

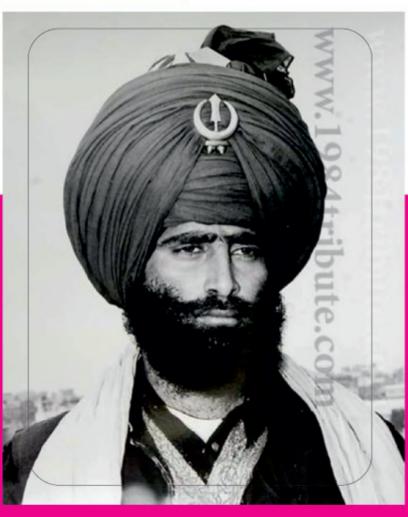
Sikhs will go to Haridwar on April 13 to take back

Gurudwara Gyan Godhri Sahib of Shri Guru Nanak Dev Jee



The Sikh Times Exclusive Story

New Delhi 19 March: In a strong and aggressive declaration that is set to intensify religious and political discourse across the country, the All India Sikh Conference Babbar has announced that Sikhs will move to reclaim the historic and sacred site of Gurudwara Shri Gyan Godhri Sahib near Har Ki Pauri in Haridwar on 13 April 2026 (Monday), the holy occasion of Baisakhi. Addressing the media, Sardar Gurcharan Singh Babbar, President of the All India Sikh Conference Babbar, stated that the Sikh community has waited for decades for justice but has now decided to take matters into its own hands if the government fails to act. He alleged that the historic Gurudwara, associated with Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji, was brutally demolished in November 1984, following the assassination of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. According to him, thousands of rioters, allegedly acting under the directions of the then Congress government, razed the sacred shrine to the ground at Har Ki Pauri. Babbar further claimed that after demolishing the Gurudwara, the land was forcibly कब्जा (encroached upon), and government structures were erected on the



sacred site. He alleged that the land of Gurudwara Shri Gyan Godhri Sahib was converted into offices, including that of the Bharat Scouts and Guides, while markets and shops were constructed and sold to private individuals.

Calling it a "historic injustice and insult to Sikh faith," Babbar said that this sacred place belongs to the Sikh community and must be handed back without any further delay.

He also highlighted that nearby Nanak Wara, spread across nearly 50 acres of land belonging to Guru Nanak Dev Jee, has been illegally occupied, where a large settlement has come up allegedly with the support of local administration.

The All India Sikh Conference Babbar has claimed that for several years they have been continuously appealing to the Uttarakhand Government to restore the historic Gurudwara to the Sikh community. Babbar stated that multiple assurances have been given by successive governments. He said that five former Chief Ministers of Uttarakhand had, at different times, assured that the land of Gurudwara Shri Gyan Godhri Sahib would be handed over to Sikhs. Additionally, he claimed that three former Governors of Uttarakhand had also personally assured resolution of the matter during meetings at Raj Bhavan.

Continued news page 2

LPG crisis exposes black market in UP, over 700 cylinders sold illegally in 1 day

New Delhi.(Agency)

A widening LPG crisis in Uttar Pradesh has exposed a black marketing network after a surprise raid in Banda district found more than 700 cylinders missing in a single day, even as official records showed adequate stock.

For days, long queues outside gas agencies had been growing, with people waiting under the sun and returning empty-handed. Many said they had been visiting for four to five days without getting a refill. "We come every day, but there is no gas. It is being sold at higher rates elsewhere," a consumer said.

RAID REVEALS GAP BETWEEN RECORDS AND REALITY

Acting on complaints, a team led by SDM Naman Mehta carried out a sudden inspection of gas agencies, hotels and restaurants on the instructions of the District Magistrate.

What they found sharply contradicted the official data.

At one agency, 916 domestic cylinders were recorded on the portal. On the ground, only 310 were found.

Similarly, while 115 commercial cylinders were listed, not a single cylinder was available during the inspection.

Officials say this points to diversion and black marketing of more than 700 cylinders in just one day.

DOMESTIC CYLINDERS DIVERTED FOR COMMERCIAL USE The inspection also revealed that hotels were using domestic LPG cylinders instead of commercial ones, worsening the shortage for households.

"Under the DM's directions, inspections were carried out at gas agencies, hotels and restaurants. The stock shown on the portal did not match what was found on the ground," SDM Naman Mehta said.

FIR REGISTERED, ACTION INITIATED

Following the findings, the administration registered FIRs in both cases — the missing cylinders and the misuse of domestic LPG. A detailed report has been submitted, and further legal action is underway.

Officials have warned that strict action will follow in similar cases. The crisis comes at a time when concerns over LPG supply have been rising due to global tensions, including the ongoing Iran-Israel conflict. While authorities maintain supply is sufficient, the situation on the ground tells a different story.

Grandstanding won't help: Shashi Tharoor backs government's Iran war stance

Backing the Modi government for its strategic silence on the Middle East conflict, Tharoor argued against "moral grandstanding". He said restraint protects national interests and keeps channels of communication open.

New Delhi. (Agency)

Referring to the recent court verdict in the alleged Delhi excise policy "scam", AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal on Tuesday said his party has passed an "agnipariksha (trial by fire)", adding that the court found no evidence in the allegations levelled against him and other leaders of his party. Speaking at a public meeting in Panaji, the former Delhi chief minister launched a scathing attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi, accusing the PM of sending a "message to all politicians" by putting him in jail.



"By putting me in jail, Modi ji has sent a message to all politicians that if you do too much work and talk about politics of honesty, I will put you in jail. AAP is the only party that talks of honesty in politics. I want to tell Modi ji... you tried everything to stop Kejriwal. You sent the CBI, ED, Income Tax, Delhi Police... put me and my

companions in jail... I want to tell Modi ji that if Kejriwal is to be finished... there is only one way. Kejriwal will have to be murdered. Otherwise, he will not bow down." Kejriwal said. Earlier last month, a Delhi court discharged AAP leaders Kejriwal, Manish Sisodia and others in the CBI's

corruption case linked to the alleged excise policy scam. Kejriwal said the BJP brought. But we knew we were falsely implicated, and the case is false. We knew the matter would not stand in the court," Kejriwal said.

He said that in the 600-page order, the judge said the case did not have an iota of evidence. "The hearings went on for five months. Koi saboot nhi hai, koi gawah nhi hai (There was no evidence, no witnesses). CBI, ED had gone to the court seeking a trial. The judge said there is no evidence to even begin a trial," he said. He also said that "false rumours" were spread that money from liquor scam was taken to Goa. "In the order, the judge has said not a single penny was dishonestly used in the Goa elections by AAP. In the order... this happens in the rarest of rare cases, the judge has written that the CBI officer who investigated this fraud case, disciplinary action should be taken against that officer," he said.

Front continued news

Sikhs will go to Haridwar on April 13 to take back Gurudwara Gyan Godhri Sahib of Shri Guru Nanak Dev Jee

However, expressing deep dissatisfaction over the lack of concrete action, Babbar warned that the patience of the Sikh community has now reached its limit. He issued a final appeal to the Uttarakhand Government, urging them to immediately hand over the sacred and historic site of Guru Nanak Dev Jee to the Sikh community.

"Otherwise," Babbar declared firmly, "the Sikh community will be compelled to reclaim Gurudwara Shri Gyan Godhri Sahib by force on April 13, 2026."

The announcement has already triggered serious discussions and concerns among religious, administrative, and political circles, as Hundreds of Sikh devotees are expected to gather in Haridwar on Baisakhi. Prominent Sikh leaders who endorsed this announcement include Sardar Subha Singh Dhillon (Haridwar), Jathedar Satvinder Singh Kahlon (Haridwar), Sardar Nishan Singh Kahlon (Haridwar), Jathedar Avatar Singh (Punjabi Bagh, Delhi), Sardar Dilbag Singh (Rohini, Delhi), and Sardar Gopal Singh Mukhi (Rohini, Delhi).

With tensions rising and a firm ultimatum issued, all eyes are now on the Uttarakhand Government to see whether a resolution is reached or whether the situation escalates into a major confrontation on the holy day of Baisakhi.

News box

Manfires in air, issues death threats over 10k loan dispute in Pachgaon

Gurgaon.(Agency)

Three persons were arrested on Monday in connection with firing in the air and issuing death threats to a man over a loan dispute in Pachgaon on March 8.

According to the complaint filed by Dharmender at Bilaspur police station, he had gone to Manesar on behalf of his employer, Ramesh, to recover Rs 10,000 from Deba, a tea vendor. The money was given to Deba three years ago for a period of 10 days but allegedly never returned. Dharmender stated that when he approached Deba, he was promised the payment within two days.

However, during a follow-up visit, Deba claimed the payment would be made in cash by one Sandeep Gurjar, a resident of Bissar village. When Sandeep arrived at the spot, he fired in the air and threatened to kill Dharmender if he kept on asking for repayment. Sandeep also sent threatening audio messages to Dharmender after the encounter despite there being no prior dispute between the parties. Police said Dharmender filed the complaint on March 9 following which a verification was conducted. CCTV cameras in the vicinity were found non-functional. An eyewitness later corroborated the incident on March 15. Based on the complaint and eyewitness account, a case was eventually registered under sections 287 (rash or negligent acts involving fire or combustible materials that endanger human life or cause harm), 351(2) (criminal intimidation) of BNS and under relevant sections of the Arms Act.

Gurjar, Deba and Puneet were arrested on Monday. "We arrested the three suspects on Monday and they were remanded in two days' custody. They were sent to judicial custody on Wednesday. We also recovered a .32 bore country-made pistol from their possession," an officer said.

2.7k EWS families get homes in Gurgaon under CM's housing scheme

Gurgaon.(Agency)

A total of 2,709 EWS families were allotted flats in the city on Monday under the Chief Minister Housing Scheme, fulfilling their long-awaited dream of owning a house.

Under the scheme, each beneficiary will receive a 200 sq ft flat at a maximum cost of Rs 1.5 lakh. The units are located in group housing projects licensed by the department of town and country planning (DTCP) and developed by private builders, including Emaar, M3M, DLF, Vatika, Ireo, Sobha and Godrej. Haryana Urban Development Authority made the allotments at the Gurgaon University campus through an online lucky draw. It was held in the presence of the district nodal officer and additional deputy commissioner Sonu Bhatt, additional director (department of housing for all) Ruchi Singh Bedi and other officials. The district administration had set up bank help desks at the venue to assist the beneficiaries with loan processing. Bhatt said applicants who had deposited Rs 10,000 and were found eligible after verification were included in the draw. "In keeping with the principles of social justice, priority was given to widows, scheduled caste applicants and nomadic tribes," he said. He added that the scheme goes beyond providing housing by enabling economically weaker families to live with dignity. "Today's successful draw marks a significant milestone in offering stability and security to eligible families," Bhatt said.

Fake Instagram account used to target Gurgaon youth & extort money, FIR filed

Gurgaon.(Agency)

A case was registered at Cyber Police Station East after a youth alleged that a fake Instagram account in his name was being used to tarnish his image, harass him mentally and extort money. The complainant, a resident of Sushant Lok Phase-2, approached police stating that an unidentified person created a fake profile in his name on Instagram.

The account, he said, was being used to upload content aimed at damaging his reputation and misleading people who knew him personally and professionally.

Police are working to trace the origin of the account and identify the person behind it, an officer said. According to the complaint, the accused also contacted him and demanded money while continuing to harass him through the fake account.

NGT seeks replies from Gurgaon civic body, forest department on illegal tree felling in Sector 109 society

Gurgaon.(Agency)

Alleging that several fully grown trees were cut without statutory permission inside a gated housing society in Sector 109, a city resident has approached National Green Tribunal (NGT), prompting the tribunal to seek replies from civic and forest authorities.

Hearing the matter on Tuesday, a bench headed by NGT chairperson Justice Prakash Shrivastava and expert member Dr Afroz Ahmad granted four weeks to govt agencies, including MCG and the divisional forest officer (DFO), to file their responses. The tribunal noted that some private respondents linked to the apartment owners' association have already filed replies. However, the counsel for govt agencies sought more time. The tribunal has now directed that replies be filed within four weeks, with the applicant permitted to submit a rejoinder within two weeks thereafter. The next hearing is scheduled for July 6,



2026. The plea was filed by Gaurav Saluja, who alleged illegal felling of trees within ATS Kocoon, a group housing society in Sector 109. A forest department official said the matter is under examination. "We have noted the tribunal's directions and will file our response within the stipulated time. We will verify whether permissions were sought or granted and take action as per

law if violations are found," the official said. In an earlier order dated Dec 22, 2025, the tribunal took cognisance of Saluja's complaint, which alleged that at least two mature bakain trees, over 10 years old, were cut without mandatory approvals. According to the plea, the trees did not fall under any exempted category and could not be felled without prior approval from the competent authority.

The applicant submitted that the trees were part of the original green plan approved for the housing project and were allegedly cut at the instance of office bearers of the apartment owners' association. He also told the tribunal that another tree was cut on Dec 7, 2025, and submitted photographs as evidence.

Observing that the application raised "substantial issues relating to compliance of environmental norms", the tribunal issued notices to multiple respondents, including the MCG, DFO, Haryana State Pollution Control Board, commissioner of police, deputy commissioner and representatives of the apartment owners' association. With replies now awaited, the tribunal will examine whether tree preservation laws and environmental regulations were violated and if accountability can be fixed for the alleged illegal felling inside the residential complex.

Rights panel seeks report on Fbd heart centre over fake surgeon

Gurgaon.(Agency)

Haryana Human Rights Commission (HHRC) has sought a detailed report from state health authorities over allegations of an unqualified doctor performing heart surgeries, reuse of medical equipment and financial irregularities at the heart centre operating under a public-private partnership at Civil Hospital in Faridabad.

The commission took cognisance of a complaint alleging that Meditrina Heart Centre, which was running the cardiac facility, allowed a doctor who was not a qualified heart surgeon to carry out cardiac procedures, resulting in "grave injustice" to patients. The commission has directed the additional chief secretary (health), director general of health services and Faridabad chief medical officer to submit a detailed report on action taken against the company, status of its contract, steps regarding alleged fund misappropriation, and efforts to appoint a new agency. In June 2025, TOI reported that an MBBS doctor, Pankaj

Mohan Sharma, allegedly posed as a cardiologist and performed over 50 heart procedures in eight months at the Badshah Khan Civil Hospital heart centre. Investigations found that Sharma misused the registration number of a legitimate cardiologist. He was hired by the private operator running the centre under the PPP model. That fraud came to light after a complaint by Sanjay Gupta, a Faridabad-based lawyer. The accused was removed by the hospital management.

In the present case, the commission flagged allegations that critical medical equipment such as needles, balloons, wires and catheters was reused multiple times, in violation of guidelines of the Medical Council of India and the World Health Organization. Such practices, the complaint said, may have led to several deaths at the facility. Financial irregularities have also been raised. As per the order, the private agency, operating under a 2017 agreement with the Haryana govt and linked to the Ayushman Bharat

scheme, allegedly charged patients directly while also claiming payments from the govt hospital — leading to double billing and potential loss to the exchequer.

HHRC noted that an FIR dated Oct 29, 2024 under IPC sections related to cheating, forgery and destruction of evidence has already been registered by the Faridabad anti-corruption bureau against Dr Prathap Kumar, chairman-cum-managing director of the company. He was later granted anticipatory bail by the Punjab and Haryana High Court in Dec 2024.

Despite this, the complaint alleged that the state govt has not taken adequate action and is considering renewing the company's contract. "If the allegations... are found to be true, it would amount to a gross violation of the human rights of citizens," the commission observed, adding that failure to act against a company accused of endangering lives raises serious concerns over public health safeguards.

Ghaziabad man accused of rape-murder of four-year-old shot in both legs

Ghaziabad.(Agency)

A man accused of raping and killing a four-year-old girl was shot in both legs by Ghaziabad police during an encounter in the early hours of Wednesday. The accused, 24-year-old Gaurav, told police that after murdering the girl, he wiped his blood-stained hands with a handkerchief and hid it in the bushes in the Nandgram area, where the crime took place. A police team took him to the crime scene for recovery, but the accused allegedly fired at police with an illegal weapon he had previously concealed. Police claimed to have retaliated in self defence. On Monday night, the accused, who was the girl's neighbour, lured her to an isolated location, raped her and bludgeoned her to death by repeatedly hitting her head with a brick. Her body was found in the bushes about 500 metres from home. Nandgram

assistant commissioner of police (ACP) Ziauddin Ahmad said that during questioning, the accused, a daily wage,



revealed that he was afraid that the girl would identify him if she were alive.

"Police retaliated in self defence, in which the accused was shot in both legs. The illegal weapon and cartridges were recovered from the accused. He was sent

to the district hospital in Ghaziabad for treatment. He is stable now," the officer added. According to a senior police officer, aurav took the girl to a local market where they ate samosa and jalebi. Then he purchased a few lollipops and, while returning home, took her to an isolated place. Police also recovered some lollipops from the accused's pocket.

The autopsy found 11 injury marks on the child's body, including three blows to the head, signs of strangulation, bite marks, and injuries to her genitalia. "During questioning, he confessed to the crime and said he killed the girl so that no one would know about the crime," the officer said. An FIR was registered under sections 103 (murder) and 238 (causing disappearance of evidence of offence, or giving false information to screen offenders) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita

Magisterial probe set up in encounter killings of Ghaziabad brothers in YouTuber Saleem Wastik stabbing

GHAZIABAD.(Agency)

A magisterial inquiry has been initiated into the police encounters on March 1 and 3 of two brothers, Ghulfam and Zeeshan, the prime suspects in the attack on businessman and YouTuber Saleem Wastik. Police shot Ghulfam dead in an encounter in Vasundhara on March 3, less than 48 hours after his younger brother Zeeshan was killed in a shootout in Loni.

