

Rekha Gupta Criticised Over LG Sandhu Oath Coverage!

Letter to Prime Minister alleges news blackout of Sardar Taranjit Singh Sandhu's oath ceremony at Raj Nivas

The Sikh Times Simmi Kaur Babbar

New Delhi 12 March : A serious allegation regarding the alleged News blackout of the oath ceremony of Delhi's newly appointed Lieutenant Governor, Sardar Taranjit Singh Sandhu, has been raised in a letter addressed to Honorable Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.



Newspaper, has claimed that the print media and

electronic media of Delhi completely blacked out the oath ceremony of the newly appointed Lieutenant Governor of Delhi, Sardar Taranjit Singh Sandhu Jee, which took place yesterday at Raj Nivas in Delhi.



wrote that the situation crossed all limits when the new Lieutenant Governor of Delhi took oath but the news of his oath ceremony did not run on national TV channels and the photographs of the Governor were not published on the front pages of Delhi newspapers.

Continued news page 2

Tejashwi hits out at NDA, accuses party of failing Bihar on all development fronts

A political numbers war has erupted in Bihar after Leader of Opposition Tejashwi Yadav accused the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government of failing the state despite years of a "double-engine government".

Chandigarh. (Agency) A political war of numbers has erupted in Bihar after Leader of Opposition Tejashwi Yadav accused the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government of failing the state despite years of a "double-engine government".

poorly across several socio-economic indicators. According to him, Bihar is the poorest state in the country, has the highest migration, the highest levels of crime and corruption, the highest unemployment, and the highest level of multidimensional poverty.



weakest states in terms of quality education, healthcare infrastructure and industrial

development. He said the state is lagging in almost every development indicator, accusing the government of avoiding accountability while running the administration through bureaucratic control, state resources and caste politics.

R N Ravi takes oath as 22nd governor of West Bengal

New Delhi.(Agency) R N Ravi, retired IPS officer, on Thursday took oath as the 22nd Governor of West Bengal at a ceremony in Lok Bhavan in Kolkata.



Suwendu Adhikari, Leader of the Opposition, in the state assembly and

BJP MLA, who was invited at the ceremony was not seen. Senior BJP leader Anirban Ganguly was present in the programme.

Om Birla's "Rules" Reminder To Opposition Day After No-Trust Motion Defeated

New Delhi.(Agency) Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Thursday attacked Prime Minister Narendra Modi amid concerns over reported LPG shortage, saying the PM is asking the people not to panic but is himself panicked for "completely different reasons".

demand answers from the government over it.Speaking with reporters after the protest, Gandhi said, "The PM is saying there is no need to panic, but the PM himself has panicked for completely different reasons.



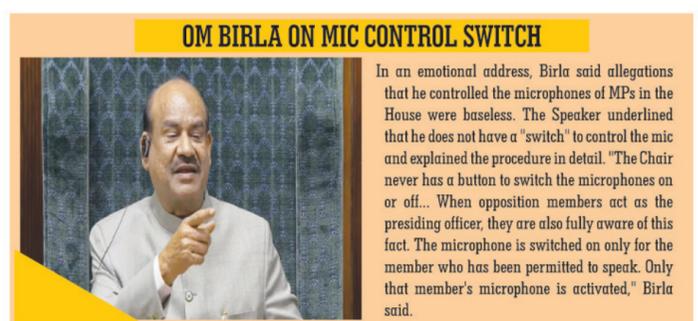
Some opine that LoP is above the House

Om Birla's dig at Rahul Gandhi

Om Birla rejected the opposition's 'partisan' charge as he returned to the Speaker's chair in the Lok Sabha. On Wednesday, the Opposition's no-confidence motion against him was defeated in the House.

Chennai. (Agency) Om Birla asserted that his actions were unbiased as he resumed duties as Lok Sabha Speaker on Thursday after the Opposition's no-confidence motion against him was defeated in the House.

"Even the Prime Minister and ministers have to give notice under House rules to make statements," he underscored. On Wednesday, the no-confidence motion brought by Opposition parties against Om Birla was dismissed by a voice vote amid high drama in the Lok Sabha, which witnessed a 12-hour debate.



OM BIRLA ON MIC CONTROL SWITCH

In an emotional address, Birla said allegations that he controlled the microphones of MPs in the House were baseless. The Speaker underlined that he does not have a 'switch' to control the mic and explained the procedure in detail.

notice seeking the removal of the Speaker. The notice was signed by 118 Mps. Rejecting the charge by the opposition that he acted in a partisan manner, Birla said, "I

have always tried to conduct the proceedings of the House with impartiality, discipline, balance and in accordance with the rules."

Front continued news

Rekha Gupta Criticised Over LG Sandhu Oath Coverage !

He further wrote that, on the other hand, the news of Delhi Chief Minister Smt. Rekha Gupta appears daily in national newspapers of Delhi and that she even gets advertisements prepared for her own news and publishes her photographs in newspapers. According to him, this work is done by the Director of Information and Publicity, that is the DIP (Shabdarth) Director of Delhi.

In the letter it is stated that none of the national daily newspapers in Delhi published the news of the new Lieutenant Governor on their front pages, which he described as an example of hatred and racial discrimination because Delhi now has a Sikh Lieutenant Governor.

He also wrote that this is the first time such an incident has happened and that whenever a new Lieutenant Governor of Delhi took oath in the past, all national daily newspapers prominently published the news of the oath ceremony on their front pages. He further stated that electronic media, including national TV channels, also broadcast the Raj Nivas ceremony widely and prominently.

The letter also mentions that Honorable Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and Honorable Home Minister Shri Amit Shah honored the entire Sikh community by appointing a Sikh Sardar as the Lieutenant Governor of Delhi. It further states that not only Sikhs in Delhi but Sikhs across the world are happy that Shri Narendra Modi appointed a Sikh as the Lieutenant Governor of Delhi.

However, the letter alleges that the Chief Minister of Delhi, under whose control lies the Information and Public Relations Ministry and the Director of Information and Publicity who works closely with her, ensured that the news of a Sikh Governor was blacked out.

The letter further states that when Smt. Rekha Gupta became the Chief Minister of Delhi, she started promoting herself extensively and installed large hoardings across the streets of Delhi, gave advertisements on TV channels, placed advertisements inside the Delhi Metro, and on bus stands across Delhi, while other ministers of the Delhi Government and senior leaders of the Bharatiya Janata Party Delhi unit were rarely seen in the media.

Babbar alleged in the letter that by blacking out the news of the newly appointed Lieutenant Governor of Delhi, Smt. Rekha Gupta deliberately insulted the Lieutenant Governor of Delhi as part of a well-planned conspiracy and claimed that she does not want to see anyone above her in Delhi.

The letter has been sent to Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi with copies marked to several senior leaders and authorities including Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah, BJP National President, Union Minister Shri Jagat Prasad Nadda, Lieutenant Governor Sardar Taranjit Singh Sandhu, BJP Delhi President, Members of Parliament, Delhi Cabinet Ministers, MLAs, the Chief Secretary of Delhi, and the Police Commissioner of Delhi.

The matter has now sparked discussion in political and media circles regarding the alleged lack of coverage of the oath ceremony of the new Lieutenant Governor of the national capital.

No leachate leak, MCG tells NGT, as 17L MT garbage remains untreated at Bandhwari

Gurgaon.(Agency)

MCG has denied allegations that toxic leachate from Bandhwari landfill is flowing into agricultural fields, despite National Green Tribunal (NGT) acknowledging that over 17 lakh metric tonnes (MT) of legacy waste still remains unprocessed at the landfill.

In a status report, the civic body submitted to NGT that there are no residential areas or agricultural fields in the vicinity of the landfill, adding that forest land, villages and farmlands are located at a considerable distance. The report further stated that no leachate overflow was found in agricultural fields. It added that during heavy rains in 2025, some runoff water travelled through natural cracks towards a farmhouse in Bandhwari village, but the accumulated water was pumped out through tankers. Moreover, the civic body also informed the tribunal that there are no takers for the fresh waste processing tender at Bandhwari. The

tender was first invited on Dec 15, 2025, but no bid was received. Another tender was invited on Jan 7 this year, but no bid was received. Subsequently, the tender was floated for the third time on Jan 30, but no bid was received. MCG has now sent a revised proposal to the ULB department on March 10 for reconsideration and revision of the approved rates and estimate so that the tender may attract participation from eligible agencies.

MCG stated that 53.5 lakh MT of waste was received at the landfill since Jan 2023, out of which 36.28 lakh MT was processed through biomining and bioremediation processes. Despite these efforts, 17.27 lakh MT of legacy waste remain at the site, the report states. The civic body also informed the tribunal that waste processing at the landfill started in the first week of March and 15 lakh MT of



legacy waste will be processed by Jan 2027. Moreover, MCG mentioned in its affidavit that it also hired a consultant to prepare a detailed project report (DPR), which includes various provisions such as designing a leachate treatment plant with a capacity of 300 kilolitres per day (KLD), construction of an RCC boundary wall along the landfill forest area to

prevent seepage of leachate, sedimentation, etc. These measures will be done to prevent leachate run-off to the forest area. The DPR, with an estimated cost of Rs 24.8 crore, was submitted to DULB on Dec 11, 2025.

MCG on March 9 wrote to the MCF commissioner again to stop the dumping of waste from Faridabad at the Bandhwari landfill site to reduce the burden on the Bandhwari landfill.

MCG also submitted that HSPCB imposed Rs 6.3 crore as environmental compensation on MCG at the rate of Rs 10 lakh per month from April 2020. The civic body submitted that compensation up to the month of Sept 2025 was made, and the remaining compensation for the last quarter from Oct 2025 to Dec 2025 will be made by March 20, 2026.

Illegal factories flourish in Gurgaon, Faridabad; effluents reach Yamuna via drains

Noida.(Agency)

"It feels like these factories exist only for us, not for the authorities," said Naveen Singh, a resident of Sector 5 in Faridabad. He was referring to illegal factories — or ghost factories — that have mushroomed in Gurgaon and Faridabad.

Scores of industrial units are operating across the two cities without mandatory environmental permits, discharging untreated waste that eventually flows into Yamuna through a network of storm drains. These units operate out of basic brick structures topped with corrugated metal roofing, nestled deep within residential or encroached areas.

A recent visit to industrial pockets — including Basai and Dhanwapur in Gurgaon and Sector 69, Surya Vihar, Sector 5 and Dheeraj Nagar in Faridabad — revealed a sprawling network of



unregulated operations.

The range of industries is vast, spanning from garment dyeing and milk packaging to hazardous operations like battery dismantling, e-waste handling and production of synthetic glues and sealants.

With neighbourhoods already buckling under sewage overflows and illegal encroachment, the rise of these unregulated clusters has triggered a fresh wave of unchecked pollution that authorities are struggling to contain.

Visual evidence from these sites highlights the sheer scale of the problem, particularly within the garment and textile sector.

TOI saw outdoor drying yards where hundreds of garments, primarily heavy denim and trousers, are hung in dense rows. Residents say they were forced to live with the consequences. "Every morning, the drains run dark blue or black. We can smell the dye before we even step out," said Sunil Dev, a resident

of Basai. The presence of large blue plastic drums — standard containers for the chemicals, dyes and detergents used in industrial washing and dyeing — points to high-volume processing that lacks proper waste management infrastructure. High-capacity industrial generators and machinery sit amid piles of scattered debris and white scrap, indicating that these are not household-scale operations but sizeable industrial units running "off the grid".

Rera orders production warrant for jailed realty company director in Haryana buyer case

Ghaziabad.(Agency)

Haryana Real Estate Regulatory Authority (HRERA) has issued a production warrant seeking the appearance of a jailed realty company director before its adjudicating officer in connection with an ongoing complaint filed by a homebuyer.

Adjudicating officer Rajender Kumar directed the superintendent of Bhondsi jail to produce Vipul Ltd director Punit Beriwalla before the forum on March 13 at 2pm in a matter titled Anshul Deo vs Vipul Ltd.

Rera directed the jail authorities to ensure his appearance through a production warrant following an application from an official that informed the authority that Beriwalla is currently in judicial custody in a separate case. The complaint before Rera was filed by a homebuyer — Anshul Deo — against Vipul Ltd regarding a dispute linked to a real estate project. While the details of the complaint were not elaborated in the order, such matters before the authority typically relate to issues including project delays, compensation claims or other disputes between developers and buyers under the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016. A production warrant is issued by a court or quasi-judicial authority to ensure that a person already in custody in another case is brought before it for proceedings in a separate matter. Officials said the production warrant ensures that the "proceedings in the case can continue even when a respondent is in custody in another criminal matter". According to the order, the adjudicating officer had earlier issued a warrant of arrest against Beriwalla. During the proceedings, the authority's bailiff — an officer — informed the forum through the application that Beriwalla had already been arrested by the economic offences wing (Gurgaon), in connection with an FIR dated Oct 1, 2025, registered at Shivaji Nagar police station.

News box

Five selling cow meat held after gunfight in Crossings Republik, Ghaziabad

Noida.(Agency)

Five men allegedly involved in selling bovine meat and linked to several cow slaughter cases across NCR were arrested after a late-night gunfight on Tuesday, police said. According to police, the encounter took place near Crossings Republik after officers received a tip-off about the group's movements in connection with a March 3 case. The accused were identified as Maroof (24), Ayan alias Musa (25), Johin (21), Alam (32), and Sameer (19), all residents of Sambhal.

According to Wave City assistant commissioner of police Priyashree Pal, personnel from Crossing Republik police station were conducting a routine check at the ABES Cut around 12.30am on March 11 when they received inputs that those involved in the alleged cow slaughter at Dundahera underpass on March 3 were travelling on the Delhi-Meerut Highway.

Ghaziabad secures Rs 13.4 crore CSR commitments for health, education, environment

Ghaziabad.(Agency)

The district administration secured over Rs 13.4 crore in corporate social responsibility (CSR) commitments for health, education and environmental initiatives during the Ghaziabad CSR & Sustainability Conclave 2026 held on Tuesday. Organised by the district administration in partnership with a Delhi-based consulting firm, the conclave brought together representatives from government departments, corporate CSR teams, industry bodies and development organisations to align private sector investments with the district's development priorities.

Chief development officer Abhinav Gopal said the initiative aimed to create a coordinated framework so that CSR investments support long-term development goals instead of scattered activities. "The objective is to create a platform where govt, industry, and civil society can work together to align CSR investments with Ghaziabad's key priorities, such as education, healthcare, and environmental sustainability," he said. The conclave, held in Kaushambi, featured panel discussions on literacy and skill development, climate resilience in industrial regions, rural livelihoods and digital healthcare systems. One session focused on environmental challenges in the Hindon river belt, including air pollution, groundwater depletion and waste management in industrial areas. A closed-door roundtable with corporate leaders also discussed the proposed Ghaziabad Social Action Plan, which the administration plans to develop as a district-level roadmap to channel CSR investments into priority sectors.

Restore LPG supply, want essential service tag for restaurants: NRAI to Centre

Ghaziabad.(Agency)

National Restaurant Association of India (NRAI) has urged the Centre to "immediately restore" uninterrupted supply of commercial LPG cylinders and classify the restaurant industry as part of "essential services". Stressing that food supply is an "inescapable service", the association has recalled that restaurants and food-delivery infrastructure were officially classified as essential during the pandemic. The appeal has come against the backdrop of eateries across the country facing severe operational challenges due to the widespread disruption in commercial LPG availability. In a letter — dated March 10 — addressed to Union petroleum minister Hardeep Singh Puri, NRAI said that although the Centre publicly clarified that there is no ban on supplying commercial LPG cylinders to restaurants, the ground

situation contradicted this. "Suppliers have expressed inability," the letter said. Distributors across multiple states allegedly stopped delivery, citing instructions circulated on March 9 by All India LPG Distributors Federation (AILPGDF), which categorised restaurants as "non-essential commercial establishments".

The NRAI leadership — including president Sagar Daryani, vice-presidents Zorawar Kalra and Pranav Rungta and secretary general Prakul Kumar — pointed out that the stoppage of commercial LPG has left "thousands of restaurants struggling to operate normal kitchens". The restaurant industry "continues to face tough challenges" in maintaining operations, the association said, seeking an urgent meeting with the govt to discuss the industry-wide crisis.

NRAI Gurgaon president Joy Singh said a letter — dated March 9 — was circulated

to all distributors by AILPGDF, which wrongly categorised the restaurant industry as a non-essential commercial establishment. "Most of the major restaurants in Gurgaon are connected to PNG supply and disruption in commercial LPG will not affect the services. But there are many other standalone and small units, which may be affected," said Singh. NRAI requested the state and central govts to issue a clarification regarding the supply of commercial LPG for the restaurant industry as an essential service.

The sustained supply of commercial LPG to the restaurant industry will ensure that "food to citizens is not disrupted", it said. The domestic disruption is unfolding against the backdrop of the escalating Iraq-Israel war, which triggered a sharp rise in global geopolitical tensions and rattled international energy markets.

Domestic supply stable, but commercial cylinder shortage fuels black market in Gurgaon

Gurgaon.(Agency)

Domestic LPG supply in Gurgaon has remained stable, even as a shortage of commercial cylinders — amid ongoing geopolitical tensions in West Asia — has triggered black marketing in the city hitting small restaurants, dhabas and street vendors the hardest. Officials said there has been no disruption in domestic LPG distribution in the city.

There were no queues outside LPG agencies till Wednesday, and no food establishment has shut operations so far.

However, restrictions on commercial supply have pushed many small food businesses to seek cylinders through informal channels at sharply inflated prices. Large restaurants connected to piped natural gas (PNG) networks have largely remained unaffected. But owners of smaller establishments said the reduced availability of commercial cylinders has driven prices up steeply in the underground market. A 19kg commercial cylinder that cost about Rs 1,700 till Sunday is now being sold for Rs 3,500—Rs 4,500 in the black



market, they said. Govt recently directed LPG distributors to increase the waiting period for domestic cylinders from 15 to 25 days and halt supply of commercial cylinders to the food industry till further order. Agencies were also told to continue supplying commercial cylinders to essential institutions such as schools, hostels and hospitals.

Restaurant owners said they are trying to manage the situation by relying on existing stocks or

purchasing cylinders at higher prices to avoid shutting their kitchens. Many said they were willing to absorb the additional cost for now, though they warned that a prolonged shortage could affect operations.

"So far we are managing with the cylinders we already have," said Parveen Kumar, who runs Cafe Crush in Sector 38. "Commercial cylinders are available in the market, but distributors are asking almost

double the normal price. We are paying more because we need to keep the kitchen running," Kumar said.

Santosh Kumar, who operates a roadside eatery on Sohna Road, said stocking up is not an option for him. "We only keep two cylinders at a time and get them refilled. One is always in reserve. I can't afford to close the stall because this is my only livelihood," he said. According to industry estimates, around 5,000 commercial LPG cylinders are supplied daily in Gurgaon, most of them to small food businesses.

