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Assam, Kerala, Puducherry to vote on April 9, Tamil Nadu on April 23, West Bengal on April 23 and 29

Madurai Airport Gets International Status, Tuticorin Now Thoothukudi Airport

The Sikh Times

New Delhi: Bypolls to five Assembly seats in Goa, Karnataka, Nagaland and Tripura will be held on April 9 and in another three constituencies of Gujarat and Maharashtra on April 23, Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar announced on Sunday. Addressing a press conference for announcement of poll schedule, Kumar said the counting of votes for bye-elections will be held on May 4 for all eight constituencies. The bypolls in all eight constituencies were necessitated due to death of sitting MLAs. The eight constituencies are: Ponda in Goa, Bagalkot and Davnagere South in Karnataka, Koridang in Nagaland, Dharmanagar in Tripura, Umreth in Gujarat, and Rahuri and Baramati in Maharashtra. Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar (C) with Election Commissioner Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Dr Vivek Joshi at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi on Sunday. Tribune photo: Manas Ranjan Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar on Sunday ducked questions on the Opposition's notice to move a motion in Parliament for his removal from the post.

At a press conference held to announce Assembly election schedules in four states and a Union Territory, Kumar did not answer questions on the Opposition notice. While the CEC can be removed only by Parliament, Election Commissioners can be removed through a recommendation by the CEC to the President. In a first, the Opposition has submitted



removal of CEC must be introduced in either House of Parliament and must be passed by a special majority — a majority of the total membership of the House and a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting.

notices in both the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha seeking to move a motion to remove Kumar from the post, alleging a partisan attitude. The Opposition parties accused the CEC of aiding the ruling BJP on several occasions, especially during the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, which they alleged was aimed at helping the saffron party at the Centre. The process for removing the CEC is similar to that for the removal of a Supreme Court or a high court judge, meaning an impeachment can be effected only on the ground of "proven misbehaviour or incapacity". Article 324(5) of the Constitution says the CEC shall not be removed from office except in like manner and on like grounds as a Supreme Court judge, and the conditions of service of the CEC shall not be varied to his disadvantage after his appointment. The motion for removal of CEC must be introduced in either House of Parliament and must be passed by a special majority — a majority of the total membership of the House and a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting.

Union Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu said the name change of Tuticorin Airport reflects the resolve of PM Modi to correct the colonial imprint.

Thoothukudi (Tamil Nadu).(Agency)

Union Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu formally renamed Tuticorin Airport as Thoothukudi Airport in Tamil Nadu, saying that the renaming corrects a colonial legacy and re-establishes the true strength of our culture, heritage, and languages. He also declared the Madurai airport an international airport. Speaking to reporters here, Naidu called it a historic day and said the name change of Tuticorin Airport reflects the resolve of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to correct the colonial imprint.

"Today is a historic day for Tuticorin Airport, where we have officially changed the name in all languages. This is a change that reflects the resolve of our Prime Minister and our nation, correcting what was once a colonial imprint. It re-establishes the true strength we have in our culture, our heritage, and our languages," Naidu said.

The Union Minister praised Tamil culture, history and language and said it is a collective responsibility to protect and promote the same. "We all feel proud of the pride and legacy carried by Tamil culture, Tamil history and the Tamil language. It is one of the oldest languages in the world and it is our collective responsibility to protect it, promote it, and respect it," Naidu said. Meanwhile, Naidu also visited Meenaksh Sundareswarar Temple in Madurai. Highlighting the cultural significance of the Meenakshi Sundareswarar Temple as a source of pride not just for Tamil Nadu, but for the entire nation, he announced that the NDA government, under the leadership of the Prime Minister has officially granted international airport status to the city's airport. Or March 10, the Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved the declaration of Madurai Airport as an International Airport, a move expected to enhance connectivity.



Rajnath Singh calls for enhanced public-private partnership to provide renewed thrust to India's sports economy

New Delhi: Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh called for enhanced public-private partnership in the sector to further elevate India's prestige on the international stage and provide a new direction to the nation's sports economy. According to the Ministry of Defence, he was addressing a gathering during the Final of the Aditya Birla Memorial Polo Cup in New Delhi. "The Government, through a series of initiatives, is fostering a sports culture within the country where athletes and youth have access to opportunities, resources & respect," said Rajnath Singh. Singh asserted that in the near future, India will carve out a strong global identity for itself in sports, especially Polo, if the government, the private sector, and various social groups work together. He stated that Polo is deeply rooted in the nation's sporting traditions, spanning thousands of years, and can rightfully be designated as a 'Heritage Sport' of India. He noted that the Indian Army has made a significant contribution towards bringing talented players into the sport of Polo and in preserving its rich heritage. "Working in collaboration with the Indian Polo Association, the Indian Army has played a pivotal role in keeping this legacy vibrant and relevant. I am confident that, working together, we will foster a positive culture for Polo as well as other sports in India. This will enable our young talent to come to the fore and bring glory to the nation," he said.

Adequate stock of fertilisers for kharif season, says Ashwini Vaishnaw

Sensing geopolitical uncertainties, govt advanced global urea tender, diversified sourcing of DAP and gas

New Delhi. (Agency) ANTICIPATING geopolitical uncertainty, the Central government Saturday said it had started preparing itself for the kharif season by procuring and advancing orders for fertiliser stocks from different geographies mid-February itself. This has ensured that "adequate" stocks of urea, diammonium phosphate (DAP) and NPK (nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium) fertilisers are available despite the supply disruption caused by the ongoing US and Israel war with Iran. Demand for fertilisers peaks in the middle of May, with farmers sowing seeds over the following two months. Sharing details of the current stock position, Information and Broadcasting Minister



Ashwini Vaishnaw told reporters that as on March 13 this year, 62 lakh tonnes of urea is available, which is 10 lakh tonnes higher than on the same

date last year. The DAP stocks are at 25 lakh tonnes, almost double last year's level, and NPK fertilisers at 56 lakh tonnes are the highest ever at 56 lakh tonnes compared with 31 lakh tonnes last year, he said. Briefing reporters, Vaishnaw said the government has a heat map comprising 652 major agri districts which is closely monitored for fertiliser availability. "If there is a shortage anywhere, it gets flagged in the heat map. Abnormal sales patterns are also red-flagged in this system," he said, adding that fertiliser stocks are expected to be comfortable before the peak kharif demand. In the 2025 kharif season, the government had pegged the requirement of urea at 185.39 lakh

tonnes, DAP 56.99 lakh tonnes, Muriate of Potassium (MOP) 11.13 lakh tonnes, and NPKS 76.11 lakh tonnes. Government officials said the requirement for the ensuing kharif season is estimated to be marginally higher than last year. "Usually the opening stock remains one-fourth of the total requirement but this year the opening stock is estimated to be about one-third of the requirement, which is a good sign," an official said. Vaishnaw said the government advanced its global tender for urea after it sensed global uncertainties and placed orders for 13.5 lakh tonnes middle-February, and 90 per cent of these are expected to arrive by March-end.

Government Must Ensure Adequate Supply of LPG Cylinders – Judicial Council

New Delhi: (News Varta) Judicial Council has written to the Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, and the Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas, Shri Hardeep Singh Puri, urging the Government to take immediate steps to ensure the uninterrupted and adequate supply of LPG (Liquefied Petroleum Gas) cylinders for the general public. In its letter, Judicial Council expressed serious concern over the increasing number of complaints received from citizens across different parts of the country regarding the shortage and delay in the supply of domestic LPG cylinders. Judicial Council Chairman Rajiv Agnihotri stated that LPG cylinders are an essential commodity used by millions of fami-

lies in India for daily cooking and other household needs. Any disruption in their supply causes significant inconvenience and hardship for ordinary households. Judicial Council also

mentioned that in recent weeks, consumers in several areas have complained about delays in the delivery of LPG cylinders even after booking them through official channels. In many cases, consumers are reportedly being forced to wait for several days and sometimes even weeks to receive their cylinders. According to Judicial Council, such delays create unnecessary difficulties for families that are completely dependent on LPG for cooking. The Judicial Council also expressed concern over the possibility of black marketing and illegal sale of LPG cylinders in certain areas. According to Judicial Council, whenever there is a shortage or irregularity in supply, some unscrupulous elements tend to take advantage of the situation by diverting domestic cylinders or attempting to sell them in the black market at inflated prices. Contd.....page-3



TVK Chief Appears Before CBI For 3rd Round Of Questioning In Karur Stampede

New Delhi. (Agency) Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) Chief and actor Vijay appeared before the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) for the third round of questioning in connection with the Karur stampede in which 41 people were killed. On September 27, 2025, during a political rally addressed by Vijay, who is making his poll debut in the Tamil Nadu Assembly election this year, a stampede broke out, killing 41 and leaving over 60 injured. Sources in the state government alleged a violation of safety norms at Vijay's rally.

The sources also alleged that Vijay arrived nearly seven hours late, and a crowd of 27,000 gathered at the venue with a capacity of 10,000. The sources have also said that the food and drinking water arrangements were not made at the venue. A month after the stampede, the CBI took over the investigation, as directed by the Supreme Court following a petition filed by the TVK for an independent probe. A source from the TVK had told "Our leader will cooperate with the stamped investigation. We hope this will bring out the truth."



Invest in Punjab, Govt will provide full support & incentives: CM Mann

SAS NAGAR (MOHALI), 15th March: Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann on Sunday assured industry leaders of full government support and incentives while addressing entrepreneurs on the concluding day of the three day Progressive Punjab Investors' Summit in SAS Nagar (Mohali). Highlighting the strong participation of global and national investors, the Chief Minister emphasised that the summit has created the right environment for industrial growth and will accelerate the state's economic progress. He announced that the government will hold a review session after six months to assess the progress of the investment proposals and projects finalised during the summit. Interacting with the business tycoons on the concluding day of the landmark Progressive Punjab Investors' Summit, CM Bhagwant Singh Mann stated, "Words are short to describe the dedication of those who have come here to attend this summit and become active partners in the economic progress of the state. Leading industrial tycoons from across the globe have converged at this historic and landmark summit. The best coaches are those who prepare their teams for every

sort of hostile environment and challenge, and the state government has worked on the same pattern." Emphasising the spirit of the people of the state, the Chief Minister continued, "Punjabis are always leaders and we can do anything for the country and its people as we give top priority to the nation. Artificial Intelligence (AI) is the new emergent field but the human brain is far more important than it, which is good for human resources development. It is heartening to see that businessmen are fast emerging as a key voice in policy making decisions." Referring to the deliberations held during the summit, he added, "Around 30 brainstorming sessions were conducted during the three days of the Progressive Punjab Investors' Summit, which will go a long way in accelerating the economic growth of the state. Besides putting the state on a high growth trajectory, this summit will also help in creating new job opportunities for youth. This is imperative for checking brain drain from the state and ushering in a new era

of progress and prosperity." CM Bhagwant Singh Mann stated that in a democracy the other political parties have changed ever since the advent of the Aam Aadmi Party AAP, which has brought the common man to the centre stage. Earlier the agenda for the wellbeing of the common man was nowhere and hatred and divisiveness ruled the roost. If political parties get votes in the name of caste, religion or other divisions, then why would anyone vote in the name of schools, education, health or anything else?" "Healthy competition is a must in a country and monopolistic tendencies should be discouraged by all means because monopoly is not in the interest of any society. The world is full of examples where people from humble backgrounds have conquered the world through their hard work and dedication. Students must take inspiration from such examples to prove their mettle across the globe, and the Punjab government will facilitate them in this noble cause," he asserted. Using the metaphor of a bouquet, the Chief Minister added, "A bouquet contains a variety of flowers and it fascinates people because of this diversity. Similarly, besides being the nation's food bowl, Punjab also has the distinction of being the sword arm of the country. Its peo-



ple are known across the world for their courage, resilience and spirit of enterprise. Every inch of this sacred land carries the footprints of great Gurus, saints, peers and martyrs who have shown us the path to oppose tyranny, injustice and oppression." Recalling the legacy of the state and its martyrs, he continued, "Punjab inherits a rich cultural legacy and is known across the world for its warm hospitality. The traits of Punjabis are recognised globally. Martyrs laid down their lives for the country and we are all indebted to them. It is unfortunate that there are several forces in this country who have plundered the wealth of the nation and have backstabbed the martyrs. These leaders are in a hurry to amass huge wealth through illegal means and they will not be forgiven by the countrymen." Referring to the governance challenges inherited by the AAP government, CM Bhagwant Singh Mann said, "We inherited a legacy of debt, complaints and poor governance from our predecessors, but we are working to revive the state. The discussions held here have come directly from the heart and are based on mutual trust and a shared zeal to make Punjab a front runner state in the industrial sector. Contd.....page-3

News box

Man in Gurgaon for work dies in hit & run on Delhi-Jaipur highway

Gurgaon.(Agency)

A 29-year-old man died after being hit by an unidentified vehicle on the Delhi-Jaipur highway near Rajiv Chowk on Thursday night, around 10.30pm. The victim, Vinod Kumar Das, from Samastipur district in Bihar, had come to the city in search of work. His phone went unreachable later in the night, after which his family members began searching for him. On Friday afternoon, police from Shivaji Nagar police station contacted the victim's family after finding a damaged mobile phone and a slip of paper containing a phone number in the man's pocket. The victim's brother-in-law, Tuntun Das, who works as a cook at a residence in DLF Phase-2, reached the police station and later identified the body at the mortuary in Gurgaon. Cops said they received information about the body from the government hospital in Sector 10 after the man was brought dead following the accident near Rajiv Chowk. Tuntun, in his complaint, stated that his sister called him early on Friday morning and said her husband did not return home from Gurgaon. An FIR was registered under Sections 281 (rash driving) and 106 (causing death due to negligence) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) against an unknown driver.

Owner faces FIR after dog attacks 13-year-old in Noida society

Gurgaon.(Agency)

A 13-year-old boy was bitten by a pet dog inside Lotus Welfare Society in Greater Noida, triggering protests by residents who raised concerns over safety inside the society. Police said the boy, Dhruv Veer, was playing inside the society premises around 9pm on Friday, when the dog allegedly attacked him and bit his leg. The child was taken to a nearby hospital for treatment. His father, Varun, accused the dog's owner of negligence and alleged the animal had been allowed to roam freely inside the complex. After the news of the incident spread, a large number of residents gathered inside the complex late at night to protest. Several residents expressed anger and raised concerns about the safety of children. Police from Surajpur station reached the spot after being alerted and dispersed the crowd. Officials said the dog's owner, Sachchidanand Nautiyal, a resident of Block 6 of the society, was taken to the police station for questioning. A case has been registered under Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita sections 291 (negligent conduct with respect to animal), 352 (intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of peace) and 351(3) (criminal intimidation). Police said the investigation was launched after a complaint was filed by the boy's father. Earlier this month, a man was arrested for allegedly threatening two women and instigating his pet dog to attack them. Complainant Manju, a resident of Basai village in Sector 70, told police that she was out buying milk with her neighbour Sumita near Pehalwan Market around 5am on Sunday when a man approached and began harassing them. She alleged that when they protested, the man set his pet dog loose to bite them, and the dog allegedly tore their clothes. The women managed to flee and eventually approached the cops the same day.

Teen stabbed to death after spat over wedding money, 5 held

Noida.(Agency)

A 17-year-old boy was stabbed to death after a dispute over money collected during a wedding ceremony in Jhundpura. The victim, Shyam, was allegedly attacked with a knife during an argument over the distribution of cash gathered at the event. He was taken to the district hospital, where doctors declared him dead. Police arrested five suspects and detained two juveniles. Shyam lived in Sector 11 with his family. His father works as a daily-wage labourer. On Thursday night, Shyam and his younger brother went to a wedding procession at a banquet hall in Jhundpura. Several local youths were also part of the group, including two juveniles and some others. The ones identified in the case are Asif alias Athi, Tausif, Sudama, and Sarfaraz. During the procession, money was being distributed as part of a traditional ritual, and the youths collected it. According to the police, a fight broke out later over how the money was shared. A few juveniles accused Shyam and his brother of keeping a bigger portion for themselves. The argument didn't stop even after the group started heading home, and soon turned violent. Asif allegedly attacked Shyam with a knife in a fit of rage. Shyam sustained multiple stab wounds, including injuries to his abdomen, and collapsed on the spot. He was rushed to the district hospital in a critical condition, where doctors declared him dead on arrival. Police reached the scene after receiving information and later sent the body for post-mortem examination. The body was handed over to the family on Friday.

GIMS expands AI startup clinic to Purvanchal

Noida.(Agency)

The Centre for Medical Innovation-GIMS Foundation at Government Institute of Medical Sciences, has signed an MoU with Mahayogi Gorakhnath University, Gorakhpur, and the Centres of Excellence at Maharana Pratap Institute of Technology to expand its AI Startup Clinic platform to the Purvanchal region. Tnn Under the collaboration, the GIMS AI Startup Clinic will extend its activities to Gorakhpur, creating a platform where clinicians, researchers, startups and technology developers can work together to address real-world healthcare challenges and develop new medical technologies. The partnership will combine clinical expertise from GIMS, academic leadership from MGUG and technology infrastructure from MPIT's Centres of Excellence. The AI infrastructure at MPIT, powered by NVIDIA GPUs, will support the training, validation and deployment of advanced healthcare AI models.

To curb LPG hoarding in Gurgaon, govt asks for daily stock reports

Gurgaon.(Agency)

District food supply controller (DFSC) department on Saturday asked gas distributors to submit daily reports on cylinder supply and delivery to check hoarding and black-marketing. At a meeting at the mini secretariat, food supply controller Ashok Kumar asked distributors to report the number of cylinders received from oil companies and the number delivered to consumers each day. The department has created a WhatsApp group for 58 gas distributors in the district. "Each distributor will submit the daily report in the group," Kumar said. "FIRs will be registered if distributors are caught selling cylinders illegally. Cylinders must be delivered strictly according to booking rules." Vice-president of LPG distributors association Shashi Kant Sharma said they are in touch with the authorities and are working overtime to supply LPG cylinders to people. "We urge people not to make panic bookings," he said, adding



that supply to domestic consumers was their priority. Haryana City Gas has also issued an advisory to piped natural gas (PNG) consumers, warning of possible supply restrictions and higher tariffs for excess consumption. Company market officer Parth Tyagi said the ongoing crisis in West Asia has affected natural gas availability from suppliers, which could trigger the force majeure clause in the Gas

Supply Agreement. A force majeure clause is a provision in a contract that relieves a party from fulfilling its obligations during extraordinary and uncontrollable events such as war, natural disasters, and pandemics. "Depending on the gas flow restrictions, PNG supply may have to be curtailed," Tyagi said. The company will bill consumers based on their six-month average consumption to

manage limited supply. Under the revised tariff structure, charges will be divided into three categories: Rs 90 per kg for consumption up to 80 standard cubic metres (SCM), Rs 140 per kg for 80 to 100 SCM and Rs 190 per kg for usage above 100 SCM. About 3 lakh SCM of gas is supplied daily to around 7000 consumers in the district, including hotels, restaurants and industries. Officials said the measures were aimed at ensuring fair distribution of LPG and managing PNG consumption during the ongoing gas supply constraints. Many migrant workers had been relying on cylinders bought in the black market for Rs 1,000 to Rs 1,200, against the govt rate of about Rs 900. Now, with the same cylinder selling for Rs 4,000 to Rs 5,000, it has simply gone beyond reach for many. "We cannot afford to pay that much for a cylinder, so we have started cooking on wood," said Rani, a domestic staffer in Sector 48.

