistan's energy system.

New Delhi.(Agency)

The sudden surge in petrol prices in Pakistan in March 2026 -- by around Rs 55 per litre --- has triggered long queues at fuel stations, rising transport fares and growing public frustration across the country, a report showed. While the government has attributed the increase to global oil volatility and tensions in the Middle East, the latest crisis exposes deeper structural weaknesses in Pakistan's energy system. According to Modern Diplomacy report, concern behind the global price pressure is the escalating tension involving the United



States, Iran and Israel, which has raised fears of instability in the Strait of Hormuz. Nearly one-fifth of the world's oil supply passes through this narrow maritime route, making it extremely vulnerable to geopolitical disruptions, it said. The report also highlighted that even minor fluctuations in global prices quickly translate into domestic fuel hikes. According to economic surveys by the Ministry of Finance Pakistan,

petroleum imports account for a substantial share of the country's annual import bill, the report said.

"However, external forces alone cannot give Pakistan the same kind of impact of fuel crisis severity again and again. The more fundamental issue is that the country has not been able to modernize its energy industry and diversify it in terms of fuel source," according to the report. Studies by the Institute for Energy

Economics and Financial Analysis note that Pakistan remains heavily reliant on foreign energy sources despite its considerable renewable energy potential, the report said. The latest petrol hike is also expected to worsen inflation.

The report also pointed out that rising fuel costs increase transport expenses, which in turn push up the prices of food and other essential commodities, disproportionately affecting lower-income households. Despite the recurring crises, policy responses have often focused on short-term relief measures such as subsidies or temporary price freezes rather than structural reforms. Major regional energy initiatives, including the proposed Iran-Pakistan Gas Pipeline, have also remained stalled due to geopolitical and policy challenges.

The report also mentioned that energy analysts argue that Pakistan must adopt a broader strategy to strengthen energy security. Expanding strategic petroleum reserves, modernising domestic refineries and investing in renewable sources such as solar and wind could help reduce dependence on imported oil.

Lavanya Tripathi

Approaches Hyderabad Cyber Crime Police Over Defamatory Instagram Posts

Actor Lavanya Tripathi has reportedly filed a complaint with the cybercrime authorities in Hyderabad over alleged harassment on social media. The complaint was lodged against an Instagram account accused of posting defamatory and abusive content targeting the actor and members of her family. According to reports, the complaint was submitted to the Hyderabad Cyber Crime Police. Officials have since registered a case and begun investigating the account in question. The actor alleged that the page had been publishing false claims and objectionable remarks about her and her relatives, which she said caused emotional distress and damaged her family's reputation. Police have reportedly registered the case under Section 67 of the Information Technology Act as well as Sections 78 and 79 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita. These provisions deal with offences related to online harassment and misuse of digital platforms.



Investigators are now working to trace the identity of the person operating the account. Officials are expected to rely on digital evidence and technical data to track down the individual responsible for the posts.

The complaint comes at a time when discussions around the actor's extended family have been circulating online. Earlier this year, Ram Charan and Upasana Kamineni Konidela welcomed twins named Shivram and Anveera Devi. Following the announcement, an old remark made by Chiranjeevi about wanting a male heir resurfaced on social media, sparking debate among users.

Lavanya had earlier addressed the issue publicly, stating that she would not appreciate remarks made in poor taste about her family members. She also said she feels fortunate to have supportive men in her life.

The actor also reacted to a controversial tweet that referenced Chiranjeevi's earlier comment. She said the remark resurfaced at a time when the family was celebrating a joyful moment and questioned why such

discussions were being revived during the occasion. Lavanya added that many people making comments online may not fully understand how Chiranjeevi treats the women in his family, particularly his granddaughters, describing him as extremely caring and supportive. On the personal front, Lavanya married actor Varun Tej in 2023. The couple welcomed their son Vaayuv in 2025.

Professionally, the actor is preparing for the release of her upcoming Telugu romantic comedy Sathi Leelavathi. The film, directed by Tatineni Satya, also features Dev Mohan and is produced by Naga Mohan under the banner of Anandi Art Creations.