According to cops, the brothers, who worked as carpenters and lived in Khoda Colony, were identified through CCTV footage after Wastik was stabbed at his office in Loni on Feb 27. Police said in one clip, the two were seen riding away on a bike moments after Wastik was stabbed multiple times in his office, with blood stains on their clothes. On Wednesday, district magistrate Ravindra Mandar said city magistrate, Santosh Upadhyay, has been put in charge of the inquiry and directed to conduct a time-bound probe into the incident. Officials said the probe was ordered in compliance with the National Human Rights Commission, which mandated

an independent inquiry in cases of deaths during police action.

Upadhyay said, "As per procedure, a public notice was issued on March 17 calling for any information. Following this, we will visit the spot, carry out inspections, and also conduct an inquiry on the officers involved in the encounters. Thereafter, a report will be submitted to the DM, who will then send it to the NHRC."

The city magistrate has invited members of the public to share any direct or indirect information, including written statements, photographs, or audio-visual evidence, by March 31 at the collectorate office or through the notified contact number. The inquiry is expected to be completed within a month and will examine the circumstances leading to the encounters and the actions of the police teams involved. Police had earlier said that on March 1, a patrol team in Loni had signalled a motorcycle with Zeeshan and another man to stop. The duo allegedly tried to flee, and after a brief chase, police said Zeeshan opened fire. In the exchange, he was shot and

collapsed on the road, while his associate escaped. Zeeshan was taken to a nearby hospital, where he was declared dead on arrival. Police said more than eight rounds were fired, and two head constables, Sachin and Nitin, were injured.

Two days later, on March 3, the SWAT team and crime branch tracked Zeeshan's brother and co-accused Ghulfam near Indirapuram. Police commissioner J Ravindra Goud said at 9.20pm, he was spotted riding in from the Vasundhara side. When police attempted to intercept him, the riders sped away but their motorcycle skidded on a mud mound during the chase, throwing them off.

Police said the men opened fire, injuring head constables Pushpendra Kumar Shukla and Sandeep Kumar. Bullets also struck the bulletproof jackets of ACP (crime) Amit Saxena, sub-inspectors Puran Singh and Bobby Singh, while another round passed close to SWAT in-charge Anil Kumar's ear. Police returned fire, injuring Ghulfam, who later died that night. According to Ghaziabad-based human rights activist

Rajeev Sharma, district magistrate needs to inform the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) within 48 hours of any death caused by police action or in custody.

He said that if a magisterial inquiry later concludes an encounter was staged, an FIR must be registered against the police personnel involved under the provisions of culpable homicide. The NHRC takes cognisance of a magisterial report and writes to the state chief secretary and principal secretary (home affairs) recommending compensation for the victim's family, along with further action, including suspension and criminal proceedings against those involved in the encounter. In its May 2010 communication to all chief ministers, the NHRC reiterated that police have no inherent right to take a life. A death caused by a police officer amounts to culpable homicide unless it is shown to be legally justified. The commission clarified that such use of force may be justified only under two conditions: the right to private defence, or when necessary to

arrest a person accused of an offence punishable with death or life imprisonment under Section 46 of the erstwhile Criminal Procedure Code.

THE SIKH TIMES

Edited, Printed, Published
Owned by Simmi Babbar
N - 31, Dr. Mukherjee Nagar
Delhi-110009

Printed at Qaumi Patrika Printing
Press, A-4/A-144, Tronica City
(Loni), Ghaziabad (Uttar Pradesh)

Corporate Office:
5, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg,
Press Area, ITO, New Delhi
Editor-in-Chief
Gurcharan Singh Babbar
Mob : 9654077232, 9971359517
Website : www.thesikhetimes.in
Email : sikhetimesindia@gmail.com

RNI No. DELENG/2008/25465



Towards VIKSIT BHARAT Through Simplified TAXATION LAW

Income Tax Act, 2025
Applicable from 1st April, 2026

“ Today the goal of the country is Viksit Bharat, Sashakt Bharat! We cannot stop until this dream of a developed India is fulfilled. ”

Shri Narendra Modi
Hon'ble Prime Minister



PRARAMBH 2026

Roll out of the Nationwide Awareness Campaign
on the Income Tax Act 2025

Inauguration by

Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman

Hon'ble Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs

at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi | 20th March 2026

Stakeholders

Income Tax Department

Industrial Bodies/ Trade Associations
/ ICAI / ICMAI / Technical Experts

Taxpayers

Key Highlights of the Campaign



Special launch of the 'Income Tax Website, 2.0'



Income Tax Department
Central Board of Direct Taxes

For more information, please visit www.incometaxindia.gov.in

NEWS BOX

César Chavez, icon of US labor movement accused of serial sex abuse: report

LOS ANGELES. (Agency)

US civil rights icon Cesar Chavez, whose decades of campaigning brought lasting changes to workers' rights, is accused of being a serial rapist who abused children and harassed women in the movement he led, a bombshell New York Times investigation said Wednesday. Over the years in which the charismatic Chavez galvanized farmworkers, winning reforms for a marginalised group and global recognition for himself, he was also molesting youngsters and coercing women into sexual relationships, the report said. Among his accusers is Dolores Huerta, a prominent leader of the movement, who said her longtime comrade-in-arms forced her into sex that resulted in two pregnancies. Two women The New York Times spoke to, who were the daughters of fellow members of the United Farm Workers (UFW), the union Chavez co-founded in 1962, said Chavez abused them as minors in the 1970s. Ana Murguía said Chavez began touching her inappropriately when she was 12 years old and he was over 40.

Debra Rojas claimed that her abuse began when she was 13, and that she had sexual intercourse with Chavez at age 15 -- an act that constitutes rape under California law. Dozens of other associates and victims concealed alleged abuses that he perpetrated for decades, The New York Times said. Chavez, who died in 1993, rallied California's largely Latino farmworkers starting in the 1950s to win improvements in working conditions. He led huge marches and national boycotts that transformed him into a figure revered throughout the labor movement.

Former president Bill Clinton posthumously awarded him the Presidential Medal of Freedom, and Joe Biden had a bust of Chavez installed in the Oval Office. California designated his birthday, March 31, a state holiday, and his face and name adorn schools, auditoriums, streets and public squares throughout the state. In a statement Wednesday, Huerta said Chavez had manipulated and pressured her into having sex on two occasions in the 1960s, both of which resulted in pregnancies.

Trump threatens to strike world's largest gas field if Iran attacks Qatar again

World. (Agency)

US President Donald Trump pledged Israel would make no more attacks on Iran's major South Pars gas field, but if Iran attacked Qatar again, the U.S. would retaliate and "massively blow up the entirety" of the field. Trump made his threat on social media Wednesday night as the war roiled global energy markets and Iranian missiles hit Qatar. The United States was informed about plans for an Israeli strike on Iran's massive offshore South Pars natural gas field Wednesday but did not take part in it, according to a person familiar with the matter who was not authorized to comment publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity. U.S.-Israeli war with Iran is escalating pressure on the region's energy sector, the price of oil surged another 5% to over \$108 a barrel on international markets, increasing the cost of gasoline and other goods while squeezing the global economy. Global oil prices rose on news of the Pars field attack due to fears of Iranian retaliation on Gulf energy infrastructure. Hours later, authorities in Qatar said a ballistic missile hit the country's key natural gas site, sparking a fire that caused "extensive" damage, and Qatar ordered some Iranian Embassy officials out of the country.

Iran has been striking its Persian Gulf neighbors' energy facilities since the war started on Feb. 28, and has made the Strait of Hormuz shipping channel, through which one-fifth of the world's oil travels, nearly impassable. Iran and Hezbollah have also been firing drones and missiles at Israel.

The U.S.-Israeli war with Iran has killed at least 1,300 people in Iran, more than 960 in Lebanon and 14 in Israel, according to officials in those countries. The U.S. military says 13 U.S. service members have been killed and about 200 wounded.

Eight killed during Rio police operation, including drug kingpin

RIO DE JANEIRO. (Agency)

At least eight people died Wednesday during a police operation against organized crime in Rio de Janeiro, including one of Brazil's most-wanted drug lords, authorities said. Around 150 members of the city's elite BOPE military police unit, backed by two armored vehicles, deployed in several favelas near the touristy Santa Teresa neighborhood targeting a prominent narco-trafficker. "A major armed confrontation ensued," leading to the death of the target, Claudio Augusto dos Santos, 55, identified as a key figure within one of Brazil's largest criminal groups, Comando Vermelho (Red Command), said military police chief Marcelo Menezes Nogueira.

Dos Santos had at least eight outstanding arrest warrants for kidnapping, drug trafficking, and homicide, Menezes Nogueira told a press conference. He described Dos Santos as "a ruthless and bloodthirsty drug trafficker" who had 135 criminal charges on record.

Police also killed six other suspected criminals.

The eighth victim was a local resident who had been taken hostage along with his partner, who survived, Menezes Nogueira said. The fatality came when the hostage takers opened fire at police during talks to free the captives. Officers also arrested 116 people and seized 21 guns, 105 kilograms of cocaine and 600 kilograms of marijuana, police said in a statement. In retaliation for the police operation, a bus was set on fire on a major avenue in downtown Rio, and barricades were erected using other vehicles, AFP journalists witnessed. "They boarded, told me to get the passengers off, and set the bus on fire. It all happened very fast," the shaken driver, Marcio Souza told AFP, describing the situation as "horrible."

Tulsi Gabbard says Iran's regime still intact but refuses to discuss talks with Trump about war

The director of national intelligence, also said that U.S. attacks on Iran last year had "obliterated" Iran's nuclear program and that there had been no effort since then to rebuild that capability.

WASHINGTON. (Agency)

The U.S. government's top intelligence official told lawmakers Wednesday that Iran's regime "appears to be intact but largely degraded" yet repeatedly dodged questions about whether President Donald Trump had been warned about the fallout from the weeks-old war, including Iran's attacks on Gulf nations and its effective closure of the vital Strait of Hormuz.

Tulsi Gabbard, the director of national intelligence, also stated in prepared remarks to the Senate Intelligence Committee that U.S. attacks on Iran last year had "obliterated" Iran's nuclear program and that there had been no effort since then to rebuild that capability.

The statement was notable given Trump's repeated assertions that a war with Iran was necessary to head off what he said was an imminent threat from the Islamic Republic.

Gabbard pointedly said that conclusion was the president's alone to draw as she declined to directly answer whether the intelligence community had likewise assessed that Iran's nuclear system presented an imminent risk to the United States. "It is not the intelligence community's responsibility to determine what is and is not an imminent threat," she said at one point. Democratic Sen. Jon Ossoff of Georgia shot back: "It is precisely your responsibility to determine what constitutes a threat to the United

States." The testimony came at the first of two congressional hearings held each year to offer the public a glimpse into the largely secret operations of the government's intelligence agencies and the threats they confront. The hearings this week take place



at a time of scrutiny over the war with Iran and heightened concerns about terrorism at home after recent attacks at a Michigan synagogue and a Virginia university.

Wednesday's hearing also came a day after the resignation of Joe Kent as director of the National Counterterrorism Center.

Kent said he could not "in good conscience" back the war and did not agree that Iran posed an imminent threat.

But the hours-long hearing offered few revelations from Gabbard, who repeatedly declined to discuss conversations with

Trump, or other senior intelligence officials who testified. "I am very disappointed," said an exasperated Sen. Mark Warner, the top Democrat on the Senate Intelligence Committee. "It's the only one time of year the public gets to hear from you guys in this kind of setting." A frequent line of questioning for Democrats: What intelligence, if any, had been given to Trump about the war's potential consequences? Trump, for instance, has said he was surprised that

Iran responded to strikes from the United States by attacking Arab nations and has been contending with the economic impact of the effective closure of the Strait of Hormuz, a body of water connecting the Persian Gulf to the world's oceans and a vital passageway for oil and gas.

At least 19 killed due to heavy showers, thunderstorm in Karachi

KARACHI. (Agency)

At least 19 people have been killed in various rain-related incidents in Pakistan's Karachi which was hit by heavy showers, thunderstorms and heavy winds. The casualties on Wednesday night were the result of roofs and walls collapsing, electrocution, trees and signboards falling due to the heavy rain and gusty winds. The Pakistan Meteorological Department has forecast more rainy weather and strong winds for Thursday. SSP Korangi Sanghar Malik said that 12 people were killed when a roof and wall of a telephone exchange collapsed on them while they were sitting underneath it having tea.

"The heavy winds, thunderstorms and rains caused the collapse in Mochko Goth in Saeedabad area," he said. He said rescue teams were still clearing the rubble and there could be more survivors or bodies underneath.

Most of the rain-related incidents occurred in the low-lying and lower income areas of the metropolitan city. The Deputy Inspector General of Police South, Asad Raza, told the media on Thursday morning that other casualties were reported in Korangi where a



woman was recovered from under a fallen tree trunk. Karachi Mayor Murtaza Wahab in a public service message advised people to remain home and avoid unnecessary travel on Thursday. Geo TV also reported that dozens of feeders had also tripped because of the heavy rain leaving many areas of the city without power.

The Met Office has also predicted showers in other parts of Sindh for the next two days.

"Rain and thunderstorms with strong winds and isolated hailstorm with few moderate to isolated heavy falls was forecast in Jamshoro, Hyderabad, Thatta, Sujawal, Badin, Matiari, Tando Muhammad Khan, Tando Allah Yar, Umerkot, Tharparkar, Sanghar, Mirpurkhas, Naushahro Feroze, Shaheed Benazirabad and Dadu districts," it said in a statement.

Saudi Arabia reserves 'right to take military actions' over Iran attacks: FM

RIYADH. (Agency)

Saudi Arabia has not ruled out military action in response to repeated missile and drone attacks from Iran, Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan said on Thursday. Speaking to reporters following a meeting in Riyadh of foreign ministers from the region, Prince Faisal said that Iran "tries to pressure its neighbours" with attacks.

"The kingdom is not going to succumb to pressure, and on the contrary, this pressure will backfire... and certainly, as we have stated quite clearly, we have reserved the right to take military actions if deemed necessary," he said.

Saudi Arabia reported more Iranian attacks on Wednesday, as the foreign minister hosted his counterparts from about a dozen Arab and Islamic countries for talks on the fallout from the Middle East war. Several strong blasts were heard in

the Saudi capital on Wednesday, according to AFP journalists, while the defence ministry said it had intercepted ballistic missiles. "The targeting of Riyadh while a number of diplomats



are meeting... I think that's the clearest signal of how Iran feels about diplomacy," Prince Faisal said. "It doesn't believe in talking to its neighbours." The Saudi foreign

minister condemned the repeated "targeting of civilian sites" across the Gulf, dismissing Iran's justification that it was targeting US interests in the region as "weak".

"Neither Saudi Arabia nor the Gulf states would accept... blackmail, and escalation will be met with escalation," he said. A joint statement from the foreign ministers' meeting in Riyadh condemned "the deliberate use of ballistic missiles and drones targeting residential areas and civilian infrastructure, including oil facilities, desalination plants, airports, residential facilities and diplomatic missions". The ministers "affirmed that such attacks cannot be justified under any circumstances and reiterated the right of states to defend themselves", the statement added, calling on Iran to "immediately cease its attacks" and de-escalate tensions.

Strait of Hormuz blockage drives up Gulf food bills

DUBAI. (Agency)

In a supermarket in Bahrain, Mahmoud Ali fills his cart as usual. The shelves remain stocked despite the war in the Middle East, but the blockade of the main shipping routes into the Gulf is now being felt at checkout. "There's no shortage", but over the past few days "there has been a noticeable increase in the price of certain food products", the father of four said.

The price of meat in particular has almost doubled, he added. Like most of its neighbours in this arid region, the small Gulf monarchy depends heavily on imports, especially for its food supply. But the war, triggered on February 28 by Israeli-US strikes against Iran, has severely disrupted the transport of goods through the strategic Strait of Hormuz, which is effectively closed. "Most major ports in the UAE, Qatar, Kuwait and Bahrain have suspended or heavily reduced cargo processing," said economist Frederic Schneider, from the Middle East Council on Global Affairs. Air transport, another logistical pillar of the region, is also running below capacity because of daily Iranian drone and missile attacks, he added. With the main gateways to the Gulf -- the ports of Abu Dhabi, Jebel Ali in Dubai and Dammam in eastern Saudi Arabia -- almost inaccessible, ships are turning to others located south of the strait in Oman and the Emirates. Saudi Arabia has also positioned itself as a key supply hub at the heart of the Gulf region, as its airspace remains open and maritime traffic to its Red Sea ports continues.

To address the disruption of traffic in the ports along the Gulf coast, the kingdom has launched a new initiative to strengthen its transport networks by adding logistics routes and operational corridors to handle containers and cargo diverted from the country's eastern ports, according to officials in the transport sector. AFP journalists recently saw a stream of heavy trucks crossing the border with Qatar.

Other land-based alternatives exist, including road corridors linking to the Mediterranean through Syria or Jordan. But these overland routes are too congested, expensive and insufficient to make up for the paralysis of traditional routes, Schneider said.

Fresh products, most of which are imported from Asia and cannot be stored for long, are the first to be affected. Tangible risk Faced with this situation, the Gulf states are not on equal footing. Saudi Arabia has direct access to the Red Sea. The United Arab Emirates claims to have four to six months of stock. And Qatar has invested heavily in its strategic reserves, following the three-year blockade imposed by its neighbours in 2017. Bahrain and Kuwait, on the other hand, are already seeing consumers paying the price for the conflict. After a rush on supermarkets in the first days of the war, Kuwaiti authorities froze the prices of certain basic products and subsidised meat imports. "Overall, prices have remained stable," an official from the Kuwaiti commerce ministry told AFP, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Missile strikes on the Ras Laffan Industrial City on Qatar's north coast on Wednesday caused damage to a gas-to-liquids facility.

