

India needs well-prepared citizens for strong military, says Rajnath Singh

Singh emphasised the need for a robust defence force supported by citizens ready to stand shoulder-to-shoulder in defence of the country at any time.

New Delhi.(Agency) Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Saturday highlighted the importance of a strong military backed by well-prepared citizens capable of standing together to safeguard the nation under all circumstances.



Uttarakhand, Rajnath stated, "Present-day warfare transcends borders, with national security encompassing economic, digital, energy, and even food security." He emphasised the need for a robust defence force supported by citizens ready to stand shoulder-to-shoulder in defence of the country at any time.

significant transformation, with nations now vulnerable to economic, cyber, space, and information warfare-making it essential for every citizen to remain vigilant and prepared.

Referring to the union government's efforts under the leadership of PM Narendra Modi to equip the armed forces with advanced weapons and technologies, the defence minister further stressed that citizens, particularly the youth, must cultivate mental resilience and intellectual clarity through discipline and determination to help the nation face all challenges.

Citing the concept of VUCA (Volatile, Uncertain, Complex and Ambiguous), Singh encouraged the students to adopt their own version of VUCA—Vision, Understanding, Courage and Adaptability—to effectively deal with modern-day challenges.

Highlighting government initiatives aimed at instilling nation-building values among young people, Singh mentioned the recent decision to establish 100 new Sainik Schools across the country under a Public-Private Partnership model. He also spoke about expanding opportunities within the National Cadet Corps (NCC), noting, "Earlier, the NCC had an intake capacity of 17 lakh cadets; this has now been expanded to 20 lakh," he further added.

Mamata flags 'threat' to voter rights as Bengal braces for close contest

New Delhi.(Agency) With just weeks to go before polling, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Saturday accused the Centre of attempting to interfere with voting rights, even as the Election Commission prepares to publish the first supplementary voter list on March 23, a delayed exercise that has sharpened political tensions in the state ahead of the Assembly elections.



Addressing an Eid gathering at Red Road in Kolkata, Banerjee alleged that the ongoing special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls had led to large-scale deletions, particularly in minority-dominated areas, and warned that her party would resist any attempt to dilute democratic participation.

earlier kept under adjudication. The final electoral roll was published on February 28. The subsequent scrutiny has triggered political contestation across the state. Banerjee also used the platform to underline Bengal's tradition of communal harmony, signalling that attempts to polarise the electorate would be resisted socially as well as politically. The controversy over voter rolls has coincided with widespread unrest within major political parties over ticket distribution, adding a volatile layer to an already high-stakes contest. Both the ruling Trinamool Congress (TMC) and the BJP have faced protests, resignations and public dissent from leaders denied nominations, developments that analysts say could disrupt.

Who Is The 'Young Friend' PM Modi Met At His Residence? Viral Post Sparks Buzz Online

He is the son of social media influencer Diya Krishna and the grandson of Malayalam actor-turned-politician Krishnakumar.

New Delhi. (Agency) A recent Instagram post by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has taken social media by storm after he shared a candid photograph with a young child at his official residence, sparking widespread curiosity. The image, posted from 7, Lok Kalyan Marg, quickly went viral, clocking over 1.7 million likes within a short span and drawing attention from across the country. PM Modi shared the heartwarming picture, holding the baby, and captioned it as "With a young friend who came to 7, Lok Kalyan Marg yesterday."

identified as Neeom Aswin Krishna, affectionately known as "Omy." He is the son of social media influencer Diya Krishna and the grandson of Kerala-based actor and politician Krishnakumar, who has close ties to the BJP. The meeting was part of a family visit to the Prime Minister's residence, which also included several members of the well-known Kerala-based Krishna family. The family, including wife Sindhu Krishnakumar and daughters Ahaana, Diya, Ishaani, and Hansika, along with son-in-law Aswin, spent about an hour with



Images and videos from the interaction, later shared by family members, also went viral. Diya Krishna shared emotional posts calling the moment a "fan moment," highlighting the family's excitement at meeting the PM. "Biggest Fan Moment!! Still waiting for someone to wake me up from an hour well spent with our Beloved Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modiji today, a day my family and I will never forget," the post read, along with several other pictures of the PM with the toddler. Actor and influencer Ahaana Krishna described the meeting as a

memorable and inspiring experience, noting the Prime Minister's warmth and willingness to engage in conversation. "A deeply inspiring morning with our Honourable Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi Ji. I was in absolute awe seeing a man of his stature welcome us with so much warmth and personal connection. From patiently listening to us and answering our many little questions, to engaging in simple, genuine conversation, there came a moment when we almost forgot we were in the presence of one of the world's most influential leaders," she wrote.

'Assam BJP Now Congress With Different Label': Gaurav Gogoi On Turncoats

Guwahati.(Agency) There is no BJP in Assam as Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma leads a group of former Congress leaders who switched camps to contest polls for their own interests, state Congress president Gaurav Gogoi has said. The remark comes weeks ahead of the Assembly polls in Assam and amid a series of high-profile exits from the Congress. "What stands before us is a Congress led by Himanta Biswa Sarma; it merely carries the BJP tag. The leaders who did wrong during Tarun Gogoi's tenure are now in the BJP. This election will be a fight between the Congress led by Tarun Gogoi and the



Congress led by Himanta Biswa Sarma, "Gogoi told the media while canvassing for Congress candidate

Dr Indranil Pegu in Majuli. "There is no BJP in Assam now. What exists is a Congress under Himanta Biswa Sarma with a BJP label. Under his leadership, some former Congress leaders have gathered at Vajpayee Bhawan, striving hard to contest elections for their own and their families' interests. On the other hand, we represent a Congress inspired by the ideals of Tarun Gogoi," he said, invoking his father, a Congress stalwart and Assam's longest serving Chief Minister. The Congress has seen some big-ticket exits in this election season. Last month, former state Congress chief Bhupen Borah joined the BJP.

CM Bhagwant Singh Mann also lays foundation stone for repair of 350 km of roads in Jalalabad, Fazilka district

Fazilka, 22 March: Rolling out an expansive network of world-class roads across Punjab, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Government has accelerated its infrastructure push with Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann laying the foundation stone for 300 km of new roads and initiating repair work for 350 km in Jalalabad, Fazilka. The Chief Minister asserted that the era of corruption-driven, poor-quality construction is now firmly behind the state. Positioning this as part of a massive 43,000 km road network being built across Punjab, CM Bhagwant Singh Mann underlined that strict accountability will ensure durability, announced plans to eliminate electricity poles through underground wiring, and expressed confidence that a satisfied electorate will return the government with a decisive mandate. Addressing the rally, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann said, "In the last four years, the state government has done more work than others did in 70 years. The state government is moving forward, and in 2027, the state will take this development to the next level. The development is coupled with a number of pro-people policies aimed at ensuring the well being of the common man." Expressing confidence in public support, he added, "It is a writing on the wall that with the active support of the common man, the Aam Aadmi Party will again form the government in 2027. Owing to the pro-people and development oriented policies of the state government, we will again win

more than 100 seats in the ensuing Vidhan Sabha polls. The massive support shown by the people is a testimony to this fact that people are waiting to teach traditional parties a lesson by again showing them the door." Highlighting the contrast with opposition parties, CM



Bhagwant Singh Mann said, "The AAP government is working tirelessly for welfare of people whereas the opposition has always sought share in the successful ventures during their days in power." He added, "These leaders want to ruin the state by patronizing drugs and criminals due to which people had ousted them from power. Now all these anti-Punjab forces have joined hands to ruin Punjab and the time has come when Punjab should also join hands to show them the door." Taking a dig at the Akali Dal, he said, "The real name of

this gimmick of Akali Dal is 'parivar bachao yatra'. After looting the state for 15 years, from whom are they trying to save Punjab? Akalis have plundered the state mercilessly, bruised the psyche of Punjabis emotionally and patronized several mafias." He added, "People are well aware of the dubious character of the Akalis and Badal family due to which their theatricals won't work now." The Chief Minister further said, "These leaders had patronized the gangsters in the state and infused drugs in the veins of the youth by shielding the drug smugglers. Akali Dal has always misused religion for their vested political interests but this time people will not get swayed away by it. The Akali leadership is building castles in the air to mislead the people of the state, but Punjabis will not fall prey to it." Targeting the Congress, CM Bhagwant Singh Mann said, "Congress leaders are daydreaming to assume power in the state. The Congress party is a divided house that will collapse due to their infighting. It is a pity that top Congress leaders are squabbling for power and have no vision for the state. Their only aim is to plunder the wealth of Punjab by assuming power, but their dreams will never be fulfilled." He added, "Earlier these traditional parties just waited for their turn to grab power but now the broom is there to clean the mess created by these parties." Announcing a major welfare initiative, he said, "The state government has started Maavan Dhian Satkar Yojana under which every woman will be entitled for ₹1,000 per month and ₹1,500 per month for women belonging to Scheduled Castes. Contd.....page 7

Madhya Pradesh CM Mohan Yadav holds Jaipur roadshow, eyes Rajasthan investors

Jaipur.(Agency) The Madhya Pradesh government held a 'Mega Investment Road Show' in Jaipur late Saturday evening, attended by Chief Minister Mohan Yadav, in a bid to attract investors from Rajasthan.

Titled 'Interactive Session on Investment Opportunities in Madhya Pradesh', the programme saw CM Yadav interacting with prominent industrialists from Rajasthan to explore investment prospects in his state. Ahead of the event, he highlighted the deep-rooted ties between the two states, describing them as "brothers."

Addressing the gathering at ITC Rajputana, Yadav further emphasised the long-standing relationship between the two neighbouring states, calling it a bond of both "roti-beti" (social and familial ties) and "roti-pani" (shared resources). He especially underlined the significance of the Parvati-Kalisindh-Chambal River Link Project in his address. Yadav termed it a key initiative for joint development, particularly in water management, agriculture, and industrial growth.

During the programme, the Yadav presented the industrial potential of Madhya Pradesh in detail, with a special focus on attracting investors. Highlighting the textile sector, he said the state contributes nearly 47 percent of the country's organic cotton production. Citing the example of Dhar district, he said the region is well-suited for investment and holds significant potential for industrial development. Extending an open invitation to Rajasthan-based industrialists, Yadav urged them to set up industries in Madhya Pradesh alongside their operations in Rajasthan. He claimed that such collaborations would generate employment and accelerate economic growth in both states. He assured that the MP government is committed to providing all necessary facilities and support to investors.

Yadav also referred to the declaration of 2026 as the 'Year of Agriculture', stating that the initiative aims to integrate agriculture with industry and strengthen the rural economy. He highlighted investment opportunities in sectors such as food processing, dairy, warehousing, cold chains, and agri-logistics.

During the event, he also praised the working style of Rajasthan Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma and expressed confidence that both states could progress together on the path of development. The roadshow also featured one-on-one meetings with industrialists, where investors were briefed on the new industrial policy, incentive packages, land availability, and logistics networks. Several industrial groups held preliminary discussions with the government regarding potential projects.



OPPORTUNITIES IN MADHYA PR. 21st MARCH, 2026 | ITC RAJPUTANA, JAIPUR, RAJ.

## News box

## Haryana civic bodies told to shut illegal meat shops

Gurgaon.(Agency)

Directorate of Urban Local Bodies (ULB) has directed municipal corporations to launch a comprehensive drive to identify and shut down unauthorised meat shops operating within municipal limits, especially those functioning without licences and located near religious places. MCG officials, however, said they had already asked meat shop owners in the city to close their shops during Navratri, citing the "religious sentiments" of people. They said this is a routine exercise carried out every year ahead of the festival. "Our teams have already visited meat shops in markets and asked them to shut down considering religious sentiments. This is a regular exercise we do each year," said an MCG official. According to MCG, the city has 490 licensed meat shops. Online meat delivery platforms, however, continue to operate in the city. Meat sections in supermarkets are also functioning. In an order issued on Thursday, the department asked all municipal commissioners and commissioners of corporations to ensure strict enforcement against stores selling meat without valid licence from the competent authority.

## Co staffer, aide held for abducting colleague, forcing him to transfer Rs2.5L

Noida.(Agency)

An employee of an online coaching firm and his aide were arrested for allegedly abducting a senior colleague, assaulting him and forcing him to transfer money. The accused, Chandramohan Saraswat (35), an accountant and a resident of Buxar Road in Hapur, allegedly conspired with two-three accomplices to abduct his senior from the firm's parking area in Sector 136. On March 18, Saraswat and his associates forcibly pulled the official out of his car and made him sit in their vehicle. They abused and assaulted him and pressured him to transfer money online. Under duress, the victim transferred Rs 60,000 to the accused's account. The accused also took Rs 2.5 lakh in cash from the car and later deposited it in their bank accounts. An FIR was registered on Thursday under BNS sections 115(2) (voluntarily causing hurt), 352 (intentional insult), 351(3) (criminal intimidation), 309(4) (robbery), and 127(2) (wrongful confinement). Using surveillance and local inputs, police arrested Saraswat and co-accused Honey Baisla (27) near Biodiversity Park in Sector 91.

## Man assured '500% profit', loses Rs 43 lakh in trade fraud

Noida.(Agency)

A senior manager working in a private company was allegedly cheated of Rs 43 lakh in an online investment scam promising high stock market returns. An FIR, based on the manager's complaint, was registered at the cyber crime police station on Thursday. He told the police that a woman contacted him on WhatsApp in the third week of Feb and presented him with a purported business opportunity. She introduced herself as Diya Mehra from Aditya Birla Sun Life and lured him with 300 to 500% gains on stock market investments. She then claimed that she was trained under a professor who was a certified trading expert. She persuaded him to invest money in selected stocks daily to receive the purported gains within three to six months. She persuaded the manager to register on a website and mobile application. Initially, small profits were shown on the app interface, which helped build trust. He was encouraged to invest larger sums and was repeatedly given different bank accounts to transfer money to. Each time, he had to add a new beneficiary before transferring the amount. Police said the manager transferred the amount in 11 transactions to multiple bank accounts between Feb 21 and March 6. After each payment, the scammers, posing as customer care executives, confirmed the transactions. When the manager later attempted to withdraw the amount, the scammers demanded Rs 20 lakh more as a purported security charge. He was allowed to withdraw only small amounts — Rs 200 and Rs 6,000 — for the next week. Suspicious of the repeated demands, the manager conducted his own verification and discovered that the trading platform and the displayed profits were completely fake.

## Ghaziabad mother—son death case: Sister alleges possible property feud

Gurgaon.(Agency)

A property dispute angle has surfaced in the mysterious deaths of a 65-year-old woman and her son in Mahaganpuram Society under the Kavinagar police station area. Satnam Kaur was found dead under



suspicious circumstances at Vinayak Tower on Thursday, while her son, Rajveer Chawla, was reportedly to have jumped 13 floors to his death on the same day. The deceased woman's daughter, Simran Bhasin, who arrived from Bhopal, has raised questions over the circumstances surrounding the deaths and demanded a detailed investigation. According to Simran, the family owned ancestral property in Raipur, which was sold for several crores of rupees. Following the sale, Satnam Kaur and her son Rajveer shifted to Ghaziabad. Simran stated the family consisted of three siblings — Rajveer Chawla, Mandeep Singh Chawla, and herself. Their father passed away around 16 years ago while Mandeep died a few years ago due to a heart

## Piped or in cylinder, how gas reaches your home

Gurgaon.(Agency)

Noida typically has two to five days' supply of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) in stock. For its 10 lakh customers, bookings and deliveries move like clockwork. Households normally keep two cylinders — when one runs out, a replacement is ordered while the spare is put to use. Since Israel and US rained missiles into Iran and Tehran hit back, this routine has been disrupted. Supply constraints have affected commercial food businesses and canteens, which have run out of LPG and have not been able to get refills, and triggered panic booking by domestic LPG consumers, who are worried about a cascading impact should the West Asia conflict continue. Yet, not all kitchens felt the pinch. Homes connected to piped natural gas (PNG), delivered directly through pipelines, have largely gone about their routines undisturbed. So why has the cooking routine been disrupted for some, but not others? The answer lies in supply chains. India meets 60% of its domestic LPG demands through imports, around

90% of which comes from the Gulf — UAE, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. These exports must pass through Strait of Hormuz, one of the world's busiest energy shipping routes that Tehran has shut down as it uses oil and gas dependence on the waterway as a leverage. Tanker movements have slowed, with vessels delayed, rerouted, or operating under tight security conditions. As a result, LPG cargoes are taking longer to reach major Asian importing countries like India. For India, the US has emerged as an additional source of gas, but West Asia remains central to India's LPG basket. "Some imports also come from Norway and Nigeria," says Narendra Taneja, a Delhi-based energy expert.

Both LPG and PNG originate from similar geological sources — hydrocarbons trapped deep underground. But from that point, their journeys diverge sharply. "When you drill, sometimes you find oil with gas, sometimes only gas. Nature has stored them together in different proportions," says Taneja. For Delhi-NCR, this difference matters because the

region has one of India's most developed PNG gas networks. As a result, LPG users here are more exposed to import-linked turbulences. This is why, since the West Asia conflict broke out, the Centre has been pushing to expand city gas coverage, urging people in areas that have PNG networks to switch to piped gas if they haven't. Ghaziabad has 12 lakh LPG consumers. Noida delivers 18,000 to 20,000 cylinders to homes daily, while Ghaziabad delivers 20,000-22,000 a day.

Ship to kitchen

Propane and butane, the key components of LPG, are separated from natural gas, liquefied and loaded onto specialised tankers. "Both propane and butane are gases, but under pressure, they turn into liquid. That is how we store LPG in cylinders that are delivered to our homes," explains Hemant Mallya, fellow at Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW). "Typically, what we call LPG is about 60% butane and 40% propane." There's a vast supply chain behind this. LPG comes from three sources, explains Mallya. "One is from

crude oil refineries. Companies like IndianOil process crude oil to make petrol, diesel and other products. In that process, they also produce some LPG. The second source is domestic natural gas production. Some LPG is extracted from the natural gas that we produce in India. For example, Gas Authority of India Ltd (GAIL) has a plant in Pata (Auraiya, UP) to extract a certain amount of LPG. Imports are a third and major source," he says. According to Petroleum Planning & Analysis Cell (PPAC) data, India produced 12.78 MMT (million metric tons) of LPG from refineries in 2024-25, while imports added 20.66 MMT. Total consumption stood at 31.32 MMT. Once imported LPG reaches Indian shores, it is pumped from ships into storage tanks and transported by pipelines, trains or road tankers to bottling plants — the backbone of the country's distribution system. "Typically, LPG produced at refineries is bottled at facilities located at or near the refinery itself. In some cases, it may be transported to other bottling plants," says Taneja.

## 'Blood oozing out of her nose': Gurgaon woman found dead, family alleges husband injected poison over dowry

Gurgaon.(Agency)

Two days after a 23-year-old woman, Kajal, was found dead at her house in Garhi Harsaru, her husband was arrested for allegedly administering a poisonous injection after months of dowry harassment. The accused, Arun Sharma (26), was arrested on Friday in Sector 89. A dowry death case was registered against him. According to the complaint filed by Kajal's brother, Gurdeep, the duo worked at a private hospital and married with their families' consent in Nov 2025. While Kajal was a nurse, Arun worked in the X-ray department. However, soon after the marriage, Arun, a drug addict, left his job and allegedly began harassing Kajal for dowry and subjected her to repeated physical assault. The couple initially lived in a rented house in Basai but moved to Kajal's maternal home in Garhi Harsaru



during Holi. The incident came to light on March 18 when Kajal was brought dead to Civil Hospital, Sector 10. Her family alleged that on the night of March 17, under the influence of drugs, Arun assaulted her. The next morning, around

9.15am, he took her to a room on the ground floor on the pretext of talking. Shortly after, she was found lying unconscious with blood oozing out of her nose.