Randeep Hooda-Lin Welcome Baby Girl, Varun Dhawan's Hai Jawani Toh Ishq Hona Hai Averts Clash With Toxic



Randeep Hooda and Lin Laishram, Bollywood's most loved couple, announced the arrival of their first child, a baby girl, on March 10. Randeep took to social media to share the good news with the fans. The baby is healthy, and both the mother and daughter are doing well. Randeep and Lin shared the news on Instagram, revealing that their daughter arrived on a day that already held immense significance for the family. The newborn shares her birthday with Randeep Hooda's father, Ranbir Hooda.

Varun Dhawan, Mrunal Thakur, and Pooja Hegde's Hai Jawani Toh Ishq Hona Hai has been postponed. The film was earlier scheduled to release on June 5, and now the makers have announced a new release date. The film will now be hitting theatres on June 12. The move came after Yash's Toxic changed its release date. The action drama has also shifted from March 19 to June 4.

For a long time now, reports regarding Madhubala's biopic have been making headlines. While everyone is eager to know who will be playing the role of an iconic actress on-screen, it has now been reported that Aneet Padda has been finalised to play the lead in the film. If a report by Filmfare is to be believed, Aneet Padda has already been signed for the special film. While further details about the movie are still unknown, it is being said that Aneet will begin shooting for the movie soon. However, the same report also stated that a spokesperson from YRF denied these developments.

Varun Dhawan was recently seen in Anurag Singh's Border 2, alongside Sunny Deol, Diljit Dosanjh, and Ahan Shetty. The film was a sequel to JP Dutta's 1997 cult film, Border. The team is currently enjoying the success of the film as it performed well at the box office. However, before Border 2 hit theatres, Varun was massively trolled on social media for his smile in the trailer. A section of people on the internet even questioned his suitability for the role. He played the role of Major Hoshiar Singh Dahiya in the film and received immense love for his performance. Now, a report suggests that the actor is taking a break from acting for a while. Dostana 2 has been one of the most talked-about projects since it was first announced a few years ago. The film was originally set to star Kartik Aaryan, Janhvi Kapoor, and Lakshya. However, the cast later underwent a major reshuffle, with Kartik and Janhvi stepping away while Lakshya remained attached to the project.

Prince Narula Slams Divya Agarwal Over Her Rape Threat Claim From His Fans: 'Hungry For Footage'



The social media spat between reality television stars Prince Narula and Divya Agarwal is intensifying with each passing hour. What began as a disagreement over events on the reality show The 50 has now escalated into a full-blown online feud, with both sides responding publicly and fans weighing in.

A few hours earlier, Divya Agarwal shared a video claiming she had been receiving hate messages and even rape threats from Prince Narula's fans. In the video, she indirectly took a dig at Prince, suggesting he seems to have plenty of time to watch episodes of the show despite earlier claims that he hadn't been following them closely.

Now, Prince Narula has responded to Divya's allegations and clarified his stance, stating that while he may have dominated the game strategically, he never tried to dominate her personally.

Prince Narula Slams Divya Agarwal

Prince Narula took to Instagram and posted a clip from an episode of The 50. In the video, Divya is seen confronting him and asking him not to dominate the contestants inside the palace. Using this moment as context, Prince attempted to clarify that he never forced anyone to follow his instructions during the game.

The clip also features Sapna Chaudhary addressing the situation. According to her, Prince had once suggested that she vote against a particular contestant. However, when she refused, he did not pressure her further, something Prince highlighted as proof that he never controlled other participants' decisions.

In the caption accompanying the video, Prince accused Divya of being "hungry for footage" and claimed she forms bonds on the show primarily for attention. He also alleged that she had lied about not watching the episodes and suggested she sees herself as a bigger celebrity than she actually is.

He concluded his note by stating, "The only difference is that the show was bigger than relationships for you, and yes, I have dominated it, but not you. God bless you."

Adah Sharma

Says She Has Been Out Of Work For A Month: 'Velli Hu Main'

Actor Adah Sharma has said that she has been without work for the past month after scheduling issues with one film disrupted the timelines of other projects she had committed to. In a video shared on her official Instagram account, the actor spoke about a difficult experience involving a producer who repeatedly changed the shooting schedule of a project. According to Sharma, the situation eventually led to clashes with the dates she had already allotted to two other films.



