

Sangam Vihar Land Mafia Exposed Thousands of Acres of Government Forest Land Allegedly Sold to Poor Migrants

Illegal Colonies Flourish While Authorities Look Away; Monthly Installment Racket Thrives in Broad Daylight

The Sikh Times Gurcharan Singh Babbar

New Delhi 25 March, A shocking case of large-scale illegal land encroachment and exploitation of poor migrant families has surfaced in South Delhi's Sangam Vihar area...



According to ground reports and representations, vast stretches of government-owned forest (jungle) land in Sangam Vihar have allegedly been illegally sold by land mafia groups.



These mafia operators have reportedly targeted poor migrant families, selling plots



in easy monthly installments. Families living on this land claim that: They were given notary-attested affidavits and fake Power of Attorney documents No legal registry, mutation, or government

approval exists Payments are collected entirely in cash, leaving no legal proof Land mafia agents visit regularly to collect monthly installments This reveals a deeply organized and systematic land sale network operating outside the legal framework...

Gujarat Assembly passes Uniform Civil Code Bill; Congress calls it 'anti-Muslim'

With the passage of the bill, BJP-ruled Gujarat became the second state in the country to pass the UCC Bill. Uttarakhand became the first state to pass a UCC Bill in February 2024.

Gandhinagar. (Agency) The Gujarat Assembly on Tuesday passed the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) Bill after a marathon seven-and-a-half-hour discussion...

religion. However, before the Bill could be passed by voice vote, Congress staged a walkout demanding the Speaker to refer the Bill to a Select Committee.



or restrict anyone's freedom," CM Patel said. The Opposition, however, stated that the Bill addresses only communal

issues and serves only the ruling party's political interests. They alleged that the Bill was fast-tracked only to tackle anti-incumbency against the BJP...

which is why we are opposing the Bill. If the government is concerned about Muslim women, it should provide justice to Bilkeesha Bano and take action against the welcome given to her accused.

Ajit Pawar plane crash: Rohit Pawar files zero FIR in Bengaluru, claims conspiracy

Bengaluru.(Agency) Rohit Pawar, the nephew of late Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar, on Tuesday said he filed a zero FIR in Bengaluru in connection with the January 28 plane crash in Maharashtra's Baramati...

serial number 0, before being transferred to the appropriate police station for investigation. Rohit Pawar filed a complaint at the High Grounds Police Station, alleging a larger criminal conspiracy behind the crash.



to be used in Ajit Pawar's case due to the alleged inaction of Maharashtra Police. The zero FIR filed by Rohit Pawar invokes multiple sections of the

Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, including charges related to culpable homicide, negligence and endangering life. According to the complaint, the aircraft operated by a private firm, VSR Ventures Pvt Ltd, was allegedly unfit for operation...

Punjab CM rejects CBI probe demand into official's suicide

Randhawa had accused the former minister of pressurising him to allocate a tender for a Godown to his father, Sukhdev Singh Bhullar. Before his death, the officer had also written to his seniors, accusing Bhullar of forcing him to falsely confess to taking bribes for tenders.

Chandigarh.(Agency) The death of a Punjab State Warehousing Corporation officer on March 21 has created a political storm for the Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann-led Aam Aadmi Party government in Punjab.

From 1000 Aam Aadmi Clinics to 10 lakh health cover, AAP to present full report card before people: Aman Arora

CHANDIGARH, March 25: Punjab Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) President Aman Arora on Wednesday announced a massive statewide public outreach campaign to mark four years of the Bhagwant Mann Government...

President added that the campaign will involve ministers, MLAs, chairpersons, sarpanches, panches, MCs, district presidents and party volunteers, who will reach every village, street and household with the government's report card.

over 100 more will be inaugurated in the coming days, taking the total to 1000 clinics." On sports infrastructure, he said, "3,000 sports stadiums have been constructed and over 6,000 more are under construction.

from drugs." Despite financial constraints, he asserted that development work has continued at scale. "Even though the Centre has withheld over ₹8,300 crore of Rural Development Fund money, Punjab is building over 40,000 kilometres of roads.

enue benefits to Punjab," he added. Reaffirming AAP's commitment to fulfilling promises, Aman Arora said, "We are a party that delivers more than it promises. We fulfilled all five guarantees. Schools and hospitals have been transformed. ₹1 crore for martyred soldiers' families was implemented in the first year.



Front continued news

Sangam Vihar Land Mafia Exposed: Thousands of Acres of Government Forest Land Allegedly Sold to Poor Migrants Illegal Colonies Flourish While Authorities Look Away; Monthly Installment Racket Thrives in Broad Daylight

In a surprising move, the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) recently carried out a limited demolition drive, but only a handful of structures were demolished on the forest land. Observers and local voices have raised serious concerns: Why were only a few houses targeted? Why was action not taken against the hundreds of acres under illegal? Why are the main land mafia operators still untouched? This selective action is being seen by many as mere "formal compliance" (khana purti) rather than a serious attempt to reclaim public land. Despite minor actions, reports indicate that hundreds of acres of forest land remain under illegal occupation, with new constructions continuing unabated. The scale of this alleged scam suggests: A deep nexus between land mafia and local administrative machinery Failure of monitoring by forest and revenue departments Possible negligence or complicity of officials Given the magnitude of the issue, strong demands are being raised for: A CBI or ED investigation into the land transactions Identification and arrest of the land mafia kingpins Protection and rehabilitation of poor migrant families Complete survey and recovery of encroached government land This unfolding situation raises critical questions: How can government forest land be openly sold for years? Who is responsible for allowing such colonies to flourish? Why are poor citizens being exploited while masterminds roam free? Is there a larger organized racket functioning under administrative silence? The Sangam Vihar land encroachment issue is not just a case of illegal construction—it is a humanitarian crisis and a massive governance failure. On one side, thousands of poor migrant families are unknowingly trapped in an illegal system, paying monthly installments for land that does not legally belong to them. On the other side, powerful land mafia networks continue to operate fearlessly. If immediate and strict action is not taken, this case may turn into one of the largest urban land scams in Delhi, leaving irreversible damage to both public resources and vulnerable citizens.

5-yr-old mauled by stray dogs, leg saved after complex vascular surgery

Noida.(Agency)
A five-year-old girl whose blood circulation system to her legs was severely damaged in a stray dog attack underwent an emergency vascular surgery at Artemis Hospital that will likely help her walk again. The child was attacked by a pack of stray dogs last week and sustained deep bite wounds on her back, thigh and legs. Doctors said a large portion of tissue on her left thigh was torn away and the main artery that circulated blood to the leg was damaged, putting her at immediate risk of gangrene and amputation. However, doctors said the surgery has repaired the damage and the child is expected to regain the ability to walk once her wounds heal. A paediatric cardiothoracic and vascular surgery team at the hospital carried out a time-sensitive procedure to reconstruct the damaged artery. The vessel was replaced using an artificial vascular graft, restoring circulation to the limb. Dr Devlina Chakravarty, paediatric cardiac surgeon at Artemis, said the injury was critical and required immediate intervention. "Every minute was crucial. The extent of vascular damage posed an immediate threat to the limb. Timely surgery and coordinated care helped restore blood circulation and prevent permanent disability," she said.

Noida hospital whose owner tried to 'sell' newborn loses licence

Noida.(Agency)
UP govt has revoked the licence of Navjeevan Hospital in Bisrakh and begun steps to seal the facility after its owner and two staffers were arrested for allegedly trying to sell a five-day-old baby girl for Rs 2.6 lakh. Police and health officials said they would also examine crucial hospital records, including delivery registers, to establish the infant's trail. Deputy CMO Chandan Soni said the action followed a police report. "The hospital's licence has been cancelled on the basis of police inputs. A three-member committee led by the CMO will examine all records, including delivery registers, to verify the identities of mothers and detect any manipulation. Its findings will be compiled as evidence and could be important in court," he said. Officials said the panel will scrutinise documents in the hospital's record room, including names, addresses and other details of women who delivered there. The aim, a senior health official said, is to establish the real identity of mothers and find out whether any other records were tampered with. The case surfaced after a couple from Ace City in Bisrakh alerted child protection authorities to a WhatsApp message claiming a newborn girl was "available for adoption". Police said the message was circulated by Pushpa, a nurse at the hospital who also worked as a domestic help in the society. When the complainant's wife called the number shared by Pushpa, she was allegedly told the baby could be handed over for Rs 2.6 lakh and that she should decide quickly. Acting on the complaint, Childline officials and police laid a trap.

New boosting station in Gurgaon Sector 72 set to miss March deadline, launch likely in April

Gurgaon.(Agency)
Commissioning of the Sector 72 boosting station has been delayed once again, with work now expected to be completed by mid-April instead of March, as earlier projected by GMDA. Officials said around 40 metres of pipeline laying is still pending. A total of 985 metres of pipeline was planned to connect the Chandu Budhera water treatment plant with the Sector 72 boosting station. "Most of the work is already done, and the clearing of the already laid pipelines is underway. Efforts are being made to operationalise the boosting station by mid-April," said a GMDA official. The boosting station is crucial for residents in the new sectors along the Southern Peripheral Road (SPR), many of whom face irregular water supply. At present, these areas depend on the Sector 51 boosting station, which is unable to meet peak demand, forcing several residential societies to rely on private water



tankers. Once operational, the Sector 72 facility is expected to ease pressure on the existing system and improve supply across several sectors along SPR. The project, estimated to cost Rs 63 crore and spread over 4 acres, has faced repeated delays since its inception. The foundation for the 240 MLD station was

laid in June 2019, with completion initially targeted within nine months. However, work slowed during the Covid-19 pandemic and was further impacted by annual construction bans across NCR. While the construction of the station was completed in 2022, the second phase, involving installation of machinery,

began in Feb that year with a 12-month deadline. Progress was again hit due to the unavailability of land for a 500-metre stretch required for laying inlet and outlet pipelines between Chandu Budhera and the boosting station. To work around this, GMDA revised the alignment and laid around 650 metres of pipeline between Fazilpur Road and Sector 71. The project also faced a fresh hurdle when NHAI halted pipeline work beneath the Dwarka Expressway after cavities were detected along the stretch, stalling work for nearly two months. The work was allowed to resume in Dec after clearance from the authority.

Meanwhile, the RWA president of BPTP Astaire Gardens, Jaswant Rao, said, "Despite repeated complaints, we continue to face erratic water supply, especially in summer, and heavily depend on tankers. Timely completion of this project will provide relief to the residents."

Kapur versus Kapur feud intensifies with notice, counter-notice

Gurgaon.(Agency)
In a fresh twist in the Sunjay Kapur estate dispute, his wife Priya Kapur has issued notice for removal of her estranged mother-in-law Rani Kapur from the family trust. The move comes days after Rani Kapur issued a notice to remove Priya from the RK family trust. "Your conduct is contrary to the terms of the trust deed and to your fiduciary duties as a trustee. As stated, you have sought a judicial declaration to dissolve the RK Family Trust, aiming to divest the trust of its entire corpus and revert all settled assets to yourself while seeking to void all prior trust actions. Such an attempt to extinguish the trust for your personal gain is a complete breach of your fiduciary duties as a trustee," Priya Kapur said in a

notice to her mother-in-law. Two months ago, Rani Kapur had filed a civil suit in Delhi High Court challenging the validity of the RK Family Trust, claiming personal ownership of the assets. She also opposed Priya Kapur's appointment to the board of Sona BLW Precision Forgings (Sona Comstar), alleging she was coerced into signing documents and was not aware of the full details at the time. The RK Family Trust, at the centre of the Sunjay Kapur family dispute, derives much of its value from its indirect holding in auto components maker Sona Comstar. The trust holds 65% in Aureus Investment, which in turn owns about 28% promoter stake in Sona Comstar. With Sona Comstar's market capitalisation at around Rs 30,000 crore, Aureus' holding is valued

at roughly Rs 8,000-8,500 crore, placing the trust's indirect stake at about Rs 5,000-5,500 crore. The dispute over the validity and administration of the RK Family Trust is currently pending before the Delhi High Court. The trust has four beneficiaries after the removal of Rani, namely, Priya Kapur, her son Azarias, and Sunjay Kapur's two children with actor Karisma Kapoor, Samaira and Kiaan. Sunjay Kapur died in the UK last year resulting in a massive fight over assets, which also involves the Samaira and Kiaan. Earlier this year, Rani Kapur had moved the HC and alleged that a fraudulent family trust was created to take control of her estate. In the suit, Rani claimed she became aware of the irregularities only after her son's death in June 2025 and alleged.

Setback for waste pickup as MCG's plan to hire private companies faces delay again

Gurgaon.(Agency)
The Haryana forest department has issued a damage report to MCG over a pipeline laid by the civic body that was found terminating near a forest waterbody inside the Aravali plantation area in a village. The site is located barely 10 minutes from Golf Course Extension Road. The pipeline is connected to the MCG-operated STP in Baliyawas and is intended to channel treated wastewater towards the forest area.

Following complaints from residents, forest department officials inspected the site recently and prepared a damage report. "We issued a damage report on March 17. We will issue a notice to MCG seeking an explanation for this violation. If MCG fails to respond satisfactorily, we will move the environment court," a forest official said, adding that non-forest activity and dumping of wastewater are not permissible in Aravali plantation areas. The action comes days after TOI reported that a pipeline had been recently laid through the plantation area without permission. The pipeline runs from a sewage treatment plant (STP) in Baliyawas village to a waterbody within the forest patch, prompting strong objections from local residents who allege that treated wastewater is being diverted into a structure meant for groundwater recharge and wildlife use. A visit by TOI found the pipeline cutting through the notified plantation area and ending close to a small check dam inside the forest. Residents said the pipeline was laid just a few days ago and — at the time of inspection — wastewater had not yet begun flowing through it. Mapping records and GIS data reviewed by TOI show that the land where the pipeline terminates is classified as Aravali Plantation, spread over around 95 hectares. Locals pointed out that the water structure near the pipeline outlet was created by the forest department as part of conservation work in the Aravali hills. In a complaint submitted to the divisional forest officer (territorial), residents warned that discharge of even treated STP water could contaminate water meant for animals and degrade the surrounding ecosystem.

Gurgaon civic body steps up checks, fines 9k for flouting waste and dust rules

Gurgaon.(Agency)
MCG has issued 9,002 challans and imposed fines amounting to Rs 1.8 crore over the past year for violations of sanitation and environment norms in the city. The civic body said the penalties were issued between March 24, 2025, and March 24, 2026, for offences including burning garbage, non-compliance by bulk waste generators, dumping septage in public places, illegal disposal of construction and demolition (C&D) waste, littering, use of banned polythene, misuse of water and construction activity during restriction periods. During a cleanliness review meeting on Tuesday, MCG commissioner Pradeep Dahiya directed officials to intensify monitoring of sanitation work and ensure strict enforcement. He instructed additional and joint commissioners to conduct daily field inspections instead of remaining confined to offices. An offence-wise report showed the highest number of challans for banned polythene use, with 5,871 challans and Rs 37.9 lakh collected. Action was also

reported against establishments failing to provide waste bins, with 1,536 challans resulting in Rs 7.68 lakh in fines. Construction-related violations accounted for major penalties. MCG issued 233 challans for C&D waste violations, collecting the highest amount of penalties at Rs 54.8 lakh. Moreover,



174 challans were issued for failure to stop construction activities in violation of GRAP regulations, resulting in Rs 43.7 lakh in fines. Public sanitation violations remained a concern, with 738 challans issued for open defecation, generating Rs 3.7 lakh. A total of 137 penalties were imposed for violations including burning

of garbage, amounting to Rs 6.85 lakh, and 137 cases for littering or dumping waste in non-bulk quantities, collecting Rs 9.35 lakh. Other penalties included 46 challans for vehicles transporting uncovered material (Rs 2.3 lakh), 24 challans for dust mitigation violations (Rs 6 lakh), and 33 challans for water wastage (Rs 39,000). "Penalties amounting to Rs 48 lakh are yet to be recovered," said an MCG official. Dahiya said he would conduct regular on-site inspections to monitor sanitation work and stressed improving cleanliness on major roads by keeping them free of garbage and dust to ensure a clean and healthy environment for residents.

He also appealed to citizens to avoid littering and cooperate with the corporation in maintaining cleanliness, saying public participation is essential for achieving the goal of a clean city. Dahiya said strict action against violators would continue while efforts are stepped up to improve the city's sanitation system.