DUBAI. (Agency)

Two waves of Iranian strikes caused "extensive damage" at Qatar's main gas hub, the country's state-run energy firm said on Thursday, with President Donald Trump warning Iran against further attacks on the facility. Iran had vowed to target energy infrastructure across the Gulf after a strike that Trump said was carried out by Israel on Iranian facilities at South Pars field, Iran's part of the world's largest known gas reserve. Missile strikes on the Ras Laffan Industrial City on Qatar's north coast on Wednesday caused damage to a

gas-to-liquids facility and early on Thursday sparked "sizeable fires and extensive further damage" to several liquefied natural gas facilities, QatarEnergy said in a statement. Qatar's interior ministry said crews brought all fires under control at the Ras Laffan site, without reporting any injuries. The country's defence ministry said Qatar was attacked by ballistic missiles from Iran, targeting the energy hub.

While the UK maritime agency reported on Thursday that a projectile hit a vessel near Ras Laffan and that all crew were safe.

Qatar is one of the world's top liquefied natural gas producers, alongside the United States, Australia and Russia. Trump on his Truth Social platform threatened to "massively blow up the entirety of the South Pars Gas Field" if any further attacks took place at Ras Laffan. He

said Israel was responsible for the strike on South Pars. Israel's government has not commented. The Gulf has borne the brunt

has shaken international markets and pushed up prices globally.

Oil prices surged more than 5 percent on

Thursday on supply concerns and stocks sank as news of the attacks on Gulf energy facilities spooked investors. Qatari authorities said there were no reports of injuries from the Ras Laffan attacks, which caused a vast fire that illuminated the night sky and could be seen from roughly 30 kilometres away, an AFP journalist reported. In a statement after the first wave of strikes, Qatar's foreign ministry condemned what it called a "brutal Iranian attack targeting Ras Laffan" saying the targeting represented a "direct threat to its national security". Later, the ministry said Iran's military and security attaches and their staff had been ordered to leave the country within 24 hours.



of Iran's reprisals for the US-Israeli strikes that sparked the Middle East war in late February, with Tehran targeting US assets as well as striking energy facilities.

The feared energy shock caused by the war

All guarantees being fulfilled without discrimination, free healthcare up to 10 lakh & 600 units power delivered: Barinder Kumar Goyal

CHANDIGARH / KATHGARH (SBSNAGAR), 19 March: Asserting that all guarantees are being fulfilled without discrimination, Punjab Water Resources and Soil and Water Conservation Minister Barinder Kumar Goyal said the Bhagwant Mann-led government is delivering on its promises across sectors. The Bhagwant Mann-led Punjab government has achieved a major irrigation breakthrough in the long-neglected Kandi belt, turning difficult terrain into cultivable opportunity. With the 2214 crore Kathgarh Lift Irrigation Scheme bringing canal water to higher altitudes for the first time, he emphasised the AAP government's pro-farmer schemes, highlighting higher water utilisation, large-scale infrastructure investment and a long-term vision linking farmer relief with economic transformation. Marking a historic step, Punjab Water Resources and Soil and Water Conservation

Minister Barinder Kumar Goyal inaugurated the Kathgarh Lift Irrigation Scheme developed at a cost of 2214 crore. For the first time, canal water has been successfully lifted and delivered to higher altitude areas, ensuring assured irrigation to dry and rain-fed lands of the Kandi region. The project will provide irrigation facilities to nearly 11,500 acres of land across 33 villages, paving the way for enhanced agricultural productivity and increased farmer income. The initiative will transform the agrarian landscape of the region by enabling farmers to cultivate better crops and improve land value. Addressing the gathering after the inauguration, Cabinet minister Barinder Kumar Goyal stated, "The Kathgarh Lift Irrigation Scheme will serve as a milestone in extending irrigation to areas that

remained deprived due to elevation challenges through the Kandi Canal and Bist Doab systems. The project will significantly reduce dependence on groundwater and bring long-term benefits to the region." Providing details of the project, he added that it is being executed in three phases. "The first phase covering 4,000 acres in 13 villages has already been completed in February 2026 at a cost of 767 crore. The second phase, costing 2107 crore, will cover 5,500 acres in 14 villages and is expected to be completed by September 2026, while the third phase with an outlay of 740 crore will extend irrigation to 2,000 acres in 6 villages. A 650 kW solar plant has also been installed to minimise electricity burden," he shared. Highlighting the

technical aspects, Barinder Kumar Goyal said that the scheme has been connected to the Bist Doab Canal with a discharge capacity of 67 cusecs and water will be lifted through pumps and supplied via an extensive pipeline network to high, low and semi-hilly agricultural fields. He added that no land acquisition was required as existing departmental land was utilised for the pump house. Emphasising the significance of the project, the minister further said, "Due to deep groundwater levels and failure of tube wells, farmers in the Kandi area were heavily dependent on rainfall, which

limited crop diversification and productivity. Being a semi-hilly terrain, conventional canal systems were not feasible earlier, which also kept land prices low. Advanced satellite and drone surveys were conducted and technical staff were trained at IIT Roorkee and IIT Ropar to design the project, which was executed in a mission mode within six months." "Before this project, irrigation was available in 28,205 acres across 72 villages in Balachaur constituency. With the completion of this

scheme, irrigation coverage will expand to 39,705 acres across 105 villages. Around 94,000 kilometres of pipelines have been laid to ensure water reaches the fields efficiently," he added. Reiterating the commitment of the CM Bhagwant Singh Mann-led government, Barinder Kumar Goyal said that the state has spent 76,700 crore so far to strengthen irrigation infrastructure and ensure uninterrupted canal water supply. "While only 22 percent water was earlier used for irrigation, the Mann

government has increased its utilisation to 78 percent. Strengthening of canals has contributed to improvement in groundwater levels, reduction in electricity consumption and enhancement in soil fertility," he stated. Sharing details about the Kandi Canal, the minister said that it originates from Talwara and extends up to Balachaur with a total length of 129.035 km and discharge capacity of 463 cusecs.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the General Public that Mr. Monu Sharma son of Mr. Brahm Dutt Sharma in respect of Built-up Plot No. 1689A/1 of 0.01 Plot No. 41, area measuring 46 sq. yds., out of Kharsa No.23/171, situated in the revenue estate of Village Najafgarh, in the Abadi known as Kamla Park, Dharampura-I, Najafgarh, New Delhi-110043, by virtue of Notarized GPA, S.A.P.A.T.S & Will dated 03.05.2025 executed by Mr. Kanhya son of Mr. Jogender Jha and said property to be sold to Mrs. Rashmi Bhardwaj and same to be financed by SMFG India Home Finance Co. Ltd., General public hereby informed that if anybody has any charge/interest/title in the said property or any kind of dispute kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 07 days of the present.

NAME CHANGE

I, JEEVAN SINGH YADAV S/O RAM SINGH R/O H.NO. 29 THIRD FLOOR BLOCK NO-9 SUBHASH NAGAR DELHI-110027 have changed my name to JIWAN SINGH Permanently for all Future purpose

NAME CHANGE

I, MANDEEP KAUR YADAV W/O ROHIT YADAV R/O H.NO. 29, THIRD FLOOR SUBHASH NAGAR DELHI-110027 have changed my name minor Daughter AMAIRA TO AMAIRA YADAV Permanently for all Future purpose

NAME CHANGE

I, Dipesh Devi W/O Jshyam Veer Singh R/O 9963, 2/ND Floor Agri No-4 Mutiani Dhanda Pahar Ganj Delhi 110055 Changed my name to Dipesh

NAME CHANGE

I, Kavita Kohli D/O Ved Parkash Kohli R/O - 15/19 Ground Floor, Subhash Nagar, New Delhi - 110027 Changed my name to Kavita Arora.

NAME CHANGE

I, KUSHBOO PARASHAR W/O SUMIT KAUSHIK R/O H NO 167 A KHIRKI WADGE MALVIYA NAGAR HAUZ KHAS SOUTH DELHI, DELHI-110017 I HAVE CHANGED MY NAME KHUSHBOO PARASHAR for future purpose

NAME CHANGE

I, MOHD RAFIQ S/O MOHD HANIF - Residing at House No.120 ,Block - E , Hari Nagar Extension, Part -3 , Badarpur, South Delhi , Delhi - 110044 have changed the name of my minor Daughter RIYA aged 11 years and she shall hereafter be known as AYESHA.

NAME CHANGE

I, SHIV KAPOOR W/O PRADEEP ANAND R/O A-330,GROUND FLOOR, SUSHANT LOK, PHASE-2, SECTOR-56, GURGAON, HARYANA-122011 HAVE CHANGED NAME TO SHIV ANAND FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSES

NAME CHANGE

I, SUMAN is legally mother of No. JC-4628656 Rank- NB SUB Name- PATIL SACHIN MARUTI presently residing at RILL- NAGARDALE, POST- KINH, TEH- CHANDGAD, DIST- KOLHAPUR, STATE MAHARASHTRA, PIN-416508, have changed my name from SUMAN to SUMAN MARUTI PATIL and date of birth from 16/05/1958 to 04/06/1954 for all future purposes. Vide affidavit dated 11.02.2026 before Public Notary Delhi.

NAME CHANGE

I, MANISHA is legally wife of No. JC-4628644 Rank- NB SUB NAME- KADUS RAOSAHEB MACHHINDRA Presently residing at VILL- SAROLA KASAR, POST-SAROLA KASAR, TEH-AHILYANAGAR, DIST- AHILYANAGAR, (MAHARASHTRA)-414005, have changed my name from MANISHA to KADUS MANISHA RAOSAHEB for all future purposes. Vide affidavit dated 21.01.2026 before Public Notary Delhi.

NAME CHANGE

I, RAJ KISHOR S/O HUSHVAR R/O Ilabas , Noida , Gautam Buddha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh - 201301 have changed the name of my minor son YUG aged 16 years and he shall hereafter be known as YUGRAJ.

NAME CHANGE

I, RAJ KISHOR S/O Balwant Singh R/O E-9, Milap Nagar, West Delhi - 110059, Changed my name to Raj Kishore.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to public at large that my client S. Amanpreet Singh Lamba, S. Amrit Pal Singh and Mr. Vinod Kumar Mahajan is the owner of Third floor, built on Property bearing no. 15, Land measuring 76 Sq. Yards, situated in Kharsa no. 34/12 and 40/12, situated in the Revenue estate of Village Nilothi Delhi State and the colony known as Dalip Vihar, Nilothi Extn, New Delhi- 110041, vide Authorization Slip dated 19.02.2026 registered as doc. no. 2026/6/1481, book no. 1, vol. no. 6997, Page no. 1 to 10, on 28.02.2026, SRO - West Punjabi Bagh, and intend to mortgage the said property with Aditya Birla Housing Finance Ltd. If any person(s) has/have any objection(s) or claim(s) with respect to the right, title or interest in the said property may please contact us within 07 days from the date of this notice on the number & address mentioned herein below, failing which my client(s) shall not be held responsible in any manner whatsoever.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform you that Mr. Ravindra Solanki intends to purchase a plot of land measuring 271 sq. yds., forming part of Kharsa No. 441, situated in the revenue estate of Village Nasirpur, Delhi, adjacent to the old abadi of Village Nasirpur, Delhi, from Mr. Zubin Solanki. The original owner of the said property was Mr. Daryao Singh & Others, as per the revenue records. Mr. Daryao Singh executed a registered Will dated 28.02.2025 in favour of Mr. Zubin Solanki. Unfortunately, Mr. Mr. Daryao Singh Solanki, S/o Bhag Mal, passed away on 14.09.2020, and his son, Late Mr. Narendra Singh Solanki, also expired on 04.12.2022, leaving behind the following legal heirs: Mrs. Rakesh Solanki (wife), Ms. Sophia Solanki (daughter), and Mr. Zubin Solanki (son). Consequently, in accordance with the said Will, Mr. Zubin Solanki is the absolute and lawful owner of the aforementioned property. The property is free from all kinds of litigation, encumbrances, liens, charges, or claims. Please also note that the said property is proposed to be financed by Bajaj Housing Finance Ltd., Gurgaon Branch, Haryana. If any person(s) objection & regarding subject property, then kindly may submit his/her objection within 07 days from the date of the Notice in writing. The said objection may be kindly sent to the undersigned by way of the Registered Post on the address given below and by E-mail, failing which, the claim as per affidavit shall be treated as null and void in respect of the subject property.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the General Public that Mrs. Pushpa Rathore W/O Mr. Balwinder Singh Rathore in respect of Ground Floor, Built on Plot No. 218, area measuring 50 sq. Yds., out of Kharsa No. 16/4, situated in the area of Village Guru Nanak, Major Bhupinder Singh Nagar, New Delhi, by virtue of GPA dated 15.04.1996 & Regd. Will duly registered in the Office of SRO-Delhi, vide Doc. No. 27668, in Book No. 3, Volume No. 2913, Pages 98, dated 15.04.1996, executed by S. Gurcharan Singh S/o S. Inder Singh and said property to be sold to Mr. Amanpreet Singh and same to be financed by SMFG India Home Finance Co. Ltd., General public hereby informed that if anybody has any charge/interest/title in the said property or any kind of dispute kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 07 days of the present.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the General Public that Mrs. Pushpa Rathore W/O Mr. Balwinder Singh Rathore in respect of Ground Floor, Built on Plot No. 218, area measuring 50 sq. Yds., out of Kharsa No. 16/4, situated in the area of Village Guru Nanak, Major Bhupinder Singh Nagar, New Delhi, by virtue of GPA dated 15.04.1996 & Regd. Will duly registered in the Office of SRO-Delhi, vide Doc. No. 27668, in Book No. 3, Volume No. 2913, Pages 98, dated 15.04.1996, executed by S. Gurcharan Singh S/o S. Inder Singh and said property to be sold to Mr. Amanpreet Singh and same to be financed by SMFG India Home Finance Co. Ltd., General public hereby informed that if anybody has any charge/interest/title in the said property or any kind of dispute kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 07 days of the present.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the General Public that Mrs. Pushpa Rathore W/O Mr. Balwinder Singh Rathore in respect of Ground Floor, Built on Plot No. 218, area measuring 50 sq. Yds., out of Kharsa No. 16/4, situated in the area of Village Guru Nanak, Major Bhupinder Singh Nagar, New Delhi, by virtue of GPA dated 15.04.1996 & Regd. Will duly registered in the Office of SRO-Delhi, vide Doc. No. 27668, in Book No. 3, Volume No. 2913, Pages 98, dated 15.04.1996, executed by S. Gurcharan Singh S/o S. Inder Singh and said property to be sold to Mr. Amanpreet Singh and same to be financed by SMFG India Home Finance Co. Ltd., General public hereby informed that if anybody has any charge/interest/title in the said property or any kind of dispute kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 07 days of the present.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the General Public that Mrs. Pushpa Rathore W/O Mr. Balwinder Singh Rathore in respect of Ground Floor, Built on Plot No. 218, area measuring 50 sq. Yds., out of Kharsa No. 16/4, situated in the area of Village Guru Nanak, Major Bhupinder Singh Nagar, New Delhi, by virtue of GPA dated 15.04.1996 & Regd. Will duly registered in the Office of SRO-Delhi, vide Doc. No. 27668, in Book No. 3, Volume No. 2913, Pages 98, dated 15.04.1996, executed by S. Gurcharan Singh S/o S. Inder Singh and said property to be sold to Mr. Amanpreet Singh and same to be financed by SMFG India Home Finance Co. Ltd., General public hereby informed that if anybody has any charge/interest/title in the said property or any kind of dispute kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 07 days of the present.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the General Public that Mrs. Pushpa Rathore W/O Mr. Balwinder Singh Rathore in respect of Ground Floor, Built on Plot No. 218, area measuring 50 sq. Yds., out of Kharsa No. 16/4, situated in the area of Village Guru Nanak, Major Bhupinder Singh Nagar, New Delhi, by virtue of GPA dated 15.04.1996 & Regd. Will duly registered in the Office of SRO-Delhi, vide Doc. No. 27668, in Book No. 3, Volume No. 2913, Pages 98, dated 15.04.1996, executed by S. Gurcharan Singh S/o S. Inder Singh and said property to be sold to Mr. Amanpreet Singh and same to be financed by SMFG India Home Finance Co. Ltd., General public hereby informed that if anybody has any charge/interest/title in the said property or any kind of dispute kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 07 days of the present.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform you that Mrs. Sunita Verma is the owner of the entire second floor (without roof-terrace rights) of Property No. R-24, having a land area measuring 100 sq. yds., bearing Kharsa No. 1172/620/407, situated in the abadi of Naveen Shahdara, in the area of Village Udharpur, Jhansi Shahdara, Delhi. The initial owner of the entire property was Mr. Rajender Kumar Gupta, who sold the property to Mrs. Jai Devi through a Sale Deed dated 07.07.2005 and a Rectification Deed dated 30.08.2005. Unfortunately, Mrs. Jai Devi expired, leaving behind the following legal heirs: Mr. Kewal Budhiraja, Mrs. Kantia Khanna, and Mr. Ankur Talwar, in favour of Mr. Mahender Budhiraja, Mr. Kewal Budhiraja, Mrs. Kantia Khanna, and Mr. Ankur Talwar relinquished their respective shares in favour of Mr. Mahender Budhiraja through a Relinquishment Deed dated 16.07.2020. Thereafter, Mr. Mahender Budhiraja sold the property to Mrs. Sunita Verma through a Sale Deed dated 22.09.2020. The said property is free from all kinds of encumbrances, liens, charges, mortgages, etc. She has informed us that the two original documents, i.e., the Sale Deed dated 07.07.2005 (Registered as No. 4692) and the Rectification Deed dated 30.08.2005 (Registered as No. 5998), relating to the said property, have been lost/misplaced. The said documents are not traceable and could not be found. An online FIR (LR No. 174486/2026) dated 18.03.2026 has been registered regarding the loss of the aforesaid documents. Please also note that the said property is proposed to be financed by RBL Bank Ltd., Okhla Branch, New Delhi. If any person(s) objection & regarding subject property, then kindly may submit his/her objection within 07 days from the date of the Notice in writing. The said objection may be kindly sent to the undersigned by way of the Registered Post on the address given below and by E-mail, failing which, the claim as per affidavit shall be treated as null and void in respect of the subject property.

