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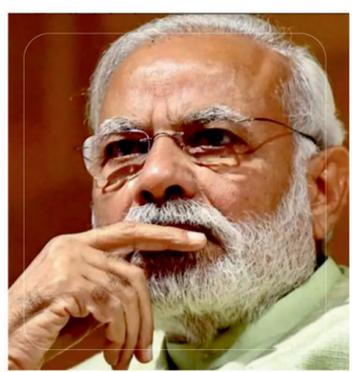
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“Voice of Peace in a Divided World: PM Modi’s Diplomacy Stands Tall Amid Global Tensions”

India Emerges as a Beacon of Dialogue and Stability During Global Conflict



The Sikh Times Gurcharan Singh Babbar

New Delhi, 23 March: At a time when the world is witnessing heightened tensions and geopolitical instability, India’s Prime Minister Narendra Modi has once again emerged as a strong and consistent voice advocating peace, dialogue, and global

stability. As conflicts intensify between nations such as Israel, Iran, and the involvement of global power United States, the Prime Minister’s foreign policy approach has drawn global attention for its balanced and mature stance. In a world increasingly divided into camps and alliances, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has taken a principled stand—firmly advocating that war is not the solution to any

problem. Instead, he has repeatedly emphasized the importance of dialogue, diplomacy, and mutual understanding among nations. His message has been clear and consistent: conflicts must be resolved at the negotiating table, not on the battlefield. India, under Modi’s leadership, has maintained a carefully calibrated foreign policy that avoids unnecessary entanglement while actively promoting peace. By

maintaining strong diplomatic relations with multiple global powers simultaneously, India has positioned itself as a credible mediator and a responsible global actor. Prime Minister Modi has, on several international platforms, appealed to world leaders to exercise restraint and prioritize humanity over hostility. His call for peace resonates strongly at a time when the global community is grappling with uncertainty,

economic pressures, and security challenges. The Prime Minister’s approach reflects India’s age-old philosophy of “Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam”—the world is one family. This guiding principle has shaped India’s response to global crises: ensuring that the country remains committed to harmony and cooperation rather than conflict and confrontation.

Continued news page 2

Karnataka power tussle: Seer claims mutts backing DK Shivakumar got no budget funds

A prominent seer, Pranavananda Swamiji, alleged that mutts backing Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar to take over the top post were denied any allocation in the state budget presented by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah. He reiterated his support for Shivakumar to take over as the chief minister.

Bengaluru. (Agency) It seems that the rumours of a power-sharing tussle in Karnataka refuse to die down. A prominent seer, Pranavananda Swamiji, on Monday claimed that mutts (Hindu monasteries) backing Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar were denied any allocation in the state budget presented by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah earlier this month. Notably, Pranavananda Swamiji supports Shivakumar to become the chief minister. The latest flashpoint came after Congress MLA Iqbal Hussain, considered close to Shivakumar, publicly expressed his

dissatisfaction last week over what he called inadequate fund allocation to his Ramanagara constituency. He alleged that key development demands were ignored despite repeated appeals to Siddaramaiah, triggering renewed chatter of factionalism within the Karnataka Congress. “There is another reason for coming here today. In the recent budget, not even a single rupee was allocated to the mutts of those swamis who had met DK Shivakumar and urged that he be made the chief minister,” he said,



adding that Siddaramaiah had allegedly taken a stand that no support should be extended to them. Pranavananda Swamiji claimed that during his recent 700-kilometre padayatra (foot march) to Bengaluru,

where he presented community demands, Siddaramaiah had conveyed to leaders that those backing Shivakumar would not receive assistance. “It appears that the Chief Minister is indulging in politics. Even those of us who worked hard are now being targeted,” he alleged. The seer said that the community had conveyed its concerns to Shivakumar, who assured them that the issues would be addressed. Questioning the alleged discrimination, he asked why mutts led by those who met the Deputy

Chief Minister were denied both funds and land allocations, even as benefits were extended elsewhere. Despite the controversy, Pranavananda Swamiji reiterated unwavering support for Shivakumar. “We are not swamis who go back on our word. Regardless of what we receive, we will continue to insist that DK Shivakumar should be made the chief minister,” he asserted. The latest remarks once again brought to the fore persistent rumours of a leadership struggle in Karnataka, with tensions between the Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar camps showing little sign of easing.

For me, entire Punjab is one family; if anyone breaks law, strict action will be taken against them: CM Mann

The Sikh Times

NEW DELHI / PUNJAB: The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP)’s Punjab Government has set a clear benchmark on accountability by ordering the arrest of its own minister Laljit Bhullar following serious allegations, reinforcing its zero-tolerance policy against corruption. Acting swiftly, CM Bhagwant Singh Mann had earlier sought Laljit Bhullar’s resignation and subsequently directed the police to take legal action, underlining that no individual is above the law. Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) National Convener Arvind Kejriwal lauded this decisive step, stating that when it comes to justice, AAP does not hesitate to act even against its own, while pointing out that the BJP chooses to shield its own leaders even in the face of grave allegations, as seen in the case following the suicide of an ADGP in Haryana. Taking

to X, AAP National Convener Arvind Kejriwal high-



lighted the stark difference in political approach, stating, “Recently, serious allegations were made

against a minister in the AAP government in Punjab. Our government, without any delay or bias, took immediate action against that minister, not only removing him from his post but also ensuring his arrest.” The AAP Chief pointed out, “Some time ago, an ADGP in Haryana died by suicide. Serious allegations were made against several individuals, but the entire party and the government there came out in support of the accused. This is the difference between the AAP and the BJP. When it comes to justice, the AAP does not hesitate to take action even against a minister in its own government, whereas the BJP sacrifices justice to protect its own.” Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann reiterated the government’s uncompromising stance, saying, “The Aam Aadmi Party has a zero-tolerance policy against corruption.

Contd.....page-3

Assam election: Rumbings of discontent among BJP leaders dropped for recent recruits from Congress

Guwahati.(Agency)

Amid a flurry of political leaders switching parties ahead of the April 9 Assembly election in Assam, there have been rumbings of discontent from sitting BJP MLAs, who have been dropped in favour of prominent new entrants from the Congress. Resignations and switching of parties are taking place thick and fast, with aspirants racing to complete moves by the Monday deadline for the filing of nominations. The BJP has dropped a significant number of sitting MLAs, with Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma saying that this is in part a consequence of changes in the character of constituencies because of the 2023 delimitation exercise, as well as to “prioritise new faces”. Bhupen Borah, former Assam Congress president who joined the BJP last month, has been fielded from the Bihpuria constituency in place of sitting BJP MLA Amiya Kumar Bhuyan. Bhuyan had defeated Borah, then the Congress’s candidate for the constituency, in the 2021 election.



On Sunday, Bhuyan announced that he would be resigning from the BJP and that he is likely to contest as an Independent from the seat.

The biggest disappointment for a sitting MLA, however, was caused by the BJP giving the high-profile Dispur constituency to former Congress leader Pradyot Bordoloi, who had only joined the BJP one day before the party’s candidates were announced. He has been fielded instead of sitting BJP MLA Atul Bora, who has represented the constituency for five terms. Immediately after the announcement of Bordoloi’s candidacy, Bora went up in arms and announced that he would either contest from the seat independently or lend his support to Congress candidate Mira Borthakur.

However, after Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma met him, Atul Bora said on Sunday that he would drop his rebellion and that he has told Sarma that he intends to contest the 2029 Lok Sabha elections from Guwahati. The loudest outcry over the selection in Dispur has instead come from another senior BJP leader, Jayanta Das, who has resigned from the party.

“While being denied a party ticket during the elections has caused me pain, what has hurt me even more is the disregard for my 35 years of service. When the sentiments of a long-serving worker hold no value, it becomes impossible to remain while compromising one’s self-respect,” he said, announcing his resignation from the party.

CM Rekha Gupta unveils Bhagat Singh’s statue; inaugurates historic court trial room on Shaheed Diwas

Chief Minister Rekha Gupta said that the site holds immense historical significance as it is where Bhagat Singh Ji was tried, and the Court Trial Room stands as a symbol of his indomitable courage, unwavering resolve, and deep patriotism.

New Delhi.(Agency)

Chief Minister Rekha Gupta unveiled the statue of Shaheed-e-Azam Bhagat Singh and inaugurated the restored Historic Court Trial Room at the R.C.S. office on Parliament Street on the occasion of Shaheed Diwas. The Chief Minister said that the site holds immense historical significance as it is where Bhagat Singh Ji was tried, and the Court Trial Room stands as a symbol of his indomitable courage, unwavering resolve, and deep patriotism.

The Chief Minister noted that the statue will inspire youth and future generations towards the spirit of sacrifice and service to the nation.

The Delhi Legislative Assembly Secretariat organised a function on Monday to pay homage to Shaheed Bhagat Singh, Rajguru, and Sukhdev on their

Speaker Vijender Gupta, along with Members of the Council of Ministers, MLAs, and eminent freedom fighters, paid floral tributes to the martyrs.



The event in the legislative Assembly’s complex coincided with the start of the Second Part of the

Fourth Session (Budget Session) of the Eighth Legislative Assembly later in the day.

Earlier, the Speaker reviewed the arrangements in the Assembly House ahead of the Budget Session scheduled to be held from March 23 to March 25.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister of Delhi, Rekha Gupta, performed the traditional ‘kheer ceremony’ on Monday ahead of the city government’s upcoming Budget Session, continuing a practice she started last year. The ceremony involves preparing the traditional Indian dessert, offering it to God, and distributing it among those involved in preparing the budget and the public.

CM Gupta said, “Our budget will provide development and boost to over 3 crore people living in Delhi.” She is set to present her second successive Delhi Budget on March 24, emphasising continued progress and inclusive growth for the city.

Front continued news

“Voice of Peace in a Divided World: PM Modi’s Diplomacy Stands Tall Amid Global Tensions”

India Emerges as a Beacon of Dialogue and Stability During Global Conflict

Observers note that India’s balanced diplomacy has allowed it to maintain constructive engagement with all sides involved in global tensions. Whether it is strategic partnerships with the United States, historical ties with Iran, or growing cooperation with Israel, India has successfully navigated complex geopolitical landscapes without compromising its core values.

Furthermore, Prime Minister Modi’s repeated appeals for peace are not merely symbolic but are backed by consistent diplomatic efforts. India continues to engage in international forums, bilateral talks, and multilateral initiatives aimed at reducing tensions and promoting global stability.

At a time when many nations are choosing sides, India has chosen a higher path—one of neutrality, wisdom, and leadership. Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s vision underscores that true strength lies not in warfare, but in the ability to bring nations together.

As the world watches with concern, India stands firm as a pillar of peace, guided by a leader who believes that dialogue is the only sustainable path forward. Prime Minister Modi’s foreign policy is not just about national interest—it is about global responsibility.

In an era marked by uncertainty and division, India’s message under Narendra Modi is both timely and timeless: peace is the ultimate power, and dialogue is the strongest weapon.

News box

Noida sectors 79 and 80 to get 2 new substations this season

Noida.(Agency)

In a bid to strengthen power supply ahead of the peak summer season, the Noida power department has accelerated infrastructure upgrades under the RDSS and SCADA modernisation schemes. As part of this drive, 33/11 kV substations in Sectors 79 and 80 have been enhanced with additional transformer capacity.

Two transformers of 10 MVA each were installed, one in each sector, on Friday. Trials and testing were successfully conducted over the weekend, making the substations fully operational. The upgrade is expected to improve electricity supply for over 20,000 consumers in these sectors and adjoining areas.

Vivek Kumar Patel, superintending engineer at PVVNL’s Noida power department, said the enhanced capacity will ensure smoother distribution during high-demand months. “The substations are now better equipped to handle summer load,” he noted.

The development is part of a broader plan to modernise Noida’s power network. According to officials, nine new 33/11 kV substations are set to become operational within the next six months, while capacity enhancement of 10 existing substations is currently underway.

New substations are being constructed in sectors including 63, 65, 32 and 144.

Delhi power tariff may go up as Rs 38k cr recovery plan on anvil



NEW DELHI.(Agency)

After more than a decade, power tariffs in Delhi are likely to increase from April 1 as Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission (DERC) may soon issue an order to recover more than Rs 38,500 crore accumulated regulatory assets (RA, unrecovered costs) from consumers. This will be done by imposing higher RA surcharge in power bills so that RA accumulated since 2007 can be recovered in a phased manner over seven years. DERC’s affidavit of Jan 2026 before Appellate Tribunal for Electricity, says recovery will start April 1. On discoms’ plea, SC passed an order in Oct 2025 directing DERC to liquidate RA in seven years, from April 1, 2024 to March 31, 2031. Regulatory assets are the gap created when power distribution companies (discoms) costs — including power purchase, transmission and distribution — are not fully covered by tariffs because as populist measures the govt does not want higher power tariffs. The unrecovered amounts (gap) are recorded and allowed by power regulators to be recovered through future tariff hikes.

Delhi has not seen a tariff hike since 2014-15. During this period, the cost of supplying electricity kept rising but tariffs were not revised leading to the creation of a huge RA load. These are essentially deferred costs which are recovered from consumers later through tariffs along with interest. An official said the buildup of these dues is a direct result of the decision to not revise tariffs for over a decade. While this kept electricity bills low in the short term, it led to a large accumulation of unpaid costs.

The Supreme Court order in Aug 2025 mandated recovery of pending dues in the power sector across various states. Appellate Tribunal for Electricity (APTEL) has been asked to monitor the implementation of the SC order. Delhi’s three power discoms will get the benefits of the move to hike regulatory assets surcharge. Subsequent to the Supreme Court order, DERC in an affidavit to APTEL has said that the total regulatory assets to recover are Rs 38,553 crore. An official said in the recovery of the regulatory assets has been kept deferred as a result interest also got added to the total amount.

Woman arrested for killing her two daughters in Delhi’s Malviya Nagar; lens on domestic dispute

Gurgaon.(Agency)

A couple of weeks after two sisters were found murdered inside their house in south Delhi’s Malviya Nagar, police on Sunday arrested their mother for allegedly committing the crime. Authorities are investigating a possible domestic dispute angle. The woman, Sunita Arora, who had attempted suicide, was discharged from hospital following thorough medical and psychiatric examinations. She was subsequently arrested after evaluation of evidence, Anant Mittal, deputy commissioner of police (south), said. The twin deaths came to light around 6 pm on March 5, after police received a call from a relative of the Aroras that they were not answering the door. Cops found the main door locked from inside and gained entry through a window after breaking its glass pane. The bodies of the sisters were found in separate rooms. The 33-year-old elder one had a pillow on her face, while the



other, who was 28 years old, had ligature marks on her neck, suggesting that she had been strangled. Initial probe indicates that the elder

daughter, who was specially abled, was killed first. She was possibly smothered with the pillow, with cops detecting signs of a struggle. The younger daughter and

their mother were found in an unresponsive state in another room. Police suspect a crepe bandage might have been used to strangle the daughter. Cops rushed all three to hospital, where the daughters were declared dead.

Investigators suspect crushed naphthalene balls might have been used to sedate one of them, and that the mother ingested the chemical as well. “The elder daughter used to assist a teacher working with specially abled children, though she had quit the job a few years ago. The younger one had completed a law course,” a source said. Police have come to know of a domestic discord reportedly plaguing the family. The three were not social and might have been battling depression, the source added. The Aroras lived in a four-storey building. Sunita and her family resided on the ground floor, her mother-in-law on the second, and Sunita’s brother-in-law and his family on the remaining two floors.

UP CM Yogi Adityanath inspects Noida airport site, reviews readiness for PM Narendra Modi’s March 28 inauguration

Gurgaon.(Agency)

Chief minister Yogi Adityanath on Sunday reviewed preparations for the inauguration of Noida International Airport and held a review meeting with public representatives and senior officials.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to inaugurate the airport and its cargo terminal on March 28 and lay the foundation stone for the maintenance, repair and overhaul facility. The chief minister reviewed the route and inspection points designated for the Prime Minister and assessed preparations at key locations, including the passenger terminal, cargo terminal, rally venue, parking arrangements, approach roads and helipad. “In view of the proposed programme of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Gautam Budh Nagar, I conducted an on-site inspection of the Noida International Airport, reviewed the preparations and held a meeting with concerned officials and public representatives, issuing necessary directions,” the chief minister’s office posted on X. He chaired the review meeting at the airport auditorium with public representatives and senior officials. “The arrangements must be well-

organised and effective, considering the expected presence of public representatives, distinguished guests, media and a large number of citizens at the inauguration programme,” the chief minister said. He directed that all essential



arrangements — such as smooth connectivity to the venue, cleanliness, uninterrupted power supply, drinking water, sanitation facilities, security arrangements, traffic management, transportation, fire safety, medical services and signage — be completed well in advance, along with regular monitoring of all works. Special instructions were issued to ensure adequate facilities at parking areas for visitors arriving from various districts, including mobile toilets,

help desks, drinking water and medical services. The CM also directed adequate deployment of administrative and police personnel, along with volunteers, across all blocks at the venue to assist attendees.

During the meeting, officials from the administration and police informed him about security arrangements, parking, traffic management and alternative routes. A four-tier security system will be implemented for the event. The meeting was attended by minister-in-charge Brijesh Singh, Noida MP Mahesh Sharma, Jewar MLA Dharendra Singh, additional chief secretary Deepak Kumar, Yamuna Authority CEO Rakesh Kumar Singh, police commissioner Laxmi Singh, district magistrate Medha Roopam, special secretary Ishan Pratap Singh and NIAL nodal officer Shailendra Bhatia. The airport is being developed in four phases, with a dedicated cargo terminal. In its first phase, it will operate with one runway and one terminal, handling up to 12 million passengers annually. Once fully completed, capacity is expected to reach 70 million passengers a year, making it one of the region’s key aviation hubs.

4 FIRs, 20 arrests after violence sparked by seer’s death in Mathura; 20 cops hurt

Noida.(Agency)

Four FIRs were lodged and at least 20 people arrested on Sunday, a day after a 65-year-old seer’s death in a road accident on Delhi-Agra NH in Mathura sparked widespread violence following rumours that Chandrashekhar alias ‘Farsa Wale Baba’ was “killed by cow smugglers”.

The subsequent protest in the district’s Chhatta area resulted in clashes with police, causing disruption to traffic on the busy highway for over three hours. Twenty police personnel were injured in stone pelting and several vehicles were damaged. According to police, FIRs were filed -- by both sides -- in three Mathura thanas. Cops named 27 accused and “250-300” unnamed for blocking NH and resorting to violence in their FIRs. SHO of

Chhatta, Kamlesh Singh, filed one of them. In the FIR, he stated: “SHOs of different thanas in Mathura were among the 20 injured police personnel. Seven vehicles, including those of ADM, SDM and SP (rural), were damaged.” The case was registered under BNS 109 (attempt to murder), 190 (unlawful assembly), 191 (rioting) and 132 (criminal force to deter public servant). SI, Madan Singh, filed a separate FIR in Barsana against prime accused Daksh Chaudhary and his associates for entering the district and spreading rumours with the intention of “rioting”. Daksh hails from Ghaziabad. He was later arrested. Another FIR was lodged in Kosikalan by the seer’s followers. The FIR under BNS 281 (rash driving) and 106 (1) (death by negligence) named truck driver Khursheed Anwar,

who also died in the same accident. A fourth FIR was filed by VHP member Kanhaiya Lal Agrawal. He accused “anti-social elements and cow smugglers” of provoking the stone pelting incident. Mathura SSP, Shlok Kumar, said, “More miscreants are being identified via CCTV footage, and they will be arrested soon. Preliminary investigation found that Daksh Chaudhary, who came to Mathura from outside, spread rumours and obstructed govt work. Daksh and three others were arrested. Many others were also held.” Amid dense fog, around 4am on Saturday, Chandrashekhar, who used to run cow shelters in Mathura, reached the highway stretch in Kosikalan area and stopped a Nagaland-registered container truck on information that “cows were being transported”.



speed, lost control at the Bhangel Elevated Road turn and the vehicle turned upside down,” he said. A team from Phase-2 police station reached the spot and took the victims to a nearby hospital. Sarkar was declared dead on arrival while the woman’s condition is said to be stable now. The auto-rickshaw driver also received minor injuries and was released from the hospital. “The driver Kamlesh Kumar, a resident of Nalanda, Bihar, has been booked under sections 281 (rash driving) and 106 (causing death by negligence) of the BNS. The auto-rickshaw has also been seized,” Singh said, adding that further investigation is under way.