She was rushed to a nearby hospital, from where she was referred to Civil Hospital in Sector, but doctors declared her dead on arrival. The family said a syringe was later found in the bathroom, which Arun allegedly used to inject Kajal with a poisonous substance, leading to her death. An FIR was registered under Section 80(2) (dowry death) of the BNS at Sector 10A police station. Arun was produced before a local court on Saturday, which remanded him to three days of police custody. "The accused admitted to administering an injection to his wife on the day of the incident, which led to her death," a police officer said.

## After Badaun plant shooting, Ghaziabad plans meets with companies to tackle workplace disputes

Noida.(Agency)

The murder of two senior Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) officials in Badaun has prompted the Ghaziabad administration to put in place a formal early-warning system to spot workplace tensions before they spiral into violence. Officials said the plan centres on joint meetings between the administration, police and representatives of organisations across the district twice a month, which will involve mandatory reporting of threats, extortion attempts and internal disputes that show signs of escalation. In a joint directive issued on Friday, district magistrate Ravindra Mander and police commissioner J Ravindra Goud said such conflicts can no longer be dismissed as "purely internal matters" once they begin to threaten public order, safety or essential services. Under the new mechanism, joint review meetings will be held on the first and third Thursday of every month. The administration has also constituted a committee and asked industrial units, hospitals, banks, trade bodies, resident welfare associations and unions to stay in regular touch with the authorities. Office-

bearers have been told to immediately inform the nearest police station if there is tension, a dispute, or any sign related to threats, extortion or illegal monetary demands. Mander agreed that the Badaun shooting was a stark reminder of what can happen when warning signs are missed. "Incidents like the one in Badaun show how unresolved internal disputes can quickly turn into grave law-and-order situations. Organisations in Ghaziabad must share such concerns in time so that the administration can step in before matters worsen," he added. The move follows the March 12 shooting at HPCL's compressed biogas and ethanol plant in Badaun's Senjani village, where deputy general manager Sudhir Gupta and assistant manager Harshit Mishra were shot dead inside the premises. Police said the accused, vendor Ajay Pratap Singh, allegedly entered the plant and opened fire at close range before fleeing. According to cops, Singh had been blacklisted and barred from entering the plant around eight months ago after complaints of indecent behaviour and threats to employees. Police officers in Badaun said he had a prior dispute with the officials

and may have been driven by resentment after being removed as a vendor. Gupta had also reportedly complained earlier about receiving death threats, but timely action was not taken. The fallout was immediate. Two police personnel were suspended for inaction, the senior superintendent of police was transferred, and the chief minister ordered a special investigation team probe into the killings. Ghaziabad officials said the district's new system is meant to ensure that such complaints do not languish unattended. Station house officers have been directed to act promptly on every input. The order makes clear that if a complaint is ignored or delayed and an untoward incident follows, responsibility will be fixed on the SHO or the official concerned, with disciplinary action, including suspension or termination, to be recommended. "Where possible, organisations have been advised to settle disputes through internal dialogue. If that fails, both sides may be called for a joint hearing or the matter may be taken up at forums such as janata darshan, thana diwas and udyog bandhu meetings," an official said.

## Roads, drains &amp; green spaces: New sector residents seek civic amenities

Gurgaon.(Agency)

Residents of new sectors along Dwarka Expressway have urged Haryana govt to plug critical infrastructure gaps and fast-track long-pending master plan commitments, saying rapid urbanisation along the corridor has far outpaced the delivery of basic services.

In a letter to industries and environment minister Rao Narbir Singh on Saturday, the Dwarka Expressway Gurugram Development Association (DXP-GDA) said several promises remain unfulfilled and highlighted delays in key works such as internal roads, sewage management, green spaces and civic amenities. The group has sought time-bound execution and clearer accountability among GMDA, MCG and HSPV. A major concern is the pending construction of 24-metre internal sector roads. During the budget session earlier this month, the state govt announced plans to build these roads through land acquisition,



with cost to be recovered from developers. The residents, however, said cost recovery from developers could delay execution. They have urged the govt to fund and construct the roads directly to avoid prolonged disputes and improve connectivity for thousands of households.

"People have moved into these sectors in large numbers, and a substantial amount of development charges and property taxes have been paid to the govt. Yet basic infrastructure has not kept pace. We have now sought a structured execution framework with monthly

monitoring and fixed responsibility across agencies," said Sunny Daultabad, convener of DXP-GDA. The group also pointed to a lack of large public green spaces on the Dwarka Expressway belt despite dense residential growth. It has proposed a "town park" in Sector 102 and a green belt park near Sector 110 in New Palam Vihar to address the shortfall and improve liveability.

In Sector 106, residents have demanded an integrated sports complex, citing the absence of dedicated sports infrastructure across sectors 99 to 115, Palam Vihar and New Palam

Vihar. Wastewater management has emerged as another concern. According to the association, discharge into the Najafgarh drain is contributing to pollution and raising groundwater levels in nearby sectors, leading to seepage in basements of several high-rise societies. The group has sought immediate technical intervention and a long-term plan to manage sewage. Residents also flagged gaps in civic infrastructure, seeking a zonal office of the municipal corporation in the Dwarka Expressway area, along with the construction of fire stations and cremation grounds as envisaged in the Master Plan. Early operationalisation of the Mata Sheeta Devi Medical College in Sector 102A has also been demanded. "Creating green lungs and sports facilities along the Dwarka Expressway is essential to ensure liveable spaces amid the growing concrete jungle. However, there has been no visible progress on the 100-acre park planned in Sector 102A. There is an urgent need for authorities to align

development with the Master Plan to ensure balanced.

## 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.thesikhimes.in  
Email: sikhimesindia@gmail.com

RNI No. DELENG/2008/25465



उत्तराखण्ड शासन



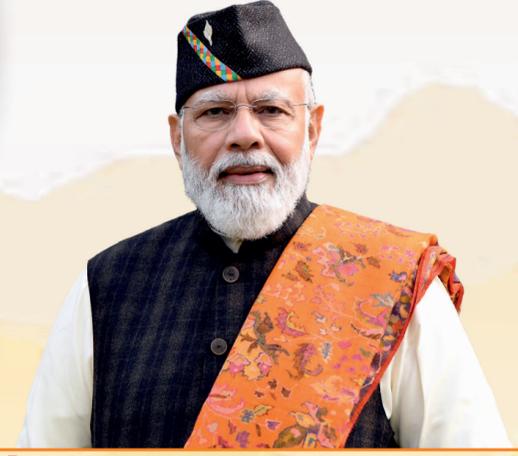
देवभूमि उगत उत्सव

# जन-जन की सरकार

# 4 साल बेमिसाल

## उत्तरोत्तर विकास पथ पर अग्रसर

# उत्तराखण्ड



“ 21वीं सदी के विकसित भारत के निर्माण के दो प्रमुख स्तंभ हैं। पहला, अपनी विरासत पर गर्व और दूसरा, विकास के लिए हर संभव प्रयास। आज उत्तराखण्ड इन दोनों ही स्तंभों को लगातार मजबूत कर रहा है। ये दशक उत्तराखण्ड का दशक है। ”

नरेन्द्र मोदी, प्रधानमंत्री



“ प्रधानमंत्री श्री नरेन्द्र मोदी जी के दूरदर्शी मार्गदर्शन में उत्तराखण्ड सर्वांगीण विकास की नई मिसाल बन रहा है। स्थानीय उत्पाद, बेहतर कनेक्टिविटी, उद्योग एवं निवेश तथा हर मौसम पर्यटन सहित देवभूमि अपनी अलौकिक विरासत को संजोते हुए विकास के नए आयाम छू रही है। ”

पुष्कर सिंह धामी, मुख्यमंत्री, उत्तराखण्ड

## विकसित भारत

## सशक्त

# उत्तराखण्ड



## विरासत भी, विकास भी



### इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर एवं कनेक्टिविटी

- केदारनाथ-हेमकुंड साहिब रोपवे परियोजना
- दिल्ली-देहरादून एलिवेटेड रोड निर्माण
- ऋषिकेश-कर्णप्रयाग रेल लाइन प्रगति पर
- टनकपुर-बागेश्वर रेल सर्वे स्वीकृत
- सौग व जमरानी बांध परियोजना
- पर्वतीय जिलों में हेली सेवा विस्तार

### अर्थव्यवस्था, निवेश एवं उद्योग

- ₹3.56 लाख करोड़ निवेश समझौते
- ₹1 लाख करोड़+ ग्राउंडिंग
- अर्थव्यवस्था 26 गुना वृद्धि
- ₹1.11 लाख करोड़+ वार्षिक बजट
- सुरपिया में स्मार्ट इंडस्ट्रियल टाउनशिप
- हाउस ऑफ हिमालयाज ब्रांड



- 1 गीगावाट+ सौर ऊर्जा क्षमता
- 42,000+ सोलर रूफटॉप
- वाइड्रेंट विलेज प्रोग्राम (सीमांत गांव विकास)
- महक क्रांति व मिलेट्स मिशन

### हरित ऊर्जा एवं ग्रामीण विकास



### संस्कृति एवं विरासत का संरक्षण

- केदारनाथ-बदरीनाथ मास्टर प्लान
- मानसखण्ड मंदिर माला मिशन
- शीतकालीन यात्रा का शुभारंभ
- संस्कृत ग्राम पहल
- गीता अध्ययन पाठ्यक्रम में शामिल
- दून विश्वविद्यालय में हिंदू अध्ययन केंद्र
- स्पिरिचुअल इकोनॉमिक ज़ोन (गढ़वाल-कुमाऊं)



### सुशासन

- 'जन-जन की सरकार, जन-जन के द्वार' अभियान
- 30,000+ युवाओं को सरकारी नौकरी
- 950+ सेवाएं ऑनलाइन (अपुणि सरकार पोर्टल)
- 12,000 एकड़ अतिक्रमण मुक्त
- पेंशन योजनाओं में वृद्धि एवं मासिक भुगतान

### बड़े निर्णय

- समान नागरिक संहिता
- सशक्त भू-कानून
- सख्त धर्मांतरण विरोधी कानून
- नकल विरोधी कानून
- अग्निवीरों को 10% क्षैतिज आरक्षण



### संकल्प शिखर तक



### नेशनल लेवल रैंकिंग व प्रोत्साहन

- निर्यात तैयारी सूचकांक में प्रथम (छोटे राज्य)
- एसडीजी इंडेक्स में शीर्ष स्थान
- स्टार्टअप रैंकिंग में 'लीडर'
- खनन सुधारों में देश में दूसरा स्थान
- शहरी सुधारों हेतु ₹264.5 करोड़ प्रोत्साहन



### 30 से अधिक नीतियां

- औद्योगिक नीति, पर्यटन एवं योग नीति
- नई फिल्म नीति (50% तक सब्सिडी)
- मिलेट्स नीति, कीवी नीति (70% अनुदान)
- ड्रैगन फ्रूट प्रोत्साहन योजना
- महक क्रांति 2026-36
- महिला स्वरोजगार एवं लक्ष्यपति दीदी योजना आदि

### नीतिगत सुधार



प्रधानमंत्री जी के नौ आग्रह

**स्थानीय लोगों से:** बोली-भाषा का संरक्षण, एक पेड़ मां के नाम, स्वच्छ जल, गांव से जुड़ाव, तिबारी वाले घरों को संवारें

**पर्यटकों से:** प्लास्टिक के इस्तेमाल से बचें, वोकल फॉर लोकल, यातायात के नियम अपनाएं, तीर्थों की मर्यादा का पालन करें।

सूचना एवं लोक सम्पर्क विभाग, उत्तराखण्ड द्वारा जनहित में जारी

www.uttarainformation.gov.in | X DIPR\_UK | Facebook UttarakhandDIPR | YouTube UttarakhandDIPR

NEWS BOX

### Sri Lanka Raises Fuel Prices By 25% As US-Israel War With Iran Bites

Sri Lanka. (Agency)

Sri Lanka raised fuel prices by 25 percent on Sunday, the second increase in two weeks, as the country prepared for more impact from the war in the Middle East. Regular petrol was increased to Rs 398 (\$1.30) per litre, up from Rs 317, while diesel, the fuel commonly used for public transport, rose by Rs 79 to 382. Last week, the government ordered an eight percent increase in retail fuel prices and introduced rationing to limit consumption. "We hope to achieve a 15 to 20 percent reduction in fuel consumption with the latest increase," an official at the Ceylon Petroleum Corporation said. He said President Anura Kumara Dissanayake told them last week that the country must prepare for a prolonged conflict in the Middle East that could affect the island's energy supplies. The president ordered a four-day working week from last Wednesday and asked employers to reintroduce work-from-home arrangements where possible. The Strait of Hormuz, a key waterway through which some 20 percent of global oil exports pass in peacetime, has been effectively closed by Iran in retaliation over the US and Israeli war against it, now entering its fourth week. Sri Lanka imports all of its oil and also buys coal for electricity generation.

Sri Lanka buys refined petroleum products from Singapore, Malaysia and South Korea, while crude oil for its Iran-built refinery is sourced from the Middle East. The government has warned that the fighting in the Middle East, and a prolonged war, could seriously undermine its efforts to emerge from the economic meltdown of 2022.

Sri Lanka defaulted on its \$46 billion foreign debt in 2022 after the country ran out of foreign exchange. Since then, Colombo has secured a \$2.9 billion IMF bailout.

### Iran's Natanz Attacked: How Damaged Nuclear Sites Can Pose Radiation Risks

World. (Agency)

For decades, Pakistan cultivated terror networks as instruments of foreign policy. The Global Terrorism Index (GTI) 2026 documents, with clinical precision, what that calculus has produced. Pakistan ranks first on the GTI for the first time, becoming the world's most terror-affected country in 2025, with 1,139 deaths, 1,045 attacks, 1,595 people injured, and 655 hostages. Its score of 8.574 puts it ahead of every other country on the index. This is Pakistan's deadliest year since 2013, and the sixth consecutive year in which terrorism deaths have risen. Across South Asia, it is the only country where the situation worsened in 2025; the geography of Pakistan's tribal belt, which was for decades a semi-governed sanctuary for the Taliban, the Haqqani Network, al-Qaeda, and eventually the itself. Ethnic Pashtun continuity across the Durand Line allowed terrorists to move freely. Pakistani madrassas inside Afghan refugee camps were the ideological incubators for many of the people who would become the Taliban, and later, the TTP. If released, these can spread widely. Iodine-131 is especially harmful: if inhaled or ingested, it accumulates in the thyroid gland and sharply increases the risk of cancer, particularly in children. Uranium, especially when highly enriched, emits radiation, including gamma rays that can penetrate the human body and damage DNA. Radiation exposure can occur through inhalation of airborne particles, ingestion of contaminated food or water, or, less commonly, skin contact. Uranium is also a toxic heavy metal, meaning it can damage organs like the kidneys even without significant radiation exposure, as per a NYT report.

In nuclear enrichment sites like Natanz, uranium is less immediately dangerous than reactor byproducts. "The attack on the enrichment sites in Iran doesn't pose the same hazard as an accident with a functioning nuclear reactor," Simon Middleburgh, professor of Nuclear Engineering at the Nuclear Futures Institute at Bangor University, UK, told Time Magazine.

### Saudi Arabia records over 22,000 violations, arrests thousands in one-week crackdown on residency, labour and border breaches

World. (Agency)

Saudi Arabia's sweeping enforcement drive against residency, labour and border violations has led to tens of thousands of arrests and legal actions within just one week, highlighting both the scale of the issue and the government's firm response. Saudi Arabia's joint field campaigns to monitor and apprehend violators of residency, labour and border security regulations recorded 22,931 violations across all regions between March 12 and 18, 2026, the Ministry of Interior announced. Of those arrested, 17,181 were found in violation of residency laws, 3,931 for border security violations, and 1,819 for labour law breaches, indicating that the majority of cases stem from irregular residency status. The enforcement operations also led to the detention of 1,635 individuals attempting to illegally enter the Kingdom. Among them, 68% were Ethiopian nationals, 29% were Yemenis, and 3% belonged to other nationalities. Authorities further reported that 40 individuals were arrested while attempting to leave the country illegally, pointing to continued efforts to monitor both entry and exit routes. In addition to those directly violating regulations, 36 individuals were apprehended for facilitating offences, including transporting, sheltering or employing violators and attempting to cover up their activities. The ministry's data also shows the scale of ongoing legal proceedings, with 29,564 expatriates currently undergoing procedures, including 26,714 men and 2,850 women.

# Trump's mixed messages on Iran: 'Winding down' the war and easing sanctions but adding more troops

**Now in its fourth week, the war remains on an unpredictable path and a credible endgame is unclear even as the global economy is being roiled.**

SEOUL. (Agency)

President Donald Trump frequently contradicts himself, sometimes in the same speech, social media post or even sentence. Within the space of a few hours Friday, he sent a torrent of mixed signals about the Iran war that raise more questions about the direction of the conflict and his administration's strategy. During this time, Trump said he was considering winding down the war, his administration confirmed it was sending more troops to the Middle East and, in an effort to lessen the economic impact on global energy

markets, the United States lifted sanctions on some Iranian oil for the first time in decades — relieving some of the pressure that Washington traditionally has used as leverage. The confusing combination of actions deepens a sense among Trump's critics that there is no clear, long-term strategy for the war the U.S. and Israel launched against Iran. Now in its fourth week, the war remains on an unpredictable path and a credible endgame is unclear even as the global economy is being roiled.

Just 24 hours after saying the U.S. was thinking of walking away from the conflict, Trump issued another contradictory statement Saturday evening, threatening to escalate the conflict by targeting Iran's power plants unless the country lets oil shipments pass through the Persian Gulf. "Winding down" the war

After another rough day in the financial markets, Trump said Friday afternoon on his social media network: "We are getting very close to meeting our objectives as we consider winding down our great Military



efforts in the Middle East." Trump contended the U.S. has adequately degraded Iranian naval, missile and industrial capacity and prevented Tehran from acquiring a nuclear weapon.

The Republican president then suggested the U.S. could pull out of the conflict without stabilizing the Strait of Hormuz, the channel through which about one-fifth of the world's oil supply travels. The strait has been ravaged by Iranian missile, drone and mine attacks during the war.

"The Hormuz Strait will have to be guarded and policed, as necessary, by other Nations who use it — The United States does not!"

Trump wrote. But, in another contradiction, he said the U.S. would help if asked, "but it shouldn't be necessary once Iran's threat is eradicated." While oil that traverses the strait is usually bound for Asia and other places rather than North America, the chaos still affects the United States. Oil is bought and sold globally, so a shortage in oil for Asian countries leads to bidding up prices on oil sold to companies in America, too. That fact, coupled with an Israeli strike on Iran's gas fields and an Iranian retaliation that crippled a major terminal to ship liquefied natural gas from Qatar, helped tank U.S. equity markets Friday, with the S&P 500 dropping 1.5%. There also was a sharp increase in U.S. fuel prices. Trump's concern about the persistent blockage of the strait erupted Saturday night when the president posted on social media that he'd "hit and obliterate" Iran's power plants unless the country opens the strait within 48 hours.

## Iran missile strikes wound over 100 in two south Israel towns

ARAD. (Agency)

Iranian missile strikes on two southern Israeli towns wounded more than 100 people on Saturday, medics said, after Israeli air defence systems failed to intercept the projectiles. The two direct hits tore open the fronts of residential buildings and carved craters into the ground. Magen David Adom first responders said 84 people were wounded in the town of Arad, 10 of them seriously, hours after 33 were wounded in nearby Dimona. Iranian state TV said the missile attack on Dimona, which houses a nuclear facility, was a "response" to an earlier strike on its own nuclear site at Natanz.