NCR tops India's 2025 pollution list, records hazardous PM2.5 levels; Loni ranks 1st

Gurgaon.(Agency)
Cities in NCR cluster dominated the 2025 pollution charts, with Loni being India's most-polluted place last year, followed by Delhi, Ghaziabad, Noida, Greater Noida. Loni's annual PM2.5 average was 112.5 µg/m³ in 2025. Delhi ranked third with 99.6 µg/m³ in India, followed by Ghaziabad in fourth place at 89.2 µg/m³. New Delhi stood eighth with 82.2 µg/m³, while Noida and Greater Noida ranked ninth and 10th with 80.5 µg/m³ and 77.2 µg/m³, respectively. Gurgaon was placed 11th, with an annual average PM2.5 concentration of 74.6 µg/m³. Although this was an improvement from 87.4 µg/m³ in 2024, the city remained among India's most-polluted urban centres, with air quality consistently far above safe limits. Globally, New Delhi remained the most polluted capital city for the eighth consecutive year, according to the report. The city recorded an annual PM2.5 concentration of 82.2 micrograms per cubic metre,

nearly 16.4 times World Health Organisation's safe limit of five micrograms per cubic metre. India's national ambient air quality standard for PM2.5 is 40 micrograms per cubic metre. As in previous years, the report differentiated between the city of New Delhi and the wider National Capital Territory. On that basis, the entire Delhi was ranked the fourth most polluted city globally, after Loni in Ghaziabad (112.5), Hotan in China (109.6), and Byrnhat on the Meghalaya-Assam border (101.6). Among capital cities, Dhaka ranked second with an average annual PM2.5 concentration of 68 micrograms per cubic metre in 2025. Nationally, India saw only modest improvement, with average PM2.5 levels declining 3% from 50.6 µg/m³ in 2024 to 48.9 µg/m³ in 2025, according to IQAir World Air Quality Report. Within NCR, Gurgaon reflected wider regional pattern of severe winter spikes and brief monsoon relief. Monthly data showed PM2.5 peaking in Nov at 153.6 µg/m³ and in Dec at 147.4

µg/m³, while Jan remained critically polluted at 96.3 µg/m³. During the monsoon, pollution dropped to 25.1 µg/m³ in July before rising again from Oct. Regional character of the crisis extended beyond NCR. Across UP, PM2.5 levels rose by an average of 62% in Dec, following the same winter pollution cycle seen in Gurgaon and nearby cities. Delhi also experienced sharp short-term surges. A dust storm in April pushed PM2.5 levels up by 15%, while Dec saw a 44% jump driven by crop residue burning, temperature inversion and stagnant winds. In Haryana, Manesar was the only other monitoring station included in the dataset. It recorded an annual PM2.5 average of 51.1 µg/m³, down from 65.4 µg/m³ in 2024, but still above permissible standards. Like Gurgaon, Manesar showed a pronounced seasonal pattern, with pollution peaking in Nov at 105.5 µg/m³ and Dec at 94.6 µg/m³ before falling to 17.2 µg/m³ in July. This suggested exposure to the same regional pollution drivers. "Out of 259 cities, 115

exceed even India's lenient air quality standards, yet most of the most polluted cities remain outside National Clean Air Programme's coverage. The focus must shift to sector-specific emission targets that address both particulate pollution and the gases that form it," said Manoj Kumar, analyst with Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA). The report also underlined structural gaps in India's clean air response. Although National Clean Air Programme aims at reducing pollution levels by 40% by 2025-26, nearly 64% of its funds have gone toward road dust control. Much smaller shares were allocated to biomass burning at 15%, vehicular emissions at 13% and industrial pollution at just 1%. Experts said the policy response remains overly focused on PM10, despite the greater health risks posed by PM2.5. Weak enforcement of emission norms, according to the report, continued dependence on coal and rapid urbanisation have further worsened the problem.

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Mukh Mantri Sehat Yojana proves to be a boon for Punjabis with free treatment up to 10 lakh: Dr. Balbir Singh

The Sikh Times Patiala, March 25: Punjab Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr. Balbir Singh stated that the unique scheme 'Mukh Mantri Sehat Yojana', launched by the Punjab Government under the leadership of Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann, providing free treatment up to 210 lakh, is proving to be a boon for the people of Punjab. Highlighting the achievements of the health sector over the past four years, he informed that so far 1.60 lakh people have availed free treatment worth 2191 crore under this scheme. Dr. Balbir Singh said that Punjab's

health model is now being replicated in other states across the country. He added that under the leadership of Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann, the Aam Aadmi Party government has prioritized health, education, and employment over the past four years, and the results are evident. He further stated that the transformation of Government Rajindra Hospital and Mata Kaushalya Hospital in Patiala marked the beginning of a health revolution in the state, and the

government has achieved unprecedented success in the health sector during this period. The Health Minister informed that under the Mukh Mantri Sehat Yojana, health cards are to be issued to 65 lakh families covering around 3 crore people, out of which 25 lakh cards have already been issued. He appealed to the public to get their health cards made proactively rather than waiting for illness. He also shared that 9 new medical colleges are being established in the state, including those already opera-

tional at Fatehgarh Sahib and ESI Ludhiana. Additionally, upcoming colleges at Hoshiarpur,

motions also granted to professors. Dr. Balbir Singh said that to strengthen infrastructure, equipment worth 200 crore is being procured for all government medical colleges, and 22 critical care blocks with 50 beds each are being set up across districts. He added that along with free medicines, diagnostic services are being expanded. MRI facilities will be made available in all district hospitals this year, CT scan facilities in 8 more hospitals, and 7 maternal and child hospitals with 250 beds each will be made operational soon. Over 200 empanelled private diagnostic centres are also providing

X-ray and ultrasound services. He informed that under AI-enabled screening in five districts, 9,294 women were examined, detecting 8 cases of breast cancer and 43 cases of cervical cancer. Similarly, AI-enabled eye screening of 1.07 lakh people revealed vision issues in 21,660 individuals. The Health Minister said that under the 'Yudh Nashian Virudh' campaign, the government has reduced the demand for drugs and broken supply chains, while also creating strong infrastructure for free treatment and rehabilitation of drug addicts. Skill development initiatives for recovering addicts and expansion of clinics in jails have also been undertaken. He further stated that 883 Aam Aadmi Clinics have provided free treatment to 1.69 crore people through over

5 crore OPD consultations. The 'CM di Yogshala' project has also brought a new revolution in preventive healthcare, benefiting around 2 lakh people daily through 8,000 yoga ses-

sions. Additionally, 948 general doctors and 627 super-specialist doctors have been recruited, marking the largest medical recruitment in Punjab's history.



Dr. Balbir Singh, Punjab Health and Family Welfare Minister, speaking at a podium.

NAME CHANGE
I, TANAJI is a real father of No. J463213W Rank-NB SUB Name-SHINDE SACHIN TANAJI Presently residing VILL. RANAND, POST - RANAND, TEH. MAN, DIST. SATARA, (MAHARASHTRA)-415508, have changed my name from TANAJI TO TANAJI BANDU SHINDE for all future purposes. Vide affidavit dated 02.03.2026 before Public Notary Delhi.

NAME CHANGE
I, SHITAL is legally wife of No. J463213W Rank-NB SUB Name-SHINDE SACHIN TANAJI Presently residing at VILL-RANAND, POST - RANAND, TEH-MAN, DIST-SATARA, (MAHARASHTRA)-415508, have changed my name from SHITAL TO SHINDE SHITAL SACHIN for all future purposes. Vide affidavit dated 02.03.2026 before Public Notary Delhi.

NAME CHANGE
I, SALUKHE APPASAHEB RAMCHANDRA is a real father of No. 2805621N Rank HAV Name SALUNKHE PRADIP APPASAHEB Presently residing VILL-HATNOLI, POST-HATNOLI, TEH-TASGAON, DIST-SANGLI, (MAHARASHTRA)-416314, have changed my name from SALUKHE APPASAHEB RAMCHANDRA TO APPASAHEB RAMCHANDRA SALUNKHE and date of birth from 01/09/1966 to 01/06/1961 for all future purposes. Vide affidavit dated 02.03.2026 before Public Notary Delhi.

Lost & Found
I, Somya Sayal D/o Gaurav Sayal R/o 76, Shakti Vihar Pitampura, Delhi-110034, have lost my 10th Marksheet Roll No. 634878, B.S. Degree Certificate No. 1-210106022, Batch No. 2010 to 2013 and B.Ed Degree Roll No. 604519582016 and University Reg. No. 1063700137983. If anyone found please contact: 9205381813

NAME CHANGE
I, Kumari Mahima D/o Sh. Mahendra Kumar, R/o House No.44 1ST Floor Left Hand Backside, Dayalbagh Colony Lakkarpur, Surajpali, Faridabad, Haryana-121009, inform that I have changed my name from Miss Mahima to Kumari Mahima and Kumari Mahima and Miss Mahima both are the names of one and the same person. In future I will be known and called by the name of KUMARI MAHIMA for all purposes.

NAME CHANGE
I, Gurpreet Singh Hunjan S/o - Sukhdev Singh, R/O - G-6 Sant Nagar extension, near Tikar Nagar, 110018 Changed my name to Gurpreet Singh

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given that I, Mrs. Jyoti Mehtani, have lost/ misplaced the Original Lease Deed / Grant of Ownership Rights Letter of Property No. 24C, New Central Market (Shankar Market), Connaught Place, New Delhi-110001. I intend to apply before L&O/NDMC for issuance of duplicate documents and/or mutation of the said property in my favour, if there are any objections/claims from the general public on these applications, the same shall be communicated to L&O/NDMC with supporting documents through registered post or by visiting L&O/NDMC or through an email at: soestate1@ndmc.gov.in within 30 days of publication of this notice.

NAME CHANGE
I, SIYA YADAV W/o SANDEEP YADAV R/O T-37/1/1, Gali No.11, Gautam Puri, Garhi Mendu, North East Delhi, Delhi-110053 has changed the name of my minor daughter SAANVI aged 7 years and she shall hereafter be known as AANAYA YADAV.

NAME CHANGE
I, JAG MOHAN S/O RAM KUMAR R/O C-35 KARI ENCLAVE -1, KIRAR, GULEMAN, NAGAR DELHI-110086 has changed my name to JAG MOHAN Permanently for all future purposes

NAME CHANGE
I, SWAPAN KUMAR & SWAPN KUMAR S/O SUBHASH CHANDRA MALAKAR R/O H.NO 263 GALLI NO -7 MANDOLI EXTENSION MANDOLI DELHI -110093 have changed my name to SWAPAN KUMAR MALAKAR Permanently for all future purposes

NAME CHANGE
I, BEAUTY & BEAUTY W/O SWAPON KUMAR MALAKAR R/O H.NO 263 GALLI NO -7 MANDOLI EXTENSION MANDOLI DELHI -110093 have changed my name to BEAUTY Permanently for all future purposes

NAME CHANGE
I, SANJAY BHAGWAN S/O MAHESH KUMAR R/O PLOT NO 64 FIRST FLOOR POCKET -B DWARKADHISH ENCLAVE SECTOR 26 ROHINI SAHIBABAD DAULAT PUR DELHI -110042 have changed my name to SANJAY BHAGWANI Permanently for all future purposes

PUBLIC NOTICE
Be it known to all that my clients Sh. Dwarika Prasad s/o Hari Bhajan pal and Smt Yashoda W/o Dwarika Prasad both R/o Plot no C111A, Kh No- 22/15, Phase 1, E Block, Gali No-29, near Bhai Bhai Road, GUTUB VIHAR, CHHAWL, SOUTH WEST DELHI, DELHI-110071 has disowned his son namely SURAJ KUMAR from his all movable and immovable properties and my clients have served all relation with his son namely SURAJ KUMAR for their bad behaviour, misconduct, and bad attitude. That if, any body deal with my client's son namely SURAJ KUMAR of done any wrongful act, SURAJ KUMAR will do on his own responsibility any my clients shall not held responsible for any wrongful act done by my client's son SURAJ KUMAR.

NAME CHANGE
I, S SAVITA APPASAHEB is a real mother of No. 2805621N Rank HAV Name APPASAHEB Presently residing VILL-HATNOLI, POST-HATNOLI, TEH-TASGAON, DIST-SANGLI, (MAHARASHTRA)-416314, have changed my name from S SAVITA APPASAHEB TO SAVITA APPASAHEB SALUNKHE and date of birth from 04/07/1974 to 01/06/1968 for all future purposes. Vide affidavit dated 02.03.2026 before Public Notary Delhi.

NAME CHANGE
I, S SAVITA APPASAHEB is a real mother of No. 2805621N Rank HAV Name APPASAHEB Presently residing VILL-HATNOLI, POST-HATNOLI, TEH-TASGAON, DIST-SANGLI, (MAHARASHTRA)-416314, have changed my name from S SAVITA APPASAHEB TO SAVITA APPASAHEB SALUNKHE and date of birth from 04/07/1974 to 01/06/1968 for all future purposes. Vide affidavit dated 02.03.2026 before Public Notary Delhi.

PUBLIC NOTICE
My client Chote Lal S/o Late Chajul Lal R/o H. No.99, NSCI Old Fort Road, NDMC, New Delhi G.P. Central Delhi Delhi-110001 has severed all his relation and disowned his son Vivek and his wife Vijeta Kumari from his all movable & immovable properties due to their disobedience. My client shall not be responsible for their any acts.

NAME CHANGE
I, P N VIDHYA LAKSHMI wife of NO-6497282K, Rank-HAV, Name-D REEGAN residing at VPO-MATHURTHURJKKAL, TEHSIL-SINGIEEE, DIST-VILLUPURAM, TAMIL NADU-605201, have changed my name from P N VIDHYA LAKSHMI TO VIDHYALAKSHMI P N for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 25/03/2026 before Notary Public, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE
I, MEENU W/O NAVEEN GUPTA residing at C-156 GALLI NO-7 SABJI MANDI MAJUPUR SEELAMPUR DELHI-110053 has changed my name to MEENU BINDAL for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE
I, ILYAS KHAN S/O SAHAB KHAN residing at 810, PEMA ROAD WARD NO-02, PUNHANA, NUH MEWAT, HARYANA-122508 have changed my name to ILYAS for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE
I, SHER BI W/O KAMALUDDIN residing at 810, PEMA ROAD WARD NO-02, PUNHANA, NUH MEWAT, HARYANA-122508 have changed my name to SHERVI SAHRUNA for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE
I, GOURAV S/O KRISHAN TYAGI R/O H.NO -398 GALLI NO 12 NEAR HARI MANDIR VIJAY NAGAR BALLABGARHI FARIDABAD HARYANA-121004 have changed my name to GOURAV TYAGI Permanently for all future purpose

NAME CHANGE
I, SIYA YADAV W/o SANDEEP YADAV R/O T-37/1/1, Gali No.11, Gautam Puri, Garhi Mendu, North East Delhi, Delhi-110053 has changed the name of my minor daughter SAANVI aged 7 years and she shall hereafter be known as AANAYA YADAV.

NAME CHANGE
I, JAG MOHAN S/O RAM KUMAR R/O C-35 KARI ENCLAVE -1, KIRAR, GULEMAN, NAGAR DELHI-110086 has changed my name to JAG MOHAN Permanently for all future purposes

NAME CHANGE
I, BEAUTY & BEAUTY W/O SWAPON KUMAR MALAKAR R/O H.NO 263 GALLI NO -7 MANDOLI EXTENSION MANDOLI DELHI -110093 have changed my name to BEAUTY Permanently for all future purposes

NAME CHANGE
I, SANJAY BHAGWAN S/O MAHESH KUMAR R/O PLOT NO 64 FIRST FLOOR POCKET -B DWARKADHISH ENCLAVE SECTOR 26 ROHINI SAHIBABAD DAULAT PUR DELHI -110042 have changed my name to SANJAY BHAGWANI Permanently for all future purposes

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I, SANJAY BHAGWAN S/O MAHESH KUMAR R/O PLOT NO 64 FIRST FLOOR POCKET -B DWARKADHISH ENCLAVE SECTOR 26 ROHINI SAHIBABAD DAULAT PUR DELHI -110042 have changed my name to SANJAY BHAGWANI Permanently for all future purposes

PUBLIC NOTICE
NOTICE is hereby given to public at large that my client Mr. Neel Kamal is purchasing the Second Floor (without roof right) (referred to as "said floor"), part of Plot No. 37, having land area measuring 100 sq. yds., pertaining to the Kh. No. 47/12/2 (3-19), 13 (4-10) (Old Kh. No. 219 (8-15), 2479/4436 (1-8), 2425 (2-15), 2203(3-10)), situated in the revenue estate of village Mehrauli, Tehsil Mehrauli, New Delhi from Mr. Devendra Singh who is the owner of the abovementioned property vide GPA, Agreement to Sale & WILL, dated 10-07-2025 and intend to mortgage the said property with Aditya Birla Housing Finance Ltd. If any person(s) has/have any objection(s) or claim(s) with respect to the right, title or interest in the said property may please contact us within 07 days from the date of this notice on the number & address mentioned herein below, failing which my client(s) shall not be held responsible in any manner whatsoever.

NAME CHANGE
I, NARAYAN JI RAM S/O BRIDA RAM R/O A-622, Suraj Park, Badli, Samaj Pur, North West Delhi, Delhi-110020, have changed the name of my minor son YUDRAJ aged 10 years and he shall hereafter be known as YUVRAJ.

NAME CHANGE
I, hitherto known as RAKHI Alias MONA D/O RAGHUBIR W/O PAWAN R/O H.No-D-248, Balmiki Mandir, Old Seemapur, East Delhi, Delhi-110085 India have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as RAKHI.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given by Mr. Bittu Yadav who is owner of land admeasuring 123 Sq. yards, out of Khata no. 170, Kh. No. 293/M1, village Ilaahabans, Pargana & Tehsil Dacri, Distt. Gautam Budh Nagar-201306, vide Sale Deed dated 05.06.2017 which is registered as Doc. No. 2547, Book No.1, vol. no. 5861, Page no. 31 to 66, on 05.06.2017, SRO- III- Noida) and will be taking financial assistance from Godrej Finance Limited. That the Sale Deed dated 21.11.2015 executed by Mr. Lakhmichand in favour of Mr. Nawal Singh respect of the Residential vacant Plot admeasuring 123 Sq. yards i.e. 102.84 Sq. meters, out of Khata no. 170, Kh. No. 293/M1, as doc. no. 3190, book no. 1, vol. no. 4844, Page no. 73 to 108, on 21.11.2015, SRO- III-Noida isare lost/misplaced. Public is being warned not to deal with the said document. Any person dealing with the said document would do so at their own risk & responsibility. Owner shall not be liable in any manner whatsoever for any loss incurred by such person. If anybody found these document or notice any misuse of the above mentioned document, Concern person is requested to communicate in writing to the undersigned at below address.

NAME CHANGE
I, MANOJ VATS S/O BALESHWAR DIAL VATS residing at B10/23D, LDAIGIRI-2 SECTOR-3A, NOIDA, GAUTAM BUDDHA NAGAR, UTTAR PRADESH-201307 have changed my name to MANOJ KUMAR VATS for all future purpose.