NAME CHANGE

I, Monika Rani D/O Shambhu Kumar, R/O H.No C-123, Jawahar Park Devli Road Kharpur, Jhansi, Bhanwar S/O, DIST: South Delhi, Delhi - 110062, have changed my name Monika Kumari for all future purposes. Monika Rani and Monika Kumari both are one and same Person.

NAME CHANGE

I, Rohit is legally son of No. JC-4628644 Rank- NB SUB NAME- KADUS RAOSAHEB MACHHINDRA Presently residing at VILL- SAROLA KASAR, POST-SAROLA KASAR, TEH-AHILYANAGAR, DIST- AHILYANAGAR, (MAHARASHTRA)-414005, have changed my name from ROHIT to KADUS ROHIT RAOSAHEB for all future purposes. Vide affidavit dated 21.01.2026 before Public Notary Delhi.

NAME CHANGE

I, RAJ KISHOR S/O Balwant Singh R/O E-9, Milap Nagar, West Delhi - 110059, Changed my name to Raj Kishore.

NAME CHANGE

I, RAJ KISHOR S/O Balwant Singh R/O E-9, Milap Nagar, West Delhi - 110059, Changed my name to Raj Kishore.

NAME CHANGE

I, RAJ KISHOR S/O Balwant Singh R/O E-9, Milap Nagar, West Delhi - 110059, Changed my name to Raj Kishore.

NAME CHANGE

I, RAJ KISHOR S/O Balwant Singh R/O E-9, Milap Nagar, West Delhi - 110059, Changed my name to Raj Kishore.

NAME CHANGE

I, Monika Rani D/O Shambhu Kumar, R/O H.No C-123, Jawahar Park Devli Road Kharpur, Jhansi, Bhanwar S/O, DIST: South Delhi, Delhi - 110062, have changed my name Monika Kumari for all future purposes. Monika Rani and Monika Kumari both are one and same Person.

NAME CHANGE

I, Rohit is legally son of No. JC-4628644 Rank- NB SUB NAME- KADUS RAOSAHEB MACHHINDRA Presently residing at VILL- SAROLA KASAR, POST-SAROLA KASAR, TEH-AHILYANAGAR, DIST- AHILYANAGAR, (MAHARASHTRA)-414005, have changed my name from ROHIT to KADUS ROHIT RAOSAHEB for all future purposes. Vide affidavit dated 21.01.2026 before Public Notary Delhi.

NAME CHANGE

I, RAJ KISHOR S/O Balwant Singh R/O E-9, Milap Nagar, West Delhi - 110059, Changed my name to Raj Kishore.

NAME CHANGE

I, RAJ KISHOR S/O Balwant Singh R/O E-9, Milap Nagar, West Delhi - 110059, Changed my name to Raj Kishore.

NAME CHANGE

I, RAJ KISHOR S/O Balwant Singh R/O E-9, Milap Nagar, West Delhi - 110059, Changed my name to Raj Kishore.

NAME CHANGE

I, RAJ KISHOR S/O Balwant Singh R/O E-9, Milap Nagar, West Delhi - 110059, Changed my name to Raj Kishore.

NAME CHANGE

I, RAJ KISHOR S/O Balwant Singh R/O E-9, Milap Nagar, West Delhi - 110059, Changed my name to Raj Kishore.

NAME CHANGE

I, Monika Rani D/O Shambhu Kumar, R/O H.No C-123, Jawahar Park Devli Road Kharpur, Jhansi, Bhanwar S/O, DIST: South Delhi, Delhi - 110062, have changed my name Monika Kumari for all future purposes. Monika Rani and Monika Kumari both are one and same Person.

NAME CHANGE

I, Rohit is legally son of No. JC-4628644 Rank- NB SUB NAME- KADUS RAOSAHEB MACHHINDRA Presently residing at VILL- SAROLA KASAR, POST-SAROLA KASAR, TEH-AHILYANAGAR, DIST- AHILYANAGAR, (MAHARASHTRA)-414005, have changed my name from ROHIT to KADUS ROHIT RAOSAHEB for all future purposes. Vide affidavit dated 21.01.2026 before Public Notary Delhi.

NAME CHANGE

I, RAJ KISHOR S/O Balwant Singh R/O E-9, Milap Nagar, West Delhi - 110059, Changed my name to Raj Kishore.

NAME CHANGE

I, RAJ KISHOR S/O Balwant Singh R/O E-9, Milap Nagar, West Delhi - 110059, Changed my name to Raj Kishore.

NAME CHANGE

I, RAJ KISHOR S/O Balwant Singh R/O E-9, Milap Nagar, West Delhi - 110059, Changed my name to Raj Kishore.

NAME CHANGE

I, RAJ KISHOR S/O Balwant Singh R/O E-9, Milap Nagar, West Delhi - 110059, Changed my name to Raj Kishore.

NAME CHANGE

I, RAJ KISHOR S/O Balwant Singh R/O E-9, Milap Nagar, West Delhi - 110059, Changed my name to Raj Kishore.

NAME CHANGE

I, Monika Rani D/O Shambhu Kumar, R/O H.No C-123, Jawahar Park Devli Road Kharpur, Jhansi, Bhanwar S/O, DIST: South Delhi, Delhi - 110062, have changed my name Monika Kumari for all future purposes. Monika Rani and Monika Kumari both are one and same Person.

NAME CHANGE

I, Rohit is legally son of No. JC-4628644 Rank- NB SUB NAME- KADUS RAOSAHEB MACHHINDRA Presently residing at VILL- SAROLA KASAR, POST-SAROLA KASAR, TEH-AHILYANAGAR, DIST- AHILYANAGAR, (MAHARASHTRA)-414005, have changed my name from ROHIT to KADUS ROHIT RAOSAHEB for all future purposes. Vide affidavit dated 21.01.2026 before Public Notary Delhi.

NAME CHANGE

I, RAJ KISHOR S/O Balwant Singh R/O E-9, Milap Nagar, West Delhi - 110059, Changed my name to Raj Kishore.

NAME CHANGE

I, RAJ KISHOR S/O Balwant Singh R/O E-9, Milap Nagar, West Delhi - 110059, Changed my name to Raj Kishore.

NAME CHANGE

I, RAJ KISHOR S/O Balwant Singh R/O E-9, Milap Nagar, West Delhi - 110059, Changed my name to Raj Kishore.

NAME CHANGE

I, RAJ KISHOR S/O Balwant Singh R/O E-9, Milap Nagar, West Delhi - 110059, Changed my name to Raj Kishore.

NAME CHANGE

I, RAJ KISHOR S/O Balwant Singh R/O E-9, Milap Nagar, West Delhi - 110059, Changed my name to Raj Kishore.

NAME CHANGE

I, Monika Rani D/O Shambhu Kumar, R/O H.No C-123, Jawahar Park Devli Road Kharpur, Jhansi, Bhanwar S/O, DIST: South Delhi, Delhi - 110062, have changed my name Monika Kumari for all future purposes. Monika Rani and Monika Kumari both are one and same Person.

NAME CHANGE

I, Rohit is legally son of No. JC-4628644 Rank- NB SUB NAME- KADUS RAOSAHEB MACHHINDRA Presently residing at VILL- SAROLA KASAR, POST-SAROLA KASAR, TEH-AHILYANAGAR, DIST- AHILYANAGAR, (MAHARASHTRA)-414005, have changed my name from ROHIT to KADUS ROHIT RAOSAHEB for all future purposes. Vide affidavit dated 21.01.2026 before Public Notary Delhi.

NAME CHANGE

I, RAJ KISHOR S/O Balwant Singh R/O E-9, Milap Nagar, West Delhi - 110059, Changed my name to Raj Kishore.

NAME CHANGE

I, RAJ KISHOR S/O Balwant Singh R/O E-9, Milap Nagar, West Delhi - 110059, Changed my name to Raj Kishore.

NAME CHANGE

I, RAJ KISHOR S/O Balwant Singh R/O E-9, Milap Nagar, West Delhi - 110059, Changed my name to Raj Kishore.

NAME CHANGE

I, RAJ KISHOR S/O Balwant Singh R/O E-9, Milap Nagar, West Delhi - 110059, Changed my name to Raj Kishore.

NAME CHANGE

I, RAJ KISHOR S/O Balwant Singh R/O E-9, Milap Nagar, West Delhi - 110059, Changed my name to Raj Kishore.

NAME CHANGE

I, REKHA DEVI Mother of No-1702253N Rank-HAV Name-VIKASH KUMAR Presently serving in 26 FIELD WORKSHOP (ENGR BDE), PANARAGH MILITARY STATION WEST BENGAL Presently residing at VPO-KURTHALA, TEH-NUH, DIST-NUH (MEWAT), HARYANA-122107, have changed my name from REKHA DEVI to REKHA RANI for all future purposes and in my son's service records my date of birth wrongly mentioned as 06/08/1974 instead of my correct date of birth as 22/05/1972 vide Affidavit dated 19/03/2026 before Notary Public Delhi.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is for information of General Public that my client Mr. Ripu Daman Chohan in 26 FIELD WORKSHOP (ENGR BDE), PANARAGH MILITARY STATION WEST BENGAL Presently residing at VPO-KURTHALA, TEH-NUH, DIST-NUH (MEWAT), HARYANA-122107, have changed my name from REKHA DEVI to REKHA RANI for all future purposes and in my son's service records my date of birth wrongly mentioned as 06/08/1974 instead of my correct date of birth as 22/05/1972 vide Affidavit dated 19/03/2026 before Notary Public Delhi.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform you that Mr. Deena Nath Kumar intends to purchase a property bearing Old Plot No. 38 and New Plot No. 21, measuring 38 sq. yds., out of the total area of 60 sq. yds., forming part of Kharsa No. 13/5/2, situated in the area of Village Razapur Khurd, in the colony known as Raksha Endave, Mohan Garden, Uttam Nagar, Delhi. The original owner of the said property was Mr. Jaswant Singh, who transferred the same to Mr. Pradeep Kumar Gupta through a registered GPA, Agreement to Sell, and registered Will dated 29.01.2004. Thereafter, Mr. Pradeep Kumar Gupta transferred the property to Mrs. Uggam Devi through a registered GPA, Agreement to Sell, and registered Will dated 17.05.2004. Subsequently, Mrs. Uggam Devi transferred the property to Mr. Pawan Singh through a notarized GPA, Agreement to Sell, and Will dated 23.05.2014. Mr. Pawan Singh further transferred the property to Mr. Sanjay Kumar Thakur through a notarized GPA, Agreement to Sell, and Will dated 24.11.2020. Thereafter, Mr. Ajay Kumar Thakur transferred the property to Mr. Sanjay Kumar Thakur through a notarized GPA, Agreement to Sell, and Will dated 24.11.2020. Consequently, Mr. Sanjay Kumar Thakur is the absolute and lawful owner of the aforementioned property. The property is free from all kinds of litigation, encumbrances, liens, charges, or claims. Please also note that the said property is proposed to be financed by Bajaj Housing Finance Ltd., Ghaziabad Branch, Uttar Pradesh. If any person(s) objection & regarding subject property, then kindly may submit his/her objection within 07 days from the date of the Notice in writing. The said objection may be kindly sent to the undersigned by way of the Registered Post on the address given below and by E-mail, failing which, the claim as per affidavit shall be treated as null and void in respect of the subject property.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform you that Mrs. Sunita Verma is the owner of the entire second floor (without roof-terrace rights) of Property No. R-24, having a land area measuring 100 sq. yds., bearing Kharsa No. 1172/620/407, situated in the abadi of Naveen Shahdara, in the area of Village Udharpur, Jhansi Shahdara, Delhi. The initial owner of the entire property was Mr. Rajender Kumar Gupta, who sold the property to Mrs. Jai Devi through a Sale Deed dated 07.07.2005 and a Rectification Deed dated 30.08.2005. Unfortunately, Mrs. Jai Devi expired, leaving behind the following legal heirs: Mr. Kewal Budhiraja, Mrs. Kantia Khanna, and Mr. Ankur Talwar, in favour of Mr. Mahender Budhiraja, Mr. Kewal Budhiraja, Mrs. Kantia Khanna, and Mr. Ankur Talwar relinquished their respective shares in favour of Mr. Mahender Budhiraja through a Relinquishment Deed dated 16.07.2020. Thereafter, Mr. Mahender Budhiraja sold the property to Mrs. Sunita Verma through a Sale Deed dated 22.09.2020. The said property is free from all kinds of encumbrances, liens, charges, mortgages, etc. She has informed us that the two original documents, i.e., the Sale Deed dated 07.07.2005 (Registered as No. 4692) and the Rectification Deed dated 30.08.2005 (Registered as No. 5998), relating to the said property, have been lost/misplaced. The said documents are not traceable and could not be found. An online FIR (LR No.

Iranian films and their subtle language of resistance

At pivotal moments, a civilisation speaks most clearly through its art. For Iran, poetry has long served this role, yet Persian cultural expression has never been confined to verse alone.

The Indian State, however, has yet to articulate a coherent political narrative of its own. The intricate geometry of Persian architecture, the meditative discipline of calligraphy and the luminous abstraction of miniature painting together reveal a civilisation in which beauty, philosophy and moral reflection are inseparable. Through cinema, Iranian society continues to contemplate power, suffering and endurance.

Marked by restraint, allegory and philosophical patience, Iranian cinema has become one of the subtlest languages of resistance in the contemporary world.

Iran now confronts war not as a looming possibility, but as an unfolding reality. Within this turbulent landscape, Iran presents its stance as one of resistance against external domination. Whether interpreted as strategic defiance or civilisational stubbornness, the posture reflects a society that regards the present struggle as part of a longer contest against imperialism and hegemonic power. Significantly, even artists and intellectuals who have long criticised internal restrictions: censorship, surveillance and moral policing, have, in this moment of acute external confrontation, often found themselves standing alongside a broader national sentiment. The poetic temperament of Persian culture nurtured a subtle but resilient intellectual independence. Modern Iranian cinema inherits precisely this dual heritage. Rather than staging dramatic confrontations, Iranian films cultivate a slower form of resistance — one embedded in gestures of persistence, ethical responsibility and human dignity. The films of Abbas Kiarostami represent perhaps the most refined expression of this cinematic philosophy. In *Taste of Cherry* (1997), a solitary man drives through the outskirts of Tehran seeking someone willing to bury him after his planned suicide. The film unfolds through sparse conversations with strangers who briefly enter his car. In one quietly luminous moment, a taxidermist persuades him to reconsider life by recalling the taste of mulberries he once experienced after despair had nearly overwhelmed him. Meaning returns not through spectacle but through the rediscovery of small, fragile pleasures.

A similar moral gravity shapes *Where Is the Friend's House?* (1987). A young boy spends an evening searching for his classmate's home in order to return a misplaced notebook and prevent punishment at school. The journey through winding village alleys becomes an ethical pilgrimage. Surrounded by indifferent adults, the boy nevertheless persists in fulfilling his quiet responsibility. What appears to be a minor errand gradually unfolds as an affirmation of moral courage. For decades, filmmakers including Jafar Panahi, Rakhshan Bani-Etemad and Samira Makhmalbaf have extended this cinematic tradition by exploring how dignity survives within constraint. Their works illuminate the lives of workers, children and women navigating social limitations without surrendering their humanity. These narratives rarely celebrate spectacular victories; instead they reveal resilience through everyday acts of persistence.

Panahi's own life provides a powerful illustration of this ethos. After openly challenging political authority, the filmmaker was arrested, imprisoned, and later placed under house arrest, effectively barred from filmmaking. Yet, even under these restrictions his creative imagination refused silence. During confinement, he collaborated in the making of the documentary *This Is Not a Film* (2011), a project conceived entirely within the limits imposed upon him. Filmed largely inside his apartment, the work transformed restriction itself into a narrative form.

Shifting from gas to electric

The West Asia war has reminded us of the peril of depending on cooking gas imports. This is the right time to boost the National Efficient Cooking Programme launched in 2023 to promote electric cooking. The Ujjwala scheme can be used to support it

Given the turmoil in West Asia, ensuring a sufficient supply of affordable liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) for cooking has emerged as a national priority. India currently imports roughly two-thirds of its LPG, which is used by over 33 crore households for cooking daily. About 90 percent of this LPG came from West Asian countries in 2025, led by the United Arab Emirates, Qatar and Saudi Arabia. The Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY), connecting over 10 crore low-income households to LPG, is nearing a decade of its completion, and remains one of India's most consequential welfare programmes. When PMUY was launched in 2016, LPG was the best option for a mass-scale clean cooking programme given that India was still upgrading its electricity infrastructure to provide electricity reliably for lighting, cooling, industry and agriculture. India's power supply has improved significantly since then. Now urban and rural areas receive over 23 and 22 hours of uninterrupted supply daily, respectively, and the grid managed a record peak demand of 250 gigawatts during April-June 2024. Hence, given the volatility of LPG supply, it is time to push for electric cooking—using induction cooktops and electric pressure cookers. PMUY was designed to move poor households away from traditional polluting chulhaburning firewood; a hybrid clean cooking stack of gas and electricity sustains the health gains from PMUY, while insulating the country from imported supply shocks. A costly deal. The disruption to shipping through the Strait of Hormuz has pushed up freight and insurance costs. In response, the Indian government has directed refiners under the Essential Commodities Act to prioritise LPG production and make it available only to domestic consumers. Moreover, government estimates suggest the market-linked price would require an increase of about ₹135 per cylinder, but households saw only a ₹60 hike on March 7. India's electricity system has a very different import profile from LPG. About three-quarters of power still comes from coal, most of it mined domestically, with import dependence below 20 percent. Renewables, now, contribute more than 22 percent of daily power generation. Electricity for electric and induction stoves would largely come from coal mines and from growing solar and wind generation within India, not from tankers navigating the Strait of Hormuz.