AFP footage from Arad showed rescue workers sifting through rubble for wounded people in a bombed-out building. Fire engines with their lights flashing were at the scene along with dozens of members

of the emergency services. The Israeli military said it would investigate the failed interception. "The air defence systems operated but did not intercept the missile, we will investigate the incident and learn from it," military spokesman Brigadier General Effie Defrin wrote on X. The local fire



service said there was "extensive damage" in Arad, with three buildings affected and a blaze sparked in one of them. Medic Riyadh Abu Ajaj described

"extensive destruction" at the site of the strike, in a statement from the organisation. "There was a lot of chaos at the scene," he said. The rescue operations came not long after similar scenes in Dimona, around 25 kilometres (15 miles) to the southwest. AFP TV footage from the

scene showed a large crater gouged into the ground next to piles of rubble and twisted metal. Surrounding buildings had their windows blown out and facades heavily damaged as emergency workers combed through the site. Medics said they treated 33 people injured in the town, including a boy with shrapnel wounds who was in serious condition but conscious. Dimona hosts a facility widely believed to possess the Middle East's sole nuclear arsenal, although Israel has never admitted possessing nuclear weapons.

## Woman Dies Soon After Takeoff On British Airways Flight, Passengers Spend 13 Hours With Body On Plane

HONG KONG. (Agency)

A female passenger in her 60s died shortly after takeoff on British Airways Flight BA32 from Hong Kong to London on Sunday. Following the death, her body was reportedly stored in a rear galley with a heated floor for the remainder of the 13.5-hour journey. According to Fox News, the woman died approximately one hour after the Airbus A350-1000 departed Hong Kong. Despite the death, the pilots decided to continue the journey to Heathrow Airport rather than diverting or returning to Hong Kong, as a passenger death is typically not classified as a medical emergency. Crew members initially considered placing the body in a lavatory, but this option was rejected. Instead, the body was wrapped and moved to a rear galley. A source said, "Obviously, the family with the woman was distraught, and so was the crew. Many wanted to return to Hong Kong. But, to put it bluntly, if a passenger has already died,

that is not viewed as an emergency." However, the staff reportedly overlooked the fact that the galley floor was heated. This heat allegedly caused



a pungent smell to develop and spread through the back of the cabin as the flight progressed. As the flight neared London, many of the 331 passengers and crew members reported a foul smell emanating from that section of the plane. Upon landing, police boarded the aircraft and required all passengers to remain seated for approximately 45 minutes while they investigated. British Airways stated

that "all procedures were correctly followed" during the incident. The airlines told Fox News Digital. "A customer sadly passed away on board, and our thoughts are with their family and friends at this difficult time. We are supporting our crew, and all procedures were correctly followed."

The International Air Transport Association has certain guidelines for handling cases where a passenger dies mid-flight. The body is typically placed in a body bag or covered with a blanket up to the neck. Efforts are made to relocate the body to a less conspicuous area of the plane, such as an empty seat or a different section, if feasible. However, if the flight is fully booked, the body may be returned to the original seat. A 2013 study in the New England Journal of Medicine found that deaths on flights are relatively rare, with only 0.3 percent of in-flight medical emergencies resulting in death.

## "Can Reach Berlin, Paris": Israel As Iran Uses Long-Range Missiles For 1st Time

FLORIDA. (Agency)

Israeli officials said on Saturday that Iranian forces had for the first time fired long-range missiles, expanding the risk of attacks beyond the Middle East, even as an Iranian strike injured dozens of people not far from Israel's nuclear site. Iran launched two 4,000-kilometer-range ballistic missiles at the US-UK military base Diego Garcia in the Indian Ocean, Israeli military chief Eyal Zamir said. The Israeli military said it was the "first time" Iran had used long-range missiles in the conflict, marking its first expansion beyond the Middle East since the United States and Israel began attacking Iran on February 28.

"These missiles are not intended to strike Israel. Their range reaches European capitals - Berlin, Paris, and Rome are all within direct threat range," Zamir said in a statement. A source at Britain's defence ministry said the attack had occurred before the government gave specific authorisation on Friday for the US to use British military bases to carry out strikes on Iranian missile sites. More than 2,000 people have been killed in Iran since the US and Israel began their attacks. In Israel, 15 people have been killed in Iranian strikes since the war started. Late on Saturday, Iranian missiles struck the southern Israeli cities of Dimona and Arad, injuring dozens of people, including children, in separate strikes. Iran's Revolutionary Guards said in a statement early Sunday that they targeted "military installations" and security centers in southern Israel.

Israeli army spokesperson Brigadier General Effie Defrin said in a post on X that the country's air defenses were functioning but did not intercept the strikes. "We will investigate the incident and learn from it," he said. Israel's secretive nuclear reactor is about 13 kilometers southeast of Dimona. Both cities lie near several military sites, including Nevatim Air Base, one of the country's largest. "This has been a very difficult evening in the battle for our future," Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said in a statement released by his office following the strike on Arad. We are determined to continue striking our enemies on all fronts," the statement said.

Trump Considers 'Winding Down' US President Donald Trump on Friday posted that Washington was considering "winding down" its military operation against Iran.

In a social media post, Trump said the US was close to meeting its goals but insisted that other countries should take the lead in policing the Strait of Hormuz, the shipping lane whose near-closure threatens a global energy shock. "We are getting very close to meeting our objectives as we consider winding down our great Military efforts in the Middle East with respect to the Terrorist Regime of Iran," Trump said on Truth Social. Trump and his administration have sent mixed messages about US goals throughout the war, now entering its fourth week, leaving traditional US allies struggling to respond.

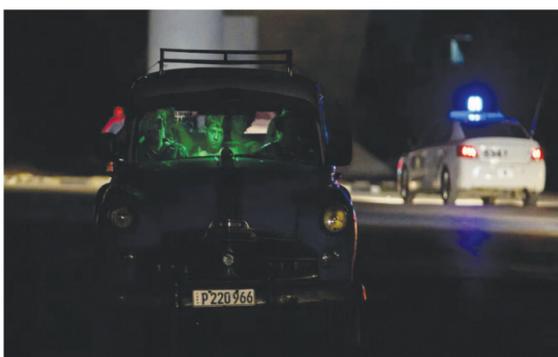
# Cuba hit by second nationwide blackout in a week

HAVANA. (Agency)

Cuba plunged into darkness for the second time in less than a week on Saturday after its national power network failed again, strained by aging infrastructure and a US oil blockade. As night fell, Havana's streets were mostly pitch black, with people navigating using phone lights or flashlights, just five days after the previous blackout. In the touristy old city, some restaurants were able to stay open thanks to generators, with musicians playing music, but the regular blackouts have made life more difficult for Cubans. "This is becoming unbearable," Ofelia Oliva, a 64-year-old Havana resident, told AFP.

"It hasn't even been a week since we experienced a similar situation. It is getting tiresome," Oliva said as she returned home after giving up on plans to visit her daughter. The "total disconnection" of the national electricity system was due to an outage in a power unit at one of the

country's thermoelectric plants, causing a "cascading effect", the state-owned Cuban Electric Union said. It said it was activating micro-grids to provide power to critical



facilities, including hospitals and water treatment plants. "I wonder if we're going to be like this our whole lives. You can't live like this," Nilo Lopez, a 36-year-old taxi driver, told AFP. US Blockade The country's electricity generation is

sustained by a network of eight aging thermoelectric plants -- some in operation for over 40 years -- that suffer frequent breakdowns or must be shut down for maintenance cycles. Cubans face daily blackouts of up to 15 hours in Havana. In the interior of the island, these outages can exceed 40 hours. The breakdowns have intensified since Cuba's main regional ally and oil supplier, Venezuela's socialist leader Nicolas Maduro, was captured in a US military operation in January.

And US President Donald Trump has threatened to impose tariffs on countries that sell oil to Cuba. No oil has been imported to the island since January 9, hitting the power sector while also forcing airlines to curtail flights to the island, a blow to the all-important tourism sector.

The blackout occurred as an international aid convoy began to arrive in Havana this week, bringing sorely-needed medical

supplies, food, water and solar panels to the island. Honor of taking Cuba

The crisis in the country of 9.6 million people comes as Trump has made no secret of his desire to see regime change in Havana.

"I do believe I'll be...having the honor of taking Cuba," he said. "Whether I free it, take it -- think I could do anything I want with it, you want to know the truth. They're a very weakened nation right now." The next day, Cuban President Miguel Diaz-Canel warned that "any external aggressor will encounter an unbreakable resistance."

Tanieris Dieguez, Cuba's deputy chief of mission in Washington, told AFP earlier this week that Havana was open to broad talks with Washington and allowing more investment. But she said Cuba's political system would "never" be part of the negotiations. The outages as well as regular shortages of food, medicine and other basics are spurring frustrations, with demonstrators vandalizing a provincial office of the Cuban Communist Party last weekend. With Cuba in desperate need of fuel, maritime trackers reported this week that two tankers carrying Russian oil and diesel appeared to be on their way to the island, but their status remains unclear.

NEWS BOX

**Student shot dead at Varanasi college, main suspect arrested**

**Varanasi.(Agency)**  
An undergraduate student was shot dead at Uday Pratap College in Varanasi on Friday, triggering protests on the campus, police said. The victim was identified as Surya Pratap Singh, a fourth-semester BSc student. Varanasi Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) Pramod Kumar, said the accused, Manjeet Chauhan, also a student, was arrested.  
“The motive behind the murder is being investigated, and the accused is currently being questioned,” he said. A panel of doctors is conducting the postmortem on the body, he added. Police suspect that the murder may have occurred over an old dispute between the students. After the incident, angry students staged protests on the campus and demanded strict action against the accused. A heavy police deployment was made to maintain order at the institution.  
According to the police, a team rushed to the spot after receiving information about the firing. They found a student, later identified as Surya Pratap Singh, with bullet injuries. He was taken to hospital, where doctors declared him dead, they said. The suspects fled the scene soon after the shooting, it is learnt.  
In the morning, three youths arrived on a motorcycle and opened fire at Surya Pratap, police said. The accused threw the firearm used in the crime in a dustbin before escaping, it was claimed. Police are collecting CCTV footage of the incident.

**‘Mini-Odisha’ regales Ahmedabad with art, craft & delicacies**

**Surat.(Agency)**  
SEEKING TO strengthen its cultural outreach and expand its tourism footprint, the Odisha government is hosting ‘Odisha Parab’ here. At the launch of the three-day event, Odisha deputy chief minister Pravati Parida highlighted the state’s evolving strategy to position itself beyond a “best kept secret”.  
Underway at the Gujarat University Convention and Exhibition Centre, the event is showcasing handicrafts, handlooms, cuisine and performing arts from the eastern state, with officials describing it as an integrated model of cultural and tourism promotion.  
Addressing the gathering, Parida emphasised the cultural and spiritual link between Odisha and Gujarat through Lord Jagannath, drawing parallels between the Puri and Ahmedabad Rath Yatra. She termed the event a “sanskritik setu” or cultural bridge, aimed at bringing the “soul of Odisha” to western India.  
Highlighting the role of migration in sustaining cultural ties, Parida described Gujarat, particularly Surat, as “Mini Odisha”, citing the presence of a large Odia diaspora. “Wherever Odias go, they keep their culture alive through food, music, and tradition,” she said. The event features live craft demonstrations by artisans, exhibitions of handwoven textiles and GI-tagged products, curated food stalls showcasing Odia cuisine, and performances including Odissi, Gotipua, Sambalpuri, and Chhau dance forms.  
Tourism remained a key focus of the address, with Parida announcing a revision in Odisha’s coastline length to 575 km from the previously cited 480 km. She said the additional stretch opened nearly 100 km for potential tourism development, as the state looked to diversify beyond its traditional spiritual tourism circuit.

**BWSSB offers three-month settlement option to defaulters from April**

**BENGALURU.(Agency)**  
Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) will launch a three-month One-Time Settlement (OTS) scheme, waiving the interest amount on outstanding water bills, from April.  
In a statement issued here, Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, who is also Bengaluru Development Minister, said the scheme will help over 5.11 lakh defaulters with dues amounting to Rs 851.33 crore. Under the scheme, if consumers pay the principal amount of their outstanding bills, the accumulated interest will be waived. Of the 11 lakh consumers, 5.11 lakh have to clear their dues. Till February, the bill arrears stood at Rs 851.33 crore - Rs 539.43 crore as principal amount and Rs 311.90 crore as interest, he said.  
He said the interest accumulated up to April will be waived if the principal bill amount is cleared within the three-month period. He said the scheme will be applicable to all categories of consumers. Pending dues of government departments and institutions will also be cleared through account reconciliation.  
To simplify the process, BWSSB will provide each defaulter details such as RR number, principal amount, interest waiver, and the amount payable. Payments can be made through BWSSB kiosks and its portal, and digital payment modes, the minister said. Urging the consumers to make use of the scheme, Shivakumar said that it will help improve BWSSB’s financial position.

**‘Never saw such silence on Eid’: Iftar arrests dampen festivities in Varanasi’s Tartala**

Tartala is a predominantly Muslim neighbourhood with around 200 families. “Households in our area did not prepare sewai this Eid as a mark of solidarity with the families of the 14 arrested youths.

**Varanasi.(Agency)**  
Eid festivities remained subdued in Varanasi’s Tartala area from where 14 youths were arrested earlier this week for allegedly organising an Iftar gathering on the Ganga on March 15. “This kind of silence has never been witnessed in our area on Eid. The festival used to be full of joy and celebrations, but this time the arrest of 14 young men from our locality has dampened the spirits,” said 59-year-old Mohammad Salam (42), father of one of the arrested youth, Mohammad Sameer.  
According to police, the youths, all in their 20s, allegedly consumed chicken biryani in a motorboat on the Ganga and later disposed of the leftovers in the river — an act that drew strong objections and prompted swift action. All the 14 youths have been lodged in the Varanasi district jail since their arrest on Tuesday. Their bail applications have been filed in court, which are likely to come up for

hearing on Monday. Mohammad Salam said there is widespread anger among locals against the police and administration as “innocent men have been sent to jail without proper evidence and without adequately verifying the



allegations made by the complainant, who is associated with a political party”. Salam’s nephew Mohammad Ahmed alias Raju is also an accused in the case.

Tartala is a predominantly Muslim neighbourhood with around 200 families. “Households in our area did not prepare sewai this Eid as a mark of solidarity with the families of the 14 arrested youths. The usual festive cheer is missing — people are visiting the homes of the youths to express their support,” said 58-year-old Mohammad Anees, sitting with some other residents near the area’s main crossing. Anees’s eldest son Mohammad Faizan is among those arrested in the case. “A deep silence has settled over the area. Some people have not even purchased new clothes for the festival this year,” he said.

The Indian Express visited Tartala on Saturday and spoke to the families of the youths. The 14 men, educated up to Class VIII, live within a radius of about 300 metres and are engaged in small-scale saree trade. Their families have been living in the Tartala area for generations.

**Bengaluru street vendors call ban illegal; warn of protests over livelihood threat**

**The proposed blanket ban is contrary to the law, which mandates that Town Vending Committees decide designated vending zones.**

**BENGALURU.(Agency)**  
The Karnataka Pragathi Para Beedhi Vyaparigala Sangha has strongly opposed the policy proposed by the state government and Greater Bengaluru Authority to ban street vending on arterial and sub-arterial roads in Bengaluru, calling it “illegal, unconstitutional, and a betrayal of the poor”.

The organisation warned of protests if the policy is not withdrawn. The Sangha pointed out that the Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act, 2014, has not been fully implemented even a decade after its enactment. Surveys remain incomplete, many vendors have not been issued identity cards, and thousands are yet to be registered, it said. It argued that penalising vendors under such circumstances is unjust. The proposed



blanket ban is contrary to the law, which mandates that Town Vending Committees decide designated vending zones. These panels

have not yet been constituted in the newly formed municipal bodies. Citing Supreme Court rulings, the Sangha said street vending is part of the fundamental right to livelihood.

It also maintained that vendors contribute to safer and more vibrant streets by increasing footfall and discouraging crimes such as chain-snatching and harassment. It attributed pedestrian issues to factors such as road designs favouring private vehicles, commercial encroachments, illegal parking, and unauthorised installations. It warned that relocating vendors to designated zones away from main roads would severely impact livelihoods, particularly for the elderly and vulnerable families who lack storage facilities or the ability to move heavy carts.

**Property owners get relief as Telangana HC halts Jubilee Hills land acquisition**

**The court noted missing details, including resettlement arrangements, and discrepancies in land classification.**



**HYDERABAD.(Agency)**  
In relief to property owners in Jubilee Hills, the Telangana High Court has stayed further proceedings in a land acquisition case related to Road No. 45 in the locality. Justice NV Shrivani Kumar passed the interim order

while hearing a petition filed by CV Narasimham and three others against notices issued by the Special Collector and GHMC for road widening. The petitioners challenged the acquisition under the Right to Fair Compensation and

Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013, for widening the road from 80 ft to 120 ft towards Durgam Cheruvu. They said earlier court orders had directed authorities not to interfere without due process and alleged their objections were ignored.

Their counsel argued that the declaration under Section 19 was defective as it did not mention any resettlement plan and wrongly treated private land as government property. It was also claimed that the notification was not properly published.

The court noted missing details, including resettlement arrangements, and discrepancies in land classification. Observing that the issue needs detailed examination, the court stayed all further action, including notices and dispossession. The case will be heard next on April 7.

**One injured in blast at cylinder refilling shop in Bhubaneswar**

**BHUBANESWAR (Agency).**  
Even as concerns over black marketing and illegal manipulation of LPG cylinders have increased in the wake of the cooking gas shortage, one person was injured after at least five cylinders

exploded during illicit refilling at a unit in Kalinga Nagar area under Bharatpur police limits here on Saturday morning.

According to police sources, the incident occurred at around 11.40 am. One Bibhu Prasad Bhuyan had allegedly taken the shop on rent, with his primary business being ceiling fan winding. He had also started refilling small and portable gas cylinders.

Preliminary investigation indicated that Bhuyan was allegedly refilling a small cylinder from a larger one without adhering to prescribed safety norms when the explosions took place. He has reportedly been

injured in the blast, but has gone absconding since, police said. On getting information, four teams of the Odisha Fire and Emergency Service rushed to the spot. It took more than 30 minutes for the fire personnel to bring the blaze under



control. Fire services personnel said the impact of the blasts caused cracks in the walls of an adjoining hotel. Meanwhile, Bharatpur police have initiated an inquiry into the incident and stated that further action would be taken based on the findings.

**Firing at Rohit Shetty house: Police arrest 14th accused Golu Pandit from Agra**

**After a continuous chase for almost one-and-half months, the team from crime branch nabbed him from nearby his village when he had come to meet his family member in Agra district, said a senior IPS officer who is part of the probe.**

**Mumbai.(Agency)**  
THE MUMBAI crime branch on Saturday nabbed a Lawrence Bishnoi gang member and head of the ‘Agra module,’ Golu Pandit alias Pradeep Sharma in connection with the firing outside filmmaker Rohit Shetty’s residence in Juhu. Golu Pandit is the 14th accused who was at large and was hiding in Uttar Pradesh.

After a continuous chase for almost one-and-half months, the team from crime branch nabbed him from nearby his village when he had come to meet his family member in Agra district, said a senior IPS officer who is part of the probe. Golu Pandit is allegedly a close associate of Bishnoi gang and had arranged the conversation

of main shooter Deepak Sharma with Shubham Lonkar and Arzoo Bishnoi. “We have arrested Golu Pandit in conspiracy and he will be brought to the city on Sunday and produced in the MCOCA court,” added the official.

Pandit was allegedly in touch with Anmol Bishnoi and he has previous cases of attempt to murder and extortion in Rajasthan and was earlier arrested but out on bail. Pandit’s role was found in the conspiracy behind the firing incident. So far, the crime branch has arrested 13 accused from Pune, Agra and Haryana. Explaining how the crime was carried out, an official said that Sharma and Sunny Kumar conducted a recee of the area



outside the director’s residence on multiple occasions before the firing on February 1. Sharma, along with Sonu Thakur and Vishnu Kushwaha arrived in Mumbai late on January 31. After consuming alcohol, the others stayed back while Sharma rode to Shetty’s residence and fired five

rounds. Sonu was allegedly waiting at the Juhu beach.