Ayushman Bharat cardiac care halted for 9 months at Gurgaon’s Civil Hospital, probe underway

Gurgaon.(Agency)

Cardiac treatment under the Ayushman Bharat scheme has been suspended for nearly nine months at Gurgaon’s Sector 10 civil hospital, raising concerns over governance and access to care.

The public-private partnership-run cardiac centre, operated by Meditrina Group, stopped admitting Ayushman beneficiaries in June 2025, citing unpaid dues and administrative issues. Officials said around Rs 1.25 crore was pending at the time, though nearly Rs 1.5 crore had been paid earlier. Director general of health services (DGHS) Manish Bansal told TOI that a committee was constituted on March 19 to probe the halt. “The committee will examine why treatment is not being provided. We will act accordingly,” he said. However, doctors familiar with the matter said payment delays alone could not explain a nine-month suspension. They pointed to discrepancies in billing patterns and claim submissions by the private



operator that had been flagged internally over time. Meditrina denied the allegations. Manager Mandeep Kumar said dues of around Rs 1.5 crore had been pending for nearly three years, affecting operational sustainability. “If there are any irregularities, they should be put in the public domain. We have raised issues. In some cases, we received objections after two years, which is why cases are still pending,” he said. Bansal said the issue also involved non-

compliance with Ayushman Bharat registration norms. “There were irregularities in document submission, as a result of which payments were not processed. The centre is seeking direct registration under Ayushman Bharat, which is not possible as it operates within Sector 10 civil hospital. One hospital can have only one registration,” he said. Under the scheme’s guidelines, each hospital is permitted only one unique

registration ID linked to its physical location, infrastructure and approved facilities. Private operators running specialised units within government hospitals under PPP arrangements cannot seek separate registration if services are provided from the same premises. Such units are required to function under the parent hospital’s registration. Officials said the rule ensures a single claim trail, prevents duplication, and enables effective auditing of billing patterns, procedures and patient records. Registration is also tied to approved bed strength, equipment and manpower, and any mismatch can lead to claims being withheld. The halt has significantly affected access to care. Cardiac procedures at the centre typically cost between ₹20,000 and ₹65,000 under Ayushman Bharat packages. With scheme admissions closed, many patients are being forced to turn to costlier private hospitals or travel to other

districts.

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Police arrest teenage reator for gunning down gardener over closed gate in south Delhi

New Delhi: Santlal, who also worked as a caretaker of the property, was shot in the chest. Police have arrested 19-year-old Piyush Yadav, a local real estate agent, for gunning down the older man. They said the incident took place around 2 am near the Shamsan Ghat in Dera village.

Delhi University rolls out 'zero tolerance' policy for campus defacement

New Delhi: With the Delhi University Students' Union (DUSU) elections for fast approaching, the university administration has announced a stringent "zero tolerance" policy against defacement, under the banner of its "Green Election, Clean Election" initiative.

For me, entire Punjab is one family; if anyone breaks law, strict action will be taken against them: CM Mann

Confident over own minister is involved in such acts, action will be taken against him as well. This is not our first case; even earlier in Delhi, our party has taken such strict action. If someone has done wrong and forced another person to take their life, it is a matter of investigation.

IIT-Delhi develops breakthrough method to recycle denim into high-quality garments

New Delhi: In a significant breakthrough, researchers from the Indian Institute of Technology-Delhi (IIT-Delhi) have developed a method to recycle denim waste into knitted garments without compromising on quality. Led by Prof. Abhijit Majumdar and Prof. BS Butola of the Department of Textile and Fibre Engineering, the team successfully converted waste denim into yarn with minimal damage to fibre properties.

Ahead of Navratri, Delhi traffic police issues advisory near Kalkaji, Jhandewalan temples

New Delhi: In view of the upcoming Navratri festivities, Delhi Traffic Police on Wednesday issued a detailed advisory anticipating heavy footfall at Kalkaji Temple and Jhandewalan Mata Mandir. As per the advisory, special traffic arrangements will remain in force from Wednesday to March 27 in Kalkaji and from Thursday to March 27 in the Jhandewalan area.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Information is given to general public at large that our client Mrs. Shabina Azme W/o Mr. Afroz Alam is the owner of Freshhold Residential Built-up House Bearing Portion of House No.RZE-85 area measuring 40 Sq. Yds. Out of Khasra No.20/20 Situated in the area of Village Asalatpur, Colony Known as Chanakya Place, Part-II, Gali No.7, in Block-E, New Delhi, by virtue of Regd. GPA and WILL & Notarized ATS dated 28.04.2003.

NAME CHANGE

I, hitherto known as KRISHAN SOHAN PAL SHARMA S/O MAHESH CHAND SHARMA R/O B-32 GALI NO-12 JAGATPURI EXTENSION NAND NAGRI PO-NAND NAGRI DIST-SHAHDARA DELHI-110053, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as SONU KRISHAN SHARMA.

NAME CHANGE

It is for general information that I, KRISHAN MURARI S/O SUJAL R/O FLAT NO-10, KHASRA NO-7062, NEW-145, NEAR MCD PRIMARY SCHOOL, HAMID PUR, PO-ALIPUR, DIST-NORTH WEST DELHI, DELHI-110036 declare that name of my father has been wrongly written as KANHAIYA LAL in my Pan Card No-BHMP6390M. The actual name of my father is SUJAL AL which may be amended accordingly.

NAME CHANGE

I, hitherto known as BHURI S/O KARAM SINGH R/O House No-218, Kishangarh, Vasant Kunj, South West Delhi, Delhi-110070 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as BHAPURJ SINGH.

NAME CHANGE

It is for general information that I, RAJ MANI W/O SHY MANJAL R/O Flat No-114, Pole No-MDKV-161, Hirankunda, West Delhi, Delhi-110041 declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as KAMLESH in my minor daughter SANDYA aged 10 years in her school record. The actual name of mine is RAJMANI respectively which may be amended accordingly.

NAME CHANGE

I, MANJUSHA, is legally mother of Army No. 2809008F, Rank - Hav, Name - GHUGARDARE MAYUR MADHAV, presently residing at Vill - Kulakaj, Post - Satara, State - Maharashtra - 415503, have changed my name from PRERANA to PRERANA MAYUR GHUGARDARE for all future purposes. Vide affidavit dated 23/03/2026 before Public Notary Delhi.

NAME CHANGE

I, MANJUSHA, is legally mother of Army No. 2809008F, Rank - Hav, Name - GHUGARDARE MAYUR MADHAV, presently residing at Vill - Kulakaj, Post - Satara, State - Maharashtra - 415503, have changed my name from PRERANA to PRERANA MAYUR GHUGARDARE for all future purposes. Vide affidavit dated 23/03/2026 before Public Notary Delhi.

NAME CHANGE

I, KAMLESH KUMARI W/O SEWAK RAM R/O S-272 VILLAGE SARAN, NEAR JAAT CHOPAL, FARID-ABAD, HARYANA-121005 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO KAMLESH FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSE. Important mainly because it was sent directly to you Click to teach Gmail this conversation is not important

NAME CHANGE

It is for general information that I, DEVENDRA KUMAR S/O BIRBAL SINGH R/O 1/4633, Ram Nagar EXTN, Shahdara North East Delhi, Delhi-110032 declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as DAVENDRA KUMAR in my service record. The actual name of mine is DEVENDRA KUMAR which may be amended accordingly

NAME CHANGE

I, GERALD HUSSAIN S/O ZAHIR HUSSAIN R/O H NO-K-785-A, GALI NO-9, SANGAM VIHAR, DELHI-110080, have changed my name to ARSAD HUSSAIN for all future purpose.

NAME CHANGE

I, KEIRAN DAVI W/O16201625X HAV (GNR) HEMANT KUMAR R/O MIRZAPUR, ISMAILPUR PO JALALABAD DIST SHAHAJAHAPUR UTTAR PRADESH-242221 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME FROM KEIRAN DAVI AND DATE OF BIRTH FROM 01.01.1980 TO KIRAN AND 01.01.1977 VIDE AFFIDAVIT DATED 23.03.2026 BEFORE BHIM SINGH INDIRA NOTARY PUBLIC DELHI

NAME CHANGE

I, ABHISHEK S/o Baldev Das R/o 4413/6, Shri Digambar Jain Mathia Ashram, Darya Ganj, Delhi-110002 have changed my name to ABHISHEK KUMAR permanently

NAME CHANGE

I, Harsh S/O Vishal Lal R/O H.No-24-B/26 quilla mohalla Bahadurgarh Haryana 124507. Changed my name to Harsh Narang.

NAME CHANGE

I, Nitin Kumar Rustagi S/O Suresh Kumar R/O RZG 119 near DDA park raj nagar 2 palam colony Delhi 110077, changed my name to Nitin Kumar.

NAME CHANGE

I, Shailly Arora W/O Dheeraj Kumar Arora R/O H.No-34 A 1st Floor Guru Angad nagar extension laxmi nagar East delhi 110092, Changed my name to Shailley Arora.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Information is given to general public at large that our client Mrs. Shabina Azme W/o Mr. Afroz Alam is the owner of Freshhold Residential Built-up House Bearing Portion of House No.RZE-85 area measuring 40 Sq. Yds. Out of Khasra No.20/20 Situated in the area of Village Asalatpur, Colony Known as Chanakya Place, Part-II, Gali No.7, in Block-E, New Delhi, by virtue of Regd. GPA and WILL & Notarized ATS dated 28.04.2003.

NAME CHANGE

I, SONAKKA S K Mother of No-2615568A Rank-HAV Name-SANDEEP SHANKARA KOLENNAVAR residing at 437, KALMESHWAR GALLI, AGASAGE, BELGAUM, KARNATAKA-591143, have changed my name from SONAKKA S K to SONAKKA KOLLI for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 23/03/2026 before Notary Public, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE

I, SHANKAR H KOLENNAVAR Father of No-2615568A Rank-HAV Name-SANDEEP SHANKARA KOLENNAVAR residing at 437, KALMESHWAR GALLI, AGASAGE, BELGAUM, KARNATAKA-591143, have changed my name from SHANKAR H KOLENNAVAR to SHANKAR KOLLI for all future purposes vide Affidavit Dated 23/03/2026 before Notary Public, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE

I, ASHWINI, is legally spouse of JC No. 462821L, Rank - Nib Sub, Name - LIMBHOE PRAKASH EKNATH, presently residing at Vill - Sarola Kar, Post - Sarola Kar, Teh - Ahmaddnagar, Dist - Ahmaddnagar, State - Maharashtra - 414005, have changed my name from ASHWINI to ASHWINI PRAKASH LIMBHOE for all future purposes. Vide affidavit dated 23/03/2026 before Public Notary Delhi.

NAME CHANGE

I, LOKHANDE PRALHAD, is legally father of Army No. 2821912A, Rank - Sep, Name - LOKHANDE VITTHAL PRADH, presently residing at Vill - Paradh (Bk), Post - Paradh, Teh - Bhokardana, Dist - Jalna, State - Maharashtra - 423401, have changed my name from LOKHANDE PRALHAD to PRALHAD BHAGWAN LOKHANDE for all future purposes. Vide affidavit dated 23/03/2026 before Public Notary Delhi.

NAME CHANGE

I, ANUJ THAPA S/O RESHAM THAPA, Permanent residing at STREET NO-03, HARIPUR KALAN, BIRLA FARM, HARIPUR KALAN, DEHRADUN, HARIPUR KALAN, DEHRADUN, UTTARAKHAND-249205, presently residing at 1/5 GR (FF), POCKET-VI, QTRS. NO.60 SCHEDULE 'A', PRESIDENT ESTATE, RASHTRAPATI BHAVAN, DELHI-110001 have changed the name of my minor daughter GAURI THAPA aged 03 years and she shall hereafter be known as YASHASVI THAPA.

NAME CHANGE

I, GAYATRI DEVI is legally mother of No. 15708668X Rank-HAV Name-SACHIN KUMAR presently residing at VILL-KANAKPUR, PO- FARINDNAGAR, TEH-MODINAGAR, DIST-GHAZIABAD, (UTTAR PRADESH)-245304 have changed my name from GAYATRI DEVI to GAYATRI for all future purposes. And in my son service record my wrongly mentioned is 19/12/1966 instead of 01/12/1967. Vide Affidavit dated 23/03/2026 before Notary Public New Delhi.

NAME CHANGE

I, GITABAHEN legally wife of Army No. 2803522P, Rank - Hav Name - Makawana Anvarsinh Jalusinh, At-Gadhada, Post-Agrod, Tes-Vijapur, Dist -Mahesana, State -Gujarat, Pin-382870 have changed my name from GITABAHEN to MAKWANA GITABEN ANVARSINH for all future purposes. Vide affidavit dated 10/03/2026 before Notary Delhi.

NAME CHANGE

I, JANKI BADI is legally mother of No. 14838751H Rank HAV/DMRT Name AMAR SINGH YADAV/ presently residing VILL-BHADESAR, PO-DONI, TEH-NOWGONG, DIST-CHHATARPUR, (MADHYA PRADESH-471201), have changed my name from JANKI BADI to JANKI YADAV for all future purposes. Vide affidavit No - INDL7501245271272 dated 19.03.2026 before Public Notary Delhi.

NAME CHANGE

I, MANJUSHA, is legally mother of Army No. 2809008F, Rank - Hav, Name - GHUGARDARE MAYUR MADHAV, presently residing at Vill - Kulakaj, Post - Satara, State - Maharashtra - 415503, have changed my name from PRERANA to PRERANA MAYUR GHUGARDARE for all future purposes. Vide affidavit dated 23/03/2026 before Public Notary Delhi.

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NAME CHANGE

I, KAMLESH KUMARI W/O SEWAK RAM R/O S-272 VILLAGE SARAN, NEAR JAAT CHOPAL, FARID-ABAD, HARYANA-121005 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO KAMLESH FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSE. Important mainly because it was sent directly to you Click to teach Gmail this conversation is not important

NAME CHANGE

It is for general information that I, DEVENDRA KUMAR S/O BIRBAL SINGH R/O 1/4633, Ram Nagar EXTN, Shahdara North East Delhi, Delhi-110032 declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as DAVENDRA KUMAR in my service record. The actual name of mine is DEVENDRA KUMAR which may be amended accordingly

NAME CHANGE

I, GERALD HUSSAIN S/O ZAHIR HUSSAIN R/O H NO-K-785-A, GALI NO-9, SANGAM VIHAR, DELHI-110080, have changed my name to ARSAD HUSSAIN for all future purpose.

NAME CHANGE

I, ABHISHEK S/o Baldev Das R/o 4413/6, Shri Digambar Jain Mathia Ashram, Darya Ganj, Delhi-110002 have changed my name to ABHISHEK KUMAR permanently

NAME CHANGE

I, Harsh S/O Vishal Lal R/O H.No-24-B/26 quilla mohalla Bahadurgarh Haryana 124507. Changed my name to Harsh Narang.

NAME CHANGE

I, Nitin Kumar Rustagi S/O Suresh Kumar R/O RZG 119 near DDA park raj nagar 2 palam colony Delhi 110077, changed my name to Nitin Kumar.

NAME CHANGE

I, Shailly Arora W/O Dheeraj Kumar Arora R/O H.No-34 A 1st Floor Guru Angad nagar extension laxmi nagar East delhi 110092, Changed my name to Shailley Arora.

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NAME CHANGE

I, Shailly Arora W/O Dheeraj Kumar Arora R/O H.No-34 A 1st Floor Guru Angad nagar extension laxmi nagar East delhi 110092, Changed my name to Shailley Arora.

Panipat man charred to death, another injured as car catches fire after accident in Delhi

New Delhi: A 40-year-old man was charred to death while another was injured after their car caught fire following an accident in outer north Delhi's Hulambi Khurd area in the early hours of Sunday, an official said. The incident occurred around 2 am near Jhanda Chowk on Urban Extension Road II, under the jurisdiction of Narela Industrial Area police station, the official added.

3 held for performing car stunts on road

New Delhi: The police have arrested three individuals for performing dangerous car stunts on a public road, after a video of the incident went viral on social media. Three vehicles used during the stunts have also been seized. According to the police, the video, which circulated widely online, captured the suspects engaging in risky behaviour near the Shobha City traffic signal in Sector 108, under the jurisdiction of Rajendra Park police station.

NAME CHANGE

I Pawan Kumar Goel S/O Ram Pratap R/O Khasra No 64/52 Near Indian Bank Main Narela Road VTC Alipur Delhi 110036 Changed my name to Pawan Goel

NAME CHANGE

I, JANABAI, is legally mother of JC No. 462821L, Rank - Nib Sub, Name - VAWDHANE KAILAS SOPAN, presently residing at Vill - Manori Khurd, Post - Deshmaha, Teh - Niphad, Dist - Nashik, State - Maharashtra - 423401, have changed my name from JANABAI to JANABAI SOPAN VAWDHANE and my date of birth from 24/09/1960 to 01/01/1962 for all future purposes. Vide affidavit dated 23/03/2026 before Public Notary Delhi.

NAME CHANGE

I, SHASHIKALA, legally mother of Army No. 2821912A, Rank - Sep, Name - LOKHANDE VITTHAL PRALHAD, presently residing at Vill - Paradh (Bk), Post - Paradh, Teh - Bhokardana, Dist - Jalna, State - Maharashtra - 431114, have changed my name from SHASHIKALA to LOKHANDE SHASHIKALA PRALHAD for all future purposes. Vide affidavit dated 23/03/2026 before Public Notary Delhi.

NAME CHANGE

I, SOPAN, is legally father of JC No. 462821L, Rank - Nib Sub, Name - VAWDHANE KAILAS SOPAN, presently residing at Vill - Manori Khurd, Post - Deshmaha, Teh - Niphad, Dist - Nashik, State - Maharashtra - 423401, have changed my name from SOPAN to SOPAN THAMAJI VAWDHANE and my date of birth from 24/09/1960 to 01/01/1962 for all future purposes. Vide affidavit dated 23/03/2026 before Public Notary Delhi.