Arun Sachdeva of Raj Gas Service said his agency has not received fresh stock of commercial cylinders since Monday. "The last consignment arrived on Saturday," he said. District officials said the administration is keeping a close watch on the situation. Deputy commissioner Ajay Yadav urged establishments to report any cases of black marketing and said action would be taken if complaints

are received. LPG distributors, meanwhile, denied any involvement in illegal sales through their official.

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Man held for killing wife, three daughters over mounting debts

Man, sister among 3 nabbed for firing over playing music on Holi

The Sikh Times
New Delhi: In a major breakthrough, the Delhi Police have arrested a 42-year-old man for allegedly murdering his wife and three minor daughters at their home in outer north Delhi, an official said on Sunday. The accused, identified as Munchun Kewat, alias Ashish (42), a native of Bihar, was arrested from Kishangarh, Rajasthan, after a 72-hour multi-state manhunt. The police received a PCR call from the Chandan Park area, Siraspur, regarding the incident on the morning of February 25, when. After getting information, a team from the Samaypur Badli police station reached the spot and found the bodies of a 30-year-old woman, Anita, and her three daughters aged between three and

five years inside their one-room house in Chandan Park, Siraspur. All four had their throat slit with a sharp-edged weapon, said Deputy Commissioner of Police (Outer North) Hareshwar Swami. Kewat was found missing from the house and was immediately emerged as the prime suspect, the cop said. Gold worth Rs 4.35 cr seized at Indira Gandhi International Airport in 2 smuggling cases; 3 arrested! Swami said investigators analysed footage from over 800 CCTV cameras and used facial recognition system technology to track the movements of the accused. Teams were dispatched to Bihar, Tamil Nadu and Rajasthan. His movement was traced to a town near Ajmer. The accused was intercepted

and arrested in Kishangarh. During inter-



rogation, he confessed to killing his wife while she was asleep. When his daughters woke up and began crying, he killed them as well. He disclosed that the family was

under extreme financial stress due to mounting

debt and his gambling addiction, which led to frequent domestic disputes, the DCP said. According to Swami, the accused had planned the murders in advance. He

February 23 and hid it at home. In the early hours of February 25, after a night of arguments, he allegedly slit his wife's throat while she was

allegedly purchased a knife from a mandi on

ters woke up and began crying, he killed them as well. He then fled the house and travelled towards Ajmer, surviving on minimal food and sleeping in market yards. The police further revealed that the accused had lost substantial amount of money in online and offline gambling, including betting on cricket matches and playing 'teen patti'. In recent months, he borrowed Rs 2 lakh from his in-laws. Of this, the major amount was used to repay debts, while the remaining amount was lost in gambling. The accused, a native of Patna district in Bihar, had previously worked as a labourer in Chennai and Ajmer. He was currently selling vegetables at Azadpur Mandi in Delhi. He was also previously involved in a theft-related case registered in 2025 at the Adarsh Nagar police station.

New Delhi: The police have arrested three persons, including a woman, for allegedly opening fire on neighbours after a quarrel over loud music during the Holi celebrations, officials said on Friday. The police also recovered a semi-automatic pistol, along with cartridges, from their possession. According to the police, the incident took place on March 4 in the Harsh Vihar area. After getting information about the gunfire, a police team rushed to Gali No. 8 in Pratap Nagar. The complainant, Monu (29), told the police that he was playing music when his neighbour and the latter's sister objected, leading to an argument. The duo allegedly later called an associate who arrived at the spot, opened fire before fleeing the spot. No one was injured in the incident. Acting on the complaint, a case was registered under relevant sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita at the Harsh Vihar police station and an investigation was launched. During the probe, a forensic team inspected the neighbour and the latter's sister objected, leading to an argument. The duo allegedly later called an associate who arrived at the spot, opened fire before fleeing the spot. No one was injured in the incident. Acting on the complaint, a case was registered under relevant sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita at the Harsh Vihar scene and recovered an empty cartridge. A team led by SHO Inspector Pardeep Kumar worked on available leads and apprehended two siblings — a 30-year-old man and his 25-year-old sister. The police said two more empty cartridges were recovered from their possession. Based on their interrogation, the third accused, identified as Shubham, alias Mangu (23), a resident of Loni, was arrested. The police recovered a semi-automatic pistol, along with a live cartridge, from him.

Man on run for 10 years after killing daughter in Jammu, held from Delhi

New Delhi: The accused had allegedly murdered his 10-year-old daughter in 2016 and had been absconding since then after changing his identity. The arrested, identified as Ramesh Kumar, a native of Chhatarpur district in Madhya Pradesh, was wanted in a case regis-

Ramesh Kumar was working as a construction labourer in Jammu in 2016 when the incident occurred. Investigators said he allegedly attacked his 10-year-old daughter with a stick, hitting her on the head, as he suspected that she was not his biological child. The injured girl

was received from Jammu police seeking assistance in tracing the accused in the long-pending murder case. Acting on the request, the Crime Branch began developing intelligence and tracking the suspect's movements. During the investigation, inputs were received suggesting that

the accused was living in Sanjay Colony in the Bhati Mines area of south-east Delhi under the assumed name. Further verification confirmed that he had been using the identity 'Rajveer' to conceal his past. Following this lead, a special team was formed which conducted sustained

manual surveillance and technical analysis in the area. After several days of groundwork, they successfully traced and apprehended the accused from the Bhati Mines area.



tered under Section 302 of the IPC at Gandhi Nagar Police Station in Jammu. According to police,

was taken for medical treatment but later died during treatment. After committing the crime, the accused fled Jammu and remained absconding for nearly a decade. To evade arrest, he allegedly changed his name to 'Rajveer' and shifted to Delhi, where he started living under the new identity. The breakthrough came when secret tip-off

NAME CHANGE
I, VISHAL S/O PARVEEN KUMAR holder of Indian Passport No W9756456 issued at ABU DHABI on 04/10/2023, permanent resident of H NO 24 MCH 306/1507 MOH NEW FATEHGARH BAZI-GARH ROAD, HOSHIARPUR-146001, PUNJAB, INDIA and presently residing at TCA BESIDE OF SEVEN EMIRATES, ABU DHABI, UAE, do hereby change my name FROM VISHAL TO VISHAL SHARMA with immediate effect.

Public Notice
I hitherto Known as MASHES KUMAR S/O MOTI LAL R/O S-99217 Moti Lal, Nehru Camp, J.N.U. DIST: South West Delhi, Delhi-110067 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as MAHESH KUMAR

NAME CHANGE
I, BIBHA PATHARI LOING wife of JC-423614H, Rank-SUB, Name-SAMINDRA LOING residing at VILL-GUTUNG BALI GAON, PO-MOHURA MUKH, BONGUAL, DIST-GOLAGHAT, ASSAM-785619, have changed my name from BIBHA PATHARI LOING to BIBHA PATHARI LOING for all future purposes. Affidavit Dated 12/03/2026 before Notary Public, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE
I, MANZOOR UL HAQ S/O SAMI UL HAQUE R/O HOUSE NO. 3675-3679, THIRD FLOOR, QAZI APARTMENT, NETAJI SUBHASH MARG, DARYA GANJ, NEW DELHI - 110002, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME FROM MANZOOR UL HAQ TO MANZOOR UL HAQUE FOR ALL PURPOSES.

NAME CHANGE
I, Munee Davi legally mother of JC-782973M Nub Sub (DW) SANJAY SINGH YADAV, Presently residing at Village - Durga Ka Pura, PO - Kajoo, Tehsil-Chayal, District-Kaushambi, State Uttar Pradesh declare that I have changed my name from Munee Davi to Munnai Devi vide affidavit No IN UP49968378584886Y dated 11/Mar 2026.

NAME CHANGE
I hitherto known as Afsha D/o Muneer R/o 4217, Gali Fazal Hasan Ajmeri Gate Delhi, Delhi G.P.O., North Delhi, Delhi-110006 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Afsha Muneer.

Public Notice
It is for general information that I ZAKIR HUSSAIN ANSARI S/O CHAND KHAN R/O H.No-E-44/1, Gali No-4 Jagjit Nagar, Ghonda, North East, Delhi-110053 declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as JAKIR HUSAIN in my Service Record. The actual name of mine is ZAKIR HUSSAIN ANSARI which may be amended accordingly.

NAME CHANGE
I, Priyanka Vohra D/o Tilak Singh Vohra, R/o HL-15, L-Block, Jail Road, Hari Nagar, Delhi-110064 have changed my name to Priyanka Kaur Vohra.

NAME CHANGE
I, KAMESHWAR SAH is a real father of No JC: 393199P Rank NBSUB Name ASHOK KUMAR presently residing VILL - KURTHA PO - KURTHA PS - KURTHA TEH - JEHANABAD DISTT - ARWAL, BIHAR-804421 have changed my name from KAMESHWAR SAW to KAMESHWAR SAH for all future purposes. Vide Affidavit Dated 12/03/2026 Before Notary Public New Delhi.

NAME CHANGE
It is for general information that I, SANGITA W/O DOODH NATH D/O PARAS NATH YADAV R/O 66, BLOCK A, LIONS ENCLAVE, VIKAS NAGAR, DELHI-110059, declare that name of mine and my husband has been wrongly written as SUNITA DEVI and DUDHNATH in my Aadhaar Card-308587025513. And the name of mine has been wrongly written as SUNITA DEVI in my PAN Card-DUNPD0501F. The actual name of mine and my husband are SANGITA and DOODH NATH respectively which may be amended accordingly.

NAME CHANGE
I DEVKI SHARMA W/O PUSHKAR DATT SHARMA R/O RZ-520A/407 GALI NO-15F SHIVPURI WEST SAGARPUR DELHI 110046 Changed my name to DEVKI DEVI SHARMA

NAME CHANGE
I, Sumeeet Kumar S/o Balkishan R/o 1330, Pana Paposian, Mamoor Pur, Narela, North West Delhi, Delhi - 110040 have changed the name of my minor son ARNAV aged 12 years and he shall hereafter be known as ARNAV ARYA.

NAME CHANGE
I, KAMLA DEVI is a real mother of No JC- 393199P Rank NBSUB Name ASHOK KUMAR presently residing VILL - KURTHA PO - KURTHA PS - KURTHA TEH - JEHANABAD DISTT - ARWAL, BIHAR-804421 have changed my name from KAMLA DEVI TO KAMLA DEVI for all future purposes. Vide Affidavit Dated 12/03/2026 before Notary Public New Delhi.

Public Notice
It is for general information that I, SAMEER MIYAN S/O WASEEM UDDIN R/O 22, NEAR ALLAHPUR CHUNGI, MOHALLA ALLAHPUR, SAIDIKHEL, SAHIBABAD, DEHAT, PO SHAHABAD, DIST. HARDOI, UTTAR PRADESH-241124, declare that the name of mine has been wrongly written as SAMEER KHAN in my minor son's name ABUL RAB KHAN, aged 17 years in his 10th Class educational documents. The actual name of mine is SAMEER MIYAN respectively, which may be amended accordingly. It is certified that I have complied with other legal requirements in this connection.

Public Notice
I, Vinod Kumar S/o Hari Chand R/O A-318, DDA Flats, Bindapur, Binda Pur, West Delhi, Delhi-110059 have changed the name of my minor son Ayan Kanojia aged 13 years and he shall hereafter be known as Ayan Kanojia.

NAME CHANGE
I, Vinay Kumar Ray S/o KAMLESH RAY R/O HOUSE NO-4, KANWAR INDUSTRIAL VILLAGE, NEHAR PAAR, SECTOR-95, GREATER FARIDABAD, BADARPUR SAID (111), FARIDABAD, HARYANA-121101 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO VINAY RAY FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSES

NAME CHANGE
I hitherto known as AMRITA SHARMA D/O Girish Kumar R/O RZ-137, GALI NO-5, SOLANKI CHOWK, PALAM GAON, Raj Nagar Part 2, South West Delhi, Delhi-110077, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as AMRITA SHARMA.

NAME CHANGE
I DHARAMVIR SINGH S/O HOSHIYAR SINGH R/O VPO DOBH ROHTAK HARYANA 124001 have changed my name to DHARAMBIR SUHAG Permanently for all Future purpose

NAME CHANGE
I, Angelina D/o S Anthony R/o 398, 2nd Floor, Hanuman Mandir Road, Chirag Delhi, Delhi-110017 have changed my name to Anjalina for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE
I, BHATERI DEVI Mother of JC-472526Z Rank-SUB/HONY LT Name-TULSI RAM residing at SANJARPUR (16), REWARI, HARYANA-123501, have changed my name from BHATERI DEVI to BHETERI DEVI for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 12/03/2026 before Notary Public, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE
I, SUMEET KUMAR S/o BALKISHAN R/o 1330, Pana Paposian, Mamoor Pur, Narela, North West Delhi, Delhi - 110040 have changed the name of my minor son ARNAV aged 12 years and he shall hereafter be known as ARNAV ARYA.

LOST AND FOUND
"I, SURENDER KUMAR SHARMA R/o D-58-B, GALI No.3, PURCHASED ON 12-12-2002 AND FLAT D-197 (FIRST FLOOR) GALI NO.9, PURCHASED ON 21-05-1996 BOTH IN LAXMI NAGAR, DELHI-110092 HAVE BEEN LOST/MISPLACED. FINDER PLEASE INFORM ON MOB. 9899238182"

UPGRADATION OF TOILETS FOR 150 COACHES
E-Tender No.: M-249-RSP-2025-26-DRG-26A Date: 09-03-2026. E-Tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works: Name of work: Upgradation of Toilets for 150 (ICF-3 & LHB-120) coaches at C&W Workshop, N.F. Railway, New Bongaigaon. Tender Value: ₹18,20,67,026.40/- Earnest Money: ₹10,60,300/- Date & time of closing of tender: At 15:00 hrs. on 31-03-2026. The complete information with the tender document of above e-tender will be available on website www.i-reps.gov.in

NAME CHANGE
I, Shilpa Prasad Mishra S/o Raj Karan Mishra R/o B - 28, Kushak No.1, Qadipur, Burari, Delhi - 110036 have changed my name to Shilpa Prasad Mishra for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE
I, Abhijeet Chandrakant Wadiyar S/o Chandrakant Anappa Wadiyar R/o 16 Damco Society, Lane D, North Main Road, Koregaon Park, Pune City, Maharashtra - 411001, hereby undertake that I, Abhijeet Chandrakant Wadiyar want to change my name to Isha Chandrakant Wadiyar and Gender as FEMALE

PUBLIC NOTICE
I, Sadiq Noor Mohammad, S/O Mohd Kesar, R/O, F-471 A, Gali No. 16, F Block, Chand Bagh, Delhi 110094, declare that my name in my passport is "Sadiq Noor Mohammad", while my other documents and my 10th and 12th grade educational certificates show my name as Sadiq Noor Mohd. These are both my names, that is, the same person.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given to the General Public that Mrs. Vibha Devi wife of Mr. Pawan Kumar in respect of Property No. 238 and 239, area measuring 30 sq. yds, out of Kharsa No. 60, situated at Village Karawal Nagar, in the abadi of New Sahapur Gujran, Karawal Nagar, Illaqa Shahdara, Delhi-94, by virtue of Regd. Family GPA dated 25.02.2026 executed by Mr. Pawan Kumar son of Mr. Vishambhar Jha and said property to be sold to Mrs. Manju Devi and same to be financed by SMFG India Home Finance Co. Ltd. General public hereby informed that if anybody has any charge/interest/title in the said property or any kind of dispute kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 07 days of the present.

NAME CHANGE
I, SARASWATHI A Mother of PRADEEPAN E (Service No JC-594101M SUBEDAR MAJOR UNIT JAK LI REGT CENTRE C/O 56 APO) Resident of VILL-MADAYI, PO-VENGARA, TEHSIL AND DISTRICT- KANNUR, KERALA in my son service record my Name & DOB written wrong as SARASWATHI and DOB as 45 years instead of SARASWATHI A and DOB as 01/11/1954 Now I am applying for correction vide E Stamp No KL047309867202526E concern please note.

NAME CHANGE
I, SURAV KUMAR S/o BAL KISHAN R/o House No. 1330, Pana Paposian, Narela, North West Delhi, Delhi - 110040 have changed the name of my minor son MANVIK aged 7 years and he shall hereafter be known as MANVIK ARYA.

UPGRADATION OF TOILETS FOR 150 COACHES
E-Tender No.: M-249-RSP-2025-26-DRG-26A Date: 09-03-2026. E-Tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works: Name of work: Upgradation of Toilets for 150 (ICF-3 & LHB-120) coaches at C&W Workshop, N.F. Railway, New Bongaigaon. Tender Value: ₹18,20,67,026.40/- Earnest Money: ₹10,60,300/- Date & time of closing of tender: At 15:00 hrs. on 31-03-2026. The complete information with the tender document of above e-tender will be available on website www.i-reps.gov.in

NAME CHANGE
I, Pooja D/o Narendar R/o M-117, M-Block, Uttam Nagar, D K Mohan Garden, Delhi-110059 have changed my name to Pooja Kapoor.

NAME CHANGE
I, Munee Davi legally mother of JC-782973M Nub Sub (DW) SANJAY SINGH YADAV, Presently residing at Village - Durga Ka Pura, PO - Kajoo, Tehsil-Chayal, District-Kaushambi, State Uttar Pradesh declare that I have changed my name from Munee Davi to Munnai Devi vide affidavit No IN UP49968378584886Y dated 11/Mar 2026.

NAME CHANGE
I, hitherto known as RAJENDER KR CHAUHAN S/O MADAN LAL R/O WZ- 49B Plot No-25 First Floor, Meenakshi Garden, Tilak Nagar, West Delhi, Delhi-110018, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as RAJINDER KUMAR CHAUHAN.

REFURNISHING SEAT RENEWAL AND PLUMBING REPAIR WORKS
Tender Notice No.: DBWS-NIET-59-2025-26; dtd.: 10-03-2026. E-Tender are invited by the undersigned for the following work: Name of the Work : Refurnishing, Seat Renewal and Plumbing Repair Works for POH Coaches at Dibrugarh Workshop. Estimated Tender Value : ₹2,34,72,664.17/- Earnest Money : ₹2,67,400/- Date & time of Closing of tender at 15:00 hrs. and opening at 15:30 hrs. on 02-04-2026. The complete information with the tender document of above e-tender will be available up to 15:00 hrs. on 02-04-2026 in website www.i-reps.gov.in

NAME CHANGE
It is for general information that I ALAM ARA BEGUM W/O SK MAHINUDDIN R/O J-3/24 D Khirki Extension, 4th Floor, Malviya Nagar, South Delhi, Delhi-110017 declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as SK ALE-MARA BEGUM in my minor son SK ABDUL KAYEAS aged 14 years in his school record and Birth certificate No-MCDOLIR-0114-006364777. The actual name of mine is ALAM ARA BEGUM.

