

'Lockdown rumours false, irresponsible': Hardeep Puri warns against 'creating panic'

The Union minister urged citizens to remain calm and responsible and said that all attempts to spread rumours and create panic in such a situation are irresponsible and harmful.

New Delhi.(Agency) Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas Hardeep Singh Puri on Friday dismissed rumours of a nationwide lockdown, calling them "completely false" and cautioning against attempts to create panic.

challenges, he added. "India has consistently demonstrated resilience in the face of global uncertainties, and we will continue to act in a timely, proactive, and coordinated manner," he said.

Southeast Asia and Africa. To manage supply and pricing pressures, the Centre has also imposed export duties on petroleum products. "Any refinery exporting to foreign nations will have to pay export tax," he said, adding that the measure would help ensure adequate domestic availability.



Highlighting the impact of rising crude oil prices, the Minister said international prices had surged from about Rs 70 per barrel to nearly Rs 122 per barrel over the past month.

Sonia Gandhi's health shows improvement, will be discharged from hospital soon: Doctors

New Delhi.(Agency) Senior Congress leader Sonia Gandhi's health is showing steady improvement, and she will be discharged from the hospital within one to two days, her doctors said on Friday.

systemic infection and is responding well to antibiotics. She remains under the supervision of a team of senior doctors, who are closely monitoring her condition.



Sources said she is likely to stay under

Adequate petrol, diesel, LPG available: CMs tell PM Modi in virtual meet

The Sikh Times New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday urged Chief Ministers and LGs to ensure advance planning in the agriculture sector in the wake of the West Asia crisis. In a virtual meeting, he particularly stressed monitoring fertiliser storage and distribution.

situation and stressed that the Government's priorities are to maintain economic and trade stability, ensure energy security, safeguard the interests of citizens, and strengthen industry and supply chains. Modi today welcomed the decisions to



reduce excise duty on fuel amid global uncertainties and increase in commercial LPG allocation to states. The government on Friday issued a fresh order allocating 20 per cent extra commercial LPG to states for delivery to labour intensive industries including steel, automobile and dyes.

India backs Bangladesh's call for justice over 1971 genocide committed by Pakistan

New Delhi: India on Friday extended support to Bangladesh's demand for justice over the 1971 atrocities, asserting that Pakistan continues to remain in denial of "well-documented" crimes committed during the crackdown that led to the Liberation War.

Congress unveils star campaigners for three poll-bound states

The Sikh Times New Delhi: Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and party leaders Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi during a press conference at the AICC headquarters in New Delhi. The Congress has rolled out an extensive list of star campaigners for the upcoming Assembly elections.

such as Shashi Tharoor, Ramesh Chennithala and V D Satheesan tasked with leading the outreach on the ground. A similarly strong line-up has been named for Assam, where leaders including Bhupesh Baghel, Ashok Gehlot, Deepender Singh



Hooda, Jitendra Singh, Himachal Pradesh CM Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu, Gaurav Gogoi will spearhead campaigning. Astronomers discover reason behind variations in solar radio emission strength, may help in weather forecast! For Puducherry, the party has included senior leaders such as P Chidambaram and V Narayanasamy among its 40 star campaigners.

Advertisement for Noida International Airport (Phase I) inauguration. Features images of the airport, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and a list of dignitaries including Anandiben Patel, Yogi Adityanath, and Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu. Text includes 'Uttar Pradesh Taking Off to New Heights' and 'Grand Inauguration of Noida International Airport (Phase I)'.

News box

### Delivery agent dies in hit-and-run accident on Dwarka Expressway

Gurgaon.(Agency)

A 23-year-old delivery agent died a day after an unknown vehicle hit his motorcycle near a mall on Dwarka Expressway. The victim, Umesh Vishwakarma, was travelling to Manesar to deliver a parcel on Tuesday evening. Near Conscient One in Sector 109, his motorcycle was hit by an unknown vehicle being driven at high speed. Passers-by rushed him to Govt Hospital, Sector 10, from where he was referred to Safdarjung Hospital in Delhi due to his critical condition. He died during treatment on Wednesday. Police said Umesh lived in a rented accommodation with his brother in Delhi's Mahipalpur. Based on a complaint filed by his brother, Pramesh Vishwakarma, a case has been registered at Bajghera police station under sections 281 (rash driving) and 106 (causing death by negligence) of BNS against an unidentified driver.

Police said the driver fled the scene after the accident, and efforts are underway to identify the vehicle and the accused. According to police, 24 commuters died in 52 accidents on Dwarka Expressway last year. Two deaths have been reported on the expressway this year till Feb.

### 3 suffer burns as cylinder leak sparks fire in Noida

Noida.(Agency)

Three daily wage workers sustained burns after a gas cylinder leak triggered a fire at their rented accommodation in Barola village on Thursday evening. One of the workers suffered critical injuries and was referred to Safdarjung Hospital for advanced treatment.

Cops said the three victims—Anu (19), Shivam (18), and Shani (26), all from Badaun—shared a rented room while working at a nearby construction site.

Police said Anu was cooking on a small LPG stove around 5pm when gas began leaking from the pipe connecting the cylinder. The leaking gas ignited almost



immediately, engulfing the cooking area in flames and leaving Anu with severe burns. Hearing his screams, Shivam and Shani rushed to help and managed to douse the fire before it could spread further, likely preventing a far more serious accident. Both sustained burn injuries in the rescue attempt. Neighboring residents of the building gathered quickly and helped shift the three men to the district hospital, where they received initial treatment. Given the severity of his injuries, Anu was subsequently referred to Safdarjung Hospital. Shivam and Shani are in stable condition.

### 4 held after firing at man in road rage clash in Ghaziabad



Gurgaon.(Agency)

Four men, two of them armed with modified rifles, opened fire on a 29-year-old man in the middle of a busy road in Crossings Republik in an apparent road rage incident. Police have arrested the four accused, all of them bouncers working for a developer, for attempt to murder. According to cops, Sumit Chaudhary had closed his shop in Crossings Republik around 9.30pm on Tuesday and was driving home in his WagonR via a service road near Glass Gate to avoid a traffic jam on ABES Road, when a black Scorpio pulled up from the opposite direction and blocked his car. In his police complaint, Chaudhary claimed two men stepped out and asked him to reverse the car, before abusing him and threatening to kill him. "When I stayed silent, they turned abusive and threatened me, saying: 'Logo ko kaat kar bore mein bhar dete hain' (we chop people up and stuff them in sacks)," Chaudhary said. The Scorpio, he claimed, then pulled near the gate of Sushant Aquapolis, about 100 metres away, where two more occupants emerged, both carrying modified rifles. The four men fired two rounds at Chaudhary from close range, but he managed to escape unhurt.

Chaudhary claimed the accused were bouncers, working for a local developer, Anil Chauhan, who was a resident of GH-7 Society in Crossings. Wave City ACP Priyashri Pal said an FIR has been registered against four men under sections 109 (attempt to murder), 352 (intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of the peace) and 351 (3) (punishment for criminal intimidation) of BNS at Crossings Republik police station. "The four men were later identified as Deepak, Sachin, Yogendra and Deepak and arrested. The Scorpio was also seized. Initial investigation shows Chauhan borrowed the Scorpio from a friend, and at the time of the incident, his bouncers were inside the car," Pal said. Ghaziabad has reported several road rage cases this year. On Feb 13, a Wave City resident was allegedly beaten for 20 minutes and dragged for 50 meters after his car collided with a Brezza on NH-9 near Kavi Nagar. In Jan, a 22-year-old man suffered injuries when a Honda City driver drove right into him after their cars collided at Kailashpuram locality near Kamla Nehru Nagar.

# Rs 217 crore housing 'fraud': EOW files chargesheet against OSB builder, 26 others

Noida.(Agency)

The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of Delhi Police has filed a chargesheet in a multi-crore alleged housing fraud case involving a Gurgaon-based affordable housing project, accusing a developer and its directors of cheating over 1,000 homebuyers and misappropriating funds worth more than ₹217 crore. The chargesheet, filed under Sections 406, 409, 420, 120B and 34 of the IPC in connection with FIR No. 132/2025, names developer Swaraj Singh Yadav and others linked to M/s Ocean Seven Buildtech Pvt Ltd, which was executing the "Expressway Towers" project in Sector 109, Gurgaon. According to the final report submitted before a Delhi court, the case originated from a complaint by Elan Kumaran Subramanian and several other allottees who alleged that they were induced to invest in the project on the promise of timely delivery and requisite approvals.

The project, launched in 2016 under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY), was scheduled for possession by 2022.