An induction stove is in no way inferior to LPG—and could even be healthier. Induction cooktops operate at 85-90 percent energy efficiency, compared to 55 percent for gas, and cook faster. The Council on Energy, Environment and Water's Residential Energy Survey 2020 showed that while only about 5 per cent of Indian



homes use any electric cooking device, more than 10 per cent of urban homes already do so.

With a wave of new energy-efficient induction stoves and electric pressure cookers entering the market, consumers are slowly building confidence. Recent market research shows that the electric induction cooktop market in India was valued at about \$796 million in 2025. From an energy transition perspective, electrification of cooking is key to India's 2070 net-zero goals as well. The government had already launched the National Efficient Cooking Programme in 2023 to promote electric cooking. Clear policy signals to fast-track the shift from cylinder to current for cooking are the need of the hour.

In the short term, households that have and can afford electric induction stoves should be encouraged to use less LPG and switch to electric cooking, similar to the 'Give It Up' campaign for LPG subsidy. A CEEW report titled, 'Are Indian Homes Ready for Electric Cooking?', estimates that a household cooking entirely on electricity would consume about 80 units per month—making it cost competitive.

For households paying below ₹6.6 per unit on average, electric cooking is already cheaper than unsubsidised LPG currently priced at ₹913 for a 14.2 kg cylinder. The government has already increased the minimum waiting

period for booking domestic LPG cylinders from 21 days to 25 days to curb hoarding and black marketing. It can further increase it to 35 days for non-PMUY households to send a policy signal on electric cooking in urban households. It would still allow for 10 cylinders a year, which is generally accepted as exclusive LPG use for a typical family of five. In the medium term, extending the Production-Linked Incentive Scheme to all electric cooking appliances should drive private investment into domestic manufacturing of induction cooktops and electric pressure cookers, bringing down costs, incentivising multi-burner and energy-efficient designs suited to Indian kitchens and building a supply base ready to meet demand at scale.

As unit costs fall, a capital subsidy like PMUY to make appliances and utensils affordable for the poorest households, alongside behaviour-change campaigns and demonstrations will gradually enable PMUY beneficiaries to stack LPG with electricity.

India's clean cooking journey began with PMUY's bold ambition. In a volatile world with an ongoing energy crisis, cooking fuel for Indian households should gradually shift to energy generated on Indian soil. This is not about LPG versus electricity for cooking, but pushing for a clean cooking stack that reflects the ground realities of import reliance.

Saving mothers: Gaps in maternal care in Punjab, Haryana

Punjab's maternal mortality ratio (MMR) has dipped slightly, while that of Haryanas remains largely unchanged

PUNJAB'S latest maternal health data offers cautious encouragement. The state's maternal mortality ratio (MMR) has dipped slightly, indicating incremental improvement in the healthcare system's ability to safeguard mothers during pregnancy and childbirth. Yet the modest decline should not obscure a deeper concern: progress remains slow and uneven. Maternal mortality — measured as deaths per 1 lakh live births — is widely regarded as a critical indicator of a society's healthcare capacity and gender equity. Even a marginal fall, therefore, reflects improvements in antenatal care, institutional deliveries and emergency obstetric services. But Punjab's performance still leaves considerable room for improvement, especially when several districts continue to record high maternal death rates. The contrast with neighbouring Haryana is instructive. Despite earlier gains, Haryana's MMR has remained largely unchanged in the latest assessment cycle. The plateau highlights a common



challenge in public health policy: initial reforms often deliver quick gains, but sustaining progress requires

deeper structural changes. Investments in hospitals and schemes alone are not sufficient; what matters equally is the quality of care, timely referrals and consistent monitoring of high-risk pregnancies.

Health audits in Punjab have already pointed to systemic lapses, such as delayed diagnosis, poor management of complications like postpartum haemorrhage and weak coordination between healthcare facilities. Addressing these gaps requires strengthening district hospitals, ensuring specialist availability and improving referral networks from rural health centres. India has committed itself to reducing maternal mortality to fewer than 70 deaths per one lakh live births under the Sustainable Development Goals. Punjab and Haryana must accelerate their efforts if they are to approach this benchmark. Ultimately, maternal deaths are not merely medical statistics; they represent preventable tragedies that devastate families and communities.

India's satellite navigation needs a reset

ISRO beset by challenges in mass application of space technology beyond dedicated government use

INDIA'S indigenous satellite navigation system, called Navigation with Indian Constellation (NavIC), is gasping for breath in space. Just two years ago, the Ministry of Science and Technology had described it as "a magnificent gem in the crown of India's technological prowess" and "a beacon of self-reliance, shining brightly in the world of satellite navigation". With information trickling out of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) about the current state of its navigation satellites, NavIC has turned out to be a classic case of overpromising and underdelivering. The need for developing an Indian navigation system was felt in the wake of the 1999 Kargil war, during which the availability of signals from the US-operated GPS navigation system posed operational challenges. Although the Indian region is well-positioned to receive signals from GPS and other regional navigation satellite systems, it was considered prudent to develop an indigenous regional navigation system from the perspective of strategic autonomy.

In line with this thinking, ISRO designed, developed and deployed the NavIC system, beginning in 2016. It was designed to provide precise position, velocity and timing information over India and surrounding areas. NavIC was designed to be particularly useful in high-altitude areas where signals from global systems are sometimes unavailable. The hybrid operation of NavIC, along with GPS and other systems, could contribute to higher accuracy and seamless operation in some geographic areas. For the system to operate as designed and meet its goals, the space agency had to develop the necessary satellites and ground segments. The heart of a navigation satellite is an atomic clock. It can be accurate to within one billionth of a second. ISRO procured these Rubidium Atomic Frequency Standard (RAFS) clocks

from a Swiss manufacturer, but some of them malfunctioned, causing serious issues with NavIC satellites such as IRNSS-1A and IRNSS-1F (Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System).

The first clock failed in 2018; the government claimed in Parliament that the cause had been analysed and corrective action taken on the remaining clocks for upcoming satellites. Yet the clocks continued to malfunction, and as many as five satellites were rendered unusable. The only consolation for the government was that the European Space Agency also reported similar failures in its Galileo satellite constellation, which used atomic clocks supplied by Switzerland. As the next logical step, ISRO developed its own rubidium atomic clocks at the Space Applications Centre in Ahmedabad and deployed them on its NVS-01 satellite, launched in May 2023. One can only presume that the India-made atomic clock is functioning properly, as ISRO has not shared any information or data on its performance. While the space segment was crippled, ISRO continued to develop the necessary ground segment. To make its navigation services useful, it needed compatible hardware, including survey-grade receivers, compact, low-cost receiver modules and NavIC-enabled smartphones. To convince manufacturers and equipment suppliers, several pilot projects and testing studies were conducted to demonstrate the quality and range of signal reception from operational satellites. The pilot projects included real-time tracking of trains equipped with NavIC-enabled tracking devices, fishing vessels with NavIC-enabled transponders and various types of motor vehicles. Overall, the commercial and public utilisation of NavIC has remained low. India's mobile phone market currently has some 20 major brands and 700 phone

models. In December 2025, Parliament was informed that more than 60 smartphone models from various manufacturers supported NavIC, but the total number of users with NavIC-enabled phones was not disclosed. In order to enable handsets for the Indian navigation system, changes must be made to both hardware and



software. Although some chipset manufacturers are shipping processors that support NavIC, a study by the Space Applications Centre and Vishwakarma University, Pune, found that NavIC signals on many devices remain invisible or are filtered out by low-level drivers, even though hardware support exists. Clearly, much needs to be done for Indian smartphone users to use NavIC. Given persistent in-space and on-ground issues with its first-generation navigation satellites, ISRO developed a second-generation series, NVS. The first satellite in this series was successful, but NVS-02, launched in January 2025, did not reach its intended orbit, as the agency quietly revealed a year later. Future satellites in this series have been delayed. In August

2025, the government announced that NVS-03 was planned for launch by the end of 2025, followed by NVS-04 and NVS-05 within the next six months. A few months later, a 2026 launch schedule was released, but it did not include any NVS-series satellites. Over the decades, ISRO has delivered complex scientific and operational missions, developing indigenous capability in key segments of space technology. However, it has faced huge challenges — bordering on failure — when it comes to mass application of space technology beyond dedicated government use. Despite several successful Indian satellites for communications, broadcasting, remote sensing and earth observation, commercial Indian users still depend heavily on foreign satellites. Edusat, a dedicated satellite for distance learning, was a technical success but a programmatic failure due to deficiencies in network connectivity, content generation and a lack of a robust management structure, according to the audit report of the programme. And, now we have the navigation services fiasco. The space agency must conduct deep introspection. The government must provide adequate funding to the space sector and set appropriate priorities. In 2018, the Prime Minister set an unrealistic target for ISRO to launch its human spaceflight by 2022. India is still a couple of years away from a human flight. Meanwhile, the PM announced more ambitious programmes — a space station by 2035 and a manned lunar mission by 2040. All this has put the space agency under tremendous pressure. It has to work on all these missions, while continuing its operational satellite programmes. In view of the recent spate of failures, the government should review its priorities in the space sector, restore ISRO's autonomy in technical matters and allow it to function transparently as well as accountably.

Faith surges on first day of Navratri as lakhs of devotees visit Shaktipeeths

Lucknow.(Agency)

On the first day of Chaitra Navratri, a huge crowd of devotees gathered at the major Devi temples of Uttar Pradesh.

By 9 am alone, more than 4 lakh devotees had visited the Maa Vindhyavasini temple, creating an atmosphere of devotion and enthusiasm in the entire area. Meanwhile, the government has made tight security arrangements around the temples.

At the Devipatan temple in Balrampur, approximately 100,000 devotees have visited the mother goddess since morning. Similarly, over 50,000 devotees have reached the Shakumbhari Devi temple in Saharanpur.

Devotees are experiencing tremendous enthusiasm for Navratri, with youth participation particularly high. The series of darshans, worship, and religious events continues in temples across the state.

Amidst this excitement of festivals, a new picture of cultural renaissance is also emerging in Uttar Pradesh, where the confluence of faith and tradition is uniting a large number of people.

Boats will not ply in Kashi without registration and life jackets: Police Commissioner

Varanasi.(Agency)

As thousands of devotees and tourists visit the religious city of Kashi every day to visit Shri Kashi Vishwanath Dham, to perform aarti of Maa Ganga and to see the beauty of the ghats, disputes often arise regarding boarding boats and complaints of charging extra fare from tourists.

To resolve these problems and strengthen the security system, Police Commissioner Mohit Agarwal has issued strict instructions.

In a meeting with boatmen held in the traffic auditorium on Wednesday, the Police Commissioner clarified that now no boat will be operated in the Ganga without life jacket or registration.

Registration of all boats is mandatory by next week. Strict legal action will be taken against anyone found operating an unregistered boat.

Every passenger must be required to wear a life jacket before boarding the boat. Any negligence in this regard will not be tolerated. There is a complete ban on carrying more passengers than the boat's designated capacity. If more people are found on board than the capacity, action will be taken against the boatman. The Police Commissioner directed boatmen to treat pilgrims as "guests," treat them with courtesy, and not charge more than the prescribed fare. Boats should only use designated safe routes in deep water areas. Entry into restricted areas and maintaining an unsafe distance from other boats will be prohibited, to avoid the possibility of collisions.

Fake gas booking messages trigger cyber fraud alerts across Kerala

Shimla.(Agency)

A surge in cyber fraud cases linked to fake gas cylinder booking and billing updates has raised concern across Kerala, with scammers targeting consumers by exploiting fears over supply shortages.

Fraudsters typically initiate contact through SMS, followed by messages on WhatsApp, posing as representatives of gas agencies. Victims are then sent a malicious file titled "GAS BILL update APK", and are instructed to install it to update booking details or settle pending bills.

Cyber experts warn that installing such APK files gives scammers full access to the user's mobile phone, allowing them to steal confidential data, including banking credentials and UPI PINs. In several cases, victims have reported unauthorised withdrawals from their accounts without their knowledge.

Officials have urged the public to remain vigilant and follow basic safety measures. Users should never download or install APK files received via SMS or messaging platforms. Gas bookings and payments must be carried out only through official agency websites or authorised mobile applications.

People are also advised not to panic upon receiving urgent messages and instead verify their authenticity directly with the gas distributor. Sharing sensitive financial information on unknown apps or websites should be strictly avoided.

Victims of cyber fraud are encouraged to immediately report incidents by dialing the national helpline 1930 or by filing a complaint through the official portal www.cybercrime.gov.in.

'Can't afford to refill LPG cylinder': Workers' exodus sets alarm bells ringing in Surat's textile industry

For some days now, Udhna Junction (Railway station) has been bearing witness to hordes of migrant workers desperate to return home in the wake of the crisis.

Ahmedabad.(Agency)

FOR SEVERAL days now, Subhash Thakur, a dyeing and printing mill worker here, has been struggling to feed his family of four. His struggle is not caused by unemployment, but the inflation that is a result of an LPG or liquefied petroleum gas crisis that has impacted people far and wide.

Thakur, until recently, lived at a rented accommodation in Pandesara with his wife and two kids. Among his belongings is a five-kilogram gas cylinder that he "cannot afford to refill" now. Waiting to board a train back to his home in Lucknow (Uttar Pradesh), Thakur said, "As I don't have a gas registration book, we used to get our small LPG cylinder filled at a refilling centre in Pandesara for Rs 500. The store has raised the charges to Rs. 2,500, a price we cannot pay. My children are small. To survive, I have booked tickets back to my native place." For some days now, Udhna Junction (Railway station) has been bearing witness to hordes of migrant workers desperate to return home in the wake of the crisis.



Mostly from Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Uttarakhand and Odisha, the exodus of several workers has already left the expansive textile sector in Surat reeling. Several factories have even begun shutting down for a day or two in a week to cope with the manpower shortage.

Like Subhash, several of his neighbours and others were also seen waiting at the railway junction to catch a train back home on Tuesday. A mess where textile workers had their lunch has been shut down.

While one of their associations has started a community meal service, several mills, too, have begun offering food to their workers. Also, the district administration has deployed officials to 75 gas agencies to prevent black marketing of LPG cylinders.

Commenting on the quandary looming over the industry, South Gujarat Textile Processing Association president Jitubhai Vakharia said: "At present, it is a tough situation for the workers due to the LPG crisis. Many don't have an LPG cylinder registration book. They live in rented houses. Some mills are shutting down for one or two days every week. As Navratri and the wedding season are around the corner, we are somehow ensuring that the factories keep working."

"To overcome the food crisis, we have started a community kitchen at Pandesara, where workers are given good food at cheaper rates. One plate costs Rs 40-Rs 45. Mill owners buy food from the kitchen and give it to their workers when they head home around 8.00 pm, so that they come back to work the next day."

SRly appeals to public to avoid burning of garbage near tracks

Chennai.(Agency)

The Chennai Division of Southern Railway has issued a strong appeal to the general public and commuters to refrain from activities like burning of garbages that may lead to fire hazards along railway tracks, particularly during the summer season.

In recent times, instances of burning dumped garbage and dry vegetation near railway lines have been observed, Southern Railway sources said today.

Observing that such actions pose a serious risk to railway safety and operations, officials have cautioned that the intense heat and smoke generated from such fires can severely damage high-tension Overhead Equipment (OHE) wires and sensitive signaling systems, potentially leading to disruption of train services and endangering passenger safety.

The Chennai Division emphasizes that even a minor act of negligence can result in significant consequences.

The public is specifically advised Not to throw dry leaves, plastic waste or other flammable materials near railway tracks; Not to discard any ignitable items in railway areas; To strictly avoid burning garbage or waste near railway premises.

Such activities are prohibited and punishable under relevant provisions of the Railway Act, they said.

Chennai Division urges citizens to actively cooperate in maintaining a safe and clean railway environment and to report any such unsafe practices to the nearest railway authorities and said it remained committed to ensuring safe, reliable and efficient train operations and seeks the continued support of the public in safeguarding railway infrastructure.

Guwahati Hosts Key Army - Railway Exercise for National Crisis Readiness

The Sikh Times

Maligaon, 19th March : A high-level scenario planning exercise was successfully conducted in Guwahati on 18th March, 2026 under 101 Area and Headquarters Eastern Command, the Indian Army's largest command covering the Northeast region. The conference brought together senior officials from the Indian Army and Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) to enhance coordination and preparedness for handling national contingencies. The exercise focused on understanding mutual strengths and optimizing available resources between the two organizations. The primary objective was to align operational mechanisms to ensure a rapid and coordinated response during any national crisis, particularly in the strategically sensitive Eastern sector. During the session, participants deliberated on a wide range of potential scenarios

aimed at strengthening operational infrastructure, which would not in government expenditure



readiness. Special emphasis was laid on the development of dual-use only bolster logistics capabilities but also lead to significant savings national importance and emergency situations.

through shared resource utilization. Senior officers from Northeast Frontier Railway, Eastern Command and Army Headquarters actively participated in the discussions, sharing insights and best practices to improve inter-agency synergy. The exercise enabled stakeholders to identify key areas for collaboration and streamline response strategies. This joint initiative has reinforced confidence among all participating agencies and established a robust framework for seamless integration between the Indian Army and Indian Railways. Such coordinated efforts will play a crucial role in ensuring an efficient and unified response during times of

Una flogging: 80 witnesses turned hostile during trial

Ahmedabad.(Agency)

Even as the Veraval sessions court has convicted and sentenced five people to five years of rigorous imprisonment and acquitted 35 others in the 2016 Una public flogging case, it has emerged that as many as 80 prosecution witnesses in the case turned hostile during the criminal trial. Many of them were cited to be the eyewitnesses of the alleged flogging of the four victims in the case.