NAME CHANGE

I, PARDEEP KUMAR S/O MAHAVIR SINGH R/O VPO MAKRAULI KALAN(64) ROHTAK HARYANA - 124001 have changed my name to PARDEEP KUMAR Permanently for all future purpose

NAME CHANGE

I, RAJENDR SINGH S/O HARI SINGH R/O D-53 BLOCK D EAST VINOD NAGAR KALYANVAS DELHI-110091 have changed my name to RAJENDRA SINGH Permanently for all future purpose

NAME CHANGE

I, AVIPAL SINGH S/O PARAMJIT SINGH R/O H NO B-93 ANAND VIHAR LAXMI NAGAR DELHI-110092 have changed my name to AVI PAL SINGH BHOOI Permanently for all future purpose

NAME CHANGE

I, GEETA W/O RAJIV SRIVASTAVA R/O 2880/83 EAST END APARTMENT MAYUR VIHAR EXTENSION, OPP NEW ASHOK NAGAR METRO STATION MAYUR VIHAR DELHI-110096 have changed my name to GEETA SRIVASTAVA Permanently for all future purpose

NAME CHANGE

I, hitherto known as CHHOTAN W/O SURAJ KUMAR R/O C-581, LIG FLATS, EAST OF LONI, SHAHDARA, DELHI-110093, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as RAKHI. It is certified that I have complied with other legal requirements in this connection.

NAME CHANGE

I, LAKSHMI SACHDEVA W/O SUBHASH CHAND SACHDEVA R/O 11179/18/A/10 DORI WALAN NEW ROHTAK ROAD KAROL BAGH DELHI-110005 have changed my name to LAXMI SACHDEVA Permanently for all future purpose

NAME CHANGE

I, SARIKHA PRUTHI W/O RAJA PRUTHI R/O FLAT NO-1904 TOWER-C ISLE-DE-PAHARI RESIDENCES GWL-DEHRAJURI GURGAON HARYANA-122003, have changed my minor daughter name from PAVNI PRUTHI to PAVNI PRUTHI for all future purpose.

NAME CHANGE

I Pawan Kumar Goel S/O Ram Pratap R/O Khasra No 64/52 Near Indian Bank Main Narela Road VTC Alipur Delhi 110036 Changed my name to Pawan Goel

NAME CHANGE

I, JANABAI, is legally mother of JC No. 462821L, Rank - Nib Sub, Name - VAWDHANE KAILAS SOPAN, presently residing at Vill - Manori Khurd, Post - Deshmaha, Teh - Niphad, Dist - Nashik, State - Maharashtra - 423401, have changed my name from JANABAI to JANABAI SOPAN VAWDHANE and my date of birth from 24/09/1960 to 01/01/1962 for all future purposes. Vide affidavit dated 23/03/2026 before Public Notary Delhi.

NAME CHANGE

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NAME CHANGE

I, SOPAN, is legally father of JC No. 462821L, Rank - Nib Sub, Name - VAWDHANE KAILAS SOPAN, presently residing at Vill - Manori Khurd, Post - Deshmaha, Teh - Niphad, Dist - Nashik, State - Maharashtra - 423401, have changed my name from SOPAN to SOPAN THAMAJI VAWDHANE and my date of birth from

NEWS BOX

Global economy under 'major threat' from Strait of Hormuz crisis: IEA chief

SYDNEY. (Agency)

The global economy is under "major threat" from the energy crisis caused by the Middle East war and "no country will be immune" to its effects, International Energy Agency chief Fatih Birol said Monday. Speaking at the National Press Club in Australia's capital, Birol compared the current energy crisis to those of the 1970s and the impact of Russia's 2022 invasion of Ukraine. "This crisis as things stand is now two oil crises and one gas crash put all together," Birol said. "The global economy is facing a major, major threat today, and I very much hope that this issue will be resolved as soon as possible. "No country will be immune to the effects of this crisis if it continues to go in this direction. So there is a need for global efforts." US President Donald Trump and Tehran have issued tit-for-tat threats as the war entered its fourth week, with the US president demanding the Islamic republic reopen the blocked Strait of Hormuz, through which around 20 percent of the world's oil and gas shipments transit. The bottleneck has nearly halted all petroleum



shipments through the narrow waterway. Oil prices rose again early Monday, with US benchmark crude briefly touching the \$100-per-barrel mark. Birol told Australian media that at least forty energy assets had been "severely or very severely" damaged in the Middle East due to the war in the region. "At least forty... energy assets in the region are severely or very severely damaged across nine countries," Fatih Birol told the National Press Club in Australia's capital.

"No Country Will Be Immune": Energy Agency Warns Global Economy Faces "Major Threat"

World.(Agency)

The global economy is under "major threat" from the energy crisis caused by the Middle East war and "no country will be immune" to its effects, International Energy Agency chief Fatih Birol said Monday. Speaking at the National Press Club in Australia's capital, Birol compared the current energy crisis to those of the 1970s and the impact of Russia's 2022 invasion of Ukraine. "This crisis as things stand is now two oil crises and one gas crash put all together," Birol said. "The global economy is facing a major, major threat today, and I very much hope that this issue will be resolved as soon as possible. No country will be immune to the effects of this crisis if it continues to go in this direction. So there is a need for global efforts," Birol told the National Press Club in Australia's capital. "Many of us remember the two consecutive oil crises in the 1970s... at that time, in each of the crisis, the world has lost about five million barrels per day, both of them together, 10 million barrels per day," Birol said. "As of today, we lost 11 million barrels per day, so more than two major oil shocks put together," he added. '40 Energy Assets Severely Damaged In Mideast War' Birol further said that at least forty energy assets had been "severely or very severely" damaged in the Middle East due to the war in the region. "At least forty... energy assets in the region are severely or very severely damaged across nine countries," Fatih Birol told the National Press Club in Australia's capital. US President Donald Trump and Tehran have issued tit-for-tat threats as the war entered its fourth week, with the US president demanding the Islamic republic reopen the blocked Strait of Hormuz, through which around 20 percent of the world's oil and gas shipments transit.

China Will Back Pakistan But Leave Iran Exposed In War: An Expert Reveals Why

world.(Agency)

As oil routes choke, missiles fly and global markets get hit, Beijing has chosen distance over intervention, signaling clear limits to its much touted partnerships at a moment of maximum strain. LIVE UPDATES Howard Zhang, trustee of UK China Transparency, lays out the divide: "For all the language of strategic partnership, Beijing has so far offered Iran diplomatic sympathy, media amplification and ritual calls for restraint. It has not offered security guarantees, direct military backing or the sort of costly intervention that would place China squarely in Tehran's corner." He adds, "That contrast is the real story. China's partnerships are real, but they are not equal." The contrast sharpens as the conflict escalates. President Donald Trump issued a 48-hour ultimatum threatening to "hit and obliterate" Iranian power plants if Tehran does not reopen the Strait of Hormuz. Iran warned any strike would trigger retaliation against US and Israeli energy assets across the region. The fallout is already global. With the critical oil corridor effectively shut, crude prices have surged more than 70 percent this year, while US gas prices have jumped sharply, intensifying pressure on Trump as the war enters its fourth week. At the same time, Israel has expanded operations in Lebanon, destroying the Qasbiya Bridge over the Litani River, a key link between the south and the rest of the country.

Americans worry war may hurt economy, raise gas prices: CBS Poll

A majority of respondents feel that the conflict will negatively impact the US economy, at least in the near term

WASHINGTON. (Agency)

Public sentiment in the United States reflects growing concern over the economic impact of the ongoing conflict with Iran, with many Americans anticipating rising gas prices and a weakening economy in both the short and long term, reported CBS News. According to a recent survey conducted by CBS News, people widely believe that the war is already affecting fuel costs and will continue to do so. Despite calls by the administration for patience, confidence in economic improvement remains low. A majority of respondents feel that the conflict will

negatively impact the US economy, at least in the near term. The data also indicates that fears of a potential recession are resurfacing, alongside a noticeable decline in public perception of current economic conditions. This comes amid a sharp increase in the number of Americans who report noticing rising prices across essential goods, further intensifying economic anxiety. On the question of sacrifice, most Americans do not believe they should be expected to bear higher gas prices as a consequence of the conflict. This resistance highlights broader concerns about the domestic cost of the war.

Public evaluation of the conflict itself remains largely negative. Most Americans do not think the situation with Iran is going well so far. This sentiment is particularly strong among those who disapproved of the conflict from the outset. Many respondents expressed uncertainty, stating they have not received a clear explanation from the Trump administration regarding the

objectives or expected duration of the war. There is also skepticism about the outcomes. Many Americans do not see tangible benefits, either in terms of improving national security or strengthening the economy. As a result, the most widely



supported goal among respondents is to bring the conflict to an end as quickly as possible. At the same time, Americans identified other important objectives, including ensuring freedom for the Iranian people and preventing Iran from advancing its nuclear programme. However, a majority indicated that it would be

unacceptable for the conflict to conclude with the current Iranian regime still in power. Views remain divided on whether U.S. ground troops will be necessary, with opinions nearly evenly split. Meanwhile, only a little over a third of respondents believe the conflict will make the United States safer in the long run. Support for the war remains strong among President Donald Trump's core base, particularly among MAGA Republicans, who continue to express confidence in his leadership and handling of the situation. However, beyond this group, approval is more limited and closely tied to individual perceptions of the president. While Trump's overall approval rating has remained relatively stable in the low 40s, his ratings on handling the economy and inflation are comparatively weaker. In contrast, those who support the military action tend to believe it strengthens the US globally and enhances national security, while those opposed argue it may make the country less safe and prolong instability.

Iran threatens to 'completely' close Strait of Hormuz and hit power plants after Trump ultimatum

ARAD. (Agency)

Israel: The United States and Iran threatened to target critical infrastructure Sunday as the war in the Middle East, now in its fourth week, puts lives and livelihoods at risk throughout the region. Iran said the Strait of Hormuz, crucial to oil and other exports, would be "completely closed" immediately if the U.S. follows up on President Donald Trump's threat to attack its power plants. Trump late Saturday set a 48-hour deadline to open the strait.

Israeli leaders visited one of two southern communities near a secretive nuclear research site struck by Iranian missiles late Saturday, with scores of people wounded. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said it was a "miracle" no one was killed. Netanyahu claimed Israel and the U.S. were well on their way to achieving their war goals. The aims have ranged from weakening Iran's nuclear program, missile program and support for armed proxies to enabling the Iranian people to overthrow the theocracy. There has

been no sign of an uprising, nor of an end to the fighting that has shaken the global economy, sent oil prices surging and endangered some of the world's busiest air corridors. The war, which



the U.S. and Israel launched Feb. 28, has killed over 2,000 people. The Iranian-backed Hezbollah claimed responsibility for an airstrike that killed a man in northern Israel, while Lebanese President Joseph Aoun called Israel's new targeting of bridges in the south "a prelude to a ground invasion."

"More weeks of fighting against Iran and Hezbollah are expected for us," said Israeli military spokesperson Brig.

Gen. Effie Defrin. Meanwhile, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates said early Monday their air defenses were dealing with missile and drone attacks as air raid sirens sounded in Bahrain.

Energy and desalination plants are threatened. Iran has effectively closed the Strait of Hormuz that connects the Persian Gulf to the rest of the world, while claiming safe passage for vessels from countries other than its enemies. Roughly one-fifth of global oil supply passes through it, but attacks on ships have stopped nearly all tanker traffic.

Trump said if Iran didn't open the strait, the U.S. would destroy its "various POWER PLANTS, STARTING WITH THE BIGGEST ONE FIRST!"

The U.S. has argued that Iran's Revolutionary Guard controls much of the country's infrastructure and uses it to power the war effort. Under international law, power plants that benefit civilians can be targeted only if the military advantage outweighs the suffering it causes them, legal scholars say.

Jewish Community Ambulances Set On Fire In London In Antisemitic Attack

World.(Agency)

British police are investigating an apparent arson attack on four vehicles belonging to a Jewish ambulance service in London early Monday morning. The police said the incident is being treated as an antisemitic hate crime. Officers were called to Golders Green, a London neighbourhood with a large Jewish population, after receiving reports of a fire. Four ambulances belonging to Hatzola Northwest, a volunteer organisation that provides emergency medical response, were damaged, according to the London fire brigade. Multiple cylinders on the vehicles exploded, causing windows to break in an adjacent block of flats, it said in a statement, adding that no injuries have been reported and the fire has been

brought under control. The cause of the fire is being investigated, authorities



said. "We know this incident will cause a great deal of community concern and officers remain on scene to carry out urgent enquiries," Police Superintendent Sarah Jackson said. She added that no arrests have been made yet, and police were carrying out

additional patrols in the area. Police said reports of explosions were linked to gas canisters on the ambulances. Nearby homes were evacuated as a precautionary measure. The number of antisemitic incidents reported across the UK has soared since the start of the Israel-Hamas war in late 2023, according to the Community Security Trust, which works to protect the Jewish community. The group recorded 3,700 in 2025, up from 1,662 in 2022. In October 2025, an attacker drove his car into people gathered outside a Manchester synagogue to celebrate the Jewish holiday of Yom Kippur and stabbed one person to death. Another person died during the attack after being inadvertently shot by police.

Water emerges as a dangerous new war target in West Asia

World.(Agency)

Attacks on water systems are uncommon in wartime, but Iran has threatened to target desalination plants after it said its own water and energy infrastructure had sustained damage in the ongoing war with Israel and the US.

What has Iran said?

Iran's military renewed its threats on Sunday against the region's infrastructure after US President Donald Trump vowed to "obliterate" power plants in the Islamic republic if the Strait of Hormuz was not swiftly reopened. "Following previous warnings, if Iran's fuel and energy infrastructure is violated by the enemy, all energy, information technology and desalination infrastructure belonging to the US and the regime (Israel) in the region will be targeted," the Iranian military's operational command Khatam Al-Anbiya said in a statement carried by the Fars news agency.

The statement came after Trump gave Iran a 48-hour deadline to open the vital route in the Gulf to shipping traffic after it was effectively closed early in the Middle East war.

Who was previously targeted?

Bahrain's interior ministry said on March 8 that an Iranian drone attack damaged a water desalination plant, accusing Tehran of "randomly" targeting civilian infrastructure. The country's national communications office later said the Iranian attack had no impact on water supplies or network capacity.

The strike came a day after Iran accused the United States of setting a precedent by attacking a desalination plant on Qeshm Island that supplies 30 villages.

Iran's Revolutionary Guards said the United States attacked Qeshm from a base in Bahrain.

Iranian energy minister Abbas Aliabadi said Sunday that attacks had "targeted dozens of water transmission and treatment facilities and destroyed parts of critical water supply networks". Belligerents going after water supplies risks triggering "a war far more enormous than the one we have today", water economist Esther Crauser-Delbourg told AFP earlier in March. Why does desalinated water matter? -The Middle East is among the driest regions in the world, with water availability about 10 times lower than the global average, according to the World Bank. That makes desalination plants essential to the economy and drinking water supplies in the region. About 42 percent of the world's desalination capacity is located in the Middle East, according to a study published in the journal Nature. Desalinated water provides 42 percent of drinking water in the United Arab Emirates, 70 percent in Saudi Arabia, 86 percent in Oman and 90 percent in Kuwait, according to a 2022 report from the French Institute of International Relations think tank. Over there, without desalinated water there, there is nothing," said Crauser-Delbourg.

The supply is particularly strategic for large cities such as Dubai and Riyadh. As far back as 2010, the CIA warned that disrupting desalination facilities in most Arab countries "could have more serious consequences than the loss of any other industry or commodity".

Planet trapped record heat in 2025: United Nations

GENEVA.(Agency)

The amount of heat trapped by the Earth reached record levels in 2025, with the consequences of such warming feared to last for thousands of years, the UN warned Monday. The 11 hottest years ever recorded were all between 2015 and 2025, the United Nations' WMO weather and climate agency confirmed in its flagship State of the Global Climate annual report. Last year was the second or third hottest year on record, at about 1.43 Celsius above the 1850-1900 average, the World Meteorological Organization said. "The global climate is in a state of emergency. Planet Earth is being pushed beyond its limits. Every key climate indicator is flashing red," said UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres.

"Humanity has just endured the 11 hottest years on record. When history repeats itself 11 times, it is no longer a coincidence. It is a call to act." For the first time, the WMO climate report includes the planet's energy imbalance: the rate at which energy enters and leaves the Earth system. Under a stable climate, incoming energy from the Sun is about the same as the amount of outgoing energy, the Geneva-based agency said.

However the increase in concentrations of heat-trapping greenhouse gases -- carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide -- "to their highest level in at least 800,000 years" has "upset this equilibrium", the WMO said. "The Earth's energy imbalance has increased since its observational record began in 1960, particularly in the past 20 years. It reached a new high in 2025."

Ocean heat record WMO chief Celeste Saulo said scientific advances had improved understanding of the energy imbalance and its implications for the climate. "Human activities are increasingly disrupting the natural equilibrium and we will live with these consequences for hundreds and thousands of years," she said. More than 91 percent of the excess heat is stored in the ocean. "Ocean heat content reached a new record high in 2025 and its rate of warming more than doubled from 1960-2005 to 2005-2025," the WMO said. Ocean warming has far-reaching consequences, such as degradation of marine ecosystems, biodiversity loss and reduction of ocean carbon sink, the agency said. "It fuels tropical and subtropical storms and exacerbates ongoing sea-ice loss in the

polar regions." The Antarctic and Greenland ice sheets have both lost considerable mass, and the annual average extent of Arctic sea ice in 2025 was the lowest or second-lowest ever recorded in the satellite era. Last year, the global mean sea level was around 11 centimetres higher than when satellite altimetry records began



in 1993. Ocean warming and sea level rise are projected to continue for centuries. Dire picture WMO scientific officer John Kennedy said global weather is still under the influence of La Nina, a naturally occurring climate phenomenon that cools surface temperatures in the central and eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean. It brings

changes in winds, pressure and rainfall patterns. Conditions oscillate between La Nina and its warming opposite El Nino, with neutral conditions in between. The warmest year on record, 2024, was around 1.55C above the 1850-1900 average, and started in a strong El Nino. Forecasts indicate neutral conditions by the middle of 2026 with a possible El Nino developing before the end of the year, said Kennedy. If so, "then we're likely to see maybe elevated temperatures again in 2027", he told a press conference. The World Meteorological Organization's deputy chief, Ko Barrett, said the outlook was a "dire picture". She said the WMO provided the evidence it sees, hoping that the information "will encourage people to take action". But there was "no denying" that "these indicators are not moving in a direction that provides for a lot of hope", she said. With war gripping the Middle East and fuel prices soaring, Guterres said the world should heed the alarm call. "In this age of war, climate stress is also exposing another truth: our addiction to fossil fuels is destabilising both the climate and global security," he said.

NEWS BOX

Telangana exports 22,750 MT rice to Philippines, earns Rs 81.9 crore

Hyderabad.(Agency)
Telangana Civil Supplies Minister Capt N Uttam Kumar Reddy on Monday informed the Assembly that the state has exported 22,750 metric tonnes (MTs) of rice to the Philippines so far, generating significant revenue.
Replying to questions raised by the members of the house during Question Hour, the Minister said the exports were carried out in two shipments—12,750 MTs on April 6, 2025, and 10,000 MTs on May 7, 2025—taking the total to 22,750 MTs.
He stated that the export price of rice was Rs 3,600 per quintal, while the Food Corporation of India (FCI) rate for Grade 'A' variety stood at Rs 3,446 per quintal, based on the economic cost for the Kharif Marketing Season 2022-23.
The Minister informed that the state has earned Rs 81.90 crore in revenue from these exports, with a net profit of Rs 1.13 crore so far. Uttam Kumar Reddy further said that Telangana had initially agreed to export 1,00,000 MTs of rice to the Philippines. Of this, 22,750 MTs have been supplied, leaving a balance of 77,250 MTs yet to be exported. Despite a general ban on rice imports imposed by the Philippines from September 15, 2025, the Minister noted that the country has granted a special permit to Telangana to continue exports.
He added that the initiative reflects the state's growing presence in international markets and its ability to secure strategic trade partnerships.