Sharma explained that she had initially committed to three projects at the same time. However, the first film kept altering its schedule, which began to affect the timelines of the other productions she was supposed to work on. She said the producer of the first film insisted on retaining the originally assigned dates and pressed her manager to secure them at any cost.

"He said, 'no matter what, I want these dates.' My manager asked, 'are you sure?'" He said, "yes, I want these dates. I'm sure. They can't be changed," said Adah in her Instagram video.

According to Sharma, when the directors of the other two films learned about the situation, they chose to adjust their schedules in order to accommodate her commitments. In one case, the producer reportedly changed the shooting dates for the entire cast.

Reflecting on the experience, Sharma said the gesture showed that not everyone in the industry behaves poorly. "You must have heard a lot that the people in the industry are bad. But I want to tell you that there are good people as well. Not everyone is ill-mannered," Adah pointed out.

However, she added that after the schedules were rearranged to accommodate the first film, its producer unexpectedly backed out of the dates. Once the other projects had shifted their timelines, the producer reportedly informed them that the earlier dates were no longer required. "I don't want those dates now," he said.

As a result, Sharma said she has not been able to take up work for about a month. Sharing her frustration, the actor concluded, "My life is ruined. And now I have been idle for a month. Like fully, completely, emotionally, mentally, professionally, financially idle."



How to get that Perfect Smile

A smile can really change your face value in an instant and that is the reason why when you change your smile, your entire personality undergoes a tremendous overhaul. Cosmetic dentist Dr Rajesh Shetty says, "As far as the smile goes, even a small change can make a favourable impact. The way you look can be altered by making subtle to drastic changes just to your teeth."

Smile improvement procedures

Out of the variety of procedures available today, there are different treatment options that can treat discolouration, chipped teeth,

misshapen or even missing teeth, such as bleaching, reshaping, contouring, bonding, crowns and veneers.

Contouring for tooth makeover

Sometimes small defects on your tooth can be prominent when you smile and attract unwanted attention. This is where cosmetic contouring comes in. Contouring is one of the instant cosmetic dental treatments that is about re-shaping and styling a tooth.

Cosmetic dentist Dr Sagar Shah says, "Cosmetic contouring is a technique that



removes small amounts of tooth enamel in order to change the shape, length or surface of one or more teeth. A few millimetres of reduction in the right places can really improve the appearance of teeth. The process is often combined with bonding, a cosmetic dentistry treatment that uses tooth-coloured composite material to sculpt and shape the teeth and dental whitening."

Who can get this done

When your tooth has a tiny chip, if your canine is too pointy or when your tooth sizes do not match — these are the problems that can be addressed with the help of this minimally invasive procedure. Dr Shetty says, "In order to evaluate if cosmetic contouring is ideal for the person, we conduct X-rays. This helps evaluate the size of the tooth

and location of the nerve present. Sufficient amount of enamel, which is the outer layer of the tooth should be present, so that the tooth does not become weak after the procedure, thereby providing a long-term solution for the client.

In order to get the best out of all this, it is advisable to combine some procedures like teeth whitening along with contouring to get a younger looking smile.



Rainbow eyelashes are the latest beauty trend

With the popularity of the rainbow hairstyle that caught on in a big way last year, it has now extended to other areas as well. The latest offshoot of this trend is the eyelash make-up trend. The trend went viral after a neon-eyelash look, created by make-up artist Karin Westerlund for model Ginta Lapina, was shared on social media. You can use coloured mascara, eyelash extensions or even create your own using coloured eyeshadow pigment and clear mascara.



How to have a detox bath

While most of us can't go through week-long detox rituals, it's quite possible to have a quick relaxing detox bath at the end of a tiring day. Here's how you can rejuvenate your body and your mind by taking a simple but healthy bath.

Ginger bath
Sprinkle some fresh ginger shavings in your bath water. Ginger tends to make the body sweat more, thereby helping it release toxins.

Baking soda bath
Baking soda has the property of neutralizing chlorine in tap water, which aids the body in the detoxing process.