An official said Shubham Lonkar and Arzoo Bishnoi contacted Sharma and three of his associates through Pandit and allegedly offered them Rs 3 lakh to carry out the firing. However, the group

received only the first instalment of Rs 50,000. Lonkar and Bishnoi have been shown as wanted accused in the case, the officer added. The police have recovered the pistol used in the firing. The weapon, described by police as sophisticated, is already sent to the Forensic Science Laboratory Kalina for ballistic examination.

Sharma confessed during investigation that he allegedly accepted the offer to open fire as he was burdened by debt and urgently needed money. Sharma further claimed that he got scared before carrying out the attack and bought alcohol, which he consumed before going to Shetty’s residence to execute the crime.

## Measure impact to award PhD

Scientific journal Nature recently reported about a PhD in which an engineering doctorate was assessed primarily on an implemented solution rather than a traditional dissertation. The defence focused on a field-tested innovation documented in use. The evaluation centred on demonstrable contribution in practice. The work was judged for usefulness and implementation. Many top-ranked universities today offer industrial or application-oriented PhDs. The University of Cambridge, for example, offers a PhD in industrial engineering in which research is pursued primarily in an industrial setting while maintaining the expectation of original contribution. The University of Warwick's engineering doctorate programme is designed around company-sponsored problems. It follows a system of dual academic and industrial supervision. The final submission is explicitly framed as a portfolio rather than a single project.

The National University of Singapore offers an industrial postgraduate programme in which students conduct doctoral work in partnership with companies. In this programme, co-supervision and the requirement that the student spend substantial time in the company setting are mandatory. These examples raise a pertinent question. Why can't such innovative work in Indian institutions lead to a practice-oriented or practical PhDs, making validated application the primary evidence rather than the usual publication-plus-thesis requirements? In current PhD programmes in India and most parts of the world, we follow a traditional path. Supervisors and students optimise research for publishable pieces; paper counts are invariably the goal. Such outcomes are a direct result of the processes we have adopted in recruitment, promotion and graduation. So there is hardly any effort to promote outcomes that address real constraints, manufacturability and adoption in live systems.

The traditional PhD pathway will remain in many disciplines. But, at least in engineering, it is now time to introduce pragmatic reforms in the form of a carefully-governed, practical PhD track. Established Indian institutions must reorient doctoral programmes to train young scholars who can convert their doctoral work into robust products and processes. How can we evaluate practical PhD programmes based on product or process development? In a conventional thesis evaluation, two external examiners, who are invariably academicians, examine the thesis and give their recommendations. The process includes, if required, a revision of the thesis and a mandatory oral defence. It is not designed to judge whether the thesis represents a real-world product or process. For a practical PhD, the examination panel should bring together academic examiners and experienced industry practitioners to ensure both scholarly and applied evaluation. We can adopt an India-specific approach in which the panel treats the doctoral output as a rigorously audited technical dossier. This dossier should document research contribution, engineering trade-offs, experimental evidence and path to deployment. Since a practical PhD is more relevant in the engineering discipline, we can measure the maturity of the presented work through technology-readiness milestones, third-party testing and field trials. In current PhD programmes in India and most parts of the world, we follow a traditional path. Supervisors and students optimise research for publishable pieces; paper counts are invariably the goal. Such outcomes are a direct result of the processes we have adopted in recruitment, promotion and graduation. So there is hardly any effort to promote outcomes that address real constraints, manufacturability and adoption in live systems.

The traditional PhD pathway will remain in many disciplines. But, at least in engineering, it is now time to introduce pragmatic reforms in the form of a carefully-governed, practical PhD track. Established Indian institutions must reorient doctoral programmes to train young scholars who can convert their doctoral work into robust products and processes.

## Ranjit Sagar Dam: Legacy of grit and glory

Despite repeated setbacks, geological challenges and financial delays, the collective resolve of engineers and workers ensured the dam's eventual completion

THE Ranjit Sagar Dam is the youngest member of the 'Dam Family Tree' of the northern region. As per the Indus Water Treaty signed between India and Pakistan in 1960, the waters of three eastern rivers — the Sutlej, Beas and Ravi — were allotted exclusively to India. Three multipurpose river valley projects, especially flood control-cum-storage dams, were planned and constructed. A massive concrete dam at Bhakra on the Sutlej was taken up first, followed by the earthen dams on the Beas and the Ravi. The Ranjit Sagar Dam is also known as Thein Dam, named after a small village in Kathua district of J&K. The Bhakra-Nangal Complex was commissioned in 1963. A US team, headed by Harvey Slocum, was the consultant. It was instrumental in grooming a large force of Indian construction workers and engineers. After the completion of the Bhakra Dam, this force was transferred to the Beas project. The Beas Dam was using indigenous resources, manpower and technology. The earthen dam on the Beas was completed in 1974. However, the next in line, the Ranjit Sagar Dam, could not take off in time. The 1965 and 1971 wars with Pakistan created a financial strain and the project had to be deferred for a decade. This resulted in the non-utilisation of surplus and skilled manpower and the equipment spared from the Bhakra-Beas projects. Some of the staff were posted to the neighbouring projects. Some engineers were sent on assignments in Africa and South-East Asian countries. Ultimately, Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi laid the foundation for this project in November, 1985. The project was also included in the Seventh Five-Year Plan for adequate funding. Skilled staff and engineers from the Bhakra-Beas and other projects were recalled and engaged for the work.

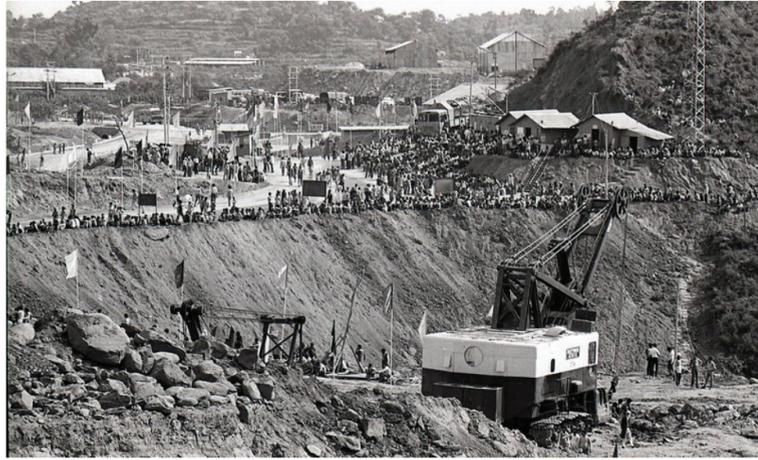
Ranjit Sagar Dam is an earthen dam, similar to the Beas dam, but smaller in volume. It comprises four tunnels, an earthen dam, a spillway and a powerhouse. The construction was taken up with a departmental setup and work was done around the clock. The dam was completed by the sweat and toil of a dedicated band of 15,000 workers, technicians and engineers. Over 126 workers and other associates laid down their lives during the construction period. We salute these martyrs.

The dam was commissioned and dedicated to the nation by Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee on March 4, 2001. It has now completed 25 years of successful operations.

During the course of construction, the dam encountered some hurdles and natural calamities:

At the outset, it was delayed due to financial constraints.

During 1985-88, four tunnels were excavated and concreting work was going on. However, the September 1988 floods caused by heavy rains over the catchment area for more than three days brought unparalleled misery to this project. It resulted in heavy damages to various dam structures. All embankments and protection bundhs along the river protecting the upstream and downstream portals (faces) of the tunnels, the powerhouse foundation and service roads were flooded and washed away. As a result, the flood waters entered



the tunnels and filled them with silt, debris, uprooted trees, animal carcasses, etc.

The hard labour was undone in a few seconds. I was then the Executive Engineer. We stood there helpless and shocked. This was a big setback, delaying the project by two-three years. The demoralisation was such that the abandonment of the project was also considered.

Tunnelling work is the most challenging and hazardous job in civil engineering, especially when geological surprises strike. RS Gill, eminent engineer, who was also Chairman of the consultant committee, held many meetings with engineers and workers to lift their spirits. He reminded them that some hazards had also been faced at Bhakra and Beas dams and were overcome.

The Bhakra Dam site has the distinction of having been visited 13 times by Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru during the construction period. However, the Beas Dam

was not lucky in this respect. The Ranjit Sagar Dam site was also visited by three PMs — Rajiv Gandhi in 1985, PV Narasimha Rao in 1995 and Atal Bihari Vajpayee in 2001 (dedication ceremony).

However, jovial moments too were a part of the process. Engineers remained busy monitoring the progress, estimates, accounts, arrears, etc. More heat than light was generated during the meetings because of work tension. Some lighter moments are as follows:

Once a villager visited the house of the Chief Engineer to complain about land payment on a winter morning and rang the bell. The Chief Engineer, who was in a night suit, opened the door and said: "Bataayen, kya baat hai?"

(what's the matter). He responded, "Yaar, maine aapse baat nahi karni. Apne Chief ko bhejo. Aur thand bahut zyada hai, ek chai ka cup aur biscuit bej do." (I don't want to talk to you, send your Chief. Also, send a cup of tea and biscuits to warm me up.) Sir just enjoyed the moment. The GM decided to have a security check at the dam site. He wore casuals, got into a different car with the driver and set out for the site. At the check post, the security personnel asked the driver his name and the occupant with him. The driver recorded his name and said: "GM Sir is in the car." The personnel peeped in and said, "Yaar, jhooth kyu bol rahe ho. Hum GM sahab ko pehchante hain, woh hamesha proper dress mein rehte hain." (Please don't lie. We recognise GM Sahab, he is always well dressed). Before the driver could object, he

added, "Mujhe lagta hai, tu apne kisi rishtedar ko dam dikhane ja raha hai aur naam GM Sahab ka le raha hai." (You are taking your relative or friend for a free ride and taking GM Sahab's name)." The driver got enraged and a verbal bout started. The GM signalled the driver to return. He asked, "Sir, woh surprise check?" The GM smiled: "Ho to gaya hai. I am happy with the security arrangement as even the GM is not allowed."

An officer told his wife that he would return home late as the foundation of the dam was being laid that day. His wife protested, saying: "What have you been doing at the dam for the last five years if it was to start today?"

The Ranjit Sagar Dam has completed 25 years and has been ushering prosperity in Punjab, Himachal Pradesh and J&K. The dam's administrative control rests, by and large, with the Punjab government, as per the agreements with the states concerned. It is not under the BBMB's control.

## Adjournment culture: SC revises rules in a bid to reduce delays

Delays are not merely an administrative issue — they have real human costs

THE Supreme Court has tightened adjournment rules in a welcome attempt to improve judicial efficiency and reduce procedural delays. The adjournment culture — aptly summed up by Sunny Deol's iconic line, "tareekh pe tareekh", in the 1993 film Damini — continues to be a major stumbling block for the justice delivery system. It reflects the frustrating reality of delayed justice in India — hearings are repeatedly deferred and litigants are left waiting for years, sometimes decades, for closure. Some hapless ones even die before the verdict is delivered. The SC has drawn a firm line between necessity and convenience by restricting adjournments to truly exceptional circumstances such as bereavement or serious health issues. Equally significant is the emphasis on transparency and accountability: parties must now disclose specific reasons and the number of prior adjournments. This is expected to curb frequent deferment. The procedural safeguards introduced are also noteworthy. Mandatory advance notice to the



opposing party, the opportunity to object, and strict deadlines for submissions can ensure that adjournment

requests are no longer unilateral or last-minute tactics. Such measures are aimed at promoting fairness while ensuring optimal use of the court's valuable time.

This reform is particularly critical as over 92,000 cases are pending in the Supreme Court; the backlog is around 64 lakh in high courts and a staggering 4.8 crore in lower courts. Delays are not merely an administrative issue — they have real human costs. When cases outlive the litigants themselves, the system risks losing its constitutional and moral legitimacy. Ultimately, the stricter and more structured framework is about changing the mindset as much as procedure. The legal community needs to move away from viewing adjournments as a routine matter. The onus is on key stakeholders — lawyers, litigants and judges — to embrace this shift and translate intent into lasting change. Collective efforts are a must to consign "tareekh pe tareekh" to history.

## India up against Hormuz dilemma

Tehran's transactional diplomacy is a severe test of Delhi's strategic autonomy

IN 2003, then Chinese President Hu Jintao's acknowledgment of his country's "Malacca dilemma" drew global attention to that Southeast Asian maritime chokepoint, even as the Indian Navy's (IN) maritime strategy had long identified the Strait of Hormuz as the true jugular vein of global energy. Linking the Persian Gulf to the Arabian Sea, its closure would, according to the IN assessment, "severely affect the energy security of many nations, including India." This vulnerability is shared by the world's other leading oil importers, notably China, Japan and South Korea.

With India's 23 oil refineries demanding over 5 million barrels of crude daily, the country's economic and industrial well-being depend on the assured arrival of 2-3 very large crude carriers every day at our west coast ports. Similarly, one ship carrying liquefied natural gas must arrive at one of our "regasification" terminals daily to maintain the national gas grid. Apart from the pain that energy shortages will inflict on the economy and citizens, there will also be second-order adverse effects on sectors like fertilisers and pharmaceuticals.

Iran's blockade of the crucial Strait of Hormuz is the spearhead of its determined response to the unprovoked US-Israeli air campaign targeting Iranian leadership, nuclear facilities and missile infrastructure. The newly chosen Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Mojtaba Khamenei, has adopted a defiant "war of survival" strategy, in which weaponisation of the 30-km-wide Strait of Hormuz aims to achieve two disruptive aims.

First, by posing a threat to oil tankers with sea mines and low-cost drones, Iran has sent maritime insurance premiums and freight rates skyrocketing, paralysing shipping traffic. Second, by lining the strait's northern shore with missile batteries and "swarms" of aerial and seaborne drones, Iran has created a formidable deterrent.

The US Navy has balked at entering what it fears has become a "kill box" for its warships. By holding the global energy supply chain hostage, Tehran is issuing an ultimatum: if the US-Israeli alliance is hell-bent on



wreaking destruction upon Iran, it will ensure that the global economy suffers intolerable damage. By granting only conditional approval to Indian-flagged tankers and requiring "case-by-case" diplomatic clearances for each transit through Hormuz, Tehran is reminding us that while India may be a "major defence partner" of the US, it is physically tethered to the Persian Gulf. The emergent situation has confronted India with a "Hormuz dilemma", characterised by severe restrictions on its energy supplies and the adoption by Tehran of transactional diplomacy. This represents not merely an economic crisis in the making but also a severe test of India's "strategic autonomy".

It is tempting to conclude that India's current predicament is a direct consequence of its open alignment with Israel,

but that may not be the full story. It is true that building on the momentum of the Abraham Accords, signed during the first Trump administration, the US-Israel-India triad witnessed unprecedented synergy, including radical initiatives like the I2U2 (India-Israel-US-UAE) economic partnership, also dubbed the "West Asian Quad", and the India-Middle East-Europe Corridor (IMEC) connecting India to Europe via Israel. Underpinned by US strategic backing, these initiatives would have helped in the assimilation of Israel into its West Asian neighbourhood. However, labelling India's posture as a simple act of "ingratitude" ignores two major compulsions that shape its international relationships. Firstly, the geopolitical realities of a hostile neighbourhood, coupled with a laggard military-industrial complex, have pushed it to seek advanced military hardware as well as high-end weapon/sensor technology from abroad. Secondly, the prevailing economic-technological-military asymmetry vis-à-vis an assertive China requires that India seeks a hedge or partner in the Indo-Pacific. In their anxiety to find obliging partners for the above, Indian statesmen and diplomats seem to overlook some simple realities. Firstly, the sheer magnitude of India's military requirements makes it a most lucrative customer, and arms-producing nations do us no favour by selling hardware (mostly at outrageous prices). Not only do the cash advances paid by us help amortise a company's R&D expenses, but there have been many live instances where shipyards, aircraft and missile manufacturers on the brink of bankruptcy have been rescued by a hefty Indian contract. Secondly, every "strategic partnership" is a two-way street, and any nation that takes a considered decision to engage with India — the world's most populous nation, having significant economic and

military heft — has as much to gain from the relationship as does India. India's leadership must not consider itself "beholden" to any single power — be it Russia, the US, Israel or France — for its core security interests. The earlier we attain genuine self-reliance in key technologies — current and futuristic — the stronger will be our posture of "strategic autonomy". One hopes that populist political aspirations having been met, the nation will be able to allocate adequate resources to the serious pursuit of science and technology, which is the only path to the attainment of great-power status. PM Modi's exhortation to attain Atmanirbharta must be faithfully implemented, not just as a slogan, but through heavy investment in R&D and by encouraging the spirit of genuine innovation among the youth. The genocidal war in Gaza and the ongoing Persian Gulf conflict, coupled with the "civilisational" rhetoric emerging from the Trump administration, signal the demise of the post-WWII "rules-based order" and Western liberalism. This shift confirms Samuel Huntington's 1996 prophecy of a "Clash of Civilisations" as an emerging reality, which is widening the schism between the Western bloc and the Global South. Clearly, discrimination on the basis of race, colour and faith is gaining over the spirit of universalism that we had briefly glimpsed. In this turmoil, India must consider breaking its traditional mould to resume leadership of the Global South. Capable of engaging all sides, India is uniquely positioned to act as a bridge across these deepening divides. By spearheading initiatives in energy diplomacy, maritime security and climate justice, New Delhi can transform "strategic autonomy" from a defensive posture into a proactive leadership role that stabilises a fractured global landscape, while retaining its ethical moorings.

# CM Bhagwant Singh Mann also lays foundation stone for repair of 350 km of roads in Jalalabad, Fazilka district

**Contd.....Front page**  
Funds will be directly transferred to bank accounts and women already receiving social security pensions will also be eligible. Around 97% of women in Punjab are expected to benefit and the state government has allotted 29,300 crore in the budget. Registration will begin from April 13." Responding to criticism of

the scheme, CM Bhagwant Singh Mann said, "Those who are mocking the state government over the launch of the scheme or are raising baseless queries don't know the value of ₹1,000 for the common man. These people who spend more than ₹5,000 per meal from illegally minted money don't value this amount, which is a big

financial assistance for those who have to work hard even on festivals. The wives of these affluent leaders don't need ₹1,000 as they spend more on cosmetics." On infrastructure, he said, "The AAP Government has embarked on a major program for repair of link roads across the state. There are a total of 43,000 kilometers of link roads

and the state government has launched a project for their repair and upgradation. Along with repairing these roads, their maintenance will also be carried out for the next five years." Highlighting regional development, CM Bhagwant Singh Mann said, "It is a matter of immense pride and satisfaction that this development meeting has been

transformed into a massive rally. Punjab has seen a massive transformation in the last four years as water has reached areas where it hadn't for 50-60 years." He added, "This is a border area where professionals like doctors and teachers hesitate to serve, which is why the state government has made it mandatory for them to serve at least two years in border areas." He further said, "These teachers and doctors will receive extra allowance and additional points for promotions. The children of this region are extremely talented." Sharing an anecdote, he added, "In 2008-09, I visited Donana village where a girl topped Punjab in 5th grade. Her family couldn't afford further education, so I arranged sponsorship and got her admitted to Baru Sahib Academy. When veterinary doctors were appointed, she was among them." Emphasising opportunity creation, the Chief Minister said, "This proves that our children are not lacking, only opportunities are missing, and the state government is now providing these opportunities." He added, "Earlier leaders like

Sukhbir Badal were MLAs and even Deputy Chief Ministers from this region but no real work was done. They deliberately kept people poor so that voters would ask only for small favors during elections. They called this region 'tail end', but I consider it the 'frontline.' Criticising past governance, CM Bhagwant Singh Mann said, "This area has small shopkeepers, traders and farmers. People voted massively for traditional parties in the past, but previous governments looted Punjab. These leaders drained resources like parasites and even today they have no agenda, only hunger for power. They try to outdo each other in abusing me and sending videos to their high command for mercy." Outlining achievements, he said, "The state government has provided free electricity to 90% of households, jobs to over 65,000 youth without corruption, improved roads, closed toll plazas saving ₹70 lakh daily, and is building infrastructure. The tax money of people belongs to the

state and we are judiciously spending it on their welfare. People's money is coming back to them through development, schools, hospitals and roads." He added, "Earlier this money was misused due to corruption, but now we have checked these pilferages for the well being of the people and the state." Highlighting a breakthrough, CM Bhagwant Singh Mann said, "The state government has traced the 22 km long Sarhali Minor canal in the Majha region which was buried underground. This canal is now operational due to the concerted efforts of the state government." On irrigation reforms, he said, "Bhakra Canal has a capacity of 9,500 cusec, but due to our efforts supply of 10,000 cusec has been ensured. In that sense, the state has carved out a new Bhakra canal without acquiring even a single inch of land." He added, "For decades

farmers drew water from Ferozepur and Sirhind canals in rotation, but for the first time this system has ended, providing major relief." On groundwater recovery, CM Bhagwant Singh Mann said, "Groundwater extraction rate has reduced from 61.49% in 2022 to 31.6% in 2025. Groundwater has recharged up to 4 metres in several villages, which is heartening." Looking ahead, he said, "This is the result of honest governance and in the coming times we aim to implement underground electricity lines across Punjab. This will make fields cleaner, prevent accidents and ensure better supply. If the pilot succeeds, it will be expanded." Reiterating his government's approach, CM Bhagwant Singh Mann said, "People used to say nothing would change, no jobs, no roads, no development, but we have proven them wrong."