HP Govt Plans to Outsource Catering in Rest Houses, Says CM Sukhu

Shimla.(Agency)
Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu Monday informed the State Assembly that the government is considering outsourcing catering services in rest houses across the state to improve facilities for guests.
Intervening during Question Hour, the Chief Minister said the move is being explored as several rest houses currently lack proper catering arrangements, causing inconvenience to visitors. He was responding to concerns raised by MLA Kewal Singh Pathania regarding the functioning of these facilities.
Sukhu stated that the Public Works Department (PWD) would prepare a standard menu outlining the availability of food items in rest houses. "We will shortlist nearby catering units to supply food to guests staying in rest houses," he said, adding that outsourcing would also help ensure better upkeep and beautification of these properties.
Replying to a query raised by Suresh Kumar of Bhoranj in the house, the Chief Minister said that the government would make a policy to shift all the government offices to such buildings that are lying idle. He said that the government would shift government offices to such buildings to ensure their proper utilisation.
Earlier, Deputy Chief Minister Mukesh Agnihotri said that rest houses constructed during the previous BJP government would be made fully functional. He noted that while several buildings were developed earlier, adequate staff had not been deployed. He said that the government is also contemplating setting up wellness centres and spas in some of the empty buildings so that such resources would be utilised.

No one will be spared in Kharat case, says CM Fadnavis

Mumbai.(Agency)
Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Monday told the Legislative Assembly that strict action would be taken in the Ashok Kharat case, asserting that "no one found guilty will be spared" amid mounting pressure from the Opposition and Congress leaders.
Describing the case as "extremely serious," Fadnavis said the accused, Ashok Kharat, had allegedly misused claims of "supernatural powers" to exploit and commit serious offences against several women.
He emphasised that the nature of the allegations made the case deeply concerning.
The Chief Minister said police had been working on the case for some time and had laid a strategic trap as part of the investigation. He revealed that a Look Out Circular (LOC) was issued as early as March 10, based on a complaint registered in another district, to prevent the accused from leaving the country.
Fadnavis noted that many victims were initially reluctant to come forward due to the sensitive nature of the case, but gained confidence with police support, leading to the filing of formal complaints.
Responding sharply to the Opposition's demand for resignations, the Chief Minister remarked that he does not grant a "clean chit" indiscriminately, but only to those who are genuinely innocent. He indicated that anyone found responsible during the investigation would face appropriate consequences.
Given the seriousness and complexity of the matter, Fadnavis announced that he would present a detailed official statement in the House on March 24, providing further clarity on the case and the government's actions.

PDS rice diversion busted at AP's Kakinada Port; five lorries seized

The crackdown comes just months after Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan inspected the port and ordered the seizure of the cargo ship Stella L Panama.

Kakinada.(Agency)
Kakinada district authorities have blocked the export of 140 metric tonnes of Public Distribution System (PDS) rice. Acting on raids, the Civil Supplies Department once again uncovered illegal transportation and export of PDS rice at Kakinada Port, seizing 140 metric tonnes worth Rs 65 lakh.
Recently, the Centre temporarily suspended the mixing of fortified rice with PDS rice to speed up distribution. Following this, some millers and exporters allegedly stepped up illegal transport and export through Kakinada Port. However, already mixed fortified kernel PDS rice continues to be distributed, making it easier to trace at the port, said Rudraraju Satyanarayana Raju, DSO, Kakinada. The crackdown comes just months



after Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan inspected the port and ordered the seizure of the cargo ship Stella L Panama. Twenty-eight exporting firms had obtained work orders for loading rice. One exporter, Satyam Balajee Rice Industries Private Limited, loaded 1,320 MT of PDS rice onto the ship. Among others, Lavan International exported 1,000 MT, while Sai Teja Exporters booked 64 MT for loading on November 27, 2024. Acting

on information, District Collector Shan Mohan inspected the ship on November 27, 2024, and ordered lab tests. The next day, Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan visited Kakinada Anchorage Port and directed officials to seize the PDS rice, reportedly stating, "Seize the ship."
After nearly five months, officials again blocked illegal transportation and export activities in the district. Civil Supplies Minister Nadendla Manohar and Civil Supplies Corporation Chairman Thota Sudheer had earlier conducted inspections and ordered the seizure of lakhs of metric tonnes of PDS rice, which was later redistributed after due process. Sources alleged that ration dealers pay consumers `15 per kg instead of rice and sell it to middlemen at `20 per kg. The middlemen then sell it to millers at `25 per kg, who transport it to exporters through the port.

Olive Ridley turtle nesting season gains pace along North Coastal AP

Visakhapatnam.(Agency)
The 2025-26 nesting season of the Olive Ridley turtle has gathered pace along the north coastal districts of Andhra Pradesh, with 2,313 hatchlings released into the sea as of March 15, 2026. The conservation programme in Visakhapatnam Circle, headed by Chief Conservator of Forests BM Diwan Mydeen, is being carried out through 31 hatcheries supported by 98 protection watchers across four districts.
In Visakhapatnam, four hatcheries have been established with 20 protection watchers deployed. Officials have recorded 521 nestings, with 57,776 eggs collected and 1,262 hatchlings released so far.
In Anakapalle, one hatchery has been set up with five protection watchers. The district has reported 80 nestings and 7,427 eggs collected, while hatching release is yet to begin. Vizianagaram has 10 hatcheries with 25 protection watchers. A total of 436 nestings have been recorded, with 48,570 eggs collected, and no hatchlings released so far. In Srikakulam,



which accounts for the highest nesting activity, 16 hatcheries have been set up with 48 protection watchers. The district has reported 2,423 nestings, with 2,84,397 eggs collected and 1,051 hatchlings released.
The Olive Ridley turtle is classified as vulnerable by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and is protected under Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972. AP's coastline serves as an important, though sporadic, nesting ground along the species' migratory route from major rookeries in Odisha. Visakhapatnam Circle covers a 344-km coastline

across Srikakulam, Vizianagaram, Visakhapatnam and Anakapalle districts, forming a key conservation stretch.
Srikakulam, with a coastline of 193 km, has recorded nesting activity in several villages, including Pathadibalapalem, Budagatapalem, Vajrapukotturu, Metturu, Baruvapeta, Battigalluru, Kalingapatnam, Isakalipalem, Geddavuru, Ch Kapasakuddi, Battivanipalem, Donkuru, Gullavanipeta, Kummundavanipeta, Meghavaram and Bhavanapadu.
In Vizianagaram (28 km coastline), nesting has been observed in Chappala Kancheru, Mukkam, Chodipallipeta, Boddugurayyapeta (I and II), Thippalavalasa (I and II), Puligeddapalem, Barripeta and Chinthapalli. Visakhapatnam, with a 70-km coastline, has reported nesting along Coastal Battery, RK Beach, Sagarnagar, Chepalauppada and Pedanagamayyapalem. In Anakapalle (53 km coastline), nesting stretches include Mutyalammampalem, Tikavanipalem, Dibbapalem, Parawada, Tantiidi, Pudimadaka and Atchuthapuram.

NDA candidates for Guwahati seats take out united rally ahead of nomination

The candidates will have to walk the final leg to the DC's office, along with a limited number of people, as per guidelines issued by the authorities.

GUWAHATI.(Agency)
In a show of united strength by the ruling alliance, NDA candidates from four of the constituencies of Guwahati on Monday took out a rally through the streets of the city as they proceeded to file their nominations together. BJP candidates Pradyut Bordoloi (Dispur), Dipu Ranjan Sharma (New Guwahati) and Vijay Gupta (Central Guwahati), and its ally Asom Gana Parishad's (AGP) Tapan Das (Dimoria) led the rally.
Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma is the candidate for the fifth seat in Kamrup Metropolitan district, which comes under the Guwahati Lok Sabha constituency. Sarma had filed his nominations on Friday. Supporters of BJP and

AGP gathered at the Khanapara field in the city since morning, overcast skies failing to dampen their spirit. The candidates, perched on an open van, proceeded towards the



people, as per guidelines issued by the authorities. The BJP had witnessed much dissidence over its Dispur candidate, a Congress MP who joined the saffron party just last week.
The sitting BJP MLA Atul Bora, denied the ticket, had initially said he might contest as an Independent or lend support to the Congress nominee, but top party leadership reached out and pacified him.
Another senior BJP leader, Jayanta Das, viewed as a strong contender, has resigned from the party and is likely to file nomination as an Independent from Dispur seat. The elections to the 126-member Assembly will be held on April 9. Votes will be counted on May 4.

One injured in blast at cylinder refilling shop in Bhubaneswar

Bhopal.(Agency).
Members of the Congress women's wing distributed induction cookers to students at a girls' hostel in Bhopal on Monday, in a "unique protest" against the ongoing LPG shortage.
Led by state Mahila Congress President Reena Borasi, the group visited the hostel, interacted with residents and demonstrated the use of induction cooktops by preparing tea on-site. Students told the delegation that the cooking gas shortage had disrupted their daily meals. According to the residents, the hostel administration had altered the menu, reduced one meal and discontinued evening tea due to the lack of cylinders. They also said that late-night cooking had become impossible, leaving those who felt hungry without options.
"With the introduction of induction cookers, we can prepare evening

tea and satisfy late-night cravings, which will be a huge help," one student said. Borasi accused the government of failing to address the issue in time, forcing students to cope with reduced food availability. "The government claimed fifteen



days ago that gas was available, but people were standing in queues. Even today it is claiming that gas is available, even today people are standing in queue," she charged. Borasi said the Mahila Congress would continue visiting other hostels in the city and distribute more induction cookers to students affected by the shortage.

Army neutralises unexploded ordnances following ULFA (I) attack in Assam's Tinsukia

The operation was carried out with a high degree of professionalism, precision and adherence to established procedures, a release said.

Tinsukia.(Agency)
In the early hours of Sunday, a standoff attack by ULFA (I) was reported at approximately 0200 hours near an Assam Police Commando camp at Jagun, Tinsukia district, Assam. The incident left behind unexploded ordnance, including RPG and UBGL rounds, posing a serious threat to the local population. According to a release, responding promptly, Red Shield Sappers, in coordination with Assam Rifles, mobilised a bomb disposal team to the site. The area was swiftly cordoned off, and all safety protocols were meticulously

enforced to ensure full control of the situation. The unexploded ordnance was subsequently neutralised in a controlled manner at a secure location away from civilian habitation, eliminating any risk to life and property. The operation was carried out with a high degree of professionalism, precision and adherence to established procedures, a release said.



The swift and coordinated response ensured the safety of the local populace and prevented any collateral damage. The

Indian Army remains committed to maintaining peace, security and stability in the region and continues to remain vigilant against emerging threats, a release added. Meanwhile, during a visit to Haflong on Sunday to support candidate Rupali Langthasa, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma condemned the recent "unfortunate" incident in Tinsukia, noting that a joint Army-Police operation is underway to catch the perpetrators. He also stated the peace and

development achieved in the Dima Hasao region under BJP rule. At least four Assam police personnel were injured following an attack carried out by suspected militants of the United Liberation Front of Assam (I) in the State's Tinsukia district, officials said. Regarding the incident in Tinsukia, the Assam CM said, "This is highly condemnable. The Army and the Police have launched a counter-insurgency operation. I think those who have done this will certainly be nabbed."

Coochbehar admin to train central forces in basic Bengali to avoid communication gaps

Kolkata.(Agency)
In a significant development, the Coochbehar district administration has decided to train the jawans of the central forces deployed for election duty in basic Bengali language to avoid communication gap between them and the common people.
Sources in the administration said the process is aimed to prevent misunderstandings and enhance voter confidence. The move is also part of a broader strategy to strengthen public outreach and ensure a peaceful polling process.
The District Magistrate and District Election Officer Jitin Yadav held detailed discussions regarding this with the nodal officers of the central forces at a meeting held at his office in Cooch Behar on Sunday evening. Language barrier faced by personnel deployed from other states has emerged as a key concern in the meeting.
To address this, the administration has decided to train central force jawans in basic Bengali and commonly used Hindi-Bengali mixed phrases. Officials believe this would help the personnel communicate more effectively with voters during area domination exercises, enabling them to ask simple questions such as whether residents are facing any issues, feeling threatened, or need assistance.
Officials noted that improved communication would encourage voters to speak freely and build trust on the presence of security forces. The administration has also drawn lessons from the Sitalkuchi firing incident during the 2021 Assembly elections, where four people were killed in firing by central forces at a booth. Keeping that incident in mind, special planning has been undertaken for sensitive booths across the district. Measures include deployment of additional forces and heightened monitoring in vulnerable areas. Currently, around 15 companies of central forces have already arrived in the district.

Music as food of love — from Majrooh to Nora Fatehi

INDIAN film songs have never been mere entertainment. They have always reflected the emotional depth, cultural sensibility and aesthetic refinement of society. There was a time when Hindi cinema explored themes of love, attraction and even physical intimacy with remarkable grace. The language was suggestive yet restrained, expressive yet dignified. However, in the present era, particularly with the growing influence of rap and commercialised music, that delicate balance appears to be fading, and is increasingly being replaced by a tendency towards explicitness and sensationalism. The recent controversy surrounding Nora Fatehi's dance number "Sarke chunar teri sarke" exemplifies this shift. The song has drawn sharp criticism for its allegedly vulgar lyrics and overtly suggestive presentation. Public outrage has spilled across social media platforms, informal gatherings and discussion forums. The Central Board of Film Certification reportedly took note after a complaint was filed by advocate Vineet Jindal. Even the Human Rights Commission is said to have issued a notice.

A similar uproar was witnessed in the case of "Tateeree" by singer-rapper Badshah. The Haryanvi rap track faced backlash for lyrics and visuals perceived as obscene and objectifying. Legal complaints followed and the Haryana State Commission for Women summoned the artiste for an explanation. His failure to appear reportedly led to strict directions, including calls for arrest, passport seizure and performance restrictions within the state. Matters escalated when an FIR alleged indecent content involving inappropriate imagery set in school-like environments. Eventually, the song was withdrawn and an apology issued. Yet, the larger question remains unresolved: where to draw the line between artistic freedom and social responsibility? These incidents indicate a broader trend. Many modern songs seem to push the boundaries of taste, employing language and imagery that appear crude and uncomfortable to a significant section of listeners. Expressions that allude to sexual acts or objectify individuals often replace the nuanced portrayal of romance that once defined film music. Such lyrics often reflect a tone of dominance and superficial bravado rather than genuine emotional connection. The growing popularity of such content is perhaps the most concerning aspect. Music videos frequently showcase themes of violence, aggression and material excess — guns, luxury cars and power. In certain segments, including Punjabi pop and rap, motifs of dominance and machismo dominate the narrative. While these elements may create instant appeal and excitement, they risk shaping cultural attitudes, especially among the impressionable youth who absorb these images rapidly. Creative freedom is the cornerstone of artistic expression and must be respected. However, it is important to recognise that enduring art often emerges from a harmonious blend of imagination, language and restraint. When subtlety is replaced by bluntness, the aesthetic quality of expression tends to diminish. A glance at the songs of earlier decades reveals a striking contrast. Even then, themes of love, longing and physical closeness were central, yet they were conveyed with elegance and poetic sophistication. Lines such as "Aaj sajan mohe ang laga lo" or "Piya ang lag lag ke bhai sanwali main" express a desire for closeness, but do so with grace and musicality. Similarly, "Shararat karne ko lalchaye re mera man" captures playful yearning without crossing into vulgarity. Even more direct expressions of romance were crafted with finesse. Songs like "Hoth mile jab hothon se", "Choomu tere galon ko, tere balon ko", and "Tere badan se khushbu aaye" acknowledge physical attraction, yet their lyrical beauty ensures they never sound crude. Consider the timeless "Bahon mein chale aao" by Majrooh Sultanpuri, which invites closeness with warmth and affection rather than provocation.

The art & culture of war

THE GREAT GAME: From Iraq to Iran, we are watching the destruction of a civilisation for the second time this century

CHANDIGARH has been both stirred and shaken these last few days over a daylight murder in Sector 9, a part of town better known for its blood-red bougainvillea rather than the blood that was spilt when a spray of bullets met the body of a local gangster. Since a number of conclusions can be drawn from this event, better to move on, to nearby Sector 10, where a different kind of violence has been perpetrated on the Le Corbusier-designed Government Museum & Art Gallery for some months now — luckily, the rhetorical blood-letting here, that was once an adda of Punjab's most cultured man, the great BN Goswami, seems to have been stanchd by a renovation plan recently submitted to the Union Ministry of Culture that is expected to cost Rs 30 crore. When all hell is breaking loose around you, including the bombing of Isfahan and Kharg Island in Iran, among the

world's two most beautiful cities, that too by the oldest democracy in the world, America, you might ask yourself — why does a museum matter, or even, why does culture matter? Is it more important to keep the price of oil down, which is why the Americans are said to be now contemplating the occupation of Kharg Island so as to pressurise the Iranians to reopen the Strait of Hormuz through which a third of the world's oil passes? Or should you commit yourself to protecting the ancient sites, no matter what? Kharg Island, we know already, is home to a massive oil refining facility through which 90 per cent of Iran's oil exports are processed. In its March 13 bombing, Trump spared the oil facilities. But as the price of oil rises, rumours are the US President may be considering stronger action to force Iran to capitulate quickly. Only five miles long, Kharg is said to be an attractive option. Know too, that it is also home to a 500-year-old Portuguese monastery — some say, older — established in 1507 by Afonso de Albuquerque, the Portuguese general who laid the foundation of the Portuguese empire across Asia, at the centre of which lay Goa — which Albuquerque took from the Sultan of Bijapur in 1510. (Only 16 years later, in 1526, back here in North India, Timurid prince Zahir-ud-din Muhammed Babur of Ferghana defeated a fellow Muslim, Ibrahim Lodi, at Panipat, to soon declare himself the ruler of Hindustan.) Here from my perch in Chandigarh, as the war explodes on our TV screens, it is easier to understand the rise and fall of empire — and the violence that accompanied it. Punjab is one of the two

states in India (the other is Bengal), with intimate memories of savagery; the Government Museum and Art Gallery remains a living witness to the division of the country in 1947. It's important to remember that along with the ethnic cleansing that was a consequence of Partition — more than a million dead, about 17 million relocated from one country to another, a reminder, as if you needed reminding, by Penguin Random House's re-release of Khushwant Singh's 'Train to Pakistan' this month, whose foreword has been written by that inimitable Pakistani historian FS Aijazuddin — that everything, including cultural artefacts, were divided. The Lahore Museum kept 60 per cent of the incredible Gandhara sculptures, while the Chandigarh Museum got the remaining, as many as 627 pieces. Even the Buddha's footprint, the Buddhapada, a granite sculpture

in fits and starts. Most of the galleries remain empty. Here, said one attendant, pulling off the bubble wrap from a standing Bodhisattva, several hundred years old, that has been tied down with a string. Idhar dekhiye, he says, see here, adding that he has been instructed not to remove the plastic sheet, but I seem interested.