However, investigators found that despite collecting nearly 95% of the sale consideration from around 1,089 buyers—amounting to approximately ₹217 crore—the builder failed to complete construction or hand over flats within the promised timeline. The chargesheet alleges that funds collected from homebuyers were diverted and misused for purposes unrelated to the project. It further states that the accused persons engaged in unlawful practices such as cancelling units allotted to original buyers and reselling them to others without refunding payments. Investigators also flagged regulatory violations, noting that the project's licence and Haryana RERA registration lapsed around 2021 and were not renewed. A penalty of about ₹21.5 crore remains pending due to these



defaults.

During the probe, the EOW found that the company allegedly misrepresented facts to buyers, claiming to have all statutory approvals in place. Buyers were persuaded through advertisements and marketing pitches, and many invested life savings in the project. The report further

highlights suspected financial irregularities, including routing of funds through associated entities, indicating possible layering and siphoning. It also cites allegations of fraudulent land transactions in Maharashtra linked to the accused and concealment of company assets. On page 3 of the chargesheet, Swaraj Singh Yadav is shown to have been arrested in Dec 2025 and is currently in judicial custody. The EOW investigation relied on extensive documentation, including buyer agreements, bank records, correspondence, and regulatory filings, as detailed in annexures running into over 2,600 pages. Officials said the case points to a "systematic pattern of cheating, criminal breach of trust and financial fraud", affecting a large number of middle-class homebuyers. Further proceedings in the matter are expected as the court takes cognisance of the chargesheet.

## 'Hospital hid man's death to raise bill': Family holds protest against hospital in Gurgaon

Gurgaon.(Agency)

A 21-year-old milkman died during treatment on Wednesday, days after a speeding tempo hit the auto he was travelling in near St Xavier's School in Sector 49. Azharul Islam, a resident of Sector 66, Badshahpur, was on his way to deliver milk around 4am on March 23 when the accident occurred. Police said a loading tempo, allegedly being driven at high speed, jumped a red light and rammed into the auto. The tempo driver fled the spot, leaving the vehicle behind.

Azharul sustained critical injuries and was taken to Park Hospital. Police said doctors had stated that he was unfit to give a statement due to the severity of his condition. Tension escalated at the hospital on Wednesday evening after Azharul was declared dead. Family members alleged that his death had occurred a day earlier and was not immediately disclosed to inflate bills. They alleged that the hospital did not disclose the death until all dues were cleared. A large number of people



gathered at the hospital premises and staged a protest, raising slogans against the hospital management and demanding legal action. The situation turned tense as some protesters attempted to block the road outside the hospital. Police from Sadar and Sector 50 police stations

reached the spot and dispersed the crowd. Police said no formal complaint was received against the protesters or the hospital in connection with the incident.

Responding to the allegations, Dr PN Kakar, CEO of Park Hospitals, said the patient was critical and on ventilator support. "The family was informed about his condition and was planning to shift him to another hospital, but he died during the process. Our doctors followed all the protocols and did their job honestly and professionally," he said. Based on a complaint by his father, Mofijur Rahman, an FIR was registered under sections 281 (rash driving), 125(a) (rash or negligent act endangering life) and 324(4) (mischief) of BNS. After he died during treatment, Section 106 (causing death due to negligence) was added. Police said the body was sent for autopsy and later handed over to the family. "Efforts are underway to identify and apprehend the tempo driver," an officer said.

## Attempt to save injured dog turns violent in Faridabad; rescuer critical, undergoes emergency surgery

Gurgaon.(Agency)

Cross FIRs were registered on Wednesday following an attack on animal welfare volunteers in Faridabad's Dabua Colony on Monday. Sanjeev alias Gora, who was part of the group that attacked the volunteers, has been arrested.

According to police, volunteers Harshita Bhasin, her husband Akash Pandey, along with four others, reached the spot to rescue a dog after receiving a live video showing it being beaten.

Locals were allegedly assaulting the animal because it had bitten a child in the area. While assisting the injured dog, the volunteers were surrounded by locals, who then launched a violent attack on them. A second FIR, also filed on Wednesday, stated that two local women were assaulted by a "group of



outsiders." According to the first FIR, filed based on a complaint by Bhasin, Pandey was repeatedly hit on his head with sticks, leaving him with serious injuries. He underwent emergency surgery for a near-fatal head injury and multiple skull fractures. The FIR also stated a woman volunteer was dragged, beaten, and molested. "We have arrested Sanjeev, a resident of Nehru Colony. Although his name was not specifically mentioned in the initial FIR, which named seven persons and 'others', he was identified and verified through security footage. We have taken him into custody and secured a two-day police remand for further questioning," a senior police officer said. The incident unfolded in presence of police, a claim refuted by officers.

## Teachers summoned for making reels during class hours in Faridabad

Noida.(Agency)

Two government school teachers have come under scrutiny after allegedly making social media reels inside classrooms during school hours instead of teaching students, prompting an official inquiry by the Haryana Education Department. The matter reached the Directorate of Education in Panchkula after a complaint, accompanied by screenshots of the reels, was submitted to the Additional Chief Secretary. Taking swift cognisance, the Directorate directed the district education authorities to investigate the incident and seek an explanation from the teachers concerned as well as the school heads.

According to initial findings, one teacher each from a Government Girls Senior Secondary School in NIT-1 and a Government Model Senior Secondary



School in Sarai was reportedly involved, with both complaints filed by the same individual. "Preliminary inquiry suggests that the teachers were making reels during class hours," officials said, adding that both teachers were summoned on Wednesday, though their responses are yet to be disclosed. In response to the controversy, the Education Department has issued a strict directive banning the making of recreational reels and short

videos, as well as unnecessary mobile phone usage by teachers during teaching hours across all 378 government primary, middle, high, and senior secondary schools in the district. District elementary education officer Basant Kumar Hillo stated, "We will send a detailed report to the Directorate after completing the investigation," while emphasizing that such complaints had surfaced earlier but were often dealt with through warnings. The latest directive also extends to students and staff, prohibiting any entertainment-related video content within school premises. However, the order clarifies that videos of educational, cultural, or awareness nature may be permitted only after prior approval from the department and under the supervision of an authorized official. Officials warned that strict action would follow any violation of these instructions.

# Road repairs, waiting areas, speed limit: Gurgaon to develop safe zones around schools to reduce accidents

Gurgaon.(Agency)

The motto is safety first. The city administration is set to create "safe zones" around schools—with a focus on accident prevention and child safety.

The initiative follows a survey on safe school commutes conducted at 10 schools last year around Oct. The absence of proper infrastructure "poses a significant risk to student safety", the survey had concluded.

The administration will now redesign nearly 100-metre stretches around selected schools to ensure secure movement for students during road crossings, school bus boarding and entry-exit hours. Under the first phase, 11 govt and private schools have been selected.

Each zone will include upgraded road stretches, mandatory school zone markings, strictly enforced speed limits, footpaths, waiting areas with benches, fresh wall paintings and properly aligned zebra crossings. Authorities will also

ensure regular road maintenance around these schools to prevent potholes or obstructions. Govt School of Kadipur will be the first to be developed under this initiative. Officials said the model will be replicated at other locations once the pilot succeeds.

Deputy commissioner Ajay Kumar said, "The core objective is to avoid accidents and create a safer environment for school-going children in the city. More schools will be added in the next phase after evaluating the impact of the first rollout."

The schools included in Phase One are: Govt Primary School Badshapur, Govt Senior Secondary School Dunela, Govt Secondary School Budhera, Govt Secondary School Kadipur, Govt Secondary School Harsuru, Govt Secondary School Bhondsi, Govt Secondary School Sukhrali, Govt Secondary School Bhimnagar, Amity International School, Sector 46 and The Shri Ram School, Aravali. The survey on safe school commutes had been

conducted by the traffic engineering centre of the traffic police and revealed that many schools in Gurgaon lack adequate safety measures for students, particularly around the roads near school premises. Lack of pedestrian crossings, absence of refuge spaces, encroached walking spaces, including footpaths and carriageways and lack of dedicated space to cross the road—these are among many safety measures found missing at city schools. There is an absence of markings or colour-coded school zone markings besides the lack of traffic calming measures—including speed humps and rumble strips—at many schools in Gurgaon, according to a recent survey conducted by the traffic police. The survey noted, "The absence of kerb stones and pedestrian railings results in unsafe movement along the edge of the road. Railings act as guiding and protective measures for schoolchildren, preventing sudden and unsafe road entry. Their absence increases the chances of pedestrian-vehicle

conflicts."

Among the many recommendations that the traffic police have made to fix them are marked pedestrian crossings, kerb stones and pedestrian railings, well-marked bays, designated, well-marked drop-off/pick-up bays, rumble strips and installing speed limit signs.

District road safety committee is collaborating with the traffic police to identify key problem areas and work towards developing safer infrastructure around schools in coordination with the concerned departments. Inadequate markings around the school, including pedestrian crossing marks, colour-coded school zone markings, directional school arrow markings and the absence of word messages like "Slow," "School Ahead," or speed limits, were not found painted on the carriageway, which is essential as per IRC school zone guidelines. The absence of speed humps, rumble strips and hazard sign markers makes the zone even more

vulnerable.