NAME CHANGE
I, KRISHNAN T Father of PRADEEPAN E (Service No JC-594101M SUBEDAR MAJOR UNIT JAK LI REGT CENTRE C/O 56 APO) Resident of VILL-MADAYI, PO-VENGARA, TEHSIL AND DISTRICT- KANNUR, KERALA in my son service record my Name & DOB written wrong as T KRISHNAN and DOB as 49 years instead of KRISHNAN T and DOB as 17/05/1949 Now I am applying for correction vide E Stamp No KL047309867202526E concern please note.

NAME CHANGE
I, SUMEET KUMAR S/o BALKISHAN R/o 1330, Pana Paposian, Mamoor Pur, Narela, North West Delhi, Delhi - 110040 have changed the name of my minor daughter AASHVI aged 6 years and she shall hereafter be known as AASHVI ARYA.

NAME CHANGE
I, ANJANA W/O Vinay Kumar Srivastava R/o B-701 Max Height Dream Home Apartment Sector-61 Kundali-Haryana, have changed my name to VINAY KUMAR SRIVASTAVA Permanently

NAME CHANGE
I, Mohinder Kumar S/o Arjun Lal R/O G-75 GALI NO-5 VISHWASH PARK UTTAM NAGAR DELHI-110059 have changed my name to MAHENDER GUPTA Permanently for all Future purpose

NAME CHANGE
I, Pooja D/o Narendar R/o M-117, M-Block, Uttam Nagar, D K Mohan Garden, Delhi-110059 have changed my name to Pooja Kapoor.

NAME CHANGE
I, hitherto known as GUDDI DEVI W/O VIPIN SWAROOP R/O RZ- 1122, Gali No -14/5, Sadh Nagar Part-1, Patam colony, New Delhi-110045, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as GUDDI.

NAME CHANGE
I, SANGITA W/O DOODH NATH D/O PARAS NATH YADAV R/O 66, BLOCK A, LIONS ENCLAVE, VIKAS NAGAR, DELHI-110059, declare that name of mine and my husband has been wrongly written as SUNITA DEVI and DUDHNATH in my Aadhaar Card-308587025513. And the name of mine has been wrongly written as SUNITA DEVI in my PAN Card-DUNPD0501F. The actual name of mine and my husband are SANGITA and DOODH NATH respectively which may be amended accordingly.

NAME CHANGE
I, Manju Devi and same to be financed by SMFG India Home Finance Co. Ltd. General public hereby informed that if anybody has any charge/interest/title in the said property or any kind of dispute kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 07 days of the present.

NAME CHANGE
I, GUR PRASAD SINGH REENA S/O SARDAR SINGH REENA R/O H.NO -8- 605, PLOT NO -02 SANSAD VIHAR SECTOR -3 DWARKA DELHI-110075 have changed my name to GURPARSHAD SINGH REENA Permanently for all Future

NAME CHANGE
I, SHALESH SHARMA S/o JOGINDER PAL SHARMA R/O H.No - B - 8 - 1st Floor , Street No - 8 , South Anarkali , VTC : Krishna Nagar , Dist : East Delhi , Delhi - 110051 have changed the name of my minor daughter DHWANI SHARMA aged 13 years and she shall hereafter be known as DHAWANI SHARMA.

NAME CHANGE
I, Vinay S/O Vishambhar Nath Srivastava R/o B-701 Max Height Dream Home Apartment Sector-61 Kundali-Haryana, have changed my name to VINAY KUMAR SRIVASTAVA Permanently

NAME CHANGE
I, Mohinder Kumar S/o Arjun Lal R/O G-75 GALI NO-5 VISHWASH PARK UTTAM NAGAR DELHI-110059 have changed my name to MAHENDER GUPTA Permanently for all Future purpose

NAME CHANGE
I, Pooja D/o Narendar R/o M-117, M-Block, Uttam Nagar, D K Mohan Garden, Delhi-110059 have changed my name to Pooja Kapoor.

NAME CHANGE
I, hitherto known as RAJENDER KR CHAUHAN S/O MADAN LAL R/O WZ- 49B Plot No-25 First Floor, Meenakshi Garden, Tilak Nagar, West Delhi, Delhi-110018, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as RAJINDER KUMAR CHAUHAN.

NAME CHANGE
I, SANGITA W/O DOODH NATH D/O PARAS NATH YADAV R/O 66, BLOCK A, LIONS ENCLAVE, VIKAS NAGAR, DELHI-110059, declare that name of mine and my husband has been wrongly written as SUNITA DEVI and DUDHNATH in my Aadhaar Card-308587025513. And the name of mine has been wrongly written as SUNITA DEVI in my PAN Card-DUNPD0501F. The actual name of mine and my husband are SANGITA and DOODH NATH respectively which may be amended accordingly.

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NAME CHANGE
I, Vinay S/O Vishambhar Nath Srivastava R/o B-701 Max Height Dream Home Apartment Sector-61 Kundali-Haryana, have changed my name to VINAY KUMAR SRIVASTAVA Permanently

NAME CHANGE
I, Mohinder Kumar S/o Arjun Lal R/O G-75 GALI NO-5 VISHWASH PARK UTTAM NAGAR DELHI-110059 have changed my name to MAHENDER GUPTA Permanently for all Future purpose

NAME CHANGE
I, Pooja D/o Narendar R/o M-117, M-Block, Uttam Nagar, D K Mohan Garden, Delhi-110059 have changed my name to Pooja Kapoor.

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NAME CHANGE
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NEWS BOX

Hezbollah Says Targeted Israel With "Dozens Of Rockets" In New Operation

world. (Agency)

Lebanon's Iran-backed group Hezbollah said on Wednesday it had launched rockets and advanced missiles at northern Israel as part of a new operation against its foe, as Israel carried out fresh strikes on south Beirut. Hezbollah in a statement said that "in response to the criminal aggression against dozens of Lebanese cities and towns and Beirut's southern suburbs", its fighters targeted sites in northern Israel "with dozens of rockets" as part of a new operation announced a short time earlier. In subsequent statements, the group said its fighters also targeted other locations in northern Israel as part of the operation, including the headquarters of the Israeli military's northern command near Safed and two bases in Haifa "with volleys of advanced missiles".

Israeli military spokesman Avichay Adraee said on X that "we will respond to them", referring to the Hezbollah operation announcement, and vowed a severe response.

"Serious Threat To Peace": UN Demands Iran Stop Attacks On Gulf Nations



World. (Agency)

The UN Security Council on Wednesday passed a resolution calling for Iran to immediately halt its attacks on Gulf states, saying they breach international law and pose a "serious threat to international peace and security."

The resolution, passed by 13 votes with two abstentions, "demands the immediate cessation of all attacks by the Islamic Republic of Iran against Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Jordan." It also "condemns any actions or threats by the Islamic Republic of Iran aimed at closing, obstructing, or otherwise interfering with international navigation through the Strait of Hormuz." Iran has struck Gulf states in retaliation to US-Israeli attacks that killed Iranian supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. The Islamic republic has also fired on commercial ships passing through the Strait of Hormuz, a crucial sea passage for the global fuel trade, in a bid to inflict pain on the global economy.

Winston Churchill To Be Replaced By Wildlife In English Banknotes

WASHINGTON. (Agency)

According to a stinging barb from Donald Trump, Britons are being led by a Prime Minister who is no Winston Churchill. Soon they will have to cope without the popular wartime leader on their banknotes too. The cigar-toting mid-century Conservative is making way for creatures like hedgehogs and badgers. That's because the next generation of pound notes will feature wildlife native to the UK, according to the Bank of England, after half a century in which that status was reserved for historical figures including Churchill and Jane Austen. The BOE held a public consultation on refreshing its money last year and found nature emerged as the 44,000 responses' most popular theme. Historical figures came in third. The bank said it was looking for images that symbolized the UK, resonated with the public and weren't divisive.

Yet the removal of national icons from the notes still risks contention at a moment where the Labour government has cloaked itself in an anxious patriotism. The UK is again entangled in wars abroad, while at home the political landscape has fractured under the poll dominance of right-wing Reform UK. The upheaval of the two-party system has parties warring over the nation's symbols, of which Churchill is among the most potent - particularly for Conservatives. In 2020 a reckoning with the country's imperial past saw protesters pulling down statues of slave-owners, while Churchill's own statue was boarded up during anti-racism protests that swept major cities at the same time as Black Lives Matter movement roiled the US.

One Conservative member of parliament dubbed plans to consider alternatives to historical figures "wokery" when the BOE's consultation was first launched. While competing to champion that strain of populism, Nigel Farage, the leader of Reform UK, has been forthright in his criticism of the bank on issues from crypto regulation to quantitative easing.

Picking a face to adorn the UK's 5 pound (\$6.71), 10 pound, 20 pound and 50 pound notes hasn't been without controversy in decades past. Even Churchill, who Britons often rank as their favorite prime minister in polls, stirred criticism for displacing the only woman on the money at the time when he displaced social reformer Elizabeth Fry a decade ago.

As well as Churchill, the selected wildlife will replace author Austen, painter JMW Turner and WWII codebreaker Alan Turing on the reverse side of the notes, whose obverse features Charles III who became king in 2022. The designs may also include other natural elements such as plants and landscapes, the BOE said. Nature is a great choice from a banknote authentication perspective and means we can showcase the UK's rich and varied wildlife on the next series," said Victoria Cleland, the central bank's chief cashier.

Trump keeps telling America he's winning in Iran. He's less clear in explaining how the war ends

Trump's shifting comments, along with those of his top aides, are adding to the precariousness of the conflict, which is impacting much of West Asia and causing economic tremors worldwide.

WASHINGTON. (Agency)

Facing jittery global markets and drooping poll numbers since launching a war with Iran, President Donald Trump has cycled from calls for "unconditional surrender" to sounding amenable to an end state in which Iran trades one hard-line ayatollah for another. Shifting comments from the Republican president and his top aides are

adding to the precariousness of the 12-day-old conflict, which is impacting nearly every corner of the West Asia and causing economic tremors around the globe. With neither side budging, the war is now on an unpredictable path and a credible endgame is unclear. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth said Tuesday it was up to Trump "whether it's the beginning, the middle or the end" of the war. Trump, during the course of one speech at a House Republican gathering Monday, went from calling the war a "short-term excursion" that could end soon to proclaiming "we haven't won enough." "We have hit them harder than virtually any country in history has been hit, and we're not finished yet," Trump told reporters at the White House on Wednesday. The vacillation has fueled criticism from those who say Trump lacks a clear goal. "They didn't have a plan," Sen. Mark Kelly, D-Ariz., told reporters. "They have no timeline. And because of that, they have no exit strategy." A constantly shifting



goal line

Since ordering the Iran bombardment, Trump has continually shifted his timelines and goals for the war.

Over the past few days, Trump has called for the "unconditional surrender" of Iran's leaders, while suggesting he was already succeeded in achieving his objective of decimating Iran's military. At the same time, Trump's team has sought to soothe anxious Americans that the war will not be

long and drawn out even as the president has insisted he has not ruled out the option of using U.S. ground troops. The U.S. military says it has effectively destroyed the Iranian navy and made huge strides in defanging Iran's ability to launch missiles and drones at its neighbors. Yet the critical Strait of Hormuz, through which roughly 20% of the world's oil passes on a typical day, remains essentially closed to business, and Iranian leaders are unbowed. The Revolutionary Guard said Iran would not allow "a single liter of oil" through the vital waterway until the United States stopped its bombing campaign. Ali Larijani, Iran's top national security official, offered a menacing message on Tuesday after Trump had threatened to attack Iran "TWENTY TIMES HARDER" if Tehran stopped oil flowing through the strait. "The sacrificial nation of Iran doesn't fear your empty threats," Larijani wrote on X. "Even those bigger than you couldn't eliminate Iran."

Iranian Underwater Drone Hits US-Owned Oil Tanker In The Gulf, 1 Dead

Tehran. (Agency)

At least one person died, and 38 crew members were rescued after two foreign oil tankers were left ablaze in the Persian Gulf after coming under attack in Iraq's territorial waters. Iran has claimed responsibility for the attacks, saying an underwater drone attack "blew up two oil tankers in the Persian Gulf", according to Iranian state broadcaster IRIB. The ships that were attacked were the Maltese-flagged Zefyros and the Marshallese-flagged Safesea Vishnu. Safesea Vishnu is owned by the US-based company Safesea Transport Inc., while Zefyros' owner is based in Greece. Earlier, a CNN report claimed that a 'suicide' Iranian boat, rigged with explosives, could have hit the two vessels, and an investigation is ongoing. At least three commercial vessels have also been hit by "unknown projectiles" in the Strait of Hormuz, the world's busiest oil shipping route, as the American-Israeli war with Iran continues to squeeze the oil-rich Gulf region amid global energy concerns. One ship was hit off

the coast of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), a second north of Oman had to be evacuated due to fire on board; and a third sustained damage north-west of Dubai, according to the UK Maritime Trade Operations (UKMTO). Previously, Iran had said it would "set fire" to any ships trying to pass through



the Strait through which about 20 per cent of the world's oil usually passes. Despite Tehran's threat, a very small amount of traffic has continued through the route.

The Donald Trump administration in the United States, meanwhile, said its military has "eliminated" 16 Iranian mine-laying ships in the strait. The US-Islamic campaign against Iran is now in its 12th day, with no end in sight, and

has severely reduced sea traffic and sent global oil prices soaring. The Strait of Hormuz is a 55-kilometre-wide water channel between Iran and Oman, separating the Persian Gulf from the Arabian Sea. It is a particularly important piece of global real estate in terms of the energy sector and one of the busiest and most strategically significant shipping routes in the world.

About 13 million barrels of oil per day normally move through these waters -- about 31 per cent of global oil shipments. Closure of the strait would affect major ports belonging to Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, as

well as Iran itself. For several of these countries, the strait is the primary route through which oil reaches global markets. Its blocking could further inflate the cost of goods and services worldwide, especially oil, and hit some of the world's biggest economies, including China, India and Japan, which are among the biggest importers of crude through the waterway.

Epstein's Longtime Accountant Testifies On His Wealth, Business Ties

World. (Agency)

House lawmakers were digging into Jeffrey Epstein's sprawling financial portfolio on Wednesday as a committee deposed his former accountant and tried to understand his connections to some of the world's wealthiest men. Richard Kahn, who worked closely with Epstein for years and now serves as an executor of his estate, appeared for the closed-door deposition on Capitol Hill. He told lawmakers that he had not personally seen evidence of Epstein's sexual abuse, but provided a fuller picture of how Epstein acquired his wealth. The wealthy financier made hundreds of millions of dollars over two decades, during which he struck up friendships with some of the world's most powerful men. Kahn "was under the impression that Epstein made his

money as a tax advisor and a financial planner," said Rep. James Comer, the Republican chair of the House Oversight Committee. Lawmakers argued that a fuller picture of Epstein's finances could help the public understand how, for years, he was able to get away with trafficking and sexually abusing underage girls. "Jeffrey Epstein's sex trafficking ring would not have been possible without Richard Kahn, who managed Epstein's money for years, authorized payments, including payments to victims and survivors," said Rep. James Walkinshaw, D-Va., who added that Kahn told him he was unable to recall details of some of the transactions and communications that he was asked about. Kahn has said that he was unaware of Epstein's sexual abuse and had not seen any of his

victims.

Comer, R-Ky., also said that lawmakers confirmed during the deposition that Epstein received significant amounts of money from former retail shopping chain executive Les Wexner, hedge fund manager Glenn Dubin, tech entrepreneur Steven Sinofsky, investor Leon Black and the Rothschilds, a wealthy banking family. None of those people have been accused of wrongdoing in their relationships with Epstein, but Democrats on the committee argued that anyone with ties to the wealthy financier should be scrutinized. Wexner was deposed by the committee last month, and Comer has also called on Black, among several others, to appear for transcribed interviews. Kahn also told lawmakers that Epstein had financial ties to Ehud Barak.

Indian national killed in Iranian boat attack on oil tanker in Iraq's Basra coast

World. (Agency)

An Indian national has reportedly been killed in an attack on a US-owned oil tanker near Iraq after an Iranian "suicide" boat targeted the vessel inside Iraqi territorial waters, according to sources.

The tanker, Safesea Vishnu, which is owned by a US company and sails under the flag of the Marshall Islands, was attacked near the Khor Al Zubair Port in southern Iraq. The vessel was struck by an Iranian unmanned or suicide boat during the incident.

Farhan al-Fartousi, the director-general of the General Company for Ports of Iraq, made the announcement in a statement carried by the state-run Iraqi News Agency. Al-Fartousi said the attack targeted a vessel in a ship-to-ship transfer area at the Basra port on the Persian Gulf. One Indian crew member was killed in the attack. Authorities have not yet publicly released the identity of the victim. The remaining 27 crew members and personnel on board were safely



rescued and have been transported to Basra for further assistance and evaluation.

Sources close to Safesea, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the company is devastated to learn of the loss of the Indian national in the attack.

They have called for the Indian government to strongly condemn the attack and take urgent action to ensure safety of crew onboard ships in the region amid the escalating West Asia conflict.

The sources voiced concern that as Indians constitute over 15 per cent of the seafarers globally, irrespective of whichever ship Iran targets, Indian nationals will be "collateral damage". According to information on website Vessel Finder, the 228.6 meters long and 32.57 meters wide Safesea Vishnu is a crude oil tanker built in 2007, currently sailing under the flag of Marshall Islands.

Damage to historical sites in Iran raises alarm about war's impact on protected places

UNITED NATIONS. (Agency)

US and Israeli strikes on Iran have damaged at least four cultural and historical sites, including palaces and an ancient mosque, raising alarms about the impact of the widening war on protected landmarks that are important to Iranian identity and world history. The speed and extent of the damage have so concerned Iran and Lebanon that they sent a request to the United Nations' cultural agency, UNESCO, this week to add more sites to its enhanced protection list.

UNESCO confirmed that it has verified damage to the lavish Qajar-era Golestan Palace in Tehran as well as the 17th century Chehel Sotoun palace and the Masjid-e Jame, the country's oldest Friday mosque, both in Isfahan. There also was verified damage at buildings close to the Khorramabad Valley, which includes five prehistoric caves and one rock shelter providing evidence of human occupation dating to 63,000 B.C. At Golestan Palace, shattered glass from the mirrored ceilings

blanketed the floors alongside broken archways, blown-out windows and damaged molding scattered below its glass-mosaic walls, according to Associated Press video taken March 3.

UNESCO said it provided all parties to the conflict with the geographical coordinates of the heritage sites ahead of time, "to take all feasible precautions to avoid damage."

The impact to cultural sites has not been isolated to Iran but has been felt across the Middle East and beyond, with UNESCO tracking damage to the White City in Israel, Tyre in Lebanon and elsewhere.