## New ROB at Gauripur Will Ease Traffic Congestion To Improve Safety and Mobility

**The Sikh Times**  
Maligaon, 22nd March: Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) has successfully completed the construction of a Road Over Bridge (ROB) at Gauripur under Alipurduar Division in lieu of Level Crossing Gate No. CA-26, marking a significant milestone in enhancing rail-road infrastructure in the region. Executed by NFR Construction, the project has been completed within the planned timeframe. The ROB has been constructed between Gauripur and Alamganj stations at km 162/5-6. The structure spans a total length of 940 metres and has been designed with a maximum gradient of 1 in 40. Built to National Highway standards, the bridge features a 10.50 metre wide carriage-way accommodating three lanes, ensuring smooth and efficient vehicular movement. A key highlight of the structure is its 62-metre bow string girder main span, reflecting robust engineering and modern construction practices. This ROB replaces the busy Level Crossing



Gate No. CA-26, which had a high volume of traffic, making it a vital link for regional connectivity. With the completion of this ROB, delays caused by frequent gate closures have been completely eliminated, ensuring uninterrupted and safer movement of vehicles and pedestrians. The bridge significantly reduces the risk of accidents, saves travel time and minimizes fuel consumption. Additionally, it is expected to give a strong impetus to local trade, improve accessibility and contribute to the overall economic development of the region. Northeast Frontier Railway remains fully committed to modernizing infrastructure and enhancing safety and convenience for passengers and road users alike.

towns of Gauripur and Dhubri, making it a vital link for regional connectivity. With the completion of this ROB, delays caused by frequent gate closures have been completely eliminated, ensuring uninterrupted and safer movement of vehicles and pedestrians. The bridge significantly reduces the risk of accidents, saves travel time and minimizes fuel consumption. Additionally, it is expected to give a strong impetus to local trade, improve accessibility and contribute to the overall economic development of the region. Northeast Frontier Railway remains fully committed to modernizing infrastructure and enhancing safety and convenience for passengers and road users alike.

## 7-day-old baby sold for Rs 1.5 lakh, 2 arrested

**Gurugram:** The police arrested a eunuch and her partner for attempting to sell a seven-day-old baby boy for Rs 1.5 lakh in Sector 57. The accused who sold the child had lodged a complaint of kidnapping to mislead the police, but they were arrested and the child was rescued. According to the police, a eunuch residing in a slum near Saraswati Kunj had lodged a complaint claiming that she had adopted a newborn baby boy from her neighbour Phulo Devi on August 18. She alleged that on August 24, she handed the baby over to her neighbour, Kajal, before leaving home. Upon her return, Kajal claimed the infant had been kidnapped by an unknown person and that her mobile phone had also been stolen. The police swung into action and arrested two accused from Wazirabad's Dhani within just nine hours. The police recovered the newborn baby and the stolen mobile from the possession of the accused. The accused were identified as Layak Sheikh (28), a native of west Bengal and eunuch Kajal, a native of Bihar.

partner for attempting to sell a seven-day-old baby boy for Rs 1.5 lakh in Sector 57. The accused who sold

the child had lodged a complaint of kidnapping to mislead the police, but they were arrested and the child was rescued. According to the police, a eunuch residing in a slum near Saraswati Kunj had lodged a complaint claiming that she had adopted a newborn baby boy from her neighbour Phulo Devi on August 18. She alleged that on August 24, she handed the baby over to her neighbour, Kajal, before leaving home. Upon her return, Kajal claimed the infant had been kidnapped by an unknown person and that her mobile phone had also been stolen. The police swung into action and arrested two accused from Wazirabad's Dhani within just nine hours. The police recovered the newborn baby and the stolen mobile from the possession of the accused. The accused were identified as Layak Sheikh (28), a native of west Bengal and eunuch Kajal, a native of Bihar.

the child was rescued. According to the police, a eunuch residing in a slum near Saraswati Kunj had lodged a complaint claiming that she had adopted a newborn baby boy from her neighbour Phulo Devi on August 18. She alleged that on August 24, she handed the baby over to her neighbour, Kajal, before leaving home. Upon her return, Kajal claimed the infant had been kidnapped by an unknown person and that her mobile phone had also been stolen. The police swung into action and arrested two accused from Wazirabad's Dhani within just nine hours. The police recovered the newborn baby and the stolen mobile from the possession of the accused. The accused were identified as Layak Sheikh (28), a native of west Bengal and eunuch Kajal, a native of Bihar.

### NAME CHANGE

I, CHANDAN KAIRA, S/O, PRATAP SINGH KAIRA, R/O, B-165, POKK-ET-2, DDA LIG FLATS, SECTOR-7, DWARKA, NEW DELHI-110075, have changed my name from CHANDAN KAIRA to CHANDAN SINGH for all future purpose.

### NAME CHANGE

I, AFTAB AHMAD SON OF MOHD AHMED PATHAN R/O H. NO.667, GALLI NO.22, KHAN MEDICOS, VIJAY PARK, MAJUPUR, NORTH EAST, DELHI-110053 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME AFTAB AHMED FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSE

### NAME CHANGE

I, ZAHIR UDEEN ANSARI SON OF ABDUL HAKIM R/O H. NO.667, GALLI NO.22, KHAN MEDICOS, VIJAY PARK, MAJUPUR, NORTH EAST, DELHI-110053 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME ZAHIRUDDIN FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSE

### PUBLIC NOTICE

Mr. Vinod Sharma Owner of the Residential Plot/House No. B-59, Block-B, Sector-0micron-3, Greater Noida, Distt. Gautam Budh Nagar, U.P. Mr. Vinod Sharma have lost Original Allotment Intimation Letter dated 08/03/1994 issued by GNIDA in favour of Champa Gupta and Allocation Letter dated 08/02/2006 issued by GNIDA in favour of Champa Gupta, for which complaint lodged to the police. Therefore, by way of this Public Notice it is hereby notified that any person, Attorney and/or entity, firm/company, society and/or member of the Society, Bank, HUF/member of HUF, Financial Institution having any claim, charge, interest, or lien whatsoever with respect to the Said house/plot or otherwise, may notify to undersigned only on his rahulkumargupta281401@gmail.com with documentary proof within 15 days from the date of this publication of notice, failing which any such claim etc. shall be deemed to be null and void, whereas title shall be deemed to be clear, and marketable without any defect or encumbrance and free to create equitable mortgage

**RAHUL KUMAR GUPTA** (ADVOCATE)  
Off. 43B, Third Floor, Patparganj Village, Mayapuri, Phase-I, Delhi-11, M-NO-7252922875

### PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Shaista Zareen, resident of C12/336, Yamuna Vihar North East Delhi-110053, hereby inform that my original Degree Certificate issued by Jamia Millia Islamia has been lost/misplaced. Details are as follows: Name: Shaista Zareen Course: B.A. Honours in Sanskrit Year: 07/07/1993 Degree Date: 09/01/1995 Passing Year: 07/07/1993 Roll No. 18240 Enrollment No. 901403 If anyone finds the above-mentioned document, please contact me at 7838524428 if no claim is made within 7 days of this publication. I shall apply for a duplicate degree. Date: 15/03/2026 Place: [Delhi]

### PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for general information that I SANJAY KUMAR S/O RADHE SHYAM R/O H.No. RC-69, SANGAM PARK, KHORA, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh 201309 declare that name of mine and my father has been wrongly written as PANKAJ SHARMA and JAGDISH SHARMA in my AADHAR CARD NO 582746429375. The actual name of mine and my father are SANJAY KUMAR S/O RADHE SHYAM, which may be amended accordingly.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

I hitherto known as KALU S/O RATAN R/O Village- Almenabad Kulesra, Kulesra, Gautam Budh Nagar, Uttar Pradesh-201306 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as ABHIYANT.

**RAHUL RAJ, Advocate,** SG Associates (Law Firm) B-01, Plot No. 20, Kaushambi, Ghaziabad-201010. E-MAIL:sgassociatespl@gmail.com, Ph: 0120-4968888, 813039204.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for general information that I SHANUJI KUMAR S/O RADHE SHYAM R/O H.No. RC-69, SANGAM PARK, KHORA, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh 201309 declare that name of mine and my father has been wrongly written as PANKAJ SHARMA and JAGDISH SHARMA in my AADHAR CARD NO 582746429375. The actual name of mine and my father are SANJAY KUMAR S/O RADHE SHYAM, which may be amended accordingly.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

I hitherto known as KALU S/O RATAN R/O Village- Almenabad Kulesra, Kulesra, Gautam Budh Nagar, Uttar Pradesh-201306 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as ABHIYANT.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the General Public that Mr. Manish Singh S/o Mr. Shalendra in respect of Portion of Residential Freehold Plot No. E-772, area measuring 25 Sq. Yds., i.e. 20.90 Sq. Mtrs., out of Kharsa No. 16, situated at Sudhir Enclave in the area of Village Hakikatpur alias Khudabans, Pargana & Tehsil District Ghaziabad U.P. by virtue of Notarized GPA dated 16/07/2025, ATS and Will, executed by Mr. Sadusharan Shah S/o Mr. Anardi Shah and said property to be sold to Komal and same to be finance by SMFG India Home Finance Co. Ltd., General public hereby informed that if anybody has any charge/interest/tie in the said property or any kind of dispute kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 07 days of the present.

**Rahul Raj, Advocate,** SG Associates (Law Firm) B-01, Plot No. 20, Kaushambi, Ghaziabad-201010. E-MAIL:sgassociatespl@gmail.com, Ph: 0120-4968888, 813039204.

### NAME CHANGE

I, Pranav S/o Parveen Kumar Yadav R/O House Number 64, Sec 09 R/O Block H, South City-II, Sector -50, Gurugram Haryana 122018, have changed my name from Pranav to Pranav Rao for all future purposes. Vide affidavit dated 21/03/2026 before Public Notary Delhi.

### NAME CHANGE

I hitherto known as Atharv S/O: Rahul, Baluni R/O Om Vihar Bholia Road, Meerut, P.O: meerut City, DIST: Meerut, Uttar Pradesh - 250002, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as ATHARV BALLUNI.

### NAME CHANGE

I, EKNATH is legally father of No. 22800606 Rank-HAV Name-PATIL NITIN EKNATH presently residing at VILL- GONDGAON, POST-GONDGAON TEH- BHADGAON, DIST-JALGAON (MAHARASHTRA)-424103, have changed my name from EKNATH to EKNATH SHANKAR PATIL and date of birth from 01/06/1968 to 01/06/1958 for all future purposes. Vide affidavit dated 29.01.2026 before Public Notary Delhi.

### NAME CHANGE

I hitherto known as Rishi Kumar S/O Mukesh Kumar address Pali partapur, P.O Pali partapur, DIST: Bulandshahr, Uttar Pradesh 245405, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as BOBI KUMAR.

### NAME CHANGE

I, Ashish Gupta R/O F-270, First Floor, Sushant Lok-2, Sector-57, VTC,Wazirabad (75), P.O. Wazirabad, District Gurgaon, State Haryana-122003 have changed the name of my minor son aged 3 years from Tushit Gupta to Aryav Gupta for all future purposes.

### NAME CHANGE

I, Sahina Wo Mohd Azharuddin R/O VTC Train (152), Nuh, Mewat, Haryana-122107 have changed my name to Shaheena.

### NAME CHANGE

I, Shalvi Rani Chawla W/O Sachin Chawla, J-1065, 3rd Floor, Rajouri Garden, Distt : West Delhi, New Delhi P.O : Rajouri Garden, Ph Code : 110027 have changed my name to Shalvi Chawla for all future purposes.

### NAME CHANGE

I, Seema Rani W/O Mukesh Garg R/O: 47/1 M3M Solitude, Block S, Near Commercial Parks, Sector 89, Hayatpur, Gurgaon - 122505 have changed my name to Seema Garg for future purposes.

### NAME CHANGE

I, Kamalabai is legally mother of Arny No. 2811661N, Rank - Sep, Name - LOHAMBARE JIVAN BHANUDAS, presently residing at VII - Borl, Post - Rangli, Teh - Dhanora, Dist - Maharastra - 442606, have changed my name from LOHAMBARE SANJANA JIVAN to SANJANA JIVAN LOHAMBARE and my date of birth from 14/05/2001 to 14/04/2001 for all future purposes. Vide affidavit dated 21/03/2026 before Public Notary Delhi.

### NAME CHANGE

I, KAMLABAI is legally mother of Arny No. 2811661N, Rank - Sep, Name - LOHAMBARE JIVAN BHANUDAS, presently residing at VII - Borl, Post - Rangli, Teh - Dhanora, Dist - Maharastra, State - Maharashtra - 442606, have changed my name from KAMLABAI to KAMAL BHANUDAS LOHAMBARE and my date of birth from 02/10/1970 to 01/07/1969 for all future purposes. Vide affidavit dated 21/03/2026 before Public Notary Delhi.

### NAME CHANGE

I hitherto known as Sangeeta D/o Rampal R/O 170 Block-A, Pocket-11, Kumarah Mohalla, Jasola Village, Okhla, New Friends Colony, South Delhi, Delhi-110025 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Sangeeta Kumar.

### NAME CHANGE

I, CHANDAN KUMAR S/O JAI PRAKASH JHA R/O C-6 GALLI NO. 16, Wazirabad, Ghaziabad, P.O: Burari, Dist. North Delhi, Delhi-110084 have changed the name of my minor son KESHAV KUMAR aged 12 years and he shall hereafter be known as KESHAV JHA.

### NAME CHANGE

I hitherto known as DS AGGARWAL W/O SATISH KHOSLA R/O 245, Nirmi Colony, Ashok Vihar, North West Delhi, Delhi-110056 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as RAVINDER KHOSLA.

### NAME CHANGE

I Anil Kumar S/o Jayanti Bhai R/O B-1-299, Block-B1, J.C. Colony, Raghubir Nagar, Tagore Garden S.O, West Delhi, Delhi-110027 have changed the name of my minor son Bablu aged 12 years and he shall hereafter be known as Vaibhav.

### NAME CHANGE

I hitherto known as Yatharth S/O Sanjay Kumar R/O H.No-C-223, Street No-8, Near Gokal Puri, Ganga vihar, North East, Delhi-110094 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Yatharth Dixit.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

Mr. Ashish Kumar Kam and Smt. Kumkum Kuman Owner of the Residential Flat/Dwelling Unit No. G-1306, on 13th Floor, in Tower-G, in the 'HOMES 121' built on Plot No. GH-01, situated at Sector-121, Noida, Distt. Gautam Budh Nagar, U.P. by Transfer deed executed by Mr. Atul Kaushik and Smt. Veena Kaushik in Favour of Mr. Ashish Kumar Kam and Smt. Kumkum Kumari duly regd. vide doc no 73, vol no 11670, page no 179-204 dated 05.01.2023. Therefore, by way of this Public Notice it is hereby notified that any person, Attorney and/or entity, firm/company, society and/or member of the Society, Bank, HUF/member of HUF, Financial Institution having any claim, charge, interest, or lien whatsoever with respect to the Said house except the charge of SBI RACPC Sector 55 Noida or otherwise, may notify to undersigned only on his rahulkumargupta281401@gmail.com with documentary proof within 15 days from the date of this publication of notice, failing which any such claim etc. shall be deemed to be null and void, whereas title shall be deemed to be clear, and marketable without any defect or encumbrance and free to create equitable mortgage

### NAME CHANGE

It is for general information that I, FIROJ KHAN S/O MUNNA ALI R/O WZ-493, NARAINA VILLAGE, PO- NARAINA INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, DIST- SOUTH WEST DELHI, DELHI-110028 declare that name of my father and my mother has been wrongly written as MD MAKSUD ALAM and REHANA KHATOON in my 10th class educational documents. The actual name of my father and my mother are MUNNA ALI and SINTOO KHATOON, which may be amended accordingly.

### NAME CHANGE

I, hitherto known as JYOTI VATS alias JYOTI SHARMA D/O RAM KUMAR VATS W/O AMIT SHARMA R/O 168, PALAM EXTN PART-I, SEC-07, DWARKA, PALAM SOUTH WEST DELHI, DELHI-110077, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as JYOTI SHARMA.

### NAME CHANGE

It is for general information that I, SARUF KHAN S/O MUNNA ALI R/O WZ-493, NARAINA VILLAGE, PO- NARAINA INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, DIST- SOUTH WEST DELHI, DELHI-110028 declare that name of my father and my mother has been wrongly written as MD MAKSUD ALAM and RYANA in my 10th class educational documents. The actual name of my father and my mother are MUNNA ALI and SINTOO KHATOON, which may be amended accordingly.

### NAME CHANGE

I hitherto known as NAVEEN KUMAR SAINI S/O BABU LAL SAINI R/O House No. B-70, Molaband Village, Molaband, P.O : Badarpur , Dist : South Delhi, Delhi - 110044 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as NAVIN KUMAR SAINI.

### NAME CHANGE

I Reshu Kumar D/o Mohanlal Kedia R/O House no.28, Back portion, UG floor, Gali no.12, Sarany Nagar, N.S. Mandi, P.O: N.S. Mandi, DIST: North West Delhi, Delhi-110033 have changed my name to Reshu Aggarwal for all future purposes.

### NAME CHANGE

I Manoj Kumar R/O- 473-Hardey Purj,Gautam Nagar,Delhi-110049 Have Changed My Name To Manoj Chaudhary Permanently.

### NAME CHANGE

I hitherto known as GMOHAN KUMARI D/O CHERKURU BHASKAR NAIDU, W/O G MADHU residing at E-15 Sector -34, Dist. Gautam Buddha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh - 201307 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as CHERKURU BHASKAR MOHAN KUMARI.