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# Delhi's renaming drive draws mixed reactions from residents

**The Sikh Times**  
New Delhi: From metro stations to roads and public spaces, a wave of renaming across Delhi over the past year has sought to reflect local identity and honour historical figures. However, for many Delhiites, the changes have sparked mixed reactions, ranging from indifference to concerns over relevance and priorities. One of the most prominent changes came earlier this year with the renaming of Udyog Bhawan Metro Station to Seva Teerth Bhawan. Located on the Yellow Line near Kartavya Path and Central Secretariat, the station's new name aligns with the redeveloped administrative complex in the area, including the new Prime Minister's Office. In February 2026, the Delhi Government undertook a broader exercise, renaming several stations, particularly along upcoming Phase IV corridors. Among the key changes, Pitampura became Madhuban Chowk, North Pitampura was renamed Haiderpur village, and Prashant Vihar was modified to Uttari Pitampura-Prashant Vihar. Other stations, such as Mayur Vihar Pocket 1, were renamed Shri Ram Mandir Mayur Vihar, while Sonia Vihar became Nanaksar-Sonia Vihar. Officials said the aim was to improve navigational clarity and incorpo-

rate prominent local landmarks in the transit map. The renaming drive has extended beyond the Metro network. Several proposals concerning roads, gates and parks have either been

Marg'. In Wazirpur, a road is set to be named 'Pandit Roop Dutt Marg', while in Ashok Vihar, a gate and a park are proposed to be named after local figures. Most recently, Delhi Mayor Raja Iqbal

and that naming the road after him is a tribute from local residents. Praveen Kaushik, a resident of Mayur Vihar, said he remains largely indifferent. "Some people say it's about reclaiming cultural identity, and that may be true in some cases. But these names have existed for years, and changing them now feels unnecessary," he said. Sumit Arora, a resident of Lajpat Nagar, highlighted the confusion such changes can create. "Delhi is home to people from across the country and even abroad. Changing names frequently can be confusing, especially for newcomers," he said. Sahil, who lives in Pitampura, echoed similar sentiments. "We've grown used to these names over decades. Instead of changing them, the government should focus on improving living conditions, especially air pollution," he said. At the same time, some residents see a positive side. A commuter, Pankhuri Bhatt, noted that using well-known local landmarks in station names could make navigation easier. "It helps people identify locations better, even if the change has come a bit late," she said. Others questioned the need for such exercises altogether. Riya Tonk, who lives near North Campus, said, "Renaming doesn't really affect people's lives. It feels like a waste of public funds."



approved or are in the pipeline under the BJP-led municipal administration. These include renaming a stretch from Qutubgarh to Ladrawan Road as 'Lieutenant Bharat Singh Marg', and Kanjhawla Road in Nangal Thakran as 'Chaudhary Chhattar Singh Pehalwan

Singh inaugurated and named a road connecting Bakhtawarpur village to Tajpur village in Ward No. 5 in memory of the late Chaudhary Sukhrum Pahawan. The Mayor said the late leader made significant contributions to social service and regional development,

## New Delhi Municipal Council begins 24x7 water supply project in Chanakyapuri

New Delhi: The New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) on Tuesday launched a pilot project to provide round-the-clock water supply in parts of the capital, with its vice chairperson Kuljeet Singh Chahal laying the founda-



tion stone for Phase-I of the initiative in the Vinay Marg area of Chanakyapuri. The project, aimed at ensuring 24x7 availability of clean drinking water, will be implemented through the Vinay Marg water boosting station and is expected to benefit around 550 households. Officials said the Rs 1.38 crore project will involve installation of modern pump systems, automation technologies and Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition System (SCADA)-based monitoring to improve efficiency, transparency and reliability in water supply. Chahal said the initiative was part of efforts aligned with Narendra Modi's 'Viksit Bharat' vision and the Centre's 'Har Ghar Jal' programme. He added that the civic body had also begun the process of appointing a consultant for a comprehensive plan to implement 24x7 water supply across NDMC areas. Alongside the water project, NDMC also announced development and beautification works at Bhairo Mandir in Nehru Park. The Rs 11 lakh project will include improvements such as entry gate beautification, installation of railings, upgrading of footpaths and enhancement of surrounding infrastructure for visitors and devotees.

## Faster, smoother commutes ahead with new road upgrades

New Delhi: Daily travel across the capital is set to become faster and less stressful, with the Delhi Government approving two major road projects aimed at easing congestion and improving connectivity for commuters. Under the leadership of Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, the Cabinet cleared the long-pending Barapullah Phase-III elevated corridor and a six-lane elevated road with underpasses along MB Road—both expected to benefit lakhs of residents who face traffic bottlenecks every day. For commuters travelling between East and South Delhi, the Barapullah extension is likely to be a game changer. Once completed, it will allow signal-free movement from Mayur Vihar to

AIIMS, cutting travel time significantly. At present, this stretch often sees heavy congestion, particularly around Sarai Kale Khan and Ring Road, leading to long delays during peak hours. Officials said the new link will make daily office commutes smoother and more predictable, while also helping those travelling to key locations such as hospitals, railway stations and

commercial hubs. In South of the busiest and most congested stretches, can also expect relief. The approved project includes elevated roads and underpasses that will help streamline traffic movement between areas such as Saket, Ambedkar Nagar, Khanpur, Sangam Vihar and Pul Prahladpur. By separating through traffic from local vehicles, the project aims to ease pressure on intersections and improve overall flow. The projects are also expected to bring everyday benefits such as lower fuel consumption and reduced vehicle idling.

## Congress unveils star campaigners for three poll-bound states

**Contd.....Front page**  
The announcement comes as the country prepares for a major electoral cycle, with Assembly elections in Assam, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal, along with Puducherry, scheduled to be held in phases through April. The elections, conducted by the Election Commission of India, will decide the fate of 824 Assembly seats. Counting of votes will take place on May 4. With senior leadership fanning out across regions, the Congress is seeking to consolidate its presence in key states as multi-cornered contests take shape in the run-up to polling.

## Adequate petrol, diesel, LPG available: CMs tell PM Modi in virtual meet

**Contd.....Front page**  
With this, the Centre through oil marketing companies, will allocate a total of 70 per cent of monthly commercial LPG requirements to states. In earlier orders, the Centre issued three tranches of commercial LPG allocations to states — 20 per cent to start with, then 20 per cent again for canteens, restaurants and hotels. Today's 20 per cent additional allocation order has been communicated to all chief secretaries of states by union petroleum secretary Neeraj Mittal. In the letter, Mittal said, "I am happy to share that several states have carried out some or all the reforms and have availed the additional quota of up to 10%. In addition to the existing 50% allocation above, an additional 20% is now proposed, that would bring the total commercial LPG allocation to 70% of the pre-crisis level of the packed non-domestic LPG." The additional 20 per cent allocation will have to meet some stipulations. Additional allocation shall be given to industries with priority to steel, automobile, textile, dye, chemicals and plastics, which are labour-intensive and provide support to other essential sectors. Among these, priority shall be given to process industries or those requiring LPG for specialised heating purposes that cannot be substituted by Natural Gas. "If industries specified in paragraph 1 of this letter, where LPG is used in the process and for special purposes which cannot be substituted by Natural Gas, such requirement would stand waived," Mittal said.

# Intoxicated man held for raping Delhi University student

**The Sikh Times**  
New Delhi: The Gurugram police arrested a Delhi resident for allegedly raping a Delhi University (DU) student in the JMD Garden Society in Sector 33, Gurugram. The accused was produced in a city court and sent into judicial custody. The 19-year-old woman, originally from West Bengal had come to her friend's flat in Sector 33 on Saturday night to attend her friend's birthday party, where alcohol

was being consumed. The accused identified as Divyam (29), a resident of Rohini, Delhi had joined the party through the victim's friend. It is alleged that late at night, the accused under the influence of alcohol began molesting the woman. After this, the accused allegedly took the victim to a secluded area of the apartment during the party and sexually assaulted her, taking advantage of the fact

that she was intoxicated. Shocked by the sudden attack, the victim resisted and raised an alarm. She also alerted her friend and the accused fled away from the spot. On the next day, the victim approached the police. After registering a case of rape under section 64 (1) of the BNS at the