The Museum's engaging new director, Isha Kamboj, says she is determined to push through the restoration plan. Luckily, New Delhi is these days keenly aware of the interest the rising middle class is taking in India's hoary past — the world's largest museum, Yuge Yugeen, is beginning to take shape with the emptying of North Block and South Block. For the Chandigarh Museum, the Pradhanmantri Sangrahalaya, or the Museum on Indian Prime Ministers — once the Nehru Museum — is said to be the model. At least the division of cultural spoils during



Partition was limited to a peculiar cussedness that sometimes defines us South Asians — the notorious story of an Indus Valley jade and agate necklace that was split down the middle, is, well, notorious. Seems both sides insisted on the necklace, until the bureaucrats came up with a plan — Pakistan kept 6 out of 10 jade beads and 3 out of 4 pendants, while India got the rest. When you watch the destruction of a civilisation on TV for the second time this century — for who can forget the destruction of Mesopotamia in 2003, that cradle of ancient Iraq located between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers, when the Americans tried to kill Saddam Hussein — as US-Israel is these days doing to Iran, you thank the lord for the cussed ingenuity of the Indian-Pakistani bureaucracy. The Guardian has reported that in the blue city of Isfahan, a Persian pavilion-garden with 20 columns called Chehel Sotoun, the Ali Qapu palace, the Masjid-e-Jame as well as several mosques around the Naqsh-e-Jahan square have been damaged by the bombing in the last two weeks. Years ago, before the return of the Taliban to Afghanistan in 2021, I saw how the curators of the Kabul Museum lovingly and painstakingly stuck together shards of granite to recreate statues of the Buddha that were destroyed by the idol-hating Talib when they first walked into the city in 1996. This time around, the Taliban have promised not to touch the contents of the Museum.

from the 3rd century, was not spared. Lahore kept one footprint, Chandigarh has the other. Walk up, then, to the Sculptures Gallery and you will see what I mean about the continuing violence being perpetrated in this beautiful museum. Because the roof has been leaking for some time, the ancient sculptures have been covered by what seems like used bubble wrap — Amazon packages its products far better. Seems the work executed by the UT engineering department's contractor, begun a whole year ago, was so shoddy that the work was stopped. A new contractor was engaged. Work continues listlessly,

palace, the Masjid-e-Jame as well as several mosques around the Naqsh-e-Jahan square have been damaged by the bombing in the last two weeks. Years ago, before the return of the Taliban to Afghanistan in 2021, I saw how the curators of the Kabul Museum lovingly and painstakingly stuck together shards of granite to recreate statues of the Buddha that were destroyed by the idol-hating Talib when they first walked into the city in 1996. This time around, the Taliban have promised not to touch the contents of the Museum.

Sewer deaths: No end to manual scavenging in India

A 2023 survey conducted under the Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and Their Rehabilitation Act, 2013, found no manual scavengers in any district nationwide

THE abominable practice of manual scavenging continues to be a blot on India's conscience. Over 620 sanitation workers have died cleaning sewers and septic tanks across the country since 2017, as per data tabled by the Union government in the Lok Sabha earlier this week. The numbers are stark, the lapses are starker. While 539 families reportedly received full compensation, 52 did not get even a penny. Financial aid for the kin of deceased workers is not charity; it is a legal and moral obligation. When even this baseline response falters, it lays bare systemic apathy, which can be detrimental to a nation aspiring to become Viksit (developed) by 2047. According to the government, a 2023 survey conducted under the Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and Their Rehabilitation Act, 2013, found no manual scavengers in any district nationwide. The ground reality, however, is completely different. There is no let-up in tragic incidents: three sanitation workers lost their lives after inhaling toxic gases while cleaning a septic tank at a leading hospital in Raipur, Chhattisgarh,



on Tuesday. The National Action for Mechanised Sanitation Ecosystem (NAMASTE), launched by the government in 2023-24 with the aim of eliminating

manual scavenging by promoting the mechanisation of sewer and septic tank cleaning, has a long way to go. Minister of State for Social Justice Ramdas Athawale has admitted that "no measurable indicators have so far been identified to show enhanced efficiency or productivity due to mechanisation." The persistence of complaints — 842 were received by the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis last year — about unpaid wages, lack of safety gear and caste-based discrimination shows that the rot runs deep. Despite official claims that sanitation work is occupation-based, data confirms overwhelming representation of workers from historically marginalised communities. The world's fastest-growing major economy must ensure that no citizen is forced to work in subhuman conditions. Dignity of labour cannot remain a mere slogan; it should become a lived reality.

A cartography of demographic angst in the Northeast

As separate states were carved out from Assam, colonial history and tribal geography hardened anxiety against immigrants across the region. Communities must discard the inherited pre-modern mindset

Last fortnight, a violent agitation erupted over a move to allow nomination of non-tribal settlers in the election to the Garo Hills Autonomous District Council in Meghalaya mandated by the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution. Two lives were lost and several properties damaged. Meghalaya has three autonomous district councils or ADCs, one each for the Khasi, Jaintia and Garo tribes. ADCs are local self-governance institutions under the panchayat system, but are exclusive to northeastern tribal communities and have more juridical powers under tribal customary laws.

The law was conceived for Assam after India's independence, when almost all of the Northeast, except Tripura and Manipur, were part of the state. The intended targets were Assam's tribal hill districts beyond the British-era Inner Line drawn by the Bengal Eastern Regulation, 1873. This line divided Assam's hills and valleys not just in temporal space, but also in metaphoric time — between 'modern' and 'pre-modern', 'law' and 'no-law', as Bodhisattva Kar explains in When Was the Postcolonial? A History of Policing Impossible Lines.

The ADCs introduced a good measure of administrative autonomy to Assam's tribal domains that were once designated as 'excluded areas' or 'partially excluded areas'. Most of them have now been carved out as full-fledged states. The Sixth Schedule should have become redundant for them. It initially did so in most places except in Meghalaya, where the ADCs almost totally overlap with the state's administration, except in capital Shillong. When erstwhile Assam's Lushai Hills — now Mizoram — gained Union Territory status in 1987, the Sixth-Schedule ADCs were allowed to lapse. In 1972,

when Mizoram was upgraded to a state, three small pockets of non-Mizo communities — the Chakma, the Lai and the Mara — were again given their own ADCs.

The case of former Naga Hills district is peculiar. By the time of Indian independence, a strong movement for Naga sovereignty had taken shape. The Sixth Schedule was meant to pacify such discontents. The Naga leaders, however, rejected this concession and insisted on sovereignty. Ironically, the Naga Hills were the first to be bifurcated from Assam to become a full-fledged state in 1963. Arunachal Pradesh always had autonomy as the North East Frontier Agency, though under the charge of the Assam Governor during the British days. Today, this tribal-majority state is covered by the panchayat system, not the Sixth Schedule.

The peculiar status of Meghalaya was predicated by its administrative structure under the British. These hills were classified as 'partially excluded areas', giving the population some representation in Assam's provincial government — though through nomination by the Governor, not by popular choice.

Shillong was also the capital of undivided Assam. Therefore, it was inevitable that immigration would bring a cosmopolitan tendency to its demography. This resulted in a unique sense of insecurity among its original population, which prompted a felt need for Sixth-Schedule protection even after separation from Assam to become a full-fledged state in 1972.

This brief historical background should make clearer the deeper causes of the recent violence in Meghalaya. Such flames could not have been fanned if there was nothing to burn in the first place. In this sense, Meghalaya

represents an extreme manifestation of an inherent anxiety shared across most of the Northeast. Similar troubles have erupted elsewhere in the region in the past and can spark again in the future if corrective measures



remain wanting. From this vantage, last December's agitation by the Naga Students' Federation against the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), in coordination with the North East Students' Organisation, was driven by this same anxiety. The same can be said of the current agitation in Manipur demanding the preparation of a National Register of Citizens ahead of the national census exercise. This wide opposition to CAA in the Northeast must, however, not be equated with the objections to it in other parts of the country. In the latter, the protest was against what was deemed discriminatory against Muslim immigrants who, unlike immigrants of other faiths, were not to be accorded a fast-track route to Indian citizenship. In the Northeast, the protest was

against the provision for fast-track citizenship to any immigrant at all. The Mizo Marriage and Inheritance of Property (Amendment) Bill, 2026 passed on February 24 this year by the state assembly is yet another symptom of this underlying insecurity. Under this law, Mizo women who marry non-Mizo men would lose their Mizo identity, and their children the Scheduled Tribe status.

In Assam, where assembly elections are less than a month away, the ruling BJP under Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma has been trying to whip up this public anxiety, while also portraying it as solely the residue of Bangladeshi-Muslim illegal influx to give it a nationalistic air in the hope of reaping electoral gains.

Nari Rustomji, a civil servant at the time of India's independence who was intimately associated with the Northeast, has some valuable insights on this attribute of the region. In his book Imperilled Frontiers: India's North-Eastern Borderlands, he empathically watched the struggles of small indigenous groups negotiating the challenges of modernity and development, and observed that these changes must have to be regulated so that the pace of their march is not beyond the capacities of the demographically small communities to absorb without detriment to their social organisms.

Just as migration has been a human reality, integration of immigrants with host communities has been an organic part of social evolution. But the pace and size of population influx are also often what makes the difference between migration and colonisation.

India inherited a peculiar administrative cartography in the Northeast from the British. Considering social mobility is also a reality.

Piyush Goyal arrives at AIADMK office, NDA allies join, seat sharing pact to be finalised, signed for TN polls

Chennai.(Agency)

After holding talks with some of the NDA partners, Senior BJP Leader and union Minister Piyush Goyal, who is also the BJP election in-charge for the April 23 Tamil Nadu Assembly polls drove down to the AIADMK party office to hold discussions, finalise the seat sharing pact and sign them on Monday.

At a star hotel in the city, Mr Goyal, upon his arrival from New Delhi this morning, held seat sharing talks with Tamil Maanila Congress (TMC) of former union Minister of Shipping G K Vasam, New Justice Party of A C Shanmugam, IJK led by Paarivendhar and Tamilaga Makkal Munnetra Kazhagam (TMMK) of John Pandian.

After ascertaining their views and receiving their wish list, including their constituency preferences, Mr Goyal and union Minister L Murugan drove down to AIADMK office to hold talks with its General Secretary Edappadi K Palaniswami, heading the NDA in Tamil Nadu.

Apart from senior AIADMK leaders, its seat sharing committee members, senior BJP leaders including State Unit President Nainar Nagendran, former State President Ms Tamilisai Soundararajan and all the alliance party leaders including Rajya Sabha MP-elect Dr Anbumani, heading one of the Vanniyar-OBC dominated PMK factions, AMMK of TTV Dhinakaran, who had been re-inducted into the NDA after quitting it a few months back, Mr Vasam, A C Shanmugam, Paarivendhar, John Pandian and other party leaders, too joined Mr Goyal and Mr Palaniswami to hold talks and finalise the numbers.

After holding final round of talks with them, the seat sharing pact was expected to be signed in the presence of Mr Goyal today itself, BJP sources said.

BJP slams Congress over "Double-steering govt", dynastic politics after Bagalkot nomination

Bagalkot.(Agency)

BJP leaders on Monday accused the ruling Congress in Karnataka of running a "double-steering administration" and fostering dynastic politics, immediately after filing the nomination papers of party candidate Veeranna Charantimath for the Bagalkot bypoll.

Senior BJP leader B. Sriramulu alleged that the state government has increased the cost of essential goods and made routine services including obtaining death certificates, cumbersome and costly for ordinary citizens.

He described the administration as a "double-steering government," with one wing controlled by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and the other by his deputy DK Shivakumar, resulting in a lack of clear leadership.

Comparing it to a snake with its fangs removed, Sriramulu said the government's authority and decision-making have been severely weakened.

Union Minister Pralhad Joshi said the BJP delegation, including state president and senior leaders Jagdish Shettar and Govind Karjol, submitted a memorandum highlighting the alleged misrule of the Congress government. He charged the Siddaramaiah-led administration with dynastic politics, nepotism, and appeasement policies that, he claimed, are undermining social harmony.

Joshi cited incidents during Shivaji and Ganapati processions as examples of the Congress party's political favoritism affecting public order.

UP: Solar capacity increased from 400 MW to 5000 MW in 9 years

Lucknow.(Agency)

Over the past 9 years, Uttar Pradesh has made remarkable progress in the field of solar energy, establishing itself as one of the leading green energy states in the country.

Before 2017, solar capacity in state was limited to around 400 MW, but today it has increased to more than 5000 MW. With effective policies, large-scale solar projects and public participation, over 4 lakh rooftop solar installations have been completed, promoting clean and affordable energy.

Initiatives like "PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana" have accelerated this transformation by bringing solar energy to the masses.

Additionally, by entering emerging sectors like green hydrogen, state is progressing strongly toward energy self-reliance and its goal of becoming a trillion-dollar economy.

Officials here on Monday said before 2017, development of solar energy in UP was limited. Total installed solar capacity was around 400 MW. Due to lack of policy clarity, limited investment and absence of large projects, the sector struggled to gain momentum.

No gas, no dabba: How an LPG shortage is disrupting Mumbai's iconic tiffin network

From Sakinaka to Worli, tiffin services in the city that have outlasted every disruption are now cooking on wood-fired sigdis, cutting menus and turning away orders

Mumbai . (Agency)

Mumbai's robust tiffin service — a vast, decentralised network of home-style meal providers that has kept the city fed long before delivery aggregators entered the scene — is quietly coming under pressure. A recent shortage of LPG cylinders is unsettling this ecosystem. Across neighbourhoods, kitchens are being forced to adapt: trimming menus, raising prices, or, in some cases, shutting shop altogether. In Sakinaka, 33-year-old Chirag Purohit has gone back in time. With LPG cylinders unavailable, Purohit, who has been running Yummy Tiffins since 2009, has turned to wood and coal-fired 'sigdis' to keep his kitchen running. "Apart from roti-sabzi, we also made high-protein rice bowls, but we've had to stop those," he said. Orders have dropped from 500 dabbas a day to about 300. "Cooking on sigdis takes much longer." His catering business has taken a hit too. "You can't make Chinese dishes or snacks that require proper frying on wood or coal." In Bhandup, Omkar Ajit Patkar, 29, who

runs Bhojanyan Tiffin Service, says he is on the brink of shutting down. "We haven't received a single LPG cylinder in the last two weeks." Rationing three cylinders until they ran out, he is now relying on two electric coil

one non-vegetarian dish and dal-rice. Even his roti-making machine, which could produce hundreds of chapatis an hour, runs on LPG. "I pay Rs 25,000 a month for the kitchen space and have seven staff. With just two electric stoves, it's not practical to continue." Paradoxically, demand has not dipped. "In fact, we're seeing more demand because many restaurants are shutting down."



In Jogeshwari, Laxmi Tiffin Service shut down midweek after their second cylinder ran out. "We tried to get it refilled but couldn't," said 30-year-old Akash Adhivand, who serves around 70 meals daily at Rs 100 per dabba, catering to students, working professionals and families. "Gas agencies have offered little clarity beyond saying the situation may improve in a few days." In Worli Koliwada, the crisis is showing up in numbers. For Nitin Morgaonkar, 42, who runs Aaicha Dabba Tiffin Service, the cost of a 14-kg cylinder has shot up from Rs 920 to between Rs 2,500 and Rs 3,000. A basic roti-sabzi meal, once priced at Rs 120, now costs Rs 135; with delivery, it comes to Rs 175. Margins have shrunk by nearly 30 per cent.

stoves. "It takes more than double the time compared to cooking on gas." He has stopped taking orders via Swiggy and Zomato, limiting himself to pre-orders, and his menu — once ranging from biryani to multiple meal options — has been reduced to roti, one vegetarian dish,

Blaze at 24-storey Mumbai high-rise, elderly woman dead

Mumbai .(Agency)

A senior citizen was killed after a level-two blaze broke out on the sixth floor of a high-rise in Mumbai's Goregaon East on Sunday night. The fire raged on for nearly four hours before it was finally extinguished.

The deceased had been identified as Indu Tarkeshwar Singh, 72.

The incident was reported at 7.22 pm on Sunday at the Lakshya Chandi building in Gokuldharm Colony, along Krishna Vatika Marg in Goregaon East. Soon after the fire broke out, the flames were declared level one (small) at 7.47 pm and level two (medium) at 8.25 pm.



According to senior officials from the Mumbai Fire Brigade, the fire remained confined to the sixth floor of the 24-storey

high-rise. However, the blaze engulfed the nearby homes in thick plumes of smoke. In a bid to douse the flames, the Mumbai Fire Brigade pressed its personnel alongside the police and ward staffers from the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation.

"During the course of dousing flames, the MFB rescued a senior citizen trapped within the building and sent her to the trauma care hospital in a private vehicle. However, she was declared dead at Lifeline Hospital in Goregaon," said a BMC officer.

Not only against atrocities, fight for land, edu, health & jobs, too: Jignesh Mevani

Ahmedabad.(Agency)

Vadgam MLA and Dalit youth leader Jignesh Mevani on Sunday called for a rethink on 'Dalit Andolan (movement)' in Gujarat, stating that the community collectively agitated mostly against atrocities and not against issues such as land allotment, fund allotment, education, health, etc.

"Dalits do not speak up on filling up vacancies [in government jobs]. It becomes an issue when reservation is not implemented in the recruitment to 84 posts of police sub-inspectors... if a demand is made for filling up of vacant positions, then 8,400 people can get jobs... we do not fight on the issue of education. We do not fight on the issue of health, employment, or land. We do not demand plots for housing. We do not fight for land for cremation/burial. We do not run any campaign for the elimination of untouchability," he said at an event where victims of Dalit atrocities in the state, including those of the 2016 Una public flogging case, were honoured. The programme was organised by Maha Gujarat SC-ST Mahasabha in Gandhinagar. Mevani was also felicitated

there. "We do not fight for minimum wages for workers in factories. We do not fight to ensure payslips and provident funds for employees or against the hire-and-fire policy. Except atrocities, we fight against almost nothing. This

they will distribute should they win. Dalit movement does not make such a demand in Gujarat, or elsewhere in the country..."

On the allocation of resources, Mevani said: "We do not have a perspective on resources. Dalits should fight for contracts in every district. This should be the agenda of Dalit Andolan. Our demand should be to hike loan for foreign education to Rs 1 crore."

The Vadgam MLA argued that there was a need to do a 'rethink' on shaping Dalit agitation in the state. Mevani said that in most gruesome or serious cases of atrocities such as the Thangadh killings of 2012 or the Una public flogging of 2016, there should be a team of experts who can coordinate and fight the cases right up to the Supreme Court.

Along with the victims of Una public flogging, their lawyer Govind Parmar was also felicitated at the event. A special court had recently convicted five accused and acquitted 35 others. The five convicts were awarded five years of rigorous imprisonment. Parmar said they would challenge the judgment in the High Court and seek enhancement of prison terms awarded to the five convicted, and also against the acquittal of the 35 individuals.



is the 'dasha' (condition), and if we want to change the 'disha' (direction), then Dalit Andolan must also change its perspective." Mevani added, "Lands have not been distributed in Gujarat (under revenue laws) after 2008. We also do not demand from political parties during elections, or even otherwise, how much land

After gas crunch, war surcharge looms over Morbi ceramic hub

Ahmedabad.(Agency)

As a dust storm raged in Morbi and elsewhere in Gujarat on March 19, merchant exporters Mustafa Goraiya and Manish Raj sat in their office speaking to their clients back home and in West Asia.