### NAME CHANGE

I, SOMA PAUL is Spouse of No. 15779547A Rank- HAV Name-GURU PADA PAUL S/O Late GOVINDA PRASAD PAUL R/O VILL-KASHIA, PO-SASINDA, DIST-TEH-KHARGPUR, WEST BENGAL-721445 have changed my minor daughter's (ANKITA PAUL) date of birth from 25/05/2015 instead 22/05/2015. Vide Affidavit dated 21/03/2026 before Notary Public New Delhi.

### NAME CHANGE

I, SOMA PAUL is Spouse of No. 15779547A Rank- HAV Name-GURU PADA PAUL S/O Late GOVINDA PRASAD PAUL R/O VILL-KASHIA, PO-SASINDA, DIST-TEH-KHARGPUR, WEST BENGAL-721445 have changed my name from SOMA PAUL to SOMA PAL for all future purposes. And in my husband service record my date wrongly mentioned is 30/04/1988 instead of 01/01/1989. Vide affidavit dated 21/03/2026 before Notary Public New Delhi.

### NAME CHANGE

I, AMAN KUMAR MOURYA son of No. 15671074H Rank-HAV Name-AMIT KUMAR MAURYA R/O VILL-DHATURI TOLA, PO-SONKI BHAT, TEH-BAIREA, DIST-BALLIA (UTTAR PRADESH)-27204 have changed my name from AMAN KUMAR MOURYA to AMAN KUMAR MAURYA for all future purposes. Vide affidavit dated 20/03/2026 before Notary Public New Delhi.

### NAME CHANGE

I, GOLU KUMAR MOURYA son of No. 15671074H Rank-HAV Name-AMIT KUMAR MAURYA R/O VILL-DHATURI TOLA, PO-SONKI BHAT, TEH-BAIREA, DIST-BALLIA (UTTAR PRADESH)-27204 have changed my name from GOLU KUMAR MOURYA to GOLU KUMAR MAURYA for all future purposes. Vide affidavit dated 20/03/2026 before Notary Public New Delhi.

### NAME CHANGE

I, Manoj Kumar R/O- 473-Hardey Purj,Gautam Nagar,Delhi-110049 Have Changed My Name To Manoj Chaudhary Permanently.

### NAME CHANGE

I hitherto known as GMOHAN KUMARI D/O CHERKURU BHASKAR NAIDU, W/O G MADHU residing at E-15 Sector -34, Dist. Gautam Buddha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh - 201307 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as CHERKURU BHASKAR MOHAN KUMARI.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform general public at large that our client, Pradeep Kumar who have approached Niwas Housing Finance (Formerly known as Indostar Home Finance Pvt. Ltd.), for Home Loan of Pitampura, New Delhi. It is to mention that in chain documents Original Notary ATS, Dated 04.04.2013 & Original Notary ATS, Dated 29.08.2008 Stamp paper not available of these documents in respect of Residential Plot no. 65-A-1, area measuring 25 Sq. Yds., (i.e. 20.90 Sq. Mtrs.), Kharsa No. 33, Situated in Panchsesh Enclave village Bhrampur Uf Bhaopur, pargana & Tehsil Loni District Ghaziabad, U.P. not available/lost somewhere. And the said property having Residential Plot No. 65-A-1, area measuring 25 Sq. Yds., (i.e. 20.90 Sq. Mtrs.), Kharsa No. 33, Situated in Panchsesh Enclave village Bhrampur Uf Bhaopur, pargana & Tehsil Loni District Ghaziabad, U.P. not available/lost somewhere. And the said property having Residential Plot No. 65-A-1, area measuring 25 Sq. Yds., (i.e. 20.90 Sq. Mtrs.), Kharsa No. 33, Situated in Panchsesh Enclave village Bhrampur Uf Bhaopur, pargana & Tehsil Loni District Ghaziabad, U.P. not available/lost somewhere. And the said property having Residential Plot No. 65-A-1, area measuring 25 Sq. Yds., (i.e. 20.90 Sq. Mtrs.), Kharsa No. 33, Situated in Panchsesh Enclave village Bhrampur Uf Bhaopur, pargana & Tehsil Loni District Ghaziabad, U.P. not available/lost somewhere. And the said property having Residential Plot No. 65-A-1, area measuring 25 Sq. Yds., (i.e. 20.90 Sq. Mtrs.), Kharsa No. 33, Situated in Panchsesh Enclave village Bhrampur Uf Bhaopur, pargana & Tehsil Loni District Ghaziabad, U.P. not available/lost somewhere. And the said property having Residential Plot No. 65-A-1, area measuring 25 Sq. Yds., (i.e. 20.90 Sq. Mtrs.), Kharsa No. 33, Situated in Panchsesh Enclave village Bhrampur Uf Bhaopur, pargana & Tehsil Loni District Ghaziabad, U.P. not available/lost somewhere. And the said property having Residential Plot No. 65-A-1, area measuring 25 Sq. Yds., (i.e. 20.90 Sq. Mtrs.), Kharsa No. 33, Situated in Panchsesh Enclave village Bhrampur Uf Bhaopur, pargana & Tehsil Loni District Ghaziabad, U.P. not available/lost somewhere. And the said property having Residential Plot No. 65-A-1, area measuring 25 Sq. Yds., (i.e. 20.90 Sq. Mtrs.), Kharsa No. 33, Situated in Panchsesh Enclave village Bhrampur Uf Bhaopur, pargana & Tehsil Loni District Ghaziabad, U.P. not available/lost somewhere. And the said property having Residential Plot No. 65-A-1, area measuring 25 Sq. Yds., (i.e. 20.90 Sq. Mtrs.), Kharsa No. 33, Situated in Panchsesh Enclave village Bhrampur Uf Bhaopur, pargana & Tehsil Loni District Ghaziabad, U.P. not available/lost somewhere. And the said property having Residential Plot No. 65-A-1, area measuring 25 Sq. Yds., (i.e. 20.90 Sq. Mtrs.), Kharsa No. 33, Situated in Panchsesh Enclave village Bhrampur Uf Bhaopur, pargana & Tehsil Loni District Ghaziabad, U.P. not available/lost somewhere. And the said property having Residential Plot No. 65-A-1, area measuring 25 Sq. Yds., (i.e. 20.90 Sq. Mtrs.), Kharsa No. 33, Situated in Panchsesh Enclave village Bhrampur Uf Bhaopur, pargana & Tehsil Loni District Ghaziabad, U.P. not available/lost somewhere. And the said property having Residential Plot No. 65-A-1, area measuring 25 Sq. Yds., (i.e. 20.90 Sq. Mtrs.), Kharsa No. 33, Situated in Panchsesh Enclave village Bhrampur Uf Bhaopur, pargana & Tehsil Loni District Ghaziabad, U.P. not available/lost somewhere. And the said property having Residential Plot No. 65-A-1, area measuring 25 Sq. Yds., (i.e. 20.90 Sq. Mtrs.), Kharsa No. 33, Situated in Panchsesh Enclave village Bhrampur Uf Bhaopur, pargana & Tehsil Loni District Ghaziabad, U.P. not available/lost somewhere. And the said property having Residential Plot No. 65-A-1, area measuring 25 Sq. Yds., (i.e. 20.90 Sq. Mtrs.), Kharsa No. 33, Situated in Panchsesh Enclave village Bhrampur Uf Bhaopur, pargana & Tehsil Loni District Ghaziabad, U.P. not available/lost somewhere. And the said property having Residential Plot No. 65-A-1, area measuring 25 Sq. Yds., (i.e. 20.90 Sq. Mtrs.), Kharsa No. 33, Situated in Panchsesh Enclave village Bhrampur Uf Bhaopur, pargana & Tehsil Loni District Ghaziabad, U.P. not available/lost somewhere. And the said property having Residential Plot No. 65-A-1, area measuring 25 Sq. Yds., (i.e. 20.90 Sq. Mtrs.), Kharsa No. 33, Situated in Panchsesh Enclave village Bhrampur Uf Bhaopur, pargana & Tehsil Loni District Ghaziabad, U.P. not available/lost somewhere. And the said property having Residential Plot No. 65-A-1, area measuring 25 Sq. Yds., (i.e. 20.90 Sq. Mtrs.), Kharsa No. 33, Situated in Panchsesh Enclave village Bhrampur Uf Bhaopur, pargana & Tehsil Loni District Ghaziabad, U.P. not available/lost somewhere. And the said property having Residential Plot No. 65-A-1, area measuring 25 Sq. Yds., (i.e. 20.90 Sq. Mtrs.), Kharsa No. 33, Situated in Panchsesh Enclave village Bhrampur Uf Bhaopur, pargana & Tehsil Loni District Ghaziabad, U.P. not available/lost somewhere. And the said property having Residential Plot No. 65-A-1, area measuring 25 Sq. Yds., (i.e. 20.90 Sq. Mtrs.), Kharsa No. 33, Situated in Panchs

# Man who stabbed Kerala doctor 27 times with scissors handed life term by court

**Kollam Additional District and Sessions judge P N Vinod sentenced G Sandeep to a total of 30 years for various offences under the then Indian Penal Code (IPC) and said that after he serves that period, his life imprisonment for Das' murder will commence.**

**New Delhi.(Agency)**

A teacher convicted in the sensational murder of Dr Vandana Das inside a hospital here was sentenced to a life term on Saturday, and the prosecution said it will move an appeal seeking the death penalty for the accused. The victim's family also battled for "maximum punishment." Dr Das was brutally killed inside a taluk hospital in May 2023 by G Sandeep.

Kollam Additional District and Sessions judge P N Vinod sentenced Sandeep to a total of 30 years for various offences under the then Indian Penal Code (IPC) and said that after he serves that period, his life imprisonment for Das' murder will commence. The court also imposed a fine of Rs 2.35 lakh on the convict.

Though the prosecution had sought the death penalty for the accused during the arguments on sentence, the court was of the view that the case did not fall under the rarest-of-rare category to warrant the maximum punishment.

It was also of the view that there was a chance of the convict getting reformed, as he told the court that the rest of his life would be one of repentance, the order on sentence said.

"At the same time, I agree with the stand of the prosecution to the effect that the sentence should be commensurate with the gravity of the crime and the sentence should not only be reformative, but should also have a deterrent effect."

"In my view, the said objective can be achieved by directing that the term sentences that will



be imposed will run consecutively and the life sentence that has to be imposed will commence only after the expiration of the term sentences," the judge said.

After the verdict, special public prosecutor (SPP) Prathap G Padickal told reporters outside the court that he would recommend to the prosecution to file an appeal seeking

enhancement of the life imprisonment to the death penalty.

The victim's father said that the verdict has come as a relief for the family, but that he cannot authoritatively say whether his late daughter has got justice. He indicated his dissatisfaction with the punishment, saying that steps will be taken to seek its enhancement after discussions with the public prosecutor.

Dr Das' mother said that the family could only wish for the maximum punishment, and it was up to the court to decide what sentence should be given. She said that the family will go on appeal, but declined to comment on whether her daughter got justice. She tearfully said that she wants the convict to suffer the same pain that her daughter

underwent "as he stabbed her 27 times".

The court on March 17 had convicted Sandeep for various offences under the IPC, including murder, destruction of evidence and wrongful restraint. It had also held him guilty under the provisions of the Kerala Healthcare Service Persons and Healthcare Service Institutions (Prevention of violence and damage to property) Act 2012. Sandeep was brought to the taluk hospital by the police for medical treatment during the small hours of May 10, 2023, and he went on a sudden attacking spree using a pair of surgical scissors kept in the room where his leg injury was being dressed. A school teacher by profession, he had initially attacked the police officers and another person who had accompanied.

## Rumours of cow vigilante Farsa Wale Baba's 'murder' spark violence, FIR against 300

**New Delhi.(Agency)**

Cow vigilante Chandrashekhar alias Farsa Wale Baba lost his life in a fog-induced collision between a truck and a vehicle in the Kosi Kala area of Mathura on Friday, March 20. The killing of Farsa Wale Baba triggered cow vigilante supporters, and in response, the community staged a protest on the Delhi-Agra Highway. The demonstrators also pelted stones at the police.

All the chaos happened because four people attempted to incite a riot by spreading rumours about the accidental death of cow protector Farsa Wale Baba, alleging cow smuggling. The rumours triggered the cow protectors. Police have arrested all the accused, and an FIR has been filed against them. One of the accused is identified as Daksh Chaudhary, a resident of outside Mathura. On the Delhi-Agra Highway, the protestors injured more than 10 police personnel, including the SP Rural and ADM Administration, and damaged seven official vehicles.

According to the police, a large number of people became agitated following Baba's death and created a ruckus by blocking the highway. Officials have to use more than 50 tear gas shells, rubber bullets, smoke grenades, and short cartridges to control the unrest.

**FIR has been registered against 300 people**

Officials have taken strict action as they registered an FIR against 300 unidentified individuals and arrested 13 accused so far.

Chhata Kotwali in-charge Kamlesh Singh has filed an FIR, and the search is going on for others. The case registered against the accused under sections 109(1), 190, 191(2), 191(3), 352, 351(2), 195, 132, and 324(4) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), Section 7 of the Criminal Law Act, Sections 3 and 4 of the Prevention of Damage to Public Property Act, and Section 67 of the Information Technology Act.

The administration says strict action will be taken against those who disrupt law and order. A heavy police force is currently deployed in the area, and the situation is reportedly under control.

## Rs 3,700 cr for Peripheral Expressway land acquisition approved by government

**New Delhi.(Agency)**

The Delhi government has approved the payment of its pending share for land acquisition related to the Eastern and Western Peripheral Expressways.

The move is expected to ease congestion caused by heavy vehicles and help reduce pollution levels in the national capital. The expressways were designed to divert non-destined traffic, especially trucks, away from Delhi, thereby reducing pressure on city roads.

Taking a swipe at the previous government, CM Rekha Gupta alleged that the project suffered due to a lack of seriousness and political differences with the Centre, leading to deliberate delays in clearing dues and harming city's interests.

Gupta said the Cabinet recently approved a proposal by the Public Works Department to clear the outstanding amount in a phased manner. Under the plan, Rs 500 crore will be released in the financial year 2025-26 from revised budget estimates to the Union Government or the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI). The remaining Rs 3,203.33 crore will be paid in instalments in the coming years, depending on budgetary provisions.

According to the Chief Minister, the expressways, operational since 2018, have created a protective traffic ring around Delhi through Haryana and Uttar Pradesh. She said the payment would resolve long-pending inter-state financial issues and improve coordination with the Centre for future infrastructure projects.

The project has already reduced travel time and helped improve air quality by limiting the entry of heavy diesel vehicles into the city. CM criticised the previous administration for neglecting long-term development, alleging that delays in fund release stalled progress for years. She asserted that with this decision, infrastructure projects will no longer suffer due to financial constraints or political deadlock. The Chief Minister expressed confidence that the move will accelerate Delhi's progress towards becoming a "smart and pollution-free" capital and reiterated her government's commitment to working in coordination with the Centre.

## US Ship Carrying LPG Reaches India Amid Middle East Crisis

**Before the ship from the US, named Aqua Titan, reached India, another vessel carrying Russian crude oil also reached Mangalore.**

**New Delhi.(Agency)**

Amid the global supply chain crisis, a large cargo ship carrying liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) from the US has arrived at the Mangalore Port in the

country. Pyxis Pioneer cargo ship carrying LPG from the US state of Texas, successfully docked at the port.

Before the ship from the US, named Aqua Titan, reached India, another vessel carrying Russian crude oil also reached Mangalore, reports.

This particular vessel was stationed about

18 nautical miles away from the port. The single-point mooring system will be used to transfer the oil to the pipeline system and take it to MRPL.

The Russian crude oil arrived after the US issued a temporary general license,

permitting the sale of Russian crude oil already stranded at sea as of March 12.

The move is aimed at stabilising global fuel prices amid the tensions in the Middle East.



Meanwhile, India has sharply increased its purchases of Russian oil. The move came shortly after the United States allowed India to temporarily boost its imports of Russian oil.

The surge in buying is aimed at managing

supply concerns after disruptions in Middle Eastern oil supplies due to the ongoing conflict involving Iran.

Earlier, the Indian-flagged liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) tanker 'Nanda Devi' arrived at Vadinar Port in Gujarat, becoming the second LPG carrier to reach the west coast this week after 'Shivalik' docked at Mundra Port.

Both vessels transported critical LPG supplies to India following an unusually hazardous passage through the Strait of Hormuz, where maritime traffic has been disrupted by the ongoing conflict involving Iran, the US and Israel. A total of 22

Indian-flagged vessels with 611 Indian seafarers remain in the western Persian Gulf region and DG Shipping is monitoring the situation in coordination with ship owners, RPSL agencies and Indian Missions.

## Ticket Prices Likely To Soar As Centre Lifts Domestic Airfare Cap

**The cap had been imposed after ticket prices rose following the IndiGo disruptions in December last year.**

**New Delhi.(Agency)**

Domestic airfares are set to be deregulated from Monday, with the government removing the temporary cap on ticket prices, opening the door for airlines to freely set fares amid rising operating costs. The move comes months after the Centre had imposed a ceiling on domestic fares in December 2025 following widespread flight disruptions, particularly by IndiGo, which had triggered a sharp spike in ticket prices across the sector.

With the cap now lifted, airlines will no longer be bound by the earlier upper limit of approximately Rs 18,000 (based on distance) for a one-way economy ticket

and can price tickets according to demand and market conditions.

In its order removing the limit, the Civil Aviation ministry said "excessive or unjustified surge in fares during periods of peak demand, disruptions, or exigencies, will be viewed seriously" and that fare caps or other interventions can be reintroduced "if required in public interest". The fare caps had been brought in as an emergency

measure to protect passengers from sudden price surges after mass cancellations led to reduced capacity and

inflated ticket prices.

The removal also comes against the backdrop of increasing aviation turbine fuel (ATF) prices and geopolitical

tensions impacting flight operations, both of which have significantly raised airline expenses.

Officials said the decision aims to restore normal market dynamics in the aviation sector, allowing carriers greater pricing flexibility as the industry stabilises after the disruption-led volatility.

Airlines had been pushing for the removal, citing mounting financial pressure. Industry body Federation of Indian Airlines had flagged that continued fare restrictions were leading to revenue losses at a time when carriers are already grappling with rising fuel costs and operational challenges.



## Act responsibly: Govt withdraws domestic airfare caps imposed after IndiGo fiasco

**The government has withdrawn temporary domestic airfare caps from March 23, 2026, citing stabilised operations and restored capacity. Airlines have been asked to maintain fair, transparent pricing, with authorities warning of strict action if fares rise excessively.**

**New Delhi.(Agency)**

The Ministry of Civil Aviation has withdrawn the temporary fare caps imposed on domestic airfares, citing stabilisation in flight operations across the sector.

In the order, Ministry said the caps, which were introduced on December 6, 2025, were aimed at containing abnormal surges in ticket prices following large-scale flight disruptions by IndiGo, while also safeguarding passenger interests and ensuring affordability during a period of constrained capacity. With operations now normalised and capacity restored, the government has decided to withdraw the fare caps with effect from March 23, 2026.

However, the Ministry has directed airlines to maintain pricing discipline

and act responsibly. It emphasised that fares must remain reasonable, transparent, and aligned with market conditions, ensuring that passenger interests are not adversely impacted.

The government also warned that any instance of excessive or unjustified surge in airfares, especially during peak demand periods, disruptions, or exigencies, will be viewed seriously. It said that airfare trends will continue to be monitored closely on a real-time basis.

The Ministry further said that it reserves the right to take appropriate regulatory or administrative measures, including the possible reintroduction of

fare controls or other interventions, if required in the public interest.



The order was issued with the approval of the competent authority and has been forwarded to the Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) with a request to

monitor airfares across the sector.

The Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) imposed emergency caps last year on domestic airfares following one of the country's worst aviation disruptions in recent years. The move came after IndiGo cancelled thousands of flights due to a pilot-rostering crisis, triggering a surge in ticket prices on busy routes and forcing the government to intervene.