Sadar police station a medical examination of the victim was conducted and her statement was recorded before a judicial magistrate. "The accused has been arrested who had come

to the party at the invitation of a friend. The preliminary investigation revealed that the accused committed the crime under the influence of alcohol.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I Santosh Kumar Singh S/O Sidhnath Prashad Singh R/O H No. 54P Sector 56 Gurgaon Haryana 122002 I have Changed My Name To Santosh Singh.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
Notice is hereby given to the General Public that Mr. Ashwani Kumar Chadha S/O Late Mr. Balk Ram Chadha in respect of Pvt. Flat on Third Floor, without roof rights, area measuring 60 Sq. Yds., Built on Property Bearing No. WZ-324B, situated in the area of Village Basai Darapur, Colony Known as Shardapur, New Delhi, by virtue of Regd. GPA dated 28.06.1999, duly registered in the office of SR Delhi, Vide Doc. No. 36628, Vol. No. 6331, Book No.1, On Pages 112-113, dated 28.06.1999, ATS & Will executed by Mr. Devinder Kumar S/O Mr. Kishan Lal and said property to be sold to Mrs. Prem Kala Devi, and same to be finance by SMFG India Home Finance Co. Ltd., General public hereby informed that if anybody has any charge/interest/title in the said property or any kind of dispute kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 07 days of the present.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
Information is given to general public at large that our client Mr. Rahul Kumar S/O Mr. Rameshwar Prasad is the owner of Freehold Residential Built-up First Floor without Roof Rights built on Property bearing No. 35, area measuring 70 Sq. Yds. out of Kharsa No. 170, Situated in the Village Nawada, Delhi State Delhi, in the Colony known as Nawada Housing Complex in Block-E, Uttam Nagar, New Delhi. by virtue of Notarized GPA along with ATS & Will dated 26.09.2025, in now our client is declaring that any other person does not have any right over the said property, and same property Sold to Mrs. Pragya Dubey and same has been financed by SMFG India Home Finance Company Limited Branch: Moti Nagar New Delhi. If any person(s) have any objection(s) or claim(s) with respect to the right, title or interest in the Said Property then contact us within 07 days from the date of Publication of this notice and/or the same to the undersigned if found by anyone. Thereafter no claim shall be entertained.

**ENGINEERING WORKS**  
Tender Notice No. CON/2026/MAR/05; Dated: 20-03-2026. Open tender through e-Tendering system is invited from experienced and reputed contractor(s)/firm(s) for the following works: **Tender No.:** CE-CON-DK-PW-2026-02; **Name of work:** Protection work and any other related works between Station Molvom (Excluding) & Pherrina in Connection with Dimpur (Dhansiri)-Kohima (Zubza) New BG Railway Line Project. **Approx. Value:** ₹53,86,26,370.93. E-tender will be closed at 14:30 hrs. on 17-04-2026 and opened at 15:30 hrs. on 17-04-2026. For details of Tender please visit [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in). **CE/CON/INL Projects/Maligaon**  
**Northeast Frontier Railway** (Construction Organisation)  
"Serving Customers with a smile"

**NAME CHANGE**  
I, LAIQUA HUSSAIN W/O SYED MOHAMMAD ABBAS RIZVI R/O H.No.31, SECTOR-19, AMBERHAI, DWARKA, DELHI-110075, have changed my name to LAIQUA RIZVI permanently.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I, Shahrulk S/O Mohd Ibrahim R/O E-11, D D A Flats, Turkman Gate, Delhi-110006 have changed my name to Mohd Shahrulk.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I, No-6497282K Rank-HAV Name-D REEGAN Father of R V KAVIN RAJ residing at VPO-MATHE-URTHIRUKKAL, TEHSIL-GINGEE, DISTT-VILLUPURAM, TAMIL NADU-605201, have changed my minor son's name from R V KAVIN RAJ to KAVINRAJ R for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 27/03/2026 before Notary Public, Delhi.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
This is to inform you that Mrs. Shalu and Mr. Gaurav Kumar intend to purchase the built-up portion of Property No. RZ-27-G, measuring 40 sq. yds., out of Kharsa No. 22, situated in the area of Village Sagarpur, Delhi State Abadi, known as Main Sagarpur, Gali No. 5/5, New Delhi, from Mrs. Anju Aggarwal. The original owner of the entire property was Mr. Narain Singh, who sold the property to Mr. Naresh Kumar Ahluwalia through a Sale Deed dated 15.01.1971. Thereafter, Mr. Naresh Kumar Ahluwalia sold the property to Mr. Krishan Lal through a Sale Deed dated 12.01.1972. Unfortunately, Mr. Krishan Lal passed away on 25.09.2020, leaving behind the following legal heirs: Mr. Bhushan Kumar (son), Mrs. Neeta (daughter), Mrs. Kajal (daughter), Mrs. Yogita (daughter), and Mrs. Raj Kumar (wife). Subsequently, Mr. Bhushan Kumar, Mrs. Neeta, Mrs. Kajal, and Mrs. Yogita relinquished their respective shares in favor of Mrs. Raj Kumar through a Relinquishment Deed dated 22.06.2002. Thereafter, Mrs. Raj Kumar transferred the property to Mrs. Sandhya Srivastava through registered GPA, ATS, and Will dated 16.07.2002. Further, Mrs. Sandhya Srivastava transferred the property to Mrs. Anju Aggarwal through registered GPA, ATS, and Will dated 31.10.2003. Consequently, Mrs. Anju Aggarwal is the absolute and lawful owner of the aforementioned property. The said property is free from all kinds of litigation, encumbrances, liens, charges, or claims. Please note that the said property is proposed to be financed by Hero Housing Finance Ltd., Branch NSP, Delhi. If any person(s) objection & regarding subject property, then kindly may submit his/her objection within 10 days from the date of the Notice in writing. The said objection may be kindly sent to the undersigned by way of the Registered Post on the address given below and by E-mail, failing which, the claim as per aforesaid shall be treated as null and void in respect of the subject property.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I, GOUKARNA, is legally mother of JC No. 461839P, Rank - Sub, Name - MHAISAGAR GAJENDRA MUGUTRAO, presently residing at At - Pimpalkhuta Bu, Post - Nimkhed, Teh - Malkapur, Dist - Buldhana, State - Maharashtra - 443101, have changed my name from GOUKARNA to GAUKARNA MUGUTRAO MHAISAGAR and my date of birth from 16/08/1958 to 01/07/1949 for all future purposes. Vide affidavit dated 26/03/2026 before Notary Public, Delhi.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I, BADABANDALA TAVUDU Father of No-15721231H Rank-LNK Name-BADABANDALA MANOJ KUMAR Presently residing at 5-3-114, PESARAPADU, PALASA, KASIBUGGA, SRIKAKULAM, ANDHRA PRADESH-532222, have changed my name from BADABANDALA TAVUDU to BADABANDALA THAVUDU for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 27/03/2026 before Notary Public, Delhi.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I, BADABANDALA UGADHI Mother of No-15721231H Rank-LNK Name-BADABANDALA MANOJ KUMAR Presently residing at 5-3-114, PESARAPADU, PALASA, KASIBUGGA, SRIKAKULAM, ANDHRA PRADESH-532222, have changed my name from BADABANDALA UGADHI to BADABANDALA UGADI for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 27/03/2026 before Notary Public, Delhi.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I, MUGUTRAO, is legally father of JC No. 461839P, Rank - Sub, Name - MHAISAGAR GAJENDRA MUGUTRAO, presently residing at Vill - Pimpalkhuta Bu, Post - Nimkhed, Teh - Malkapur, Dist - Buldhana, State - Maharashtra - 443101, have changed my name from MUGUTRAO to MUGUTRAO WAMANRAO MHAISAGAR and my date of birth from 16/08/1952 to 14/01/1951 for all future purposes. Vide affidavit dated 26/03/2026 before Public Notary Delhi.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
Notice is hereby given to the General Public that Mr. Gaffar Mobin S/O Mohd. Muniruddin in respect of 2nd Floor, without roof rights, Property No. 49, area measuring 40 Sq. Yds., situated in the layout Plan of New Ganesh Park Rashid Market, in the area of Village Khureji Khas Shahdara, Delhi-51, by virtue of Regd. GPA dated 05.02.2003, duly registered in the SRO-Delhi, vide Doc No. 1510, in Book No. 4, Volume No. 672, on Pages No. 14-16, dated 05.02.2003, ATS & Regd. Will executed by Mr. Israr Hussain S/O Mr. Chuttan Khan and said property to be sold to Mrs. Reshma, and same to be finance by SMFG India Home Finance Co. Ltd., General public hereby informed that if anybody has any charge/interest/title in the said property or any kind of dispute kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 07 days of the present.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I, BADAABANDALA TAVUDU Father of No-15721231H Rank-LNK Name-BADABANDALA MANOJ KUMAR Presently residing at 5-3-114, PESARAPADU, PALASA, KASIBUGGA, SRIKAKULAM, ANDHRA PRADESH-532222, have changed my name from BADABANDALA UGADHI to BADABANDALA UGADI for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 27/03/2026 before Notary Public, Delhi.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I, MUGUTRAO, is legally father of JC No. 461839P, Rank - Sub, Name - MHAISAGAR GAJENDRA MUGUTRAO, presently residing at Vill - Pimpalkhuta Bu, Post - Nimkhed, Teh - Malkapur, Dist - Buldhana, State - Maharashtra - 443101, have changed my name from MUGUTRAO to MUGUTRAO WAMANRAO MHAISAGAR and my date of birth from 16/08/1952 to 14/01/1951 for all future purposes. Vide affidavit dated 26/03/2026 before Public Notary Delhi.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I, BADAABANDALA UGADHI Mother of No-15721231H Rank-LNK Name-BADABANDALA MANOJ KUMAR Presently residing at 5-3-114, PESARAPADU, PALASA, KASIBUGGA, SRIKAKULAM, ANDHRA PRADESH-532222, have changed my name from BADABANDALA UGADHI to BADABANDALA UGADI for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 27/03/2026 before Notary Public, Delhi.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I, BADAABANDALA UGADHI Mother of No-15721231H Rank-LNK Name-BADABANDALA MANOJ KUMAR Presently residing at 5-3-114, PESARAPADU, PALASA, KASIBUGGA, SRIKAKULAM, ANDHRA PRADESH-532222, have changed my name from BADABANDALA UGADHI to BADABANDALA UGADI for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 27/03/2026 before Notary Public, Delhi.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I SAMINA PARVEEN W/O SALEEM BEG R/O HNO 1575 KUCHA DAKHNI RAI PATAUDI HOUSE DARYA GANJ DELHI-110002 have changed my name to SAMEENA BEGUM Permanently for all Future purpose