Collateral damage to such places has been part of the fabric of war for decades, including in conflicts between Russia and Ukraine as well as Israel and Hamas, in which dozens of sites have been damaged or destroyed. "What is happening is clear to all: In these increasingly modern conflicts, it's civilians who pay the price, it's civilian



infrastructure that pays the price, and we've all seen the destruction of priceless historical heritage," U.N. spokesperson Stephane Dujarric said this week.

Damage to history Human rights advocates are echoing that sentiment, warning that the Iran war not only has killed more than 1,000 people but upended the institutions and historical places that communities rely on. "It causes harm to civilians because it

damages or destroys a piece of their history that can be significant both to the world and also to a specific region or community," said Bonnie Docherty, senior researcher in the arms division at Human Rights Watch. "It undermines the sort of shared identity of a local community, which can often be important for bringing people together."

Arash Azizi, who grew up in Iran before moving to the U.S. as an adult, said that because his family couldn't afford to travel abroad when he was a child, they visited historical sites across the country. This, he says, is how he learned about his cultural identity and history.

"At times where school kids are killed, when human life is at stake, when the stakes are very high, people might think, 'What are a couple of broken tiles or broken glasses?'" the 38-year-old New York resident said.

"I think this is the wrong attitude," he added. "We need a cultural context."

NEWS BOX

1,667 bank remittances made at Sabarimala: Vigilance officer tells HC

KOCHI. (Agency)

Colourful hoardings, captivating slogans and spirited speeches. The mood was upbeat at the Jawaharlal International Stadium as Kochi hosted a steady flow of BJP, Twenty20, and BDJS activists from early morning. There were hoardings around the venue declaring the slogan 'Viksit Kerala with Modi'. The streets were packed and crowds gathered on either side of the road leading to the stadium awaiting the arrival of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Modi took out a brief roadshow from the entrance of the stadium to the venue in an open vehicle. He waved and smiled at the crowd as chants of "Modi, Modi" resonated.

In his speech, Modi referred to allegations of corruption and communal appeasement against the LDF and the UDF, while promising to usher in an era of double-engine development if the NDA is voted to power.

There was a roar of excitement as he said, "We will work day and night to bring double-engine development. This is Modi's guarantee." A rare unity was evident among NDA partners as various leaders spoke about their vision for "Viksit Kerala" and the need for bipolar politics in Kerala.

Admitting that lack of unity was the reason for past failures, Thushar Vellappally, president of the Bharath Dharma Jana Sena, said there is a fresh enthusiasm among partners, which indicates that the time is ripe for the front to claim power in the state.

Egg prices crash in Karnataka as export to Gulf region stops, demand drops

BENGALURU. (Agency)

Egg prices across Karnataka have dropped sharply over the past few weeks, falling from Rs 7.06 per egg to Rs 4.60, according to the National Egg Coordination Committee (NECC).

V Sheshanarayan, sales promotion officer at NECC, told TNIE that prices declined over the past 15 days due to a combination of factors, including disruption of exports to Gulf countries, seasonal demand fluctuations and religious observances.

He said Karnataka produces 2.2 crore eggs per day, with Hosapete being the major producer, followed by Mysuru. Karnataka transports its produce to a plant in Namakkal, Tamil Nadu, for export.

He recalled that on the day the war started, a container carrying 4.7 lakh eggs from Mysuru to Namakkal had to return midway as exports had been affected. "Large quantities -- around 70 lakh to one crore eggs -- from Namakkal are normally exported to Gulf countries daily. However, due to the ongoing war situation, exports have completely stopped," he said.

Consumption has also reduced during the ongoing Ramzan period, and also due to Easter and the onset of summer, which traditionally affects egg consumption. As a result, prices in cities such as Bengaluru and Mysuru have dropped. Sheshanarayan said the current rates are prevalent across most parts of Karnataka, though prices in places like Hosapete are about 60 paise lower.

Despite the fall in rates, egg production continues, leading to accumulation of stocks. Producers are storing surplus eggs in cold storage facilities, where they can be preserved for up to three months.

Congress brass decision on leadership row after Karnataka budget session?

BENGALURU. (Agency)

Amid the ongoing budget session of the state legislature, speculation is rife that the Congress high command has reached a decision on the leadership change issue, which will culminate in an official announcement as soon as the session concludes on March 27.

The top brass will take a decision in consultation with both Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy CM DK Shivakumar, informed sources told.

Shivakumar, who on Tuesday hosted a dinner for Congress legislators to mark six years as Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) chief, has reportedly conveyed to the high command that he is ready to quit as state Congress president, sources added. "He will resign as soon as the high command gives him a green signal," a Congress leader said.

Now, the ball is in the high command's court to take a call on both the CM's post and that of the KPCC chief. The development is significant in the wake of Shivakumar saying that he will not reveal whom he met during his recent two-day visit to Delhi.

A senior Congress legislator told The New Indian Express that the Congress Parliamentary Party (CPP) chief, Sonia Gandhi, Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, and AICC president, Mallikarjun Kharge, held deliberations over the issue of leadership change. Kharge had reportedly told Public Works Minister Satish Jarkiholi recently that the issue would be sorted out soon.

Siddaramaiah is likely to visit Delhi, if the high command calls him, after the budget session of the state legislature. Siddaramaiah's camp, however, believes that he would seek the high command's nod for a cabinet reshuffle. But Shivakumar's camp is confident of the top brass replacing the Chief Minister.

9-year-old slips from hole in school bus floor, crushed to death in Agra; second incident in a week

Lucknow. (Agency)

Barely a week after a seven-year-old girl was crushed after slipping through a damaged portion of the floor of a moving school bus in Kasganj area of Uttar Pradesh, an identical tragedy has come to light from Agra.

Police said that a nine-year-old girl allegedly slipped through a broken section of the school bus floor that was covered with a wooden board on Wednesday, leading to her death.

"The bus driver fled with the vehicle. We are still trying to ascertain how exactly the incident took place. The bus does not belong to the school and was hired from a private vendor. We are trying to trace the vehicle and are also in touch with the parents of other students as well as the school authorities," said Agra Circle Officer Devesh Singh, adding that residents of the area have claimed that the child slipped from a damaged section of the bus.

The Class I student, Naina, a resident of the Etmadpur area, used to commute to school on the same bus with other children from her locality. According to police, the incident took

portion of the bus floor and was crushed by its wheels. Locals immediately alerted the school authorities, who took the injured child to a hospital, where she was declared dead on

arrival. The other students travelling in the bus were later dropped off at their homes. Meanwhile, the victim's family was informed about the incident, following which they rushed to the hospital.

On March 1, a seven-year-old girl died after allegedly slipping through a damaged portion of the floor of a moving school bus in Kasganj district while returning home from school. The kindergarten student was travelling in the bus along with three other children, including her elder brother. Police later registered an FIR against the school manager and the bus driver on charges of culpable homicide not amounting to murder.



place on Wednesday afternoon when she was returning home. Residents of the area said the girl allegedly fell on the road through a broken

registered an FIR against the school manager and the bus driver on charges of culpable homicide not amounting to murder.

'Class 8 pass' jibe & 'shoe hurling' retort: Sparks fly after BJP raises Point of Order against Italia

Gandhinagar. (Agency)

The Gujarat Assembly on Wednesday witnessed heated exchange of words between members of the opposition and ruling parties over a Point of Order raised by Agriculture Minister Jitu Vaghani alleging breach of privilege by AAP legislator Gopal Italia.

After Question Hour, Vaghani said that Italia committed a "breach of privilege" by giving a media byte about a starred question that was not discussed in the House on Tuesday (March 10).

Speaking on the Point of Order, minister Arjun Modhwadia said, without naming Italia, that making statements inside or outside of the House with an intention of humiliating somebody is against the traditions of Gujarat. Italia defends action

The Point of Order was strongly opposed by Italia. "The point here (raised by Vaghani) is that a question which has not been discussed here (in the House) cannot be discussed outside. The rule says that whichever questions are raised through the medium of Assembly and whichever answers are given by the government... they become the public property of the House which means it is the property of the people of Gujarat. We publish it on NeVA

(National e-Vidhan Application - web portal of the Assembly) as well. I have not spoken about anything secret which is not there on NeVA platform... the question is already there on NeVA portal. People of the entire country can see it. The matter of whether discussion takes place or not is connected only with one hour of the Question Hour. But whatever answer has



been given by the government, it is the right of the people of Gujarat to know what the MLAs ask in the House and what is the reply of the government. Both sides have been making political observations outside the House. There cannot be a ban on making political observations outside the House. It can be inside

the House," Italia said.

"A decision on what observations and comments I made outside the House cannot be taken inside the House," he added. Referring to an indirect comment made by a legislator earlier in the House, Italia said, "We cannot tell any member or minister that they speak by keeping media/newspapers in mind. Whoever speaks here, he/she speaks by keeping people of Gujarat in mind and not any institution. It is up to the media or any other institution how they perceive anything spoken here," Italia said. Italia also sought to reply to a comment made by Vaghani about him earlier in the House.

"Naming me, he (Vaghani) said (I behave like a) landlord. What does that mean?... I may be believing I am the Prime Minister, it is my problem. How can you tell me that I am a landlord? I may consider myself the President of America, it is my problem... And why should I consider myself mad? I believe I am intelligent. I am educated. I am not 'eighth-pass (class 8 pass)' and therefore I believe I am intelligent. And I am proud that I am BA, LLB and LLM and will say that proudly," Italia said. Italia also said that he never intended to humiliate anybody.

Discuss a book with V-C, get an offer on the spot: How Ahmedabad University 'reimagined' its MBA admission process

A private university launched in 2009, AU describes itself as a "non-profit research university offering students a liberal education focused on interdisciplinary learning, practice orientation, and research thinking".

Ahmedabad. (Agency)

A list of six books to choose from and a discussion on one of them exclusively with the vice-chancellor (V-C) — this is one of the options that Ahmedabad University (AU) has offered to prospective students for a "reimagined" MBA course, admissions for which opened recently.

"The idea is to bring in kids who think differently," says AU V-C Professor Pankaj Chandra, adding that he could make an offer on the spot to a candidate.

A private university launched in 2009, AU describes itself as a "non-profit research university offering students a liberal education focused on interdisciplinary learning, practice orientation, and research thinking".

Chandra told The Indian Express that at least two candidates applying for the programme titled Ahmedabad MBA have chosen the book discussion option. The

titles were picked from his own reading list.

Those not opting for the book discussion will have to interact with faculty members at the university's Amrut Mody School of Management (AMSOM), with this round serving as one of the qualifiers for the course.



The list of books includes Mother Mary Comes to Me by Arundhati Roy; Power and Progress: Our Thousand-Year Struggle Over Technology and Prosperity by Simon Johnson and Daron Acemoglu; Gandhi: The End of Non-Violence by Manash Firaq Bhattacharjee; Raag Darbari (Hindi original) by Shrilal Shukla, translated into English by Gillian

Wright; The Struggle and the Promise: Restoring India's Potential by Naushad Forbes; and Breakneck: China's Quest to Engineer the Future by Dan Wang.

Referring to the candidates who have opted for this route, Chandra says, "They have taken the option to review and discuss the book with me. So it looks like they are kids who are interested. I'm going to see what their background is, and maybe next week we will do an interview with them."

The Ahmedabad MBA will replace the existing course and offer only 60 seats, unlike the older programme that had 150 seats.

"If I have to build a newer institution for kids, I have to bring in kids who think differently. If we are moving on a very different path and experimenting with a new way to think about management education, then I must open up opportunities for those who think differently.

Row over namaz in Bareilly house: HC orders 24x7 security for property owner

Bench says two armed guards shall accompany the man all the time till court decides otherwise

Lucknow. (Agency)

A division bench of the Allahabad High Court on Wednesday directed that round-the-clock security be provided to a Bareilly resident who was allegedly stopped from offering namaz inside his private property. The bench comprising Justices Siddharth Nandan and Atul Sreedharan passed the order after hearing Haseen Khan, who appeared before the court seeking protection for his family and property, following a petition filed by one Tarik Khan seeking permission to offer namaz at his property during Ramzan.

The court ordered that two armed guards shall accompany Haseen Khan "wherever he goes till this court decides otherwise". "Pursuant to the last order passed

by this Court, the prospective contemnors — District Magistrate, Bareilly, Avinash Singh, and Senior Superintendent of Police, Bareilly, Anurag Arya — shall remain present before this Court on the next date of hearing, when the judgment shall be delivered," the bench said in its order.

The bench further observed, "Any incident of violence affecting the person or property of Haseen Khan shall, prima facie, be presumed to have occurred at the instance of the State, even as such presumption shall remain open to rebuttal."

The court also recorded Haseen Khan's statement. In his statement, Khan submitted, "Us din main apne ghar mein namaz padh raha tha. Mere parivar wale bhi namaz padh rahe the. Aur utha kar police



le gayi aur mera chalan kar diya. Baad mein Arif pradhan aur Mukhtiyar mujhse miley aur mujhse kaha gaya ki agar court mein meray mutabik nahi bologey to tere ghar mai bulldozer chal jayega. Uskey baad Arif pradhan aur kuch shakhs ney mujhe gaon key bahar le jaakar chhoda gaya. Aur police walon ney mujhe

chaaron ore se gher kar mujhse ek likhit kagazat par angutha lagwaya liya gaya, jis par kuch likha hua tha, main padh nahi saka kyunki main anpadh hoon. (I was offering namaz at my house that day. My family members were also with me. In the meantime, I was picked by police, and I was issued a challan. Then I was conveyed that

Minister opens SSK HQs, slams Centre for not releasing funds

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM. (Agency)

Criticising the fund crunch imposed over the state by the Union government, General Education Minister V Sivankutty said Kerala has a long legacy in the education sector, which will remain unchanged.

"The Centre is yet to give over 2,000 crore for Samagra Shiksha Kerala (SSK). Even when we approached the ministry for the construction of a new headquarters for SSK, they dismissed our pleas," the minister said while inaugurating the new office building at Killippalam on Wednesday. The headquarters, completed at a cost of 13 crore, will be fully functional from next month.

Appreciating the efforts made by SSK for ensuring education for all students even amidst the fund crunch, he said the state government held its students



close even in crisis times.

"Be it in teachers' training to Pravesanolavam, or even in the state's improved performance in the Union government's National Achievement Survey for educational quality, SSK has played a crucial role," he said.

Launching an attack on BJP state president Rajeev Chandrasekhar, who is also the minister's opponent in Nemom in the upcoming elections, Sivankutty said that a walk along the constituency is enough to understand the developments here.

"Some people recently said that no development activities are seen in Nemom. They are those who don't even know where these buildings are," he said. He didn't spare Congress either,

"Never forget that most of the development activities through KIIFB funds were made in the constituencies of opposition MLAs," he added.

LPG bookings crash Indane's IVR system in parts of Tamil Nadu

CHENNAI. (Agency)

The shortage of commercial LPG cylinders across the state has triggered panic booking of domestic cylinders, disrupting the Interactive Voice Response (IVR) booking system of Indane Gas, the major supplier, in Chennai and a few other parts of the state.

Some consumers said that when they dialled the IVR number to request a new LPG cylinder, the system did not prompt the next option required to complete the booking. They were also unable to place bookings through WhatsApp.

Some families in Tirupattur said their cooking gas cylinders had run empty more than two weeks ago, but they were yet to receive a replacement.

R Rajathilagam of Madipakkam said, "The last cylinder I received was 10 days ago. When I tried to book another cylinder, I did not receive any message confirming the booking. The IVR kept repeating its message." Private dealers of BPCL in the Vandimedu area of Villupuram told TNIE that there was

no unusual rush for cylinders among domestic consumers and the online booking system was functioning normally.

However, at an Indane distribution centre on KK Road in Villupuram, which primarily serves residential areas, people were seen crowding



the premises with empty cylinders seeking replacements.

"People were anxious and crowded the office with their empty cylinders to get new ones. We distributed cylinders to all of them and have enough stock for now," said an employee. An official spokesperson of IOCL admitted that the IVR disruption was caused by panic bookings.

if I don't say in court as they say, bulldozer action will take place at my house. Then police personnel encircled me and got my thumb impression on a piece of paper which had something written over it. I could not read it since I am illiterate." Listing the matter for next hearing on March 23, the court directed that a copy of Wednesday's order be sent to the office of the state Advocate General for communication to the authorities concerned to ensure that protection to Khan is provided "forthwith from today". The court further directed that both the contemnors (District Magistrate and SSP) shall remain present in person in the court on the next date of hearing, failing which non-bailable warrants will be issued against them.

Historian of social change

What a privilege—and a responsibility—it is for a student to speak about Professor K N Panikkar on the occasion of his passing. Writing about Professor Panikkar invites reflection on two intertwined aspects of his life: his work as a historian and his role as a public intellectual who helped shape how historians and readers engage with the past and understand modern India.

When Professor Panikkar began his scholarly work at the Centre for Historical Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, the study of modern Indian history was still largely centred on elite political narratives of colonialism, the Congress movement and constitutional developments. His work, however, asked a different question: what processes were unfolding beneath the formal political surface? In works such as *Against Lord and State: Religion and Peasant Uprisings in Malabar, 1836-1921*, he examined agrarian struggles, peasant resistance and the complex social world of colonial Kerala. He showed that resistance was not merely nationalist but also social—directed against landlordism, caste hierarchy and state authority. In doing so, he helped broaden the understanding of nationalism by locating it within wider social processes. Within the larger landscape of Indian historiography, he belongs to a generation that significantly reshaped the study of modern Indian history in the late twentieth century. This shift moved the discipline from political narrative towards social history; from nationalist teleology towards structural analysis; and towards a greater recognition of historical agency among ordinary people.

Professor Panikkar's scholarship on social reform movements, particularly in Kerala, remains an important contribution. He approached reform not simply as moral uplift but as a form of ideological contestation. In *Culture, Ideology, Hegemony: Intellectuals and Social Consciousness in Colonial India*, he explored how colonialism operated not only through political domination but also through cultural and intellectual processes. His work drew from Marxist historiography but was never doctrinaire. He engaged, for instance, with insights associated with Antonio Gramsci—particularly ideas about cultural agency, ideological struggle and the making of consent. Through such approaches, he highlighted how modernity in India evolved through negotiation rather than simple importation.

One of Professor Panikkar's important public contributions was his defence of secular and critical historiography. In *Communalism in India: History, Politics and Culture* and in numerous essays, he argued that communalism should be understood not merely as religious sentiment but as a modern political ideology. He consistently maintained that history should not be used to manufacture political identities or reduce the past to civilisational conflict. For him, secularism was not the denial of religion but a democratic framework for regulating power in a plural society. At moments when the writing of history itself became a subject of political contestation, he remained a thoughtful and steady voice for methodological rigour and critical inquiry. Beyond his scholarly work, Professor Panikkar also played a significant institutional role. As chairperson of the Kerala State Higher Education Council, he contributed to discussions on educational policy and the relationship between academic work and social responsibility. He believed that scholarship should not remain confined to academic forums. His writings in newspapers, public lectures and policy engagements reflected a scholar attentive to the wider responsibilities of intellectual life. As his student, I must also speak of the classroom. Professor Panikkar did not simply deliver lectures; he posed questions and problems. He encouraged us to read critically, examine sources carefully and situate ideas within their social and material contexts. He reminded us that history is not about memorising events but about understanding structures, contradictions and change.