As per the 331-page judgment of the court of additional sessions judge Jignesh Pandya, the prosecution examined 239 witnesses. Of them, 80 turned hostile, and the court marked them in the judgment with 'H'.

These are the people who are either eyewitnesses of the alleged incident, or 'panch' witnesses of the arrest of the accused or recovery of 'mudamal' (articles) or identification parade of the accused or those who had reportedly identified some of the accused from the video clips of the alleged incident recovered by police.

As recorded by the judgment, an eyewitness of the prosecution who worked at a petrol pump was said to have seen the procession of the victims carried out by the accused at Una bus stand. The witness,

however, denied the same in his testimony before the court. Another witness, who operated a fruit cart near the Una bus stop, had allegedly seen the four victims being paraded. In his testimony before the court, he refused to have witnessed the incident and said that he had gone home for lunch at the time.

A witness who sold soft drinks near Una bus stand had reportedly identified one accused while the four victims were being paraded. However, in his deposition before the court, the witness denied having identified any of the accused men and added

that he saw four men tied to a white car while being taken away. Another witness, who had identified some of the accused from a video clip of the incident, too, did not support the prosecution's case. In its judgment, the court observed that this witness was a sarpanch of the neighbouring Samter village at the time. Many of the witnesses admitted having seen the incident but, later, refused to identify the accused. In its judgment, while analysing the evidence of the eyewitnesses, the court observed, "...most of the eyewitnesses do not support the prosecution case. And from the evidence of the witnesses who support the case, it is only proved that one incident occurred near Bharadiya and the second incident occurred between the Una bus stand and the police station, wherein four persons were stripped.

LPG shortage drives surge in ready-to-eat food sales

Mumbai.(Agency)

The scarcity of commercial LPG cylinders has triggered a shift in purchasing trends among consumers, with e-commerce and quick commerce platforms recording a sharp rise in sales of ready-to-consume meal solutions.

According to Amazon India records,

ready-to-consume meal options such as instant noodles, snacks, packaged meals and beverages have seen a 15% growth in sales. "Over the past few weeks, we have seen consistent growth in demand for convenient, ready-to-consume meal solutions that require minimal cooking time. This growth is broad-based, spanning metros like Hyderabad, Kolkata and Chennai, as well as tier-2 and tier-3 cities such as Sonapat and Panaji," an Amazon India spokesperson said.

Meanwhile, Amazon Now has recorded a 20% month-on-month increase in ready-to-eat and packaged food

purchases, particularly in metropolitan cities like Delhi, Mumbai and Bengaluru.

The company also noted rising demand in categories such as staples, pulses, dry fruits and nuts.

The surge in ready-to-eat meal consumption corresponds with disruptions in LPG supply, which



have been linked to the ongoing crisis in West Asia. At the same time, online marketplaces and retail stores across Mumbai are witnessing increased demand for induction cooktops, which use electromagnetic technology to heat cookware directly, eliminating the need for LPG cylinders.

Woman assaulted, gold bangle snatched in daylight robbery in east Delhi; CCTV clip goes viral

New Delhi: A woman was allegedly assaulted and robbed of her gold bangle by four motorcycle-borne men in broad daylight in east Delhi's Krishna Nagar area on Tuesday morning, with a purported CCTV footage of the incident going viral on social media platforms, police said. The viral CCTV clip shows the accused assaulting the woman, snatching her gold bangle and even brandishing a firearm when another person tries to intervene. The incident took place around 7:15 am when the woman, identified as Kanika Mehta, had just dropped off her daughter at a school bus stop and was about to leave on her scooter. According to police, four unidentified people, riding two stolen motorcycles and wearing helmets, approached the victim and surrounded her. "One of the accused struck her with a blunt object, while another brandished a firearm to intimidate her before snatching her gold bangle," a senior police officer said. The officer said the woman sustained minor injuries during the incident. A case has been registered and efforts are underway to identify and apprehend the accused. Recounting the incident, Mehta said the attackers demanded she remove her gold bangle, but she resisted. "After dropping my daughter, four men on two motorcycles surrounded me. They asked me to remove my gold bangle. I resisted, but one of them took out a pistol and tried to scare me. I kept struggling, and during the scuffle, I suffered injuries to my nails," she said. She alleged that the accused holding the gun hit her on the head with the butt of the weapon while threatening to shoot her. "After they hit me, I fell on the ground and they snatched my bangle and fled. When I tried to chase them, they fired a round in the air," she added. Police said the motorcycles used in the crime were found to be stolen, and teams have been formed to trace the accused using CCTV footage from the area.

Girl allegedly assaulted by neighbour, held

New Delhi: A six-year-old was allegedly sexually assaulted by a neighbour while she was playing in Chhawla area of Dwarka, the police said on Tuesday. The accused was later arrested. A complaint was received from the victim, a minor girl aged about six years, residing with her family in the area. As per the statement, she was playing near school, along with her younger sister, when a known person came and took her to his shop and committed inappropriate acts. The victim also mentioned that the accused also threatened her and that such incidents had occurred earlier as well. The victim narrated the facts to her mother, who further informed a relative and subsequently the police, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Dwarka) Kushal Pal Singh said in a statement.

PROVISION OF HIGH AVAILABILITY MEDIA REDUNDANCY

Tender Notice No.: RN-ST-33-2025-26, Date: 16-03-2026. E-Tender are invited by the undersigned for the following work: Tender No.: RN-ST-33-2025-26; Name of Work: Provision of high availability media redundancy for BPAC and UFSBI System over Rangiya Division. Tender Value: ₹66,49,516.20/-; Earnest Money: ₹1,33,000/-; Date & time of closing of tender at 15:00 hrs. on 10-04-2026. For complete information with the tender document of above e-tender will be available in the website <http://www.iraps.gov.in>

STORES E-PROCUREMENT

E-tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following work: 1. E-Tender No.: DB265247, Dated: 16-03-2026; Item Description: Supply and installation of Retro fitment of revised wiring with modified junction boxes & connector for FTRTIP make (KES Type) in LHB coaches as per RDSO drawing no. CG-19005, Alt-2 and RDSO drawing no. CG-18246, Alt-nil. As per annexure B1 enclosed; PL No.: 331611190013, Consignee: SSE/ABS/DBW, NFR (Assam), Qty: 66 Set; Earnest Money: ₹3,05,210/-; Closing of E-tender: at 11:30 hrs. on 13-04-2026. For details please visit <https://iraps.gov.in>.

Deputy Chief Material Manager/Dibrugarh

NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
"Serving Customers with a smile"

DRM (S&T), Rangiya
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
"Serving Customers With A Smile"

Amidst tension in Uttam Nagar

Delhi Police seek more companies of paramilitary forces for Eid

More than 150 pickets have been set up in Delhi's Uttam Nagar and its neighbouring area, Chhawla, to prevent any untoward incidents during Eid. The local police have also appealed to people not to spread rumours.

New Delhi.(Agency)
Amid ongoing tension in Dwarka's Uttam Nagar following the death of a 26-year-old man over a water balloon incident during Holi, the Delhi Police have requested the Union Ministry of Home Affairs to provide 10 additional paramilitary companies for deployment during Eid. Personnel of the Rapid Action Force (RAF) and the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) were deployed following communal tension in the locality after March 4, when Tarun Kumar was beaten to death following a dispute with his Muslim neighbours

during Holi. Since then, the security forces have remained deployed in the area. More than 150 pickets have been set up in Uttam Nagar and its neighbouring area, Chhawla, to prevent any untoward incidents during the festival. The local police have also appealed to people not to spread rumours via social media or any other medium. The arrangements are being made, especially after the calls for violent retribution followed, with fringe groups on social media urging



a "Khooon ki Holi" on Eid, sources said. A senior police officer told that security has already been tightened in

JJ Colony, Uttam Nagar, particularly in Blocks A, B, and C. Police personnel from neighbouring districts have also been keeping a vigil in the locality for the past two weeks. "For the Eid festival, additional deployment will be put in place. This includes reserve police forces and paramilitary personnel. We have requested the Centre to provide 10 more companies," the officer said. Special arrangements have been made

outside religious places, he added. The Delhi Police also cracked down on social media accounts spreading rumours regarding the incident. During the investigation, 14 accounts on X were identified, and eight provocative posts were found on Instagram. The police have contacted social media platforms and requested that they remove all such content, said officers. Besides, the Delhi Police stepped up security across the city and made elaborate arrangements to prevent any disturbances or untoward incidents during Eid.

HC raps ASI for delay in surveying Tughlakabad Fort area to free it from encroachments

New Delhi.(Agency)
Nearly six months since the Delhi High Court directed Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) and other authorities to conduct a survey of the Tughlakabad Fort area - which includes the ASI-protected monument of Tughlakabad Fort - for encroachments, the ASI is yet to issue a work order to conduct the survey. A division bench of Chief Justice DK Upadhyaya and Justice Tejas Karia, while dealing with the matter on Wednesday, expressed its displeasure at the delay.

Addressing the counsel of ASI, as the body sought time from the court, CJ Upadhyaya orally remarked, "We are giving you four months, but please complete it... Six months you took to finalise a survey agency? That too under the orders of the court? Forget the orders of the court. Even (under the orders of court-constituted)



committee... you could not ensure that the survey could be started within a month or two from the date of passing of the order?" "When we summon the officers, then it starts pinching... Your officers should understand all this... (It takes) six months to finalise and choose an agency to conduct a survey," it added.

The ASI's counsel, admitting to the delay and apologising for the same, assured the court that the survey will be conducted expeditiously. The scope of the survey - to be conducted by an agency appointed by the ASI - will include details such as the total area under encroachment, areas from which encroachments have been removed, detailed survey of the families residing in the area as well as number of jhuggi jhopdi clusters, private residential units, commercial establishments, schools and religious structures, among others. The survey report is to be submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA).

Delhi government clears pending EV subsidies

Transport Minister Pankaj Kumar Singh said Delhi government will soon bring new environment-friendly EV policy that will strengthen ecosystem.



New Delhi.(Agency)
The Delhi government has initiated the process of disbursing long-pending electric vehicle (EV) purchase subsidies under the Delhi EV Policy, officials said. The Transport Department has started releasing incentives to 3,948 verified beneficiaries from companies and firms whose documentation and eligibility checks have been completed. The total subsidy amount to be disbursed among them is approximately Rs 7.95 crore, officials added.

As per data available on the Delhi EV Incentive Portal, a total of 22,733 EV subsidy claims were pending. After de-duplication and Aadhaar validation of beneficiary records, 16,892 individual buyer cases were pushed to the Public Financial Management System (PFMS) platform for Aadhaar-based Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT).

Out of these, 12,877 individual beneficiaries have completed Aadhaar seeding, making them eligible for subsidy disbursement amounting to Rs 24.04 crore. The remaining 4,015 cases (approximately Rs 7.25 crore) have been re-uploaded on the PFMS platform and are currently undergoing Aadhaar verification.

Transport Minister Pankaj Kumar Singh said the previous government failed to give adequate priority to electric mobility and pollution reduction, resulting in delays in the disbursement of incentives meant for EV buyers. He said the present government has taken the matter seriously and initiated concrete steps to release the pending subsidies in a transparent and time-bound manner.

Only 5 family members escaped fire — they were on vacation or out to attend wedding

Sunil, his wife and two children had gone out of the city on a vacation two to three days ago, a member of Rajender's extended family told. Pravesh's wife Kavita was out to attend a wedding.

New Delhi.(Agency)
Among the 18 members of Rajender Kashyap's family, who lived together in a four-storey building, only six managed to escape the fire on Wednesday. He himself, his son Sunil, along with his wife and two children, as well as his daughter-in-law Kavita, wife of his another son, Pravesh.

Sunil, his wife and two children had gone out of the city on a vacation two to three days ago, a member of Rajender's extended family told The Indian Express. Pravesh's wife Kavita was out to attend a wedding. Another relative said the eldest son, Kamal, had been out of the city but had returned home on Tuesday night. Kamal, his wife Ashu, and their daughters Niharika, Jessica, and Ivani - in the 3-16 age group - lost their lives in

the blaze. Rajender had five sons - Kamal, Sunil, Pravesh, Anil and Sachin - and a daughter, Himanshi. Among them, Sachin, who has sustained burns, and Himanshi, who died, were



unmarried. While Sunil works with the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation, Rajender's other sons were involved in the family business.

Rajender is an active member of the AAP and participates in the party's campaigns not only in Delhi but also in other states, said sources. At the time of the incident, he was in Goa for party-related work but returned on Wednesday afternoon. He also runs an Instagram account where he shares updates about party campaigns and social activities.

Additionally, he is the president of the Ram Chowk Main Market Association, an election he won two months ago. According to neighbours, this was his second term. Eyewitnesses recalled desperate cries of the victims, screaming for help from the balconies.

One of the first eyewitnesses, Yogesh, rushed to the spot around 6.50 am. "We saw Pravesh and Kamal screaming for help from the third floor.

Drainage plan cleared, fuel supply reviewed in Delhi

New Delhi.(Agency)
The Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA), in its 43rd meeting held at Lok Niwas on Wednesday, reviewed key disaster preparedness measures for the national capital. The meeting was chaired by the Lieutenant Governor and co-chaired by the Chief Minister.

The Authority granted in-principle approval to the Delhi Urban Flood Mitigation Plan, with a proposed outlay of Rs 21,000 crore. The plan focuses on strengthening drainage infrastructure, desilting major drains, constructing additional stormwater channels, and deploying real-time flood monitoring systems to reduce waterlogging during the monsoon. The Chief Minister stressed timely implementation ahead of the rainy season.

A key decision was the establishment of a state-of-the-art Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) and an Integrated Command and Control Centre. These facilities will enable real-time coordination, predictive

analytics using AI and satellite data, and faster response to disasters such as floods, earthquakes, fires and chemical emergencies. The L-G directed departments to expedite execution, while the Chief Minister said disaster



resilience remains a top priority, guided by the Prime Minister's 10-point agenda on disaster risk reduction. The meeting also reviewed energy preparedness in view of the current geopolitical situation. Emphasis was laid on ensuring uninterrupted supply, preventing black marketing and

hoarding, and promoting efficient energy use and renewable integration. Fuel and gas availability was discussed in detail, with officials reviewing supply of LPG, PNG, petrol and diesel to ensure there are no disruptions.

Experts from the National Disaster Management Authority and the National Centre for Seismology shared inputs on strengthening preparedness.

In a post on X, the L-G said measures to tackle urban flooding and the Drainage Master Plan were discussed, along with directions for comprehensive fire audits following a recent residential fire incident.

Flood plan approved with Rs 21,000 crore outlay

The Authority granted in-principle approval to the Delhi Urban Flood Mitigation Plan, with a proposed outlay of Rs 21,000 crore. The plan focuses on strengthening drainage infrastructure, desilting major drains, and deploying real-time flood monitoring systems.

Delhi HC summons MCD chief for making visually impaired man 'run pillar to post' for vendor card for eight years

Noting that the incomplete survey has left persons like Bhushan to "continue to be harassed", the bench, in an order dated March 12 made public on March 17, said it was "shocking" how the MCD "continues to deal with this issue in a callous manner."

New Delhi.(Agency)
Visually impaired Bharat Bhushan (50) has been knocking on the Delhi High Court's doors since 2018 for a simple Certificate of Vending (CoV) from the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) that would legitimize his fruit stall at the Sultanpuri bus stand in Northwest Rohini.

However despite repeated court interventions, Bhushan still hasn't received his CoV. Without it, he cannot get an electricity connection, and his dream of a permanent stall remains out of reach, leaving him to run a mobile vend. Against this backdrop, HC has summoned MCD Commissioner Sanjeev Khirwar for making the fruit vendor run from "pillar to post" for eight years by not issuing him a CoV. Taking strong exception to MCD's "shocking state of affairs", the court observed "MCD appears to be working in the

most dysfunctional manner." A division bench of Justices Prathiba Singh and Madhu Jain was hearing an application filed by Bhushan, who is 100% visually impaired, seeking CoV, a certificate issued by the town vending committee (TVC) to street vendors that entitles them to space and facilities for vending under municipal laws.

TVC, which comprises representatives of street vendors, works alongside MCD to regulate street vending in the Capital. Meanwhile, the court had earlier directed MCD to consider Bhushan's case for issuance of the CoV. In April 2023, the court ordered a survey of vendors to be completed within a maximum of 24 weeks. However, the survey remains incomplete to date, owing to which no CoV can be issued to any vendor.

Noting that the incomplete survey has left persons like Bhushan to "continue to be harassed", the bench, in an order dated March 12 made public on March 17, said it was "shocking" how the MCD "continues to deal with this issue in a



callous manner." "There are no timelines given by the MCD as to when the survey is to be completed. The MCD appears to be working in the most dysfunctional manner," the court

said, adding in its March 12 order: "Under these circumstances, the Court has no option but to direct the Commissioner, MCD to remain physically present in the Court at 10:30 am on the next date of hearing." The matter will next be heard on April 9.

HC also directed Bhushan's stall "shall not be hampered or obstructed in any manner by the MCD or the Delhi Police", and ordered MCD to pay him Rs 20,000 within a week towards expenses he has had to repeatedly bear. This is in addition to Rs 10,000 the court had earlier directed MCD to pay. In January 2023, the TVC agreed to allow Bhushan to vend at the site without a CoV, on the condition that he would not erect any permanent structure, cause encroachment of the Right of Way (RoW), or obstruct pedestrian and traffic movement.

Iftar gathering called off day before event as DU bans cultural programmes on campus

New Delhi.(Agency)
An Iftar gathering scheduled for Wednesday evening at the Faculty of Law, University of Delhi (DU), was called off on Tuesday after the DU administration issued a notice prohibiting all cultural events within the premises "until further notice". The event, 'Dawat-e-Iftar', was scheduled to be held at 6 pm at Umang Bhawan, according to a poster circulated by students.