**NAME CHANGE**  
I PUSHKER BHIM VERMA S/O VIJENDRA VERMA R/O N-224 SECOND FLOOR GREATER KAILASH PART-1 DELHI-110048 have changed my name to PUSHKAR BHIM VERMA Permanently for all Future purpose

**NAME CHANGE**  
I HITESH OMPRAKASH GUPTA S/O, OM PRAKASH GUPTA R/O B-305 NEAR RADISSON BLU HOTEL CRESCENT APARTMENT DWARKA SECTOR- 18A, DELHI-110075 have changed my name to HITESH GUPTA Permanently for all Future purpose

**NAME CHANGE**  
I, KIRAN W/O SURAJ ARORA Residing at WZ-15A/2 PLOT NO-150, GROUND FLOOR, GALI NO-12, PASTRY PALACE, KRISHNA PURI, TILAK NAGAR, DELHI-110018 have changed my name to KIRAN ARORA for all future purpose.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I, NO-17024648N Rank-HAV Name-UPADHYAY SAGARKUMAR SANJAYKUMAR R/O NO-79, MARUTI NAGAR, BAMROLI ROAD, VPO-GODHRA, TEHSIL-GODHRA, DIST-PANCHMAHAL, GUJARAT-389001, have changed my minor daughter's name from DHYANA to DHYANA SAGARKUMAR UPADHYAY for all future purposes.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I, SANA ISHAQUE W/O MOHD ADIL Residing at H NO-5154/6, PHATAK HAKIM MEHMOOD KHAN, BALLIMARAN, DELHI-110006 have changed my name to SANA ISHAQ for all future purpose

**[ASHWANI KUMAR]**  
Advocate  
Chamber No. 122, Tehsil Compound, Ghaziabad, U.P.  
kumar2021ashwani@gmail.com

**Public Notice**  
I Aayushi D/o Manoj residing at Gauripur Habibpur, Meethi, Baghat, Uttar Pradesh - 250601 hereby undertake that I Aayushi want to change my name to Aayushi Thakur and gender as Male. I Aayushi henceforth be known as Aayushi Thakur S/O Manoj. The above statement made by me is true & correct to the best of my knowledge and belief. If any legal issue arises in this regard at any stage, I will be personally responsible for the same and, the Department of Publication will not be liable for any consequences arising therefrom.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
Information is given to general public at large that our client Mr. Rahul Kumar S/O Mr. Rameshwar Prasad is the owner of Freehold Residential Built-up First Floor without Roof Rights built on Property bearing No. 35, area measuring 70 Sq. Yds. out of Kharsa No. 170, Situated in the Village Nawada, Delhi State Delhi, in the Colony known as Nawada Housing Complex in Block-E, Uttam Nagar, New Delhi. by virtue of Notarized GPA along with ATS & Will dated 26.09.2025, in now our client is declaring that any other person does not have any right over the said property, and same property Sold to Mrs. Pragya Dubey and same has been financed by SMFG India Home Finance Company Limited Branch: Moti Nagar New Delhi. If any person(s) have any objection(s) or claim(s) with respect to the right, title or interest in the Said Property then contact us within 07 days from the date of Publication of this notice and/or the same to the undersigned if found by anyone. Thereafter no claim shall be entertained.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I, BADAABANDALA UGADHI Mother of No-15721231H Rank-LNK Name-BADABANDALA MANOJ KUMAR Presently residing at 5-3-114, PESARAPADU, PALASA, KASIBUGGA, SRIKAKULAM, ANDHRA PRADESH-532222, have changed my name from BADABANDALA UGADHI to BADABANDALA UGADI for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 27/03/2026 before Notary Public, Delhi.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I, BADAABANDALA UGADHI Mother of No-15721231H Rank-LNK Name-BADABANDALA MANOJ KUMAR Presently residing at 5-3-114, PESARAPADU, PALASA, KASIBUGGA, SRIKAKULAM, ANDHRA PRADESH-532222, have changed my name from BADABANDALA UGADHI to BADABANDALA UGADI for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 27/03/2026 before Notary Public, Delhi.

**Form No. URC-2**  
Advertisement giving notice about registration under Part I of Chapter XXI [Pursuant to section 374(b) of the companies Act, 2013 and rule 4(1) of the companies (Authorised to Register) Rules, 2014]

- Notice is hereby given that in pursuance of sub-section (2) of section 366 of the Companies Act, 2013, an application has been made to the Registrar at ROC CRC, IICA, Manesar, Plot No. 6, 7 & 8, Sector-5, IMT Manesar, Gurgaon, Haryana - 122050, that NEXTVISION TECH SOLUTIONS LLP A LLP may be registered under Part I of Chapter XXI of the Companies Act 2013, as a company limited by shares.
- The principal objects of the company are as follows: Retail sale of computers and computer peripherals, Computer consultancy and computer facilities management activities.
- A copy of the draft memorandum and articles of association of the proposed company may be inspected at the office at 503 B, 5TH Floor, 73-74 Sheelta House, Nehru Place, New Delhi, India, 110019
- Notice is hereby given that any person objecting to this application may communicate their objection in writing to the Registrar at ROC CRC, IICA, Manesar, Plot No. 6, 7 & 8, Sector-5, IMT Manesar, Gurgaon, Haryana - 122050, within twenty-one days from the date of publication of this notice, with a copy to the company at its registered office.

Dated this 28<sup>th</sup> day of March 2026

Names of Applicant

- SATYABRAT SINGH CHAUHAN
- ANJALI

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
Notice is hereby given to the General Public that Mr. Ashwani Kumar Chadha S/O Late Mr. Balk Ram Chadha in respect of Pvt. Flat on Third Floor, without roof rights, area measuring 60 Sq. Yds., Built on Property Bearing No. WZ-324B, situated in the area of Village Basai Darapur, Colony Known as Shardapur, New Delhi, by virtue of Regd. GPA dated 28.06.1999, duly registered in the office of SR Delhi, Vide Doc. No. 36628, Vol. No. 6331, Book No.1, On Pages 112-113, dated 28.06.1999, ATS & Will executed by Mr. Devinder Kumar S/O Mr. Kishan Lal and said property to be sold to Mrs. Prem Kala Devi, and same to be finance by SMFG India Home Finance Co. Ltd., General public hereby informed that if anybody has any charge/interest/title in the said property or any kind of dispute kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 07 days of the present.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
Information is given to general public at large that our client Mr. Rahul Kumar S/O Mr. Rameshwar Prasad is the owner of Freehold Residential Built-up First Floor without Roof Rights built on Property bearing No. 35, area measuring 70 Sq. Yds. out of Kharsa No. 170, Situated in the Village Nawada, Delhi State Delhi, in the Colony known as Nawada Housing Complex in Block-E, Uttam Nagar, New Delhi. by virtue of Notarized GPA along with ATS & Will dated 26.09.2025, in now our client is declaring that any other person does not have any right over the said property, and same property Sold to Mrs. Pragya Dubey and same has been financed by SMFG India Home Finance Company Limited Branch: Moti Nagar New Delhi. If any person(s) have any objection(s) or claim(s) with respect to the right, title or interest in the Said Property then contact us within 07 days from the date of Publication of this notice and/or the same to the undersigned if found by anyone. Thereafter no claim shall be entertained.