Under the earlier imposed fare caps, one-way economy fares for flights up to 500 km couldn't exceed Rs 7,500. Routes between 1,000 and 1,500 km, such as Delhi-Mumbai, were capped at Rs 15,000, while fares for sectors over 1,500 km have been set at Rs 18,000.

NEWS BOX

## IPL teams should deduct player's money if he is unable to fulfill role: R Ashwin

New Delhi. (Agency)

Should IPL teams be allowed to deduct money from players' wages if they are unable to fulfill their role for the side? R Ashwin feels so and he used the example of Cameron Green to drive home the point. Green was bought by KKR for Rs. 25.2 crores, making him the most expensive foreign player in the history of the tournament. The Australian all-rounder is expected to fill the void left by Andre Russell, meaning that Kolkata will look to him to deliver with bat and ball. However, since his return from his back injury, Green has been cautiously used by Australia with the ball. During the 2025-26 Ashes series, the all-rounder bowled just 61.5 overs across nine innings. In the T20 World Cup 2026 campaign, Green was used by Australia for just 3.1 overs in four matches.

Speaking on his YouTube channel, Ashwin wondered if Green will be able to bowl four overs during an IPL game in the upcoming season, given that he may be told by Cricket Australia to manage his workload. "There is a



question about Cameron Green. Will Cricket Australia allow him to bowl all four overs? That is also a possibility. In this scenario, the Australian board is saying to Green that he can play in the IPL, but Test cricket is very important for us, so you can play only this much of workload," Ashwin said. "IPL teams also should have an opportunity where if he bowls only two overs, then they should deduct (Rs) 2 crores. Why not? If he (a player) is not able to deliver his four overs, then you should have the right to cut their money, right?"

"IF THERE IS A RESTRICTION, THEN CUT THE MONEY"

Ashwin also said that Green was roped in to fulfill both roles and the owners will be left disappointed if he remains restricted.

"When you came into the IPL auction, the expectation was that you will bowl all four overs, and also bat. If there is no restriction on bowling, then great, but if there is restriction the team should be allowed to cut from the contract money," Ashwin elaborated.

## Bowls like Murali, inspired by Ashwin: Tale of young CSK net bowler Jarren

CHENNAI. (Agency)

Jarren Bacher, 22, is part of the Chennai Super Kings camp as a net-bowler. Hailing from South Africa, the off-spinner was part of the Johannesburg Super Kings set-up in the SA20 which concluded earlier this year. Cricket runs in the blood of young Jarren. He is grandson of Dr. Ali Bacher, who played Test cricket and was a noted administrator.

The off-spinner explained how his bowling action is similar to Sri Lankan great Muttiah Muralitharan. "Yes, I bowl the doosra quite regularly. I have a similar action to that of Muralitharan in that I release it (ball) from the back of my hand. I have hypermobility in all of my joints which allows me to bowl the doosra with a straight arm. So my stock delivery can come in or away just depending



on the batter," he said at Guru Nanak college, where he was the chief guest of the inter-college cricket meet. In a country that is home to great fast bowlers like Allan Donald, Makhaya Ntini, Shaun Pollock, Dale Steyn, Morne Morkel, Kagiso Rabada, Jarred was captivated by off-spin. He recollected the time when he chose to become an off-spinner. "I was a wicketkeeper batsman until 14 and there was a better wicketkeeper in my side and I was struggling to get into the team, so I took up bowling and I realized that my bowling was a little bit unique in that I could bowl the doosra and from there I sort of fell in love with bowling and stopped spending time batting," revealed the youngster.

He also spoke on his time so far at the CSK camp ahead of IPL 2026. "So far, I haven't bowled to Shivam Dube because he only arrived yesterday and same with Sanju Samson.

# Shreyanka Patil, stronger and wiser, fights past pain to reignite T20 World Cup flame

**In an exclusive interview with India Today Digital, Shreyanka Patil opened up on battling one of the toughest phases of her career, with multiple injuries leaving her full of doubt. Having recently made her India comeback on the Australia tour, Shreyanka now hopes to help India chase their maiden Women's T20 World Cup title**

New Delhi. (Agency)

After a forgettable start to the WPL, Shreyanka scripted a remarkable comeback, won the Purple Cap, and looked destined for greater things. It felt like the world was finally opening up for her, like this was the year she would truly arrive. But just when the sky seemed within reach, everything began to slip away. A fractured finger during the Asia Cup halted her momentum, and though she recovered in time to play the T20 World Cup, India's campaign ended in heartbreak. What followed was even more heartbreaking for

the all-rounder. Grade 3 shin splints in both legs forced her out of the game for months. Just when she had endured the grind of rehab and begun to believe the worst was behind her, the injury resurfaced, pushing her comeback further away and eventually ruling her out of WPL 2025.

For someone who had looked ready to conquer the stage, it was a devastating experience.

And yet, it is often in those darkest phases that athletes are truly forged. The hurt did not break her - it shaped her, leaving behind a cricketer who is not just gifted, but far stronger than before.

"In that one-year period, I learned a lot. There were disappointments and ups and downs, but what I gained as a person is greater maturity and an understanding of how to navigate difficult situations. Physically, I wasn't very fit, and mentally I felt low, so I had to figure out how to come out of it on my own," Shreyanka told India Today in an exclusive interview.

MEDITATION, VISUALISATION AND DISCOVERY Shreyanka had the support of her loved ones around her, but the hardest battles were the ones she had to fight within herself. Her comeback was not just about

recovering from injury; it was a deeply personal journey of pain, patience, and self-discovery. There were no ready-made answers, no quick fixes. Instead, she had to find her own way through the darkness, turning to visualisation, meditation, and learning how to stay calm while navigating



the uncertainty of injuries.

"It wasn't a clear-cut answer that I could get from someone else—it was a personal journey. I experimented with different approaches: visualisation, meeting new people, meditating, staying calm, and managing my injuries. Through trial and error, I discovered my own way forward. I

learned a lot from my mistakes, both as an individual and as a cricketer," Shreyanka said. "Being injured and mentally down was challenging because I couldn't do what I love most. During that year, I often asked myself, 'What's next? Will I be able to play again?'"

"As a cricketer, once you know you've faced and overcome a difficult period, returning to the field makes you truly grateful," Shreyanka added.

### THE TOUGH COMEBACK

After an agonising 11-month injury layoff, Shreyanka finally found her way back in September 2025, turning out for Barbados Royals in the Women's Caribbean Premier League. Soon after, she watched from afar as India lifted the Women's World Cup.

She finally wore India colours again in February 2026, ending a painful 16-month wait. But the comeback was far from easy. After picking up 2 for 24 against the Governor General XI, she endured a difficult return at the Sydney Cricket Ground and was dropped for the second T20I in Canberra. Just when doubts could have returned, Shreyanka found strength in coach Arjun Dev, whose guidance helped her stay afloat.

## Chelsea thrashed by Everton, Liverpool's top 4 hopes dented as Brighton win 2-1

New Delhi. (Agency)

Liverpool's bid for a Champions League spot suffered a setback as Brighton and Hove Albion secured a 2-1 Premier League victory on Saturday. Danny Welbeck scored in each half, handing the reigning champions their 10th league defeat of the season. Everton maintained their European ambitions with a 3-0 thrashing of Chelsea, inflicting a fourth consecutive defeat on the visitors across all competitions. Fulham also bounced back to beat Burnley 3-1 after falling behind. Brentford missed an opportunity to strengthen their European prospects, settling for a goalless draw against Leeds United. At the Amex Stadium, Liverpool stayed fifth with 49 points, having earned only one point from their last three league games. Their performance was further hampered by an early injury to Hugo Ekitike. Welbeck scored both goals for Brighton, who are 10th on 43 points. He

opened the scoring after 14 minutes with a header assisted by Diego Gomez's cross. Milos Kerkez equalised following a mistake from Lewis Dunk within the first half, to give some hope for Arne Slot's



side. Welbeck restored Brighton's lead shortly after halftime with a VAR-confirmed tap-in, marking his 12th league goal of the season. This was Liverpool's 10th defeat of the campaign as they failed to capitalise on Manchester United's draw against Bournemouth on Friday.

### CHELSEA'S WOES CONTINUE

At Goodison Park, Beto scored twice as Everton climbed to eighth with 46 points, while Chelsea remained sixth on 48. Beto's first goal came in the 33rd minute from a pass by James Garner, and he doubled the lead shortly after the hour mark by slotting the ball past goalkeeper Robert Sanchez. Iliman Ndiaye sealed Everton's victory 14 minutes from time with a curled finish, delivering their biggest win over Chelsea since 1987 and their first back-to-back home wins at the new Hill Dickinson Stadium. Fulham's win at Craven Cottage lifted them to ninth place with 44 points. Burnley remain 19th, nine points from safety. Zian Flemming put Burnley ahead on the hour, but Fulham responded with two goals in six minutes. Teenager Josh King capitalised on a Martin Dubravka error before Harry Wilson scored his 10th league goal of the season. Raul Jimenez added a late penalty after Josh Laurent was sent off.

## Will Sanju Samson be CSK's wicketkeeper in IPL 2026? Ashwin's post suggests otherwise

New Delhi. (Agency)

Ravichandran Ashwin has sparked speculation about Sanju Samson's role at Chennai Super Kings after sharing glimpses of the wicketkeeper-batter practising high catches in the outfield with no keeping gloves in sight.

In a post on X, Ashwin shared photos of Samson working on his catching skills in the deep under the guidance of fielding coach James Foster. He noted that the session was not just routine warm-up catches but specifically high balls in the deep, a detail that caught the attention of fans and cricket followers. He posed the question to fans about whether Samson might be playing purely as an outfielder for the upcoming season, captioning the post with "Indications or just gradually easing in?"

The question has since set off a wave of speculation. With Samson's trade from Rajasthan Royals to Chennai Super Kings, many fans and experts had assumed a natural transition was on the cards, with Samson taking



over wicketkeeping duties from MS Dhoni. The 44-year-old Dhoni, widely expected to be in the final stretch of his IPL career, seemed the obvious candidate to hand over the gloves. But if Ashwin's post is anything to go by, that may not be the plan at all, and Dhoni could yet play a role from behind the stumps, perhaps in one final curtain call for the Chennai faithful.

### Samson's World Cup Heroics Add to the Intrigue

Samson arrived at CSK on the back of a stunning T20 World Cup 2026 campaign, where he was named Player of the Tournament. Despite not featuring in every game, he proved decisive in the final three matches, all of which were must-win situations for India. Stepping up under pressure each time, he scored three consecutive fifties to help India lift the trophy, firmly cementing his reputation as one of the most impactful batters in the country's white-ball setup.

## Ishan Kishan gets fiery send off from own teammate during SRH intra-squad game

**SRH camp sees a heated moment as Ishan Kishan gets a fiery send-off from teammate Zeeshan Ansari during an intra-squad match ahead of IPL 2026. Kishan has been named as the interim captain for the first few games for SRH.**

NEW DELHI. (Agency)

Is there trouble in the SRH camp ahead of the IPL 2026 season? The intra-squad match on Saturday, March 21, saw a heated moment as the team's interim captain Ishan Kishan was given a fiery send-off by his own teammate Zeeshan Ansari. The incident

occurred in the eighth over of the SRH B innings with Kishan and Liam Livingstone in full flow. The wicketkeeper took apart Ansari for 20 runs before the spinner got the last laugh and dismissed the SRH interim skipper. While celebrations are usually muted



during intra-squad matches, Ansari wasn't happy with the fact that Kishan went after him in the over and gave a fiery send-off to him. Ansari was angry and kept signalling to Kishan to head to the pavilion and the pair

exchanged a few words as well. Kishan was able to see the funny side of things and was laughing as he was making his way off the field. You can see the full video below: While there was speculation on social media hinting at issues within the camp, it seems like it was just in the heat of the moment.

### KISHAN, ABHISHEK IMPRESS DURING MATCH

The match on Saturday saw both Abhishek Sharma and Kishan impress with the bat, giving SRH hope heading into the IPL 2026 opener against RCB. Abhishek, who struggled for form during the T20 World Cup, scored a quickfire 94. Kishan was dismissed by Ansari on 72 off just 24 balls as Hyderabad fans will be happy to see the interim captain and vice-captain step up before the first match of the season.

SRH will face RCB in a southern derby on March 28 in Bengaluru to start the IPL 2026 campaign.

## Liverpool, Chelsea slip up in Champions League race

**Arsenal are hot favourites to land the Premier League title for the first time since 2004, with second-placed Manchester City well clear of city rivals Manchester United.**

LONDON. (Agency)

Chelsea failed to take advantage of another Liverpool stumble in the race to qualify for next season's Champions League on Saturday, hammered 3-0 by Everton to remain outside the top five. Champions Liverpool had slipped to a 2-1 defeat at Brighton in the early kick-off -- their 10th loss of a dismal Premier League title defence. But Chelsea's thumping reverse at the Hill Dickinson Stadium gives renewed hope to a clutch of clubs below them, including Everton themselves, Brentford and Fulham, who beat relegation-bound Burnley 3-1. The top five teams in the Premier League

are almost guaranteed to play Champions League football next season due to the strong showing of English clubs in Europe.

Arsenal are hot favourites to land the Premier League title for the first time since 2004, with second-placed Manchester City well clear of city rivals Manchester United. United, who drew 2-2 at Bournemouth on Friday, are four points ahead of fourth-placed Aston Villa, who host struggling West Ham on Sunday.

Liverpool arrived on the sunny south coast after completing a morale-boosting 4-1 aggregate win over Galatasaray at Anfield in midweek to reach the Champions League quarter-finals. But they were well beaten by Fabian Hurzeler's hungry Brighton, for whom evergreen forward Danny Welbeck scored twice, either side of the visitors. Liverpool boss Arne Slot pointed to key injury absentees and a swift turnaround from Champions League commitments to explain the damaging defeat. The Dutchman was without goalkeeper Alisson Becker and forward Mohamed Salah at the Amex Stadium, while top-scorer Hugo Ekitike limped off early. Defeat left the reigning

champions with only one point from the past nine after they conceded late goals in a 2-1 loss at bottom club Wolves and last weekend's 1-1 draw at home to relegation-threatened Tottenham. "Brighton away, that's

daunting quarter-finals to come against Paris Saint-Germain and Manchester City.

### Chelsea slump

Chelsea collapsed to their fourth straight defeat in all competitions against Everton, giving new coach Liam Rosenior a headache as he tries to salvage their season.

The Blues had the chance to go fourth, four points behind United, but they blew it in spectacular style after being outperformed and outworked by David Moyes's men.

Everton's win, courtesy of two goals from Beto and a stunning curler from Iliman Ndiaye, lifted them within three points of neighbours Liverpool with a home Merseyside derby to come next month. Rosenior, who replaced Enzo Maresca in January, must find a way to lift his expensively assembled squad, who won the Club World Cup and the UEFA Conference League last season.



a difficult game for any team, especially if you miss out on a few very influential players," said Slot. "Of course now, looking at the league table, this loss hurts a lot and it should hurt us a lot."

Liverpool are still alive in the Champions League and the FA Cup but face the prospect of ending the season trophyless, with

**Recently, I drove down to Pushkar from Delhi and stayed there for 2 days and unlike other destinations that I cover, there wasn't a lot of sightseeing that I did.**



# Pushkar

## Religion, mythology and psychedelia

Pushkar has 3 or 4 places of interest, but the beauty is that one can spend a lot of time just seeing these places only. Doing a solo trip always makes you connect with your inner self and a place like Pushkar was the perfect choice of destination! Why? Here's a destination that's of significant religious importance for Indians, has the most fascinating mythology attached with it and the town itself looks like a psychedelic cross between Banaras and Tel Aviv. Let me take you through my Pushkar trip then!

### Climat

Any place in Rajasthan is best visited during the winters and Pushkar is no exception. While summers can be scorching hot, between end

November to February, the afternoon sun will more or less blind you than burn you out!

### History

One of the oldest cities of India, Pushkar city is associated with Lord Brahma (The Creator Of The Universe) and a fascinating mythological story. As the legend goes, Brahma was in search of a place for his Mahayagna and he found the city of Pushkar suitable. But in the city of Pushkar there was a demon, Vajranash

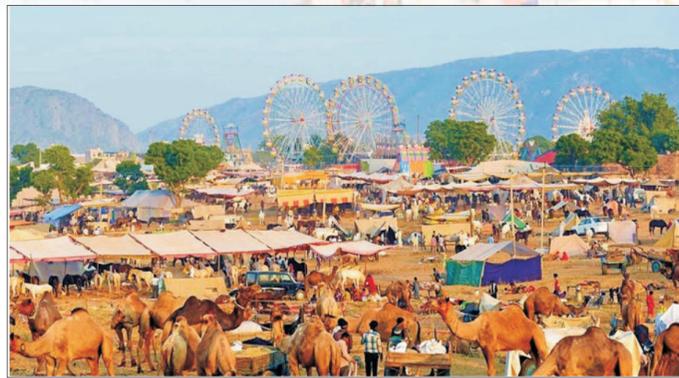
who was killing people for fun. Thus the Lord intoned a mantra on a lotus flower that instantly killed the demon. During this process a part of the Lotus flower fell in Pushkar and gave birth to the Pushkar lake. After the killing of vajranash, Brahma performed a yagna to protect the place from demons. The consort of Brahma, Saraswati, was also needed to offer Ahuti for the yagna but since she was not there that time so Gayatri, a Gurjar girl, was married to Brahma and performed the yagna. This act made first wife of Brahma, Saraswati very angry and she cursed Brahma saying that he would be worshiped in Pushkar only. From that day on people say that the only Brahma Temple in the World exists in Pushkar!

### Food

Pushkar is strictly vegetarian so meat lovers beware! While some of the restaurants do serve egg, any form of meat is a strict nono. However the quality of food is really good weather you are having Dal Chawal or a woodfire Pizza. Due to the huge influx of Israeli tourist, many restaurants serve more Continental food that Indian food. Some restaurants have the menu written in both English and Hebrew, which reminds me of certain beaches of South Goa where its Russian!

### Shopping

While on the Walk from the Entry of the ghats to



the Brahma Temple, there are lots of handicraft shops selling beautiful ethnic footwear, bags, bed sheets. If you are a good negotiator, you can get some genuinely good stuff! One tip though: First talk around with a few shopkeepers and get a feel of the rates and then buy, because many of the shops want to make a quick buck by quoting high prices. I found the right shop to buy footwear for my wife and the shop owner was an elderly woman who proudly said that they are

Marwaris and they have been making footwear for over 100 years.

### Places of interest

**The 52 Ghats:** The most important thing to do in Pushkar is to spend substantial amount of time at the Ghats. An early morning session and an evening sessions are about perfect. There are about 52 ghats around the Pushkar Lake. Jagannath Ghat, Nagar Ghat, Chir Ghat and many more. The otherwise serene ghats have though one nuisance - the Pandas (The

men who perform religious ceremonies). The problem is that most of these are people looking to earn an easy buck with the pilgrims. They will conduct a small puja and then ask for a fee. Now how do you avoid these Pandas and enjoy the beauty of the lake. One trick is that befriend one of them in the beginning only and tell him that you will see thr ghats and offer a Puja at the end. In this way, any other Panda that comes to you can be told that you are already booked. I applied this and was left quite at peace most of the time.

Walk around the Pushkar town: Walking around Pushkar town is a must do because it's seldom that you can see such amalgamated mix of people and food and signboards.

Pushkar is a great place to unwind and procrastinate for a couple of days or if you are in the introspective mood, a couple of weeks. The place has a natural rugged beauty with an enchanting lake, nice simple Rajasthani people, spicy but tasty food and loads of similar people around you in search of inner peace. As an Indian ad says, Push Karo, Khush raho (Push the Button and Be Happy), I guess an entry into Pushkar makes you happy mentally and spiritually!