In a notice dated March 17, the Faculty of Law administration said, "All students are hereby informed that no cultural events/programmes, or cultural gatherings of any kind shall be organised within the faculty premises (old building/new building) until further notice."

"This decision has been taken in view of administrative and safety considerations. Students are advised to comply with the above directive," it added.

While the order, signed by Dean Anju Vali Tikoo, did not mention the Iftar event explicitly, the notice effectively prevented the event from taking place on Wednesday. Speaking to , DU South Campus Director Rajni Abbi said the administration had taken a blanket position against allowing religious gatherings on campus, citing concerns about precedent and potential tensions.

"We did not allow it because we don't want to set a precedent. Tomorrow, if someone comes and says they want to organise another religious event, what do we say then? It becomes very difficult for us," she said. "There can be clashes on such occasions, which is why we are not going to allow this," she added.

Abbi further said that the decision was not specific to any religion. "Irrespective of the religion, we are not going to allow such events," she said, adding that similar requests for Saraswati Puja had also been denied. "These are occasions where there is a higher possibility of tensions arising." Referring to a previous instance, Abbi said, "Last time, when permission was sought for Iftar, I had refused. Even then, people went ahead and made arrangements, and we had to seek police assistance."

Adding to this another higher official from the DU administration said "No prior permission was taken to organise this event" Students, meanwhile, pointed to a history of informal and small-scale observances across DU colleges and departments, including Iftar gatherings being organised without incident.

"We see Hindu festivals being celebrated openly on campus. There is Bhajan Clubbing happening in several colleges.

NEWS BOX

Arjun Tendulkar leaves Rishabh Pant impressed with Sachin-style technique in LSG camp

New Delhi. (Agency)

Arjun Tendulkar has made a strong early impression at Lucknow Super Giants ahead of IPL 2026, catching the eye of captain Rishabh Pant during training. The youngster stood out not just for his approach but also for his bat weight, which carries a distinct Sachin Tendulkar touch. After joining LSG for the new season, Arjun was seen engaging in conversations with Pant during practice sessions at the Ekana Stadium. One such discussion around bat weights quickly grabbed attention, with the video of the exchange going viral on social media. When Pant asked about his bat, Arjun revealed that he prefers using a heavier blade, something that surprised the LSG skipper. 1220(gms). Touch karo toh jaati hai. Papa toh 1310-1315. Main toh 1200 se halka toh main jaata nahi hoon. (It flies even when you touch it. Dad used to play with 1310-1315. I don't go below 1200)." Arjun said. The numbers left Pant visibly taken aback, especially since Arjun's bat is heavier than what many players in modern-day cricket opt for. Arjun also showed his commitment by joining the



training camp soon after his wedding earlier this month, getting straight into preparations for the upcoming season. This was also something that left Pant impressed with the 26-year-old all-rounder's enthusiasm. **SACHIN LINK BEHIND ARJUN'S BAT WEIGHT**

Arjun's preference for a heavier bat reflects the influence of his father, Sachin Tendulkar, who famously used one of the heaviest bats during his playing days. Sachin's bats were typically in the range of 1310 to 1315 grams, and he rarely moved away from that weight despite changes in the game. Instead of reducing weight, Sachin adjusted the design of his bat over time, allowing him to rely more on timing and placement as his career progressed. This approach helped him maintain control and precision, even without depending on brute power. Arjun appears to be following a similar path, choosing a bat that suits his style while staying comfortable with a heavier blade.

IPL 2026: KKR target ex-CSK pace duo as Harshit Rana replacement options

LONDON. (Agency)

Three-time IPL champions Kolkata Knight Riders have on their radar former Chennai Super Kings pace duo Simarjeet Singh and KM Asif, along with veteran Sandeep Warrier, to fill the void left by the injured Harshit Rana in the upcoming IPL 2026 season. KKR's pace resources have been hit hard by Rana's ligament strain in the right knee, sustained during India's T20 World Cup warm-up against South Africa. The pacer has undergone surgery and is currently in rehabilitation with no fixed timeline for his return. Keeping Rana's absence in mind, the KKR think tank is exploring other options. Simarjeet, who has played for CSK (2022, 2024) and Sunrisers Hyderabad, has 11 wickets from 14 IPL games. A tall quick



capable of hitting 140kph-plus and delivering sharp yorkers, he impressed with nine wickets in 10 matches for CSK in 2022 but struggled last season for SRH, managing two wickets in four games. Asif and Warrier were called up for trials during KKR's first training session at Eden Gardens on Wednesday, while Simarjeet had impressed earlier in Mumbai during the first phase of the trials as head of scouting Biju George and deputy Manvinder Bisla oversaw the process.

Asif, who rattled Mumbai with a career-best 5/24 in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy, is known for his 140kph pace but has struggled with niggles. The 32-year-old made his IPL debut for CSK in 2018 and has featured only sporadically since, with his last appearance coming for Rajasthan Royals in 2023. He has seven wickets from seven matches.

Lionel Messi scores 900th career goal but Miami crash out of CONCACAF Champions Cup

Messi still has some way to go before he catches his great rival Cristiano Ronaldo, the 41-year-old Portuguese superstar who is on 965 career goals.

New Delhi. (Agency)

Argentine superstar Lionel Messi bagged the 900th goal of his glittering career on Wednesday but could not prevent Inter Miami from crashing out of the CONCACAF Champions Cup on away goals after a 1-1 draw with Nashville. Messi, 38, scored his milestone goal after just seven minutes to put Miami 1-0 up in the second leg of their last-16 clash in the regional club competition. But Nashville's Cristian Espinoza lashed in a 74th-minute equalizer to make it 1-1 on aggregate, and after holding Miami at bay for the remainder of the game, the visitors from Tennessee advanced to the quarter-finals on the away goals rule.

Miami's exit was a bittersweet ending to what had promised to be a night of celebration after Messi's early opener in what was the club's final game at their Chase Stadium home in Fort Lauderdale.

Messi's strike took the Argentine's tally to 81 goals for the MLS champions following his move to Florida in 2023. The eight-time Ballon D'Or winner previously scored 672 goals for Spanish giants Barcelona, 32 for France's Paris Saint-Germain, and a further 115 international goals for Argentina.

Goal number 900 came some 21 years after Messi's first goal in senior football, when he scored for Barcelona in a 2-0 win over Albacete in 2005 as a fresh-faced 17-year-old. Messi, widely regarded as the greatest player in football history, still has some way to go before he catches his great rival Cristiano Ronaldo, the 41-year-old Portuguese superstar who is on 965 career goals. Speaking ahead of Messi's 900th goal, Miami manager and former Argentina and Barcelona team-mate Javier Mascherano described the star's goals total as "insane."

"I've been lucky enough to see most, or many,

of the goals he's scored, much closer than you all, and that's a privilege," Mascherano said. "The number we're talking about (900) is insane, and that's why Leo is a one of a kind." New home soon Wednesday's match carried added significance for Inter Miami,



marking a farewell to the team's Chase Stadium. The venue has served as Inter Miami's home since the club entered Major League Soccer in 2020. The team will move into a new purpose-built 26,700-seat facility next month. Messi is strongly expected to play in his sixth World Cup later this year, when Argentina defend their title in the 48-

team tournament being staged in the United States, Canada and Mexico.

The Argentine star has already extended his Inter Miami contract through to the end of the 2028 season. Messi's prolific goalscoring has been a hallmark of his career. His 672 goals for Barcelona came in just 778 games -- an average of 0.86 per game -- helping the Catalan club win 35 trophies before departure to Paris Saint-Germain in 2021.

In France, he scored 32 goals in 75 matches, winning three trophies including two league titles. In Miami, his 81 goals have come in just 96 appearances, helping the team win the 2023 Leagues Cup and the 2025 MLS Cup. His 115 international goals have come in 196 matches, including two in the 2022 World Cup final victory over France.

Messi's goals tally leaves him second only to Ronaldo according to most recognised statistical records. Brazilian legend Pele is often said to have scored more than 1,000 goals but those numbers have been the subject to debate. Most statisticians put Pele's total for Brazil, Santos and New York Cosmos at 762.

Yuzvendra Chahal's shock reveal before IPL 2026: Stopped drinking alcohol

New Delhi. (Agency)

In a bid to enter the upcoming IPL 2026 season with better confidence and fitness levels, Yuzvendra Chahal has made a personal lifestyle change and decided to quit consuming alcohol. Chahal, who will be part of the Punjab Kings squad for the new season, revealed about his personal life during a podcast with AB de Villiers. Chahal enjoyed a decent outing during his first season with PBKS in 2025, after having a lacklustre start.

IPL 2026: FULL COVERAGE

The leg-spinner picked up 16 wickets in 14 matches as PBKS went to the final, where they were beaten by RCB. Chahal told De Villiers that he is aiming to break the IPL title jinx with Punjab and is eager to perform well during the tournament. The spinner also said that the decision to quit alcohol stemmed from

the fact that he wanted to be a role model for the young players in the squad. "I've stopped drinking alcohol, and it's been more than six months. I am now 35, so I want to be more



active and give my 150% for my team. As a senior player, I want people in the IPL to learn something from me," said Chahal. **WHAT MADE CHAHAL FOCUS**

MORE ON HEALTH?

Chahal revealed that he was disappointed with himself during IPL 2025 as he was unable to perform well due to rib and knuckle injuries. The spinner said that in the upcoming season, he wanted to keep his body first and ensure that he is playing at the peak of his powers. "I was a bit disappointed with myself. After the KKR game, I had a rib fracture, and later, my knuckle got fractured. So in the semifinal and final, I wasn't able to bowl my proper leg-spin. This year, I want to take care of my body first," said Chahal.

Chahal will also be hoping to use IPL 2026 as a way to get back into the Indian team contention. Chahal last played an international game for India in 2023 and has since been left on the sidelines.

Champions League: Liverpool dismantle Galatasaray, Barcelona hit 7 past Newcastle

Liverpool overturned a first-leg deficit to thrash Galatasaray at home to make it to the quarterfinals of the UEFA Champions League. Barcelona dismantled Newcastle and beat them 7-2 to book their spot in the final 8.

MUMBAI. (Agency)

Liverpool overcame their recent inconsistent form to reach the Champions League quarter-finals with a 4-0 win over Galatasaray at Anfield on Wednesday. The victory secured a 4-1 aggregate triumph for the Premier League champions.

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE: FULL COVERAGE

Galatasaray had previously beaten Liverpool twice at home this season, including a 1-0 win in last week's first leg. However, Liverpool showed determination and energy to dominate the second leg. Dominik Szoboszlai opened the scoring in the 25th minute. Liverpool could have extended their lead before halftime, but Mohamed Salah had a penalty saved. After the break, Liverpool scored three more goals through

Ekitike, Ryan Gravenberch and Salah. Liverpool will face holders Paris Saint-Germain in the quarter-finals. PSG advanced with an 8-2 aggregate win over Chelsea.

BARCELONA THRASH NEWCASTLE

Barcelona also advanced with a commanding



7-2 win against Newcastle United at Camp Nou on Wednesday. The result confirmed an 8-3 aggregate victory in their round-of-16 tie. Raphinha scored early for Barcelona, but Anthony Elanga quickly equalised for Newcastle. Barcelona regained the lead through Marc Bernal and fell behind briefly again before Yamal converted a penalty deep into first-half added time. The Catalan

side then scored four goals in the second half, with contributions from Fermin, Robert Lewandowski, and Raphinha.

ATLETI, BAYERN PROGRESS

Atletico Madrid reached the quarter-finals despite a 3-2 loss to Tottenham Hotspur in north London on Wednesday. Atletico secured a 7-5 aggregate win following their strong 5-2 first-leg victory. Goals from Julian Alvarez and David Hanco helped Atletico maintain their advantage. Tottenham, although eliminated, earned their first win in six games under interim manager Igor Tudor, with Xavi Simons scoring twice. They will look to carry this momentum into their upcoming Premier League match against Nottingham Forest. In another fixture, Bayern Munich defeated Atalanta 4-1 on Wednesday, completing a 10-2 aggregate win to reach the Champions League quarter-finals. Forward Harry Kane scored twice and became the first English player to reach 50 Champions League goals in 66 matches, making him the third-fastest to the milestone.

Hey Ancelotti, what about me Neymar's reaction to Brazil squad snub goes viral

New Delhi. (Agency)

Neymar Jr's reaction to him not getting called up to the Brazil squad for the upcoming friendlies against France and Croatia. Neymar was given a bit of hope of making it to the World Cup when he was part of the provisional squad for the friendlies, but manager Carlo Ancelotti decided to snub the former Barcelona man from the final list. Neymar released a 20-minute documentary on his YouTube channel, which showed him capturing the moments before the team was being announced. As soon as Ancelotti's press conference came to an end, Neymar jokingly asked what about his spot.

The Brazilian forward then said that he will continue to support the national team and continue to work on himself and be ready for his chance. "And what about me, Ancelotti?"



The list is out, and I'm not called up. Of course I'm sad, but as I said, I'll always support the national team. It's all clear, I have to keep working to be ready if an opportunity arises," Neymar responded.

THIS IS MY LAST WORLD CUP!

Neymar commented on his YouTube channel that the 2026 edition will be his last World Cup and he is eager to make it to the Brazilian squad for one last dance. "Of course, it's my last World Cup. I don't know if it's my last year in the national team, but it's coming to an end, and we have to know that," Neymar said on his YouTube channel. "I was always telling my friends and my family, enjoy it as much as you can. Keep watching the games because it will end." "I can help the national team. I can help in any way. I know the qualities I have and the power I have on the field."

"Obviously, I want to go to the World Cup. Obviously, this moves me. This past week, my name has been spoken a trillion times in the press and everywhere."

Galatasaray's Noah Lang suffers freak finger injury vs Liverpool

Galatasaray endured a night to forget in the Champions League as injuries piled up during their heavy loss to Liverpool. Noah Lang suffered a freak finger injury while Victor Osimhen picked up a painful arm issue.

NEW DELHI. (Agency)

Galatasaray's Champions League campaign ended on a painful note as Noah Lang suffered a freak finger injury and Victor Osimhen picked up an arm problem during their heavy defeat to Liverpool. The Turkish side were beaten 4-0 at Anfield, crashing out of the

competition. The result saw Liverpool progress to the quarter-finals with a 4-1 aggregate win, overturning Galatasaray's first-leg advantage in dominant fashion. The night, however, was overshadowed by a worrying injury to Lang, who had to be stretchered off after a bizarre incident near the touchline. The Netherlands international was involved in a challenge with Curtis Jones in the 75th minute before stumbling into the advertising hoardings. In the process, his thumb appeared to get trapped, leaving him in visible agony.

HOW DID NOAH LANG GET INJURED?

The injury occurred when Lang lost balance during a duel and collided with the hoardings near Liverpool's goal. His thumb was caught awkwardly between the boards, resulting in a deep wound. Galatasaray's medical team immediately attended to the forward, and play was halted as he received treatment on the pitch. "He's going to the hospital right

now, an important issue he has with his finger," Galatasaray coach Okan Buruk said after the match. Buruk added that the severity



of the injury could require surgery, with a decision expected after further medical evaluation. "Very quickly, they have brought him there. If there is a necessity for an operation here immediately, there will be a decision to make," he said.

WHAT HAPPENED TO VICTOR

OSIMHEN?

Victor Osimhen's night also took a painful turn earlier in the match after he suffered an arm injury during the first half. The Nigerian striker hurt his left wrist when it collided with Ibrahima Konate's knee during an aerial challenge. Osimhen was in visible discomfort and required lengthy treatment as play was briefly delayed. Despite the injury, he continued with his wrist strapped, but struggled to make a meaningful impact as the game progressed. Galatasaray initially delayed substituting him, but the forward did not look fully comfortable for the remainder of his time on the pitch. The injuries summed up a difficult evening for Galatasaray, who were outplayed throughout by a dominant Liverpool side. The Turkish side's struggles in England continued, with just one win in their last 13 visits, as they exited the competition once again. Liverpool, meanwhile, progressed comfortably and

How to use kacchi haldi in your beauty routine



We all have heard about the skin-enhancing properties of raw turmeric or kacchi haldi from our grandmothers and mothers. But, have you ever had the chance to incorporate it into your skin routine? It is a fact that raw turmeric has been used for centuries in the medicinal and cosmetic fields. To get a natural and healthy glow, people used to put kacchi haldi

paste on their faces as it is known for its healing properties. Rich in a bioactive component called curcumin, turmeric is rich in anti-inflammatory and has skin and health benefits. Easily available in every Indian household, one should stop using the turmeric powder grated from

the market, but should start using raw turmeric in their everyday skincare routine. Having tons of skin-enhancing properties, it treats acne breakouts, delivers clear skin, improves the complexion, reduces dark circles, slows down the process of ageing, and acts as a natural moisturiser. Let's see how you can use raw turmeric in your skincare routine.

Haldi mask for face
Turmeric mask
Take two tablespoons of raw turmeric (kachchi haldi) powder, one tablespoon of sandalwood powder, 1 tablespoon of honey, 1 bowl, and some water.
Step 1: Take the bowl and put the turmeric and sandalwood powder together. Step 2: Add some honey to the powder mixture.
Step 3: Add a sufficient amount of water and create a thick paste. Step 4: Now, mix it well. Apply the face mask for 15 minutes and rinse off with cold water, followed by a moisturiser.
Turmeric cleanser
If you're dealing with acne, dark spots, and signs of ageing, then follow these steps. Take some milk, one tablespoon of original turmeric powder, and one tablespoon of chickpea powder.
Step 1: Mix both the powders in a bowl.
Step 2: Mix them well and add a few drops of milk.
Step 3: Create a watery consistency and apply it all over your face. Keep it on for 15 minutes and then rinse it off with cold water. It would kill the bacteria brewing in your facial cells and would give you an enhanced glowy finish. It will leave a yellow stain for a long period of time. Raw turmeric might have harsh effects on sensitive skin. Therefore, if you're not allergic to it then you're good to go to use it. It is a natural ingredient thus it mainly does not cause any major side effects on the skin. But, it might leave a yellow stain on your face after use. Also, if you're undergoing any serious medication then consult the doctor before using turmeric.
Turmeric face packs should not be used for more than 15 minutes or it will leave a yellow stain for a long period of time.