**ENGINEERING WORKS**  
Tender Notice No. CON/2026/MAR/05; Dated: 20-03-2026. Open tender through e-Tendering system is invited from experienced and reputed contractor(s)/firm(s) for the following works: **Tender No.:** CE-CON-DK-PW-2026-02; **Name of work:** Protection work and any other related works between Station Molvom (Excluding) & Pherrina in Connection with Dimpur (Dhansiri)-Kohima (Zubza) New BG Railway Line Project. **Approx. Value:** ₹53,86,26,370.93. E-tender will be closed at 14:30 hrs. on 17-04-2026 and opened at 15:30 hrs. on 17-04-2026. For details of Tender please visit [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in). **CE/CON/INL Projects/Maligaon**  
**Northeast Frontier Railway** (Construction Organisation)  
"Serving Customers with a smile"

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
This is to inform you that Ms. Prachi Chauhan intends to purchase a freehold residential built-up property bearing Plot No. D-93/1, measuring 55 sq. yds., out of Kharsa No. 469, situated in the revenue estate of Village Bindapur, Delhi State, in the colony known as Partap Garden, New Delhi, from Mrs. Raj Kanta. The original owner of the property was Mr. Rakesh Kumar, as per revenue records, who transferred the property to Mrs. Devki through GPA, Agreement to Sell, and Will dated 25.02.1993. Thereafter, Mrs. Devki transferred the property to Mrs. Rekha through registered GPA, Agreement to Sell, and Will dated 22.10.2002. Further, Mrs. Rekha transferred the property to Mrs. Purnima through registered GPA, Agreement to Sell, and Will dated 29.09.2004, and Mrs. Purnima transferred the same to Mr. Dina Nath through registered GPA, Agreement to Sell, and Will dated 22.12.2004. Subsequently, Mr. Dina Nath transferred the property to Mr. Anand Swaroop Sharma through GPA, Agreement to Sell, and Will dated 26.03.2006. Unfortunately, Mr. Anand Swaroop Sharma passed away on 06.12.2006, leaving behind his legal heir, namely Mr. Akash Sharma. Thereafter, Mr. Akash Sharma transferred the property to Mrs. Raj Kanta through registered GPA, Agreement to Sell, and Will dated 26.04.2007. Consequently, Mrs. Raj Kanta is the absolute and lawful owner of the aforementioned property. The said property is free from all kinds of litigation, encumbrances, liens, charges, or claims. Please note that the said property is proposed to be financed by Aditya Birla Housing Finance Limited, Branch: N-17, 2nd Floor, Vijaya Building, Barakhamba Road, Connaught Place, New Delhi. Please also note that the said property is proposed to be financed by Aditya Birla Housing Finance Limited, Gurgaon Branch, Haryana. If any person(s) objection & regarding subject property, then kindly may submit his/her objection in writing. The said objection may be kindly sent to the undersigned by way of the Registered Post on the address given below and by E-mail, failing which, the claim as per aforesaid shall be treated as null and void in respect of the subject property.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I Mukesh Kumar Agrawal S/O Kishan Lal Agrawal, R/O #Pamrath, Jain Mandir Marg, Near Jain Mandir, Kranti Nagar, Bilsapur, Chhattisgarh - 495004, have changed my name to Mukesh Agrawal

**NAME CHANGE**  
I Monika D/o Suresh Bhatti R/O Khatlu (465), Subahau, Solan, Himachal Pradesh - 173206, have changed my name to Monaliza

**NAME CHANGE**  
I hitherto known as MANGAL SINGH alias MANGAL S/O HARI CHARAN R/O 673, A-Block, Bhalwa Dairy, Badli, Sarani Pur, North West Delhi, Delhi-110042 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as MANGAL SINGH.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I, BHIM CHARAN SAMANTA S/O HEM CHARAN SAMANTA, R/O House No-4C, Old No-A-28, Meethapur Chowk, Badapur, South Delhi, Delhi-110044, have changed the name of my son ANSHU SAMANTA aged 08 years and she shall hereafter be known as ANSHUMAN SAMANTA.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I, RAJASTI Mother of No-1377501K, Rank-NK Name-TURANKAR MANOJ VIKASRAO residing at OMKAR LAYOUT PAN-DHAW WARD, PO & TEHSIL-BHADRAVATI, DIST-CHANDRAPUR, MAHARASHTRA-442902, have changed my name from RAJASTI to RAJASTI VIKAS TURANKAR for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 27/03/2026 before Notary Public, Delhi.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I, VIKASRAO TURANKAR Father of No-1377501K Rank-NK Name-TURANKAR MANOJ VIKASRAO residing at OMKAR LAYOUT PAN-DHAW WARD, PO & TEHSIL-BHADRAVATI, DIST-CHANDRAPUR, MAHARASHTRA-442902, have changed my name from VIKASRAO TURANKAR to VIKAS AJABRAO TURANKAR for all future purposes vide Affidavit Dated 27/03/2026 before Notary Public, Delhi.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I, LAXMI BEN WIFE of JC-562788N, Rank-NB SUB, Name-DHRANGI KALABHAI VAHATABHAI residing at VILL-KANSARA, PO-IQBAL-GADH, TEHSIL-AMIRGADH, DIST-BANASKANTHA, GUJARAT, have changed my name from LAXMI BEN to DHRANGI LAXMIBEN KALABHAI for all future purposes, in my husband's service record my date of birth wrongly mentioned as 05/11/1985 instead of my correct date of birth as 01/01/1985 Vide Affidavit dated 27/03/2026 before Notary Public Delhi.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I, MOHD MOOSA SAMAD S/O ABDUL SAMAD residing at 507, SHAHZADA BAGH, PHASE-1, INDER LOK, DELHI-110035 have changed my name to MOOSA SAMAD for all future purpose.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I, AISHA AZIZ W/O SAUD residing at A-10/73A, 1ST FLOOR, DDA FLATS, INDER LOK, DELHI-110035 have changed my name to AISHA for all future purpose.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I TASLEEM W/O ABUL RAZAQ R/O 64/65 3RD FLOOR BHARGAVA LANE BAGICHI TIS HAZARI CIVIL LINES DELHI 110054 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO TASLEEM JAHAN

**NAME CHANGE**  
I Anwar Ansari S/O Mohd Hafiz Ansari R/O Flat no-301,3rd Floor, Plot no- GH-3, Sector 48, The Vark Co-operative group housing society Ltd. Nit Faridabad, Haryana, have change my Son Name from Faiz Raza to Faiz Raza Ansari for all future purposes.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I, MUKESH KUMAR AGRAWAL S/O KISHAN LAL AGRAWAL, R/O #PAMRATH, JAIN MANDIR MARG, NEAR JAIN MANDIR, KRANTI NAGAR, BILSAPUR, CHHATTISGARH - 495004, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO MUKESH AGRAWAL

NEWS BOX

### Iran says hotels housing US soldiers in region will be targeted

TEHRAN. (Agency)

Iran's military has warned that hotels housing US soldiers across the region would be targets in its war with the United States and Israel. "When all the Americans (forces) go into a hotel, then from our perspective that hotel becomes American," armed forces spokesman Abolfazl Shekarchi told state television on Thursday. "Should we just stand by and let the Americans strike us? When we respond, naturally we have to strike wherever they are."

On February 28, Israel and the United States launched strikes on Iran, killing its supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and triggering a war that spread across the Middle East. The war has since spread across the Middle East, with Iran responding with drone and missile attacks on Israel and US interests in the region. On Thursday, Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi had accused US soldiers of using people in Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries as "human shields". "From the outset of this war, US soldiers fled military bases in the GCC to hide in hotels and offices," he said in a post on X, calling on hotels in the region to deny them bookings. The Fars news agency, quoting unnamed sources, said Iran had sent "firm warnings" to hotels in the region, particularly in the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain.

It added that Iran's military had identified US forces using similar locations in Syria, Lebanon and Djibouti. Iran accuses its neighbours of allowing US forces to carry out attacks from their territory, but Gulf states have repeatedly denied the accusations, saying even before the war that they would not allow their territory or airspace to be used to attack Iran.

### Three killed in helicopter crash on the Hawaiian island of Kauai

HANAIEI. (Agency)

A helicopter crashed Thursday afternoon on a remote beach on the Hawaiian island of Kauai, killing three people and injuring two, authorities said. The helicopter was carrying one pilot and four passengers when it crashed at Kalalau Beach, the Kauai Fire Department said. The beach is on the Na Pali Coast on Kauai's north shore. Police said three people died and two others were transported to



Wilcox Medical Center for treatment. Officials identified the helicopter as being operated by Airborne Aviation. Helicopter tours are a popular way to explore the cliffs, beaches and waterfalls lining the Na Pali Coast, which is otherwise only accessible by hiking or boat.