Policy moment: Case for social media age limit

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.

Punjab's industrial policy: Execution key to success

Punjab has seen ambitious announcements before that failed to translate into sustained industrial growth.

PUNJAB's economy has long been weighed down by the slow pace of industrialisation. Once known for its entrepreneurial spirit and manufacturing clusters in cities like Ludhiana and Jalandhar, the state has gradually lost ground to more aggressive industrial hubs such as Gujarat, Maharashtra and Haryana. The consequences are visible: economic stagnation, shrinking job opportunities and a steady migration of young Punjabis in search of better prospects. Against this backdrop, the Punjab government's new Industrial and Business Development Policy-2026 is a welcome step. The policy aims to attract investments worth Rs 75,000 crore and revive the industrial ecosystem through a mix of fiscal incentives, sectoral support and regulatory reforms. It introduces several significant measures, including capital subsidies for the first time, customised incentive packages for investors and extended support for up to 15 years. The eligibility threshold for employment subsidies has also been reduced, bringing smaller and medium-scale industries within the



ambit of government support. These provisions reflect a recognition that the industrial backbone lies not only in

large factories but also in thousands of small and medium enterprises that employ a significant share of the workforce. If implemented effectively, the policy could help revitalise traditional manufacturing clusters while attracting investment in emerging sectors such as electric vehicles, electronics and information technology. Yet policies alone cannot transform an economy. Punjab has seen ambitious announcements before that failed to translate into sustained industrial growth. Investors weigh incentives alongside governance standards, infrastructure quality, land availability and law-and-order conditions. Bureaucratic delays, policy uncertainty and weak logistics can erode the attractiveness of incentive schemes. The real test, therefore, lies in implementation. Transparent procedures, quicker approvals and reliable infrastructure are essential to build investor confidence. These factors will determine whether the policy becomes a turning point or another missed opportunity.

Time for India to stand firm in West Asian crisis

Is the prospect of annoying the US paralysing New Delhi's moves

RECENT geopolitical developments have sharply profiled the gap between the Union government's rhetoric and its policies as well as articulation — or the lack of it. Aboard *INS Vikrant* in October last year, Prime Minister Narendra Modi emphasised that the Indian Navy "stands guard like a sentinel of the Indian Ocean". However, four months later, the sinking of Iran's naval vessel *IRIS Dena* by a US submarine 35 km off the Sri Lankan coast elicited silence. Perhaps, India was legally not required to comment on a vessel returning home after participating in India's *MILAN 2026* multilateral naval exercise and the International Fleet Review. But there is law and then there is decency and perception. And, the general perception is that the absence of regret regarding *IRIS Dena* was in line with the Modi government's cave-in to the US over the past year.

This perception was only strengthened by External Affairs Minister (EAM) S Jaishankar's short tutorial on the Indian Ocean at the recent Raisina Dialogue in Delhi. On Iranian naval vessels, he said the three which took part in the Fleet Review hosted by India "got caught on the wrong side of events". He went on to say that India allowed one of them to reach the Kochi port as a humanitarian gesture; Sri Lanka accepted a second one. He then said, "One, unfortunately, did not make it". This is how he referred to the torpedoing of *IRIS Dena* on March 4. Eighty-seven bodies were recovered by the Sri Lankan Navy, while 32 sailors were rescued.

If it was humanity which made India accommodate an Iranian naval vessel, Jaishankar's reference to *IRIS Dena's* sinking and the loss of lives was less than

humane. It was insensitive and not in keeping with India's cultural tradition of respectful reference to the dead, whatever be the circumstances. Jaishankar, with his wealth of diplomatic experience which has been strengthened by his almost seven years as EAM, should



be aware that his reference can only be perceived as kowtowing to the US. Even now he should make amends. It is never too late to do so. Is the prospect of annoying the US paralysing India's moves?

It was strange that the first statement by the Ministry of External Affairs regarding developments in Iran did not make any mention of the Israeli-US attacks on February 28 and the decapitating strikes against the Iranian leadership which killed Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali

Khamenei and members of his family. It called for restraint and urged that "dialogue and diplomacy should be pursued to de-escalate tensions and address underlying issues. Sovereignty and territorial integrity of all states must be respected". The killing of Iran's Supreme Leader should have been, at a minimum, regretted. This was especially so as it had taken place in the context of US leaders asserting that European expansionism should be a matter of pride for the West and not of "guilt or shame". It was good that the government sent Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri to sign the condolence book at the Iranian embassy and thus partially retrieved lost ground. No voice was raised by the ruling dispensation against US leaders' speeches and actions virtually defending colonialism. The capture of Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro and his wife and the strikes against Iran were part of an approach which was reminiscent of the wilful assertion of power by the East India Company in India in the 18th century and the first half of the

19th. Then too, rulers were deposed and new ones put on the throne by an external power. Now, Trump is asserting that the leaders of Iran should be chosen by him or be acceptable to him. This is blowing up the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of sovereign states. The pursuit of national interest is the first task of any government. Successive Indian governments have held this as their supreme objective. If principles have come in the way, they have overlooked them. Thus, India

did not protest the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in 1979 which was accompanied by the killing of President Hafizullah Amin by Soviet commandos in his home. The only difference between the Soviet killing of Amin and the assassination of Khamenei was that the latter was avowedly done in the context of a virtual colonial project. It is ironic that if the Jana Sangh was critical of the Soviet invasion and even more of India's silence on the issue, now the BJP-led government is silent on the US action against Iran. It is noteworthy that the Jana Sangh had considered Indira Gandhi's Afghan policy to have lowered "India's prestige in the world". Today, it is the Congress targeting the BJP in the same vein.

That colonial project was also reflected in the speech of US Deputy Secretary of State Christopher Landau at the Raisina Dialogue. He made an impassioned case for an India-US partnership, but at the same time cautioned that "India should understand that we are not going to make the same mistakes with India that we made with China 20 years ago... We are going to make sure that whatever we do is fair to our people".

This was extraordinarily insulting to the Indian people because India's progress since Independence has not been dependent on any other power's benevolence. It has been achieved by the Indian people. But here was a senior foreign officer virtually telling Indians on Indian soil that there were limits to the government's desire for *Viksit Bharat*. It is strange that neither the government nor anyone from the ruling dispensation has responded to Landau's message so far. There is a time for silence and a time for a firm response. Now is a time for the latter. The world has to be made aware that India acts and speaks to defend its views and will not allow anyone to come in the way of its progress. Such action is derived from its civilisational ethos.

Anna Kshetra is functioning normal: Kashi Vishwanath temple trust

Varanasi.(Agency)

Alarming images of the LPG crisis are emerging across the country these days. News has started circulating on social media in the religious city of Kashi that the food menu at the Anna Kshetra, run by the Kashi Vishwanath Temple Trust, has been impacted.

Vishwa Bhushan Mishra, Chief Executive Officer of the Shri Kashi Vishwanath Temple Trust, clarified on Thursday that this is completely misleading and false information. He stated that there is no fuel shortage in the food supply sector. The food supply sector is fully operational, and that there was no food cuts. Hundreds of devotees are still arriving to receive Prasad, which is being served free of charge. Ravi, the manager of the food area, also stated that there have been no problems so far. Stock is available, and there is no LPG issue.

"Vegetables, rice, roti, papad, and vermicelli are also being prepared and served to devotees as 'prasad' at the food area. The menu keeps changing. Efforts are being made to prevent future problems," Ravi said.

Doctors stress early prevention as DPAECS marks World Obesity Day at RPGMC Kangra

Dharamshala.(Agency)

The Dhauladhar Pediatric and Adolescent Endocrine Care Society (DPAECS) observed World Obesity Day at Dr. Rajendra Prasad Government Medical College (RPGMC), Kangra, to raise awareness about childhood obesity and endocrine disorders among patients, parents and the general public.

DPAECS, founded by pediatric endocrinologist Dr. Atul Gupta, works to support children suffering from endocrine disorders such as obesity, diabetes, thyroid ailments, growth disorders and other hormonal problems. The society aims to provide an effective platform connecting doctors, patients and parents while promoting patient education, early diagnosis and long-term management of chronic endocrine diseases.

Speaking on the occasion, RPGMC Principal Dr. Milap Sharma highlighted the rising burden of obesity among children and adolescents and stressed the need for public awareness, healthy lifestyle habits and preventive healthcare to combat lifestyle-related diseases at an early stage.

Head of the Department of Pediatrics Dr. Seema Sharma emphasised early detection and timely treatment of childhood obesity. She warned that untreated obesity can lead to long-term complications such as diabetes, hypertension, fatty liver disease, joint disorders and hormonal disturbances, and urged parents to seek medical advice if a child shows excessive weight gain.

Dr. Gupta underlined the importance of balanced diet, regular physical activity, adequate sleep and reduced screen time in preventing childhood obesity. He noted that obesity in children is often linked with endocrine and metabolic disorders and requires proper medical evaluation along with long-term lifestyle management.

HP Board chief on surprise visits to exam centres, warns of strict action for negligence

Dharamshala.(Agency)

Chairman of the Himachal Pradesh Board of School Education, Dr. Rajesh Sharma, carried out surprise inspection of several examination centres in the Nagrota Bagwan area of Kangra district on Wednesday to ensure transparency and fairness in the ongoing board examinations. During the visit, Dr. Sharma reviewed the arrangements at Government (Boys) Senior Secondary School, Nagrota Bagwan, and Ishan Public Senior Secondary School, Samloti. He closely examined seating arrangements, discipline, and security measures at the centres. Expressing satisfaction at seeing students appear for their exams with confidence, he directed teachers and centre superintendents to strictly follow all board guidelines.

The chairman emphasised that the successful conduct of examinations and the timely feeding of Internal Assessment (INA) marks are crucial, warning that any negligence or violation of rules will invite strict disciplinary action against the school management and officials concerned. Sharma said ensuring a fair and free and copying-free environment in board examinations remains the board's top priority.

Taking a firm stand on marks submission, he stated that the board's system for INA feeding has been made live for all schools. Principals have been instructed to carefully enter marks within the prescribed maximum limits. Any errors or delays in submitting INA data will lead to action by the board.

To assist schools with technical issues, the board has also issued helpline numbers — 01892-242139 for Class XII and 01892-242149 for Class X. UNIAR SSP

BPA chemical found in urine of over 94% infants and under-five children: PGI study

Chandigarh.(Agency)

A PGIMER research has found bisphenol A (BPA) — a chemical compound primarily used in the manufacturing of various plastics — in the urine of 94.56 per cent of infants and under-five children. To examine the relationship in bottle-fed and never bottle-fed infants and under-five children and to determine the impact of bottle-feeding practices and sociodemographic factors on urinary BPA levels, PGI researchers have conducted a study, titled "Biomonitoring Study of Urinary Bisphenol-A Levels and Impact of Bottle-Feeding Practices among Infants and Children from Northern India".

BPA is widely used in the manufacture of plastic feeding bottles, food containers and several everyday plastic products. Health experts have long expressed concern about the potential health risks of early exposure to such chemicals, especially among children.

Researchers found that the presence of the chemical among infants and toddlers was significantly high, indicating early-life exposure to plastics and environmental sources. For the study, children aged 2 to 60 months attending anganwadi centres in Chandigarh were included.

A total of 184 urine samples were collected and analysed to measure BPA levels. The results showed that 174 out of the 184 children (94.56 per cent) had detectable BPA levels in their urine, suggesting that more than nine out of every ten children in the study had been exposed to the

Researchers reported an average BPA level of 2.74 nanograms per millilitre, which is comparable with international biomonitoring data. Similar levels have been reported in global studies, including the NHANES survey in the United States, indicating comparable exposure patterns.

Although feeding with a plastic bottle did not emerge as a statistically significant risk factor for BPA exposure, the detection of BPA levels among majority of the children included in the study signals an urgent need for unmasking exposure to other sources, given the potential long-term toxicity of BPA among infants and young children.

BPA was detected in 93.9 per cent of ever bottle-fed children and 95.3 per cent of never bottle-fed children, indicating multiple exposure sources beyond plastic bottles. The researchers also noted that feeding bottles alone may not be the only source of BPA exposure. Plastic containers, packaged food, toys and other household plastic products could also contribute to the presence of the chemical in children.



chemical. Doctors associated with the research said BPA is an endocrine-disrupting chemical, which means it can interfere with the body's hormonal system. Long-term exposure to such chemicals has been linked to possible effects on child development, neurodevelopment and metabolic health.

Cheema-Khaira exchange barbs, Cong walks out as Speaker denies resolution on Mann

Chandigarh.(Agency)

The Punjab Vidhan Sabha continued to witness intense drama and disruptions Wednesday on the issue of Congress MLA Sukhpal Singh Khaira's comments on women receiving Rs 1000 dole with Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema and Khaira getting into a sharp verbal duel on the floor of the House.

The ongoing budget session, already rocked the previous day by the passage of a condemnation resolution against Khaira for his alleged derogatory social media comments on women beneficiaries of the AAP government's Rs 1,000 monthly financial assistance scheme under the Mukh Mantri Mawan Dhiyan Satkar Yojna, saw

renewed chaos when Khaira attended proceedings Wednesday during zero hour. As the zero hour commenced, treasury bench (AAP) MLAs protested vigorously against



Khaira's presence. Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema directly confronted Khaira in sharp exchanges, with both leaders daring

and challenging each other to "come outside the House". Thumping his chest the Finance Minister challenged Khaira, "jithe marzi aa ja" (come wherever you want to).

"Yesterday a very important issue was raised in the House on the comment by Congress MLA Sukhpal Singh Khaira. I want to congratulate the opposition and Leader of Opposition Partap Singh Bajwa for when a resolution was moved condemning the comments, the opposition also condemned it. This man has gone to the making remarks about our mothers and daughters. We were

not born with silver spoon in our mouth," said Cheema.

At this point Khaira made a taint at Cheema who shouted back at him and could be heard asking him to 'come out'. "Speaker sahib he does badmashi in vidhan sabha. Tere varge kayiyan di badmashi kaddi hai (have sorted out many goons like you)," said the finance minister to Khaira who too was gesticulating and replying to Cheema but his voice could not be heard.

As the Congress MLAs stood up, the AAP Ministers and MLAs also gathered around Cheema. Holding up a copy of the Constitution, Cheema said, "He calls us bandhua madoor (bonded labourers). I am proud I was born in a house of bonded labourer. He should tender unconditional apology. His membership should be terminated.

J&K: 17 including CMO, BMO chargesheeted in health department fraud case

Srinagar.(Agency)

The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) Kashmir of Crime Branch J&K has filed a chargesheet against 17 accused persons, including a Chief Medical Officer, a Block Medical Officer and 12 beneficiary employees, in connection with a fraud case involving alleged manipulation of government orders in the Health Department, officials said on Thursday.

The chargesheet in 2013 FIR was filed before the Court of Special Anti-Corruption Judge Baramulla for offences under Sections 420, 467, 468, 471, 120-B and 201 RPC read with Section 5(2) of the Prevention of Corruption Act.

The case was registered following official communications from the Deputy Director Health Services Kashmir alleging fraudulent insertions in Government Order.

Investigation revealed that certain officials, in conspiracy with others, manipulated the order to falsely show the creation of additional posts in the

Health Department in Medical Block Bandipora.

According to investigators, fake transfer and appointment orders were prepared and used to illegally adjust several individuals against non-existent posts in PHC Chuntimullah, PHC Ashtangoo, SDH Bandipora and PHC Sheikhpora Gurez.

By using these forged documents, the accused beneficiaries allegedly secured illegal appointments and drew salaries and 6th Pay Commission arrears from the government treasury, causing crores of rupees in loss to the state exchequer.

Accordingly, after completion of investigation, the chargesheet was filed before the Court for judicial determination.

The chargesheet was filed against 17 accused persons including Chief Medical Officer, a Block Medical Officer, doctors/medical officers, a senior assistant, office/dealing assistants of the Health Department and 12 beneficiary employees who were fraudulently adjusted against non-existent posts.



Farooq Abdullah escapes unhurt after man opens fire at Jammu wedding

Jammu.(Agency)

Former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister and the National Conference president Dr. Farooq Abdullah had a close shave when a 63-year-old man made an attempt to claim his life by firing at him during a wedding ceremony here at Royal Parks Banquet Hall in Greater Kailash area.

Dr. Abdullah along with J&K Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary, Adviser to J&K CM Nasir Aslam Wani, Sports Minister Satish Sharma and other political leaders were attending a marriage function on Wednesday night when an accused, identified as Kamal Singh Jamwal, 63, a resident of Purani Mandi, tried to kill Dr. Abdullah from his licensed revolver. Security staff accompanying Dr. Abdullah averted the attack and overpowered him, took away his weapon and removed bullets before handing him over to the police.

Jammu and Kashmir Police in an official statement issued late last night said, "an attempt was made on the life of Dr. Farooq Abdullah, former CM and President of J&K National Conference, when he was

attending a marriage ceremony at Royal Park Greater Kailash, Jammu."

"The security personnel of JKP and NSG, who were deployed with the protectee, immediately swung into action and thwarted the attempt," said police. They said that further, the accused, who was later identified as Kamal Singh of Purani Mandi, Jammu, was taken into custody, while the firearm used in the crime has also been recovered from the possession of the accused.

Cognisance has been taken, and further investigation is going on, police added. Meanwhile, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, as well as Deputy CM Surinder Choudhary, raised questions over security lapses leading to a man with a loaded pistol reaching close to NSG protected former Chief Minister.

"Allah is kind. My father had a very close shave," Chief Minister Omar Abdullah posted on X.

He said the details are sketchy at the moment but what is known is that a man with a loaded pistol was able to get "within point blank range" and discharge a shot.

Budget-2026-27 announcement: In big farm push, Punjab aims to irrigate 7 million acres with canal water by 2027

Jalandhar.(Agency)

Presenting the Punjab Budget 2026-27 in the Vidhan Sabha, Finance Minister Harpal Cheema made a bold claim of expanding canal irrigation to nearly seven million acres (70 lakh acres) by the end of next fiscal — a move that would drastically reduce dependence on groundwater and mark one of the biggest shifts in irrigation patterns in decades.

"With great pride, I can make the commitment to the people of Punjab that...the total area under canal irrigation by the end of the year will be close to 7 million acres; or almost 90% of the designated canal irrigated area," Cheema said as he outlined the government's commitment to reviving the canal network and increasing its reach across agricultural areas.