NAME CHANGE
I, MITHUN JATAV S/O MULLAYAM SINGH residing at H-10-1940, PILLANJLI, KOTLA, MUBARAKPUR, LODHI ROAD, DELHI-110003 have changed my name to MITHUN SINGH for all future purpose.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Mr. Shalinder Singh and Mrs. Rajni Devi - owner of the Residential Flat/Dwelling unit no. 367/GC-10 on 3rd Floor in Tower-1, "GC-10/SAN-SKRITI VIHAR", situated at Plot No. GH-03, Sector-16C, Greater Noida, District Gautam Budh Nagar, U.P. Mr. Shalinder Singh and Mrs. Rajni Devi have lost Original page no. 13, 14 of Sub Lease Deed duly registered as Sl. No. 10111 in Book No. 1 Vol. No. 20260 at pages 221 to 222 on 23/04/2016 in the office of SR-Greater Noida, executed by GNDA and M/s Gaursons Promoters Pvt. Ltd in favour of Mr. Shalinder Singh and Mrs. Rajni Devi in which mentioned Schedule of flat and signature of witness and party, for which complaint lodged to the police. Therefore, by way of this Public Notice it is hereby notified that any person, Attorney and/or entity, firm/company, society and/or member of the Society Bank, HUF/member of HUF, Financial Institution having any claim, charge, interest, or lien whatsoever with respect to the said house/plot or otherwise, may notify to undersigned only on his rahulkumar Gupta281401@gmail.com with documentary proof within 15 days from the date of this publication of notice, failing which any such claim etc. shall be deemed to be null and void, whereas title shall be deemed to be clear, and marketable without any defect or encumbrance and free to create equitable mortgage M-NO- 7252922875

NAME CHANGE
I, RAHUL KUMAR GUPTA (ADVOCATE) Off. 43B, Third Floor, Patparganj Village, Mayur Vihar, Phase-I, Delhi-11, M-NO- 7252922875

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NEWS BOX

Fire at Kuwait airport after drones hit fuel tank: aviation agency

KUWAIT CITY. (Agency)
Drones hit a fuel tank and sparked a fire at Kuwait International Airport, the Gulf state's civil aviation authority said on Wednesday, as Iran presses on with its attacks in the nearly four-week regional war. Citing preliminary information, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation said in a statement posted online that the attack had caused only "limited" damage and no casualties. Firefighters were working to bring the blaze under control, said aviation spokesman Abdullah Al-Rajhi. The Kuwait National Guard meanwhile said in a statement that its forces intercepted six drones early Wednesday, and the army said air defences were "responding to hostile missile and drone attacks". Elsewhere in the Gulf, Saudi Arabia said it had intercepted four drones in the kingdom's east. The Kuwait airport is largely closed to commercial flights and has come under attack several times since the regional war began on February 28, when Israel and the United States launched strikes on Iran. On March 14, the civil aviation authority said an attack with "several drones" targeted the airport and "struck its radar system". No casualties were reported. Drones hit fuel tanks at the airport on March 8, and an earlier attack on a passenger terminal left several people mildly wounded and caused some damage. Major airlines have suspended flights to the Gulf, or cut back due to fuel shortages linked to the war.

Unusual Storm System Puts War-Torn Middle East On High Alert

DUBAI. (Agency)
As the Middle East grapples with weeks of war-driven devastation, another crisis is now looming large over the region. A powerful and potentially dangerous weather system is set to hit the region starting Wednesday, threatening widespread disruption across the United Arab Emirates (UAE) southern Iran, eastern Iraq and other neighbouring countries. Not A Normal Phenomenon For Region Middle East region is typically defined by arid conditions for most of the year. But meteorologists are warning of unusually intense rainfall in the next few days. Projections by some models are suggesting totals that could far exceed annual averages. The system is so large that some areas could see between 100 mm and 500 mm of precipitation in the next three days, raising serious concerns about catastrophic flash flooding. The storm is expected to peak on Thursday and Friday. It is being driven by a deep trough anchored over Egypt and Saudi Arabia, merging with a cut-off low moving in from the eastern Mediterranean toward Jordan and Iraq. Adding to its intensity, a potent shortwave trough from Italy is set to amplify the system, tilting it negatively over Saudi Arabia and pulling in moisture from the Red Sea via a strengthening jet stream. This combination is likely to trigger severe thunderstorms across Qatar, Bahrain, the UAE and southwest Iran. A surface low over Iraq could further prolong the system, bringing heavy snowfall to higher elevations.

Likely Devastation For Urban Centers
Dubai currently sits at the center of concern. The city typically receives around 100 mm of rainfall annually, but European weather models are projecting between 76 mm and 152 mm or more within just 24 to 48 hours. Similar risks loom over Abu Dhabi, Sharjah and key ports near the Strait of Hormuz, which are already under strain due to ongoing conflict.

Second Set Of Rare Gorilla Twins Born In Congo's Virunga Park: "Extraordinary Event"

world. (Agency)
Conservationists are celebrating the birth of a second set of rare mountain gorilla twins in the Democratic Republic of Congo's Virunga National Park within just two months, the Guardian reported. This time, a male and a female infant have been spotted in the Baraka family -- a group of 19 mountain gorillas that inhabit the region's high-altitude rainforests. This event follows another set of male twins born on January 3, 2026, to a 22-year-old mother named Mafuko in the Bageni family. Now 11 weeks old, the infants are said to be thriving. Rangers note that other members of the troop are providing added support to the mother, a behaviour often seen in cohesive gorilla groups. Authorities believe such twin births are more likely when females are in strong physical condition. Jacques Katutu, Head of Gorilla Monitoring at Virunga National Park, said, "Two instances of twin births within 3 months is an extraordinary event and provides another vital indicator that dedicated conservation efforts, which have continued despite the current instability in eastern Congo, continue to support the growth of the endangered mountain gorilla population within Virunga National Park." Notably, twin births are extremely uncommon among mountain gorillas, accounting for just around 1% of all births. Caring for twins poses a unique challenge, especially during the early months when infants are completely dependent on their mother for nourishment and transport. Following the birth, additional monitoring and protection measures will be deployed to closely observe the twins and support their health and survival during this critical early period. Conservation efforts, particularly specialised veterinary care, have been critical to the subspecies' recovery. Across Rwanda, Uganda, and the DRC, organisations like Gorilla Doctors have helped prevent numerous deaths by treating injuries often caused by human activity, including freeing gorillas caught in poachers' snares.

How Far Can Iran's Ballistic Missiles Go? Expert Explains Their Range, Limits

Iran has an extensive ballistic missile programme. The country has been developing a number of short-range ballistic missiles for many years. The suite of weapons includes the Fateh, Shahab-2 and Zolfaghar systems.

LOS ANGELES. (Agency)
Iran fired two ballistic missiles on March 20, 2026, at the Indian Ocean island of Diego Garcia, which hosts a strategically important joint US-UK military base, according to US, UK and Israeli officials. One missile broke apart during flight, and the other appears to have been destroyed by US missile defenses. **Iran has denied responsibility for the launches.** Diego Garcia is about 2,500 miles (4,000

kilometers) from Iran, which is about twice as far as the top range Iran has declared that its ballistic missiles have. Parts of Western Europe, Asia and Africa lie within a 2,500-mile (4,000-km) radius of Iran, raising concerns about the vulnerability of these areas. However, there's no evidence that Iran has developed a new type of missile or that it can otherwise hit targets at the longer range. Iran most likely modified an existing type of missile, but increasing a missile's range poses significant challenges.

Current and potential ranges of Iranian ballistic missiles
The inner, dark gray area shows the range of Iran's current ballistic missile inventory. The outer, light gray area shows the potential range if Iran were to modify its top-of-the-line missile. A map of the Middle East, Europe, North Africa and Asia with two concentric areas extending out from Iran

Ballistic missile basics
A ballistic missile is launched on a rocket and,

after separating from it, subsequently flies mostly under the influence of gravity to its destination. The name refers to the characteristic arc of projectiles whose



trajectories are largely shaped by gravity. The range of these missiles is determined by the size of the rocket. Short-range ballistic missiles can fly about 300 to 600 miles (500 to 1,000 km) and can be launched from mobile trucks. They are used for destroying key defensive

infrastructure such as radars. Medium-range ballistic missiles have ranges of about 600 to 1,800 miles (1,000 to 3,000 km). They are used to attack more strategic targets such as command and control centers where military leaders coordinate operations. Intermediate-range ballistic missiles operate over about 1,800 to 3,400 miles (3,000 to 5,500 km), putting much larger geographical regions at risk. Intercontinental ballistic missiles, or ICBMs, have a range of about 3,100 to 6,200 miles (5,000 to 10,000 km), making it possible to strike targets over an enormous area. These very long-range weapons require multiple rocket stages. They fly very high, exiting the atmosphere and entering into space, before arcing back toward Earth. At the height of the Cold War, both the Soviet Union and the United States had thousands of ICBMs armed with nuclear warheads aimed at each other.

Trump administration offers 15-point ceasefire plan to Iran

The plan was submitted to Iran by intermediaries from Pakistan, who have offered to host renewed negotiations between Washington and Tehran.

DUBAI. (Agency)
Russian missile and drone strikes The Trump administration has offered a 15-point ceasefire plan to Iran, according to a person briefed on the contours of the proposal, even as the U.S. military is preparing to call up at least 1,000 more troops to supplement some 50,000 troops already in the region. The plan was submitted to Iran by intermediaries from Pakistan, who have offered to host renewed negotiations between Washington and Tehran, according to the person, who was not authorized to speak publicly about it. The New York Times reported earlier Tuesday that the 15-point plan

had been delivered to Iranian officials. The Pentagon is also in the process of deploying a pair of Marine Expeditionary Units that will add about 5,000 Marines and thousands of sailors to the region. Israeli officials,



who have been advocating for President Donald Trump to continue the war against Iran, were taken by surprise by the U.S. administration's submission of a ceasefire plan, the person said. But with the U.S. taking steps to send additional soldiers and

Marines to the Mideast, the move is being framed as Trump maneuvering to give himself "max flexibility" on what he will do next, the person added. The White House did not respond to requests for comment. Earlier in the day, Trump said the U.S. was in talks with Iran to end the war as diplomatic efforts picked up and Iran issued a newly defiant statement. Airstrikes battered the Islamic Republic while Iranian missiles and drones targeted Israel and sites across the region.

Iran has denied that any negotiations are taking place, and Trump delayed his self-imposed deadline for Iran to reopen the Strait of Hormuz. Tehran's chokehold on that crucial waterway has snarled international shipping, sent fuel prices skyrocketing and threatened the world economy.

"MBS Fighting With Us": Trump's Big Claim As Iran War Rages On

Tehran. (Agency)
US President Donald Trump has suggested that Saudi Arabia's de facto leader, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, has been encouraging the United States' actions against Iran, calling him "a warrior" fighting alongside American efforts. The remarks followed a New York Times report that claimed the Saudi prince has been arguing that the US-Israeli military campaign presents a "historic opportunity" to remake the Middle East and that Trump should continue the war against Tehran.

According to the NYT report, over the last week, the Crown Prince has championed a decisive, sustained



campaign aimed at dismantling Iran's hard-line Shia regime. People familiar with the matter told the publication that MBS has told Trump that Iran poses a long-term threat to the Gulf that can only be eliminated by getting rid of the government. The views align

with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's assertion that Iran is a long-term threat to the Middle East region. However, analysts believe that while Israel may tolerate a weakened or internally unstable government in Tehran, Saudi Arabia fears that a failed Iranian state could trigger regional chaos, empowering militias and posing direct security risks to Gulf nations, the report said.

Trump's Changing Stance
In recent days, Trump has given mixed signals on the future of war, sometimes suggesting it may end soon, while also indicating an escalation. On Monday, he posted on social media that his administration held "productive conversations regarding a complete and total resolution of our hostilities" with Iran, an idea disputed by Tehran.

Minnesota sues Trump administration over shootings, including deaths of Alex Pretti and Renee Good

WASHINGTON. (Agency)
Minnesota officials sued the Trump administration on Tuesday for access to evidence they say they need to independently investigate three shootings by federal officers, including the killings of Renee Good and Alex Pretti. The lawsuit claims that the federal government reneged on its promise to cooperate with state investigations after the surge of federal law enforcement in Minneapolis. State officials are seeking a court order demanding that the Trump administration comply. "We are prepared to fight for transparency and accountability that the federal government is desperate to avoid," Hennepin County Attorney Mary Moriarty told reporters. The lawsuit marks an escalation in the clash between Minnesota leaders and the Trump administration over the investigations into the high-profile shootings by federal officers that sparked public outcry and protests. The Trump administration has suggested that Minnesota officials don't have jurisdiction to investigate, but state officials insist they need to conduct their

own probes because they don't trust the federal government to investigate itself. "There has to be an investigation any time a federal agent or a state agent takes the life of a person in our community," Moriarty said. The administration sent thousands of officers to the Minneapolis and St. Paul area for the immigration crackdown as part of President Donald Trump's national deportation campaign. The Department of Homeland Security considered its largest immigration enforcement operation ever a success but it was staunchly criticized by Minnesota's leaders who raised questions over officers' conduct. There continues to be fallout from Operation Metro Surge in the form of a Homeland Security shutdown, as Democrats in Congress hold up funding in an effort to secure restraints on Trump's immigration agenda. An email seeking comment was sent to Justice Department. A DHS spokesperson said in an email Tuesday that all shootings are reviewed by an appropriate law enforcement agency, followed by an independent review within the agency.

The Justice Department in January said it was opening a federal civil rights investigation into Pretti's killing but has said a similar federal probe was not warranted in the killing of Good. The



decision in Good's case marked a sharp departure from past administrations, which moved quickly to investigate shootings of civilians by law enforcement officials for potential civil rights offenses. Deputy Attorney General Todd Blanche has said that the department's Civil Rights Division does not investigate every law enforcement shooting and that there have to be circumstances and facts that "warrant

an investigation." DHS said Tuesday that Customs and Border Patrol is conducting its own internal investigation of the Pretti case. On Good, DHS said the matter remains under investigation but that footage shows Good impeded law enforcement operations and weaponized her vehicle, leading the officer to act in self-defense. Minnesota's lawsuit also demands access to evidence in a third case — that of Julio Cesar Sosa-Celis, who was shot and wounded in his right thigh by a federal agent in January. Federal officials initially accused Sosa-Celis and another man of beating an Immigration and Customs Enforcement officer with a broom handle and a snow shovel. But federal prosecutors later dropped all charges against the men, and authorities opened a criminal investigation into whether two immigration officers lied under oath about the shooting. Both officers are on administrative leave as ICE and DOJ conduct a joint review, DHS said Tuesday, adding in a statement that ICE is committed to transparency and accountability.

3 Iranian Techies Charged With Stealing Trade Secrets From US Companies Including Google

World. (Agency)
Three Iranian nationals who worked as software engineers in Silicon Valley have been indicted by a federal grand jury for allegedly stealing trade secrets from tech companies. According to the New York Post, Samaneh Ghandali, 41, Soroor Ghandali, 32, and Mohammadjavad Khosravi, 40, have been accused of espionage and stealing trade secrets from major tech firms, including Google, in Silicon Valley. The trio, residents of San Jose, allegedly used their positions at technology companies to access "confidential and sensitive" information and transfer the data to unauthorized locations, including Iran. They were arrested in mid-February and charged with conspiracy to commit trade secret theft, theft, and attempted theft of trade secrets, and obstruction of justice. They have all pleaded not guilty. "Samaneh Ghandali and Soroor Ghandali, who are sisters, worked at Google before going on to work for another technology company identified as Company 3, and Khosravi, who is married to Samaneh Ghandali, worked at a technology company identified as Company 2," according to the Department of Justice. The indictment alleges that the defendants transferred hundreds of files containing trade secrets to third-party communication platforms and personal devices, including information on processor security and cryptography. Samaneh Ghandali, while employed at Google, transferred hundreds of files containing trade secrets to a third-party communications platform, sending them to channels named after the defendants. Soroor Ghandali is also accused of moving Google files to the same channels during her tenure. These materials were allegedly copied onto personal devices and work devices of Khosravi and Soroor at other companies. The indictment further claims the defendants attempted to conceal their actions by submitting false affidavits to the affected tech companies, deleting transferred files and records, and hiding extraction methods. If convicted, they could face up to 10 years in prison for each trade secret count and as much as 20 years for obstruction. The Ghandali sisters' father, Shahabeddin Ghandali, reportedly has ties to the Iranian regime and has served as a former chief executive of the Teachers Investment Fund Corporation in Iran. Critics suggest these family connections may have facilitated the alleged espionage. The issue is risk, access, and vulnerability. When individuals connected to powerful networks in an authoritarian system enter universities and research centers, they gain access not only to advanced technology but also to professional networks and institutional trust. In certain cases ... access can be abused," said Iranian human rights activist Lawdan Bazargan, who heads the Alliance Against Islamic Regime of Iran Apologists.

NEWS BOX

Two groups of family clash inside Odisha police station, 13 held

BHUBANESWAR.(Agency)
A clash between two groups of members from one family right inside Chandaka police station has come as a huge embarrassment for Commissionerate Police in Bhubaneswar.
The incident, which occurred on March 21 night and was captured on mobile phone video as well as CCTV, took place in presence of women and children. Police have arrested 13 people including three women in this connection. The incident involving family members of a 73-year-old Pitabash Paltasingh came to light on the day after a video went viral on social media platforms.
Commissionerate Police refuted claims of what was initially presumed to be a knife attack but acknowledged the clash took place inside the police station as well as on the campus.
Police said an injured man arrived at the police station with his wife at around 11.19 pm on the night of the incident. He was bleeding from his right hand. Soon another, a group followed him into the police station and a heated exchange escalated into a violent scuffle. The entire incident occurred in presence of four police personnel including two constables who were on duty at that time. Two women were also seen holding toddlers during the brawl.
Police sources said the fight stemmed from a property dispute between two sons of Paltasingh. The 73-year-old has married twice and has two sons each from the two marriages - Susanta Paltasingh (32) and Soumya Ranjan Paltasingh (36). The family resides in Daruthenga area.