Ensure councillor speaks, not husband, Haryana municipal corporations told

Gurgaon.(Agency)

After TOI reported a quiet shift in some of Haryana's municipal corporations, which have been pushing back against the long-entrenched practice of spouses speaking on behalf of elected women councillors, the state govt has now formally stepped in to reinforce the change. Haryana's urban local bodies (ULB) department has issued directions to all municipal corporations to bar representatives of elected women councillors from attending meetings of the House. The move follows growing concern that despite reservations guaranteeing seats for women in ULBs, many elected councillors are being sidelined in decision-making by husbands or relatives who attend meetings and speak on their behalf. Seven of the 11 mayors in Haryana are women. In its

recent communication, the department acknowledged that the practice persisted in some municipalities even though the govt repeatedly instructed otherwise. "It has also come to the notice that a lesser number of women representatives are participating in the meetings of the House of Municipalities and, in some instances, their representatives are participating in such meetings," the letter said. It added that House meetings are meant to be attended only by elected women members, and earlier govt instructions on the matter were not being "followed meticulously". "The representative of the elected women member may not be allowed to attend the meetings of the House of Municipalities," the directive said. The order effectively strengthened a shift that several municipal corporations already began enforcing. TOI

highlighted how the decades-old practice of "proxy participation" was being challenged by civic bodies across the state. Introduced not just in MCG but several other corporations after the new House was formed following Haryana civic elections last year, the move was intended to gag husbands who act as "super councillors" or "parshad patis" — freely taking part in discussions on the councillor's behalf and also replacing her in House meetings even though they have no legal standing. Officials said the new directive from the state govt will make enforcement easier. "We ensured it right from the beginning that the women councillors' representatives won't be allowed to speak in the meetings on their behalf. Now that the directions from the

Man kills mother as she tries to stop him from hitting coworker over Rs 1.2k dues

Ghaziabad.(Agency)

A 23-year-old man was arrested for allegedly killing his mother after she tried to stop him from attacking a coworker over Rs 1,200 in dues in Masuri's Bhudgarhi village. The accused, Anil Kumar, allegedly attacked his mother, Leela Devi, with an axe and later struck her with a stone in an inebriated state. Police said the accused initially tried to mislead them by blaming two neighbours, Dabhu and Jasveer. Kumar told police that he had a dispute with the two over unpaid dues on March 8 and claimed they had attacked his mother when she intervened. According to the statement he gave police earlier, he said Leela had rushed to the spot after learning about the dispute and was hit on the head with a brick during the altercation. She later returned home and went to sleep, but did not wake up the next morning. Family

members took her to a nearby hospital, where doctors declared her dead on arrival. During the investigation, however, officers found no evidence linking the neighbours to the incident and



noticed inconsistencies in Kumar's statement. He was detained and

questioned further, during which he told investigators that on March 8, his father and sister had travelled to Delhi. He admitted he had consumed alcohol and was angry over Rs 1,200 that a coworker owed him. According to police, Kumar picked up an axe intending to attack the coworker, but his mother intervened and tried to stop him. In a fit of anger, he allegedly struck her on the head with the axe and then hit her with a stone, leaving her unconscious. Investigators said the accused then locked the room from the outside and went to sleep in another room. The next morning, he realised his mother had died and tried to shift the blame onto his neighbours. During a forensic inspection, officers recovered the axe and a stone believed to have been used in the attack from beneath a wooden cot in the house. Police said Kumar has been arrested and his criminal history is



they are examining the speed of the car as part of the investigation. Chirag and Harsh suffered grievous injuries. Passersby alerted the police control room and rushed them to Artemis Hospital in Sector 51. Harsh died during treatment, while Chirag is battling grievous injuries. Teams from the SPR post and Badshapur police station, who were on night patrol, reached the spot after receiving information from an emergency response vehicle. "By the time we arrived, the damaged truck and car were at the scene, but the injured had already been taken to hospital," a police officer said. A forensic team also inspected the site. In his complaint, Chirag told police that the two had come to Gurgaon around 9.30pm on Friday to watch a film and were hit by the truck in its attempt to overtake. The truck diver fled after the crash, abandoning the vehicle at the spot. "Both vehicles have been impounded. The body was sent for an autopsy and then handed over to the family."

With bedsheets & papers, many spend night on footpath for refill

Noida.(Agency)

Late Friday night outside a gas agency in Sector 4, the pavement had turned into a waiting arena. Empty LPG cylinders stood in a line like place markers, while bedsheets and newspapers spread across the concrete served as makeshift bedding. Others simply leaned against their cylinders. Families, some with children, slept outside the agency overnight, hoping that when the delivery truck arrived in the morning, their place in the queue would secure a refill. "We heard cylinders were being given on a first-come, first-served basis," said Ajeet Singh, a resident of Harola who had camped outside the agency. "So I came at night hoping I could get one in the morning." By 10am on Saturday, long lines had stretched outside another gas agency in Harola. Sumit, a resident of JJ Colony in Sector 9, who stood waiting

under the sun with an empty cylinder, waved his booking booklet to show the date of his last refill. "My last cylinder was delivered on Feb 10," he said. "I booked another one on March 11." When no delivery arrived after several days, Sumit decided to join the queue. "I came here at 9 pm on Friday night," he said. "I waited until morning for the truck." Even after standing through the night until 7 am, he said, he was unable to get a cylinder. Across parts of Noida and Ghaziabad, queues outside gas agencies have grown longer over the last week as disruption in global LPG supply chains triggered by the war in West Asia has left gas agencies low on stocks. While officials maintain there is no shortage, for many households that depend on LPG cylinders for daily cooking, the wait has become part of a daily routine. Some residents say they have

been returning to gas agencies every day for more than a week without success. Jamuna (36) who lives in Barola, said she booked a refill well in advance but has yet to receive it. "For the last week, I have been coming to the gas agency every day," she said. "They told me the cylinder would be delivered to my home, but for the last three days I have not seen a single delivery vehicle." With no cooking gas left, her family has been eating puffed rice, jaggery and fruits. "There is no way to cook." The growing crowds have prompted the administration to deploy PAC personnel at a few gas agencies. Smriti Gautam, the district supply officer in Noida, said local police had been asked to assist agencies wherever necessary to manage queues and maintain order. Officials have also stepped up inspections to prevent hoarding or black marketing of LPG

cylinders. During a surprise raid on Saturday, supply department officials seized six LPG cylinders from a stove shop in Ghaziabad. Acting on a tip-off, a team led by SDM Arun Kumar Dixit and district supply officer Amit Kumar Tiwari inspected a shop called Sattar Stove in the Maliwara area. Officials said they found three domestic cylinders of 14.2 kg each and three smaller, unauthorised cylinders of 3 kg at the shop. Four of the cylinders were filled, while two were empty. "The cylinders were seized and the shop owner was questioned," Tiwari said. The shop owner, identified as Sadab, denied hoarding and told officials the cylinders were kept for demonstration purposes to show customers how stoves worked. Authorities said the explanation was being examined and further.

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Invest in Punjab, Govt will provide full support & incentives: CM Mann

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The earlier practice of forceful Memorandums of Understanding MoUs through arm twisting of industrialists has now ended and the focus is on ensuring massive industrialisation in the state." Highlighting participation by investors, he added, "Those who have participated in this summit have come on their own to become partners in the socio economic growth of the state. This will propel progress and prosperity in Punjab and create new job opportunities for the youth, while also giving a boost to industry. Our government is committed to making Punjab a vibrant, progressive and prosperous state." Emphasising the government's focus on employment and industry, the Chief Minister stated that this task will soon be accomplished with the active support and cooperation of the industry. From the very first day my motive has been to create more and more jobs for the youth so that they can be weaned away from the drug menace by channelling their energy in a positive direction. I urge industrialists to act as messengers of the state and convey the key

features of Punjab such as ease of doing business and the most conducive business environment to their colleagues in other states. Our motive is to ensure maximum investment in the state and make Punjab the industrial hub of the country. Appreciating the organisers and participants, he added, "I congratulate Invest Punjab for successfully organising this event. The officers who worked tirelessly on the ground to make this event a huge success deserve great appreciation. I also express my gratitude to the captains of industry who have come here in large numbers to invest in the state. Punjab offers one of the most conducive environments for industrial growth. The state is a hub of the manufacturing sector and leads the country in sectors such as pharmaceuticals, Information Technology IT and others." Highlighting the entrepreneurial spirit of the people of the state, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann said, "Punjabis are born to be number one because hard work and dedication run in their blood. Due to this spirit Punjabis have always excelled in every sphere and entrepreneurs from the

state have carved a niche for themselves across the globe. The day is not far when Punjab will be on a high growth trajectory of industrial development." Thanking industry leaders for their participation, he stated, "I thank the business tycoons for being part of the growth story of the state. Our government is committed to realising the vision of transforming Punjab into a major industrial and export hub in the world. We want holistic economic and financial success for Punjab. I firmly believe that the key pillars of our growth are good governance, digitisation, decisiveness, transparency and sensitivity. Combined with our rich heritage, tradition and culture, these strengths create a conducive environment for people from across the globe to grow here exponentially. Punjab takes pride in playing a crucial role in India's contribution towards strengthening the global value and supply chain through its manufacturing and infrastructure." On the occasion, Cabinet Ministers Sanjeev Arora, Harbhajan Singh ETO and Barinder Goyal, along with Chief Secretary KAP Sinha and others, also addressed the gathering.

Government Must Ensure Adequate Supply of LPG Cylinders - Judicial Council

Contd.....Front page

This not only violates the law but also harms the interests of genuine consumers. In its communication to the Government, the Judicial Council urged that strict monitoring of the LPG distribution system should be ensured and that adequate stock should be maintained at the local level. The Council suggested that the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas and the concerned oil marketing companies should strengthen the supervision and inspection of distributors and dealers in order to prevent hoarding, diversion and other irregularities. The Council further demanded that strict action should be taken against any distributor, dealer or individual found involved in black marketing or illegal activities related to LPG cylinders. According to the Council, if any distributor or dealer is found violating government regulations related to LPG supply and distribution, their license should be suspended or cancelled with immediate effect.

Judicial Council Chairman Agnihotri also suggested that regular inspections and monitoring of LPG distribution centres should be ensured so that transparency and accountability are maintained throughout the system. According to the Council, periodic monitoring by authorities can help prevent artificial shortages and ensure that LPG cylinders reach genuine consumers without unnecessary delay. Judicial Council also emphasized the need to strengthen the consumer grievance redressal system so that people can easily register complaints related to delayed delivery, overcharging or suspected black marketing. Such a system would help authorities take prompt action and ensure better service for consumers.

Former MLA among 5 booked in fraud case

New Delhi: The Faridabad police registered a case against five people, including former MLA Chander Bhatia and the then Tehsildar Badkhal, in the case of allegedly getting two registrations done for a house located in NIT-1 and committing fraud. An FIR was registered at the Kotwali police station on the recommendation of the police's economic offence wing (EWO). According to the complaint filed by Rohit Arora, a resident of Sector 16 and working in the Air Force alleged that in June 2024, Satbir Bhadana and Lokesh Kumar, through Manoj Satija, showed him a house in H Block in NIT 1. The deal was finalised for Rs 50 lakh, with Kajal Verma as the owner. On June 6, 2024, Rs 10 lakh in cash and a cheque of Rs 5 lakh were paid as earnest money. The property was subsequently registered in his name on June 13, 2024. The complainant claims that Rs 10 lakh in cash and Rs 25 lakh in cheque were paid at the time of registration. He alleged that despite this, the accused executed a second registry of the same house in the name of Sonam Talwar on November 20, 2024. The complainant named Kajal Verma, Lokesh Kumar, Satbir Bhadana, the then tehsildar of Badkhal, and former MLA Chander Bhatia as accused in this case.

Drugs dept seizes insulin stocks worth Rs 20L

The Sikh Times
New Delhi: The Delhi Drugs Control Department has seized insulin stocks worth Rs 20.06 lakh during a special enforcement drive at a wholesale drug market here. The drive was carried out on the directions of Delhi Health and Family Welfare Minister

Pankaj Kumar Singh. The inspection was conducted to ensure the availability of safe, effective and quality medicines to the public, particularly insulin, which requires strict cold chain maintenance. During the drive, officials inspected six wholesale drug firms. Of this, four

visions of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and the Drugs Rules, 1945. A huge quantity of insulin products, including Tresiba FlexTouch



100U/ml Pen, Glaritus 100U/ml Cartridges, Humalog Mix50 KwikPen 100U/ml, Apidra SoloStar 100U/ml and Toujeo SoloStar 300U/ml was found to have defaced inscriptions indicating they were meant for government or institutional supply. According to the department, the firms also failed to produce valid purchase records for the stock. In addition, two firms were found storing insulin at room temperature instead of maintaining the required cold chain conditions mandating

ed for such life-saving medicines. Delhi Health Minister Pankaj Kumar Singh said, "Ensuring the availability of safe and effective medicines for cit-

izens is our foremost priority. Under the leadership of Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, the Delhi Government is committed to maintaining strict regulatory oversight on drug storage and distribution. Any violation involving life-saving medicines like insulin will invite strict action under the law." Following the inspection, two firms have been booked under relevant provisions of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940

15 years on, man held from Gujarat for murdering wife

New Delhi: The Delhi Police claimed to have solved a 15-year-old murder case with the arrest of a man, who killed his wife in a fit of rage over domestic fights in Northwest Delhi's Jahangirpuri, they said on Friday. The accused, Narottam Prasad, was arrested from Chhota Udaipur area in Vadodra, Gujarat, where he was working as a manager at a cotton factory by hiding his identity. He killed his wife and wrote a fake suicide note to make it appear as a suicide. The case dates back to May 31, 2010, when the police received information about a foul smell from a house in Delhi's Jahangirpuri. When the police broke open the door, they found the decomposed body of a 25-year-old woman lying on the floor. They also recovered a suicide note from the crime scene. As the investigation began, the police laid their suspicion on Prasad (victim's husband), who was on the run. The police later declared him a proclaimed offender and announced a reward of Rs 10,000 for his arrest. Following a tip-off regarding his whereabouts and using technical surveillance, the police arrest him. Prasad is a resident of Sikar in Rajasthan. During interrogation, he revealed that quarrels between him and his wife escalated shortly after their marriage. In a fit of rage, Prasad murdered his wife and wrote a fake suicide note to mislead the police.

Woman's headless body: Cops yet to make any breakthrough

New Delhi: A day after a headless body of a woman with severed palms was found in a drain near the Sector 82 Cut in Noida, the police on Friday intensified their search to identify the deceased. They are also resorting to forensic examination and scanning CCTV footages to get lead in the case. Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police (ADCP) Sumit Shukla said three teams had been formed to identify the woman. They were awaiting the post-mortem report to determine the exact cause of death. Another official said it seems the woman was murdered around 24-30 hours ago and her body was dumped in the drain. The official said her palms might have been severed to hide her identification mark such as tattoos. However, the motive behind beheading her could only be established after a thorough investigation. A passer-by contacted the emergency helpline after spotting the body in an eight-foot-deep drain in a remote location near a high-rise residential building and Sector 108 park. As per the preliminary investigation, the woman appears to be around 30 years old and is married. Data from nearby police stations regarding missing complaints is being analysed and her photographs have also been circulated to get any clue about her identity, the police official added. The official said all possible angles, including personal enmity, sexual assault, illicit affair, honor killing, were being examined. However, the exact motive could only be ascertained after the completion of investigation.

Massive fire breaks out in Delhi slum near Rithala metro station; 1 dead

New Delhi: Police personnel and others gather as firemen try to douse a fire breaking out in a cluster of huts near Rithala metro station at Rohini area in New Delhi early Saturday. A man died and another sustained burn injuries after a massive fire broke out spreading to around 500 shanties near Rithala metro station in Delhi's Rohini, the Delhi Fire Services (DFS) said. Police said several LPG cylinders were said to have exploded late Friday evening, intensifying the blaze and triggering panic among residents. Thick plumes of smoke were seen rising from the area even as locals scrambled to save their belongings and move to safer places. Preliminary information suggests that 400 to 500 huts have been gutted, fire officials said. The DFS said it received a call regarding the blaze at 10.56 pm, following which multiple fire tenders and firefighting robots were rushed to the spot. Police cordoned off the area and additional fire tenders were kept on standby to prevent the fire from spreading further. The fire was brought under control by early morning, a DFS official said. Munna died in the fire while Rajesh was injured in the incident.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

NAME CHANGE
I, NEETAS DEVI Wife of No-320484W Rank-HAV Name-DHARMENDRA SINGH R/O VILL-BIGUNDA, PO-MURSA, DIST-TATHARAS, U.P. 204213 has changed my name from NEETAS DEVI to NITESH DEVI for all future purposes vide Affidavit Dated 30/09/2023 before Notary Public, Delhi.

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

Delhi Police nab mastermind in Haryana mahant murder case

New Delhi: In a high-stakes, intelligence-driven operation, a Wazirpur Industrial Area (WPIA) police post team of the Delhi Police apprehended two armed criminals, including the alleged mastermind behind a sensational mahant murder case in Haryana, before they could execute a planned armed robbery. The arrested accused, Surrender, 24, from Behni Mato village, Rohtak, Haryana, is wanted in connection with FIR No. 513/25 at PS Sadar Bhiwani, Haryana. His accomplice, 22-year-old Chirag Panchal from Kheda Kalan village, Delhi, reportedly had no prior criminal record and was involved for quick financial gain. Cops said the motive behind the original murder in

Haryana was to seize control of the mahant's gaddi, the spiritual and administrative seat of a dera situated on around 8 acres of the panchayat land in Nangal, Bhiwani. Acting on intelligence from the "Eyes and Ears" network, HC Pawan alerted SI Rohit, and a coordinated interception was carried out near Prembari Pul. The team, including Sumit and Naurat, successfully intercepted the suspects before they could target a businessman in the industrial area. The operation was supervised by inspector Pramod Kumar, SHO PS Ashok Vihar, and ACP Akash Rawat. The police seized a country-made pistol, two spring-actuated knives, a toy pistol, a pack-

et of red pepper powder and a sports bike from the accused. The authorities said the weapons and materials indicated a "calculated preparation and dangerous intent" to commit a violent crime. A case has been registered under FIR No. 69/26 under Section 25 of the Arms Act at PS Ashok Vihar, and further investigations are on.