If the proposed expansion is realised, nearly 70 per cent of Punjab's cultivated land could be irrigated through canals, leaving only about 30 per cent dependent on groundwater. Punjab currently has

around 41 lakh hectares (roughly 10 million acres) of land under agricultural and horticultural crops. However, canals have historically played only a limited role in irrigating this vast area.

When the Aam Aadmi Party government assumed office in 2022, canal irrigation covered only about 22.3 lakh acres (over nine lakh hectares), accounting for around 22 per cent of the state's cultivable land. The remaining farmland relied largely on groundwater pumped through tubewells.

According to official estimates, Punjab has more than 14 lakh electric tubewells, apart from thousands of solar-powered and diesel pumps used by farmers to draw water from underground aquifers. As a result, nearly 78 per cent of farmland in the state currently depends on groundwater irrigation — something that has gradually pushed the water table deeper across large parts of the state. Punjab's groundwater crisis



has been building for years. Out of 153 agricultural blocks in the state, nearly 75 per cent have already been classified as over-exploited or critical, meaning groundwater extraction far exceeds natural recharge. In many districts, water tables have steadily declined due to widespread cultivation of water-intensive paddy and the availability of free electricity for pumping

groundwater.

Experts note that Punjab's agricultural system has remained deeply dependent on tubewells over the past five decades.

"Farmers rely on tubewells because they provide control and certainty," said a water management expert from Punjab Irrigation department familiar with irrigation systems in

the state. "With canals, water availability depends on rotation schedules and maintenance of the network. Unless the system becomes reliable, farmers may continue to rely on groundwater."

Farmers too remain cautious about the proposed shift. "In many villages, canal water either does not reach or comes very irregularly," said Kuldeep Singh, a farmer from Jalandhar district. "Even if canals improve, farmers will still keep their tubewells as backup."

The government now says it has undertaken a large-scale revival of Punjab's canal network through desilting, lining and modernization works. According to the budget, from 2.23 million acres in 2022, we will have expanded our reach to 5.3 million acres by April 2026 through the large scale, restoration of canals and water courses. According to the budget, surface water utilisation has seen a 13% jump which means around 2.5 million acres (over 10 lakh hectares) of farmland is under canal irrigation now.

God saved me: Farooq Abdullah's first reaction after surviving assassination bid

In his first reaction after surviving an assassination attempt, National Conference chief Farooq Abdullah said he initially mistook the gunshots fired at him during a wedding in Jammu for firecrackers and that it was by God's grace that he survived the attack.

New Delhi.(Agency)

In his first reaction after surviving an assassination attempt, National Conference chief Farooq Abdullah on Thursday said he mistook the shots fired at him as firecrackers at a wedding in Jammu and that God saved his life.

The shooter, identified as 63-year-old Jammu resident Kamal Singh Jamwal, tried to point the gun at point-blank range and fired two shots in the direction of Abdullah, who narrowly survived. Jamwal told the police that he had been trying to kill Abdullah for the past 20 years.

Speaking at a press conference following the incident, the 88-year-old former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister, a Z+ category protectee, said he had no idea about the shooter and why he wanted to kill him.

"I was walking out of the venue when I heard the

sound of a firecracker. Immediately, I was rushed into a car. Later, I was told that there was a man with a pistol who had fired two shots. Neither do I



know this man, nor do I have any information about him," he said. Abdullah said he could not speculate about the

motive behind the attack or whether it was a security lapse. "I don't know what his intention was. To say it was a security lapse would be a big statement to make. Many big personalities were present at the wedding, but there were no police present," he said.

Abdullah also said that Union Home Minister Amit Shah had called him after the incident to enquire about his well-being.

"I did get a call from the Union Home Minister who asked me about my well-being and assured me that they would investigate the matter. An inquiry should be done," he said. The National Conference chief said that rising hatred was contributing to such incidents. "Such things keep happening when there is a situation of hatred now. No religion teaches hatred, but only love," he added.

ABOUT THE INCIDENT

CCTV footage from the wedding shows Jamwal, the gunman, approaching Abdullah from behind and pointing a gun at him from point-blank range before firing a shot. The shot missed the target and the gunman was immediately overpowered by the former Chief Minister's security detail before he could cause any harm.

According to officials, Abdullah and Jammu and Kashmir Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary, who also escaped unhurt in the incident, had come to greet a National Conference leader on the occasion of his son's wedding. Officials said the two leaders had been at the venue for more than an hour before the firing occurred. The attack on Abdullah has triggered serious concerns regarding the security apparatus in the sensitive Union Territory. Under standard protocol for such high-profile figures, the area should have been sanitised and strict access control enforced.

Several leaders have called for a thorough investigation into the attack on Abdullah. "What is the government's intention? Do they want Farooq Abdullah killed?" Congress MP Mallikarjun Kharge said in the Rajya Sabha after the foiled attack on the NC chief.

Jamia Millia Islamia acts against tribal employee for 'media talk'

New Delhi.(Agency)

Jamia Millia Islamia has initiated disciplinary proceedings against Ramphool Meena, a tribal employee who earlier alleged that he was physically assaulted and subjected to casteist abuse by an associate professor following a dispute over pressure to convert to Islam. The move has raised concerns about institutional fairness, as the action comes even as a police case has been registered against the professor. According to a university order



dated March 5, signed by Registrar Mohammad Mahtab Alam Rizvi, a panel constituted on January 20 examined the incident that allegedly took place on January 16 in the office of the University Polytechnic. The altercation involved the associate professor Riyazuddin and Meena, an upper division clerk. The report took note of Meena approaching media platforms.

It said speaking to the media on an issue pending before the competent authority was "not appropriate conduct." Meena had prima facie violated provisions of the Central Civil Services (Conduct) Rules, 1965, as well as Jamia's administrative conduct regulations. Consequently, the university has decided to initiate disciplinary proceedings against him under the CCS (CCA) Rules, 1965.

City sees above normal temps, air stays 'poor'

New Delhi.(Agency)

The national capital witnessed a maximum temperature ranging between 36 and 38 degrees Celsius on Wednesday. Additionally, the city recorded an above-normal minimum temperature of 17.8 degrees Celsius. According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), the Safdarjung observatory—considered the city's primary weather station—recorded a minimum temperature of 17.8 degrees Celsius, which is 3.8 notches above normal. Palam logged a minimum



temperature of 18.1 degrees Celsius, while Lodhi Road recorded 17.7 degrees Celsius, around 4.7 notches above normal. Ayanagar registered 16.8 degrees Celsius, 3.6 degrees above normal, according to IMD data. The Ridge station recorded the highest minimum temperature among the major observatories at 18.4 degrees Celsius, which is 3.2 degrees above normal. The readings highlight above-normal night temperatures across key monitoring stations in the city.

Meanwhile, the city's air quality remained 'poor' on Wednesday morning, with the AQI (Air Quality Index) recorded at 268 at 9 am. By the evening, it stood at 244 at 4 pm, according to data from the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB). Under its classification, an AQI between 0 and 50 is considered 'good,' 51 to 100 'satisfactory,' 101 to 200 'moderate,' 201 to 300 'poor,' 301 to 400 'very poor' and 401 to 500 'severe.'

Blaze rips through Delhi's Matiala slum cluster, 80 shanties gutted; no casualties

New Delhi.(Agency)

At least 80 shanties were gutted after a massive fire broke out in a slum cluster near the fish market in Matiala area of southwest Delhi, police said. No casualties have been reported in the incident, they said. According to the Delhi Fire Service (DFS), a call regarding the blaze in the jhuggi cluster and adjoining waste material warehouses was received at 11.54 pm on Wednesday.

Fire tenders were rushed to the spot, and firefighting operations were launched. Police said a PCR call about the blaze in the Mansaram Park area was received at the Bindapur police station at 11.57 pm.

Local police teams reached the spot and assisted in evacuating residents from the cluster. "All inhabitants of the



shanties were safely evacuated, and the fire brigade was called to the spot," Deputy Commissioners of Police (Dwarka) Kushal Pal Singh said.

Fire officials said the blaze had spread across an area of nearly four acres, prompting authorities to deploy a large number of firefighting vehicles.

More than 23 fire tenders were initially pressed into service, while police said the number of fire engines rose to about 28 during the operation.

Govt denies gas shortage, urges public not to heed rumours; Oppn trains guns on BJP

New Delhi.(Agency)

The Delhi government has clarified that the supply of LPG, petrol, diesel and PNG in the national capital remains completely normal and there is no shortage of any fuel.

The government has appealed to residents not to pay attention to rumours being circulated about gas supply and to avoid unnecessary panic or hoarding. This came as the Chief Secretary chaired a high-level meeting on Wednesday to review the situation. Senior officials from the Department of Food, Supplies and Consumer Affairs, Delhi Police, the Revenue Department, Indraprastha Gas Limited and various oil marketing companies participated in the meeting. The discussion focused on rumours suggesting that LG supplies could be



disrupted.

Oppn trains guns on BJP

The burgeoning LPG crisis has placed the ruling BJP in the firing line of the Opposition.

AAP national convenor Arvind Kejriwal on Wednesday hit out at the Centre over the LPG crisis affecting people across the country as he questioned PM Narendra Modi's "support" for Israel and the US. The ex-Delhi CM warned,

"After several hours of intensive firefighting efforts, the fire was brought under control around 3 am on Thursday. Cooling operations are underway to prevent any fresh flare-ups," the DCP said, adding that around 80 shanties were gutted.

He said a similar fire had also been reported at the same location earlier this month. On March 7, a PCR call regarding a fire at the site was received, and the flames were doused with the help of eight fire tenders.

A case was registered at the Bindapur police station in connection with that incident. "According to information shared by the revenue department, the land where the shanties have come up is a privately owned property, but its ownership remains disputed," the senior officer said.

"There is a chance that almost one crore people would be unemployed because of the power shortage situation." Kejriwal noted that the LPG crunch was forcing restaurants, hotels and industries to shut down.

Addressing a press conference, Kejriwal accused the PM of compromising the national interests, saying, "It appears that the PM has made the nation of 140 crore people subservient to Washington. If Donald Trump holds any leverage that leaves PM Modi helpless, he must resign rather than placing the country's sovereignty and economic stability at risk." "At this moment, the country is passing through a severe crisis. There is a shortage of LPG gas cylinders used for cooking in households, restaurants and other industries. The daily production has fallen by 50%."

Secret caves to Russian crude: India's shield against Iran war oil shock

India imports around 90% of its energy needs, leaving it vulnerable to sudden supply chain shocks, as the Iran war has shown. However, over the years, India has quietly strengthened its energy security via a network of underground storage caves and by diversifying its oil basket. Thus, despite the Middle East turmoil, oil is well for India.

New Delhi.(Agency)

The Iran war has exposed India's energy reality - Delhi imports around 90% of its crude oil, and 60% of its LPG and 50% of its LNG requirements. Such high dependence makes India vulnerable to sudden supply chain shocks, as the closure of the Strait of Hormuz has shown. However, over the years, India has quietly strengthened its energy security via a network of underground storage caves and by diversifying its oil basket. The strategic moves have prevented India from pressing the panic button, while countries like Pakistan have gone into lockdown mode.

However, it is not that the ripple effect of the Middle East conflict has not been felt by India. Prices of LPG, widely used as a cooking fuel, have been increased, and several states have reported shortages of commercial cylinders, mainly affecting restaurants and hotels. While price



volatility may be unavoidable, India remains better placed than before on its energy security. Stay with us, and we will explain how. Let's understand the present situation first. According to Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri, India has 25

days of crude oil. Petrol and diesel stocks can last another 25 days apart from the strategic oil reserves. Cooking gas or LPG can last around 25-30 days, while LNG, primarily used for industrial applications, availability is around 10 days.

INDIA'S UNDERGROUND OIL STORAGE

However, India is far from losing its sleep. The key to it is its secret underground crude oil storage caves at three key locations -- Visakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh), Mangaluru (Karnataka), and Padur (Tamil Nadu). The oldest among them is in Vizag, developed about 10 years ago by Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Ltd.

These caves can together hold 5.33 million metric tonnes of crude oil (40 million barrels), sufficient for around 10 days of national requirement. What makes such underground facilities ideal is that they remain secure from external attacks or drone strikes and natural disasters. Moreover, these require lower operational costs and being deep underground, the caves minimise risks of fire or oil spillage.

NIA to court: Kashmir stir over Khamenei killing hampered Red Fort probe

The agency made the submission before NIA

Judge Pitambar Dutt while seeking an

extension of custody for two accused in the case.

New Delhi.(Agency)

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Wednesday told a Delhi court that its investigation in the Delhi blast case was delayed due to protests and the prevailing law and order situation in Jammu and Kashmir following the assassination of Iran's Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

The agency made the submission before NIA Judge Pitambar Dutt while seeking an extension of custody for two accused in the case. According to the agency, the situation in the Valley prevented investigators from taking the accused to specific locations as part of the "pointing out procedure" to identify places where arms and ammunition were allegedly concealed. The NIA produced the two accused, Tufail Ahmad Bhat and Zameer Ahmad Ahangar, before the court on the expiry of their earlier custody. The accused were arrested on February 25, 2026. During the hearing, the agency requested a ten-day extension of their custody to continue the investigation. The court, however, allowed the NIA a further five days of custody for both accused persons.

The NIA told the court that protests and security concerns in Jammu and Kashmir following Khamenei's death made it difficult for investigators to safely carry out field operations and complete certain investigative procedures in the Valley. The agency has alleged that the two accused were part of a larger conspiracy to wage war against India by procuring and supplying weapons intended for terrorist activities.

The prosecution further submitted that technical issues have also slowed the investigation. Duplicate SIM cards of the accused persons' Kashmir-based mobile numbers are yet to be received from telecom service providers. As a result, the extraction and analysis of their social media accounts and other digital evidence has been delayed. On February 25, the court had remanded Bhat and Ahangar to 10 days of NIA custody. Their remand was later extended for five days on March 6. The Jammu and Kashmir Police had brought the accused to Delhi on a production warrant, after which their custody was handed over to the NIA.

NEWS BOX

Fede Valverde relishing hat-trick as Real Madrid stun Man City: Best game of my life

New Delhi. (Agency)

Federico Valverde said he experienced the best night of his career after scoring a sensational hat-trick to help Real Madrid defeat Manchester City 3-0 in the first leg of their UEFA Champions League round-of-16 tie. The Uruguayan midfielder produced a stunning first-half performance at the Santiago Bernabeu to put Real Madrid firmly in control of the contest.

There had been a sense of uncertainty among Real Madrid fans heading into the clash against Manchester City. The Spanish giants had recently lost two league matches and needed a late deflection to beat Celta Vigo over the weekend. Speaking after the match, Valverde admitted the performance was one he had always dreamed about. "It's incredible, you always dream of nights like this...I want to thank my teammates who



give me the confidence I needed to stay positive, the coaching staff and everyone who supports us, even though it's been a difficult season," he said. "I really enjoyed myself today. It had been a while since I enjoyed a match like this," Valverde added.

HOW REAL MADRID STUNNED MAN CITY

Valverde's remarkable display completely changed the mood at the Bernabeu. The midfielder opened the scoring in the 20th minute after rounding goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma and calmly finishing into the net. Seven minutes later he doubled the lead with a powerful left-footed strike that flew past the goalkeeper and gave Real Madrid full control of the match.

Valverde completed his hat-trick in the 42nd minute in spectacular fashion. He lifted the ball delicately over defender Marc Guehi before smashing a right-footed volley into the bottom corner to cap a brilliant first-half performance.

Pakistan cricketers find no takers in Hundred Women 2026 auction

New Delhi. (Agency)

No Pakistan players found buyers in the women's auction for The Hundred held on Wednesday, March 11. Left-handed batter Muneeba Ali, right-arm fast bowler Diana Baig, left-arm spinner Sadia Iqbal and Pakistan captain Fatima Sana had registered for the auction with a base price of 15,000 pounds each. However, only Fatima Sana and Sadia Iqbal, the top-ranked bowler in Women's T20s, were shortlisted for the final auction stage. Despite making the shortlist, neither of them had their names called during the bidding process. As a result, all four Pakistani players went unsold, missing out on contracts for the upcoming season of the 100-ball



tournament. Earlier, reports suggested IPL-owned Hundred teams might avoid signing Pakistani players, sparking controversy and criticism, including from England captain Harry Brook. In response, the ECB and The Hundred franchises clarified that nationality would not affect selection, emphasising choices would be based solely on performance, availability, and team requirements.

EYES NOW ON HUNDRED MEN AUCTION

Several Pakistan players are set to feature in the men's auction for The Hundred, scheduled to take place on Thursday, March 12. A total of 63 Pakistani cricketers had registered for the auction, but only 14 were shortlisted for the final bidding process.

Among the prominent names are the fast bowling trio of Haris Rauf, Shaheen Afridi, Naseem Shah and all-rounders Shadab Khan, Saim Ayub all of whom have listed themselves with a base price of 100,000 pounds.

A trophy is a trophy: Why India's T20 World Cup win is no lesser prize

New Delhi. (Agency)

The dust had barely settled on India's historic T20 World Cup 2026 victory, a feat that made them the first team to successfully defend the title, before the familiar, rhythmic drumming of dissent began. It is a peculiar habit of the cricketing commentariat that the moment India achieves total dominance in the game's most volatile format, the goalposts are unceremoniously shifted. Leading the charge was Sanjay Manjrekar, whose recent critique on social media felt like a cold shower for a celebrating nation. "In time, we need to put these world titles given out every year in proper perspective," Manjrekar said. "India's T20 WC wins don't come remotely close to their 50 overs WC wins of 1983 under Kapil Dev and 2011 under Dhoni in terms of its pure challenge and its sanctity."

The sentiment was echoed in more vitriolic corners of the internet. One user on X mocked India's pursuit of global titles by likening T20 trophies to fast food prizes collected every two years at a drive-through, dismissing them as achievements that count for very little. It is a narrative that reeks of a staggering lack of perspective, wrapped in a thin veil of purism. To describe a World Cup victory achieved under the most high-

pressure, high-variance conditions known to the sport as trivial is not merely an insult to the Indian side. It reflects a fundamental misunderstanding of where cricket stands in 2026.

THE MYTH OF ODI WORLD CUPS

For decades, the 50-over ODI World Cup has been presented as the ultimate pinnacle. Its four-year cycle is often treated as the chief marker of prestige. Yet the modern tournament increasingly resembles a closed shop, a gated community of ten teams. It is a marathon format that tolerates off days and slow starts, where established powers are often all but guaranteed a path to the knockouts. Contrast that with the T20 World Cup. The tournament now features twenty teams. It is the only format in which the world world in the World Cup genuinely feels literal. Here, emerging sides such as the United States, Italy, Nepal and Namibia experience meaningful international competition. In a 50-over contest, the gulf in class can unfold relentlessly over eight hours. In T20 cricket, that gap narrows to the width of a single inspired over.