### Japan to boost coal-fired power as Mideast war causes energy turmoil

TOKYO. (Agency)

Japan's government plans to temporarily lift restrictions on coal-fired power plants as it seeks to ease an energy crunch caused by the Middle East war, officials said on Friday. Officials presented the plan at a meeting of a panel of experts, who approved the proposal, the industry ministry said on its website. "Given the current situation in the Middle East affecting fuel prices, we believe that uncertainty regarding future LNG procurement is increasing," an industry ministry official said at the meeting, which was broadcast online. "We think it will be necessary, by increasing the operation of coal-fired power plants, to...ensure the reliability of stable supply," he said. Power suppliers have previously been required to keep the operating rate of coal-fired thermal power stations that emit large amounts of carbon dioxide at or below 50 percent. But the government now intends to allow the full operation of older, less efficient coal-fired plants, for a year from the new fiscal year starting April, according to the plan presented at the meeting. Japan relies on thermal power plants to generate around 70 percent of its electricity needs, with coal constituting 30 percent of their fuel.

Liquefied natural gas (LNG) accounts for another 30 percent, and oil comprises seven per cent.

The emergency measure to boost reliance on coal is estimated to "result in an LNG savings effect of approximately 500,000 tons," the official added.

The initiative follows many Asian nations' pivot towards coal to power their economies since the Middle East war that began late last month prompted Iran to partially close the crucial Strait of Hormuz trade route and target energy facilities in the Gulf.

South Korea plans to lift a cap on coal-powered generation capacity, while also increasing nuclear plant operations. The Philippines also intended to boost the output of its coal-fired power plants to keep electricity costs down as the war wreaks havoc with gas shipments. Japan is the fifth-biggest importer of oil with more than 90 percent of it coming from the Middle East. Around 10 percent of its LNG imports are also from the region. Tokyo purchases nearly 80 percent of its coal imports from Australia and Indonesia, according to the Agency for Natural Resources and Energy. Japan on Thursday said it had also started to release another part of its strategic oil reserves, as it faced supply challenges to its oil imports.

# Rapper-turned-politician Balendra Shah takes oath as Nepal's youngest prime minister

**He is the first democratically elected prime minister sworn in after former PM Oli's coalition was ousted in September following Gen Z protests against corruption, nepotism, and a social media ban that turned violent.**

LOS ANGELES. (Agency)

Rapper-turned-politician Balendra Shah 'Balen,' took oath as Nepal's democratically elected prime minister on Friday, around six months after the K P Sharma Oli-led government was ousted in a Gen-Z protest that shook the nation. The 35-year-old Rastriya Swatantra Party (RSP) leader was sworn in at a ceremony at the President's Office in Sheetal Niwas at the auspicious time of 12.34 pm. Balen, also an engineer, is the youngest person to

assume the office in the Himalayan nation, and also the first person from the Madhes region to hold the top executive post.

He was appointed as the 47th prime minister by President Ram Chandra Paudel in accordance with Article 76 (1) of the constitution earlier in the day. He is the first democratically elected prime minister to be sworn in since the coalition government led by former prime minister Oli was ousted in September last year, after the youth-led Gen Z protest against corruption, nepotism, and a social media ban escalated into violence. A unique blend of Hindu and Buddhist religious traditions featured in Balen's swearing-in ceremony. It comprised elaborate religious rituals, including Shankhanad (conch blowing) by seven brahmins, recitation of Vedic hymns or Swasti Bachan by 108 Hindu Batuks or young brahmins and Mangal Bachan or

recitation of Buddhist scripture by 107 Lamas. Balen is likely to form a small cabinet with the number of ministers ranging between 15 and 18, sources have said. In the March 5 general elections, the



former Kathmandu mayor defeated four-time prime minister Sharma Oli in the Jhapa-5 constituency, a long-standing stronghold of the Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Marxist-Leninist), by a

huge margin. The RSP won a landslide victory in the March 5 poll, securing a massive 182 seats out of the total 275 seats in the House of Representatives (HoR), making it eligible to form a majority government. Of the 275 members of the HoR, 165 are elected through direct voting and 110 through proportionate voting.

Balen and the RSP tsunami almost wiped out the traditional parties with the Nepali Congress winning only 38 seats, followed by the Communist Party of Nepal-Unified Marxist-Leninist (CPN-UML) with 25, and the Nepali Communist Party getting only 17 seats. Former chief justice Sushila Karki took charge as the interim prime minister on the recommendation of the Gen Z group after Oli's ouster. On Friday, the newly elected HoR members, including Balen, took the oath of office at the federal parliament building, beginning the process of government formation three weeks after the voting concluded.

## Nepali rapper Balendra Shah to be sworn in as new prime minister

**The 35-year-old reformist swept polls this month on a platform of youth-driven political change, six months after a deadly 2025 uprising toppled the government.**

KATHMANDU. (Agency)

Nepal's rapper-turned-politician Balendra Shah will be sworn in as the new prime minister on Friday, after issuing his victory message in a rap song, urging unity. The 35-year-old reformist swept polls this month on a platform of youth-driven political change, six months after a deadly 2025 uprising toppled the government.

At least 77 people were killed in the anti-corruption youth uprising, which began over a brief social media ban but tapped into longstanding fury over economic hardship in the nation of 30 million people. Shah, better known as Balen, released his first public



statement since winning the elections - hours after he took the oath to become a lawmaker for the first time. "The strength of unity is my national power," Shah sang in the song, which has racked up nearly three million views since being released on social media and streaming sites on Thursday evening. Shah had remained silent publicly since his Rastriya Swatantra

Party (RSP) won the March 5 election in a landslide, winning a commanding majority of 182 in the 275-seat House of Representatives. He campaigned alongside RSP president, combative television host Rabi Lamichhane, 51, a former deputy prime minister and interior minister, a fellow lawmaker who retains a pivotal role in power.

Shah will take the oath of office as the Himalayan republic's new prime minister later on Friday. "My heart is full of courage, my red blood is boiling; my brothers stand with me, this time we will rise," Shah added in his song, over a video of him campaigning for election. Bright future. Shortly after his rap song was released, the outgoing interim prime minister bid farewell to the nation in a televised broadcast. Sushila Karki, 73, a former chief justice who had led the caretaker administration for six months, said the country's future lay in the hands of a younger generation.

## Iran war sparks global fertilizer shortage and threatens food prices

HANOI. (Agency)

Farmers around the world are feeling the squeeze of the Iran war. Gas prices have shot up and fertilizer supplies are waning due to Tehran's near shutdown of the Strait of Hormuz in retaliation for U.S. and Israeli bombing.

The fertilizer shortage is putting the livelihood of farmers in developing countries — already troubled by rising temperatures and erratic weather systems — further at risk, and could lead to people everywhere paying more for food. The poorest farmers in the Northern Hemisphere rely on fertilizer imports from the Gulf, and the shortage comes just as planting season begins, said Carl Skau, deputy executive director of the World Food Program. "In the worst case, this means lower yields and crop failures next season. In the best case, higher input

costs will be included in food prices next year." Baldev Singh, a 55-year-old rice farmer in Punjab, India, says smallholders — the bulk of the country's farmers — may not survive if the government cannot subsidize



fertilizers when demand peaks in June. "Right now, we are waiting and hoping," he said.

The war halts supplies of key nutrients Iran is seriously limiting shipments through the Strait of Hormuz, a narrow passage that usually handles about a fifth of the world's oil shipments and nearly a third of global fertilizer trade.

Nitrogen and phosphate — two major fertilizer nutrients — are under immediate threat from the blockade.

Supplies of nitrogen including urea, the most widely traded fertilizer that helps plants grow and boosts yields, are the hardest hit because of shipping delays and the soaring price of liquefied natural gas — an essential ingredient.

The conflict has restricted about 30% of global urea trade, said Chris Lawson of CRU Group, a London-based commodities consultancy.

## US currency to bear Trump's signature, Treasury says

WASHINGTON. (Agency)

US paper currency will soon bear Donald Trump's signature, the Treasury Department announced Thursday, in a move that would be a first for a sitting American president and coincide with the country's 250th anniversary. Historically, the signatures on dollar bills belong to those of the Treasurer of the United States and the secretary of the Treasury. But the upcoming new bills will feature those of Trump and current Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent. "Under President Trump's leadership, we are on a path toward unprecedented economic growth, lasting dollar dominance, and fiscal strength and stability," Bessent said in a statement announcing the decision.

"There is no more powerful way to recognize the historic achievements of our great country and President Donald J. Trump than US dollar bills bearing his name, and it is only appropriate that this historic currency be issued at the Semiquincentennial," he added.

The move would be the latest effort by Trump to circumvent longstanding practice and put his mark on



American currency. Last week, an advisory commission hand-picked by Trump approved the design of a commemorative gold coin featuring his image — also intended to mark the 250th anniversary of the July 4, 1776 founding of the United States.