The dawn of the Sleepmaxxer



It had been months since health and fitness influencer Helen Leland had enjoyed a good night's sleep. She would wake up exhausted every morning, which increased her stress levels as the day wore on and resulted in setbacks in her personal and professional life. The reason turned out to be her habit of breathing through her mouth while sleeping which led to snoring. So, she began taping her mouth to enjoy a hassle-free sleep. "I used to be a mouth breather. It was apparent in the shape of my face and my tired energy level every morning. Then I started mouth taping in the night. Three years later, it is something I will never stop doing," she says.

Like Leland, numerous other influencers are extolling the virtues of practices believed to enhance one's sleep. Health and wellness coach Akshay Satija advocates taking magnesium supplements orally or applying it as a spray, oil or lotion. Dr Darshan Shah, a board-certified surgeon and founder of Next Health, recommends the use of a wearable sleep tracker device to monitor your sleep cycle, aiming for 7+ hours every night.

Though everyone aspires for a good night's sleep, these influencers and sleep aficionados are taking things up a notch with 'sleepmaxxing'. This trend, largely popularised on social media, encourages people to strive for perfect sleep by eliminating any potential distractions or obstacles. Driven by the belief that optimal rest is crucial for overall wellbeing, these people use avant garde products and practices to enhance sleep.

"Sleepmaxxing is a deliberate approach to optimising sleep. This trend has particularly captured the attention of high-performing individuals — executives, athletes, and professionals — who view optimal sleep as essential to achieving peak performance in both their personal and professional lives," explains Dr

Mukesh Batra, founder and chairman of Dr Batra's group.

Dr Batra points to research linking insufficient or poor-quality sleep to numerous health issues including cardiovascular disease, diabetes, obesity, and weakened immune function.

Indians, in particular, fare poorly on a healthy sleep scale. According to a survey conducted by polling platform LocalCircles, 61 per cent of Indians sleep for fewer than six hours per night without interruption, with 23 per cent struggling to get even four hours of uninterrupted sleep. Further, fitness tracking company Fitbit's 2019 survey spanning 18 countries, concluded that Indians were the second-most sleep-deprived globally, with Japan leading the pack. Researchers at the

Centre for Consciousness Studies, NIMHANS found that one-third of Indians were victims of varied sleep disorders.

Tired of struggling to sleep well every night, Swati Gupta, founder of Esme Luxury Silk turned to the bio-hacking community for a solution. Here, people DIY unconventional experimental biotechnology by using everyday items or recycled equipment to find solutions to problems. She found that many issues had to be addressed to maximise sleep quality.

Hence, she turned to silk to enhance her sleep as the fabric is known to regulate



body temperature, reduce wrinkles and hair tangles, and provide a hypoallergenic sleeping environment. Gupta explains, "For any new innovation or habit to work, an individual's lifestyle habits are important. Silk is anti-bacterial and has many beauty benefits that have stood the test of time."

Dr Sreeragh Haridas, the wellness director at Six Senses Fort Barwara points out that mouth tapes, chin straps and magnesium supplements are mere hacks which have no backing by major scientific studies or evidence. "All these may offer temporary relief, but they are not advisable as long-term consistent solutions."

Instead, he advocates following a healthy routine for better sleep quality, which includes an optimal workout, a balanced meal intake, proper work-life balance, avoiding excessive screen time, creating a healthy sleep environment at home, and leaving a gap of three hours between dinner and sleep to allow

the natural bio clock to work.

Get Sleepmaxxing
Mouth Tape
Strips of adhesive tape to be placed over the mouth to improve breathing, prevent snoring, stop mouth dryness and enhance the shape of the jawline.

Magnesium Oil / Lotion / Spray / Supplements
Magnesium encourages deep and healthy sleep. It can be used in a variety of ways including as oral supplements or application-based lotions, sprays and oils.

Sleep Tracker Devices
Smart bands or rings that track the number of hours one sleeps at night, as well as the quality of the sleep.

Chin Strap
A cloth strap that is fastened around the head with a Velcro to hold the chin tight and mouth closed while sleeping. It reduces mouth snoring by stabilising the jaw and encouraging natural breathing through the nose.

Sleep Mocktail
A drink made to consume before bed containing magnesium or melatonin supplements, cherry juice and soda to enhance the flavour of the drink.



Huma Qureshi's

Airport Moment Has Fans Screaming 'Gore Gore Mukhre Pe Kala Kala Chasma'

Huma Qureshi is the media's favourite, and the latest video is proof of this. The actress was recently spotted at the airport by the paparazzi. Dressed in a flowy blue outfit, the actor exuded effortless charm as she made her way through the terminal. She completed her look with a brown handbag and stylish cat-eye sunglasses, keeping it chic yet comfortable.

What truly stole the spotlight, however, was the paparazzi's playful energy. As Huma Qureshi walked through the terminal, shutterbugs broke into an impromptu rendition of "Gore gore mukhre pe kala kala chasma," adding a playful twist to the candid moment. The actress appeared amused by the spontaneous comment, smiling as she acknowledged the cameras.

Before heading to her car, the actor was also asked about her brother, Saqib Saleem. In a brief but cheerful response, she turned back and said, "Good, good," before making her exit.

Here's How Fans Reacted

The viral clip has since sparked heartfelt reactions online, with fans flooding social media with comments praising her effortless style and cool composure.

"Beautiful face in mornings," read a comment. Another said, "Most Fair and beautiful actress naturally." "So beautiful. Gorgeous princess," wrote a user.

An individual stated, "Awesome. Very beautiful."

Huma Qureshi's Career So Far

Huma Qureshi made a powerful debut in the lights-camera-action world with the film Gangs of Wasseypur. Over the years, she has established her mettle as a versatile actor with a diverse range of roles. From intense dramas like Badlapur and Ek Thi Daayan to mainstream entertainers such as Bell Bottom and the Jolly LLB series, she has showcased her versatility across genres. Her performance in the political drama franchise Maharani further cemented her reputation as a formidable performer.

What's Next For Huma Qureshi?

Now, she will captivate the audience in Geetu Mohandas's directorial Toxic: A Fairy Tale For Grownups. The film will see her taking on an antagonist role for the second time after Delhi



Alia Bhatt Recalls Shooting Kar Gaye Chull As Kapoor And Sons Completes 10 Years: 'Was Having A Good Time'



Kapoor And Sons, starring Alia Bhatt, Fawad Khan, and Sidharth Malhotra, has completed 10 years today. The film, released on March 18, 2016, was loved by the audience for its storyline and music. On this special occasion, Dharma movies shared the voice records of lead actors recalling their experience. Alia Bhatt also recalled her shooting days for the song Kar Gaye Chull in the film. She said, "I remember my first day of shoot for Kapoor And Sons was for Kar Gaye Chull which went onto become such a big hit. When you see me dancing in Kar Gaye Chull, I am actually just dancing."

I am just having like a great time. I don't think that was very performative, it was me genuinely having a good time, and it was a vibe that Shakun created. I remember, you know, when we went for our main outdoor, to Coonoor, even though I had shoot on and off, I just stayed on. I was just there for the entire schedule."

Taking to his Instagram stories, Karan Johar shared the script and wrote, "10 years of one of my favourite Dharma movies #kapoorandsons." Earlier, Sidharth Malhotra also shared how he read the script and ended up with tears in his eyes. Speaking to Hindustan Times, Sidharth said, "When I first read the script, I remember finishing it with tears in my eyes."

It felt so real, like stepping into a warm, chaotic Punjabi family where every character had a heartbeat. Playing Arjun was special because he was layered, vulnerable, and carrying so much inside him. 10 years later, people still talk about the film, the scenes, and the family dynamics, like they've lived with these characters themselves. That kind of love is rare, and I feel grateful we got to bring that story to life," Malhotra further added.

All about Kapoor & Sons

The film follows the story of two brothers from a chaotic household. Following their grandfather's heart attack, the brothers travel to Coonoor to visit their parents and grandfather. The brothers had a major fallout after Arjun (played by Sidharth) claimed Rahul (played by Fawad) stole his story and turned it into a bestselling novel. Kapoor & Sons marked Alia and Sidharth's second on-screen collaboration after their 2012 debut film, Student of the Year.

Sanya Malhotra's All-Black Look Is Pure Power Dressing Goals



Actress Sanya Malhotra can be seen exuding pure elegance in her latest photo sessions. The diva was posing in a black suit look, styled by Manisha Melwani. She was captured indoors against a plain white background in a low, crouched pose, looking directly at the camera with a confident expression. On Instagram, Sanya Malhotra dropped her pictures wearing a sleek, all-black suit set from Volcape Store. It included a well-fitted jacket teamed with a pair of matching flared pants. She layered her outfit with a matching top, styled it further with a printed, multi-hued scarf, and looked every bit as stunning. At the same time, the title has a commercial vibe and would send the right message to the viewers."

Sanya Malhotra's Statement Look Is Decoded

Coming to her accessories, Sanya picked a pair of dark-rimmed glasses from Miu Miu, earrings from Kaj Fine Jewellery, and boots from OROH. Additionally, she opted for a couple of statement rings. She opted for dewy makeup, which included Kohl-rimmed eyes, defined brows, nude lipstick and concealer on her cheeks. Her hair was pulled back tightly into a bun, perfectly complementing the bright studio lighting and highlighting the rich texture of her outfit.

She captioned the pictures with three emojis, including a cat, a black square, and a black heart, seemingly highlighting her affection for black cats.

Sanya Malhotra's Fans Heap Praises On Her Latest Look

Reacting to the photos, her Dangal co-star Aparshakti Khurana dropped a series of high-voltage sign emojis, pointing towards her striking/lightning looks. In contrast, her Meenakshi Sundareswar co-star Abhimanyu commented, "Slick." A user said, "This look is absolute cinema!" Another added, "Wow, amazing." Someone mentioned, "You look gorgeous and glamorous." "Not just style... this walks in like a statement and leaves like a memory you didn't see coming," read a comment.

Swara Bhasker

Breaks Silence On 'Fake Tweet' Attributed To Her Slamming Priyanka Chopra Amid Oscars Row

Bollywood actress Swara Bhasker, who is currently enjoying her motherhood, was recently trending on social media after her alleged post criticising Priyanka Chopra Jonas amid her recent controversy at the Oscars 2026. However, on March 18, Swara took to Instagram, calling out the false post attributed to her name. She confirmed that it was not her post and called it "fake."

Swara shared the fake post on X (formerly Twitter) and clarified the ongoing debate. She said that "Sanghis created her fake tweet to mock her." Her tweet read, "So apparently, Sanghis have created this fake tweet and are circulating it to mock me. Ajeeb desperation hai. I'm capable of generating my own controversies, guys, you don't have to implant me in other people's news. I mean, I know you guys are obsessed with me, but I'll give you content na! So yeah, this supposed tweet of mine is FAKE!"

The fake tweet attributed to Swara read, "No matter how much you fake yourself to please some people, one day your real face will come in front of the whole world and you will face the consequences you deserve."

Earlier, Priyanka's clips surfaced on social media after she appeared on stage to present the Best

International Feature Film award with actor Javier Bardem at the 98th Academy Awards on March 15, 2026. Her reaction to Javier's remark just moments before announcing the winner grabbed everyone's attention. Presenting the award, Javier, who wore a "No to War" pin on his tuxedo, said, "No to war and Free Palestine." Priyanka, who stood alongside him, nodded along and smiled.



Since the broadcast, PeeCee's reaction to Javier Bardem's statement has sparked mixed responses online, with social media users divided over the viral moment. Meanwhile, the actress is yet to address or comment on the ongoing buzz. Meanwhile, Priyanka walked the red carpet with her husband, Nick Jonas, and the two were later seen turning heads at the after-party as well.



Being a leader is a lot more than just having the position where you can give orders and be at the top of the team build up. Being a good leader also means that people are willing to take orders and they see you as their leader. A good leader is simply who people like to follow. And these are simple tips you can practice to be a good leader.



make confident choices and have the power to decide quickly and properly, and if you are confident of your ability of decision making, then you will surely hit the bull's eye.

Take responsibility

Always take responsibility of things that go by in the team. If you have the position of a leader in the team, and if a team member commits a mistake, you should step up and take responsibility of their actions. This is what good leaders are made of.

Talk less, listen more

Leading a team doesn't always mean giving orders and only saying what you think. It is also about listening to what others have to say. And if you are a good listener, you can be a good leader. Also take care that you do what you preach.

Follow these tips to be an Inspiring Leader



Take part

Be a part of the team you are leading. Being a leader or the boss doesn't mean that you distance yourself from your group. In fact,

if you mingle well with the people they will be more supportive of you and help you lead better.

Be confident

Being confident in decision making is one of the most important part of being a good leader. People look up to people who can

6 ways to deal with sibling rivalry

Are you irritated every time your kids fight over who will eat the last bite of ice-cream or quibble over who will play with the new video-game you bought for them?

Sibling rivalry is an inevitable parenting evil. Moreover, its degree can determine positive or negative effects on your kids in the long run. Here are ways you can foster a healthy bond between your kids.

- 1. Start early:** Introduce your older child to the younger one when the latter is in the womb itself. This will prepare him/her for the new addition in the family as well as build a friendly bond between the two. Let your kid pat your bulge and talk to the child.
- 2. Set boundaries:** Make sure that your kids know what behaviour is acceptable and what is not, especially when they are quarrelling. Sit them down and lay down the limits where calling each other names, physical violence as well as stealing each other's belongings is definitely not acceptable.
- 3. Avoid comparisons:** Picture this — Your five-year-old son is having a meal and drops some food on his shirt. You scold him, 'Even your baby sister doesn't do something like this.'

especially if the older kid feels ignored when he/she sees you pampering the younger one. Make the older kid feel important and ensure that you pay equal attention to both of them and love them equally.

- 5. Separate them:** Are there times when your kids want to watch the television at the same time or are quarrelling for a bicycle ride? If you can't find a way to solve the situation, ask them to go their respective rooms. Allot particular time periods for each during which they can use common things. From an early age, encourage your kids to share their things with each other.



But, joining them in their endeavours will get you more 'us' time and make your relationship strong. Here are some fun things you can do with your tots...

Get adventurous

Rock climbing, bungee jumping, trekking, biking, rafting these are some of the options you can pursue with your kid if the two of you are adventure junkies. Parthiv Painter, who has been attending freehand climbing sessions with his 14 year-old son and 12-year-old daughter, says, "I have been spending three hours with my kids every weekend, attending these classes. My son is quite gung-ho about adventure sports, and my daughter is also loving it. Now that we've had our training, we are planning to go for a rock climbing and water rafting trip. These trips, in a way, help prepare kids to face challenges. Also, it's fun screaming and shouting together when you are hanging 15ft above the ground, secured only with a rope."

Get creative with them

If your kid likes to paint or make things at home, then join him/her. You two can spend the evenings painting or making those DIY bracelets. You two can even start making cute

6 fun ideas to strengthen bond with Your kids

too much dust. You can also realign your books or give your kid's room a makeover."

Make health a family affair

Working out alone can get quite boring. But, getting your kids to join you can make the whole exercise quite fun. Rohit Dinkar, a marketing professional, says, "Every morning, my wife and my 13-year-old son got to the park near our home and jog for half an hour. We then do some stretching and my wife teaches us basic yoga. This is the only time I get to spend with my son because I'm mostly out at office throughout the day."

Child counsellor Ramola Vishwas says, "Kids must be taught from a young age how important a healthy lifestyle is. They need not go to the gym when they are that young; playing and running are some of the activities that will help them warm up to the idea of workouts. So, when your kids have time this vacation, play with them. It can be something as simple as hide and seek and a game of catch or some outdoor sports like basketball!"

Explore places

If your kids love history , then exploring nearby museums and heritage structures are an option. You can even plan a weekend trip with the family to places of historic importance. Anusha Sidhwani, a preschool teacher, says, "This vacation, my 6-year-old son and I've been checking out all the parks in our city .The idea is to spend as much time together as we can and find out little known facts and places about our city."

Get pet-friendly

Looking for a novel way to spend the vacation usefully? Try building shelters for stray birds and animals. Animal activist Rithangshu Bhatt says, "My daughter, who is in Class 5, has been wanting to do her bit for animals. So, my wife and I decided to make use of this vacation to help her realise her dream. She's got together her friends as well and we've been working on building shelters for animals and baths for birds. We've also been feeding the strays together. It has been a fun and a humane exercise in kindness."

birthday or anniversary cards by writing your own verses and decorating them according to your tastes. Nikita Nijam, mother of two, says, "Every day , my two daughters and I sit together and make interesting card games. We come up with our own puzzles as well. The topic depends on their choice -we cut pieces of cardboard into different shapes and paint one side with their favourite toon characters. This keeps our afternoons occupied." You can also arrange a small party at home and invite your kid's friends over for a role play , and get them to work on costumes and props as well.

Spring cleaning in summer

Want to bond with your tot inside the comfort of your home? Then, spring cleaning is a good option. This will not only be a fun activity for the two of you, but also declutters your home. Start with one room and pull out all the junk that's occupying precious space in your place. General physician Raghuraman adds, "Of course, make sure you don't expose your kid to



6 Reconsider when to intervene: When your children are fighting, it isn't necessary that you interfere on every account.

Comparisons like these do more harm than good. Your older child may develop negative feelings towards his/her sibling.

- 4. Give equal attention:** Rivalry often stems from jealousy,

However, if you feel that things are going out of hand or you just can't ignore their misbehaviour, you could meddle in their affairs. However, at that time, be a neutral parent and avoid passing any judgments on either of the kids.