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

NAME CHANGE
I, Sanare Amrut Narayan father of No.4580889H Rank-Hav Name Sanare Ravindra Amrut residing at Vill. Deolali Pravara, Tehsil - Rahuri, District. Ahilyanagar, Maharashtra - 413716 have changed my name from Sanare Amrut Narayan to Amrut Narayan Sansare vide affidavit dated 15/07/2025 executed before Notary Public, Delhi.

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

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

NAME CHANGE
I, SANTOSH KUMAR S/O VISHVA NATH PRASAD residing at PLOT NO-58859, FLAT NO-2, STREET NO-5, HAVENS GARDEN MATIALA, DELHI-110059 have changed my name to SANTOSH KUMAR GUPTA for all future purposes

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

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

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

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

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

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

NAME CHANGE
I, SH ANITA W/O Name-14838283N Rank-HAV/MT Name-RAMESH P R/O VILL-SEDRAMPUTTU, PO-SEDRAMPUTTU, TEH-POLUR, DIST-THIRUVANNAMALAI, TAMIL NADU-632315, have changed my name from S VANITHA to VANITHA R for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 15/07/2025 before Notary Public, Kuppara.

NAME CHANGE
I, SH AUTAR SINGH FATHER of JC-413677X Rank-SUB MAJ Name-BHAGAT SINGH presently residing at VILL-BILTITHA SUKOLI TALUK, PO-DHAUNTYAL, DIST-PALUR GARHWAL, UTTARAKHAND, NADU-21655 have changed my name from SH AUTAR SINGH to AVTAR SINGH for all future purposes vide affidavit dated 12/03/2024 before Notary Public, Delhi.

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

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

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

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

NAME CHANGE
I, TAJINDER KAUR W/O JASPREET SINGH BAWEJA R/O 5243 Ramjas Road Karol Bagh Delhi -110005 Have Changed My Name To Tajinder Kaur Baweja For All Purpose.

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

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

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

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

NEWS BOX

From Pagers To Walkie-Talkies: Russians Seek Offline Ways To Communicate Amid Internet Blackout

World. (Agency)

Russian residents in major cities like Moscow and St. Petersburg have been forced to use walkie-talkies, pagers, and paper maps to communicate with each other. These "old school" communication and navigation methods are being used as workarounds for widespread, prolonged mobile internet blackouts across the country. Notably, mobile internet has been disrupted in Moscow and other regions for over a week. Authorities have implemented a "whitelist" system that restricts internet access to only government-approved websites and state-backed apps like "Max." Even on whitelisted services, taxi apps, geolocation/mapping services, and mobile payment systems have frequently failed to load or function. The Kremlin has attributed these shutdowns to "security measures" intended to thwart Ukrainian drone attacks, which they claim rely on cellular networks for navigation.

Sources in the telecom industry told business daily Kommersant that operators had been instructed by authorities to restrict mobile internet access, according to The Telegraph. Putin's spokesman Dmitry Peskov said the outage was to ensure "security." "All of the disconnections and communications restrictions are taking place in strict accordance with current legislation," Peskov said on Telegram on Tuesday. Surge in Demand for Low-Tech Solutions According to Russia's biggest retailer, Wildberries, sales of walkie-talkies have risen by about 27 percent, while pager purchases have surged by nearly 73 percent. As GPS services become unreliable, sales of road maps and printed travel guides have reportedly tripled, increasing by as much as 170 percent. Purchases of handheld radio devices have also climbed by around 27 percent, as they allow direct communication without relying on cellular networks. Sales of traditional wired telephones have also increased by roughly 25 percent.

Whitelist
Meanwhile, residents without internet access have been provided with a "whitelist" of state-approved websites and apps.

The list reportedly includes government platforms, Russian-owned social networks VKontakte and Odnoklassniki, the state-run MAX messenger, and several state media outlets.

Is New Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei "Disfigured" In Strikes What Iran Said

World. (Agency)

Iran's foreign minister Abbas Araghchi on Saturday said that there was "no problem" with the Islamic Republic's new supreme leader, Mojtaba Khamenei, as US President Donald Trump questioned whether he is alive. Khamenei, 56, has not been seen in public since the airstrike that killed his father and former supreme leader, Ali Khamenei, and other key family members. Iranian officials have previously confirmed reports that he is injured but have given no further detail.

"There is no problem with the new supreme leader. He sent his message yesterday, and he will perform his duties," Araghchi told a news channel. Trump on Saturday said he doesn't know if Iran's new supreme leader is alive. "I don't know if he's even alive. So far, nobody's been able to show him," Trump told NBC News. "I'm hearing he's not alive, and if he is, he should do something very smart for his country, and that's surrender," he added, but called the news of his death "a rumour." Trump on Thursday had said that he thinks Khamenei is alive but "damaged".

"I think he probably is (alive). I think he is damaged, but I think he's probably alive in some form, you know," he told Fox News. A day later, his Secretary of Defense, Pete Hegseth, said he believed Khamenei "is wounded and likely disfigured".

"We know the new so-called, not-so-supreme leader is wounded and likely disfigured," he told a press conference. Mojtaba Khamenei's First Statement
Mojtaba Khamenei on Thursday issued his first statement after becoming the new supreme leader and vowed to avenge the deaths since the start of the war with the US and Israel.

Queen Camilla Told Friend Harry Was "Brainwashed" By Meghan. He Responds

World. (Agency)

A new biography about Prince Harry which says Queen Camilla had allegedly remarked he had been brainwashed by his wife Meghan was described by his spokesperson on Saturday as a "deranged conspiracy". Harry and Meghan have been estranged from the British royal family since stepping away from official duties in 2020 and moving to California, but continue to attract huge interest both in Britain and abroad. In extracts from his new book published in the Times newspaper, author Tom Bower, who has written a number of biographies about the royals, said the couple began feuding with the other royals shortly after their glittering 2018 wedding.

The couple, the Duke and Duchess of Sussex, are now barely on speaking terms with the other royals and Harry has rarely seen his father King Charles in recent years. Bower wrote that Harry's elder brother William and his wife Kate were alarmed by Meghan's impact on him and regarded her as a threat. "Meghan's brainwashed Harry," Camilla, the prince's stepmother, told a friend, according to the author.

Millions in Vietnam to vote for a new legislature in general election

Voter turnout in Vietnam's elections is typically high, often exceeding 90%, with polling stations set up in cities, rural communities and remote regions to encourage participation.

HANOI. (Agency)

Voters in Vietnam cast their ballots to select a new National Assembly on Sunday, two months after the ruling Communist Party reelected leader To Lam to the country's top political post. Nearly 79 million voters across the country are eligible to pick 500 representatives from 864 candidates to the rubber-stamp National Assembly. All candidates are vetted and pre-approved by the Communist Party, ensuring the

assembly remains aligned with the party's political direction.

The Communist Party tightly controls political activity, arguing that centralized leadership allows the country to pursue long-term development goals without disruptions. The new National Assembly is expected to implement the policy agenda shaped at the congress, prioritizing sustained economic growth and political stability. The election follows the Communist Party's national congress in January, a political event held every five years that sets the country's leadership lineup and policy priorities. At the congress, Lam was reelected as general secretary, the most powerful position in the political system. We have the people's support in this election," Lam said after casting his ballot in Hanoi, describing the vote as a national celebration where citizens choose representatives to guide development and safeguard the country's sovereignty and stability.

Vietnam's economy has expanded rapidly

over the past decade, driven by manufacturing exports, foreign investment and its growing role in global supply chains. The country has positioned itself as an alternative production hub as companies



diversify away from China, attracting major electronics and textile manufacturers. It has now set an ambitious target of 10% or higher annual economic growth over the next five years, placing the private sector at the center of its development strategy in a notable shift for the communist state. Policymakers are now recalibrating the country's economy to push it toward higher-value industries,

modernized production and wider use of science, technology and digital tools. Vietnam's leadership also faces challenges as the country's export-driven economy grapples with uncertainty from rising trade tensions, including tariffs introduced by U.S. President Donald Trump.

Voter turnout in Vietnam's elections is typically high, often exceeding 90%, with polling stations set up in cities, rural communities and remote regions to encourage participation.

"As a voter in this election, I believe I will be able to choose candidates with morals, dedication and competence to serve the country, bringing development and prosperity to our country and our people," said retired official Doan Thi Bich.

The incoming National Assembly is expected to convene its first meeting in April to formally approve key government appointments and begin implementing the policy roadmap laid out at the party congress.

Loud Blasts In Dubai, Kuwait Airport Hit In Fresh Iranian Strikes

WASHINGTON. (Agency)

Loud sounds were heard in Dubai's Marina and Al Sufouh areas, while operations at UAE's Fujairah oil terminal came to a halt after Iranian strikes on Sunday as the Middle East war entered the 16th day. Further, several drones struck Kuwait's international airport, but no injuries were reported. Clouds of dark black smoke rose from Fujairah, as authorities battling the fire for hours at a stretch, adding that a Jordanian national had been injured. Sunday's attacks came after tensions rose further as the US struck Iran's critical Kharg island, which processes 90 per cent of the country's oil. Trump said they had "obliterated every MILITARY target" while sparing energy facilities on the island in the Persian gulf. Iran has fired over 1,800 missiles and drones at the United Arab Emirates (UAE), more than any other country targeted by Tehran in the conflict. This includes 1,600 drones, 294 ballistic missiles and 15 cruise missiles, with the attacks

having killed six people and wounded 141 others. On Saturday alone, nine ballistic missiles and 33 drones were fired towards UAE.

This has left the country scrambling to preserve its safe haven image as the police warned against "sharing rumours" but also "photographing or sharing security or critical sites". UAE has detained 10 foreigners who allegedly posted footage on social media of missile and drone attacks. Further, Gulf's energy sites from Kuwait to Oman, including the massive Ras Tanura refinery in Saudi Arabia, the Ras Laffan gas processing base in Qatar and the complex housing the UAE's Ruwais refinery, were also methodically targeted. As of Saturday, Iran issued its first threat to the UAE since the start of the war on February 28, urging people to evacuate three major ports it called "legitimate targets" as the US used them for attacks. In Israel, loud booms were held in Tel Aviv as Iran launched a barrage of missiles. Explosions rang out over

Bahrain's capital of Manama, with the country saying it has intercepted 125 missiles and 203 drones since the start of Iran's attacks. Six people have been arrested so far for posting videos of the aftermath of Iranian strikes. Amid the barrage, Formula One races in Bahrain and Saudi Arabia in April were cancelled. Saudi Arabia's Al-Kharj base, where US forces are stationed, also came under a missile attack. Jordan's military said it had intercepted 79 of 85 missiles and drones launched by Iran at the kingdom. As Iran shows no signs of relenting and the US and Israel continue attacks attempted at diluting Tehran's self-imposed blockade of the critical oil shipping route Strait of Hormuz, President Donald Trump urged countries such as China, France, Japan, South Korea and Britain to send warships to help secure the waterway. "The Countries of the World that receive Oil through the Hormuz Strait must take care of that passage, and we will help -- A LOT!" Trump said on social media.

"If He's Alive...": Iran Vows To "Pursue, Kill" Netanyahu Amid Death Rumours

New York/San Francisco. (Agency)

Iran on Sunday vowed to "pursue and kill" Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu as it continued strikes on Israel on the 16th day of the war in the Middle East. "If this child-killing criminal is alive, we will continue to pursue and kill him with full force," the Iran's Revolutionary Guards said in a statement amid social media posts raising questions about the whereabouts of Netanyahu, who has reportedly not been seen in public for a few days. Several users have flagged concerns over his March 12 video, which made it seem like he had six fingers on one of his hands, raising suspicion of it being edited using artificial intelligence. In the video, 76-year-old Netanyahu was addressing his first news conference since the US and



Israeli airstrikes on Iran started on February 28. He had issued a veiled threat to kill new Iranian Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei and defended the Israeli military's operations. "I will not detail the actions we are taking. We are creating the optimal conditions for toppling the regime but I won't deny that I can't tell you with all certainty that the people of Iran will topple the regime - a regime is toppled from the inside," Netanyahu said in Hebrew. American conservative political commentator Candace Owens was among those who asked, "Where's Bibi?", referring to Netanyahu by his nickname. "Why is his office releasing and deleting fake AI videos from him and why is there mass panic at the White House?" she posted on X on Saturday. Netanyahu's Office Debunks Reports Of His Death

Benjamin Netanyahu's office denied reports of his death and said he is "fine". "These are fake news; the Prime Minister is fine," his office told Turkey's Anadolu Agency when asked if they had a statement on the increasing claims on social media that "Netanyahu has been assassinated". Netanyahu's office or his aides, however, have so far not issued any official statement. Some users have also said that his son, Yair Netanyahu, has been "missing" from social media. Yair, who has about 284,000 followers on X and has been very active, has not posted anything since March 9.

US Could Release Photos, Videos Of "Non-Human Craft" In Trump's UFO File Release: Report

WASHINGTON. (Agency)

A former US defense intelligence official has claimed that the federal government possesses extensive evidence related to unidentified flying objects (UFOs), including satellite images of mysterious craft that appear unlike anything built by humans.

Christopher Mellon, who served during the administrations of Bill Clinton and George W. Bush, said the government holds a large collection of documents, photos, and videos related to the phenomenon. According to him, some of the most striking evidence includes clear satellite images showing unidentified craft in space above Earth displaying movements that are difficult to explain. "We have satellite imagery of craft that sure don't look like anything that we have built or constructed," Mellon said. The comments come after Donald Trump ordered the release of files related to

aliens, UFOs, and other information connected to the subject. The announcement reportedly prompted agencies such as the Pentagon and the



White House to begin preparing documents, though officials have not yet confirmed what will be released or when. "Based on the tremendous interest shown, I will be directing the Secretary of War and other relevant departments and agencies to begin the process of identifying and releasing government files related to alien and

extraterrestrial life, unidentified aerial phenomena (UAP), and unidentified flying objects (UFOs), and any and all other information connected to these highly complex, but extremely interesting and important, matters," Trump wrote on Truth Social. Mellon said the government now prefers using the term "Unidentified Aerial Phenomena" (UAP) instead of UFO. He previously helped facilitate the release of three well-known US military videos showing unidentified objects -- Tic Tac, GOFAT and Gimbal, and believes many more similar recordings exist in government archives. There's a significant number of videos from the same sources that were judged unclassified in 2018, gun cameras on F18s, and [Forward Looking Infrared Radar] videos that have been withheld from the public. I know there are because I've seen some of them.

"Died Doing What She Loved": Captain Among 6 US Soldiers Killed In Iraq Crash

World. (Agency)

The US has released the identities of six crew members killed during the crash of a refuelling aircraft in Iraq this week. The Pentagon said the six members killed in the accident on Thursday were: John "Alex" Klinner, 33, of Auburn, Alabama; Ariana Savino, 31, of Covington, Washington; Ashley Pruitt, 34, of Bardstown, Kentucky; Seth Koval, 38, of Mooresville, Indiana; Curtis Angst, 30, of Wilmington, Ohio; and Tyler Simmons, 28, of Columbus, Ohio.

They died when a KC-135 aerial refuelling aircraft crashed in western Iraq, with the US officials saying that "the loss of the aircraft was not due to hostile fire or friendly fire."

While Klinner, Savino and Pruitt were members of the US Air Force, Koval, Angst and Simmons were stationed with the US Air National Guard.

Ariana G Savino
Captain Ariana G Savino was the Chief of Current Operations Pilot at the 99th Air Refuelling Squadron at Birmingham, Alabama.

She was responsible for the unit's \$21 million flying hour program. Savino was a "great human, a future senior leader, a mentor to Latina youth and current Air Force superstar" who died "doing what she loved", her friend, Ernesto Nisperos, said in a Facebook post. She was one of those people who lit up every room she walked into. That smile of hers wasn't just infectious, it was disarming. She brought energy, grit, and a ruthless commitment to making everyone around her better," Nisperos said.

John "Alex" Klinner

John "Alex" Klinner was a pilot who had just been promoted to major in January. He had been deployed less than a week before the refuelling aircraft crashed.

He left behind three small children: 7-month-old twins and a 2-year-old son, his brother-



in-law James Harrill said Saturday. "It's kind of heartbreaking to say: He was just a really good dad and really loved his family a lot - like a lot," Harrill said.

He said Klinner was "literally one of the most kindest, giving people". A graduate of Auburn University and an eight-year US

Air Force veteran from Birmingham, Klinner had just moved with his family into a new home, his wife, Libby Klinner, said in an Instagram post mourning his death.

She said that her heart is broken for their children, who will grow up not knowing their father. "They won't get to see firsthand the way he would jump up to help in any way he could," she wrote. "They won't see how goofy and funny he was. They won't witness his selflessness, the way he

thought about everyone else before himself. They won't get to feel the deep love he had for them," she added. Ashley Pruitt
Technical Sergeant Ashley Pruitt was an assistant flight chief of operations and KC-135 instructor boom operator at the 99th Air Refuelling Squadron.

NEWS BOX

RTE improves access to schools, but performance gap persists: TISS study

Mumbai. (Agency)

A decade and a half after the Right to Education (RTE) Act was implemented, the world's largest schooling system is facing a learning crisis that threatens to undermine the massive gains in student enrolment. While the country successfully brought nearly 260 million children into classrooms, a recent paper from the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), published in Education Policy Analysis Archives, points to a significant performance gap, with over 70% of students performing at basic or below-basic levels. The paper also notes that although enrolment in primary classes has improved, the system struggles to retain students as they grow older. Enrolment drops by around 17% by the time students reach Grade 9, when the legal mandate for free education under RTE Act expires, mentions the paper. The analysis, undertaken by professors Mythili Ramchand, who worked at TISS till 2024, looks at 'the conceptions of equity and quality that have shaped varied policies and state reform efforts in curriculum, teacher education, RTE and also the latest National Education Policy (NEP) 2020'. The researchers examined school enrolment, sample-based national assessment surveys and central teacher eligibility tests (TET) to interpret the RTE. "Unlike earlier policy discussions on quality, the RTE Act uniquely articulates quality as a legally enforceable right for all children.