This worried duo had loaded 323 shipping containers with ceramics worth Rs 18.15 crore just before the outbreak of the war on Iran at the end of February. Each container has goods worth USD 6,000 on average, they claimed.

Counting their losses, Goraiya said, "Out of the total, 90 containers came from Indian ports. We have incurred a loss of Rs 70,000 on each container and Rs 63 lakh overall. They (the containers) are being

unloaded at factories. Another 27 containers, which were to set out on March 1, had to be emptied before they could go to the port. The containers were then sent back. We incurred Rs 30,000 loss per container, and Rs 8.10 lakh overall."

Amid the losses and factories shutting down because of gas shortage, ceramic tile exporters now also stare at war risk surcharge, which is being imposed on cargo in transit or stuck in the Gulf. They called the surcharge "disproportionate" in their petitions to the Union government.

Raj, who is a partner at KB Globex, said, "Of the remaining 233 containers currently in transit (on



order), shipping lines have imposed a war risk surcharge (WRS) at the rate of USD 1,500 to USD 2,000 per container. At this rate, our total losses will climb to Rs 2.80 crore-Rs 3 crore. We have already received the notice for one container, with others to follow. We hope our customers understand our situation and pay for at least half the

surcharge. If they don't, then we cannot afford to pay the freight charges to bring them back to India."

An email sent by a shipping line to an exporter, seen by The Indian Express, stated: "A war risk surcharge for cargo to and from the Upper Gulf, Arabian Gulf and Persian Gulf will be introduced. The dynamic situation around the Strait of Hormuz and the necessary operational adjustments are causing disruptions throughout the network, which will impact schedules and equipment supply... The war risk surcharge will be effective from March 2, 2026 until further notice."

Shield protecting terror elements crumbling in J&K: LG Sinha

Jammu.(Agency)

Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday issued a stern warning to the remaining elements of the terror ecosystem, saying their "era of terror is over" and that there is no longer any safe haven for terrorists or their supporters in the union Territory.

"The people of Jammu Kashmir know fully well who shielded such terror elements, but that shield is now crumbling. I warn them that there is no longer any safe haven in Jammu Kashmir for terrorists or the networks that support them," he said while addressing a function at the Convention Centre, where he handed over appointment letters to 37 Next of Kins (NoKs) to families of terror victims.

Appointment letters were also handed over to 29 NoKs of government employees who lost their lives in service, and beneficiaries in Age relaxation cases, under Jammu and Kashmir Rehabilitation Assistance Scheme-2022 and SRO 43.

Paying tribute to the victims of terrorism, the Lieutenant Governor vowed the strongest action against terror ecosystem and terrorist supporters.

"I pledge to the families of terror victims that we will work with full commitment to secure their dignified and honourable lives. We will discharge every duty towards them with utmost seriousness, and we will not rest until justice reaches every family," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor observed that justice to terror victim families is not limited to only punishments but also healing the wounds and restoring dignity.

"Justice also lies in which stories society chooses to remember. Justice also means wiping the tears of grieving families, acknowledging their pain, and healing the wounds inflicted on their souls. Justice also means that the stories of terror-victim families, once forgotten, are now being rewritten with renewed memory and honour."

"We stand at a decisive turning point in J&K today. The youth of the union Territory and terror victim families aspire to a bright future and wish to live a better life. It is our shared responsibility to make that future a reality and create the opportunities they deserve," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor reiterated that it is his commitment to ensure that every terror victim's family receive the justice, jobs, recognition and support they deserve after years of suffering.

"Terror victim families remained erased from society's memory for decades. Among all these stories, the most painful and bitter truth is that these families were let down by the very system whose duty and primary obligation was to protect them." "I do not see this merely as an administrative lapse but it was a civilisational failure of that time," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor said that the terror victim families were harassed by elements of terror ecosystem and the situation was not simply injustice but it was the complete collapse of social morality.

It also stated that WRS will be charged at the rate of USD 1,500 for standard containers and USD 3,500 for reefer containers and special equipment.

The Indian Express has also seen a letter dated March 8, wherein the ceramics industry urged Shyam Jagannathan, the director general of shipping in India, to look into the matter. The letter stated: "While the operational, security, and insurance challenges faced by carriers are appreciated, the magnitude, lack of adequate prior notice, and retrospective application of these surcharges appear disproportionate and place an unfair onus on exporters for risks beyond their control."

Erasure, not inclusion: Why activists are opposing amendments to Transgender Act

As Parliament prepares to bring amendments to the Transgender Act, activists warn the proposed changes risk rolling back years of hard-won rights.

New Delhi.(Agency)
As Parliament prepares to take up the proposed amendments to the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, transgender rights activists have sounded a strong warning, arguing that the changes could roll back key protections by undermining self-identification and narrowing the legal definition of transgender persons, effectively erasing large sections of the community. The activists, along with Members of Parliament from several Opposition parties, held a public meeting on Sunday to protest the amendments, which are scheduled for consideration and passage in Parliament on Monday. At the heart of the opposition is the proposed shift towards requiring "medical proof" of gender identity, effectively undermining the principle of self-identification. Activists say

this marks a departure from the 2019 law, which defined a transgender person as someone whose gender does not match the one assigned at birth and recognised a broad spectrum of identities. The amendments seek to remove this inclusive definition and replace it with a restricted list of categories, excluding many individuals who were previously covered. The Bill also states that it "shall not include or shall never have included" persons with diverse sexual orientations and self-perceived sexual identities -- an approach activists say conflates gender identity with sexual orientation, despite the Supreme Court's 2014 NALSA (National Legal Services Authority) judgment clearly distinguishing between the two. Speaking to India Today, lawyer and activist Raghavi, who is herself a trans woman, said

the amendments ignore ground realities, pointing out that not all trans persons have the financial means to undergo surgery to align with their identified gender. According to the proposed amendment, only those who are "born intersex" or have been "forced or induced" to undergo castration, mutilation, or surgical, chemical, or hormonal therapy would be registered as "trans persons." However, a large number of trans persons are excluded from this definition. "It's not easy to get the surgery. If you remove self-identification, then how does one get included? I myself am a transwoman but getting the surgery requires a huge amount of money and support that most people do not have," says Raghavi. Another issue, according to the activist, is



bureaucratic recognition. Raghavi also questioned how individuals would prove "socio-cultural identity" if recognition is limited to communities such as kinnars, hijras or eunuchs. "Do they expect everyone to join a Gharana and accept a Guru? Would this mean that any Guru can sign the certificate?" asks

Raghavi, who says that many such groups don't accept people easily. "Many transpersons face abuse at home because of how they feel about the gender assigned at birth. Many run away as teenagers or young adults due to social and family pressure to conform to that assigned gender. If the definition is restricted to those born with physical or genetic variations, what will happen to all these people?" Raghavi asked. Additionally, activists argue that such a definition effectively excludes trans men from recognition, as kinnar and hijra communities have traditionally included trans women but not individuals assigned female at birth who identify as men. They also question the fate of trans women who do not wish to join, or are denied entry into, these communities.

Adobe Names Shamik Basu As Vice President, Creative Products Group In India

New Delhi.(Agency)
Adobe on Monday announced the appointment of Shamik Basu as Vice President, Creative Products Group in India, as part of its push to strengthen local innovation and leadership. Based in Noida, Basu will lead Adobe India's engineering and product management teams and report to Ely Greenfield. He will also be part of the company's India leadership team focused on driving growth and innovation in the country.



"India is a priority market for Adobe and key to advancing intelligent, creator-first experiences at scale," Greenfield said. He also highlighted the role of India teams across design, imaging, video and AI-led initiatives such as Firefly. Basu said he looks forward to working with teams in India and globally to build next-generation creative technology experiences, especially as AI reshapes the industry. In his new role, he will work closely with global teams on key products including Adobe Firefly, Photoshop, Illustrator, Lightroom and Premiere Pro, while strengthening India's strategic role across creativity and productivity offerings, the software firm said. Basu joins Adobe after a career spanning over three decades building large-scale software platforms. Most recently, he was with Microsoft, where he led initiatives focused on performance, reliability and AI-driven user experiences.

'Who Gave Anyone Right To Decide My Gender?' Fierce Pushback To Trans Bill

New Delhi.(Agency)
"Strangers probing our bodies, demanding proof of who we are, our privacy shattered, our dignity crushed. Who gave anyone the right to decide my gender for me?" Dalit trans activist Grace Banu set the tone for a public hearing in the national capital with these words. Members of India's queer community have accused the government of trying to snatch hard-won rights through the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Amendment Bill, 2026. About 100 members of the LGBTQI+ community and their supporters gathered at the Press Club of India yesterday for a Jan Sunwai (public hearing). The public hearing was organised by Rachnatmak Congress, the opposition party's platform to engage with civil society groups. The protesters held banners with messages like "Bill toh kacha hai ji" and "No pride for some of us without liberation for all of us". Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment, Dr Virendra Kumar, introduced the Bill in the Lok Sabha on March 13. Officials say the objective of the Bill is to correct loose definitions in the 2019 Act. They say the proposed law will better identify and protect the most marginalised - hijra, kinnar, aravani, jogta, and intersex individuals - who face lifelong exclusion due to biology, not choice. It tightens eligibility for benefits, adds stricter penalties for abduction, forced gender change, or violence against transgender persons and children. But transgender rights groups, lawyers, and opposition MPs call it a dangerous rollback. A transgender person is someone whose gender identity differs from the sex assigned at birth - an internal sense of self that may not align with biological markers. The 2014 NALSA judgment affirmed their right to self-identify without invasive verification. The proposed amendments, however, would replace that principle with medical and administrative approval, a shift activists say reduces identity to certification.

Widow donates gold gifted by husband as Kashmiris extend help to war-hit Iran

From a Kashmiri widow parting with her late husband's cherished jewellery to children emptying their piggy banks, a wave of generosity is emerging across India as citizens step up to support people affected by the escalating conflict in Iran.

New Delhi.(Agency)
In a moving show of solidarity, Indians, particularly from Kashmir, are donating cash, gold, and even household items to support civilians caught in the ongoing war in Iran, with stories of personal sacrifice pouring in. One such story has struck an emotional chord. The Iranian Embassy in India shared on X how a woman from Kashmir donated gold preserved for nearly three decades — a memento of her husband who passed away 28 years ago. "Your tears and pure emotions are the greatest source of comfort," the embassy wrote, thanking her and the people of India. The gesture is part of a wider humanitarian drive unfolding in the Valley. In Budgam and other Shia-dominated areas, locals have set up donation stalls outside mosques, collecting contributions ranging from jewellery and cash to copper utensils and livestock.



gender. Women have been at the forefront, donating gold ornaments and valuable household items, while children have contributed their savings and pocket money. Youth volunteers have gone door-to-door, especially after Eid, to mobilise support.

"At Masjid Imam Zaman, we have set up a stall with the sincere purpose of collecting donations," said Mohsin Ali from Budgam. "Our mothers and sisters are contributing jewellery, copper, and cash so that we can support Iran in its current situation." The response has cut across age and

Residents say the effort is driven by both humanitarian concern and a sense of shared identity. "There is huge devastation caused by this illegal war imposed on Iran. The least the civilised world can do is send aid," Aijaz Ahmad, a resident of Rainawari, was quoted as saying by news agency PTI.

Images shared by the Iranian Embassy show piles of donated items — cash, jewellery, and copperware — collected from the Valley. Expressing gratitude, the mission said such acts of kindness "will never be forgotten". The donations come after Iran embassy in India on March 14 shared bank details for Indians requesting to provide humanitarian assistance to Iranians caught in the ongoing war. The embassy shared its SBI bank details and asked users to send screenshot or payment receipt via WhatsApp. A day later, the embassy flagged logistical hurdles and said it was facing difficulties receiving funds through regular banking channels.

Surat cops save man's life, foil attack by armed miscreants over Rs 1,000

According to the police, 19-year-old Sachin Dharmendrabhai Chaudhary, who works as a labourer, had borrowed the money before expressing his inability to repay it immediately, police said. He was allegedly threatened with his life over the delay in repayment. Fearing for his life, Sachin immediately alerted the police.

New Delhi.(Agency)
A high-voltage scene unfolded in Gujarat's Surat recently when a police team foiled a potentially deadly attack on a man by catching a group of heavily armed miscreants who had allegedly arrived to recover a paltry sum of money. The entire episode was caught on a nearby CCTV camera. Six men were arrested, and two minor boys were detained from the site. The arrested persons have been identified as Manish alias Kaliya Gupta (28), Priyesh alias Sahul Dubey, Deepak Yadav, Amit alias Bidi Yadav, Prakash alias Vicky Soni, and Abhishek alias Bacchi Yadav. The incident took place in



the Godadara area of Surat. The matter stemmed from a debt of just Rs 1,000. According to the police, 19-year-old Sachin Dharmendrabhai Chaudhary, who works as a labourer, had borrowed the money before expressing his inability to

repay it immediately, police said. He was allegedly threatened with his life over the delay in repayment by Deepak — one of the arrested accused — and his associates, per officials. Fearing for his life, Sachin immediately alerted the police, they added. Responding swiftly to his complaint, the surveillance staff of the local police station sprang into action. In the evening that same day, a team of personnel in civilian clothes were deployed in Sachin's locality with batons. Soon, a group of young men and boys arrived on three motorbikes while allegedly carrying sharp weapons to attack him, per the police.

The miscreants were, however, promptly intercepted by the police personnel as they reached the neighbourhood. One of them even tried to flee the scene by accelerating his motorbike. However, a policeman grabbed the motorbike's pillion by his collar, causing the front tyre of the two-wheeler to rise off the ground. While three of the group's members initially managed to evade the police by riding their vehicle past them, they were brought back to the site minutes later. The footage of the heroic police action has since been shared heavily on social media, attracting widespread praise from users.

Rally icon, sailing legend missing after Maldives boat crash that left Gautam Singhania hurt

A high-speed boat crash in the Maldives has left two Indians missing, including a celebrated rally figure, even as Gautam Singhania returns home. Search teams continue efforts amid mounting concern and unanswered questions.

New Delhi.(Agency)
An Indian rally legend and a decorated sailing figure remain missing days after a high-speed boat accident in the Maldives involving industrialist Gautam Singhania, keeping search teams on edge and the sporting community anxiously waiting. Late Thursday night, a speedboat carrying seven people capsized near Vaavu atoll in the Maldives, close to Felidhoo island. The vessel, travelling at high speed, overturned about two nautical miles southwest of Keyodhoo. Police said five people were thrown into the sea when the boat overturned. While five passengers were rescued, two Indian nationals remain unaccounted for. Search operations by the Maldives National Defence Force continue across sea and underwater zones. As per the

local media, authorities said, "The two missing persons are Indian nationals," adding that efforts to locate them are ongoing. **WHO ARE MISSING**
One of those missing is Hari Singh, 59, a towering figure in Indian motorsport. He is the first Indian to win the Asia Zone Rally Championship and a five-time national champion. The second missing person is Commander Mahesh Ramachandran, captain of Singhania's luxury yacht. Ramachandran is a former naval aviator and an Arjuna Award-winning sailor, known for his achievements on the international stage and his leadership in India's sailing community.



He had been commanding the superyacht Ashena, managing both crew and operations. **GAUTAM SINGHANIA RESCUED**
Gautam Singhania, Chairman and Managing Director of the Raymond Group, was among those on board and was rescued with minor injuries.

He returned to Mumbai for treatment. His spokesperson said he is under medical care and thanked well-wishers for their support. The speedboat involved in the crash was being used to ferry passengers to his yacht, TT Ashena. **INJURIES AND RESCUE EFFORTS**
All seven passengers sustained injuries of varying degrees. They were initially treated at a hospital in the atoll. A Russian woman and an Indian man continue to receive treatment in the Maldives, while others have been moved to India. One Indian national who suffered severe injuries, including the loss of an arm, has been flown to India for further treatment, as per local media reports.

Delhi, NCR Wake Up To Light Rain, Cloudy Skies, More Showers Likely

New Delhi.(Agency)
The national capital woke up to cloudy skies on Monday, with the India Meteorological Department (IMD) forecasting generally overcast conditions and the possibility of very light rain accompanied by thunderstorms and lightning till afternoon. Air quality across the city remained in the moderate category. While Delhi is expected to witness brief weather activity, neighbouring regions are likely to experience relatively stable conditions. Ghaziabad is forecast to see clear skies with no rainfall, while Noida is also expected to remain clear. Gurugram, however, may experience partly cloudy conditions through the day. The cooling effect from recent showers persisted on Sunday, even though temperatures saw a slight rise compared to Saturday. The maximum temperature settled at 29.5 degrees Celsius, which is still 2 degrees Celsius below the seasonal average, while the minimum temperature was recorded at 15.6 degrees Celsius, 1.7 degrees Celsius below normal. According to IMD projections, cloudy skies are expected to dominate the weather pattern throughout the week. The maximum temperature is likely to gradually increase, reaching 32-34 degrees Celsius by Saturday, while minimum temperatures may hover between 16 degrees Celsius and 18 degrees Celsius.

NEWS BOX

Hardik Pandya's goals with Mumbai Indians in 2026: Win 6th title, build legacy

New Delhi. (Agency)

Mumbai Indians captain Hardik Pandya wants to win the sixth Indian Premier League title for his team this season. Pandya, who returns to captain MI after a successful title defence in the T20 World Cup, has spoken about building his legacy and how he wants MI to play their best-ever cricket this season.

After a quiet 2024 season, where Hardik returned to the franchise, MI put in a strong performance last season, reaching the playoffs. However, the campaign ended in heartbreak as the franchise was torn apart in Qualifier 2 of the tournament by Shreyas Iyer's Punjab Kings. Speaking to Cricbuzz ahead of the season, Pandya said that he wants to further Mumbai's legacy as a team that backs young talent and helps them grow to their full potential. The ultimate dream is to win the IPL for the sixth time, "the Mumbai Indians captain said in the interview.

"At the same time, it's about building a legacy. Mumbai Indians already have an incredible legacy, but I still remember when I was a new kid - the passion, the hard work, and how the team backed me and helped me grow," he added. Hardik Pandya, much like Jasprit Bumrah, is a product of Mumbai's incredible scouting system - a setup that has consistently



identified young talent and nurtured them into world-beaters who go on to dominate international cricket. "Going forward, I want that culture to continue - where players step up, work hard and play the best kind of cricket. I want us to represent the best cricket Mumbai Indians have ever played, and the best cricket I've ever played. That's the legacy I want to leave - for myself and for the franchise," Pandya concluded. The fast-bowling all-rounder has recently been criticised for his larger-than-life lifestyle by some sections of fans. However, that lifestyle has not affected his performances, something that was evident in the T20 World Cup semi-final against England, where Pandya held his nerve in the death overs to pull off a crucial victory against a rampaging Jacob Bethell, who nearly took the game away from India.

IPL: Virat Kohli hits rapid 29, Tim David, Venkatesh Iyer bat well in RCB practice

NEW DELHI. (Agency)

Virat Kohli, Jitesh Sharma, Tim David, and Venkatesh Iyer were on song in Royal Challengers Bengaluru's first practice game at the Chinnaswamy Stadium on Sunday, March 22. Divided into two teams, captained by Krunal Pandya and Venkatesh Iyer, the batters had a good outing as they participated in a friendly game ahead of RCB's opener against Sunrisers Hyderabad on March 28. The defending champions will play the opening match of the Indian Premier League 2026 season, hoping to begin their title defence on a positive note. The members of the squad have assembled in Bengaluru and have already begun their preparations in full flow.