Apple cider vinegar bath
Not only will water mixed with apple cider vinegar help you sweat out toxins, it also helps with any inflammation of the skin. essential oil bath There are a number of great essential oils out there like lavender, peppermint and sandalwood, which are great for a detox bath. For best results, you can first add baking soda to your bath and then a few drops of an essential oil to get the full effects of the latter.



A lot depends on the kind of make-up that you purchase. Before you begin to shop, make sure you follow these rules...

Consider your skin type and complexion: When you go out shopping for a particular product, always remember to buy according to your skin type and tone. Otherwise, you may end up with skin rashes and allergies. You can try out the product at the back of your palm to see if it blends well with your skin.

Stick to one particular brand: Often, a brand which you have been using for a period of time will suit you more than the ones that you haven't tried out before. This is because your skin is already accustomed to that brand and the ingredients that have been used.

Mineral make-up for warmer times: During the hotter months, it is best recommended to use mineral make-up. This doesn't clog your pores like some of the liquid varieties.

Invest in a compact: While you would like to be a few shades lighter, make sure not to use foundations that clog your pores. Beautician Nidhi Mirchandani says, "Some foundations are heavy on your skin and can make your face age much faster. So, consider using a compact powder instead of a foundation to make your face look youthful and blemish-free."

Toner is a must: Applying toner before putting on make-up will make your face look brighter. This can help prevent allergies as well. Buy water-based toners that contain ingredients like aloe vera or cucumber. You can also spritz the toner after taking off the make-up.

Check for expiry date: Make-up professional Nanda Ghai says,



Choose the right make-up to avoid skin Allergies

Allergies

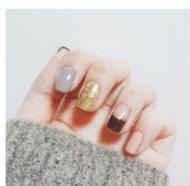
"Every product comes with an expiry date. Check them before buying. As a rule, don't use products that are more than six months old. For example, compact powder and foundation should be changed every three months to avoid skin damages. If you have been applying a product for over a year, chances of developing acne or rashes are high."

Do a patch test before application: Always run a trial test before you start using a product. It is always best to check for any kind of rashes by first applying the product to the crook of your elbow.

Holidaying abroad? Here's destination nail art to soak in the spirit?

When in Rome, do as the Romans do may be a popular idiom, but Bengalureans are taking it literally. Fashionistas in the city are opting for destination nail art, keeping in sync with their vacation destinations. "I've been getting many requests for destination-themed nail art since April, the start of summer vacations. So we have done London-, Maldives and Paris-themed art. This trend is good for people who are bold and love to experiment. They like it because it takes their fashion statement to the next level and shows off their love for travel," says nail art

expert Shikha Sridhar. Makeup artist Manjusha Bajaj thought it would be cool to sport nail art that matched her travel plans to the UK. "I was going to London for a makeup course, and got London icons done on my nails. It was quirky and fun, and got a lot of attention there. This particular form of nail art has a novelty factor, because it is not something you can do regularly," she says.



While many opt for flags and monuments of the countries they are visiting, others settle for generic landscapes like a tropical sunrise, palm trees, oceans and starfish nail art, among others.

"Nails should signify personal style and life events. These days, folks going on summer vacations are getting colours and nail art to depict their travel destination and complete their holiday look. Holiday nail art is best achieved with gel polish, as the colour and designs remain through the holiday period and long after, giving your hands a dressed-up look, and making holiday memories last longer. Girls who are unable to travel this summer are also getting landscape nail art done to join in on the fun," says nail expert Neela Bopaiah.

GET YOUR OWN DESTINATION NAILART
As this kind of art is complicated, you may want to visit a nail studio. But if

you are a staunch believer in DIY, Neela shares a simple technique to get a palm tree on your nails. Give your hands and nails a basic scrub File your nails Apply two coats of your favourite nail colour on all fingers and a contrasting colour on the ring finger. Once the polish is dry, create curved lines for the trunk of the palm tree using a nail art brush and a dark polish. Broaden the bottom of the trunk. Once done, draw a few curved lines on the top part of the trunk for the branches and leaves. Define the leaves. After the art is completely dry, apply a top coat to seal the design.