Odisha HC dismisses plea challenging reduction of upper age limit for Sikshya Sahayak post to 32

Shimla.(Agency)
CUTTACK. The Orissa High Court has dismissed a writ petition filed in 2017 challenging a state government notification revising the upper age limit eligibility criteria for engagement of Sikshya Sahayaks.
The School and Mass Education department had issued the notification on December 26, 2016, reducing the upper age limit for the post from 42 years to 32 years and introduced a requirement of minimum 50 per cent marks at the graduation level. The petitioner, a BED-qualified candidate who had cleared the Odisha Teachers Eligibility Test (OTET), argued that the revised criteria rendered them ineligible despite being qualified under earlier guidelines.
According to the case record, the upper age limit had remained 42 years from the scheme's inception in 2000 until August 2013. Advocates Sankar Prasad Pani and Ashutosh Padhy, representing the petitioner, contended that applying the revised criteria to vacancies from prior years was arbitrary and violated Articles 14 and 16 of the Constitution. It was further argued that the petitioner had a "legitimate expectation" of being considered under the earlier norms.
However, opposing the plea, the state government maintained that the notification was lawful and issued within the authority's competence. In the judgement delivered on March 20, the single judge bench of Justice Chittaranjan Dash held that the revised upper age limit of 32 years was consistent with the Orissa Civil Service (Fixation of Upper Age Limit) Rules, 1989.

Lawyer held for sexual assault of 12-year-old niece for one year in Chennai



CHENNAI.(Agency)
A lawyer, practising at the Madras HC and Saidapet court, has been arrested under Pocco Act for alleged sexual assault of a 12-year-old girl, his sister-in-law's daughter, for the past one year. The 27-year-old man, who is also a DMK functionary, was sent in judicial remand, sources said.
According to the Thirumangalam AWPS, the suspect is DMK's zone organiser for T Nagar. Sources said on Monday, the suspect sexually assaulted the class 7 girl, whose father is a clerical staff at the police department, when she was alone at home. The child later told her parents about the incident. The girl realised the assault as she was taught about good and bad touch at the dance class that she has been attending. A police source said, "The man was arrested on Monday and sent in judicial remand on Tuesday."
Meanwhile, Tamil Nadu BJP president Nainar Nagenthran alleged sexual offenders and drug peddlers are being given positions in DMK. He also asked how CM MK Stalin could ensure safety of people if he is unable to act against members of his own party.
Former BJP president K. Annamalai alleged those involved in sexual crimes believe the DMK government will not take action against them.

Police complaint against Rajkot fuel dealers association chief for 'misleading public'

Ahmedabad.(Agency)
A DAY after a panic buying bout over alleged fuel shortage caused by the West Asia conflict led to long lines outside petrol pumps in all major cities of the state, an Indian Oil Corporation of India (IOCL) official filed a police complaint on Tuesday against Gopal Chudasama, president of the Rajkot Petrol Diesel Dealers Association, over alleged rumour-mongering. On Monday, the Centre, Deputy CM Harsh Sanghavi and senior bureaucrats in Gujarat urged the public to shun rumours.
However, the Rajkot City Police confirmed to the Indian Express that the official did not yet provide any proof that Chudasama triggered panic by his comments. The FIR was filed at Pradyumannagar police station on the basis of a complaint by Amit Shivprasad Jaiswal, 50, the Divisional Retail Sales Head of IOCL, based in Rajkot.
The FIR alleged that on March 23, "Gopal Chudasama visited my office along with other dealers and mediapersons without a prior

appointment and asked me about our stock of petrol and diesel. I replied that IOCL had enough fuel stock. Chudasama then gave a written application."



The FIR alleged that Jaiswal assured Chudasama of stock being available. The FIR added, "Chudasama then left my office and gave false statements that petrol pumps had run out of petrol and diesel. Because of these rumours on

social media and news, believing these falsehoods, people lined up outside petrol pumps, there was chaos."

The FIR added that there were enough stocks of petrol and diesel with the company and that they were being supplied to retail outlets with regularity.

Gopal Chudasama, who is also vice-president of the Federation of Gujarat Petroleum Dealers Associations (FGPDA), was booked under BNS section 353(1)(b) (punishes making or circulating statements, rumors, or reports (including electronically) that cause public fear or alarm, inducing people to commit offenses against the State or public tranquility). He was also booked under sections 3, 7 and 9(2) of the Essential Commodities Act. Chudasama was unavailable for comment despite repeated attempts to contact him. However, the FGPDA said they were looking into the allegations against Chudasama.

Mumbai to get 10-min East-West road link, New Goregaon—Magathane corridor to slash hour-long commutes

Mumbai.(Agency)
In order to create a seamless trilateral connectivity among Mumbai's island city, eastern and western suburbs and the Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR) — the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) is set to construct a 5.5 KM long high-speed corridor extending between Goregaon (Film City) and Magathane that will run parallel to the, Western Express Highway (WEH).
This corridor will be a connector that will link the upcoming Mumbai Coastal Road (Versova-Bhayander) stretch with the Goregaon Mulund Link Road (GMLR). The officials said that this will be a greenfield project that will be entirely built from scratch and it is not any existing road that will be upgraded to a high speed corridor.
"This road will act as a direct gateway between the coastal road and GMLR. The coastal road will have a vehicular arm traversing to the eastern side. This arm will merge with the nodal point of this corridor at Magathane providing motorists a direct entry to the corridor. From there, motorists will be able to go straight and enter the GMLR from the twin tunnel being constructed at Film City in Goregaon. Going

forward the GMLR will provide direct connectivity towards Mulund in the eastern suburbs and Airoli in the MMR region," said a senior official privy to the project. The official said that the idea behind this project is to link all



the arterial roads and high speed corridors seamlessly. The officials said that at present Mumbai's Eastern and Western Express Highways are already over-burdened and if any alternate linking roads are not chalked out the issue of traffic congestion will not be resolved. The officials said that this corridor will bring down commute time to less than 10 minutes

which otherwise would have taken more than 60 minutes via the highways or internal link roads.

"The new road will run parallel to the WEH we have prepared a plan for constructing it and at present, few encroachments and obstructions that are falling in the line are to be removed. Following which a cost estimate will be carried out and tenders will be floated. We are eyeing to complete this road by the middle of 2029 at max," the official added.

The coastal road's second phase will be a 25 KM corridor that will connect Versova in the western suburbs with Bhayander in the MMR. The first phase of the coastal road is a 10.58 KM long stretch connecting Marine Drive with Worli Sea Link which extends till Bandra. From Bandra, the Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation (MSRDC) which will connect Bandra with Versova — from where the second phase of coastal road will originate. Meanwhile, at the eastern side the GMLR will be a 12.2 KM stretch originate from Goregaon in the western suburbs and extending till Airoli. Furthermore, the Navi Mumbai Municipal bonds (NMMC) has proposed an Airoli-Ghansoli flyover that will further extend till Navi Mumbai Airport.

Commercial LPG supply for 1 key MSME sector in each district with 10% cap: Govt

No curbs on distribution of petrol & diesel, public should shun rumours, no need for queues at fuel pumps: Official

Ahmedabad.(Agency)
THE STATE government on Tuesday announced that commercial LPG supply would be provided to one important MSME sector identified in each district within a 10 per cent limit, along with an increase in allocation of commercial LPG to semi-essential sectors.
"In each district, one important MSME sector that provides extensive employment can be identified and commercial LPG can be provided to them within the limit of 10 per cent," said Mona Khandhar, Additional Chief Secretary, Food and Civil Supplies Department.
Asserting that "adequate supply of petrol and diesel has been made available" to Gujarat by the Centre, the senior official said

there is "sufficient quantity" of buffer stock as well. "There is no restriction on the distribution of petrol and diesel. Citizens are requested not to pay attention to false and misleading rumours and not to form queues outside petrol



pumps. On behalf of the state government, I request everyone not to believe rumours. The distribution system will continue in a smooth manner. No need to panic as petrol and diesel stock is available and will be available whenever needed. Oil marketing companies depots and pumps... All have sufficient stock available so there is no need to worry," said Khandhar
Khandhar emphasised that the allocation of commercial LPG cylinders in Gujarat has been ramped up due to the Centre making more LPG available and promoting PNG in urban areas.
"Priority will be given to converting commercial cylinder consuming institutions such as hotels, restaurants/dhabas, religious and social institutions in the state to PNG connections.
Considering the meeting held with the oil marketing companies on Monday and the state-wide situation of LPG, it has been decided to increase the existing allocation.

Garbage collection disrupted in Bengaluru; 35 FIRs registered against contractors

BENGALURU.(Agency)
With garbage contractors not sending low-value plastic to the transfer station by segregating waste and threatening to stop service following action by marshals, FIRs have been filed against more than 20 contractors across the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) limits.
As per Karee Gowda, CEO, Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited (BSWML), the authority will not allow any blackmailing and hence got the FIRs registered.
In response, SN Balasubramanyam, General Secretary of GBA Garbage Contractors Association, said that the BSWML CEO, COO, Assistant Executive Engineers (AEEs), and Assistant Engineers (AEs) are harassing contractors and hence counter complaints will be filed for violation of the Scavengers Act.
The top official from BSWML stated that the appointed agencies have a duty to collect wet and dry waste separately from each house and

transport it to the recycling unit and landfill areas. "Daily waste collection is very important from the point of view of public health. If waste disposal is not done properly, black spots will be created on the roads, which will have a serious adverse effect on the beauty of the city and the health of the public, there will be a risk of spreading infectious diseases, and the sanitation of the city will be completely impaired.
Some of the contractors are not collecting and disposing of garbage in their limits, and have shown gross negligence in their duty by not collecting the waste between 6 am and 2 pm on 23-03-2026.
This act of theirs is detrimental to public health and is a clear violation of the ESMA Act.
Therefore, in the public interest and to maintain the cleanliness of the city, a complaint has been filed seeking appropriate legal action under the ESMA Act against the contractors for dereliction of duty," said Karee Gowda.

BCA caretaker body to continue until April 7: Gujarat High Court

Ghaziabad.(Agency)
THE GUJARAT High Court (HC) on Monday granted that the interim arrangement of the Baroda Cricket Association (BCA)'s present body to function as caretaker would continue until the next date of hearing of an appeal against the March 16 judgment pronounced by a Single Judge Bench of the Gujarat HC disqualifying four candidates from the elections that were held on February 15.

The Division Bench of Chief Justice Sunita Agarwal and Justice D N Ray granted that the interim arrangement would continue until the next date of hearing — April 7, as mutually prayed for by the advocates appearing for the appellants. The HC will hear the appeal filed by the BCA — an affiliate of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) as well as former cricketer Kiran More, challenging the March 16 judgment.
On March 16, Justice Niral R Mehta, had held that the four candidates — Kiran More and Amul Jikar of the Revival Group as well as Anant Indulkar and Amar Petiwale of the Satyamev Jayate-Royal Group combine — had completed nine cumulative years in the Cricket Association either as members of the Apex Council or the Managing Committee in the Apex Council or as Office Bearers thus "incurring disqualification". The court judgment, while citing the recommendations of the Justice Lodha Committee, accepted the principle of tenure-based disqualification, also held that a "mandatory cooling-off period of three years" should be observed upon completion of two consecutive terms.
Stating that the Electoral Officer was "envisaged as an authority responsible for

conducting and supervising the entire election process", the HC held that the election officer in the present case had "failed to discharge the statutory duty cast upon him" in deciding the objections and



disputes raised through the applications of the petitioners. The court judgement had also stated that the SC had "envisaged the appointment of a former Election Commissioner as Electoral Officer with

the expectation that such authority would discharge his functions independently, fairly, and without fear or favour". However, the judgment had stated, that in the present case, the electoral officer had "neither acted independently nor fairly, and has failed to adhere to the very object and purpose for which the office of the Electoral Officer was created".
After the pronouncement of the judgment, the advocate for the private respondents had prayed for extension of interim arrangement initially granted by the HC on February 18, to allow the present body of the BCA to continue as "caretaker", clarifying that the arrangement is "purely temporary and shall not create any right, equity or claim for continuation beyond the interim period" and that the decisions taken by the caretaker body "shall remain subject to final outcome of the main proceedings".

Karnataka HC flags health concerns posed by Conocarpus trees in Bengaluru

BENGALURU.(Agency)
The Karnataka High Court on Tuesday directed the Forest, Environment and Ecology Department, as well as the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) to take into account the alleged health concerns that Conocarpus trees pose before planting such trees in future.
A division bench of Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru and Justice CM Poonacha passed the order, disposing a public interest litigation filed by a city-based advocate, Sharanu M.
Stating that Gujarat, Telangana and Tamil Nadu have prohibited the planting of those trees in their states, considering the effect on the health and environment and despite the recommendation of the Supreme Court for the removal of Conocarpus trees across India, the authorities of the state government and the GBA have failed to take any remedial action, the petitioner alleged.

The officials also engaged in financial fraud by billing for expensive indigenous species while actually planting cheaper prohibited Conocarpus trees, causing financial loss to GBA, he alleged.

The petitioner prayed that the court issue directions for the removal of those trees planted in the city. The court, however, stated that the question of whether those trees have to be removed or not has to be considered by the appropriate authority, and it is not apposite to pass any order in the writ petition.

Health and Infrastructure hazards
These trees flower during the winter season, releasing pollen that spreads in the surrounding areas
The pollen causes respiratory illnesses, colds, coughs, asthma, and severe allergies in humans, particularly a severe impact on children, elderly persons, and those with pre-existing respiratory conditions.

The Gulf and illusion of its proxy security

The Gulf is unlikely to ever be the same again. Not after this war is over. This shallow, roughly 1,000-kilometre-long semi-enclosed sea in West Asia is being redefined in a manner unimaginable since US President Jimmy Carter articulated a doctrine in 1980 that placed the Gulf at the centre of American strategic interests.

As we long learnt as students of international relations, the so-called stability of the Persian Gulf rested on a fundamental assumption: that American power could underwrite regional stability without fundamentally destabilising it. This was the logic of what might be called 'outsourced security'—a system in which local regimes ceded strategic autonomy in exchange for protection. The US-Israel war on Iran has now exposed a central paradox of contemporary geopolitics: in an era of precision warfare and asymmetric retaliation, proximity to a hegemonic superpower does not guarantee security. It can generate exposure and intensify vulnerabilities. The Gulf states find themselves at the centre of this contradiction. What the ongoing war has done is expose the promise of American security guarantees for what they always were: contingent, transactional and ultimately indifferent to the vulnerabilities they created. The Gulf states are not the central actors of this war. But they are its most consequential geography: economically, strategically and politically.

The Gulf is often treated as a monolithic strategic bloc. It is not. Saudi Arabia has long viewed Iran as its principal rival. Yet, it also understands the risks of systemic collapse across the Gulf. The prospect of regime change in Tehran does not promise stability; it raises the specter of fragmentation. The memory of the Abqaiq attacks in 2019 continues to shape Saudi risk assessments: those strikes temporarily knocked out 5.7 million barrels a day of Saudi output or more than 5 percent of global oil supply. Vulnerability cannot be entirely mitigated, only managed. That lesson was not lost on the generation of technocrats now running Vision 2030—no sovereign wealth fund survives a regional conflagration. The United Arab Emirates and Qatar present a different face of the same fragility. Dubai, emblematic of globalised urbanism, was designed as a node of flows: capital, labour, logistics; a Singapore for the Arab world. But flows reverse under conditions of risk. With expatriates accounting for roughly 88 percent of residents, the UAE's success depends on perception, and war alters perception with an efficiency that no marketing budget can counter. Dubai's dream of replacing Singapore as the destination for expats is on the verge of vapourising. Qatar's position is even more complex. As host to major US military installations and a long-standing interlocutor with Iran, Doha has cultivated calibrated engagement as a substitute for strategic depth; it has hosted quiet dialogue, including that between the Taliban and Western world. But mediation requires space, and war compresses it. As aviation routes are disrupted and energy infrastructure is targeted, Qatar's role as a connector state is under intense pressure. In Bahrain, external vulnerability intersects with internal fragility in ways that neither the ruling family nor its Saudi patrons can fully manage. Meanwhile, Oman and Kuwait persist in ambiguity; Oman's long-standing role as a diplomatic intermediary reflects not idealism, but a hard-won realism about the limits of alignment. At the heart of this crisis lies, as we know, a fundamental paradox and structural irony that the Gulf's rulers have long understood but preferred not to articulate: the arrangements built to deter attack have become the very reason to mount one. The bases that reassure them also make them targets. The weapons purchases that signal commitment also signal targeting coordinates. The Gulf states invested heavily in American security guarantees—and those guarantees are now part of what makes them exposed. The Gulf's model of development has been built on the assumption that economic interdependence mitigates geopolitical risk.

The need for balance

It's imperative for India to find its own strategic direction amid troubled times

THE assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria in June 1914 is considered one of the pivotal incidents leading to the start of the First World War. The primary underlying cause of the war was that the 'Central Powers' (Germany, Austria-Hungary and the Ottoman Empire) were late to embark on worldwide imperial expansion and colonisation which was dominated by the UK and France. Germany, under Kaiser Wilhelm II, had ambitions to set up an empire, and this led to tensions and conflict. The rest, as they say, is history. The total military and civilian casualties are estimated at 15-22 million in the war which lasted four years (1914-18). Hostilities ended formally with the signing of the Treaty of Versailles. But alas, human memory is intemperate, for not a year goes by when violence does not visit some corner of the globe.

As in the case of individuals, poor countries do not fight each other, except in a few cases where development is still at the tribal stage. It is the wealthy, developed, militarily strong countries which either fight each other or try to colonise poor but resource-rich nations. Religion and race also play an important role, usually not upfront but under some disguise. How much land does a man or a country need? Is it ever enough, or is it that the more powerful you grow, the greater is your appetite?

After World War I, Germany, Japan and Italy (the Axis powers, as they came to be known) gradually developed into powerful nations with large resources of their own, but they sought to conquer Europe, North Africa, the Pacific Islands and Asia. Powerful countries need to be on the move, the status quo is never enough: more land, more resources, more wealth to be looted, more men and women need to be enslaved. This led to the Second World War and the loss of millions of lives and destruction of cities and countries...the losses in WWII were far greater than those in WWI.