### Seasonal attractions

The Pushkar Fair or the Pushkar Mela, is an annual five day camel Fair and is actually the world's largest camel fair.

Estonia had never featured on my 'must-see countries' list. Why then, would I go to this far-flung, erstwhile Soviet state? Well, my aunt had a conference in Tallinn and she asked me if I would like to free-load. So I said yes. Shamelessly. Never mind the fact that I wasn't expecting much from the city. I mean, how different could it be from the cliché of a struggling Soviet offshoot, fraught by the shadows of its past? But a free ride is a free ride. And so, in Tallinn, I promptly landed.

I slowly scanned the view of the city from our hotel window. Grey skies. Grey buildings. Desolate streets. So far, the city was living up to my preconceived notions. Then suddenly, as my gaze shifted to the right, a burst of colour dotted my view. I

could see vibrant, red-tiled spires soaring in stark contrast to the rest of the city's modern landscape. I was told later that I had been staring at the city's Old Town.

### The old town

The next morning, while my aunt toiled away at the conference, I set out on foot to explore Tallinn's fairytale like Old Town,

one of the most well preserved gothic towns in the world. As I passed between a pair of imposing, ivy-covered towers at the beginning of Viru Street — the main archway into Old Town, I got the distinct impression that I had dived from the 21st century straight into the heart of a bygone era. I ambled through winding cobbled streets towards the Town Hall, which was flanked by a large market square and many charming open-air cafes. I shuffled within earshot of a tourist guide and overheard him tell his group that the site had witnessed a memorable execution centuries ago. "A priest was beheaded here for killing a waitress in the late 1600s," the guide bellowed. "What was his crime?" he was asked. "She brought him a really bad omelette," he said solemnly. I decided that I liked this guide, with his penchant for drama. So I discreetly hot-footed after him,

# Tallinn

## up a good score

*Be it fairytale-like charm, surrender to Tallinn's magic and lose track of time.*

as he shepherded his group through the heady cocktail of spire-crowned architecture and twisting alleys to the Russian Orthodox Alexander Nevski Cathedral. "The classic onion-domed 19th-century Church has become the city's tourist symbol," the guide rumbled. "But nationalist Estonians are not happy because they regard it as a symbol of Soviet oppression."

The group fervently nodded. So did I. Minutes later, he turned around and huffed towards a church with a soaring spire. I trailed him as he chattered to his group that the 13th-century Olaf's church was the tallest building in the world till a couple of centuries ago. Over the centuries, unfortunately, its poor spire had been repeatedly ambushed by lightning, thereby reducing its original height. I panted all the way up to the top of the spire on the heels of the heaving group. The view was magnificent, but with vertigo lurking around the corner, I quickly wobbled down and waited for the drama king and his subjects.

Our next stop was the ex-KGB Estonian headquarters outside the Old Town. I suddenly felt as if I were at large in a Robert

Ludlum novel, as I shadowed the guide round the spooky building like a shifty spy. "This," he boomed dramatically, "is where the KGB tortured suspected rebels." He then theatrically wagged a finger towards the basement windows. "They are covered up with concrete to suppress the sound of screams," he said, his eyes goggling. I shuddered. So did the rest of the group. Minutes later, the guide, the group and the budding stalker stood outside the gigantic Hotel Viru. "This was a notorious den of Cold War intrigue," I heard him say. "Every room was tapped and monitored by the KGB."

### The singing revolution

Later that evening, I visited the Song Festival Grounds with my sight-seeing averse aunt. While she grumpily stood shivering in a corner, I hung on to the words of a local who mentioned that the grounds had been host to over 30,000 music artistes from all over the world and that it was here that the Singing Revolution or the patriotic, night-singing demonstrations took place in the late 1980's, fuelling Estonia's liberation from Russia.

The next day, I went back to Tallinn's roots, the Old Town Square and sat in a cafe, sipping wine and soaking in the sun, which had, for a few brief minutes



managed to burst through the clouds. The waiter brought me the menu, with a pamphlet stuck in between its pages. Culture Calls, the pamphlet screamed. Below was a list of more than 250 cultural events, dotting Tallinn's epoch-making annual calendar. The city, clearly had a new reason to celebrate, as Europe's Cultural Capital for the year. I realised two things then - that first impressions aren't necessarily lasting and that it wasn't just me enjoying a moment in the sun; it was all of Tallinn.

### Highlights

**Museum of Occupations:** Brings alive life under Soviet and Nazi regimes.

**Kadriorg Palace:** The majestic summer palace of the Tsar. A portion of it is closed to the public and is occupied by the Office of the President.

**Open Air Museum:** An open complex of Estonian rural architecture from the Tsarist era.

**Getting around:** Tallinn is a well connected city - you can avail of its trams, trolleybuses or taxis



# Sreeleela

**Nearly Quit Acting Due To Trolling; Raashii Khanna Says Online Negativity Has Intensified**

The leading ladies of Ustaad Bhagat Singh, Raashii Khanna and Sreeleela, have both been in the industry for a while now. The actors, who are paired alongside Pawan Kalyan in the big-ticket Ugadi release, have built flourishing careers of their own. However, Sreeleela, who is set to star opposite Kartik Aaryan in Anurag Basu's next, has now opened up about a time when she almost considered quitting acting due to online trolling.

Both Sreeleela and Raashii Khanna were present for a chat with anchor Samu to promote their film, Ustaad Bhagat Singh. During the interaction, they were asked about dealing with social media trolling. Sreeleela spoke candidly about a phase when she was on the verge of quitting, while Raashii shared that



things have only worsened over time.

When asked if she was ever afraid of trolling, Sreeleela said, "I did when I first started in this industry. I used to feel so bad about it; I would cry. I even told my mother, 'I don't think I'll be able to do this. Should I go back to school or college?' I was so sensitive, but now I'm immune to it."

Raashii added, "I feel it a little bit now because the trolling has gotten intense. I think people pass judgment without really knowing the truth, and I have a problem with that. The character I've built for so long, I just fear that..."

Sreeleela, however, believes that audiences today are more discerning. "I feel like people today have an intellect of their own. So even when they see negativity, they think a little," she said, as Raashii underlined her point, adding, "People write anything just for clickbait, though."

**Sreeleela and Raashii Khanna on the work front**

Sreeleela, who debuted in 2019, was recently in the news for graduating with an MBBS degree. The actor will next be

seen in Dhanush's upcoming film and will also make her Bollywood debut with Anurag Basu's next.

Raashii Khanna, on the other hand, debuted in 2013 and will next be seen in Farzi Season 2, Rowdy and Co, Ilaakhon Mein Ek, Bridge, and an untitled film directed by Anees Bazmee.



**Ranveer Singh, Alia Bhatt's Takht To Be Revived Amid Dhurandhar 2's Success? Karan Johar Reveals Truth**



Karan Johar's grand historical drama Takht may have been shelved for now, but it's certainly not forgotten. Originally announced in 2020 with a star-studded ensemble including Ranveer Singh, Alia Bhatt, Kareena Kapoor Khan, Vicky Kaushal, Janhvi Kapoor, and Anil Kapoor, the film was slated for a Christmas 2021 release. However, it quietly disappeared from Dharma Productions' lineup.

However, after the mega success of Ranveer Singh's Dhurandhar and Dhurandhar 2, fans were curious whether Takht would see a revival. In a recent chat with Hindustan Times, Karan Johar confirmed that while there are no derivatives or versions of Takht being made currently, the film has also not been permanently shelved. Karan Johar said, "...There is no derivative of Takht being made... There is no revival of Takht currently on the cards. But Takht is a film I will definitely make while I can still breathe and stand on my feet. I consider it one of the strongest screenplays developed, written by Sumit Roy—full credit to him. I believe it is the best-written piece of work in my career, and I hope to make that film one day."

Last year, in a chat with Galatta Plus, Karan Johar broke his silence on what went wrong with the film. Without delving into the details, the filmmaker acknowledged that "multiple factors" kept the ambitious project from taking off. "It's a film on my table, and I will make it one day," Karan, however, asserted, reigniting fan hopes.

Karan called the story rich and complex. Set against the backdrop of Mughal politics, Takht would explore the intense power struggle between brothers Dara Shikoh and Aurangzeb. Originally announced with a teaser featuring a regal throne, Takht had all the makings of a magnum opus. Its sudden halt left fans puzzled, especially given the star power and grandeur associated with the project. Now, with Karan confirming that the film is merely paused and not cancelled, hope has been rekindled among Bollywood enthusiasts. Whether it's the scale, cast, or the compelling historical drama at its heart, Takht remains one of the most anticipated Dharma projects yet to materialise.

**Sara Ali Khan Steps Out With Palak Tiwari Amid Orry Friendship Controversy**



The duo was seen giggling and exchanging smiles, while the papas clicked them. Actor Ibrahim Ali Khan was also spotted at the same theatre just minutes earlier. The video shows Sara Ali Khan walking ahead in a flowing blue ethnic outfit, while Palak follows behind in a casual black top paired with denims. Interestingly, Ibrahim Ali Khan was also seen arriving at the venue earlier, dressed in a hoodie, maintaining a low profile.

His presence has once again fueled chatter around his rumoured relationship with Palak Tiwari.

The two have often been linked together, but till date



neither Ibrahim nor Palak has ever publicly confirmed their relationship. Sara Ali Khan, on the other hand, shares a friendly bond with Palak, and is often spotted together in social settings.

Adding to the buzz, Ibrahim's aunt Saba Ali Khan, on account of Palak's birthday in October, had shared a birthday post for her on her social media account, subtly acknowledging their closeness.

For the uninitiated, Sara and Ibrahim are the children of actor Saif Ali Khan and his former wife Amrita Singh, while Palak is the daughter of television star Shweta Tiwari.

Talking about the controversy, Orhan Awatramani, popularly known as Orry, stirred headlines when his close friendship with Ibrahim reportedly fell apart.

While Orry did not take names directly, his statements were widely interpreted as indirect jabs at Sara Ali Khan, Amrita Singh and Palak. The alleged fallout made headlines for weeks earlier this year, after which Sara and Ibrahim unfollowed Orry on social media platforms.

# Tamannaah Bhatia

**Completes 21 Years As An Actor, Co-Star Says 'Truly An Inspiring Achievement Sweetie'**



Actor, director and producer Vishal has now congratulated actress Tamannaah on completing 21 years in the film industry, saying it was "truly an inspiring achievement". Taking to his Instagram page to pen a post of appreciation to his co-star in director Sundar C's upcoming film 'Purushan', Vishal wrote, "Congratulations to darling Tamanna for completing 21 glorious years in Indian cinema as an actress/lead performer. No mean feat. Wow. This is truly an inspiring achievement, Sweetie. And still rocking on the silver screen."

He went on to say, "May you continue this lovely, amazing journey and continue to enthral audiences wide and far. Would proudly say that you are one of my closest friends in the film industry who hasn't changed one bit since I first met you, until this day and our friendship remains intact for the last 20 years. We have seen it all in these years. Success, failure, ups and downs. People have come and gone. But we remain the same, like school besties. Keep going, gal."

He concluded the post saying, "No stopping you and always a pleasure sharing screen space with you. More power, positivity and success to you as always. God bless."

Meanwhile, the unit of director Sundar C's 'Purushan', featuring actor Vishal in the lead, is to head to Kolkata for its next schedule after shooting songs in Goa.

Says a source close to the actor, "The Kolkata schedule is likely to be around 20 days." It may be recalled that the makers of the film had announced the film's title in

January this year on the occasion of director Sundar C's birthday.

Taking to his X timeline to share a link to a promo of the film, Vishal had then said, "...wishing my darling brother a very, very happy entertaining and fun-filled birthday."

The actor, who went on to call Sundar C as his favourite director, added, "... I am super happy to kickstart my next film #Vishal36 titled as #Purushan with him for



the 4th time after the grand success of #MadhaGajaRaja!" A title promo released by the makers showed Vishal playing the husband of Tamannaah in the film. The promo showed Vishal appearing to be a docile, subservient husband. The film, which will have music by Hip Hop Tamizha, will have cinematography by Gopi Amarnath and editing by Roger. The film is being produced by A C S Arun Kumar.

6 steps to create a cosy

# Living room



In a home, the living area, or the receiving room, is one of the busiest rooms. It's also the room, guests initially see and form a lasting impression about the home. Hence, the living

area should be well-decorated, well-laid out and inviting to guests and family members. It should project a homely, comfortable yet elegant image. Decorating your home, particularly your living

area, allows you to combine creativity, elegance and good taste. Make good use of space, accessories and furniture available to you so you can create a living area that is

inviting, relaxing, homey and elegant.

**Window treatments:**

Are your drapes older than you are? May be it's time for a change. If you want to make your room less — or more — formal, window treatments can do the trick. Look through catalogs and magazines for window treatments you like, and then figure out how to make them yourself. An inexpensive fabric draped over a new curtain rod may be all you need. And don't forget to consider sheets or even your old dupattas, as window treatments. They're inexpensive and you can easily find something to complement your decor.

**Lamps and lighting:**

Overall lighting sets the mood for any room. Step back and review the lighting in your living room. Most seating should have light available from a lamp or overhead fixture. While you're looking, check out your lampshades. Do they complement each other? Purchasing a new shade is a quick and inexpensive way to update a lamp. If you have houseplants, consider adding twinkle lights. These lights add warm, subdued lighting when used alone, and accent light any time.

**Colours:**

Colours have psychological effects on people and their moods. When applied in your living area, colours can intimidate, invite or irritate. If you want your living area to be warm and inviting, then use bright orange, yellow or green. Green has several shades and it's one of the most flexible colours around. And orange sofa can be teamed with a red carpet. Whatever colour you pick for your walls, make sure your carpets and furniture are coordinated.

**Photographs and artwork:**

Try breaking up the monotony of books on a shelf by tucking photos between stacks of books, or propping photos on easels for display. You can also slip pictures under glass table tops. A picture ledge (a narrow shelf specifically made for pictures) is a great place for displaying all sorts of artwork — and it keeps you from covering your walls with nail holes. Consider grouping pieces



together for an eye-catching focal point.

**Rearranging furniture:**

Your lifestyle or taste determines what the focal point of your living area is. If you have a piano, and this is the focal point of your living area, your furniture could be set around it. When rearranging your furniture, also consider traffic in your



living area. Does the arrangement of your furniture allow free movement and flow? Does it give an uncluttered look?

**Carpets and rugs:**

A carpet or an area rug can be an easy way to mark off a conversation area in your living room. You can angle the rug for extra decorating drama. A brown floor can look nice with a dark chocolate carpet. You can also add a comfy throw on your sofa and make just about any piece of furniture look like a great place to curl up.

## 7 Gifts to pick for baby showers

It's the season of baby shower parties, and you've been invited to one such party thrown for a mum-to-be. You hesitate as you are not too sure how to go about it once you're there. What bothers you most about it is the gifting part — should you gift something traditional? Or should you just give money so that the mum-to-be can pick up exactly what she needs with it? Well, it's best to pick up something that suits her or will come handy to her in the future. And there's a variety of gifts now available in the market just for the occasion —

baby will always be within your reach. Available in attractive colours, make sure to pick up just the right one that's soothing to the eyes.

**Huggable baby pacifier:** Give a new meaning to a baby pacifier, and pick up its huggable avatar. This means, the pacifier is attached

shush your baby to sleep. Again, this baby shusher is quite a hit abroad.

**Battery operated nail trimmer:** As the name suggest, this baby nail trimmer operates on battery. The cushioned pads have been specially included to ensure that cutting the baby's nail is not only safe, but also gentle. The speed can also be controlled by the user. It is compact, sleek to look at and portable!

**Woombie:** One of the first things done to a newborn is to swaddle him or her tightly in a bundle of cloth. This is believed to help the baby calm down as it mimics the environment of the womb that the baby was in before the birth. Infant care specialists have now come out with designs that do the same, and it's called woombie. It keeps the babies warm and helps them to develop a healthy sleep pattern. Woombies are available in different colours and patterns.

**Travelling crib:** A travel bag that doubles up as a sleeper — the travelling crib is one big hit abroad. It is lightweight, foldable and has many pockets to carry all that's necessary for the babies — from tissues, bibs, nappies, toys among other things. And when it's time to put the baby to sleep, it simply opens up to reveal a snug crib. A perfect accessory for a long journey!

**Travelling crib:** A travel bag that doubles up as a sleeper — the travelling crib is one big hit abroad. It is lightweight, foldable and has many pockets to carry all that's necessary for the babies — from tissues, bibs, nappies, toys among other things. And when it's time to put the baby to sleep, it simply opens up to reveal a snug crib. A perfect accessory for a long journey!

**bike stroller:** A bike stroller takes the concept of a baby stroller one step ahead, by combining it with a bike. This has revolutionised the experience of a parent taking their newborns on a stroll. It brings in a lot of movement and adventure, and you can cycle away with your baby to different places, instead of being confined to garden paths.

to a stuffed toy. So besides, helping to soothe the baby, teething and weaning it, it helps the baby to hold on to something as well. The pacifier can also be detached from the toy once the baby has had his or her fill of it.

**Baby shusher:** If for some reason, you're caught up in something and are not able to carry your baby and shush him or her sleep, a baby shusher doubles up for you. Place it next to the baby, and watch it use the rhythmic movements to calm and



from baby pools to baby tableware, all you need to do is set aside a little time to scout (online or offline) for the right baby shower gift. Here are some really funky ones that you can consider:

**Baby co-sleeper:** A baby co-sleeper is just what the doctor ordered for a new mum. A couple most often have to depend on the cradle to keep their baby in comfort and safe, but a co-sleeper does more than that. It ensures that the mum and baby are always in close proximity. This is possible as the co-sleeper can be attached to the bed. Snug and safe, the

## 5 most unused Home appliances



**W**e fancy a lot of stuff that we wish to keep at home, demands for making your home fully up to the mark never ends.

Fancy bathroom fittings, chimneys, smaller to bigger sections of modular kitchen, stylish furniture and loads and loads of delicate crockery; every one of us wishes to have all these at home. However, the fact remains that most of these stuff that we spend money on usually sits unused with a new layer of dust on it everyday. Many of us like to stock our homes with the latest technology; indeed electronics are the most bought things by people. Here are some of the most unused appliances at home.

**Pop-up toaster:** The sight of breads popping out of it after been toasted look s quite fancy, and since most movies have them as a quick way to make breakfast, many of us chose to purchase them. Although, they are quite useful, none of us actually have the time for a nice leisurely breakfast at home, as most of us either pick up breakfast while on our way to work or eat at our respective office canteens. Most of us leave home just with a cup of coffee or a glass of juice. Hence a pop up toaster stand used for months on the kitchen platform

**Hair dryer:** Most women are used to buying hair dryers, as they help set your hair quite well. However, most women are aware of the fact that using hair dryers on a regular basis spoils the

texture of the hair and gives rise to split ends. Moreover, most women naturally dry their hair, as there's hardly any time for them to leisurely style their hair every morning, be it working women or homemakers. It is only used during parties or special occasions.

**Vacuum cleaner:** Although pitted as one of the most useful home appliances, vacuum cleaners are rendered useless in most households. It makes cleaning curtains, sofas, and remote corners of the house easier, however, the vacuum cleaner is heavy and not user friendly for many. It takes more effort to clean the vacuum cleaner after use. Moreover, every household in the city has a maid who does the cleaning, hence a vacuum cleaner is seldom, it is just a luxurious appliance in the house.

**Electronic shaving machine:** Thanks to a lot of brands, a lot of men grooming products are available in the market. Most men end up buying these products quite ambitiously in order to sue it every day and style their hair and stubble in a different manner every time they go for a meeting or a party. However, most men end up clean shaving for most formal occasions, and even for parties, they feel it extremely boring to deck up and style their beards. They would just wear a pair of shorts and chappals for a party, than deck up.