India's first AQI-enabled intercity bus service launched in Vijayawada

Vijayawada. (Agency)

Vijayawada city deputy commissioner of police (DCP - Traffic) Shereen Begum inaugurated the India's first Air Quality Index (AQI)-enabled intercity bus service in Vijayawada by the intercity mobility brand IntrCity SmartBus on Saturday.

Speaking on the occasion, Shereen Begum described the launch of SmartBus AQI services on the Vijayawada-Bengaluru and Bengaluru-Vijayawada corridors as a significant milestone in India's intercity transportation sector. She noted that the initiative focuses on improving the air quality inside buses to safeguard the health of passengers, particularly during long journeys. "AQI enabled intercity bus service aimed to enhance the passenger's health and comfort during long-distance travel," she said.

Internal studies by IntrCity found that air pollution inside intercity bus cabins can be two to three times higher than limits recommended by the World Health Organisation. To address this, the company introduced SmartBus AQI technology to monitor and control cabin air quality. Pilot tests maintained PM2.5 levels at around 40 µg/m³ for over 90% of travel, significantly cleaner than outdoor air in many Indian cities.

Passengers travelling between Vijayawada and Bengaluru can book these specially equipped buses through the IntrCity mobile application or website by selecting buses tagged as "SmartBus AQI." Real-time AQI and PM2.5 readings will be displayed on screens inside the bus as well as on the mobile app during the journey.

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Manish Rathi of Intercity said Vijayawada has emerged as a key intercity travel hub with demand for long-distance routes such as Bengaluru. He said the AQI service aims to ensure that passengers can breathe clean air during journeys.

Economic growth in Surat has led to rise in cyber crime cases: DGP

Ahmedabad.(Agency)

DURING his first visit to Surat after taking charge as Gujarat Director General of Police (DGP), K L N Rao on Saturday convened a Regional Crime Conference with all Deputy Commissioners of Police and other senior officers in Surat city and five districts in the Surat Range. He urged the officers to work on the undetected cases, especially those related to crime against women and children. He said, "In the coming days, we are going to start Regional Cyber Crime centres in all commissionerates across the state." The details of crimes that took place in January and February were discussed in the meeting and reviews were taken from the respected police officials and suggestions were given by DGP to the cops in the meeting, said police sources.

After the meeting, Rao told mediapersons, "There is economic growth in Surat and its nearby district, which has also led to a rise in the cases of cyber crimes and special economic offences. We told the police officers how to handle such cases, detect and prevent such offences, and get the active organised gang



behind bars."

He added, "There are 18 types of offences that fall into cybercrime cases and a detailed discussion was done. There are 39 cybercrime police stations in different districts and cities across the country. The state government started the State Cyber Crime Centre of Excellence last year where an IG (Inspector General) rank officer and SP (Superintendent) rank officer have been deputed. These headquarters will keep an eye on the cyber crime incidents happening across the state. We will also start Regional Cyber Centres of

Excellence in all major cities (commissionerates) across the state. Under 'Tera Tujko Arpan' we have returned an amount of Rs 50 crore to the victims of cyber crimes across the state."

In the conference, 12 presentations were made in connection with the traffic problems and their solutions and how to reduce them. "The 12 presentations include coastal security, marine task force, absconders squad and traffic woes. Under the 'Spandan' programme of the state government, an academic study has been carried out by SVNIT (Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel National Institute of Technology) to develop special mobile applications for the health conditions of police personnel and to identify traffic hotspots and accident-prone areas in Surat and south Gujarat. This will also help us while developing policies related to the Traffic rules and regulations in the coming days," said the DGP.Rao said, "The Gujarat government and the Central government will jointly firm up an action plan in the coming days and this plan will be to eradicate the drug nuisance in society.

Gas agency driver held for LPG theft, 12 unclaimed commercial cylinders seized: Police

On a tip-off, the SOG arrested Sadulal Bharwad, 46, a tempo driver of a gas agency for alleged theft of LPG from domestic cylinders meant for delivery to bonafide customers.

Ahmedabad. (Agency)

WITH COMMERCIAL LPG cylinders virtually out of reach for most users, the Vadodara Special Operations Group (SOG) on Saturday caught red-handed the tempo driver of a gas agency for allegedly committing theft of LPG from domestic gas cylinder to fill up empty commercial gas cylinders in the VIP road area of the city. The SOG also recovered 12 "unclaimed" commercial LPG cylinders from an open spot near the same location.

On a tip-off, the SOG arrested Sadulal Bharwad, 46, a tempo driver of a gas agency for alleged theft of LPG from domestic cylinders meant for delivery to bonafide customers. The police said that Bharwad allegedly diverted the tempo to his residence in the VIP Road area and siphoned off LPG from the domestic gas cylinders by opening the seal and transferring the gas into commercial cylinders.

The police, which released a video of Bharwad



demonstrating the method by which he siphoned off the gas, also seized 25 domestic LPG cylinders from the possession of Bharwad. SOG Police Inspector J R Gamit said, "The domestic cylinders were meant for delivering to genuine customers. However, on the way, Bharwad diverted the vehicle to his residence in Bharwadvaas on VIP Road and inside his home, he siphoned off LPG from the domestic cylinders into the commercial

cylinders... He had four commercial cylinders in his house, out of which, one had been half filled."

Gamit added that Bharwad used a metal gas pipe to transfer the LPG from the domestic cylinder to the commercial cylinder. "He has been booked in a case of cheating as the customers who were to receive the domestic cylinders would not know that the weight had been reduced by way of siphoning off the LPG, at such a time. Also, Bharwad was transferring the LPG from one cylinder to another inside a residential house, using unsafe tools and thus posing a threat of explosion and tragedy in the clustered neighbourhood," Gamit said. Bharwad was handed over to the Harni police station, under the jurisdiction of which the incident occurred. A few metres away from Bharwad's home, the SOG also seized 12 "unclaimed" commercial LPG cylinders from an open plot in the clustered neighbourhood.

Union Minister Pradhan unveils 'Odisha Parba', Bengaluru's piped gas project stalled by infrastructure, bureaucratic hurdles

Inaugurating the three day cultural festival 'Odisha Parba-2026', Dharmendra Pradhan also called upon the people of the state to work towards achieving the goals of Viksit Odisha.

Bhubaneswar. (Agency)

Union Education minister Dharmendra Pradhan on Friday called upon the youths of Odisha to have the courage and pride in Odia identity.

Inaugurating the three day cultural festival 'Odisha Parba-2026' dedicated to the vibrant heritage of the state, Pradhan said that people of the state are now creating their unique identity by excelling in different areas. He said that the Odisha Parba has created an opportunity for re-establishment of Odia Asmita. Pradhan also called upon the people of the state to work towards achieving the goals of Viksit Odisha.

The minister also met Sambalpuri singer Umakant Barik, his team and artist friends during the occasion. "Happy to meet Sambalpuri singer Umakant Barik, his team, and artist friends



who have come to New Delhi to participate in 'Odisha Parba 2026'. Everyone's contribution towards taking Odisha's art and culture to the national level is unparalleled. Your performance in the national capital, Delhi, will highlight our art, culture and heritage. My best wishes to all friends," Pradhan said in a post on X.

Apart from its cultural legacy, culinary diversity has also emerged as a key attraction at the event. Food stalls offering regional cuisines have attracted

the city dwellers. "For me as a food lover, this place is nothing less than heaven. All the vegetarian and non-vegetarian items deserve a try, especially the seafood," said Saket, a visitor. The event features a vibrant lineup of classical, folk and tribal performances, including Chhau, Bagha Nacha and Sambalpuri dance. The festival also includes "Pratibha Utsava", a talent hunt platform for emerging artists, as well as recreations of traditional festivals such as Raja and Nuakhai, offering visitors a glimpse into Odisha's living traditions. Apart from the cultural festivities, a series of seminars titled "Talk Today, Transform Tomorrow" will bring together thought leaders, experts and policymakers to discuss Odisha's journey toward a self-reliant, progressive and innovative future.

It is being well executed in Mumbai and Delhi but not in Bengaluru, despite directions from the Supreme Court and the High Court.

BENGALURU.(Agency)

Citizens will have to wait for a long time to get piped gas at their doorstep in Bengaluru. The reasons are many. Primarily, there is no consolidated underground infrastructure and utility map of the entire city or even wardwise. There is also no space available alongside roads and footpaths to dig and lay pipelines. Further, while laying concrete white topped roads or even black topped roads under the Smart City project, no space has been left for laying the gas pipelines.

It is a government of India mandate that under the Smart City project, cities should have piped gas supply. It is being well executed in Mumbai and Delhi but not in Bengaluru, despite directions from the Supreme Court and the High Court.

According to data from the special desk created in the Urban Development Department, monitored by the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) for executing the City Gas Distribution project in

Lack of cooperation hampers probe into Thoothukudi girl murder: Cops



Thoothukudi.(Agency)

While the family members of the 17-year-old girl, who was found dead under suspicious circumstances on March 11, remain stern on their demand of receiving the body only after the arrest of the suspects, the district police have alleged that non-cooperation from the kin and the villagers has hampered the progress of the investigation.

On Tuesday evening in Vedanatham, the teenager, who had stepped out to attend nature's call, did not return to her house and was found dead the following day. The search efforts were delayed as the complaints filed with the Kulathur police station and Vilathikulam All Women Police Station were allegedly treated with a lack of seriousness.

In connection with the incident, Vilathikulam AWPS Inspector V P Praveena was suspended on Thursday. The person missing case has been altered to one of suspicious murder. The autopsy report indicated a severe fracture in the neck bone, suggesting that the victim was strangled to death. However, the postmortem examination could not confirm sexual assault, and the doctors at the Thoothukudi Medical College Hospital have sent samples for laboratory analysis.

Personnel privy to the investigation told that movements of the suspects were difficult to trace because only 15 CCTV cameras were installed in the village. The police are recovering data from the smartphone used by the victim and are analysing her social media accounts for clues.

'Offered waivers and additional storage to ease exporters' burden': JNPA Chairman Gaurav Dayal on cargo disruptions amid Middle East conflict

To ease the financial burden on exporters, JNPA has announced a 100 per cent waiver on ground rent and dwell time charges, along with an 80 per cent waiver on reefer plug-in charges for stranded cargo, Chairman Dayal said.

Mumbai. (Agency)

Disruptions in vessel schedules amid the ongoing conflict in the Middle East have left thousands of export containers stranded at Jawaharlal Nehru Port, prompting authorities to introduce emergency relief measures for exporters. JNPA Chairman Gaurav Dayal in an interview with MANISH KUMAR PATHAK said the port has stepped up coordination with shipping lines, customs authorities and trade bodies, while offering waivers on charges and additional storage space to manage the disruption.

Q1. How many export containers at JNPA have been affected or delayed because of the disruption in shipping routes to the Gulf region?

Ans: Since the onset of the crisis around February 28, about 3,000

TEUs of export cargo have been stranded at the port, of which around 1,000 TEUs comprise perishable goods. At the same time, new export containers for the Middle East continue to arrive and are being cleared through available sailings or routed to alternative ports. JNPA has also received around 5,000 TEUs of transshipment cargo. A key facilitation measure introduced by Customs at the Jawaharlal Nehru Custom House allows Back to Town (BTT) movement of export cargo, enabling exporters to retrieve and redirect consignments if needed. The situation at the port has since shown steady improvement.

Q2. What relief measures has JNPA announced for exporters whose containers are currently

stranded at the port?

Ans: Following directions from the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, JNPA has constituted a task force comprising the Joint DGFT, Additional Commissioner of Customs, CGM (Traffic) JNPA and the Deputy Nautical Advisor to assess the impact of the disruption.

To ease the financial burden on exporters, JNPA has announced a 100 per cent waiver on ground rent and dwell time charges, along with an 80 per cent waiver on reefer plug-in charges for stranded cargo.

Q3. What steps has JNPA taken with terminal operators and customs authorities to manage

the storage and handling of stranded cargo?

Ans: Stranded containers are being stored in terminal container yards



until they can be shipped out. JNPA has also allowed temporary storage of laden containers from other ports bound for the Middle East as transshipment cargo at its terminals, and provided additional

space within the port premises to accommodate the extra cargo.

Customs has permitted Back to Town movement even in cases where the Export General Manifest has not been filed. Containers with intact seals are cleared after basic verification. Containers at the Centralised Parking Plaza require only e-seal verification, while those at Container Freight Stations undergo limited inspection linked to the shipping bill. Detailed physical examination and BTT-related fees or penalties have been waived. Exporters' queries are being addressed through the CGM (Traffic), designated as the single point of contact, in coordination.

Unmaking' of minority protection in India

Democracy rarely collapses in spectacle. It erodes considerably quietly through notifications, amendments, withdrawals and administrative decisions that appear procedural but alter the Republic's moral grammar. Maharashtra's decision to scrap the five per cent reservation for Muslims in education is one such moment.

Reservations in India were never conceived as charity. They were instruments of historical correction—acknowledgements that structural exclusion cannot be undone by mere declarations of equality. When the Constitution promised social, economic and political justice through special provisions in Article 15(4), it recognised that neutrality in an unequal society perpetuates inequality itself. Maharashtra's Muslim quota had emerged from empirical findings. The Justice Rajinder Sachar Committee (2006) documented that Muslims in India lagged behind national averages in literacy, access to higher education, formal employment and public sector representation. Subsequent state-level backward class commissions in Maharashtra identified sections of the Muslim community as socially and educationally backward, forming the legal basis for targeted reservation in education.

National Sample Survey data have consistently shown higher dropout rates and lower access to professional education among Muslim youth, particularly in urban informal settlements. In such a context, affirmative action was a corrective policy grounded in measurable disadvantage.

Its removal, therefore, raises a deeper question: When evidence-based welfare becomes politically expendable, what message is sent to minorities about their place in the Republic?

Across India today, minorities increasingly experience governance as a source of uncertainty. Policies affecting citizenship, education, housing and employment have over the past decade produced an atmosphere where belonging feels conditional. The withdrawal of institutional support—symbolic or material—reinforces a perception that minority welfare is negotiable, while majoritarian comfort is stability.

History offers sobering reminders. Post-Independence India consciously rejected the idea of a majoritarian nation state despite the trauma of partition. Constitutional morality demanded reassurance to minorities that citizenship would never depend on political mood. Affirmative action, minority educational protections under Articles 29 and 30, and welfare targeting were instruments through which that assurance was operationalised. The promise was simple yet profound: minorities would not live at the mercy of political moods. It is this promise that feels increasingly fragile.

The argument advanced by governments opposing such reservations often invokes the notion of a 'religion-neutral policy'. However, neutrality without social context becomes blindness. Indian jurisprudence has repeatedly clarified that backwardness may overlap with community identity when deprivation is historically entrenched. The Supreme Court itself has upheld that affirmative action must respond to social and educational indicators, not merely abstract categories. Tamil Nadu's own experience of social justice offers an instructive contrast. The Dravidian movement expanded affirmative action not to fragment society but to democratise opportunity. The reservation was understood as a social investment, not an electoral concession.

The success of public education, representation in professions and upward mobility across communities stands as evidence that inclusion strengthens unity rather than weakening it. Maharashtra government's decision also carries measurable consequences. Studies show that access to higher education significantly improves labour force participation among historically marginalised groups. Courts will now examine the legality of the withdrawal, following challenges before the Bombay High Court.

Women's quota is back at the forefront

The government has signalled its intent to fast-track enforcement of the reservation Act

A key aspect of political statecraft is to rattle one's opponents with a strategy they least expect from the ruling party, leaving them with little or no space to devise counter-manoeuvres. The ongoing Budget session of Parliament has seen the Opposition attempting to corner the BJP-led NDA — which has a majority in the Lok Sabha and is comfortably placed in the Rajya Sabha as well — first by bringing in a no-confidence motion against Speaker Om Birla (it was defeated by a voice vote) and then toying with a proposal for an impeachment motion against the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC). The latter course of action was mooted by the Trinamool Congress (TMC), which accused the CEC of manipulating electoral rolls in West Bengal to favour the BJP. It is debatable if these issues will resonate with the people at large, especially the motion against the Speaker, but the INDIA bloc, in its wisdom, wouldn't have it any other way. The BJP bowled a googly, harking back to "the mother of all legislation" — the Women's Reservation Act or the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam, which earmarks 33 per cent quota for women in the Lok Sabha and state Assemblies. The government sounded out the Opposition on its intent to fast-track the implementation of the Act. Enacted in September 2023 after a tortuous journey, the law has been in limbo because it is coupled with the completion of the Census and delimitation, which essentially means the process of fixing limits or boundaries of constituencies to represent changes in the population. The government may possibly be envisaging an increase in the number of Lok Sabha seats.

Section 5 of the Act states that gender reservation will come into effect "after an exercise of delimitation is undertaken for this purpose" as per the relevant figures of the first Census conducted after the enactment of the Act. The Census is expected to be completed after population enumeration in February 2027. It's typical of the BJP to put the cart before the horse and score brownie points. Now, it seeks to undo the reservation-Census linkage by bringing in an amendment before the session concludes on April 2. The purpose is to circumvent the Census and delimitation exercises. However, this may create additional problems when seats are allocated for women, based on the 2011 Census. The Opposition, notably the Congress, DMK and the TMC, had flayed the government in 2023 for coupling the two (reservation and Census-delimitation) and accused the BJP of resorting to procrastination. If the government is indeed serious about introducing an amendment, as Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju indicated, the Opposition has no choice but to support it, having committed itself in this regard. The much-awaited endeavour of rolling out women's quota will kick in



sooner than expected and could possibly be in place before the 2027 round of Assembly polls.

At the core of the BJP's strategic shift lies a political realisation: the indubitable significance of the emergence of a gender vote bank. Parliamentary and state elections in recent years showed that women voters, transcending class, caste and traditional fealty, are inclined to vote en bloc, unwilling to be dictated by the men in their families. Just as caste or religion-centric votes made a difference between victory and defeat in the past, women have increasingly displayed a proclivity for being counted as a captive vote bank. Data from the 2025 Bihar polls is a useful pointer. As per the Election Commission, the turnout of women voters was a historic 71.6 per cent, far higher than that of men (62.8 per cent). The difference was principally attributed to the state government's direct cash transfer of Rs 10,000 to every woman — it was regarded as a bonanza before the festive season. The BJP-JD(U)'s rival, the Rashtriya Janata Dal, belatedly joined the race, promising to offer Rs 30,000 each to women annually under the Mai Bahin Maan Yojana, if voted to power, but nobody was swayed. Tejashwi Yadav and his father, Lalu Prasad, both RJD leaders, never established their credentials on gender justice, unlike the JD(U)'s Nitish Kumar. It is not as if the BJP is packed with fiery feminists. Doubtless, it has the largest number of women MPs in the current Lok Sabha; of the 74 who were elected, 31 are from the BJP. But internally, its gender representation leaves much to be desired. The 12-member parliamentary board — purportedly the party's apex decision-making body — has only one woman (Sudha Yadav). Gender presence in the central organisation is also minimal. Of the 11 vice-presidents (an ornamental post), five are women with no tangible powers. Of the six general secretaries, a far

weightier position, there's not a single woman. There was a time when women such as the late Sushma Swaraj and Uma Bharti readily took on their male peers on their own terms.