Today, the race is for securing rare earth minerals, supply chains and end-to-end value chain of mining these minerals, processing them and then manufacturing magnets. The vast economies of the US and China need them, just as they need more energy to run their massive data centres. Everything is valued in terms of GDP growth, so companies need to grow and the competition is intense and cut-throat. What begins with private industry spills over into the political arena and soon enough the armies are engaged.

From the "cutting of the Chinese Melon" to the "scramble for Africa", history is replete with examples of the great

powers dividing the economies and resources of weaker nations to fulfil their own needs. Russia, which has limitless land, wants Ukraine, which it lost with the collapse of the USSR. Ukraine is rich in terms of its people, its land, nuclear resources and access to the sea, and Russia wants it. The opportunity to attack came in anticipation of NATO expanding its influence to Russia's borders via Ukraine. NATO also sees the same opportunity in Ukraine and wants to divide its resources, with the Americans clearly asking for war compensation. The old song and dance of war is the result. Venezuela, with its vast oil reserves, was easy

Monetary Fund was created to ensure the stability of the international monetary system; the WHO's objective was to coordinate international public health; UNICEF, UNESCO, etc., I could go on — organisations and institutions through which the leadership of the time sought to mend the injuries and errors of the past.

Great leadership was also found — Harry S. Truman implemented the Marshall Plan to rebuild Europe and led the US after the Second World War. Britain's Winston Churchill not only led during the war but was critical in forming the post-war order, including coining the term 'Iron Curtain'. Charles de Gaulle founded the Fifth Republic and transformed France from a defeated nation into a dominant European power. Joseph Stalin led the USSR in becoming a superpower, besides its post-war reconstruction and the establishment of the Eastern Bloc. Their political leanings were diverse, but they were great leaders for their nations. Today, the world seems to have regressed to the early 20th century, with leaders openly talking of 'taking' and 'destroying' countries — where exactly is the moral compass of our time? Most of the organisations mentioned above have been allowed to decay over time and are today skeletons and mere shadows of their former selves. The US displays total hegemony and refuses to acknowledge even its own age-old allies in NATO. Global trade agreements are a thing of the past, with the US unilaterally imposing tariffs and individual nations forming trade alliances to survive. China and Russia are



pickings for the US. Cuba and Greenland are next on the list. It's no secret that Israel wants to reshape the Middle East, while Iran has its own plan. As in the case of Russia launching a pre-emptive strike against Ukraine, the Americans and Israelis launched an all-out attack on Iran to prevent it from developing a nuclear bomb and intercontinental ballistic missiles.

The Gulf states, rich in oil money, are beholden to the US for protection and are therefore suffering as collateral damage, just as the global economy is suffering due to Iran's asymmetrical warfare and response.

In the past, hope came after the dust of war settled with treaties and organisations: the UN, founded as the successor to the League of Nations, was created to primarily maintain international peace and security; the World Bank Group (originally International Bank for Reconstruction and Development) was established to help redevelop Europe and Japan after WWII; the WTO (originally GATT, General Treaty on Tariffs & Trade) was designed to reduce trade barriers; the International

marching to their own drumbeat, carving out pieces of the globe for their profit. Then there are the technology oligarchs with unimaginable funds and resources at their disposal to implement their personal vision... power is concentrated in the hands of a few like never before, and as Lord Acton said, "power tends to corrupt and absolute power corrupts absolutely". The list of names in the Epstein files clearly demonstrates moral bankruptcy. Balance across nations needs to be restored. As the great powers play their games, they will suck other nations into the whirlpool of war. It is time for us to find our own strategic direction keeping our old allies in mind and also forming new alliances to secure the nation. India has always punched above its weight in shaping international opinion and direction. Today, we need to find our voice of balance and moral integrity and ensure that it resonates both internally and in our foreign relations. This is critical in order to navigate through these troubled times as we are threatened both economically and in our internal/external security by regional conflict and war.

Himachal's austerity optics: Salary deferment signals stress, not reform

Fiscal prudence demands uncomfortable decisions: rationalising subsidies, expanding the tax base and prioritising growth-oriented capital investment

THE decision by Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu to defer a portion of salaries of ministers, MLAs and senior bureaucrats is being projected as a gesture of austerity. In reality, it is a stark admission of the deep fiscal stress confronting Himachal Pradesh. While politically symbolic, the move offers little by way of substantive relief to a strained exchequer. The numbers tell their own story. With 50% of the Chief Minister's salary, 30% of the ministers' pay and 20% of the legislators' earnings deferred for six months, the savings will be marginal when compared to a revenue deficit that is in the range of Rs 8,000-10,000 crore. The crisis is not sudden; it is structural. The withdrawal of the Revenue Deficit Grant by the Centre has exposed the state's longstanding dependence on federal transfers. Meanwhile, committed expenditures — salaries, pensions and interest payments — continue to dominate the budget, leaving



little room for manoeuvre. In such a scenario, salary deferment is less an economic solution and more a

political signal. It allows the government to claim the moral high ground without disturbing welfare schemes or confronting entrenched expenditure patterns. Fiscal prudence demands uncomfortable decisions: rationalising subsidies, expanding the tax base and prioritising growth-oriented capital investment. Without these, temporary fixes risk becoming a recurring feature of governance. The episode also raises a larger question about the fragility of hill states within the federal fiscal framework. Heavy reliance on Central assistance leaves them vulnerable to policy shifts beyond their control. A more predictable and equitable system of transfers is essential to ensure stability. Ultimately, deferring salaries may buy the government time. It will not, however, buy it fiscal resilience. That will require embracing reform.

Why Bhagat Singh was not a Marxist thinker

Bhagat Singh believed that Gandhi's path of non-violence supported the semi-hegemonic state in India

BHAGAT SINGH was not only one of India's greatest freedom fighters and revolutionary socialists, but also one of its early Marxist thinkers and ideologues. Unfortunately, this last aspect is relatively unknown with the result that all sorts of reactionaries, obscurantists and communalists have been wrongly and dishonestly trying to utilise, for their own politics and ideologies, the name and fame of Bhagat Singh and his comrades, including Chander Shekhar Azad. Thus wrote my remarkable teacher and mentor, Professor Bipan Chandra, in his introduction to Bhagat Singh's twenty-page pamphlet, 'Why I Am an Atheist', discovered by Punjabi poet Amarjit Chandan in 1979.

In the last 40 years, this historical evaluation of Bhagat Singh has acquired the power of unquestionable fact, if not dogma. Multiple editions of his "Jail Notebook" have been published to impress upon the reading public, that the book opens a window into his exploration of ideas of distinguished thinkers and philosophers.

"However," writes Harish Puri, historian of the Ghadar Movement, "the perfunctory references to the sources or books from which these notes and quotes were taken have left a rather perplexing question mark with regard to the authentic source. That is, from which editions of which books, by which particular authors, were these taken? As a result, fantastic claims and wild speculation have been made by admiring scholars about the books and works of great thinkers that Bhagat Singh was able to study in jail." From 1925-28, Bhagat Singh read voraciously, devouring particular books on the Russian Revolution and the Soviet Union, even though getting hold of such books must have been a difficult task. No doubt, in the 1920s, Bhagat Singh was one of the most well-read persons in India on revolutionary movements. He asserted during his trial before the Lahore High Court

that "the sword of revolution is sharpened at the whetstone of thought." Already by the end of 1928, he and his comrades had accepted Socialism as the final objective of their activities and changed the name of their organisation from the Hindustan Republican Association to Hindustan Socialist Republican Association. From now on, it is asserted, even before his arrest in June 1929 and definitely after, Bhagat Singh's "furious march towards the acquisition and mastery of Marxism" continued unabated. But what sort of Marxism did Bhagat Singh imbibe from his readings? Did this Marxism help him in any way to get some insight into the contemporary politics of Indian nationalism, working class movements and the immediate historical social reality around him? A mastery of Marxism that is merely an exercise in the appropriation of textual discourse must remain a "Brahmanical Marxism", unless it helps party intellectuals engage dispassionately with the social reality of their times by constructing a framework of "practising theory". Who, then, should be or can be called a Marxist thinker? This question brings Antonio Gramsci, the Italian intellectual, to mind, who, just like Bhagat Singh, and at the same time, was spending his days in Fascist Mussolini's jail. Gramsci was imprisoned in 1926, and remained in prison until shortly before his death in 1937. The story of his jail days is no less poignant than that of Bhagat Singh's tortuous hunger strikes. But even under these conditions, he continued his reading and writing work to solve the concrete problems of international revolutionary movement, its setbacks and victories. During his studies, Gramsci developed/invented three main new concepts that constitute his "practising theory or praxis". The three concepts are: political hegemony/cultural hegemony; subaltern or hegemonised groups of society; and the War

of Position. These days, debates on the West Asian crisis bandy about the concept of "hegemony" to explain Trump-Netanyahu's strategic aims. But the fact is that US-Israel must first convincingly dominate or beat Iranian society into submission and carry out regime



change. Once a nation or society gives its consent or is forced to give its consent to be ruled by another social group, can hegemony be established. This is always a very difficult and critical moment in the life of a defeated people. For example, the sullen Indian rebels of the 1857 Mutiny, after their defeat by British forces and Sikh troops, were persuaded to accept the hegemony of the British Raj when they saw their elite was incorporated into the Raj. Sir Sayyid Ahmad Khan — newly honoured with the Knight Commander of the Order of the Star of India by the British Government in 1888 — was brought in to accept the suzerainty of the new rulers. He advocated a pro-British stance among Indian Muslims, believing that cooperation and the acceptance of British hegemony was essential for the community's progress. Those Muslims who refused to reconcile were either marginalised or sent to Kalapani — the Andamans. The

point is that hegemony cannot be established without regime change. That's why today's Iranians are being subject to the stark dilemma — accept US-Israeli hegemony and survive, or embrace martyrdom. Let us now examine Gramsci's third key concept, the 'War of Position', and its relevance for India. Gramsci realised that while the Bolshevik Revolution may have been a suitable strategy to violently seize power from the Russian monarchy in crisis, this strategy was not relevant for the capitalist modern state in the West.

Surveying the scene of world politics in the 1920s, Gramsci came to the conclusion that Gandhi in India was experimenting with such a strategy. This was appropriate, Gramsci felt, as the Indian colonial state, unlike the Russian feudal absolutist state, was a sort of semi-hegemonic state where millions had already given their consent to their colonial masters. Bhagat Singh, however, believed that Gandhi was the stumbling block in the path of his desired violent revolution, and that his path of non-violence supported the semi-hegemonic state in India. For example, how happy was our great poet Rabindranath Tagore when the British authorities bestowed upon him the Knighthood? How many zaildars and numberdars in Punjab — the eyes and ears of the colonial state in the villages — were thrilled to receive sanads of recognition from a British deputy collector. That's why during the anti-Simon demonstrations, Bhagat Singh and his comrades put the blame of the lathi-charge on Lala Lajpat Rai on British officer James Scott, but were blind to the fact that it were the jaws of Punjab Police who had beaten him up. Tolstoy's observation in his letter to Gandhi is insightful. "Not the English, the Indians have enslaved themselves," he said.

Punjab: Barnala SHO faces serious allegations, suspended

Barnala/Sangrur.(Agency)

Dhanaula SHO Lakhbir Singh has been suspended by the police department after serious allegations were levelled against him following an incident in Rajgarh village of Barnala. During a dispute over street construction, the SHO allegedly used abusive and obscene language toward women at the scene. Distressed by the incident, a local youth, Manjinder Singh, reportedly attempted suicide by consuming a poisonous substance. Following this incident, the SHO has been suspended by the police department.

Congress MLA Kuldeep Singh Kala Dhillon, after interacting with the affected women, questioned why no FIR (first information report) has been registered against the SHO despite the incident being captured on CCTV.

Addressing a press conference, the MLA termed the suspension as mere formality and demanded strict legal action. The MLA also criticized the ruling government, alleging that police stations have been turned into "centres of corruption" and accused state bodies like the Women's Commission and SC Commission of failing to act, calling them "puppets" of those in power. Issuing a strong warning, Dhillon gave the police administration a two-day ultimatum to register a case against the SHO. He said that failure to act would lead to mass protests.

65 lives lost to drug overdose in HP in three Years, data reveals alarming trend

Shimla.(Agency)

The growing menace of drug abuse in Himachal Pradesh has claimed 65 lives due to overdose in the past three years, exposing a deepening public health and law-and-order crisis in the hill state, the government said in the Assembly on Tuesday.

Official data presented by the state government showed a disturbing upward trend in overdose deaths. While only eight fatalities were recorded in 2023, the number surged sharply to 31 in 2024, before slightly declining to 27 in 2025. The figures indicate a rapid spread of synthetic drugs and addiction, particularly among the youth, raising serious concerns within government and law enforcement agencies.

The data was shared in a written reply to questions raised by BJP MLAs Jectram Katwal and Prakash Rana. It underscores that the drug problem is no longer isolated but has expanded into a widespread social challenge affecting multiple districts.

Alongside fatalities, the scale of drug-related offences has also escalated. A total of 6,246 cases linked to narcotics have been registered across the state. Police have filed charge sheets in 5,684 cases, while 486 cases remain under investigation. Additionally, 57 cases are yet to be traced and closure reports have been submitted in 19 cases.

Despite this enforcement activity, the judicial outcome remains a matter of concern. Only 108 convictions have been secured so far, whereas 139 accused have been acquitted. A staggering 5,437 cases are still pending in courts, reflecting delays in the judicial process and weakening the deterrence against drug trafficking.

Public awareness key to TB-free India, says CMO Karol at Campaign 2.0 launch

Dharamshala.(Agency)

Emphasising the role of community involvement, Chief Medical Officer Dr. Vivek Karol on Tuesday said that achieving a Tuberculosis-free India depends on strong public participation and awareness.

He was addressing a media workshop organised at Zonal Hospital Dharamshala to mark the launch of TB-Free India Campaign 2.0 on the occasion of World TB Day.

Karol said 969 high-risk villages and wards in the district have been identified through AI-based assessment, where targeted screening drives are underway. So far, over 1.56 lakh vulnerable individuals have been screened, while efforts are ongoing to cover the remaining population. He added that 287 panchayats in the district have already been declared TB-free, with more than 400 TB champions actively spreading awareness.

Dr. Niket from the World Health Organization highlighted that upfront NAAT testing based on symptoms and X-ray screening for vulnerable groups are being adopted as key strategies. He stressed the importance of 100 per cent case notification, contact tracing and TB preventive treatment.

District Health Officer Dr. R.K. Sood said a public participation model is being implemented in Kangra under the campaign, supported by modern technologies such as portable X-ray and NAAT machines for rapid diagnosis. He also underlined the role of proper nutrition in faster recovery of patients.

On the occasion, institutions and individuals contributing to TB awareness and eradication were honoured. TB champions shared their recovery journeys and urged people to overcome stigma and seek timely treatment.

The workshop also discussed ongoing activities and misconceptions related to TB. Senior officials, media representatives and stakeholders from various organisations attended the event.

Rape accused AAP MLA Harmit Pathanmajra arrested from Gwalior after 6 months on run

The Patiala police in Punjab arrested absconding Aam Aadmi Party MLA Harmit Singh Pathanmajra from Gwalior Tuesday night, six months after he was booked in a rape case. According to a government spokesperson, Pathanmajra, the Sanour MLA, was arrested near Jhansi Road in Gwalior around 10 pm by a police team led by SP Vaibhav [...]

Chandigarh .(Agency)

The Patiala police in Punjab arrested absconding Aam Aadmi Party MLA Harmit Singh Pathanmajra from Gwalior Tuesday night, six months after he was booked in a rape case.

According to a government spokesperson, Pathanmajra, the Sanour MLA, was arrested near Jhansi Road in Gwalior around 10 pm by a police team led by SP Vaibhav Chaudhary. The arrest came two days after the detention of former Cabinet minister Laljit Singh Bhullar from Mandi Gobindgarh in the suicide case of Punjab State Warehousing Corporation official, Gagandeep Singh Randhawa.

A first-time legislator, Pathanmajra was booked on September 2, 2025, under Sections 376 (rape), 420 (cheating), and 506 (criminal intimidation) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC). The case was registered following a complaint by a woman from Zirakpur, who

accused him of sexually exploiting her on the pretext of marriage while allegedly concealing his first marriage. Following the case's

interview, Pathanmajra claimed he was in Australia, alleged that he had been "framed," and stated he would return only after securing bail.

However, his bail plea was rejected, and a Patiala court subsequently declared him a proclaimed offender.

The Punjab Anti-Gangster Task Force had been tracking him since then. Pathanmajra had revolted against the AAP's central leadership in Delhi around the time the case surfaced. He had also publicly criticised the state government's handling of flood prevention measures and accused senior bureaucrat Krishan Kumar, Principal Secretary, Water Resources, of being responsible for flood-related issues. He had further alleged that the party leadership in Delhi was dictating key decisions in Punjab. The complaint against him dates back to 2022, and the Mohali police conducted an earlier inquiry.



registration, high drama ensued as the MLA evaded arrest. He managed to escape when a police team attempted to nab him in Karnala after he fled from Patiala. In a later television

NFR Upgraded Quality of Bedroll to Enhance Comfort and Hygiene in Premium Trains

The Sikh Times

Maligaon, 25th March: In a significant step towards modernising onboard amenities and enhancing passenger comfort, Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) has introduced upgraded linen services in two of its Premium long-distance trains Agartala - Anand Vihar Terminal Tejas Express and Dibrugarh-New Delhi Rajdhani Express. This initiative reaffirms its commitment to delivering a cleaner, more comfortable and enhanced travel experience for passengers. The Agartala-Anand Vihar Terminal Tejas Express has been equipped with upgraded bedrolls featuring specially designed, superior-quality linen with effect from 23rd March 2026. This significant upgrade is aimed at ensuring enhanced cleanliness and improved hygiene. It also provides a more comfortable and refreshing journey for passengers availing premium services. The Dibrugarh - New Delhi Rajdhani Express has also been equipped with upgraded bedrolls in its AC coaches from 24th March 2026 covering both 1st AC and 2nd AC classes. Passengers are being provided with stan-



dardized, high-quality bedrolls that are specially designed for enhanced comfort and quality. NFR emphasised that such initiatives reflect its commitment to enhancing passenger comfort and service standards. The upgraded bedrolls offer improved uniformity, durability and hygiene, particularly benefiting long-distance overnight travellers. Passengers have expressed great delight at the initiative and conveyed their sincere appreciation for such thoughtful, passenger focused improvements by NFR. The introduction of the upgraded bedroll service is in line with Indian Railways' vision of ensuring a safe, clean, and traveller-friendly travel environment. NFR continues to undertake progressive initiatives, reaffirming its focus on service excellence and customer satisfaction.