RCB posted a video of their practice session on social media on Monday morning, capturing key moments from the game. In the video, all-rounder Krunal Pandya shared his takeaways, stating that several batters in the team looked in great touch on Sunday. "It was a good practice game. Everyone had a good hit. Bhuvneshwar Kumar bowled really well, Abhinandan (Singh) bowled really well, Mangesh (Yadav) bowled really well. Among the batters, Jitesh played really well - some of his shots were amazing. Tim David played really well. Venkatesh and Virat batted well. The intent shown and some of the shots from Virat were amazing today. He is looking good, which is a great sign for us," Krunal Pandya said.

JITESH SHARMA STANDOUT IN RCB PRACTICE

Jitesh Sharma was the standout batter, smashing 81 runs off just 37 balls. He is expected to shoulder the finisher's role once again and will be hoping for a stronger campaign with the bat this season.

Oil crisis forces PSL to get indoors, fans troll tournament as Petrol Shortage League

←Pakistan Super League is being trolled by cricket fans after the league decided to trim down its operations. The reaction comes after PCB head Mohsin Naqvi announced that the league will held in only 2 cities this season. That too, behind closed doors.

BERLIN. (Agency)

A section of cricket fans has been heavily trolling the Pakistan Cricket Board after the management decided to severely curb its arrangements for the Pakistan Super League. The PCB, on Sunday, March 22, decided to trim this year's competition, reducing the number of venues from six to two amid the ongoing oil crisis. Apart from cutting down the number of venues, the PSL has also decided to cancel the opening ceremony and hold matches behind closed doors in a bid to reduce expenses. Alongside the global oil crisis, the league has also been jolted by multiple player exits, with several players



now signing as injury replacements in the Indian Premier League. A section of fans found the situation hilarious and even dubbed the PSL as the "Petrol Shortage League," mocking the tournament's scaled-down arrangements. The PSL is in direct competition with the Indian Premier League this year, as it was unable to go ahead in its original window due to the T20 World Cup 2026. Players such as Blessing Muzarabani

and reportedly Dasun Shanaka have pulled out of the PSL to join the IPL as injury replacements. Playing in the IPL offers significantly higher financial returns compared to the PSL, and from a player's perspective, it is understandable why many are opting to chase those opportunities.

IPL vs PSL
The developments around the PSL this season underline a deeper challenge that goes

beyond just logistics or scheduling. While external factors such as the oil crisis have forced the PCB to take cost-cutting measures, the simultaneous player drain to the IPL has exposed the widening gap between the two leagues in terms of financial power and global pull. For a tournament that once positioned itself as the second-most competitive T20 league in the world, these compromises - reduced venues, no opening ceremony, and empty stands - risk denting its image further. The optics, especially when contrasted with the scale and stability of the IPL, have not helped, as reflected in the online backlash. At the same time, the situation also highlights the realities of modern franchise cricket. Players are increasingly making pragmatic choices, prioritising financial security and visibility, even if it means switching leagues at short notice.

PCB head Mohsin Naqvi has confirmed that the board will be taking legal action against such players. The PCB had banned Corbin Bosch for a year last season after the South African had pulled out late from the league. "We will take action against those players according to the rules.

Vinicius jr scores twice as Real Madrid come from behind to beat Atletico Madrid 3-2 in thrilling LaLiga derby

New Delhi. (Agency)

Vinicius Jr scored a brilliant brace as Real Madrid came from behind to beat Atletico Madrid 3-2 in a pulsating derby at the Santiago Bernabeu on Sunday, keeping Alvaro Arbeloa's side within four points of LaLiga leaders Barcelona. What was billed as a relatively low-key Madrid derby - with Atletico sitting a distant fourth - turned into a five-goal thriller packed with drama, stunning strikes and a late red card that nearly swung the game again. Atletico struck first in the 33rd minute through Ademola Lookman, who finished off a slick counter-attack involving Matteo Ruggeri and a clever backheel from Giuliano Simeone. Real responded strongly after the break. Vinicius brought them level in the 52nd minute from the penalty spot after David Hanco clumsily tripped Brahim Diaz inside the area. Just three minutes later, Federico Valverde turned the game on its head, capitalising on a costly mistake from Jose Maria Gimenez to fire Real into the lead.

REAL ALWAYS COMES OUT ON TOP:

VINICIUS

However, Atletico refused to back down. Nahuel Molina stunned the Bernabeu in the 66th minute with a thunderous 30-metre



strike that flew into the top corner, bringing Diego Simeone's side right back into the contest. But Vinicius once again stepped up when it mattered. The Brazilian restored Real's lead six minutes later with a sensational solo effort, cutting in from the left, beating two defenders and unleashing an unstoppable shot into the far corner. The drama did not end there. Valverde was shown a straight red card late in the game for

a reckless challenge on Alex Baena, reducing Real to 10 men and setting up a nervy finish. Julian Alvarez came closest to an equaliser for Atletico, striking the post in the closing stages, but Real held firm to seal a crucial victory. "Real Madrid always come out on top," Vinicius said after the match.

"I'm very pleased with the performance we put in today. We were in control from the start; we conceded a goal, but we kept our cool and did what we had to do so our fans could go home happy," he added. Real had started brightly and could have taken the lead early on, with Vinicius denied by a sharp save from Juan Musso, while Valverde struck the post soon after.

Vinicius was again at the heart of the action in the first half, only to be denied twice from close range by a brilliant goal-line clearance from Giuliano Simeone. Those missed chances proved costly as Atletico punished Real on the counter through Lookman, but the hosts showed resilience after the break to wrest control of the contest.

PSL's loss is IPL's gain: How many players have quit Pakistan league so far

The PSL's overlap with the IPL over the last two seasons has created a growing problem for the PCB, with players increasingly leaving the Pakistan Super League for lucrative IPL replacement deals.

NEW DELHI. (Agency)

The Pakistan Super League (PSL) has faced a growing challenge over the last two seasons, with several players leaving the tournament to join the cash-rich Indian Premier League (IPL). Traditionally, the PSL is held between January and March, allowing it to finish before the IPL begins.

However, over the last two years, the PSL has overlapped with the IPL, creating a major headache for the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB). Whenever injury replacements or other squad vacancies



emerge in the IPL, players involved in the PSL have been tempted to leave Pakistan and switch leagues. In 2025, the PSL was moved to March-April because Pakistan was hosting the Champions Trophy in February, leading to a direct clash with the IPL. This year too, the schedule was pushed

back after the T20 World Cup was held in February and March, once again forcing the PSL into an overlapping window with the IPL. FROM BOSCH TO SHANAKA

The first major instance of a PSL-contracted player switching to the IPL came last year, when South Africa's Corbin Bosch was picked by Peshawar Zalmi in the Diamond category for PSL 2025, in a deal reportedly worth around 85,000 US dollars.

However, he later pulled out after joining Mumbai Indians as an IPL replacement for Proteas pacer Lizaad Williams when the two leagues overlapped. The PCB issued him a legal notice, calling it a breach of contract. Bosch later apologised, but was handed a one-year PSL ban and a fine, ruling him out of PSL 2026. In IPL 2026, there have already been two more PSL-to-IPL switches after Bosch's controversial move last year. Blessing Muzarabani, who had

Miami Open: World No.1 Carlos Alcaraz stunned by Sebastian Korda in Round 3

New Delhi. (Agency)

World No. 1 Carlos Alcaraz suffered a shock exit from the Miami Open after going down to World No. 36 Sebastian Korda in the third round on Sunday, as the American clinched the biggest win of his career with a 6-3, 5-7, 6-4 victory in a match that lasted two hours and 14 minutes. Korda looked in complete control early on and even stood on the brink of victory in the second set, serving for the match at 5-3. However, the moment slipped away as he was broken at love, allowing Alcaraz to force a decider and briefly swing the momentum in his favour. Despite the setback, Korda showed remarkable composure under pressure. The 25-year-old broke Alcaraz for 4-3 in the third set and held his nerve from there, eventually sealing the match with an unreturnable serve on his second match point. It feels great. I took the scenic route, that's for sure," Korda said in his on-court interview after the match.

"It was a little more stress than I would want, but



I'm happy with how I played and how I stayed with it. I got myself into some nasty situations, but I kept going, kept believing, and I played really well at the end," he added.

Korda had earlier taken the first set with authority, firing down 12 aces in the match and consistently keeping Alcaraz under pressure with an aggressive approach. Even after letting the second set slip, he refused to retreat, mixing up his game effectively - including timely serve-and-volley plays - to register his first-ever win over a world No. 1. Alcaraz, on the other hand, looked uncharacteristically erratic at key moments, particularly off the forehand wing, which ultimately proved costly in the decider. The Spaniard had come into the tournament in strong form, having already claimed his seventh Grand Slam title earlier this year with a win at the Australian Open to complete a career Grand Slam. His only defeat before Miami had come against Daniil Medvedev in the semi-finals of Indian Wells, leaving him with a 17-2 record for the season.

Lionel Messi scores 901st career goal as Inter Miami rally past New York

←Lionel Messi scored his 901st career goal as Inter Miami came from behind to beat New York City FC 3-2 in a thrilling MLS clash.

LONDON. (Agency)

Lionel Messi scored his 901st career goal as Inter Miami came from behind to beat New York City FC 3-2 in an entertaining MLS clash on Sunday. Miami bounced back from a disappointing CONCACAF Champions Cup exit earlier in the week to secure a crucial win, with Micael Dos Santos heading home the winner in the 74th minute. Messi's landmark goal came at a crucial moment in the second half. With Miami trailing 2-1, the



Argentine's free-kick effort took a deflection off Hannes Wolf and found its way past goalkeeper Matt Freese to level the score at 2 in the 61st minute. Inter Miami had earlier taken the lead through Gonzalo Lujan, who scored his first MLS goal in the fourth minute. However, NYCFC responded quickly, with Nicolas Fernandez Mercau

equalising via a clever free-kick routine in the 17th minute. The hosts then went ahead in the 59th minute when Maxi Moralez threaded a brilliant ball through the middle to Agustin Ojeda, who calmly finished past Immanuel St. Clair. But Miami responded almost immediately. Messi's equaliser shifted the momentum, before Dos Santos completed

the comeback with a well-taken header from a Noah Allen cross in the 74th minute. Messi came close to adding more to his tally on multiple occasions, hitting the post in the 31st minute and the crossbar in the 42nd, while also missing a late chance to extend Miami's lead. German Berterame thought he had sealed the win in the 79th minute, but his effort was ruled out for offside. NYCFC pushed hard for a late equaliser, but St. Clair produced a crucial save in stoppage time to preserve the victory. The win takes Inter Miami to 10 points from five matches, level with NYCFC, who suffered their first defeat of the season after a three-game winning run. PLAYERS WITH MOST CAREER GOALS IN FOOTBALL While records from the early 1900s remain somewhat murky due to poor documentation, it is widely accepted that Cristiano Ronaldo has scored the most career goals in football history, with 965 to his name so far. Loyalists of Pel, however, dispute this claim, arguing that the Brazilian great may have crossed the 1,000-goal mark.

Brent crude oil hovering above \$110 a barrel. Why it spells bad news

New Delhi, (Agency)

Crude oil prices are hovering above \$110 as the West Asia conflict continues to disrupt global supply, raising fresh concerns for inflation and economic growth. As of 8:30 am, Brent crude was trading at \$112.85 per barrel, up 0.59%, while WTI crude stood at \$98.91 per barrel, up 0.69%.

More than three weeks after US and Israeli strikes on Iran triggered a chain of retaliation across the region, the conflict has now spread across West Asia. What started as a geopolitical escalation is now turning into an economic one, and oil is at the centre of it. The concern is no longer limited to rising prices. It is about supply getting hit.

The Strait of Hormuz, which carries nearly a fifth of global oil, is under pressure. Tanker movement has slowed, insurance costs have risen sharply, and repeated attacks have turned one of the world's most important energy routes into a high-risk zone. At the same time, strikes on energy infrastructure across Iran, Saudi Arabia, Qatar and the UAE are beginning to affect production and refining capacity. "The latest escalation in West Asia involves direct attacks on both oil supply and critical energy infrastructure, including production sites and transit chokepoints such as the Strait of Hormuz," says Kaushal Sampat, President at Vayana. Market estimates suggest that 8 to 10 million barrels per day of supply could be affected if disruptions continue. The Strait of Hormuz alone carries nearly 20 million barrels per day, which means even partial disruption can have global impact. Sampat describes the situation as a wider shock to the system. "In our view, this is not purely short-term, but a combination of immediate disruption and emerging structural risk," he says.

"This is not just a price shock; this is also an availability issue," adds Dr. V.K. Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist at Geojit Financial Services.

GLOBAL MARKETS UNDER PRESSURE

The impact is already visible in global markets. Equity markets have turned volatile as oil prices rise, while currencies and bond yields are adjusting to higher inflation risks. Investors are beginning to reassess growth expectations as energy costs move up.

Aadhaar-only applications for PAN cards not to be accepted from April 1 -- Check document lists

New Delhi, (Agency)

As per the provisions of the IT Act, 2025 and the IT Rules, 2026, New PAN/TAN application forms will be effective from 01 April 2026. PAN/TAN applicants will now have to apply only in new PAN/TAN application forms from 01 April 2026. The existing PAN/TAN forms (Form 49A, Form 49AA, 49B and Change Request) will NOT be accepted after 31 March 2026. As per rules, With effect from April 1, for Aadhaar-based PAN applications (Aadhaar e-KYC, physical and scanned based modes), applicants will be required to provide one additional valid proof of Date of Birth, apart from Aadhaar, as prescribed. Documents accepted as Proof of date of birth

- Elector's photo identity card
- Passport
- Driving License
- Central Government Health Scheme Card or Ex-servicemen Contributory Health Scheme photo card
- Photo identity card issued by the Central Government or a State Government or a Public Sector Undertaking- Birth certificate issued by the Municipal Authority or any office authorised to issue Birth and Death Certificate by the Registrar of Birth and Deaths or the Indian Consulate as defined in clause (d) of subsection (1) of section 2 of the Citizenship Act, 1955 (57 of 1955) PAN applicants are advised to keep all the required documents ready before applying.

Also, Address Update facility through Aadhaar based e-KYC is available free of cost on Protean Portal.

West Asia war risks pushing up prices, says Coca-Cola bottler SLMG

New Delhi, (Agency)

SLMG Beverages, Coca-Cola's largest bottler in India, could raise some of its prices if rising packaging costs linked to the war in the West Asia are difficult to absorb, a senior executive at the firm said.

The war is pushing up costs for key packaging materials from plastic bottles to caps, labels and cardboard boxes - with some packaged water manufacturers already raising prices.

"If the war continues, the packaging material cost may continue to move up," Rahul Kumar, deputy CEO at SLMG said in an interview earlier this month, adding price increases would depend on factors including how competitors respond and how consumers react to higher prices. The cost pressure comes after billionaire Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Industries revived a historic local cola brand, Campa, in 2023, tapping its vast retail network and a nationalist sentiment to ignite a price war. There is limited room to raise prices in the highly competitive soda market, which includes several national and local players, Kumar said, adding there has not been a portfolio-wide price increase in the past 7-8 years. He said SLMG will review prices in April.

SLMG ramps up capacity Competition will boost India's soft drink market by bringing in new consumers, according to Kumar. Redseer Strategy Consultants estimates the country's non-alcoholic ready-to-drink beverages market could double to roughly \$40 billion by 2030. To tap the growth, SLMG - which accounts for more than 22 per cent of Coca-Cola's India volumes - plans to invest between ₹1,000 crore (\$106.58 million) and ₹1,200 crore in each of four new plants it plans to build over five years.

Safe haven no more Why gold, silver prices are crashing despite war

New Delhi, (Agency)

Gold and silver prices saw a sharp fall on Monday morning, even as global tensions remain high due to the ongoing conflict in West Asia. The drop has surprised many investors, as precious metals are usually seen as safe assets during such uncertain times.

As of 10:26 am on MCX, gold futures were trading at Rs 1,37,307, down Rs 7,185 or 4.97%. Silver futures were at Rs 2,13,600, down Rs 13,172 or 5.81%.

The fall comes after a strong rally in recent months, when both gold and silver had surged as investors rushed to safe-haven assets amid rising geopolitical risks and higher crude oil prices.

WHY ARE GOLD AND SILVER FALLING?

The key reason behind the fall of gold and silver is that prices had already risen sharply before this correction. Investors had bought heavily during the early phase of the conflict, pushing gold and silver to

very high levels. This led to a situation where there was strong demand for physical gold and silver, and in some cases, even shortage in supply. Now, with prices at elevated levels, many investors are booking profits. This has led to a sharp pullback. Another major reason is the shift in interest rate expectations globally. With crude oil prices staying above \$110 per barrel, inflation concerns have increased. This has reduced the chances of interest rate cuts and instead raised the possibility of rate hikes. Higher interest rates reduce the appeal of gold because it does not offer fixed returns like bonds or deposits. Global cues also support this trend. Spot gold has fallen to around \$4,372 per ounce, down about 2.5%, while US gold futures have declined 4.4%. Gold has now fallen for nine straight sessions and is at its lowest level since early January. It has lost more than 10% in the past week.

Market experts say that liquidity is also

playing a role. "With the Iranian conflict into its fourth week, and oil prices hanging around the \$100 level, expectations have shifted from rate cuts to potential rate hikes which has hurt



gold's appeal," Tim Waterer, Chief Market Analyst at KCM Trade, told Reuters. He added that gold's liquidity is now working against it. "Steep selloffs in Asian stock markets are leading to unwinding of long positions in gold," he said. In simple terms, investors are selling

gold to cover losses in other markets, especially equities. Silver, which is more volatile than gold, has fallen even more sharply. Globally, spot silver is down around 3.2%, reflecting the same trend. GLOBAL RISK-OFF IMPACT

The current market situation is seeing selling across asset classes. Dr. V.K. Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist at Geojit Investments Limited, said, "It is important to understand that the huge risk-off globally has impacted all assets including stocks, bonds and precious metals like gold and silver. In fact, the crash in the safe haven gold is worse than in equities. There is nothing that investors can do during this crisis characterised by huge uncertainty. If history is any guide investors should not panic, but keep cool." This shows that even safe-haven assets are not immune when markets face extreme uncertainty.

HDFC Bank share price tumbles over 3%: Why is the stock falling

New Delhi, (Agency)

HDFC Bank shares remained under pressure on Monday as governance concerns, leadership changes and regulatory issues continued to weigh on investor sentiment. Shares of HDFC Bank were down 3.39% to Rs 754 on the Bombay Stock Exchange at around 10:23 am, extending a sharp decline seen over the past few sessions. The stock has been under sustained pressure, falling nearly 10% in just five sessions last week and over 18% in a month. It may be noted that the stock has hit a 52-week low of Rs 752.85 in early trade.

WHY IS THE HDFC BANK STOCK FALLING? The decline is being driven by a combination of governance concerns, leadership changes, and regulatory issues. The immediate trigger has been the resignation of chairman Atanu Chakraborty, who stepped down citing differences related to personal values, ethics, and internal practices.

Following his exit, Keki Mistry has been appointed interim non-executive chairman for three months, even as investors await clarity on long-term

leadership. At the same time, the bank has taken action against senior executives after an internal probe into its overseas operations. Three senior employees have been terminated over issues linked to the alleged mis-selling



of Credit Suisse AT-1 bonds to NRI clients through its UAE business.