However, to voters, the skewed internal picture is of no consequence since under the present regime, barring the national president, the other office-bearers are seldom heard. What matters is showcasing women in substantial positions, such as Union ministers and CMs, which the BJP has effectively accomplished. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is in a commanding position, while Delhi CM Rekha Gupta is trying hard to establish herself. Cementing a gender-based constituency also serves other purposes for the BJP. A woman MP or MLA is always more accessible to women voters than her male counterpart, who can only be approached through one's husband, father or brother, more so in provincial towns and villages. It is dawning on the BJP that the issues that formed the nucleus of its political strategies, like the Ram Temple and Hindutva agenda and drawing up winning algorithms underpinned on the local caste count, might have outlived their utility or can no longer yield the projected dividends. For example, Uttar Pradesh is perennially prone to conflicts between the upper castes, the Other Backward Classes and the Dalits. In the era of high-decibel Hindutva, the BJP managed to weld many of the castes together to its advantage, but achieving an ideal balance between Hindutva and Mandal has not been easy. The cornucopia of targeted welfare schemes and goodies flowing out of treasury chests not just in BJP-ruled states but also in others is what apparently knits women together. The Assembly elections in Bihar, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh in recent years proved to a large extent that women vote as one. And gender-based reservation is the icing, or rather, the cherry on the cake.

Dignity in death: SC's euthanasia ruling calls for clear law

The debate first gained attention in the Aruna Shanbaug case and culminated in the Supreme Court's 2018 recognition of the right to die with dignity as part of the fundamental right to life under Article 21

THE Supreme Court's decision permitting passive euthanasia for a 32-year-old man who has remained in a vegetative state for 13 years marks an important moment in India's evolving jurisprudence on end-of-life care. The ruling, allowing the withdrawal of artificial life support, is the first practical application of the framework earlier laid down by the court. The case highlights the painful limbo faced by families of patients with no realistic chance of recovery but who continue to survive through medical intervention. Here, medical boards have concluded that continued treatment served no therapeutic purpose and merely prolonged biological existence. The court's approval recognises a difficult truth: dignity in life must extend to dignity in death. India's legal journey on euthanasia has been gradual. The debate first gained attention in the Aruna Shanbaug case and



culminated in the Supreme Court's 2018 recognition of the right to die with dignity as part of the fundamental right to life under Article 21. Yet the implementation of

these principles has remained uncertain, leaving families and doctors navigating complex procedures and legal anxieties. The latest ruling exposes the limits of relying solely on judicial guidelines. Even the court has stressed the urgent need for comprehensive legislation governing passive euthanasia, living wills and end-of-life decisions. Such a law must balance ethical sensitivity with procedural clarity. It should protect vulnerable patients from abuse while ensuring families and medical professionals can act without fear of legal repercussions. Clear protocols, transparent medical assessments and respect for patient autonomy are essential. Ultimately, the question is about recognising that medicine should not prolong suffering when recovery is impossible. The state must now take its cue from the court and craft a humane legal framework that allows Indians to live — and die — with dignity.

War with Iran: Strategy without endgame

Iran knows that if the US sends troops, the war will be more than a simple headache for Trump

IN September 1980, when Saddam Hussein attacked the oil-rich border regions of Iran, he expected to win a swift, decisive victory that would last only a few weeks. Instead of a quick victory, Saddam's military adventure turned into a prolonged and brutal eight-year war with Iran, which solidified the theocratic rule of Ayatollah Khomeini and the Iranian Shiite clergy in Iran. The rise of political Islam in the course of the Iranian Revolution was not a historically pre-determined phenomenon, nor was it an accident. The crisis and decline of liberal institutions resulted in a political vacuum in Iran and provided an ideal opportunity for the Islamic forces to organise themselves and mobilise the population. That is why today, the Iranian regime derives its legitimacy from two main sources: Islam and the revolution. But after nearly five decades, the strength of both these sources has weakened. There is an irreconcilable conflict in today's Iran between the two competing sovereignties: the divine sovereignty (Velayat-e Faqih) claimed by the Supreme Leader and the popular sovereignty (the will to be an autonomous citizen) claimed by the young and educated Iranian middle class through civil society, democratic ideals and constitutional rights. Thus, in the past 47 years, the challenge to authoritarianism in Iranian society has translated into a culture of dissent among three main social groups: women, youth and intellectuals. Each of these three agents of dissent embodies deliberate and conscious forms of resistance against absolute sovereignty. But as the Iranian population expanded from 38.5 million in 1980 to over 92 million in 2025, post-revolutionary Iran also grew more secular and less ideological. Yet, the Iranian regime's ideological crisis was accompanied by erosion of authority and extreme state violence. Over the years, this has turned into the use of intimidation, repression and execution by the Iranian



In the eyes of the world and the Trump administration, the level of repression exercised by the Islamic regime exposed both the fragility of the Iranian theocracy and the organisational vulnerability of the civil society in Iran. The ultimate scenario, however, as repeatedly expressed by the Iranian diaspora, living in many countries on several continents, was to "take back Iran" with the help of the US and Israeli military forces.

The joint Israeli-American military offensive against Iran, which began on February 28, was considered from the very first days as a "just war" with the primary objective

of eliminating Iran's ballistic missile capabilities and preventing the development of nuclear weapons. However, the messaging from the US President and his cabinet remained unclear as to the duration of this war and its consequences.

Accordingly, after 13 days of war, the human and economic costs have increased alarmingly — not only for Iran and the US, but also for all the countries involved in this war. Already, seven US troops and over 1,300 people in Iran have been killed. Also, the US presence in this war is estimated to have cost Washington \$3.7 billion. It goes without saying that the US taxpayers will add this cost next to the growing inflation and the increasing fuel costs in the near future. So, the war is already unpopular in many capitals of the world, including many European countries, and it will be a great handicap for the American Republicans as November's midterms loom on the horizon. Trump currently has the support of the Republican Party, but this will gradually change in his disfavour as the war on Iran starts showing its dark sides. Polling in the last week shows Trump's popularity continuing to fall, since, according to an NBC poll, 54% of the voters disapprove of Trump's handling of Iran, compared with 41% who approve. However, Trump's MAGA base is still holding and much of the criticism is centred on Israel's influence over Trump's decision to go to war with Iran. Strangely, there is very little accountability for anything in the US during wartime. So, the real criticism of the US bombings will be apparent only later in the shape of long-term effects after the end of the war. Yet, if the Democrats start controlling the House after January 2027, this is going to be very uncomfortable for Donald Trump. But for the time being, he and his

cabinet members are struggling to find an eligible and legitimate end goal for the war with Iran. The US President has repeated many times that the end goal is regime change and that he wants to help the Iranian people to shape their own destiny. But he also underlined that the reason of this war was the de-nuclearisation of Iran, without necessarily pointing to the fact that the Iranian nuclear sites were obliterated during the 12-day war with Israel in June 2025.

Consequently, Trump has indicated a desire for a regime change in Iran by calling on the Iranian people to take over their government. But Iran is a much more complex country than Saddam's Iraq in 2003. Iran is a well-established military and security-centred country which will not surrender unconditionally. Also, Iran is about four times the size of Iraq and it would take far more than one lakh troops to occupy it. The Iranian authorities know this, but they also know that if the US puts boots on the ground, the war will be more than a simple headache for Trump. The question then is whether airpower alone is sufficient to achieve the US goal of regime change. The answer is "no", except if the US-Israeli coalition decides to turn Tehran into a "New Dresden". This is a page from history, but it could repeat. During the Second World War, the allies bombed the city of Dresden in February 1945 to cripple German infrastructure and obstruct German troop movements. The raids turned Dresden into a necropolis, with 25,000 people killed. This is a monstrous and nightmarish scenario, but it will certainly not happen in Iran. But instability and chaos spreading along ethnic lines is one of the strongest scenarios that the Iranians fear the most.

Let us hope that Trump and his administration will think not in terms of killing the Iranian population, but of preventing the dangers of total closure of the Strait of Hormuz and a global economic crisis.

Manipur: Three arrested with Heroin, pistol in Thoubal district

Imphal.(Agency)

Imphal, March 15 (UNI) Security forces arrested three individuals and seized drugs, a firearm, and a vehicle during an operation conducted at Lilong Bazar along National Highway-102 under Lilong Police Station in Thoubal district on Saturday.

Police identified the three arrested individuals as Md. Abdul Gafar of Kiyamgei Takhok Makha, Md. Boicha of Lilong Leihakhong, and Kh. Akip of Kiyamgei Takhok Makha.

During the operation, security personnel recovered one 9 mm pistol with a magazine, seven 9 mm live rounds, and 494 grams of heroin (brown sugar) from their possession. In addition, four mobile phones and a four-wheeler were also seized.

The arrested individuals, along with the recovered items, have been handed over to the concerned police station for further legal action and investigation.

UP: Multiple road accidents leave six dead and many injured

Lucknow.(Agency)

Several serious road accidents were reported from different districts of Uttar Pradesh on Saturday night and Sunday morning, resulting in multiple deaths and injuries.

In the Nawabganj area of Farrukhabad, three youths riding a motorcycle died in a horrific accident late Saturday night around 12:30 a.m. According to police, a dust-laden trailer coming from the Mohammadabad road collided with their bike near a crossroads. The impact was so severe that the motorcycle was thrown nearly 50 meters away, and the trailer's wheels ran over the riders. The bodies of two victims were badly mutilated.

The trailer later went out of control and crashed into a seed store, damaging a nearby car as well. Police reached the spot, but the driver had fled. Authorities are trying to identify the victims; the motorcycle bears a registration number from Etah. Another accident occurred late Saturday night in Rampur Mathura in Sitapur, where three young men died after their motorcycle collided with a tractor-trolley. The victims — Golu (30) and Kuldeep (27) from Chandpur, and Sujit (25) from Bhayapur Kodri — were on their way to attend a wedding procession. The collision occurred near a bend close to Kothwal village.

All three were rushed to the Community Health Center in Rampur Mathura, where doctors declared them dead.

Meanwhile, on the Lucknow-Agra Expressway, a sleeper bus travelling from Gorakhpur to Delhi overturned near the Matariya Toll Plaza in Sitapur at around 11:30 p.m. on Saturday.

The accident happened when the bus attempted to overtake a tar-filled tanker and collided with it before losing control and flipping over. Panic spread among passengers as screams filled the bus.

About 20 passengers were injured, nine of them seriously. They were taken to the Community Health Center in Auras, and two critically injured passengers were later referred to Lucknow for advanced treatment.

Security forces recover explosives, arrest militants in Manipur

Imphal.(Agency)

Security forces conducted multiple successful operations across Manipur, recovering explosives and arresting several individuals linked to militant activities and illegal extortion.

In Churachandpur district, security personnel recovered a cache of weapons and explosives from Old Nabil, east of Thangjing Top under Henglep Police Station. The recovered items included a seven-foot-long country-made rocket containing approximately 60 kg of explosives, a country-made single barrel firearm, seven 7.62 mm empty cases, four magazines, one mortar bomb, and one improvised mortar (pump).

In a separate operation related to an FIR registered at Porompat Police Station, the Manipur Police arrested four individuals on March 13, in connection with alleged extortion from contract staff nurses of Jawaharlal Nehru Institute of Medical Sciences (JNIMS).

Police recovered Rs39 lakh in cash, six mobile phones, and one pistol from their possession. According to investigators, the accused allegedly collected money from contract staff of JNIMS on behalf of a banned militant outfit.

Meanwhile, security forces also arrested a woman, an alleged active woman cadre of an outfit from the Sawbung Forest Gate area under Lamlai Police Station in Imphal East district. She was reportedly involved in recruiting cadres for the proscribed organisation. A mobile phone was seized from her possession.

Mumbai's public transport works best where it's needed the least

A new IIT-Bombay study mapping public transport access across the city finds the strongest connectivity in south and south-central wards, while several northern and eastern suburbs, where reliance on buses and trains is often highest, remain poorly served. Here's how...

Mumbai. (Agency)

Mumbai has one of the country's most extensive public transport systems. Yet a new study shows that access to it is uneven across the city — strongest in areas where fewer people depend on public transport, and weakest in several suburbs where many residents rely on buses and trains.

The study by researchers from IIT Bombay analysed public transport accessibility across Mumbai and found that the highest levels of connectivity are concentrated in the island city and parts of the south-central belt, while several northern and eastern suburban wards have significantly weaker access.

To measure access, the researchers used a method called the Public Transport Accessibility Level (PTAL), which looks at how far people must walk to reach a bus stop or station, how frequently services run, and how many routes are available. The study — titled "Socio-spatial equity in public transit system accessibility for slum and non-slum population in a developing



mega city" — was authored by Manish Yadav and Professor Gopal R Patil of IIT Bombay along with Rakhi Manohar Mepparambath of the Institute of High Performance Computing, A*STAR, Singapore. The analysis covered 640 traffic analysis zones across Mumbai, a standard planning unit used in transport studies.

Mumbai public transport, public transport, Mumbai local train, Mumbai taxis, Mumbai metro, Mumbai public transport systems,

Mumbai transport, Mumbai news, Maharashtra news, Indian express, current affairs

South and south-central wards most accessible

According to the study, the best-served parts of the city are wards A, B, C, D, E, G/S, G/N, F/S and F/N, which record the highest public transport accessibility levels.

These wards broadly correspond to neighbourhoods such as Colaba, Cuffe Parade and Fort (A ward); Dongri and Masjid Bunder (B); Marine Lines, Kalbadevi and Girgaon (C); Malabar Hill and Grant Road (D); Byculla and Nagpada (E); Worli and Prabhadevi (G/S); Dadar and Mahim (G/N); Parel and Lower Parel (F/S); and Sion and Matunga East (F/N). But the researchers also note that these areas also tend to show relatively lower dependence on public transport, partly because higher incomes and greater private vehicle ownership give many residents alternatives to buses and trains.

Make fire safety clearances public, Gujarat State Information Commission tells civic bodies

Ahmedabad.(Agency)

Details of fire safety clearances granted by municipal bodies across Gujarat are not publicly available. And, the Gujarat State Information Commission has directed that this must change.

The order came on an application filed under the Right to Information (RTI) Act by Surat resident Arun Pathak, who had sought records of fire NOCs issued by the Surat Municipal Corporation for new constructions between Jan 11, 2023 and June 11, 2023. The fire department refused to provide the information, a position the commission found had no basis in law.

During the hearing, the commission observed that while applicants can track the status of their fire NOC

requests through an online portal, the details of NOCs that were already granted are not available in the public domain. The commission noted that such information is also not included in the proactive disclosure sections of municipal websites, which are mandated under the RTI Act.

In its order, the commission stated that the absence of publicly available records relating to fire NOCs restricts transparency in matters concerning building safety and regulatory compliance. It emphasised that disclosure of such information is necessary in the interest of public safety and

accountability. The commission further observed that there was no legal restriction



preventing the fire department from sharing the information. The information officer concerned was directed to verify the authenticity of the documents submitted by the

applicant within a week and provide the requested details within the stipulated timeframe after verification.

In addition, the commission recommended that all municipal and metropolitan corporations in the state publish details of fire NOCs on their official websites and update them periodically. It also suggested that a standard operating procedure (SOP) be developed for maintaining and publishing such records in a transparent manner. The commission directed that its order be forwarded to the urban development and urban housing department for necessary action and implementation across civic bodies in the state.

Seafarer's body expected to be brought home this week

Mumbai.(Agency)

The Director General of Shipping, in coordination with the Ministry of External Affairs and the Indian embassy in Baghdad, has initiated the process to repatriate the body of 54-year-old Kandivli resident Deonandan Prasad Singh, an additional chief engineer (superintendent), who was aboard the Marshall Islands-flagged oil tanker MT Safesesa Vishnu that was hit by an Iranian attack on Thursday.

The body could be brought home once the airspace opens this week, sources told on Saturday.

The tanker was near Khor Al Zubair Port, in Basra, Iraq, when it was attacked in the wee hours of

Thursday. Singh, who was among 17 Indians on board, suffered severe injuries during the attack and later died. Singh spoke with his family on Wednesday evening and assured them that everything was fine before the ship was attacked. He called his family again at around 2:36 am on Thursday and informed them that the ship was on fire. Afterwards, he did not

respond to his family's calls, a family member said. A source from Mumbai's DG Shipping office told: "Singh's body, along with the rescued 16 Indian crews, will fly back once the airspace opens. The travel documents and the necessary local formalities are currently in process. At present, Iraq's airspace remains closed.

Further, subject to completion of all formalities and reopening of airspace, the repatriation of the seafarers as well as the mortal remains is expected to take place next week, if all arrangements proceed as planned."

Meanwhile, Iran's official news agency IRNA said the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) struck one of the two ships, a US-owned vessel, the Safesesa Vishnu, because it had ignored warnings and failed to comply with orders. Indian authorities earlier said the Safesesa Vishnu, which sailed under the Marshall Islands flag, was attacked by an unmanned speedboat.



Gujarat teen drugged, assaulted and filmed on new year's trip to Mt Abu

Ahmedabad.(Agency)

A 17-year-old girl from Ranip, allegedly, was befriended by a 14-year-old girl and lured to Mount Abu on the promise of a New Year party, where she was drugged, sexually assaulted, and filmed without her knowledge. She learned what had happened to her months later when the video went viral on social media.

According to a complaint she filed with the Ranip police on Friday.

Roshani Solanki, assistant commissioner of police (SC/ST cell) said that "they have arrested a 26-year-old man from Kalol for the alleged sexual assault, and kept the minor under observation."

The complainant told police she became friends with the 14-year-old girl through Instagram about a year ago and the two stayed in regular contact.