'How were they sent out at midnight?' Families seek answers in a Punjab hub of rehab centres

Ludhiana.(Agency)

The death of four inmates of a small, privately run de-addiction centre in a late-night road accident near Sandhoa village in Bathinda has raised questions over the functioning of such centres, with the victims allegedly having been sent out by the centre administration to pick up another patient.

The incident occurred between 11 pm and 12 midnight on March 21 when a car carrying the four inmates, and the patient whom they had picked up, rammed into a pole and overturned. The only survivor was the patient, Amandeep Singh, who escaped with minor injuries.

The four who died were Barnala resident Balpreet Singh, Mansa residents Harpreet Singh, Gursimran Singh, and Moga's Jashandeep Singh, all between the ages of 25 and 35.

They were inmates of a de-addiction centre operating in Rori village in Sirsa district. Family members are asking why the four who were themselves receiving treatment were reportedly sent out unsupervised at night to pick up Amandeep from Maur Kalan village in Bathinda, about 50 km away.

Locals who refused to identify themselves told The Indian Express that the centre has been

operating for five-six years and has around 5-10 patients at a time. Police have registered a case of culpable homicide not amounting to murder against centre owner Ranjeet Singh, his associate Arun Kumar and an unidentified person. No arrests have been made so far.



Tarandeep Singh, Station House Officer of Maur Police Station, said they were looking for the three. The centre itself was operational till Tuesday evening, with Anil Kumar, the SHO of Rori Police Station, admitting they were yet to visit it. He said he would be going Wednesday. On whether the centre had the necessary clearances, the SHO said: "As the case has been lodged in Bathinda, we need to check the

details." Rori Tehsil, located on the Punjab-Haryana border, has many de-addiction centres. Officials said patients from Punjab often prefer these small centres for anonymity, to avoid the taboo attached with addiction.

The father of one of the deceased, Sukhwinder Singh, said he knew little about the centre where his son was an inmate, and never visited it. "They themselves came and took Balpreet... I had heard of the centre from friends and so agreed to send him."

Sukhwinder added that Balpreet, a graduate, got addicted to drugs after he went to the United Kingdom around two-and-a-half years ago on a work permit along with his wife. "We called him back to get him treatment. He returned on January 30 and we admitted him to the centre on February 6. He was scheduled to return to the UK this week." Demanding strict action against the centre authorities, Sukhwinder said: "My son and the three others were struggling to overcome drug addiction. It is shocking that they were sent to pick up someone late at night. If they could handle such responsibility, why would they need to be admitted to the centre in the first place?"

Chandigarh pushes PNG adoption, tightens LPG monitoring amid supply review

The meeting, which was held on Monday, assessed the LPG supply situation in the backdrop of recent geopolitical developments and reviewed directives from the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas on expanding the City Gas Distribution (CGD) network.

Chandigarh. (Agency)

The Chandigarh Administration has stepped up efforts to streamline liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) supply and fast-track the rollout of piped natural gas (PNG) infrastructure, following a high-level review meeting chaired by Chief Secretary H Rajesh Prasad.

The meeting, which was held on Monday, assessed the LPG supply situation in the backdrop of recent geopolitical developments and reviewed directives from the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas on expanding the City Gas Distribution (CGD) network. Emphasising a coordinated,

mission-mode approach, the Chief Secretary directed all departments to ensure swift implementation of key decisions aimed at strengthening energy infrastructure and ensuring uninterrupted fuel supply.

To expedite approvals and address grievances related to CGD projects, the administration will constitute a state-cum-district level empowered committee. A "Dig and Restore" mechanism has also been approved, allowing CGD entities to carry out excavation and restoration work for pipeline laying, along with



round-the-clock operational permissions to accelerate execution.

Oil marketing companies have been instructed to work closely with the Department of Food and Supplies and the Deputy Commissioner's office to enforce LPG quotas,

prevent diversion, and ensure uninterrupted supply, especially to priority sectors.

PNG mandatory for commercial users

In a significant move, all commercial and industrial LPG consumers will now be required to apply for PNG connections.

UT officials said such consumers must be ready to switch to PNG before they can be considered eligible for allocation from the capped 50 per cent commercial LPG quota.

Residents encouraged to shift to PNG

The administration has urged residents to adopt PNG wherever available, highlighting its advantages such as continuous supply, improved safety, cost efficiency, and environmental benefits. Households and commercial establishments have been encouraged to register for PNG connections as part of the city's transition towards cleaner energy. Citizens can contact Indian Oil Adani Gas Pvt Ltd for PNG connections through its customer care number 18002335666 or visit its office in Sector 22, Panchkula, a UT official said.

Rare Aquatic Species become the new identity of the Chambal

Etawah.(Agency)

Once grappling with the terror of notorious bandits, the Chambal Valley in Etawah, Uttar Pradesh, is now being defined by its rare aquatic species.

The beauty of the Chambal River—counted among the most water-rich rivers in the country and the world—is no secret. At one time, tourists steered clear of the Chambal Valley due to the reign of terror unleashed by notorious bandits; however, following the elimination of these outlaws, the influx of tourists into the Chambal region has begun on a massive scale. K.K. Tyagi, a Wildlife Ranger at the National Chambal Sanctuary located in Etawah, told UNI that the atmosphere of the Chambal Valley—known for decades for the terror of its notorious bandits—has now undergone a complete transformation.

Amidst this changed atmosphere, hundreds of domestic and international tourists are flocking to the Chambal Valley to catch a glimpse of its rare aquatic inhabitants. Spanning a stretch of approximately 450 kilometers across three states—Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, and Rajasthan—the Chambal River is home to thousands of rare gharials, dolphins, crocodiles, turtles, and nearly 300 species of migratory and resident birds, all of which are proving to be a major attraction for visitors. Since the era of fierce bandits ended nearly two decades ago, tourist footfall in the Chambal Valley has been steadily and continuously on the rise.

The mere mention of the Chambal Valley's name often evokes a spontaneous shiver of apprehension, as many people still believe that the region is synonymous with fear and terror—a perception that, in reality, is far from the truth.

Beyond the beautiful Chambal River itself—with its crystal-clear blue waters flowing with a gentle murmur—the region features unique earthen ravines and hillsides, the likes of which are rarely to be found anywhere else in the country.

Furthermore, the Chambal has become a sanctuary for hundreds of rare aquatic species, serving as their natural home. Here, in addition to gharials, crocodiles, turtles, and dolphins, over 250 species of birds add to the enchanting beauty of the Chambal region.

Mahendra Shukya, a staff member at the Chambal Sanctuary, explains that the beauty of the Chambal Valley is truly unique and distinct in its own right. Such winding ravines—characteristic of the "Bihads" (badlands)—cannot be found anywhere else on Earth. Yet, people across the globe know this magnificent natural valley solely because of its historical association with dacoits.

He notes that a large number of visitors are now consistently flocking to the sanctuary to catch a glimpse of the rare aquatic creatures found in the Chambal River. Visitors here are delighted by the experience and often share their observations and thoughts regarding the wildlife they encounter.

Budget 2026-27: Bigger fleet of electric buses, stronger Metro network, promises Delhi CM

“Our objective is to build a green, sustainable, and congestion-free transport system,” Chief Minister Rekha Gupta said while presenting the Budget.

New Delhi.(Agency)
Delhi's Budget for 2026-27 has an outlay of Rs 8,374 crore for the transport sector, and outlines a plan centred on expanding the electric bus fleet, strengthening Metro projects, and a new policy for electric vehicles (Evs). “Our objective is to build a green, sustainable, and congestion-free transport system,” Chief Minister Rekha Gupta said while presenting the Budget. The government said it will scale up the electric bus fleet under the PM E-DRIVE scheme. “In a phased manner, 6,130 additional e-buses

will be introduced,” the CM said. The government has set a target of deploying 7,500 buses in Delhi by March 2027, of which 5,800 will be electric. The government has proposed Rs 2,885 crore in 2026-27 for Phase IV and Phase V projects of the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC). Gupta said Rs 2,224 crore was allocated in 2025-26 for Metro projects. Two additional Namoo Bharat corridors – Delhi-SNB and Delhi-Panipat-Sonapat – have been approved, and the government expects them to

improve connectivity in the NCR and reduce travel time by up to 60%. An allocation of Rs 568 crore has been proposed for the Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS). To support a transition to cleaner mobility, the government announced the Delhi Electric Vehicle Policy 2.0 with an allocation of Rs 200 crore. The policy will include purchase and scrapping incentives as well as expansion of charging infrastructure. “These steps will take Delhi towards zero-emission mobility,” Gupta said.



Delhi bus accident: 2 dead, several injured near Jhandewalan in Karol Bagh



New Delhi.(Agency)
A sleeper bus carrying around 30 passengers overturned near Jhandewalan Temple in Central Delhi's Karol Bagh area early Wednesday, killing two people and injuring several others. One of the deceased has been identified as Shehbaz Alam, 30, a resident of Bijnor district in Uttar Pradesh, and efforts are underway to identify the second victim, a police officer said. According to the Delhi Police, the bus was coming from Rajasthan.

The police said the accident occurred around 1 am Wednesday, when the Jaipur-Delhi tourist bus was near Jhandewalan Temple. “The bus was travelling from Jaipur to Fatehpuri in Sadar Bazar and was carrying approximately 30 passengers at the time of the incident,” the official said.

Responding immediately, the Station House Officer (SHO) of Karol Bagh, along with picket staff and night patrol personnel, rushed to the spot. The team found the bus overturned, with passengers crying for help from inside. A police officer said in a swift and coordinated rescue effort, a passing JCB machine was stopped and used to carefully lift and stabilise the vehicle with roadside cement blocks. Police personnel, assisted by local residents, launched an immediate rescue operation, pulling trapped passengers out of the wreckage. Critically injured victims were first shifted to Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, and others were taken to Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital and Lady Hardinge Medical College.

Exclusive | Appoint nodal officers to tackle racism faced by people from Northeast: MHA to cities in NCR

New Delhi.(Agency)
Noida, Ghaziabad and other cities in the National Capital Region (NCR) should appoint nodal officers to address issues, such as discrimination, faced by the people from Northeast: this is what the Union Home Ministry recommended recently at a key meeting. The Indian Express has learnt. A large number of people from the Northeastern states live in the NCR, said officials, adding that Delhi and Gurgaon already have such nodal officers. The meeting was led by a Supreme Court-appointed monitoring committee for the welfare of people from Northeastern states.

One of the members of the monitoring committee, J Maivio, confirmed to The Indian Express that the recommendation was made. The committee, he added, will soon recommend the appointment of nodal officers in other states, and metropolitan cities in the country, where people from the Northeast reside in large numbers. The committee convenes regularly, mostly on a monthly basis, to monitor progress in resolving such complaints and to oversee government initiatives aimed at curbing incidents of racial discrimination, violence, and atrocities.

Sources said the MHA has also directed the Delhi Police to hold discussions with their counterparts in the NCR to ensure the appointments for better coordination and the welfare of people from the northeastern states, Gorkhas from Darjeeling, and Ladakhis. Subsequently, the Delhi Police coordinated with their counterparts in Noida and Ghaziabad regarding the MHA directive, sources added. As per an officer, around 15 lakh people from the region are living in Delhi-NCR.



Didn't know he's a billionaire: Man who rescued Gautam Singhania after boat crash

“At that time, we did not know that one of them was an Indian billionaire,” a Maldives official said after rushing to aid victims of a speedboat crash involving industrialist Gautam Singhania.

New Delhi.(Agency)
A senior local official who first responded to a high-speed boat accident involving Raymond scion Gautam Singhania said he was unaware he was assisting a billionaire at the time. Shujau Ali, president of the Baa Atoll Council, said he received a distress call early on March 21 after a speedboat carrying seven people capsized near the pristine white sand beach of Felidhoo island. He immediately rushed to the scene.

“At that time, we did not know that one of them was an Indian billionaire. We provided assistance to them as ordinary citizens,” Ali told India Today's sister channel.

Singhania, 60, sustained minor injuries and was treated and discharged the next morning. He later returned to India along with a British national who was also on board the capsized vessel.

According to local media reports, the group included two women — a British and a Russian national — and five Indian men. Police said five people, including the Russian woman and four Indian men, fell into the sea when the boat overturned. While Singhania was rescued, Indian rally driver Hari Singh



and decorated sailing figure Mahesh Ramachandran remain missing. Ramachandran was reportedly the captain of Singhania's luxury yacht. Ali said several of those rescued were

taken to a local hospital, including one person who was in critical condition. “There were five people, some of whom were rescued from the water and immediately taken to a local hospital. Two people were missing, and the search for them is still ongoing,” he said.

A spokesperson for Singhania said “many misleading and irresponsible claims” were circulating on social media regarding the incident. The spokesperson added that the industrialist's condition is improving and that he is monitoring the ongoing search efforts. Authorities said extensive search operations are underway, covering large swathes of the sea and involving divers conducting underwater scans. “The search is ongoing, but the missing individuals have not yet been found,” a police official said.

Congress told to vacate Delhi's Akbar, Raisina Road offices by Saturday

New Delhi.(Agency)
The Congress party has been asked to vacate two of its most prominent offices in the national capital, setting up a fresh flashpoint between the opposition and the government.

Eviction notices have been served for the party's national headquarters at 24 Akbar Road and another key premises at 5 Raisina Road, with March 28 set as the final date to vacate.

A senior Congress leader confirmed that the notices were received a few days ago, leaving the party with little time to respond. The development has triggered concern within the party, with leaders admitting the situation is more pressing than before.

“We are exploring legal options available before us but this time government is more aggressive than previous times,” a leader familiar with the matter said. The remarks point to a growing unease within Congress over whether it can retain control of the two politically significant properties.

The party is now weighing its next steps, including moving court and seeking additional time from the government. According to sources, Congress may request a short extension to reorganise the allotment of the property. One option under consideration is to bring a senior leader to the Rajya Sabha and have the bungalow allotted in their name, making it eligible for continued use.

This, however, would require swift political and legal manoeuvring before the March 28 deadline. The possible loss of 24 Akbar Road, long associated with the Congress leadership, carries both symbolic and operational implications.

Sonia Gandhi hospitalised at Delhi's Ganga Ram Hospital. What doctors say

New Delhi.(Agency)
Senior Congress leader Sonia Gandhi was admitted to Sir Ganga Ram Hospital in New Delhi on Tuesday night after complaints of vomiting and nausea.

According to Dr Ajay Swaroop, Chairman, Ganga Ram Hospital, her condition is stable, and investigations are being conducted to find if there is any infection in the stomach. “A team of doctors is attending to her, she is stable,” he said. In June last year, she was taken to Indira Gandhi Medical College Hospital in Shimla after she complained of high blood pressure, a party functionary had said, while she was on a

personal visit to the state with her daughter Priyanka Gandhi Vadra. At the time, Deputy Medical Superintendent of IGMC, Dr Aman Chauhan, had said, “She was brought to the hospital for a routine check-up. Her BP was found to be high. She is absolutely fine. After the examination, she was discharged.”

The senior leader was hospitalised in the past for a fungal infection in her lower respiratory tract and underwent a procedure for the same.

Sonia Gandhi turned 79 in December last year and is currently serving as a member of the Rajya Sabha from Rajasthan. It was in February 2024,

ahead of the announcement of the Lok Sabha election schedule, that she opted



for a Rajya Sabha berth instead of contesting again from Raebareli that she has represented since 2004.

She has served five terms as a Lok Sabha MP prior to her term in the Upper House.

The high-profile parliamentarian is also a two-time former president of her party. Sonia became an MP for the first time in 1999 from Amethi, a seat once represented by her late husband Rajiv Gandhi. She shifted to Raebareli in 2004, leaving Amethi for Rahul. Sonia is the second member of the Nehru-Gandhi family to enter the Rajya Sabha. Her mother-in-law and former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi was a member of the Upper House from 1964 to 1967 before she won the Lok Sabha election from Raebareli.

Remember Lalu's rebel son? Krishna bhakt-Teju Bhaiya is now a Shaivite sant

Lalu Prasad Yadav's elder son, Tej Pratap, is speaking of wisdom and devotion again. He's no longer the Krishna bhakt that he was. He is now sporting saffron attire in Reels, and is propagating Shiva bhakti. His new Instagram handle is SantTejPratapYadav. After political and personal isolation, Teju bhaiya seems to have found solace in Rudraksha, Shiva bhajans and the Shiva Puran.

New Delhi.(Agency)
Roughly three years ago, in 2023, Tej Pratap Yadav had a dream. One of his Reels revealed that. Lying casually on a sofa-cum-bed, he saw the war of Kurukshetra unfolding. There were aerial visuals of the Chakravayuh. Then appeared Lord Krishna. Then came Shiva and Ganesha. Next, he saw what looked like a many-headed divine form of Vishnu. It contained the wider Hindu pantheon within it, including Shaivite and Vaishnavite deities. All in a single deity. He spoke the language of wisdom and devotion as a Krishna bhakt.