The issue has drawn regulatory scrutiny. The Dubai Financial Services Authority has barred the bank from onboarding new clients in the emirate, and the bank is also facing investor lawsuits. These developments have raised concerns around internal controls and governance, even though the RBI has said it does not see material concerns regarding the

bank's overall conduct or financial position.

BROADER MARKET PRESSURE

The weakness in the stock is also being amplified by a broader market sell-off. Rising global tensions and a surge in crude oil prices have triggered a risk-off mood, leading to selling across financial stocks. As a heavyweight index stock, HDFC Bank tends to see sharper moves during periods of foreign investor outflows.

Brokerages, however, maintain that the bank's core operations remain stable. Axis Securities said execution continues to be strong, though recent developments could delay any near-term re-rating of the stock. The brokerage has retained a buy rating with a target price of Rs 1,020, implying potential upside from current levels, but flagged that clarity on leadership and stability in returns will be key triggers. For now, the stock is likely to remain under pressure, with investors closely tracking management stability, regulatory developments, and any signs of recovery after the sharp correction.

FM Sitharaman set to present Finance Bill 2026-27, corporate law reform bill

New Delhi, (Agency)

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is set to table two key bills — the Finance Bill, 2026 and the Corporate Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2026 — in the Parliament on Monday. The Finance Bill, 2026 aims to give effect to the financial proposals of the Central Government for the 2026-2027 fiscal year. Finance Minister will move for the bill's consideration and seek its passage. This will mark a key step in implementing the government's budgetary plans and economic policies for the upcoming year. Finance Minister is also slated to introduce a bill in the Lok Sabha to amend key corporate laws, according to the House agenda.

The proposed Corporate Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2026 seeks changes

to the Limited Liability Partnership Act, 2008 and the Companies Act, 2013. The Companies Act governs incorporation, corporate governance, disclosures and dissolution, while the LLP Act offers a more flexible framework with limited liability for partners. Meanwhile, the Union Cabinet gave its approval for amendments to the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code on March 10, clearing the way to introduce the IBC Amendment Bill in the ongoing parliamentary session. The proposed legislative updates are based on the recommendations of a Select Parliamentary Committee chaired by Bharatiya Janata Party MP Baijayant Panda. The committee was tasked with reviewing the current bankruptcy framework. Upon completion, the

committee submitted its comprehensive report in December 2025 with a central focus on speeding up the corporate resolution process.

In order to tackle the delays that are plaguing the current system, the parliamentary committee has recommended the implementation of stricter timelines for the disposal of bankruptcy cases. Along with the more stringent deadlines, the committee has now suggested granting enhanced powers to the Committee of Creditors (CoC), thus empowering lenders to drive faster and more decisive resolutions. In addition, the proposed amendments also address gaps in the existing code by introducing two major structural frameworks. Firstly, the select committee has proposed.

Markets bleed as Hormuz remains on edge; Sensex down 1,800, Rupee at record low

Kolkata, (Agency)

The mood on Dalal Street soured on Monday as escalating tensions in West Asia and a spike in oil prices triggered a broad sell-off. The S&P BSE Sensex fell 1,822.25 points to 72,710.71 while the NSE Nifty50 dropped 533.30 points to 22,581.20 as of 10:30 am, reflecting broad-based selling across sectors. The conflict, now entering its fourth week, has intensified after fresh warnings around the Strait of Hormuz, a critical oil transit route, raising concerns about potential supply disruptions and a prolonged energy shock. Global markets have remained on edge as tensions between the US and Iran continue to escalate, with investors closely tracking developments around the Strait of Hormuz. Any disruption to this route could impact a significant portion of global oil supply, keeping crude prices elevated.

Crude oil prices have surged above \$110 per barrel, sharply increasing costs for oil-importing countries like India. For an economy heavily dependent on crude imports, this raises inflation risks, widens the current account



deficit, and weighs on growth prospects.

The impact is also visible in the currency market. The rupee has slipped to record lows against the US dollar, adding to concerns as a weaker currency makes already expensive imports even costlier. Dr. V.K. Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist at Geojit Investments Limited, said the uncertainty surrounding the conflict continues to drive a global risk-off sentiment. "With the war in West Asia getting into the fourth week, there is no clarity on when the war will end. Unfortunately, the war is escalating, but the response around the Strait of Hormuz has so far prevented panic in the oil market," he said. "The uncertainty is huge and markets will be waiting and watching the outcome. The risk-off mood has impacted all asset classes, including stocks, bonds and precious metals," he added.

Rupee slides to record low, nears 94 as crude oil surge deepens pressure

Crude prices have surged sharply in recent weeks as the conflict in West Asia intensifies. Prices are now hovering above \$110 per barrel, a level that immediately hurts countries like India, which import over 80% of their oil needs.

New Delhi, (Agency)

The rupee fell to a record low of Rs 93.89 against the US dollar on Monday, as a surge in global crude oil prices and rising geopolitical tensions in West Asia weighed heavily on the currency. The currency slipped below Rs 93 just last week and is now edging towards Rs 94.

Crude prices have surged sharply in recent weeks as the conflict in West Asia intensifies. Prices are now hovering above \$110 per barrel, a level that immediately hurts countries like India, which import over 80% of their oil needs. India pays for

oil in dollars. When oil becomes more expensive, the country needs more dollars to buy the same amount of crude. This increases demand for the US dollar and puts pressure on the rupee. "Sustained strength in crude is expected to significantly widen India's import bill, putting continued pressure on the domestic currency," said Jateen Trivedi, VP Research Analyst - Commodity and Currency at LKP Securities. At the same time, global uncertainty is rising. In periods of conflict, investors move money into safer assets like the US dollar. That strengthens the dollar globally and pushes currencies like the rupee lower. The rupee has already weakened about 3% since the conflict began, making this one of its sharpest short-term declines in recent years. The impact is not limited to currency markets. A weaker rupee makes imports more expensive, including fuel, electronics and industrial inputs. This can push up inflation and eventually affect household expenses.

WILL RUPEE FALL FURTHER? The second major factor is the steady

outflow of foreign capital from Indian markets. Foreign investors have been pulling money out of equities in recent weeks. When they exit, they sell assets and convert rupees into dollars, which adds further pressure on the currency. The



shift is driven by better returns in the United States. Bond yields there are above 4.4%, and in uncertain times investors prefer safer and higher-yielding assets. This trend is not limited to India, but the impact is clearly visible. Equity markets have come under pressure and bond yields have risen, reflecting concerns over inflation and tighter financial conditions.

"The macro environment remains unfavorable for the rupee, and unless crude prices ease meaningfully, it is likely to stay under pressure," Trivedi said.

In the near term, the rupee is expected to trade in a weaker range of 93.00-94.25 against the US dollar, he added. The Reserve Bank of India has intervened at intervals by supplying dollars to the market to reduce volatility. However, it is not defending any fixed level for the rupee. The approach suggests a controlled and gradual depreciation rather than a sharp or disorderly fall. Looking ahead, the outlook remains uncertain. If oil prices stay elevated and geopolitical tensions continue, the rupee could weaken further toward the Rs 94-95 per dollar range. This is part of a broader global cycle where rising oil prices, capital flows and a stronger dollar reinforce each other. For now, the record low is less a standalone event and more a signal of the external pressures building on the Indian economy.



Delhi HC Issues Interim Direction To Safeguard

Sonakshi Sinha's

Personality Rights: Report

The Delhi High Court on Friday gave a verdict in favour of actress Sonakshi Sinha, as it issued an interim direction to safeguard the personality rights of the actor. According to a report, Justice Jyoti Singh heard the matter and, during the proceedings, sought specific instances of infringement. Later, in response to the demand, the counsel representing Sinha's side pointed out that certain AI bots are misusing Sonakshi's persona and characteristics. Following this, the judge asked for a soft copy of the alleged infringing links, and the matter has now been pushed to the next hearing, scheduled for July 6.

Several celebs seek protection of personality rights

In recent times, several celebrities, including Salman Khan, Aishwarya Rai Bachchan, Abhishek Bachchan, Amitabh Bachchan, Karan Johar, Rishab Shetty, Jaya Bachchan, Hrithik Roshan, and Akkineni Nagarjuna, have also moved courts to seek protection of their personality rights.

The Bombay High Court has recently passed comparable orders for Amitabh Bachchan, Aishwarya Rai Bachchan, Abhishek Bachchan, and others, reinforcing stronger protections against the unauthorised commercial use of their names, images, and voices.

What are personality rights?

Personality rights refer to an individual's legal entitlement to control the commercial and public use of their identity. They safeguard attributes that are uniquely linked to a person, such as their name, image, likeness, voice, signature, or even trademark catchphrases, from being exploited without consent. These rights are often broken into two branches, the Right of Publicity and the Right to Privacy. The former protects against unauthorised commercial exploitation, such as using a celebrity's face in advertisements. On the other hand, the Right to Privacy guards against intrusion into personal dignity, covering misuse through deepfakes, morphed images, fabricated endorsements, or intimate doctored content.

About Sonakshi Sinha

Sonakshi Sinha is one of the most loved actresses in the industry. The actress was last seen in 2025's mythological drama Jatadhara, where she shared screen space with Sudheer Babu, Shilpa Shirodkar, and others. The actress has a courtroom drama in her kitty. Sonakshi will star alongside Jyotika in Ashwiny Iyer Tiwari's System. System revolves around two women whose lives exist at opposite ends of the social spectrum.



Anu Malik Makes Theatre Debut With Anupam Kher's Play After 45 Years In Music



After decades of ruling the music charts, Anu Malik is trying something new and he seems genuinely excited about it. The veteran composer, known for delivering hits across generations, is now stepping into theatre, taking on a fresh challenge after 45 years in the music industry. (As reported by The Free Press Journal.) Malik, who began his journey with a song in his father Sardar Malik's film Hunterwali 77 and went on to score music for over 240 films, is now composing for the stage play Jaane Pehchaane Anjane.... The play features and is presented by Anupam Kher and Swaroop Sampat, and is written and directed by Gajendra Ahire.

Speaking about reuniting with Anupam Kher, over two decades after working together on Om Jai Jagadish, Malik shared his admiration for the actor-filmmaker and what drew him to the project. He told Free Press Journal, "It feels very, very good, as I respect Anupam-ji not just as a filmmaker but also as an actor and above all as a human being, and he approached me. I have never done a stage play before, but when I heard the script, I was bowled over. It is one of the most emotional plays I have ever come across. He also asked me if I could do it as he thought that I was the right man for the job, so I took it up as a challenge! And something new is always exciting. Besides, Anupam himself is an inspiration in the way he works on his music and performances." He believes Kher chose him for his melodic sensibility. "I feel he wanted something very melodic that can take the play forward in terms of music and also in creativity. And the fact that he gave me the respect and approached me made a major difference, because a man of his level of talent wanted someone like me, who he thought had the talent. I felt very nice when he said such beautiful words." For Malik, composing for theatre comes with a different kind of pressure. Unlike films, where visuals often support the music, stage demands that the songs stand on their own. "Music is music, it is creation, and stage as a medium is a bigger challenge as those who are watching the play and hearing your song should be interested in what you have done. In a play, the crowd is right there, watching it. If your song is not melodic it will not hold them."

Dhurandhar 2: Meet Pari Pandher, The Face Behind Jasleen Rangi's Most Emotional Scene



Amid the scale and spectacle of Dhurandhar: The Revenge, one quiet, emotionally charged moment has managed to leave a lasting impact. The reunion between Ranveer Singh's Jaskirat Singh Rangi and his younger sister Jasleen stands out as one of the film's most poignant sequences, introducing audiences to a compelling new face—Parveer Kaur Pandher.

Who Is Pari Pandher?

Parveer Kaur Pandher, popularly known as Pari Pandher, plays Jasleen Kaur Rangi in the film. Despite limited screen time, her performance in the intense reunion scene—set against the backdrop of chaos and grief—has resonated strongly with viewers.

The scene, where the siblings share a tearful embrace, becomes a crucial emotional pivot in Jaskirat's journey, intensifying his rage-driven mission following the tragedy that befalls his family.

From Punjabi Industry To Bollywood Spotlight

Hailing from Punjab, Pandher has already carved a niche for herself in the regional entertainment space through music videos, songs, and films like Annhi Dea Mazaak Ae.

With a growing fanbase and over 850K followers on Instagram, she has steadily built her presence as both a singer and actor. Her role in Dhurandhar: The Revenge marks a significant crossover into mainstream Hindi cinema, sharing screen space with Ranveer Singh in a performance that has quickly caught attention.

Parveer Pandher On Her Breakthrough Moment

Reflecting on her experience, Parveer shared an emotional note along with a behind-the-scenes glimpse from the film.

"Eh scene perform karke mainu sachi buhat Maan mehsoos hoye apne aap te mainu khud di pehchan ni si aa ryi ki eh main hi aa dar aa riya si dekh ke par waheguru g ne hamesha mera sath ditta and es film da part banke I'm so happy (After performing that scene, I truly felt very proud of myself. I could hardly recognise myself, it was even a bit scary to watch. But Waheguru has always supported me, and I'm so happy to be part of this film) (sic)."



Karisma Kapoor

Kept Tabs On Raveena Tandon's Costumes During Andaz Apna Apna: 'She'd Sent Someone To See'

The rivalry between Karisma Kapoor and Raveena Tandon on the sets of Andaz Apna Apna has long been well known. Now, costume designer Ashley Rebello has opened up about how that competition even extended to costumes. Rebello revealed that Karisma Kapoor would send members from her team to check what Raveena was wearing. How Ashley Rebello came on board Rebello shared that his journey to Andaz Apna Apna was unexpected. After working on Jo Jeeta Wohi Sikandar, he hoped for more film offers but eventually moved into production when that didn't happen. Things changed during an ad shoot with Raveena Tandon, where her designer failed to show up. Rebello stepped in to fix her outfit and that led to a bigger opportunity.

He said, "I went to Raveena and asked what the issue was with her outfit. I told her I would fix it, and I delivered the corrected outfit on time. After trying it, she said, 'My God, this is amazing. Did you do this?' She asked me what I do, and I told her I am a designer and that I had worked on Jo Jeeta Wohi Sikandar. She said, 'Oh, you are that Ashley Rebello?' I said yes. She then asked why I wasn't doing more films. I told her no one was offering me work. Raveena told me, 'Ashley, don't wait for people to give you work—ask for it.' So I asked her if she would give me work, and she said, of course. She called me home and told me she was starting a new film. That film was Andaz Apna Apna,"

Styling Raveena for a memorable song

One of Rebello's key contributions was designing Raveena's looks for the song "Yeh Raat Aur Yeh

Doori." The idea was to take simple nightwear and make it visually striking.

He said, "Raveena told me we had to wear nighties for the song, but we needed to make them look different. I watch a lot of English films, so I wanted to bring that aesthetic into Hindi cinema. I added feathers and fur to her nighties. The director loved it and said it looked beautiful and could become a trend. There were three nighties in the same song, and we made each one better than the other."



Competition that went beyond acting

According to Rebello, the rivalry between the two actors was visible even in their styling choices. He added, "At that time, Karisma would often send someone from her team to see what Raveena's costumes looked like—who was designing them and what exactly was being made. She would then tell her own stylist to take note of it. Raveena looked fabulous in the film. I didn't know then that I would go on to work with Karisma in so many films later."

5 skills you need to improve your Work life

The rules of professional world are changing fast.

These are five fundamental skills that you need to be a good professional



People skills:

Most of our professional life is centered on interacting with people. It is essential to have great people's skill which means one should be at ease with both his/her seniors or subordinates. Having effective people's skills means one creates a pleasant environment around him/her and exudes positive energy.

Higher Emotional Quotient:

The new-age working environment needs more of EQ (Emotional Quotient). People having higher level of EQ will deal with work related crisis better and they are also good team leaders and team builders. When they walk, they take people along with them in the journey. They have compassion, empathy and most importantly they know how to stay calm in the face of crisis.

The art of innovation:

In today's competitive world, innovation is the buzzword. One needs to push one's creative boundaries. You need to think different and think of innovative way to

bring in more productivity. Innovation also involves celebrating the power of imagination.

Be decisive:

When at work, you just can't be the headless chicken. You need to have a firm grip over the situation. And to top it all, you need to be a quick decision maker. This skill matters most in the midst of crisis where the only option is the right option. Decisiveness saves you more time than anything and it also helps with fast thinking skills.

Learn to delegate:

Most people in position of authority don't delegate out of sheer insecurity and fear and of course with a superiority complex that makes them think nobody can do a better job than them. It's necessary to trust people and let them take responsibility for the work they do. Delegation makes the work process easier and gives others the opportunity to show their strengths as well. It instills confidence and a sense of well-being in people.

Squirming actually helps hyperactive kids learn

Think twice before you slam a child with attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) to sit still and concentrate. Researchers have found that the foot-tapping, leg-swinging and chair-scooting movements are vital to how such children remember information and work out complex tasks.

The findings show the longtime prevailing methods for helping children with ADHD may be misguided.

"The typical interventions target reducing hyperactivity. It is exactly the opposite of what, we should be doing for a majority of children with ADHD," said one of the study's authors, Mark Rapport from University of Central Florida.

"The message isn't 'Let them run around the room,' but you need to be able to facilitate their movement, so they can maintain the level of alertness necessary for cognitive activities," Rapport explained.

The findings suggests that a majority of students with ADHD could perform better on classroom work, tests and homework if they are sitting on activity balls or exercise bikes, for instance.

The study included 52 boys aged eight to 12. Twenty-nine of the children were diagnosed with ADHD and the other 23 had no clinical disorders and showed normal development.

Each child was asked to perform a series of standardised tasks designed to gauge "working memory," the system for temporarily storing and managing information required to carry out complex cognitive tasks such as learning, reasoning and comprehension.

"What we have found is that when they are moving the most, the majority of them perform better," Rapport said.

By contrast, the children in the study without ADHD also moved more during the cognitive tests, but it had the opposite effect: They performed worse.



Let workers have quality Family time

Supervisors who support the personal and family life of their colleagues and flexible work schedules can allow employees to spend more quality time with their families without affecting their work time, says a new research.

The findings suggest that just a little change in work culture can help even women with children manage their work-life balance.

"These findings may encourage changes in the structure of jobs and culture of work organisations to support families," said Kelly Davis, research assistant professor at Pennsylvania State University.

"The results show that we can change the way we work to improve family life," Davis noted.

The Support-Transform-Achieve-Results (STAR) workplace intervention included training supervisors to be more supportive of their employees' personal and family lives, changing the structure of work so that employees have more control of their work time, and changing the culture in the workplace so that colleagues are more supportive of each other.

The researchers evaluated whether parents who participated in the STAR intervention reported significantly more daily time with their children compared with parents randomly assigned to a control group. They found that parents in the STAR group exhibited a statistically significant increase in parent-child shared time -- an additional 39 minutes per day on average -- between the pre-test and the 12 month follow-up post-test.

By contrast, parents in the control group averaged 24 fewer minutes per day with their child at the 12 month follow-up. Interestingly, the researchers found that it affected mothers' and fathers' time with their children differently.

"Among the study's findings was that mothers' time with children increased more than fathers'," Davis said. What is more, mothers in this sample did not work significantly fewer hours per week -- on average 46.24 and 46.59 hours per week for mothers and fathers, respectively -- and work hours did not significantly change from pre-test to post-test for either mothers or fathers.

The findings were published in the journal Pediatrics.