"On Dec 30, 2025, she received a call inviting her to join a New Year's Eve party at Mount Abu. She agreed and travelled from Ahmedabad to Kalol, where she met the minor girl and a

man. The group boarded a train to Mount Abu late that night, arrived early on December 31, and checked into a hotel," the complaint stated. Later that afternoon, according to the complaint, the minor girl and the man asked the complainant to join them in a separate room to continue the party. The victim told police, "They were drinking beer and gave me a cola to drink. After drinking it, I began to feel intoxicated and lost consciousness. When I regained awareness, my clothes were scattered. I suspected something wrong had happened. I questioned the two but got no satisfactory answer." She later returned to Ahmedabad alone by train.

The matter came to light months later. On Wednesday, another girl informed her that a nude video of her had gone viral on social media groups. "The video showed the man sexually assaulting me while I was semi-conscious, and the minor girl filming the act and touching me inappropriately," she told police.

Grassroots changemakers from Odisha receive Shambhavi Puraskar 2026

The foundation also marked 15 years of its journey with a coffee-table book, unveiled by deputy CM Parida on the occasion.

Bhubaneswar. (Agency)

Angul-based Sathee Parivar and Balangir Gramodyog Samiti were honoured with the Shambhavi Puraskar 2026, instituted by the Bansidhar & Ila Panda Foundation (BIPF), here on Saturday.

The 13th edition of the award carried a '5 lakh cash prize, a citation and a crest. Sathee Parivar was recognised for preventing snakebite fatalities in Angul district through community awareness, government partnerships and village-level response teams. It has trained over 9,800 volunteers and helped save 490 lives in the last three years.

Balangir-based BGS was honoured for empowering marginalised communities,



Since 2020, the organisation has driven agricultural transformation in 29 villages of Tureikela block in partnership with the Agriculture department, supporting 3,612 farmers with training, inputs and market linkages.

Deputy chief minister Pravati Parida and Jayant

against child marriage.

Speaking on the occasion, Parida said transformational work in small pockets of the state can drive real change. "Small efforts can go a long way in making a big impact. Initiatives of grassroots champions in social development have strengthened the

government's fight against social evils like child marriage and malnutrition," she said, urging youth to address growing mental health issues in society. Rastogi said sustaining development work for 15 years is not easy, but BIPF has demonstrated its commitment by recognising and supporting grassroots leadership.

BIPF founder and CEO Shaifalika Panda said she was humbled to recognise the winners. "Development at its core is about people, and when changemakers join hands, we create a robust ecosystem for systemic change," she said.

The foundation also marked 15 years of its journey with a coffee-table book, unveiled by deputy CM Parida on the occasion. Instituted in 2013, the Shambhavi Puraskar celebrates individuals and organisations working at the grassroots level to create transformative social impact.

Dehra Police track missing woman, nab multiple proclaimed offenders

Dharamshala.(Agency)

A dedicated police unit of Dehra District has successfully located a woman reported missing on February 16, 2026 and reunited with her family. The police unit also arrested several proclaimed offenders in a special operation.

Dehra District Superintendent of Police Mayank Choudhary told UNI that a special unit named POMPU (Proclaimed Offender and Missing Persons Unit) has been constituted under his leadership and the unit has been tasked with ensuring swift arrest of proclaimed offenders declared by courts, enforcing court orders, and carrying out effective search operations for missing persons.

SP Mayank said that on March 14, the POMPU team successfully traced a missing woman, Neha, wife of late Shami Kumar, a resident of Kundlihar village under Karyada Post Office in Dehra tehsil. He said that her missing report had been registered at Dehra Police Station on February 16, 2026.

The Superintendent of Police said the woman was traced and later reunited with her family members.

He further stated that prior to this operation, the POMPU team had also arrested three proclaimed offenders, including Ranveer Dhiman, and produced them before the competent court.

Dehra Police urged the public to cooperate with law enforcement agencies. "Any attempt to evade the law is futile.

If anyone has information about suspicious activities or criminals, they should immediately inform the police. Your information can play an important role in making society safer," SP Mayank added.

Delhi govt plans Water Master Plan with private participation to tackle supply challenges

Comprehensive plan will study existing infrastructure, future demand, and pipeline maintenance; private firms to manage DJB's eight command centres, repair pipelines, and ensure regular supply

New Delhi.(Agency)

The Delhi Government is working on a comprehensive Water Master Plan, with a provision to rope in private players, to help address water supply challenges in the national capital, Water Minister Parvesh Sahib Singh said on Saturday. Under the proposed plan, a detailed study of the existing infrastructure and future expansion will be undertaken while taking into account the city's increasing population.

Addressing the media, the minister said, "There is a need for a holistic approach towards fixing the water sector challenges that we face. For the first time, a Water Master Plan

will be presented. For this, we have hired a consultant company which is studying all major aspects, including sources of water, future requirements, maintenance of pipelines and other related issues." Another key aspect of the plan will be decentralisation and partial privatisation of the Delhi Jal Board distribution network.

"Within the next one year, we will float tenders inviting big private players for the management of each of DJB's existing eight command centres. In the future, these companies will be given individual zones and will be responsible for managing major operations in those

areas," the minister said in a statement. Each company will be tasked with repairing and replacing old water pipelines billing and revenue collection, and ensuring regular water supply.

An official said work has already begun at the Chandrawal Water Treatment Plant command centre, including improvements in supply infrastructure, replacement of old pipelines, provision of house service connections and upgradation of underground reservoirs.

The official added that tenders will soon be floated for East, North-East, West and South-West zones, for



which detailed project reports are being prepared. Delhi, a largely urbanised city with a rapidly growing population,

requires extensive water supply and sewage treatment infrastructure. In 2016, the Delhi government had introduced a water policy outlining a roadmap for the following nine years.

"Besides increasing water supply, we are also studying ways to reduce transmission losses. Previous DJB reports and studies are being examined while preparing this comprehensive master plan for the future," Singh added. Currently, the city's average water production ranges between 900 and 1,000 million gallons per day, against an estimated requirement of around 1,200 MGD.

'Pandit' option in UP Police SI exam question sparks outrage; probe ordered

New Delhi.(Agency)

Amid a raging controversy over a question asked in the state police Sub-Inspector (SI) recruitment examination, the examination controller of the Uttar Pradesh Police Recruitment and Promotion Board has issued a clarification. The controversy stems from a question that asked candidates to provide a one-word answer for "people who change according to opportunity". The options given were: Pandit, Opportunist, Innocent and Virtuous. Objections were raised over the inclusion of the word "Pandit" among the options. The exam was held on Saturday.

What the recruitment board said on controversy

The controller said the recruitment board does not prepare question papers at the local level. Instead, the papers are set by highly confidential institutions to ensure secrecy before the examination. To maintain this confidentiality, even board-level officials or staff do not see the question papers in advance. The statement further said that the sealed packets containing the question papers are opened for the first time inside the examination hall at the centres in the presence of two candidates before distribution. The controller added that an inquiry has been ordered into the question asked in the first shift of the exam held on Saturday (March 14), and action will be taken after the investigation.

BJP leaders demand action

Several BJP leaders also objected to the question and wrote to chief minister Yogi Adityanath seeking action. Deputy chief minister Brajesh Pathak said the government has serious objections to the options provided in the question. In a post on X, he said any question that hurts the dignity of any community or group is unacceptable.

EC considers face verification counters for veiled voters outside polling booths in Bengal

New Delhi.(Agency)

The Election Commission of India (ECI) is examining a proposal to establish verification counters outside polling stations in West Bengal to check the identity of voters whose faces are covered by items such as a burqa, ghunghat, scarf or other cloth. Two senior officials of the commission confirmed the development to reporters on condition of anonymity.

Under the proposed arrangement, voters with face coverings would first approach an external counter. Officials would match their faces with their identity cards before allowing them to enter the polling station. At present, voters with covered faces enter the polling booth and their identity is verified inside the station during the voting process. "The proposal is still in the pipeline and the final decision is yet to be taken. If approved, it may be introduced when the Model Code of Conduct comes into force; further operational details will be issued at that stage," one of the officials said. "The verification will be uniform — it will be conducted only by women officials, female polling staff and Anganwadi Sevikas."

Plan linked to past complaints

Officials said the proposal came after complaints about alleged malpractice in previous elections. They believe a separate verification counter could make the identity check more transparent.

State government officials would staff the counters while Anganwadi sevikas would carry out the face verification. Central Armed Police Forces personnel would guard the area to ensure security and prevent pressure or intimidation of voters and staff.

Background of dispute with state

The proposal comes amid an ongoing dispute between the poll panel and the West Bengal government. In a February 20 order, the Supreme Court referred to a "trust deficit" between the two sides. The commission earlier told the court that election officials faced obstruction, lack of cooperation and intimidation from parts of the state administration. "Inside-booth verification depends entirely on state-appointed polling officers conducting the checks. Moving the process to an external counter under closer ECI supervision, staffed by Anganwadi workers, election officials and CAPF personnel, reduces reliance on regular polling staff and ensures better monitoring of the verification process," one of the officials mentioned above said.

Empty stoves await hungry souls after long train journey at Delhi's 'bustling' Paharganj lanes

New Delhi.(Agency)

The LPG shortage in the national capital is changing the character of some of its busiest areas. Imagine stepping out of the crowded platforms of New Delhi Railway Station from the Paharganj side after a long train journey and finding the usually bustling food lanes unusually quiet. The familiar aroma of hot rotis, spicy sabzi and fried snacks that typically welcomes thousands of passengers every day has gone missing.

Now, rows of half-open or shuttered stalls signal a story coming straight out of the West Asia crisis, as the LPG cylinder shortage has brought small eateries to a standstill. On most days, the narrow lanes outside the station serve as a lifeline to travellers, daily-wage labourers, auto and bus drivers and workers, who seek affordable



meals throughout the day and night. A tawa-roti with sabzi for Rs 20 a plate, chole-kulche for Rs 25 or a modest thali of dal, four rotis and sabzi for Rs 50 keeps stomachs full without hurting pockets. But on Friday and Saturday evening, many of these meals disappeared from the menu. Stall owners said they had exhausted their stock of LPG cylinders and were forced to shut shop early. "Today was the last day of the cylinder," said a vendor on

Saturday, who usually serves dozens of plates of roti-sabzi during the afternoon rush. With no replacement cylinder arriving, his stall remained closed. At the back side of the front lane, however, a small flame burned, just enough to cook food for the staff of seven members. At another shop, the owner had rushed to his house to bring a cylinder so that at least his workers could eat. Vijay Sood, owner at the Vaishno Bhandar, said, "We cannot cook for customers anymore. We somehow served lunch today. I had to serve the staff also, which is why I had to bring the cylinder from home." Arvind, who runs a keema-paratha stall in the back lanes, said, "For many of the small vendors like me, the LPG crisis is a disruption to our daily survival. And for thousands who rely on these stalls for cheap food, the empty stoves have left."

Delhi High Court to hear pleas over alleged abduction of student activists by Special Cell

New Delhi.(Agency)

The Delhi High Court is scheduled to sit on Sunday to consider a batch of petitions alleging illegal "abduction" and "detention" of several student activists by the Delhi Police Special Cell on Friday.

One of the habeas corpus petitions, filed by one Sagrika Rajora, has sought directions to the government and police to immediately produce her sister, Lakshita Rajora (22) before the court. The petition claimed that Lakshita had been missing since March 13 evening from the Vijay Nagar area near Delhi University. She became untraceable at around 8 pm and her phone was switched off, the petition claimed. The matter was

mentioned before a bench of Chief Justice DK Upadhyaya and Justice Tejas Karia, which said that the pleas will be heard on Sunday.



Several others present at the Bhagat Singh Chhatra Ekta Manch (BSCEM) office have also similarly disappeared, raising suspicions of a coordinated and unrecorded raid by authorities, the plea claimed.

"The Detenu has been untraceable and is strongly suspected to be under the illegal and unconstitutional detention of the personnel of the Respondents, specifically the Special Cell, Delhi Police, since the evening of March 13, 2026 (approx. 8:00 PM).

The Detenu was last known to be at the office of the student organisation BSCEM in the Vijay Nagar, near Delhi University North Campus," the petition claimed. The petition claimed that eight months ago, Lakshita was subjected to illegal abduction and custodial torture by Special Cell officials for over a week, the petition claimed. "Despite a written complaint to Respondent No. 3 (SHO PS Vijay Nagar) on March 14, 2026, no information has been provided," the petitioner added.

J&K: Infiltration bid foiled in Uri, Pakistani terrorist killed in army operation

New Delhi.(Agency)

In a midnight encounter along the Line of Control (LoC), Indian security forces successfully neutralised a Pakistani terrorist attempting to sneak into the Kashmir Valley. The gunfight broke out in the rugged terrain of the Uri sector in North Kashmir's Baramulla district during the intervening night of March 14 and 15. Acting on "pinpoint" intelligence regarding a potential breach of the border, a joint task force comprising the Indian Army and the Jammu and Kashmir Police launched a coordinated operation in the general area of Buchhar.

Under the cover of darkness, alert troops monitored the LoC using advanced surveillance. Movement was soon detected in a patch of dense vegetation, where a terrorist was seen attempting to navigate the "thicket" undetected. The Chinar Corps confirmed that as the intruder was spotted, the ambush team swiftly readjusted their positions to cut off any escape routes. When the security forces challenged the suspect, the terrorist responded with a desperate burst of "indiscriminate fire."

In the ensuing "contact" (firefight), the Pakistani terrorist was eliminated on the spot. No injuries to Indian personnel were reported. Following the encounter, a thorough search of the site led to the recovery of a significant cache of weapons intended for high-scale violence. "Alert troops spotted suspicious movement of a terrorist in the thicket. The ambush was readjusted and the terrorist was challenged resulting in terrorist opening indiscriminate fire. In the Contact a Pak terrorist was eliminated. Warlike stores including an AK rifle, pistols and large quantity of ammunition have been recovered," Indian Army's Chinar Corps said in a statement.

This latest incident in Uri is part of a series of failed infiltration attempts along the LoC over the past month, suggesting a desperate push by handlers across the border to move militants into Indian territory.

Early March, troops foiled a similar attempt in the Bimber Gali area of Rajouri district. Also on February 19-20, an infiltration bid was crushed in the Sunderbani sector of Rajouri, where a large haul of arms was also seized. In the wake of the Uri encounter, the Indian Army has "saturated" the region with additional troops. Surveillance has been ramped up to maximum levels, utilising both ground sensors and aerial assets (drones) to monitor the treacherous mountain passes. "The safety of our citizens remains paramount," the Army stated, reaffirming its commitment to maintaining a "zero-tolerance" policy toward cross-border terrorism.

Good news: New elevated road project in Noida to make Delhi-Yamuna Expressway commute more smoother

People travelling between Delhi and Noida may soon see some relief from daily traffic congestion. Authorities are planning a new elevated road that will extend from the Chilla Elevated Road to Sector-94 in Noida. The project aims to reduce traffic pressure near Film City and improve connectivity for commuters heading towards Greater Noida.

New Delhi.(Agency)

People travelling between Delhi and Noida may soon get relief from traffic congestion as authorities plan to build a new elevated road in Noida. Officials from the Noida Authority have proposed extending the upcoming Chilla Elevated Road so that traffic can move more smoothly towards the Noida-Greater Noida Expressway. The extension will run from the descending ramp of the Chilla Elevated Road up to the Sector-94 roundabout.

The proposed stretch will be about 2 kilometres long. Authorities plan the project to reduce traffic congestion around Film City and other busy areas of the city.

Existing elevated road project

The Chilla Elevated Road is already under construction to improve traffic movement between Delhi and Noida. The 5.96-kilometre-long corridor will connect the Mayur Vihar flyover in Delhi with an area



near the Mahamaya flyover in Noida. The road is expected to reduce travel time for thousands of daily commuters who use this route. The corridor also aims to reduce congestion on nearby roads.

Need for extension towards Greater

Noida

Many commuters who continue their journey towards Greater Noida still face heavy traffic on the Noida-Greater Noida Expressway. Because of this problem, the Noida Authority proposed extending the

elevated road further up to Sector-94.

Officials said the survey work for the new stretch has already been completed. Once constructed, the extension may help traffic flow more smoothly towards Greater Noida.

Metro line creates engineering challenge

The project also faces a technical challenge because the Delhi Metro's Magenta Line runs along the route. The elevated metro track stands at a height of about 17 metres. Engineers plan to construct the new elevated road above the metro line at a height of about 22 metres.

This design will allow both transport systems to operate without affecting each other. At present, vehicles use only two elevated roads in Noida. Authorities believe the new extension could improve traffic conditions for commuters travelling between Delhi, Noida, and Greater Noida.

NEWS BOX

Formula 1 cancel Bahrain and Saudi Arabian Grands Prix due to Middle East war

New Delhi. (Agency)

Formula 1's 2026 calendar has hit an unexpected roadblock, with the Bahrain and Saudi Arabian Grands Prix called off amid the ongoing US-Iran war in the Middle East. The sport confirmed that both April races will not go ahead due to safety concerns.

The announcement came early Sunday in Shanghai ahead of the Chinese Grand Prix, leaving a sudden hole in the tightly packed F1 calendar. Formula 1 CEO Stefano Domenicali admitted the call was a difficult one, but insisted it was unavoidable. "While this was a difficult decision to take, it is unfortunately the right one at this stage considering the current situation in the Middle East," Domenicali said.

FIA president Mohammed Ben Sulayem stressed that the governing body had to prioritise the safety of everyone involved in the championship.

"The FIA will always place the safety and well being of our community and colleagues first," Ben Sulayem said. "After careful consideration, we have taken this decision with that responsibility firmly in



mind." Formula 1 also confirmed that although several alternatives were explored, replacing the races in April simply wasn't possible. "Due to the ongoing situation in the Middle East region, the Bahrain and Saudi Arabian Grands Prix will not take place in April," the statement read. "While several alternatives were considered, it was ultimately decided that no substitutions will be made in April."

WHY WERE SAUDI ARABIAN GPS CANCELLED?

The cancellations come as tensions in the Middle East continue to escalate following retaliatory attacks from Iran after the United States and Israel launched strikes on Iranian targets. Both Bahrain and Saudi Arabia have felt the ripple effects of the conflict, raising major security concerns for an event as large and logistically complex as Formula 1.

Manchester City held in blow to Premier League title bid

LONDON. (Agency)

Manchester City's Premier League title challenge was dealt a big blow by a 1-1 draw at lowly West Ham which left them trailing nine points behind Premier League leaders Arsenal on Saturday. Pep Guardiola's side took the lead through Bernardo Silva's first-half goal, but Konstantinos Mavropanos hauled West Ham level before the interval at the London Stadium. Just hours after Arsenal scored twice in the final minutes against Everton to seal a priceless 2-0 victory, second-placed City cracked under the pressure of trying to keep pace with the Gunners. City have a game in hand on Arsenal but they look destined to miss out in a title race that could turn into a procession long before the finish line. Draws in their last two league matches against relegation-



threatened West Ham and Nottingham Forest have exposed the flaws in a City team expensively rebuilt by Guardiola with limited success over the last 18 months. They will have to improve significantly to have any hope of a miraculous recovery from 3-0 down against Real Madrid in the Champions League last-16 second leg on Tuesday.