Years later, when the same “Teju Bhaiya”, as his fans call him, appeared on a sofa in saffron robes, holding Rudraksha beads, with a Shiva Puran placed in front of him, many were quick to ask if the

Krishna bhakt had now turned into a Shiva sant. A saint (saint)? That's because the new Instagram handle from which Tej Pratap is posting the Reels in saffron-clad attire is named, SantTejPratapYadav.

Lalu Prasad Yadav's elder son, Tej Bhaiya, a dedicated Krishna devotee, looks like he has turned into a Shaivite saint. In February, he shared a Reel declaring the new beginning. Sitting before a Shiva idol, often playing Shiva bhajan, Teju bhaiya's new Instagram handle bio says, “Our aim is to promote Vedic knowledge and add every heart to religion. Har Har Mahadev”. It's a fresh chapter for the bhakt-turned-politician-turned-YouTuber-turned-Shiva saint, someone said. Another person called it a Plan C in

the comments. Tej Pratap Yadav's latest pivot follows his



political and personal isolation. Expelled from the RJD before the 2025 Bihar polls, the party's first family too disowned Tej Bhaiya. He accused his

younger brother, Tejashwi Yadav, of being “hijacked by a certain Jaichand”.

That didn't help. Tej Pratap, who then assumed the role of national president of Janshakti Janata Dal (JJD), walked a lonely road. With nowhere to go, he embraced a portrait of his late grandmother, Marchaiya Devi, on his nomination day. That didn't help either. He came third in the Mahua seat, finishing 50,000 votes behind the winner. After losing much of what he had, Tej Pratap is seeking solace in Shiva bhakti. The JIHuzooriLaals say his family pushed him to a corner. Others claim Tej Pratap never stuck to a single script. They might have been correct. But Tej Bhaiya, his Gods, and his admirers know that he was never a stranger to devotion to Shiva.

NEWS BOX

Ashes: Geoffrey Boycott slams ECB for not sacking coach McCullum after Test debacle

New Delhi. (Agency)
Former England captain Geoffrey Boycott launched a blistering attack on the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB), calling for sweeping changes in the wake of England's humiliating 4-1 defeat in the Ashes in Australia. In a strongly worded column, Boycott criticised the ECB's decision to retain head coach Brendon McCullum and managing director Rob Key after a review of the disastrous tour. He questioned the lack of accountability at the top level, suggesting that "most of the ECB hierarchy should be sacked" for presiding over one of England's poorest Ashes campaigns in recent memory. Boycott did not hold back in his assessment of the leadership, branding McCullum and Key as "incompetent" and accusing them of having "sabotaged" England's chances in Australia. He also took aim at ECB chief executive Richard Gould, questioning his judgment in persisting with the current leadership group despite clear failings. Like me, cricket supporters will be asking how McCullum and Key could make so many bad decisions on the Australian tour and yet the chief executive of English cricket



decides there is no need to make any changes. Where is the accountability?" Boycott wrote. While acknowledging McCullum's role in transforming England into an aggressive and entertaining side, Boycott argued that the approach had led to complacency within the squad. He warned that the emphasis on a "free-spirited" environment had removed the competitive edge required to succeed in Test cricket. In trying to create a free-spirited team, he has made them too comfortable and complacent. They know they will not get dropped, whatever their performances or conduct on or off the field," Boycott said. He further criticised what he described as a "boys club" culture, where selection security had eroded competition for places. "Competition for places is the lifeblood of sport. Complacency in a team does not breed a good appetite to excel," he added.

A champion at last, Virat Kohli now walks into IPL 2026 without chains

NEW DELHI. (Agency)
For years, that line could have been stitched to Virat Kohli's IPL story. No matter how many runs he piled on, no matter how many chases he finished, there was always a sense that the final act was missing. There is something different about Kohli heading into IPL 2026. For the longest time, Kohli carried the IPL like unfinished business. Every season added runs, centuries, and moments, but not the one thing that mattered. The trophy. That gap defined conversations around him, fairly or unfairly. With Royal Challengers Bengaluru



finally getting their hands on the IPL title in 2025, that long chase is done. The burden that quietly followed Kohli every April and May has been lifted. And that changes everything. Because if there's one pattern cricket fans have learnt over the years, it is this. A free Kohli is a dangerous Kohli. When he is not chasing validation or silencing questions, he tends to play his most natural, most ruthless cricket. And now, for the first time in years, there is very little left for him to prove. No unfinished IPL business. No T20I career to manage. No Test commitments. Just ODI cricket at the international level, and the IPL with RCB. A trimmed schedule, a clearer mind, and a version of Kohli that could be playing purely on instinct. That is exactly what makes IPL 2026 a slightly scary prospect for the rest of the league. **NO INTERNATIONAL PRESSURE NOW** Kohli's career has entered a phase where choice has replaced compulsion. Having stepped away from T20Is and Tests, his international calendar is now largely built around ODIs. And even there, he is not slowing down.

Griezmann joins ex-Barcelona teammate Messi in MLS, signs for Orlando City

French forward Antoine Griezmann is set to join MLS club Orlando City from Atletico Madrid in 2026. Griezmann will reunite with former Barcelona teammate and Inter Miami superstar Lionel Messi in the league.

BERLIN. (Agency)
Orlando City have signed forward Antoine Griezmann from LaLiga club Atletico Madrid on a contract beginning in July 2026, both clubs confirmed on Tuesday. Griezmann, Atletico's all-time leading scorer, has agreed a deal with the Major League Soccer club that runs through the 2027-28 season, with an option for the 2028-29 campaign. **MLS: FULL COVERAGE** The 35-year-old Frenchman has scored 298 goals and provided 132 assists in 792 professional appearances for Atletico, Barcelona and Real Sociedad. Griezmann



enjoyed his most successful spell at Atletico, where he scored 211 goals in all competitions and won the Spanish Super Cup in 2014 as well as the Europa League and UEFA Super Cup in 2018. He has recorded 13 goals and four assists in all competitions this season. "Orlando City SC announced today it has signed global soccer icon and 2018 FIFA World Cup winner Antoine Griezmann from Atletico de Madrid of Spain's LaLiga. The French attacker has signed a contract with the Club beginning July 2026 and extending through the 2027-28 season, with an option for 2028-29. Griezmann will join the Lions as a Designated Player when Major League Soccer's secondary transfer window opens

in July, pending medical clearance and receipt of his International Transfer Certificate and P-1 visa," read the statement from the MLS club. The former France international, who made 137 appearances and scored 44 goals for his country, was part of the team that lifted the 2018 World Cup and 2021 UEFA Nations League. He made a record 84 consecutive appearances for France over a seven-year span from 2017. **WHAT DID GRIEZMANN SAY AFTER MLS MOVE?** Griezmann said that he could feel a clear vision with the club about the future and that was the turning point for him. "I am very excited to begin this next chapter of my career with Orlando City," said Griezmann. "From my first conversations with the Club, I could feel a strong ambition and a clear vision for the future, and that really spoke to me. I look forward to making Orlando my new home, meeting the supporters, feeling the energy at Inter&Co Stadium, and giving everything I have to help the team achieve great things," said Griezmann. With the move, Griezmann will be joining former teammate and Inter Miami star Lionel Messi as one of the star names in the league.

IPL 2026 preview: Can a reimaged Rajasthan Royals get it right under Riyan Parag

New Delhi. (Agency)
All the talk of a takeover, and we almost forgot there is still a season of the Indian Premier League to be played this year. Rajasthan Royals are back, albeit in a new avatar, for the 2026 edition of the IPL. But the question remains: is this the year they can get back into the title picture? For so many years, the Royals and Sanju Samson have been a familiar sight. But now the latter has moved on, and in comes Ravindra Jadeja, the only active cricketer from the original 2008 side that won the title under Shane Warne. The franchise decided to move on from Samson and appointed Riyan Parag, a player they have backed since he was 17, as their new captain. They head into a new era both on and off the field, but the question remains whether they can finally crack the code this season.



combination, one capable of taking the game away from even the best attacks in the opposition. In the seven games the pair opened together, they accumulated 422 runs at a run rate of 12.17 runs per over, the second-highest among openers last season. There is little reason to believe they will not continue where they left off. Spin is another key area of strength. The acquisitions of Ravi Bishnoi and Ravindra Jadeja give them additional firepower that they have lacked since the era of Yuzvendra Chahal and Ravichandran Ashwin. But it does not stop there. Should they need more overs of spin, they can turn to the likes of Riyan Parag and

Donovan Ferreira, or bring in a specialist like Vignesh Puthur, who showed promise last season. There is added versatility in the fast-bowling attack, too. Jofra Archer is expected to lead the charge, but they have surrounded him with options by retaining Nandre Burger, Kwena Maphaka and Tushar Deshpande. At the auction, they also brought in Sushant Mishra, a left-arm fast bowler from Jharkhand who finished as the joint-highest wicket-taker in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy last season for the eventual champions.

RR'S WEAKNESS Leadership has to be the biggest area of concern for the Royals. Riyan Parag has experience of leading the side and has captained teams in the domestic circuit, but the question remains whether he is ready to rise to the challenge at this level. Last season, they lost four games in the league stage by close margins. They will need to show this season that it is not a recurring theme.

Virat Kohli has set a great example: Kaif urges Rahane to learn from RCB star

CHANDIGARH. (Agency)
Former India cricketer Mohammad Kaif has urged Kolkata Knight Riders captain Ajinkya Rahane to take a leaf out of Virat Kohli's book, highlighting how the Royal Challengers Bengaluru star transformed his game against spin to silence critics. Kaif pointed out that Kohli, once questioned for his strike rate against spin, responded by expanding his range of strokes and adopting a more aggressive approach. According to Kaif, Rahane must undergo a similar evolution if he is to remain effective in the fast-changing demands of T20 cricket. Virat Kohli was in a similar situation. His strike rate was going down against spinners. He shut everyone's mouth by attacking the spinners and inventing new shots. Rahane just has the slog sweep against spinners. He needs to work on his power-hitting down the ground. He has to increase his range of shots against spinners, as Virat Kohli



IPL Impact Player rule to stay, says Sourav Ganguly after Axar Patel's criticism

NEW DELHI. (Agency)
The debate around the Indian Premier League's Impact Player rule continues to gather momentum, but former India captain Sourav Ganguly has made it clear that the regulation is unlikely to be scrapped anytime soon. Responding to criticism from India's T20 vice-captain and Delhi Capitals captain Axar Patel, who recently said the rule hampers the growth of all-rounders, Ganguly acknowledged that opinions may differ but insisted that the rule is here to stay. Impact Player rule, I think it's going to stay. When I was the president of BCCI, it had already come in. So, this is here to stay. Someone will like it, someone will not," Ganguly said on the sidelines of an event. The Impact Player rule allows teams to substitute a player from a list of five at any stage of a match, adding tactical flexibility but also changing the traditional role of all-rounders in T20 cricket. Ganguly also reiterated his strong views on the

importance of Test cricket, calling it the strongest format of the game despite the growing popularity of T20 leagues.



"I think Test cricket is the real format because one has to bowl 20 to 25 overs in one day. Bowling four overs in a T20 match is a lot easier. T20 cricket is the least challenging in terms of quality. But T20 cricket is the format which brings in people. It is just for three hours in the evening full of sixes and fours," he said. He added that in countries

like India, England, Australia and South Africa, Test cricket will always remain special, pointing out that young players still aspire to succeed in the longest format. Ganguly also spoke about the rapid financial growth of the IPL, especially amid reports of Rajasthan Royals being valued at USD 1.63 billion in a potential deal led by US-based entrepreneur Kal Sonani. He described the figures as mind-blowing and said the league is set to scale even greater heights as it expands globally, including into the United States.

Looking ahead to the new season, Ganguly highlighted several young players to watch, including Jammu and Kashmir pacer Aqib Nabi, who has impressed in domestic cricket. He also named Yashasvi Jaiswal, Abhishek Sharma, Tilak Varma, Washington Sundar and Suryakumar Yadav as part of a talented young group making its mark.

Rajasthan Royals: The \$67 million IPL shadow that became a \$1.63 billion empire

NEW DELHI. (Agency)
In January 2008, someone, or several someones, made one of the shrewdest, murkiest investments in the history of sport. For \$67 million, they acquired the rights to a cricket franchise in Rajasthan, a desert state with no great cricketing tradition, no glamorous city centre, and no obvious commercial appeal. It was the cheapest of the eight original IPL franchises. Nobody else wanted it at that price. Eighteen years later, that same franchise sold for USD 1.63 billion. That is a return of over 2,300%. But the story of how that money was made and, more importantly, who it was made for and how the ownership was structured is one of the most convoluted, scandal-ridden, legally contested tales in cricket history. The Murky Beginning In January 2008, the BCCI auctioned off eight brand-new IPL franchises to the highest bidder. Mumbai went for \$111 million. Chennai fetched \$91 million. Kolkata, Bangalore, Delhi, Hyderabad, Punjab commanded premiums. The bidding rooms crackled with Bollywood money, industrial dynasties, and the vibe that Indian

cricket was becoming something else entirely. And then there was Rajasthan. The winning bid came in at \$67 million, the floor of the market. The entity that won was Emerging Media, a subsidiary of the UK-based technology group Blenheim Chalcot, fronted by a British-Indian entrepreneur named Manoj Badale. The Labyrinth in the Desert From the very beginning, nothing about Rajasthan Royals' ownership was straightforward. The franchise agreement wasn't signed by Emerging Media. The official franchise agreement with the BCCI was signed on April 14, nearly three months after the auction, by Jaipur IPL Cricket Pvt Ltd. This entity was incorporated after the auction was won. At that precise moment, JICPL's share register listed just two names: Ranjit Barhakur and Fraser Castellino, each holding 5,000 shares. Shortly after signing, the shares flipped: Castellino transferred his shares by October 2008, Barhakur by January 2009. The real



power settled into EM Sporting Holdings Ltd, a Mauritius-based vehicle designed for opacity. Here's where the plot thickened into a labyrinth. EM Sporting had many partners. Tresco International Ltd, controlled by Suresh Chellaram, Lalit Modi's own brother-in-law, commanded a whopping 44.2% stake, making it the single largest shareholder. Badale's Emerging Media IPL Ltd held 32.4%. Blue Water Estate, linked to Lachlan Murdoch (son of media mogul Rupert), took 11.7%. Rounding it out was

Kuki Investments, associated with Bollywood actress Shilpa Shetty and her husband Raj Kundra, also at 11.7%. On paper, Badale was the public face, a credible tech investor with a cricket academy in his past. In reality, Modi's family loomed largest, fueling whispers of conflict: the IPL commissioner allegedly backdoored his kin into a franchise he oversaw. Modi had personally designed the tournament, run the auction, and recruited the franchise owners. He had also, investigators would later allege, ensured that his family held a majority stake in one of the eight teams he oversaw. The Rajasthan Royals were not just cheap. They were, from the first day, controversial. When the Foreign Investment Promotion Board tried to scrutinise the ownership in 2009, it asked one question that nobody could answer cleanly: how did Badale pay \$5 million in earnest money on behalf of a company that didn't yet exist? When the BCCI investigated further in 2010 and discovered shareholders.

Thinking of starting a company in India Your Tax Bill could be 17% or 30% — Here's why

MUMBAI.(Agency)

For decades, corporate taxation in India worked on a simple enough premise: earn profits, pay a fixed share to the government. That simplicity is gone. What has replaced it is a framework that asks companies to make consequential choices — and live with them. The change did not happen overnight. A series of legislative interventions, capped most significantly by the Finance Act amendments of 2019 and refined in subsequent budgets, have produced a tax structure that looks less like a levy and more like a menu. Companies now choose their regime, and the choice determines not just what they pay but how they run their books. What the rates actually say

The 30 percent corporate tax rate still exists. It is not, however, what most companies pay. Domestic firms with annual turnover at or below Rs 400 crore — measured against the FY 2019–20 figures — face a base rate of 25 percent. Given that a substantial majority of registered companies fall within that threshold by revenue, 25 percent is closer to the working rate for much of corporate India. The more significant departures come through two opt-in provisions. Section 115BAA offers a 22 percent base rate to companies willing to surrender a defined set of exemptions and deductions. The trade is explicit: stop claiming accelerated depreciation, area-linked concessions, and a range of other offsets, and the tax rate falls. Once surcharge and cess are added in, the effective liability under 115BAA comes to 25.17 percent — marginally higher than the base rate suggests, but still meaningfully lower than staying in the conventional framework for many mid-to-large firms.

Section 115BAB goes further. New manufacturing companies incorporated after October 1, 2019 — provided they were operational by March 31, 2024 — are taxed at 15 percent on base profits. With surcharge and cess, that rises to 17.16 percent. By regional standards, that is a sharp number. The provision is unambiguously aimed at pulling industrial investment into India at a moment when global supply chains are being renegotiated.

Centre notifies order to boost natural gas infra, improve access to piped natural gas

BANGKOK.(Agency)

In an effort to strengthen natural gas infrastructure and improve ease of doing business, the government has notified the Natural Gas and Petroleum Products Distribution (Through Laying, Building, Operation and Expansion of Pipelines and Other Facilities) Order, 2026 under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. The order, through the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, provides a streamlined and time-bound framework for laying and expanding pipelines across the country, addressing delays in approvals and access to land, and enabling faster development of natural gas infrastructure, including in residential areas. The order comes into immediate effect and establishes a comprehensive, transparent, and investor-friendly framework for efficient gas distribution, rapid infrastructure expansion, and equitable access to cleaner energy. The order aims to facilitate the expansion of piped natural gas (PNG) networks, improve last-mile connectivity, and promote a shift towards cleaner fuels for cooking, transport and industrial purposes, thereby strengthening energy security and supporting India's transition to a gas-based economy.

According to an official statement, this order addresses longstanding challenges in infrastructure development, regulatory uncertainty, and delays in approvals, while positioning natural gas as a key transition fuel. "At its core, the reform is designed to significantly improve ease of doing business by simplifying procedures, reducing regulatory bottlenecks, and creating a predictable and transparent operating environment for stakeholders," said the statement.