If a World Cup is judged by inclusivity and

global footprint, the T20 tournament wins decisively. Navigating a twenty-team field without a slip-up is not simply fortune, it demands sustained mental precision. The argument that the achievement is somehow



easier because the event occurs more frequently ignores a central truth of the format. In T20 cricket there is no settling in. Every ball is a crisis.

THE ENGINE ROOM

Beyond the trophies lies economic reality. T20 cricket has become the principal financial engine of the sport. It provides the revenue that sustains Test matches and ODI tours.

The numbers reflect the modern era. Since November 2023, leading cricketing nations have played nearly twice as many T20 internationals as ODIs. The format is not a sideshow or a convenience. It has become the main stage. It appeals to a digital-native generation, fits the rhythm of contemporary life and pushes the boundaries of athletic skill. In other sports, frequency does not diminish prestige. Tennis fans do not belittle the four Grand Slam tournaments simply because they occur annually. Nor do followers of chess dismiss a world title because it lacks a four-year cycle. In athletics or badminton, the regularity of major events merely demonstrates who can remain the best in a constantly evolving field. Cricket should not be the lone exception.

THE INDIAN REVOLUTION

Perhaps the most unfair aspect of the dismissive narrative is how it overlooks the genuine tactical transformation within Indian cricket. The journey from an 11-year ICC trophy drought to the current era of dominance began with a sweeping reset led by Rohit Sharma and Rahul Dravid in 2024.

Dropping Axar Patel in IND vs SA was my mistake, I apologised: Suryakumar Yadav

New Delhi. (Agency)

India captain Suryakumar Yadav admitted that leaving out Axar Patel for a key match during the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026 was his mistake. The skipper revealed that Axar was understandably upset with the decision, prompting him to personally apologise to the all-rounder after the game.

The decision came during India's Super 8 clash against South Africa in Ahmedabad, which turned out to be India's only defeat of the tournament. Axar had earlier missed the group-stage match against the Netherlands due to a minor injury concern, but his exclusion against South Africa was a tactical decision as Washington Sundar was included instead. Speaking to The Indian Express, Suryakumar said the conversation with Axar after the match was difficult. "He (Axar Patel) was very angry — and he should have been. He's an experienced player, he leads a franchise. He should be angry," Suryakumar said. "I apologised. I

told him I made a mistake, and I'm sorry, but it was a call for the team. It was a hard conversation. He took it in his stride and we talked it through the next day." India suffered a heavy 76-run defeat in that Super 8 match at the Narendra Modi Stadium, and the decision to drop Axar became one of the



most debated selection calls of the tournament.

HOW WAS AXAR PATEL T20 WORLD CUP 2026?

India quickly corrected the decision by bringing Axar back into the side for their

next Super 8 clash against Zimbabwe national cricket team. From that point onwards, the all-rounder played a key role in India's successful title defence. Axar finished the tournament with 11 wickets from eight matches while maintaining an economy rate of around 8.20, making him one of India's most dependable middle-overs bowlers. He delivered one of his best performances in the final against New Zealand national cricket team, picking up three wickets for 27 runs to help India seal the trophy. Axar also contributed in the semi-final against England by pulling off two outstanding catches that shifted momentum towards India. With the bat, he chipped in with quick and valuable runs whenever the team required acceleration.

India eventually went on to win the tournament and successfully defend their T20 World Cup title, becoming the first side to achieve the feat while also lifting the trophy on home soil.

Pune lawyer alleges Hardik Pandya insulted national flag, files police complaint

Pune (Agency)

A Pune-based lawyer has filed a complaint seeking legal action against Hardik Pandya for allegedly disrespecting the Indian national flag during India's celebrations after winning the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026. The complainant has urged the police to register an FIR over the alleged incident.

The complaint was submitted by advocate Wajid Khan at the Shivaji Nagar Police Station. The lawyer alleged that Pandya had wrapped the tricolour around himself while celebrating on the field with his girlfriend Mahiika Sharma after India defeated New Zealand in the final on Sunday at the Narendra Modi Stadium. Speaking to ANI, Khan said the act amounted to disrespecting the national flag. You must have seen the T20 World Cup here. Hardik Pandya was dancing with his girlfriend in celebration of his victory. The national flag was tied to his back...According to Section 2 of the 1971 National Flag Act, we should respect the dignity of the national flag. However, Hardik Pandya was so lost in the celebration



of his victory that he was lying with his girlfriend, wearing the national flag. I believe it is an insult to the national flag," Khan said. "I have filed a complaint with the Shivaji Nagar police station. When I went to file the complaint, they told me the incident occurred there, not here. So I told them that the national flag is a symbol of the entire

nation, and we can file a complaint with the Shivaji Nagar police. They have accepted my complaint and provided me with a copy. Let's see what happens next. I have filed the complaint," he added.

HARDIK'S T20 WC CELEBRATIONS STIR CONTROVERSY

The controversy surfaced after India's dramatic T20 World Cup victory over New Zealand triggered emotional celebrations on the field in Ahmedabad.

During the post-match celebrations, videos circulating on social media showed Pandya celebrating with Mahiika Sharma as the Indian team soaked in the historic triumph. In several clips, the couple were seen dancing, posing with the trophy and sharing emotional moments amid the celebrations.

One viral video also showed the couple lying together on the podium structure during the victory ceremony while players and staff continued celebrating around them.



force in September 2018. This timing was a key factor in the assessment of the allegations raised by the complainant.

The Ethics Officer found no evidence that Dhoni had any institutional control or decision-making authority in the academy while playing in the IPL. The ruling clarified that simply continuing as an IPL player does not meet the threshold for a conflict of interest under the current BCCI regulations. Additionally, the order stated there was no proof presented of favouritism, bias, or preferential treatment linked to the ownership of the academy. The ruling emphasized that these factors are critical in determining conflict-of-interest violations under BCCI's code.

Will Iran be replaced at the World Cup after withdrawal threat FIFA ponders options

After Iran's withdrawal threat from the World Cup 2026, FIFA are weighing up their options to replace them in the tournament.

Iraq and UAE are being considered as replacements by the international governing body.

NEW DELHI. (Agency)

Iran's withdrawal threat from the upcoming football World Cup has left FIFA looking into different options with the tournament kicking off in early June in the USA, Mexico and Canada. Iran's Sports Minister Ahmad Donyamali said on Wednesday, March 11,

that they won't be taking part in the tournament following airstrikes carried out by co-host nation the United States along with Israel that reportedly killed Iran's Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. The announcement came only hours after FIFA President Gianni Infantino stated that U.S. President Donald Trump had assured safe entry and a welcoming environment for the Iranian national team during the tournament. The United States and Israel launched airstrikes on Iran nearly two weeks ago, an attack that reportedly resulted in the death of the Islamic Republic's supreme leader and triggered escalating tensions across the Gulf region. While it did seem uncertain that Iran would compete in a tournament hosted by a nation it is currently in conflict with, FIFA had still been planning for Team Melli to take the field in their opening group match against New Zealand in Los Angeles on June 15. A

withdrawal from the tournament will now be governed by Article Six of the World Cup



regulations, which allows FIFA to call up any nation it choose to fill up the void left by Iran. There's no modern precedent for this and, according to FIFA's own tournament regulations, they have full discretion to do whatever they want in the case of a team withdrawing." James Kitching, FIFA's former Director of Football Regulatory, told Reuters. "That means, for example, a team

that withdraws wouldn't have to be replaced by a team from the same confederation, or even replaced at all. Whether either of those scenarios would be politically tenable is a different question." The tournament regulations also provide disciplinary sanctions for any federation whose team withdraws. However, if Iran withdrew for any reason related to this current conflict, I doubt FIFA would impose any sanctions given the circumstances. "Iran qualified for their fourth successive World Cup by topping Group A of the Asian qualifying. While a replacement does seem like the possible outcome, it is far from being straightforward.

IRAQ FACING TRAVEL ISSUES

Iraq is one of the teams in the running to replace Iran in the World Cup if the official withdrawal does happen. Iraq are set to feature in the intercontinental playoffs in Mexico later this month, where they will compete for a place at the World Cup finals.

Sensex tanks over 1,000 points: 3 reasons behind today's stock market crash

New Delhi, (Agency)

Domestic stock markets extended Wednesday's sharp fall on Thursday morning, with the Sensex initially dropping over 1,000 points at opening and the Nifty slipping below 23,600, as rising oil prices, global market jitters and continued foreign investor selling weighed on sentiment. At around 9:25 am, the Sensex was down about 832 points at 76,031, while the Nifty 50 fell 272 points to 23,594. Most heavyweight stocks across banking, auto and metal sectors were trading in the red.

WEST ASIA TENSIONS PUSH OIL PRICES HIGHER

Escalating tensions involving Iran and Israel have disrupted tanker movement near the Strait of Hormuz, one of the world's most important oil routes. In addition, Iran has also started targeting oil tankers and commercial ships in the region. This has pushed Brent crude close to \$100 per barrel, raising concerns about higher inflation and global economic pressure. Higher oil prices are particularly negative for India since the country imports most of its crude oil.

WEAK GLOBAL CUES DRAG MARKETS
Global markets remained cautious overnight as investors reacted to rising oil prices and geopolitical tensions. US markets closed mixed, but Dow futures later fell about 500 points as oil prices surged further. Asian markets also slipped on Thursday amid fears that higher oil prices could push inflation up and keep interest rates higher for longer.

FOREIGN INVESTORS KEEP SELLING

Continuous selling by foreign institutional investors (FIIs) is also putting pressure on Indian markets. According to Dr VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist at Geojit Investments, domestic investors are buying, but it is not enough to offset heavy foreign selling.

UIDAI launches bug bounty programme to strengthen Aadhaar security

MUMBAI, (Agency)

The Unique Identification Authority of India on Wednesday launched structured Bug Bounty Programme to further strengthen the security of the Aadhaar system, inviting independent cybersecurity experts to identify vulnerabilities in digital platforms. A panel of 20 experienced security researchers and ethical hackers has been selected to look for possible weaknesses in some of UIDAI's key digital platforms, an official statement said. They will examine UIDAI digital assets such as UIDAI official website, myAadhaar portal and the Secure QR Code application. Researchers will check these systems for vulnerabilities classified as Critical, High, Medium and Low risk and will receive rewards in line with the severity of issues they find, the statement from Ministry of Electronics & IT said. The ministry said the programme is being run in partnership with M/s ComOlho IT Private Limited, a cybersecurity solution provider.

The new Bug Bounty Programme is another example of how UIDAI continuously strives to further strengthen and ensure that its platforms remain secure for residents and stakeholders, the statement noted. Such programmes are widely used around the world by major technology platforms to make digital systems safer and more future ready. UIDAI believes information security is critical in today's digital world, and UIDAI is continuously engaged in improving its digital assets keeping people's interest in mind, it added.

The authority already uses several layers of protection, including regular security audits, vulnerability assessments, penetration testing, and continuous monitoring.

PM-Kisan 22nd installment: Rs 2000 to be credited to each beneficiary account today, March 13

New Delhi, (Agency)

The 22nd installment of the government's flagship farmer support scheme, Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-Kisan), will be released on March 13, 2026, Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan announced on Wednesday.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will release the installment from Guwahati in Assam, transferring more than Rs 18,640 crore directly to the bank accounts of over 9.32 crore farmer families across the country through Direct Benefit Sharing details of the initiative, Chouhan said the move reflects the government's commitment to farmers and its emphasis on honouring the country's "annadatas". Since the launch of the scheme in February 2019, the Centre has transferred more than Rs 4.09 lakh crore directly to farmers' bank accounts.

With the release of the 22nd installment, the cumulative disbursement will exceed Rs 4.27 lakh crore. He said the scheme, introduced under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi, has laid the foundation for a significant and sustained transformation in the agriculture sector by providing direct income support to small and marginal farmers. Under the programme, eligible farmer families receive Rs 6,000 annually in three equal installments, which are credited directly to their bank accounts. According to the minister, more than 2.15 crore women farmers will also receive financial assistance under the upcoming installment. The timely support helps farmers meet agricultural expenses such as seeds, fertilisers, pesticides and other farming inputs. The assistance also contributes to meeting household needs including education and healthcare. Chouhan noted that the government is making sustained efforts to economically empower women farmers and strengthen the financial condition of rural households through the scheme.

Stocking LPG cylinders during shortage Know the legal limits and penalties

New Delhi, (Agency)

LPG supply disruption and panic buying have surfaced in several parts of the country. Many households and businesses are trying to secure extra cylinders to avoid running out of cooking gas. The rush to stock up, however, raises an important legal question: how many LPG cylinders can a person legally store at home, and at what point does it become illegal hoarding? Experts say laws clearly define storage limits and give authorities the power to act against people who stockpile LPG cylinders during shortages. **HOW MANY CYLINDERS CAN YOU STORE?** Under law, a domestic household is generally allowed to keep two LPG cylinders of 14.2 kg each at a time. This usually includes one cylinder connected for use and another spare cylinder kept as backup.

Alay Razvi, Managing Partner, Accord Juris, explained that this practice is followed by oil marketing companies such as Indian Oil, Bharat Petroleum and Hindustan Petroleum in line with safety norms.

"Under Indian law, a domestic household is generally permitted to keep two LPG cylinders of 14.2 kg each at a time, one connected for use and one spare for backup. This practice is followed by oil marketing companies such as Indian Oil, Bharat Petroleum and Hindustan Petroleum in line with safety norms under the Gas Cylinders Rules, 2016 and standards issued by the Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organisation." Razvi added that LPG is classified as a highly flammable substance, which means strict safety standards apply to its storage.

"LPG is classified as a highly flammable substance, therefore storage must be in a

well ventilated space away from heat sources. The two cylinder norm is meant for domestic consumption, while larger quantities are permitted only for licensed commercial or institutional



storage."

WHEN STORING LPG CAN BECOME HOARDING

While keeping a spare cylinder is allowed, storing multiple cylinders beyond household requirements can attract legal scrutiny, especially during periods

of supply disruption. Razvi said that stockpiling LPG beyond normal usage patterns may be treated as hoarding under the law. "Storing LPG cylinders beyond normal household requirements can raise concerns of hoarding, particularly when it exceeds the usual domestic supply norms or violates booking regulations."

He pointed out that LPG is classified as an essential commodity under Indian law.

"Under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, LPG is treated as an essential commodity and stockpiling with the intention of resale, black marketing, or creating artificial scarcity may attract legal scrutiny." Razvi further noted that safety rules also limit how much LPG can be stored without proper authorisation. "In addition, safety regulations under the Gas Cylinders Rules restrict unlicensed storage of large quantities."

Rupee sinks to record low of Rs 92.36 against US dollar

Mumbai, (Agency)

The rupee fell to a record low of Rs 92.36 against the US dollar on Thursday, pressured by surging crude oil prices, a stronger dollar and continued foreign investor outflows.

The currency weakened as global markets reacted to escalating tensions in West Asia and a sharp jump in oil prices, with Brent crude climbing above \$100 per barrel. **SURGING OIL PRICES WEIGH ON RUPEE**

A key reason for the rupee's decline is the spike in crude oil prices. India imports more than 80% of its crude oil needs, meaning higher oil prices increase the country's import bill and raise demand for dollars from oil companies. This typically puts downward pressure on the rupee.

Oil prices surged after two oil tankers were attacked in Iraqi waters, raising fears of disruptions to global energy supply routes.

STRONGER DOLLAR ADDS PRESSURE

The US dollar has also strengthened against most global currencies as investors move money into safer assets amid geopolitical tensions.

This shift toward the dollar has weighed



on emerging market currencies, including the rupee.

FOREIGN INVESTOR OUTFLOWS CONTINUE

Persistent selling by foreign institutional investors (FIIs) in Indian equities has further weakened the currency.

When foreign investors pull money out of Indian markets, they convert rupees into dollars, increasing demand for the US currency and putting pressure on the rupee. **WHAT A WEAKER RUPEE MEANS**

A weaker rupee can make imports such as crude oil, electronics and other goods more expensive, which could add pressure on inflation.

However, exporters such as IT and pharmaceutical companies may benefit as their overseas earnings become more valuable when converted into rupees. For now, currency markets remain volatile as investors closely track developments in West Asia, oil prices and global capital flows.

After Amul, Mother Dairy and Country Delight, Everest Spices under scrutiny over quality concerns: Reports

New Delhi, (Agency)

After Amul, Mother Dairy and Country Delight, now popular Indian brand Everest Spices is facing quality concerns, said several media reports. Laboratory tests conducted on some of the products of Everest Spices have revealed significant safety concerns.

According to the tests, some Everest Spices products have been found to contain bacteria and pesticide residues above the recommended levels. According to media reports, some Everest Spices products have failed laboratory quality tests. A sample of Everest Garam Masala contained two pesticides namely acetamiprid and azoxystrobin at levels higher than those permitted by Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) regulations. There were also reports of elevated bacterial counts in the sample. A sample of Everest Kitchen King Masala was reported to contain the same bacterial group along with three pesticide residues above recommended levels. The development comes shortly

after popular food brands such as Amul, Mother Dairy and Country Delight faced questions over the presence of coliform bacteria in some products. These samples were reportedly sent to a laboratory to determine if they met the



safety requirements set by the FSSAI. According to reports, some of the products reportedly contained some bacterial contaminants that exceeded the limits set by food safety regulations. The Enterobacteriaceae are a group of bacteria that are known to cause food contamination.

Everest Masala Ethylene Oxide Issue

A couple of years ago Everest Fish Curry Masala was in the middle of a major scrutiny over concerns of Ethylene Oxide, considered not suitable for human consumption. Several countries had issued alert on usage of the spices of this Indian brand. Ethylene Oxide is commonly used for fumigation of agricultural produce that helps in preventing microbial contamination. The regulations in Singapore allows for usage of ethylene oxide in the sterilization of spices. However, in 2022, Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) had cleared more than a dozen samples of spices from Everest brands. According to the analysis report, the extensive testing found no traces of ethylene oxide (ETO) in the samples collected from several states. The rigorous process of testing for ethylene oxide was performed at NABL-accredited laboratories notified by the FSSAI.

Brent crude back above \$100 per barrel: Why are oil prices rising again

Brent crude has crossed \$100 again. With tanker attacks and rising war tensions threatening supply routes, the big question now is how long oil prices will stay this high.

New Delhi, (Agency)

Global oil prices have surged again, with Brent crude climbing above \$100 per barrel, as escalating tensions in West Asia and attacks on oil tankers triggered fresh fears of supply disruptions. The spike in crude prices comes even after the International Energy Agency (IEA) announced a large release of oil from emergency reserves to stabilise markets. However, traders remain worried that the geopolitical risks in the region could disrupt oil supplies on a much larger scale. **TANKER ATTACKS SHAKE OIL MARKETS**

Oil prices jumped after two oil tankers were attacked in Iraqi waters near the Persian Gulf, raising concerns about the safety of

shipping routes used to transport crude oil from the Middle East to global markets. The incident has intensified fears that commercial vessels and oil shipments moving through the Gulf could face further attacks if tensions escalate. Even isolated attacks on tankers can quickly move oil markets because they signal potential risks to global energy supply.