Guardiola's men then head to Wembley to face Arsenal in the League Cup final before meeting Liverpool in the FA Cup quarter-finals. As if that wasn't problematic enough for spluttering City, their next two league games after the three cup matches are against Chelsea and Arsenal.

By the end of that five-game gauntlet, City could be facing up to the painful prospect of a second successive season without major silverware. West Ham are out of the relegation zone for the first time in 100 days -- one point ahead of Forest, who play their game in hand against Fulham on Sunday.

Ruthlessly exposed by Real in midweek, the defensive weaknesses that have plagued City this season are combining with Erling Haaland's barren spell to leave the title challengers bereft at both ends of the pitch.

Real Madrid's Arda Guler ties LaLiga record with stunning 74-yard goal

Arda Guler lit up the Santiago Bernabeu with a sensational long-range strike as Real Madrid beat Elche. The Turkish youngster's outrageous effort from distance matched the longest goal ever scored in LaLiga history.

LAVERKUSEN. (Agency)

Arda Guler delivered a moment of pure theatre as Real Madrid cruised to a 4-1 win over Elche in LaLiga on Saturday. The Turkish playmaker stole the show with a jaw-dropping strike from nearly 68 metres (74 yards) that matched a historic league record. The goal came at the 89th minute mark of the match but quickly became the talking point of the night at the Santiago Bernabeu.

Spotting Elche goalkeeper Matias Dituro well off his line, Guler unleashed a daring effort from well within Real Madrid's own half, that sailed perfectly into the net. The spectacular strike arrived in the 89th minute and sealed a comfortable victory for Madrid, who climbed to 66 points in the standings, just one behind leaders Barcelona.

HOW DID ARDA GULER SCORE THE STUNNING GOAL?

The moment began with sharp awareness from Guler in midfield. The youngster intercepted the ball cleverly and took a couple of quick touches to steady himself.

Then came the magic.

Noticing Elche's Dituro drifting far away from his goal, Guler wasted no time and launched an audacious strike from deep inside the Madrid half. The ball soared high through the air as the Elche goalkeeper desperately sprinted back toward his line.

Dituro tried to recover and leap for the ball, but it was already too late. The perfectly judged effort dipped under the crossbar and into the net, sending the Bernabeu crowd into celebration. The strike matched the longest goal ever recorded in LaLiga, equalling Antonio Jose's famous effort for Numancia against Sevilla in 2004 from a similar

distance. Interestingly, this wasn't the first time Guler had tried something like this. Earlier in the season he had struck the crossbar with a long-range attempt against Osasuna, but this time the effort found its



target. With plenty of football still to come this season, the stunning strike already looks like a strong contender for the next FIFA Puskas Award.

REAL MADRID DOMINATE ELCHE

While Guler's wonder goal grabbed the headlines, Real Madrid had already taken firm control of the match earlier.

Antonio Rudiger opened the scoring in the 39th minute after Elche failed to clear a rebound from a Federico Valverde free kick.

The German defender reacted quickest to smash the ball into the net. Valverde then added a second just before half time with a moment of brilliance, curling a precise effort into the top corner from the edge of the area.

Madrid continued their dominance after the break as Dean Huijsen made it 3-0, heading home from a cross delivered by teenage winger Daniel Yanez as coach Alvaro Arbeloa rotated his squad and handed minutes to several youngsters. Elche pulled one back late in the game when Madrid substitute Manuel Angel accidentally diverted the ball into his own net while attempting a clearance. But Guler's spectacular long-range effort moments later restored Madrid's three-goal cushion and ensured the night ended with a moment fans at the Bernabeu will not forget anytime soon. The victory keeps Real Madrid firmly in the title race, sitting just one point behind Barcelona, who face Sevilla on Sunday. A win for the Catalan side would extend their lead at the top to four points.

Madrid now shift their focus to a huge UEFA Champions League Round of 16 clash against Manchester City on Tuesday before returning to LaLiga action against Atletico Madrid next weekend.

Robot, national treasure: Suryakumar doesn't hold back on his praise for Bumrah

New Delhi. (Agency)

There are performances, and then there are performances. Jasprit Bumrah delivered the latter in the tournament final, returning figures of 4/15 in four overs to end New Zealand's hopes of pulling off a mammoth run-chase. It earned him the Player of the Match award and left his captain with little left to do but gush. Suryakumar Yadav was effusive when speaking to the ICC. A bowler winning Player of the Match for India had eluded the team all tournament, until Bumrah stepped up at the biggest moment. "A bowler had not won a Man of the Match in this tournament for India, and that was a perfect occasion, a perfect game," Suryakumar said. Then came the line that said it all: "Robot, national treasure, Jasprit Bumrah raising his hand, doing it for the team time and again." The captain was equally candid about the confidence the batting total gave his bowlers. "As soon as we scored 250, 256, we always knew that we had a little bit of upper



hand with our bowling unit," he said. "I know on a given day they can defend any total for me." On this day, Bumrah made him look like a prophet.

A tournament built on consistency

Bumrah ended as joint-highest wicket-taker with 14 wickets in 8 games, matching Varun Chakravarthy's tally, though Chakravarthy played one game more. It was a remarkable return across a gruelling tournament, and a reminder that Bumrah's impact goes well beyond a single headline moment. Game after game, he found ways to take wickets and control scoring at crucial junctures. His ability to bowl in any phase, with any field setting, in any conditions is what sets him apart from his peers. Suryakumar's bowling unit thrived as a collective, but it was Bumrah who gave it its spine.

Clutch is not a coincidence

This was not a new script. At the previous edition's final in Barbados, Bumrah returned 2/18 against South Africa and was named Player of the Tournament.

The Hands of God that shaped Sanju Samson's T20 World Cup redemption

New Delhi. (Agency)

Sometimes, the most profound victories are those that begin with a silent, devastating surrender. Long before Sanju Samson stood on the podium at Ahmedabad, clutching a Player of the Tournament trophy as a T20 World Cup winner, he was a man who had mentally packed his bags and left the building. He was gone, not just from the playing XI, but from the belief that the game he loved still loved him back. What followed was a revival orchestrated by a unique convergence of forces: a technical benediction from the God of Cricket, a tactical crisis that turned into a divine opening, and a support system that functioned more like a sanctuary than a dugout. This is the story of how Sanju Samson, broken by the weight of his own expectations, was put back together by the hands of those who saw what he had ceased to see in himself. To appreciate the height of

Samson's current pedestal, one must recall the depth of his despair in January.

In January, the Greenfield International Stadium in Thiruvananthapuram was turned into a cathedral built for one man. A 50-foot



cutout of Sanju Samson stood sentinel over the gates, a towering symbol of Kerala's obsession with its favourite son, who was set to play his first T20 international game in his hometown. The script was written:

Daniil Medvedev ends Carlos Alcaraz winning streak with Indian Wells semi-finals win

MUMBAI. (Agency)

Daniil Medvedev brought an end to Carlos Alcaraz's flawless start to the 2026 season with a commanding semi-final victory at Indian Wells. The Russian defeated the world number one 6-3, 7-6 (7/3) on Saturday to move into the title clash. Alcaraz arrived at the semi-final with a perfect 16-0 record for the year and hopes of completing a third straight title in the Californian desert. But Medvedev produced a composed display to halt the Spaniard's charge and book a final against Jannik Sinner. Speaking after the match, the former world number one was delighted to overcome one of the toughest challenges on tour. Playing someone like Carlos, you play many times... you lose many times. He's an amazing player. You need to be at your best and I was. Super happy to beat someone as strong as him." Medvedev said. Medvedev acknowledged the difficulty of facing the reigning world number one and admitted that only a near-perfect performance could bring success. "He's an amazing player with amazing shots, defence, attack, serve,

return, everything. So you need to be at your best — and I was," he added. Alcaraz, meanwhile, credited Medvedev for producing an exceptional performance and admitted the Russian deserved the victory.



"I just have to give credit to Daniil. I think he just played an amazing match," Alcaraz said at the post-match press conference. "Since the start of the match until the end of the match, he was playing unreal. I have never seen, to be honest, Daniil playing like this. He deserves completely the win today and to be playing the final here." The Spaniard

also spoke about the pressure that comes with being the world number one and the constant challenge of being the player everyone wants to beat.

"I said when I played against Rinerknech, for example, that what I'm just getting tired a little bit is to get that target on my back all the time," Alcaraz said. "As I said, I have never seen Daniil playing like this before. But I have to accept it. I have to accept it, keep it going." HOW DID MEDVEDEV BEAT ALCARAZ?

Medvedev relied on a mix of relentless baseline aggression and strong serving to control the rhythm of the match. The Russian broke early in the opening set and maintained his advantage to seal it 6-3. The second set proved far more competitive as Alcaraz raised his intensity and earned a break to move 3-1 ahead. However, Medvedev immediately responded, capitalising on a few unforced errors from the Spaniard to level the contest.

3 Iran women's football team members head home days after accepting Australia asylum

Three members of Iran's women's football team who had accepted humanitarian visas in Australia have now chosen to return home. Their departure leaves only three players from the initial group who decided to stay behind.

NEW DELHI. (Agency)

Three members of Iran's women's national football team who had earlier accepted humanitarian visas in Australia have decided to return to their homeland. The development

reduces the number of players remaining in Australia from the original group of seven to three. The Iranian squad had travelled to Australia for the Women's Asian Cup last month before tensions escalated in the Middle East on February 28. Australian Home Affairs Minister Tony Burke confirmed the latest departures in a statement on Sunday. Speaking about the situation, Burke said the players were given multiple chances to reconsider their decision before leaving. "Overnight, three members of the Iranian Women's Football Team made the decision to join the rest of the team on their journey back to Iran," Burke said. The minister added that Australian authorities ensured the players had the opportunity to fully understand their options before travelling. "After telling Australian officials they had made this decision, the players were given repeated chances to talk about their options," Burke said. According to Iranian state media later

reported that the three individuals leaving Australia included two players and one member of the support staff.

WHY WERE THE MEMBERS IN AUSTRALIA?



Iran's women's football team had travelled to Australia with a 26-member squad to participate in the Women's Asian Cup. After tensions escalated in the Middle East, six

players and one member of the support staff initially accepted humanitarian visas offered by Australian authorities that allowed them to remain in the country. The rest of the Iranian contingent departed Sydney for Kuala Lumpur on March 9. The situation first drew attention when five players left the team hotel on the Gold Coast during the night and approached Australian authorities seeking protection. Police later transported them to a secure location where they met Home Affairs Minister Tony Burke, who approved humanitarian visas allowing them to stay in Australia. The Australian government later identified the players as captain Zahra Ghanbari, midfielders Fatemeh Pasandideh, Zahra Sarbali Alishah and Mona Hamoudi, along with defender Atefeh Ramezani. Authorities also confirmed that the remaining members of the Iranian squad had been offered the same option if they wished to stay.

Fed meeting, Middle East tensions among key factors that may drive markets next week

New Delhi,(Agency)

The Indian stock market ended the week on a weak note, with benchmark indices witnessing heavy selling for the third straight session on Friday, as investors remained cautious ahead of several global developments that could influence market sentiment next week. The Sensex dropped 1,471 points, or 1.93 per cent, to close at 74,563.92, while the Nifty declined 488 points, or 2.06 per cent, to settle at 23,151.10. The broader market also saw sharp losses, with the BSE Midcap and Smallcap indices falling more than 2.5 per cent each. The decline also marked the third consecutive weekly loss for both indices. During the week, the Sensex lost 4,355 points, or about 5.5 per cent, while the Nifty slipped nearly 1,300 points, or 5.3 per cent, reflecting widespread selling across sectors. Market participants are now closely watching several global triggers that could influence the direction of the stock market in the coming week. One of the most important events is the upcoming US Federal Reserve policy meeting. The Federal Reserve will begin its two-day meeting on March 17 and announce its decision on March 18.

Geopolitical tensions in the Middle East are also keeping investors on edge. US President Donald Trump recently said that the United States could launch additional strikes on Iran's Kharg Island after a recent attack, while Iran has vowed retaliation.

Although there are indications that Tehran may be open to negotiations, uncertainty around the conflict is raising concerns in global markets. Crude oil prices will also remain a key factor to watch. Global oil prices were trading slightly lower after the US Treasury announced a 30-day waiver allowing countries to purchase Russian oil that is currently stranded at sea.

FPI exodus in March: Rs 52,704 crore outflow rattles Indian Stock Market

New Delhi,(Agency)

The escalating geopolitical tensions emanating out of the US-Israel and Iran war has rattled the financial markets across the world, including the Indian stock market. Foreign investors have pulled out a large amount of money from the Indian equity market in the first half of March 2026. According to the available data, Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) have offloaded equities worth around Rs 52,704 crore from the domestic market so far this month.

During this time period, Friday (March 13) recorded the biggest single-day selling of 2026, when Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) sold shares worth Rs 10,717 crore from the Indian stock market. The unabated selling by FIIs has increased pressure on market sentiment and severely impacted investors' sentiments. Since the beginning of 2026, FPIs have sold equities worth around Rs 66,051 crore from the Indian stock market. The relentless selling by foreign investors has become a matter of serious concern for the market. Analysts believe that due to the ongoing war in the Middle East and global economic uncertainty, foreign investors are adopting a strategy to reduce risk.

Middle East War & Global Uncertainty Drive FPI Selling The military conflict between US-Israel and Iran has been continuing for the last 15 days, and there are no signs of any de-escalation from both the sides. However, according to a report, U.S. President Donald Trump recently said in a virtual meeting with G7 leaders that Iran is close to surrendering soon, but the market still remains cautious about these developments.

Air travel disruptions: Air India cancels, IndiGo reschedules flights after UAE restricts operations

New Delhi,(Agency)

Air India cancelled several flights scheduled for Sunday, to the United Arab Emirates, including Dubai, Ras Al Khaimah, and Sharjah, as the evolving West Asia crisis has led to operational restrictions and schedule changes across the region.

In a statement posted on X, Air India said UAE airport authorities had instructed airlines to reduce operations. "In view of the latest instructions from Airport authorities in the UAE, Air India and Air India Express are compelled to curtail their ad-hoc operations for 15 March 2026," the airline said. The airline later expanded the cancellation to Abu Dhabi, Ras Al Khaimah and Sharjah.

In a statement online, it said, "Following instructions from UAE Airport Authorities, Air India and Air India Express are compelled to further curtail their ad-hoc operations for 15 March 2026. All Air India Express flights planned for the day to and from Abu Dhabi, Ras Al Khaimah and Sharjah stand cancelled." Air India will operate only one Delhi-Dubai return flight for the day, while four of the five planned Dubai flights have been cancelled. Air India Express will also operate a single Delhi-Dubai return flight, with five out of six scheduled Dubai flights cancelled. In Abu Dhabi, all five Air India Express flights have been cancelled for the day. Passengers affected by cancellations have been offered the option to rebook to a future date without additional charges or opt for a full refund.

IndiGo reschedules Meanwhile, IndiGo also informed passengers that flight operations in Dubai have been further restricted. In a post on X, the airline said, "Due to the evolving situation in the Middle East, flight operations have been further restricted in Dubai, leading to changes in flight schedules. Customers travelling to/from Dubai are requested to check their flight status before leaving for the airport."

More than adequate stocks': Government assures no fertiliser shortage amid Middle East crisis

New Delhi,(Agency)

The ongoing Middle East crisis has triggered concerns over the supply of several essential commodities, including fertilisers. Addressing these worries, the government on Saturday said the country's fertiliser availability remains stable, assuring that existing stocks of urea and other key crop nutrients are "more than adequate".

Speaking at an inter-ministerial media briefing on the situation related to the conflict, external affairs ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said India currently has sufficient fertiliser reserves, particularly as preparations begin for the upcoming Kharif season.

"What I can tell you is that India has more than adequate stocks of fertilisers at this point of time, especially for the upcoming Kharif season," he said. Jaiswal noted that the country's urea reserves are currently higher than the levels recorded at the same time last

year. "Our stocks of urea are more than what they were at this point last year," he said. The spokesperson also highlighted a stronger stock position for other fertilisers. According to him, reserves of DAP (Diammonium phosphate) are now double the levels seen in 2025, while stocks of NPK (Nitrogen, Phosphorus and Potassium) are also significantly higher compared with last year. He urged commentators to rely on verified information when discussing supply concerns. "Observers and commentators would do well to look at the factual situation and not induce panic through uninformed speculation," he said. DAP is the most widely used phosphorus fertiliser, while NPK is suitable for all stages of plant growth. Jaiswal said domestic urea production is currently expected to exceed nominal consumption levels, especially as the Rabi season is nearing its end. "In so far as our domestic production of urea is

concerned, our current production will be more than our nominal consumption, especially since the Rabi season is



coming to an end," he said. He also pointed out that the government had advanced annual maintenance schedules at certain fertiliser plants in order to maximise output. "In addition, we had taken care to advance the scheduled annual maintenance of some of our plants, which means that we are able to maximise production with available gas," he said. The Department of

Fertilisers (DoF), he added, had already issued global tenders in anticipation of potential disruptions linked to the current geopolitical situation. "These have received a very good response and we expect to receive the bulk of the quantities ordered from a variety of sources by end of March."

The DoF has also decided to procure spot gas on a competitive basis and the first phase purchase will be by Tuesday," he said. Jaiswal said India's international partners have reassured New Delhi that fertiliser shipments will continue without interruption. "All our partners have assured us of uninterrupted supplies and we hope to attain and maintain comfortable fertiliser stocks by the time Kharif demand peaks by May 15," he said. He added that the department of fertilisers is closely monitoring both domestic and global trends and taking the necessary steps to ensure adequate availability.

New Income Tax Rules 2026: The big changes coming your way from 1 April

Mumbai,(Agency)

If your total yearly income is below Rs 12 lakh, you pay nothing. Salaried employees get an extra Rs 75,000 standard deduction on top, which pushes the effective zero-tax limit to Rs 12.75 lakh. The new regime remains the default — if you don't actively pick the old one while filing, you automatically fall under the new system.