China's billion-dollar comeback India opens doors to massive FDI — What's coming next

New Delhi.(Agency)

India is opening the door to Chinese investors once again. Recent changes to 'Press Note 3' could bring in billions in foreign investment. Introduced in April 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic, the rule controls investments from countries that share land borders with India, including China. It was meant to prevent opportunistic takeovers during the pandemic but ended up drastically cutting Chinese investment. A new report from CRISIL Intelligence says that easing these rules could push China's share of total FDI back up to pre-pandemic levels of around two percent. Between 2014 and 2019, FDI from China and Hong Kong accounted for nearly two percent of India's total foreign investment. After Press Note 3 came into effect, this share plummeted to just 0.27 percent, showing the stringent scrutiny and approvals required for cross-border deals. The revised guidelines are expected to clear the backlog of pending proposals and accelerate approvals. This is particularly notable in sectors such as capital goods, electronics components and polysilicon manufacturing, where defined approval timelines of 60 days will facilitate faster collaboration between Indian and Chinese firms. Analysts say that this could lead to a short-term surge in investment from China and Hong Kong, boosting India's manufacturing base and reducing dependence on imports in critical sectors.

8th Pay Commission: Can government salaries finally match private sector perks

For years, government employees have measured their pay against private sector packages. Now, with the 8th Pay Commission seeking feedback, will it lead to a more balanced pay structure? Let's have a look.

New Delhi.(Agency)

If you've ever wondered whether government employees are paid fairly compared to the private sector, the 8th Pay Commission is now asking the same question. And this time, it wants detailed answers from employees, pensioners and other stakeholders before making its recommendations.

WHAT IS THE COMMISSION TRYING TO UNDERSTAND?
The Commission has started collecting

views on how salaries, allowances and benefits in government jobs should be compared with those in the private sector. It has acknowledged that while pay structures within government services are well-defined, drawing comparisons with private roles is far more complex. It is also examining how "horizontal" pay (similar roles across departments) and "vertical" growth (salary increases after promotions) should be aligned when viewed against private sector standards. In its questionnaire, it asked, "How should the 8th CPC assess/evaluate relativity between pay & prerequisites in Government and the public/private sector?"

LOOKING BEYOND GOVERNMENT JOBS

Interestingly, the panel is not limiting its focus to organised sector jobs. It has also raised questions about whether government entry-level salaries influence pay trends in the informal sector and gig economy, where a large share of India's workforce is employed. It has been asked in the questionnaire,

"Government employment is part of the organized sector. A far larger proportion of the job force is in the informal sector



and the gig economy. What influence do you think entry level pay scales implemented by Government have on compensation practices in the informal or gig sector?" This suggests a broader approach, where government pay could act as a benchmark for wages across the economy.

WHY COMPARISONS ARE DIFFICULT

Earlier pay commissions have made it clear

that a direct comparison may not always work. Government roles come with fixed structures, job security and public service responsibilities. Private sector jobs, on the other hand, often offer flexible pay, performance-linked bonuses and faster growth, but with less stability.

According to Ambit Institutional Equities, "The Commission will review and propose adjustments to their salary structure, allowances, and other benefits. While annual adjustments are made for inflation, a Pay Commission is established every ten years specifically to boost government salaries, aiming to keep them competitive with the private sector to ensure parity and retain skilled talent."

EMPLOYEES WANT STRONGER COMPENSATION

Employee groups have argued that government salaries should reflect the level of responsibility and accountability involved. They believe that better pay and perks are necessary to attract and retain skilled professionals in public service.

Not just \$580 million oil trades, huge S&P bets were placed just before Trump post

New Delhi.(Agency)

Insider trading suspicions around market-moving bets ahead of US President Donald Trump's Iran remarks refuse to die down — in fact, they appear to be growing stronger.

What began with unusually timed oil trades worth around \$580 million has now widened, with massive bets in S&P 500 futures also coming under scrutiny, even as the White House has dismissed the allegations. The latest data suggests that the activity was not limited to one market, but spanned across asset classes, raising fresh questions about timing, positioning and access to information. **WHAT HAPPENED: A SEQUENCE OF EVENTS**

The controversy traces back to Trump's announcement on Monday, where he said the United States and Iran had held "very good and productive conversations" over the previous two days. In a post at 4.35 pm, Trump said: "I AM PLEASE TO REPORT THAT THE UNITED STATES OF

AMERICA, AND THE COUNTRY OF IRAN, HAVE HAD, OVER THE LAST TWO DAYS, VERY GOOD AND PRODUCTIVE CONVERSATIONS"

He added that the US would postpone



military strikes on Iranian power plants and energy infrastructure for five days. Minutes later, at 4.53 pm, Trump posted a corrected version of the same message, fixing errors but retaining the core claim about "productive conversations" and the pause on strikes. **TRADES HAD ALREADY BEEN PLACED**

Soon after Trump's statement, markets moved sharply. Oil prices crashed as much as 15%, slipping below the \$100 per barrel mark, while US equities and global markets rallied. However, what caught the attention of market participants was not just the reaction — but what happened before it.

According to trading platform Unusual Whales, just minutes before Trump's announcement: S&P 500 futures worth about \$1.5 billion were bought

Oil futures worth around \$192 million were

sold. Separately, a Financial Times report noted that about 6,200 Brent and WTI crude futures contracts were traded within seconds before the announcement, with a notional value of roughly \$580 million. The report added that it remains unclear whether these trades were executed by a single entity or multiple participants.

India's growth to remain resilient at 7.1 pc in FY27 despite geopolitical tensions: S&P Global

New Delhi.(Agency)

India's growth remains resilient at an estimated 7.1 per cent for FY27, even as geopolitical tensions in the Middle East pose challenges to the broader Asia-Pacific region, according to a report by S&P Global on Wednesday. In its latest economic outlook, S&P Global has highlighted that India remains among the fastest-growing major economies, supported by strong domestic demand, steady exports, and a gradual recovery in private investment. S&P has projected India's GDP growth at 7.1 per cent for next fiscal, underlining sustained economic momentum despite global uncertainties. The report also noted that Asia-Pacific growth continues to hold up, with India emerging as a key driver alongside other major economies. Growth across the region (excluding China) is expected to improve to 4.5 per cent in 2026, aided by resilient domestic

activity and strong performance in technology-linked sectors. India's economic outlook is supported by healthy consumption trends and



improving investment activity, which are expected to offset external headwinds such as geopolitical tensions and trade uncertainties. Meanwhile, the report also pointed out that China's growth is also expected to slow down, with GDP projected at 4.4 per cent in 2026, as weak demand, a struggling

property sector, and external uncertainties weigh on momentum.

While higher crude oil prices remain a concern globally, the agency pointed out that India's strong services exports and diversified economic base are likely to help cushion the impact on external balances. On the policy front, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is expected to maintain a stable interest rate environment, adopting a balanced and neutral stance to support growth while keeping inflation in check. "We expect the central bank to hold rates steady and maintain a neutral stance." In addition, inflation is projected to normalise to 4.3 per cent in FY27, remaining within a manageable range, even as global energy prices remain volatile. The report also highlighted that Asia-Pacific economies, including India, are benefiting from strong demand for technology-related exports.

West Asia war brings Indian aviation to its knees

New Delhi.(Agency)

At 35,000 feet, commercial aviation is supposed to be far removed from the tensions that shape complex geopolitics on the ground. The reality, it turns out, is far more complex. A spike in global crude prices, closure of busy aviation hubs, and sweeping airspace restrictions across West Asia have collectively delivered a body blow to the airline industry that no carrier was prepared for. The world's 20 largest publicly listed airlines have lost about \$53bn in value since the US-Israel war against Iran began on February 28, the Financial Times reported. The debilitating affects of war have hit India particularly hard. With profits declining and rising passenger dissatisfaction, the Indian aviation sector was already bleeding. Now it is haemorrhaging.

LONGER DETOURS, LESSER MARGINS

Airspace restriction in West Asia acts as a double whammy for airlines, which count the region as a crucial corridor for flights to US and Europe since Pakistan banned Indian carriers from its airspace last year. Flights from India to Europe and North America are being pushed onto longer southern arcs as airlines avoid conflict-hit airspace across West Asia. What used to be a straightforward



westbound corridor has become a costly detour. The compounding effect is severe for the sector as a whole. Quarterly operational costs for airlines could rise by as much as 30 percent on affected routes. For instance, Air India's Delhi-London non-stop flight now takes over 12 hours, up from around eight earlier. Its Mumbai-New York service, previously a 13–14 hour non-stop, now operates via Rome, with total travel time ballooning to nearly 21 hours. These additional bottlenecks for Air India

are on top of the projected loss of \$600 million annually due to the Pakistani airspace ban. IndiGo's situation is even more dire. India's largest airline leases six long-haul Boeing Dreamliners from Norway's Norse Atlantic Airways. But because those planes carry European registration, they fall under a stricter EU Aviation Safety Agency advisory barring flights over the airspace of Iran, Iraq, Israel, Kuwait, Lebanon, Qatar, the UAE and Saudi Arabia. That has forced the low-cost carrier to take longer routes via

Africa, increasing flight times by up to two hours in some cases, according to FlightRadar24. This workaround is literally a nightmare.

On March 9, an IndiGo Delhi-Manchester flight was turned back after Eritrean air traffic control refused passage to a Norse-registered aircraft operating under an Indian carrier. All of these disruptions add to the chaos around an airline already navigating a reputation crisis, following last December's fiasco and the abrupt departure of CEO Pieter Elbers. Indian carriers have sharply reduced their West Asia operations due to the ongoing conflict. IndiGo, which operates one of the most expansive international networks among Indian low-cost carriers, has suspended flights to Doha, Kuwait, Bahrain, Dammam, Fujairah, Ras Al Khaimah and Sharjah until March 28.

Air India has cancelled 2,500 flights to the Gulf since hostilities erupted and is currently operating only about 30% of its usual schedule in the region due to the ongoing Iran conflict. CEO Campbell Wilson revealed in an internal note to employees. What was a thriving and high-frequency corridor connecting millions of Indian workers, tourists, and businesses to the Gulf has been reduced, at least for now, to a trickle.

Anjali Anand

Hits Back At Troll Who Called Her 'Fat': 'Aap Ko Pata Hai Aap Takle Ho'

Anjali Anand has been one of those celebrities who have always accepted themselves the way they are. The actress has time and again made it clear that she is unapologetically herself. So when a person on the Internet tried to mock her appearance, labelling her "fat", she called him out and took a strong stand against body-shaming. In one of her recent Instagram posts, a man dismissed the term "curvy" and instead called her "fat". Rather than ignoring the disrespectful comment, Anjali chose to respond head-on. She responded to him with a sharp yet humorous reply. She said, "I know I am fat. Same way you know you are bald."

Anjali Anand Asks The Troll To "Stay Away"

The actress further continued, "Mote ko mota bolte hai, takle ko takla.

Aap samajh gaye ki aur samjhaun? Mujhe pata hai main moti, jaise aap ko pata hai aap takle ho (They call a fat person fat, and a bald person bald. You understand that, or should I explain more? I know that I'm fat, just like you know that you're bald)."

She shared the screenshot of the exchange on her stories, writing, "They also c a l l m e U N F - K W I T H A B L E . Stay away!"

Who Is Anjali Anand?

Daughter of the late actor Dinesh Anand, Anjali made her debut in the entertainment industry with the web series Untag in 2017. She later gained recognition on television through her roles in the shows Dhai Kilo Prem (2017) and Kullfi Kumarr Bajewala (2018).

A few years down the line, she also ventured into Bollywood. While she played a supporting role in Akshay Kumar's action thriller, Bell Bottom, she gained widespread popularity as Gayatri Randhawa, aka Golu, in Karan Johar's Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani. The 2023 rom-com also featured Ranveer Singh, Alia Bhatt, the late Dharmendra, Jaya Bachchan, Shabana Azmi, Tota Roy Chowdhury, Churni Ganguly, Aamir Bashir, and Kshitee Jog.

More recently, the 33-year-old actress was seen in Dabbar Cartel, a Netflix series created by Shibani Dandekar Akhtar, Vishnu Menon, Gaurav Kapur, and Akanksha Seda, and directed by Hitesh Bhatia.



Yami Gautam's Cameo In Aditya Dhar's Dhurandhar 2 Is Connected To Haq & Uri: Here's How



Aditya Dhar's Dhurandhar: The Revenge has been in the headlines ever since its release, and one of the most talked-about topics is Yami Gautam's cameo in the Ranveer Singh starrer. Yami's cameo in Dhurandhar isn't grand, but it comes at an important turn in the film. Now, people are finding it interesting because of how it links to the actor's roles in two of her earlier films, Haq and Uri: The Surgical Strike.

About Yami Gautam's Cameo

In Dhurandhar: The Revenge, Yami makes a brief appearance as a nurse who is actually an undercover agent in Pakistan, helping Hamza keep his secret alive. Now, how does her character have a connection with her previous roles in Haq and Uri: The Surgical Strike? Read on to find out. If you have watched Dhurandhar: The Revenge and remember Yami's character as the nurse, then you must have noticed the name Aditya Dhar has given her in the film. Dhar has named Yami's character in Dhurandhar 2 as Shazia Bano, which is the role she had acted in her previous film Haq. This similar name is a subtle callback or Easter egg for attentive viewers.

Now, coming to how her character is related to her role in the Vicky Kaushal starrer Uri. Remember when Yami played Pallavi Sharma, a R&AW officer in the 2019 spy drama? Her character was first introduced as a nurse named Jasmine, who enters Vicky's house to take care of his ailing mother. This narrative is mirrored in Dhurandhar as well, where Yami plays a nurse-turned-agent.

To note, Uri: The Surgical Strike also marked Yami Gautam's first collaboration with Aditya Dhar, following which they became friends. Their friendship soon turned into a beautiful love story, and they got married.

About Dhurandhar 2

Dhurandhar 2, released on March 19, is a sequel to the first part that set the box office on fire in 2025. The second installment, revolving around Ranveer Singh's character, also stars Arjun Rampal, Rakesh Bedi, Sara Arjun, R. Madhavan, Sanjay Dutt, Danish Pandor and Gaurav Gera in important roles. The Aditya Dhar directorial has been enjoying a monstrous run at the box office, shattering several records.

What Is The Age Gap Between Badshah And New Wife Isha Rikhi? Find Out



Badshah's fans were left surprised on Tuesday when photos of his alleged wedding to Isha Rikhi surfaced on social media. It all started after Isha's mother took to her Instagram handle and shared a series of pictures which suggested that her daughter is now married to the rapper-singer. While the two have not issued any official statement regarding their marriage as of now, everyone is curious to know more about the couple. Amid others, one question which is being asked online is about the age gap between Badshah and Isha.

It should be noted that Badshah was born as Aditya Prateek Singh Sisodia on November 19, 1985. He is currently 40 years old. On the other hand, Isha Rikhi was born on September 9, 1993, and is currently 32 years old. This means Badshah is 8 years older to his rumoured wife.

Who Is Isha Rikhi?

Isha Rikhi is an actress and model known primarily for her work in the Punjabi film industry. Reportedly, she began her career as a model before transitioning into films. She made her acting debut with Jatt Boys Putt Jattan De (2013). The film also starred Sippy Gill and Om Puri, among others in the lead. She later appeared in several hit Punjabi films like Happy Go Lucky, Mere Yaar Kaminey, What the Jatt!!, and Ardaas. In 2018, Isha entered Bollywood with Nawabzaade, which also starred Varun Dhawan, Raghav Juyal, and Punit Pathak.

Badshah's Love Story With Isha

Badshah and Isha have been dating for over four years now. Reportedly, they met at a party via one of their mutual friends and fell in love with each other. In October 2022, a report by Pinkvilla claimed that while Badshah and Isha met via a common friend, they instantly vibed on their love for music. "It's been a year that rapper is seeing a Punjabi actress. Badshah met Isha Rikhi at a party of their common friend. The lovebirds instantly hit it off. At a party, they figured out that they have familiar taste in films and music, so they vibed together," a source cited by the entertainment portal had said.

Ananya Panday

Shares Serene Moments From Her Visit To Dwarkadhish Temple

Ananya Panday recently took a spiritual pause from her busy schedule and visited the sacred Dwarkadhish Temple in Gujarat's holy city, Dwarka. Taking to Instagram, the actress offered fans a glimpse into her visit to one of the revered Char Dham pilgrimage sites through a series of photos. In the images, Ananya is seen seated near a beautifully adorned shrine, hands folded in prayer, exuding calm and devotion.

Surrounded by marigold flowers, ritual offerings, and the ongoing temple ceremonies, she appeared fully immersed in the spiritual experience. Another photo captures her standing within the temple complex, smiling gently with the sanctum in the background.

The post also includes moments spent with family members and visuals of her offering prayers. The iconic entrance of Dwarka, marked by a grand arch featuring depictions of Lord Krishna and mythological scenes, added a cultural dimension to her visit.

What Did Ananya Panday Wear?

Keeping her look simple and elegant,

Ananya wore a pastel kurta paired with a dupatta, perfectly in tune with the serene surroundings.

Her caption reflected gratitude and devotion, reading, "Nageshwar, Dwarkadhish, Om Namah Shivaya."

Fans And Followers React To Her Post

As expected, the post quickly garnered attention online, and social media users were quick to chime in on the comments section of the post and



flood it with heart emojis and devotional chants like "Har Har Mahadev" and "Om Namah Shivaya." Her mother, Bhavna Panday and actor Maheep Kapoor also reacted with heart emojis.

What's Next For Ananya Panday?

Up next, Ananya Panday will be sharing the screen space with Lakshya in Vivek Soni's upcoming directorial Chand Mera Dil. The rom-com, produced by Dharma Productions, revolves around the lives and relationships of engineering college students.



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.