FEARS OVER STRAIT OF HORMUZ

The attacks have also renewed concerns about the Strait of Hormuz, one of the most important oil shipping routes in the world. Nearly one-fifth of global oil supply passes through this narrow passage, making it a critical chokepoint for energy markets. Any disruption in this route can quickly tighten global supply and push crude prices higher. As a result, markets are reacting not just to the tanker attacks themselves, but also to the risk that the conflict could spread further across the region.

WHY THE IEA MOVE DID NOT CALM PRICES

The IEA and its member nations have agreed to release oil from strategic

reserves in an effort to stabilise prices.

However, analysts say the impact could be limited in the short term because the additional supply will enter the market gradually, while the geopolitical risks affecting shipping and production are immediate. This imbalance between



short-term supply risks and delayed emergency supply has kept oil markets volatile.

WHAT THIS MEANS FOR MARKETS AND INVESTORS

Rising crude prices are also weighing on global equity markets, including India. According to Dr VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist at Geojit Investments Limited, the ongoing



avoid travel until the security situation becomes clearer.

ATTACK ON IRANIAN BANK TRIGGERED WARNING

Iran's warning came after reports that an administrative building linked to Bank Sepah, one of Iran's largest state-owned banks, was hit overnight in Tehran. Iranian officials blamed the United States and Israel for the attack and said it forced Tehran to consider retaliation against financial and economic infrastructure linked to its rivals. Bank Sepah has long been associated with Iran's military and has been under US and UN sanctions for nearly two decades over alleged links to Iran's nuclear and missile programmes.

WHY THE WARNING IS RAISING CONCERNS

Banks in Gulf cities are usually located in busy commercial districts surrounded by shopping malls, office towers, hotels and residential buildings. Because of this, the warning asking civilians to stay one kilometre away from banks.

geopolitical tensions and surge in oil prices are adding to market uncertainty.

"External headwinds have pushed the market into a weak zone. With the war continuing to rage with no signs of let up and Brent crude again bouncing back to \$100 levels, the weakness is likely to persist," he said. Vijayakumar noted that while domestic institutional investors (DIIs) are continuously buying, markets are struggling to recover because foreign institutional investors (FIIs) remain sustained sellers in the current uncertain global environment. He added that such periods can be frustrating for investors but historical trends show that markets usually recover after geopolitical conflicts ease. "The lesson from market history is that attitude and temperament are important in these trying times. Experiences from previous geopolitical conflicts tell us that markets bounce back smartly once the conflicts get over," he said. Vijayakumar advised investors to remain invested and continue systematic investment plans, adding that market corrections can also provide opportunities for long-term investors to gradually accumulate high-quality stocks.



Priyanka Chopra

Reveals Reason Behind Keeping Daughter Malti Marie Away From Public Eye

Priyanka Chopra and Nick Jonas have been very protective of their daughter Malti Marie ever since she was born. They welcomed her via surrogacy in 2022. Earlier, the couple used to reveal her face in the pictures shared online. But lately, they have been adding emojis on her face. Recently, Priyanka spoke about her daughter and revealed that she and her husband, Nick, prefer to keep her away from the public eye. The global star also shared why they are prioritising their daughter's anonymity as she grows up.

Priyanka Chopra talks about protecting Malti's privacy

In a recent conversation with Amanda Hirsch on the Not Skinny But Not Fat podcast, Priyanka opened up about giving a normal life to her princess. The Aitraaz actress said that while she chose a public life for herself, she doesn't want her daughter to be pushed into the spotlight and would prefer to let her decide in the future if she wants to live in the public eye. Recently, it was also reported that Priyanka and Nick hired extra security for their daughter as they are concerned for her privacy.

Reacting to the same, Priyanka said, "When we have security out and about, it's just ... to not be recorded without consent because a lot of that happens... I've always been of the opinion that I kind of chose a public life... (When) it comes to children, that's ... terrain we are all learning in the last like 10 to 20 years what that is gonna be like in the next 10 years, 15 years for them. So I think a little bit of grace is required for everyone, but also certain awareness of safety and what that means." She also revealed an incident where a stranger followed Malti home from school while recording her.

Priyanka also shared that she wants Malti to grow up feeling safe and able to trust people, while still having the freedom to decide how much of her life she wants to share with the public. Meanwhile, Priyanka was recently seen in The Bluff alongside Karl Urban. The movie is streaming on Prime Video. She will be next seen in SS Rajamouli's Varanasi with Mahesh Babu, which will mark her comeback to Indian movies. It will be released in April 2027.



Hina Khan Just Paired A Stunning Saree With A Bandhgala And It's Breathtaking



Whenever Hina Khan shows up at an event, she's guaranteed to turn heads. She proved it again at the Power Creators Award 2026, looking absolutely gorgeous in a unique Indian outfit. Her outfit, makeup, and accessories all came together perfectly, making the whole look totally stunning.

Hina Khan's Saree-Bandhgala Outfit Will Win You Over

Hina Khan chose a white saree with a delicate golden border. While the saree was simple, her orange bandhgala took the look to the next level, featuring intricate golden carvings throughout. She paired it with a multicoloured crystal choker that perfectly complemented the outfit.

Her hair was styled sleek and straight, while her makeup featured kohl-rimmed eyes, a matte finish, and a bold dark lipstick. All elements of Hina's look came together flawlessly. The actress later shared on her Instagram stories that her outfit and the stunning necklace were designed by Seema Singh.

In the paparazzi video, she was seen happily chatting with the photographers while posing for pictures at the event.

A Look At Some Of Hina Khan's Most Stunning Style Moments

Hina Khan is truly a diva, and her looks never fail to impress. A quick scroll through her Instagram feed is enough to see how effortlessly she pulls off almost every style. Whether it is a glamorous outfit or a simple traditional look, the internet always seems to admire her fashion sense.

On March 10, the actress shared a stunning Indian look where she was seen wearing an ivory anarkali suit that looked straight out of a period film. The golden detailing, paired with a gorgeous dupatta and statement jhumkas, created a look that was truly bookmark-worthy. While she often stuns in traditional outfits, her western fashion game is just as strong. On February 19, Hina opted for an all-red outfit featuring lace and sheer detailing, complete with a dramatic trail. She paired the look with bold lipstick and dewy makeup, once again looking absolutely flawless.

Be it western or traditional, Hina continues to prove she is a true-blue fashion icon. It is no surprise that fans eagerly wait for her appearances, because they know she is always going to slay.

Sona Mohapatra Criticises Badshah Over His Controversial Song Tateeree: 'You Can Challenge Misogyny...'



As he is facing a lot of backlash for his latest track titled "Tateeree", singer Sona Mohapatra too has taken a sharp dig at rapper Badshah, criticising what she described as the repeated use of misogynistic tropes in pop music and calling on artists to take greater responsibility for the cultural influence they wield. Without holding back, Sona wrote on Instagram that such content was "not the first time we've seen this template," referring to a pattern where a male performer "puffs up his chest, flexes masculinity, objectifies women and projects himself as some irresistible hero while women exist merely to drool around him."

She wrote: "Not the first time we've seen this template. A man puffing up his chest, flexing masculinity, objectifying women, and projecting himself as some irresistible hero while women exist merely to drool around him." She further mocked the lyrical swagger she believes dominates such songs, describing it as "tu mujhpe marti hai, mujhpe jaan chidakti hai" type of flights of rubbish swag," adding that it reflects the "laziest trope in pop culture" rather than genuine creativity.

Sona said that simply calling oneself a "son of Haryana" does not justify problematic portrayals. "And just calling yourself a 'son of Haryana' with a sad face doesn't cut it."

She pointed out that Haryana already struggles with serious gender issues, she added: Haryana already battles some of the country's worst gender ratios, violence against women and honour killings. Cultural influence carries responsibility?"

She shared: "Artists shape imagination. You can challenge misogyny or profit from it. BADSHAH & this lot, do better. & those of you fashion victim wannabes paying for this shit.. grow a brain or a soul?" The songstress went on to caption the post: "& now young girls in uniforms as props... Stop with this brain & soul rot. #India deserves better." Badshah was recently served a notice by the Haryana State Women's Commission, asking him to appear before them on March 13 to record his statement. The notice was issued after the complaint of Savita Arya, president of Nari Tu Narayani Sanstha, Panipat, and Shiv Kumar, head of Shiv Aarti Foundation.

Devoleena Bhattacharjee

On Taking Care Of Her Schizophrenic Mother At 11: 'No One Taught Me'

Actress Devoleena Bhattacharjee recently opened her heart out about the hardships she faced during her childhood, further revealing how she had to take on responsibilities at a very young age due to her mother's health issues. Speaking about her difficult times while growing up, the actress, on the podcast show with Rashami Desai, shared that when she was just 11 years old and the eldest one out of her three siblings, when she would often take her mother to the hospital by herself whenever she suffered from a schizophrenia attack.

With no one else around to guide her, Devoleena said she had to learn everything on her own.

Right from ensuring that her mother took her medicines on time to sometimes mixing medicines in food when her mother resisted taking them, the actress said she learnt it all at a very young age. Speaking about those difficult years, Devoleena shared how she had to unknowingly step into tough responsibilities at an age when most children are still dependent on their parents. "My mother used to feel that whenever she had an attack or she was sick, she had to be taken to the hospital. I was just 11 years old then," she said.

Talking about her mother's health struggles, the actress added, "If you look at my mother's journey, you will see what a single woman has done. My mother is not a normal lady, she has a lot of health issues, especially since my father passed away many years ago. "My mother takes at least 18-19 medicines a day. She has diabetes, she has BP, she has thyroid, and she is also a little schizophrenic." She elaborated, "Schizophrenia is like an illusion, they feel someone is talking to them. We cannot see

anyone, but they feel that someone is there and speaking to them."

Devoleena further revealed how she had to find ways to ensure her mother took her medicines even when she refused. "In the beginning, I had to mix the medicines in food because she would refuse to take them. No one taught me how to handle all this. When you don't have anyone, you grow up on your own. You become smart and mature on your own at a very young age," she said.

Despite the numerous challenges and a tough



childhood, Devoleena spoke with immense pride and love about her mother's strength.

She credited her mother for raising three children single-handedly after her father's demise. "If a mother does not save money or plan her investments, then raising three children is not a joke. We were very young when my father passed away. Luckily, my mother used to work. She built a house and owns three houses today. She raised three children, got us educated and graduated, and later saw us get married and settle in life," she said.



7 scrumptious

Veggie Sandwiches for Summer



weather.
Tea-time sandwiches with beets and arugula
 These bite-sized sandwiches with a healthy filling of beetroot, radish, avocado and arugula are perfect for teatime. They can satisfy those 5pm hunger pangs without ruining your appetite for dinner and are packed with nutrients unlike most other teatime snacks.

Cucumber sandwiches with mayo and cream cheese

These yummy sandwiches are super-easy to make--all you need are sliced cucumbers, mayonnaise, cheese spread and fluffy bread. Have them with your evening tea or pack them for a summer picnic.

Grilled spicy potato sandwich

This is a wonderful lunch-time sandwich made with the potato filling that usually goes into a masala dosa. Grill it and have it hot. Cool your palate with a chilled fruit juice on the side. It also makes a great breakfast... lip-smacking with a cup of tea.

Avocado and cottage cheese sandwich

This sandwich is an excellent go-to for a filling and nutritious meal. The unctuous texture of the avocado and the wholesome goodness of cottage cheese will give your dose of 'healthy

fats', while a dash of mint chutney will offset the smooth flavours with an assertive tang.

Grilled tofu and lettuce sandwich

This grilled tofu and lettuce (or spinach if you prefer) sandwich is a fantastic option for vegans. I marinate the tofu in mustard before grilling it and then stick it between regular whole-wheat sandwich bread. Easy peasy. I like to add some extra mustard and Tabasco sauce for that spicy punch.

Grilled mushroom sandwich with herbs

This hearty grilled sammie works great for breakfast, brunch, dinner and even a packed school lunch. The finely chopped mushrooms spiced up with green chillies and coriander leaves offer flavour in every bite.

Grilled vegetable sandwich with goat cheese

There are few food preparations that have the versatility or potential of a sandwich. Pack them with the right ingredients and a sandwich can work as a wholesome meal in itself, whether it's breakfast, a light lunch or even a quick weeknight dinner along with a salad on the side.

The great part about making a sandwich is that you can experiment with the fillings, the sauces and chutneys. You can use a variety of whole grain breads available in the market, which adds a flavour and taste.

Here are seven scrumptious vegetarian sandwiches (all eggless) that will definitely make your life easier in the summer months. I'd recommend serving them with a bowl of salad and a glass of fresh watermelon juice to make the perfect cooling meal for this

20 unbelievable facts about Indian food

Before it turned into an art that involved culinary expertise, food in India was about rasas and doshas. Taste or rasa in Sanskrit guides the tongue and it is a balance or misbalance of these rasas that cause or correct the dooshas in body. In short, whatever one eats is believed to be the cause and cure of all ailments. Thus, food has been as much an art as a science in our culture which revolves round a delightful culinary tradition. Here are some interesting facts about Indian food.

Indian food is said to be based on six kinds of tastes (rasas)- Sweet(madhura), Salty (lavana), Sour(amala), Pungent(katu), Bitter(tikta) and Astringent (kasya).

If you think there can be nothing more Indian than Gulab Jamun, you are in



for a shock. Deep fried balls of dough that were dipped in sugar syrup existed in the Mediterranean region by the name of Luqmat al Qadi, much before they came to India. Samosa too existed as sambosa in the Middle East much before 13th, 14th century when it came to India.

Daal Chawal/Daal Bhaat is actually said to have originated in Nepal.

Zalebi originated in Middle East and was called Zabiya (Arabic) or the zalibiya (Persian).

Coffee was not known to India before 16th century and was popularized by the British.

Chicken Tikka Masala, that dish that made Indian food famous the world over, was invented in Scotland.

India is the largest producer of spices in the world. It is the land of rice that grows unbelievable variants like white, red, brown, sticky and even black! Black rice is found only in India and China and is also known as forbidden or magic rice.

India is home to bhut jolokia, one of the hottest chillies in the world. Also called "ghost chilli", it is grown in North East states and is more than 400 times hotter than Tabasco sauce. Wikipedia lists nearly 200 types of Indian desserts!

Indoor kitchen was an important structure in the house planning of Indus Valley people 4000 years ago. The kitchen opened in the courtyard, had a brick hearth and a sink linked to a brick drain- almost like we have now!

Earliest evidence of what we may call as the outline of modern Indian food goes back to 3000 years ago, when we find evidences of charred gains and husk impressions in Lothal, Gujarat.

Tomato, Potato, sugar and chilli were introduced in India around 16th and 17th century.

Rajma originally belongs to Mexico and is a staple there. Naan is also said to have been brought to India by the Mughals and it has Persian roots.

Bengal is the hub of Bandel cheese production. It is an Indian variety of cheese which is said to have been inspired by Portuguese.

India has the lowest meat consumption in the world per person, which does not come as a shocker since 40% of the population is vegetarian.

Chilli is the most widely used spice in India. Even 'saffron' is not originally Indian as it was brought by Greek, Arab and Roman traders who introduced new tastes in the dishes in the middle ages.

Summer is here. The weather could be hot but the food that the season offers is definitely 'happening'. Namya Kapadia has a special summer menu

One dip in the swimming pool, shopping cool cottons, applying sunscreen, styling a new hairdo and not stepping out of home without those dark glares is what defines the arrival of summers in the city. While you pamper yourself with these summer must haves, it is equally essential to keep your body cool from within too. The summer special mantra is all about having lots of fruits and juices, low calorie food, looking out for lunch variations and bidding a mini farewell to spicy and oily food.

FRUIT FROLIC

It is a known fact that juices and drinks are best of the substitutes in summery days. Eating raw fruits with fibre, works wonders in keeping your body hydrated. So splurge on fresh fruit juices or a wholesome dish of freshly cut fruits like watermelon, sweet lime, strawberries, chickoos, and grapes topped with the fruit masala which will serve as a perfect 'fruit chaat'. Drink lots of watermelon juice after your workouts or dancing sessions and your skin is sure to look very fresh. Mangoes truly rule the summers. You can prepare anything with mangoes, from mango milkshakes, ice-creams and desserts to your meals. Nothing can match a summer noon lunch where you can relish the chilled aam ras and roti. If the heat catches and kills your appetite during the peak lunch hours, Kachhi Keri vegetable dish is the best. A popular dish called 'fajeto' is a curry made of unripe mangoes which is a scrumptious summer special. Pickles and 'chundo' made of mangoes are a hot pick of this season. Pickles, both sweet and spicy of lemon and mangoes, are a great complementary food with rotis and a big glass of butter milk.

THE GOOD OL' SALAD AND CURD

Raitas made of freshly churned curd, cucumber and boiled potatoes is an unmatched option. Having curd with fresh fruits is definitely going to keep you cool. Dahi boondi and mixed vegetable parathas with raita are also yummy options to relish the goodness of curd. The pasta mint salad which is freshly filled with black olives, pineapple and lettuce leaves is a sure hit. Salads are a great way to fill your stomach while keeping it light during working hours.

NO MOCKING MOCKTAILS

Mocktails of orange, lemon and mint will be the hot cake selling in the season. Having a hygienic glass of sugarcane juice under the shade of a huge banyan tree is an experience you cannot afford to miss out this summer. Iced tea with a pinch of lemon and mint is also a refreshing drink. The packaged fruit juices and cold drinks can be consumed to quench thirst. While

Must-have foods this Summer

corporate players will try to woo you for packaged juices, it must not replace fresh fruits in any case. Cold coffee with lots of ice cream, pina colodas, guava smoothie or fruit milkshakes in summers are sure to keep you going fresh and feel alive. At home you can simply have chilled milk with khus or rose syrups.

LUNCH VARIATIONS

A heavy lunch can spoil your day making you feel lousy at work. You can try variations of the regular lunch which could work best as summer meals. Try a chana chaat in which paneer, boiled potatoes, puri or khakhara are mixed with boiled chhole which you can saute with onion. Garnish it with chutneys of coriander leaves or ambli-khajur. Pune Misal is yet another favourite dish found on dining tables of most households. The sweet-salty taste of different pulses which are perfectly boiled and mixed with curd is a true summer treat. Altering your diet plans and food



habits is quintessential to keep the heat at bay. The best of hoteliers vary their menus to complement the summer taste buds of the customers. After all the foodie does not want to be stuffed in this heat, instead he prefers to have a gala time by sticking to lean food. In a nutshell, 'You are what you eat', this scorching summer. So be careful while gorging on but don't shy away from relishing the season's gifted foods. For now you may safely bid a goodbye to the spicy oily food and say cheers to a juicy, light and low calorie intake.