The Old Tax Law Gets a Makeover The Income Tax Act of 1961 is being replaced by the Income Tax Act, 2025. Decades of additions had bloated the law to over 500 sections. The new version brings that down to 333. The tax itself hasn't changed — just the language and structure around it, making it

easier for ordinary people to read and understand. Share Buybacks and Stock Traders Face New Rules



Money received from company share buybacks will now be treated as capital gains instead of dividend income. This means the tax you pay

depends on how long you held the shares. Separately, Securities Transaction Tax on futures is going up from 0.02 percent to 0.05 percent, so active derivatives traders will pay slightly more per trade. More Cities, Bigger HRA Relief

Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Pune, and Ahmedabad have been added to the list of cities where you can claim a 50 percent HRA exemption — a benefit that was earlier limited to Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, and Kolkata. If you are a salaried person paying rent

in any of these cities, your tax-free house rent allowance just got a meaningful bump.

Women investment in crypto market: Which Indian states are on top Giottus calculates

New Delhi,(Agency)

Women constitute only 5% of the new investors signing up in the past 12 months, but those who step into the domain, trade actively. That's the sum and substance of women in India's crypto market, cryptocurrency exchange Giottus has told News9. The share of active traders is as high as 79.15%, the exchange mentioned.

Uttar Pradesh on top Investment by women in crypto assets is taking place more and more beyond the straight jacket of metro cities, the exchange has found out. Disaggregating the growth figures state-wise Giottus has found that the growth in sign-ups between 2024 and 2025 took place in states such as Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Odisha, West Bengal and Gujarat. The growth rates in this time period play out as follows: Giottus feels the next wave of women crypto investors could emerge from large, diverse states where digital finance adoption is expanding rapidly.

Investor growth uneven The year-on-year trendline is uneven rather than steadily rising, says the

exchange authorities. They point out that the stated average annual growth rate is about 20%. But beyond that headline figure, there are pronounced year-on-year shifts — (-)33.96% in 2023, (+)372.51% in 2024, (-)28.28% in 2025 and (-)94.27% so far in 2026.



"The swings suggest that women's participation in crypto is not yet structurally anchored, but still influenced by broader market cycles and sentiment," said Vikram Subburaj, CEO of Giottus Crypto Platform.

Portfolio depth

On portfolio depth, the platform made the following observations. Within reported portfolio ranges, 17.97% hold between Rs 50,000-1 lakh; 19.98% between Rs 1-5 lakh; 22.22% between Rs 5-10 lakh and 26.25% above Rs 10 lakh. Therefore, a significant share of women is allocating substantial capital rather than merely experimenting at the margins.

Behaviourally, the picture is decisive. Only 20.85% of women customers exhibit HODL (Hold On for Dear Life) behaviour, while 79.15% trade actively. Thus, four out of every five women are participating dynamically in market cycles, with significant positioning and rebalancing and they also respond to price action. "What stands out is not just participation, but behaviour."

Going forward, oil risks can upset inflation projections, point out research agencies

India's retail inflation rose to 3.21% against 2.74% in Jan, according to the data released by the govt on March 12. However, the attention has now shifted to the impact that oil and gas prices can have on the inflation footprint, with the Iran-US conflict showing no sign of ebbing.

New Delhi,(Agency)

As the war between Iran on the one hand and the US-Israel combine on the other rages on, analysts are saying oil risks can upset inflation projections. Prices of LPG have already gone up by Rs 60 for the domestic cylinders and Rs 114 for the commercial cylinders. That will have an impact on the inflation numbers going forward. The updated Consumer Price Index series was released earlier this year. In it the weightage of "Fuel & Light" that includes

electricity, LPG, and other fuels has been revised to 17.66% of the retail inflation basket.

QuantEco Research estimates

The war is quickly resetting everything, say economists. "Despite the Feb-26 inflation reading coming less than 2 weeks since the month ended, the data already feels to be a bit dated, given the pace and intensity of escalation of war events in the Middle East," mentions Quantico Research, an independent research firm, in a note. It has pointed out that now all attention has shifted to inflation trajectory beyond Feb, keeping in mind the outbreak of conflict in Middle East, and its impact on crude and natural gas prices. "Natural gas has no immediate alternative routes to bypass the Strait of Hormuz. The near and immediate impact of this has already been seen, with the price escalation of Rs 60 being announced for domestic LPG gas cylinders. As per our estimates, this translates in 14-15 bps of direct impact on Mar-26 CPI estimate. There could be an added marginal impact of indirect costs too, with dining-out and processed food turning more expensive," said the research agency. With the Strait of Hormuz blocked, the govt of India is

exploring alternate routes.

MUFG estimates

"We estimate that every US\$10/bbl increase in oil prices cuts GDP growth in India by around 0.1-0.2pp and raises inflation by



around 0.2pp in India," mentioned MUFG (Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group) Research in a note. QuantEco says that the impact of the energy price shock on CPI inflation will largely depend two factors. One: duration of the crisis and two, severity of disruption of energy supplies. "If the war continues over the next one-two months, its fallout while being severe in the very near term, could possibly be managed via internal buffers and policy decisions (excise duty cuts). But, under a worst-case scenario — characterized by a

prolonged Middle East conflict, severe disruption to energy supplies and crude stabilizing at USD 100 pb — we estimate CPI inflation could rise by ~100 bps above our pre-war baseline estimate of ~4.0%," added the agency.

Earlier Q1, Q2 inflation projection

While briefing after the Feb 2026 policy review, the Reserve Bank of India projected that retail inflation for Q1 and Q2 periods of FY27 will reach 4.0% and 4.2% respectively due to normalizing price pressures. At that time the Iran US conflict was not on the horizon. The war began on Feb 28 with US-Israel combine showering missiles on Teheran in which the supreme leader of Iran was killed with a few family members and a large number of senior army officers. However, during his speech, RBI governor repeatedly cautioned about challenges emanating from the external sector.

Oil price projections

As reported, prominent MNC brokerages such as Goldman Sachs and Bank of America, have raised their average oil price forecasts for 2026 as the military conflict continued without any signs of ebbing.

'I'm On A Healing Journey': Nancy James Requests Not To Be Dragged Into

Hansika Motwani

Divorce

Actor Hansika Motwani's divorce from businessman Sohael Khatriya has continued to dominate headlines after the Bandra Family Court granted the couple a divorce on March 11, officially ending their three-year marriage.

Amid the ongoing attention surrounding the separation, Hansika's estranged sister-in-law Nancy James has requested that she not be dragged into the matter. Nancy, who is currently separated from Hansika's brother Prashant Motwani, revealed that she has been receiving numerous calls, messages and social media tags asking her to comment on the development. Speaking to Hindustan Times, Nancy said the situation had become overwhelming and that she prefers to stay away from the controversy.

"After Hansika's divorce I started getting a lot of calls and messages to comment on the development. On social media also I started getting a lot of DMs and tags and people started this is karma for Hansika. I really got fed up. Honestly, I don't want to involve myself in anyone else's life. My divorce is underway. And I am on a healing journey. I was getting calls and messages for comments, I was fed up so I wrote



the message on Stories," she said.

Past Legal Dispute With The Motwani Family

For those unaware, Nancy has previously had a strained relationship with the Motwani family. In December 2024, she filed an FIR against Hansika and the actor's mother Jyoti Motwani under various sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, including Section 498A (dowry-related cruelty), Section 323 (voluntarily causing hurt) and Section 352 (criminal intimidation and intentional insult).

In her complaint, Nancy alleged domestic violence and claimed that the harassment had resulted in Bell's palsy. She also accused her in-laws of demanding expensive gifts and money, and alleged that interference from Hansika and her mother contributed to problems in her marriage with Prashant Motwani. Nancy further claimed she was pressured to sell her flat.

In February last year, Hansika and Jyoti secured anticipatory bail from the Mumbai Sessions Court. Two months later, in April, they approached the Bombay High Court seeking to have the FIR quashed. In her petition, Hansika stated that she was shocked to see her name included in the complaint.

Krishna Shroff Reveals How 'Everything Changed' After She Found Her Love For Gym



Krishna Shroff, daughter of Bollywood star Jackie Shroff and sister of Tiger Shroff, is slowly making her mark in the entertainment world. While she grew up surrounded by actors, stepping into the spotlight was never easy for her. As a child and teenager, she struggled with insecurities and often felt hurt by negative comments about her pictures in the media. At one point, being in front of cameras seemed impossible.

Things began to change when Krishna discovered her passion for fitness. Spending time at the gym gave her more than just a strong body; it helped her feel mentally stronger.

She discovered that exercising not only made her stronger physically but also boosted her confidence and gave her a feeling of safety she hadn't felt while growing up. Years later, Krishna used that confidence to appear on reality shows like Khatron Ke Khiladi 14 and Chhoriyan Chali Gaon.

How Krishna Shroff Carved Her Own Path In Entertainment

In a conversation with Times of India, Krishna Shroff explained, "I had a lot of insecurities growing up. The media would post my pictures and I would read really mean comments. At that age, what people say becomes your reality."

I was so sure I never wanted to be in front of the camera. Once I found my love for the gym, everything changed. People don't realise the gym is not just about physicality. It goes hand in hand with how you feel mentally. It instilled confidence in me and gave me a sense of security I never had growing up."

The confidence gave her a push to become an entrepreneur, but according to her, "Building a business is not an easy feat. It's years of work, but eventually I got there. I always used to say I wanted to be an entrepreneur because I didn't want to work for anyone. But when you have something that's your own, the work never stops. The phone never stops ringing. You give so much more." Krishna then stepped into the world of Mixed Martial Arts and also launched her own fitness brand, Matrix Fight Night (MFN), with her brother, Tiger, and mother, Ayesha Shroff.

Farah Khan Reveals Karan Johar Received Threats Before Kuch Kuch Hota Hai Premiere



Farah Khan recently reflected on the working environment in Bollywood when she began her career in the early 1990s, recalling a time when Hindi cinema struggled with its image and the industry was dealing with the shadow of the underworld. The filmmaker and choreographer stated on a podcast held by Ranveer Allahbadia that during her college years, many people in her generation preferred Hollywood films and frequently looked down on Hindi cinema.

During the podcast, Farah Khan said, "I'll tell you the context of where the film industry was in the early '90s. Earlier, we used to look down upon Hindi films because of the '80s'. When we were in college, we were only watching Saturday Night Fever and Dirty Dancing – Hollywood films and we used to look down on Hindi movies."

Farah Khan On The Why 80s Films Were Worst Farah also called the 80s the worst era in films and explained that the perception stemmed largely from the kind of films being made in that era. She recalled, "There were all those multi-hero films – Mithun-style or three-hero movies. You had Dharmendra ji, Jeetendra ji, Shatrughan Sinha all coming together, but you can't even remember one particular film clearly."

Farah Khan On Underworld's Influence

She went on to say that, while many of those films are now widely shared as memes on the internet, the industry was very different back then. Farah also recalled how the film industry in the 1990s was dealing with the growing influence of the underworld. She added, "I remember I had just started my career around 1993 or 1994 and producer Mukesh Duggal was shot. That really shook everyone."

The filmmaker went on to say that comparable tensions existed during film premieres as well. She recalled that "during the premiere of Duplicate and Kuch Kuch Hota Hai, Karan had received an underworld threat."

It was very scary," According to Farah, the threat had led to serious discussions about whether the premiere should go ahead. Later on, the event went ahead as scheduled, but Johar was very stressed.

Kareena Kapoor

Khan Reveals Why She Joined Instagram After Staying Away From Social Media: 'It Wasn't Easy...'

Kareena Kapoor Khan is one of the most loved celebs on social media. Ever since she made her debut on Instagram, fans have looked forward to her unfiltered posts. Be her pouty pictures, no-makeup look, flirtatious posts for Saif Ali Khan, or adorable glimpses of her sons, Taimur and Jeh Ali Khan, she keeps offering a candid peek into her day-to-day life. In a new interview, Bebo revealed the story behind how she finally managed to say yes to making her debut on Instagram, after staying away from social media.

Kareena Kapoor Khan recalls how she was convinced to join Instagram

While speaking to the Times of India, Kareena shared that she was getting associated with a brand, and it wanted her to join the photo-sharing app. She joined Instagram six years ago when she came on board as Puma's brand ambassador. She told the portal, "It wasn't easy to say yes (to the brand), as I wasn't on Instagram and they were very clear about it. Because the world is going digital and brands want that. It was Covid, so they were very clear that they wanted me on Instagram. So that was why I actually came on Instagram. Later on, it kind of all worked out because I actually started enjoying myself. So that was fun. I think a brand has to resonate with the actor –

being authentic, being real. Otherwise, a brand can take on 100 ambassadors, even younger people."

Further, being asked if it was difficult to convince her to come on Instagram, the actress said, "It was." She further said that everyone had already joined Instagram while she hadn't. However, she eventually decided to give it a try for the sake of her brand. Over time, she began enjoying posting on the platform and



now feels she is quite authentic on Instagram, preferring to share content as genuinely as possible. Meanwhile, Kareena will be next seen in Meghna Gulzar's Daayra. The crime-drama will also star Prithviraj Sukumaran in a key role. The film is described as exploring the fine lines between crime, punishment, and justice.



It's sizzling hot and the rising mercury makes it tough for the plants, giving your garden a weary look. Just like we take extra care of our own health, our plants and lawns also need some extra care in this sweltering heat. So here are some easy tips and tricks for keeping your garden in good health and giving it a fresh look.

WATER

Make sure that you water plants deeply everyday. "Do not just spray water on plants and lawn, make sure that you make a layer of three inches of water, so that it seeps down till the roots," says Sanjay Alok, owner of a nursery.

Remember, your hanging baskets would dry quickly, so help them retain soil moisture by adding soil moist water retention crystals. The best time to water is early morning or early evening.

MULCH

Mulch is an exclusive organic layer of decayed leaves, bark or composite spread over the soil to make it rich and protect the soil from drying fast. Apply two inch of mulch on top of the soil around your plants to save them from the heat. "Mulching is important to garden health, it protects plants from the heat and helps control weeds," says Aarti Mukhani, a botanist.

Here's how to let your

Garden blossom during Summer



PESTS AND DISEASES

Do you see something weird growing in your garden? Is your plant building up abnormally in some way? Do

not take that lightly. Call an expert for the proper treatment of your plant. Make sure that you do not spray insecticides and pesticides by yourself as the plant might die out of chemical exposure in this heat.

WEEDS

It is

summer time when the tiny weed seedlings become huge monsters. Pull all the junk flora as soon as they are spotted. They take up all the water and nutrients from your plants' soil and keep them away from

utilizing it. Weeds also encourage the spread of pests.

GARDEN BEDS AND CONTAINER LAWNS

"We usually raise the cutting height of our lawnmower from 1 to 1.5 inches to make sure that the grass is tall enough to slow down the evaporation of water and reduce weeds," says Janki Desai, who maintains her house garden. The tall turf shades the soil from excessive heat and slows the evaporation of water.

FRUITS AND VEGGIES

If you own a kitchen garden, then this is the time to harvest your fruits and veggies as they ripen fast in this season. Don't let the fruits overripe, as it would attract more insects resulting the ground become disease prone. Provide shade to your garden by covering it with an agro net so that they are spared of the burning sensation.

Bookmark or read stories offline

Remove the dead plants and clear the rough space for fresh colorful annuals. Choose plants in larger pots to fill in empty spots more quickly. Also, pick plants that love the heat and will bloom when the temperature is high. Clearing the dead patches in your garden would help promote more flowers, and keep the garden looking neat and fresh.

10 ideas to spruce up your bedroom

The bedroom is the most coveted place of the house, as it is where you head to after a tiring day's work. So it is imperative that you add some style to it. However, if you think spending tonnes of cash is the only way you can spruce it up, think again. You can inject style and comfort into it even on a budget. Before you start, make sure you know what you want your room to look like - quaint, fancy, rustic, colourful or peaceful. Once that is taken care



of, use these 10 affordable ideas to create a one-of-a-kind bedroom:

- Use fairy lights on a window or mirror to give the room a dreamy effect.
- Put sheer curtains on all sides of your bed to give it a romantic touch
- Traditional wall hangings, tools and rugs can give your room a warm feel
- Use a curtain rod to hang a traditional

- Jaipur bedsheet or colourful curtains above your bed.
- Paint a section of the wall in a different dark colour, and use it to display your photographs and other memorabilia. You can even highlight a certain shelf.
- Use your painting skills, and create a mural on one of the walls or the door.
- Use colourful kites to liven up your room. Stick them up on the ceiling to add character.
- De-clutter your room and hang a couple of inexpensive paper light balls on one side to make it look spacious.
- Place a big bunch of faux flowers on your bedside table to give it a touch of freshness.
- If you put up a big picture of a landscape - say, waterfalls, mountains or open pastures - it will make you feel close to nature and give you a sense of calm.

Summer decor ideas for your home

As the temperature soars, enjoy your share of cool flowing space in summers and enjoy being at home
Colours of life: Didn't they say, first impressions lasts long. Spruce up your front door. Add a dash of color to your life, paint the door in bright Colours if you want to make a bold statement. Even if you are living in an apartment, you can put some terra-cotta figurines and potted plants on the front, thereby creating a warm atmosphere. Recycle fabrics and textiles. Lighten up any room by trading heavy fabrics for light and airy ones. As the temperature soars high, take down your old drapes in dark colours and replace them with an open flowing weave such as chiffon or light cotton. Add more life to your decor by adding crisp white, a bright solid or even floral patterns.



Clean up your kitchen: Spruce up cabinets with a fresh coat of paint. Put some flowers in the kitchen to give a feeling of freshness. Give your imagination a push and you can indulge

don't need. Or even have your share of charity by donating things to the needy. Life's always beautiful when you share. Larger, clutter-free spaces create the impression of a bigger house.

If you have been thinking to renovate your home and get rid of the clutter for the longest time, then this is the right time to start. However, if do not want to spend a lot and still want your house to look organised, then just get rid of these seven simple things and you can change the look of your living room instantly.

Bills, envelopes and invites:

Most living rooms have a stack of unimportant papers lying everywhere. From various utility bills to credit card statements, and from envelopes to wedding invites, we always tend



to dump all this on our coffee table or our TV cabinet in the living room. Get rid of empty envelopes and bills older than three years, and organise the rest in drawers, so that they're hidden.

Extra cushions:

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

Big-size music system and CDs:

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

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

7 things to help organise your Living area

cluttered.

Bean bags:

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

Artificial plants: This is one of the most useless things in anybody's living room, as they do not add any



dust and occupy unwanted space. Invest in real plants instead.

Miniature artifacts:

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

cha rm to the room whatsoever. In fact, Feng Shui and vastu experts warn about keeping artificial plants in homes as they have some kind of negative energy. Get rid of them as they attract a lot of