One side of it shows a glaring Trump standing with his fists bunched on a desk, and the other features an eagle perched with wings spread on what appears to be a bell. The coin does not have a monetary value and its sale price has not been disclosed, but similar commemorative coins sold by the US Mint can cost more than \$1,000. The move to put Trump's countenance on a coin — which runs counter to federal law that says no living president may appear on US currency — has been criticized by his Democratic opponents. But Trump has pressed ahead with other deeply controversial designs as well, including one bearing Trump's face on a \$1 coin that would be temporarily added to circulating currency, and which would also celebrate the nation's 250th birthday.

# Somali children are 'on the edge' as hunger spreads; UNICEF says Iran war has worsened the crisis

DOLLOW. (Agency)

The sound of a crying child is a sign of hope in a crowded displacement camp in southern Somalia — the most malnourished children are too weak to even cry. For the mothers in the Ladan camp in the town of Dollow, survival is the only thing on their minds — not the Iran war or how UNICEF gets the supplies to keep the place running. The displaced here have fled the drought that has ravaged swaths of this Horn of Africa nation after four failed rain seasons. Their crops and livestock devastated, they show up at the camp, often with nothing but their children. Aid workers at Ladan say the raging war in the Middle East — more than 3,000 kilometers (1,800 miles) away — has made their work harder, disrupting supplies and sending fuel costs soaring. Raising the alarm UNICEF says it has \$15.7 million worth of lifesaving supplies — including therapeutic food, vaccines, and mosquito nets — in transit or being prepared for delivery to Somalia. But those shipments now are uncertain. Transport costs could rise by

30% to 60%, and even double on some routes, while delays caused by rerouting and backlog become more likely, the U.N. agency says. During a visit to Dollow on Wednesday, Catherine Russell, UNICEF's executive director, said the Iran war has been a "shock to the system" for the agency's work on the ground in Somalia. "It means that we can't get supplies in as easily, and that fuel costs are really high," she said. "It's another problem that we have to try to deal with, and it means that more and more children will suffer." At the same time, more than 400 health and nutrition facilities have closed over the past year across Somalia, due mainly to U.S. funding cuts, leaving many communities without access to support. Aid agencies warn more closures could follow. All those issues have compounded the situation in Ladan, where hunger threatens especially the youngest. "What we're seeing is that children are really on the edge already," Russell said. Grim numbers in Mogadishu, Somalia's capital, the government warned

last month that nearly 6.5 million people — out of the population of more than 20 million — face severe hunger as the drought worsens and conflict and global aid cuts intensify the country's crisis. The

group, estimates that 1.84 million children under the age of 5 in Somalia are expected to suffer acute malnutrition in 2026.

Fending for their lives

In Ladan, spread across the town's dusty outskirts, rows of makeshift shelters stretch under the harsh sun, fragile structures of plastic sheets and torn fabric held together by sticks and thorn branches. The camp is home to about 4,500 households. "We just want our children to survive," said Shamsu Nur Hussein, a 20-year-old widow with three children. She fled their village in the Bakool region after losing all her farm animals.

Her cooking hearth at the camp — three stones and ash — was cold, with no sign of a recent fire. "Since morning we have only had black tea," she told The Associated Press at the camp. At the hospital in Dollow, mothers sat shoulder to shoulder on narrow beds holding frail children, some too weak to cry while others let out soft whimpers.

Liban Roble, a nutrition program coordinator, said the hospital used to see mainly "moderate cases."



humanitarian needs are just the tip of the iceberg as the Somali government grapples with its long-running war against the al-Qaida-linked al-Shabab militant group, fighting to reclaim territory from the extremists. The latest data from a report by the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification, a global hunger monitoring

NEWS BOX

**Retired police inspector dies by suicide; wife, son booked for abetment**

**Ahmedabad.(Agency)**  
A day after a retired police inspector allegedly died by suicide, Ahmedabad city police on Thursday booked his wife, son, and sister-in-law for abetment, they said.  
Jayanti Magan Parmar (64) was found dead in a vehicle in the Chandlodiya area of the city, with a bottle of insecticide by his side, on Wednesday. He was earlier reported missing by his brother. The Sola police filed an FIR against Parmar's wife, son, and sister-in-law after the post-mortem and the recovery of a suicide note Parmar had allegedly left at the house of his brother, Naresh.  
In the FIR, Naresh Magan Parmar (50), the younger brother of the deceased, was quoted as saying that Jayanti Magan, a resident of Pethapur in Gandhinagar, retired as an armed police inspector in 2020. He had bought two houses, one in the name of his elder son Rajni and the other in his and his wife Kailash's name.  
Jayanti Magan lived with his wife Kailash and younger son Manoj, and his wife's sister Usha Parmar frequently visited them.  
In the FIR, Naresh stated, "Since 2022, Jayanti's wife Kailash, younger son Manoj and sister-in-law Usha had not been behaving well with him. While the wife used to taunt him about being useless after retirement, the sister-in-law used to speak ill of him before the family. Manoj used to get drunk and fight with him. In 2022, the retired inspector had even informed the police when the sister-in-law asked his son Manoj to break his legs."  
The FIR stated that Jayanti had even forced him out of his house on several occasions, during which time he lived with his brother. A similar instance happened eight months ago. Only his elder son, Rajni used to ask after his father, Naresh Magan alleged.

**Karnataka cabinet defers meeting to discuss SC internal quota**

**BENGALURU.(Agency)**  
Fearing an immediate backlash from Scheduled Castes (SCs) in the bypolls to Davanagere South and Bagalkot constituencies, the Karnataka cabinet on Thursday decided to defer the special cabinet meeting scheduled for Friday, to resolve the contentious issue of internal reservation for SCs. But the process of recruitment of 56,342 vacancies in various government departments will continue, as informed by Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister HK Patil.  
The SC-Left Madiga community, which is pushing for internal reservation, is miffed. The SC-Right of Bhovi, Lambani, Koracha and Korama communities held a series of rallies in Bengaluru, demanding that vacancies be filled without applying internal 15 per cent quota. The Justice Nagmohan Das Commission had recommended internal quota for 17 per cent, but cases were filed in court against it, and also total quota for SC/ST/OBCs reached 56 per cent, breaching the 50 per cent cap.  
"It has been decided to hold a special cabinet meeting after the April 9 by-election. The Advocate-General has opined that internal reservation issue will violate the code of conduct, so the special meeting has been deferred. The next date will be fixed," Patil informed.  
"As of now, nothing is stalled. All processes will continue for decisions taken earlier, but the decision which was to be taken today or tomorrow has been postponed to after April 9. The process of collecting data and statistics is under way," he clarified, when asked whether recruitment will be stalled. He maintained that Thursday's cabinet meeting did not discuss the issue.

**Menstrual leave: 15 women move Karnataka HC against policy**

**BENGALURU.(Agency)**  
Fifteen women working in key posts in various industrial establishments moved the Karnataka High Court (HC), challenging the legality of the State's menstrual leave policy. Stating that it is likely to hinder their career progression because the impugned notification, dated November 20 2025, mandates industrial establishments to give one day of paid leave per month to all permanent, contract, outsourced women employees aged between 18 and 52 years during their menstrual cycle, restricting it to 12 days per annum, discourages employers from hiring or promoting women employees in leadership positions.  
They contended that the notification infringes upon the right to privacy and dignity, which is an integral part of the Right to Life under Article 21. The policy forces women to disclose a deeply private matter about their menstrual cycle to their employer, which can lead to social stigma, disturbing questions and a hostile work environment. It leaves women open to scrutiny, thereby violating their bodily autonomy and dignity, they alleged.  
While the intention behind the policy may appear to be benevolent, its effect is counterproductive to the cause of women's empowerment and gender equality. It is a step backward that threatens to undo decades of progress made in integrating women into the workforce as equal participants, the petitioners claimed.

**Conduct of some damaging image of police force: Union minister Patil in Surat**

**Sanghavi, who is also the state's home minister, meanwhile, advised cops to not take their 'dabangiri' or curt behaviour with them when they go home, and that the women in their families could approach the minister if they did.**

**Ahmedabad .(Agency)**  
Union Jal Shakti Minister C R Patil and Gujarat Deputy Chief Minister Harsh Sanghavi on Thursday advised police officials not to be impolite and better their conduct when dealing with people.  
"The conduct of a few personnel has tarnished the image of the entire police department," Paatil noted at an event here in the presence of Sanghavi and senior police officials of the state. He also said there should be a plan for an eight-hour shift for the police.  
Sanghavi, who is also the state's home minister, meanwhile, advised cops to not take their 'dabangiri' or curt behaviour with them when they go home, and that the women in their families could approach the minister if they did. On Thursday, the ministers inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of several

projects, including police quarters, a horse-riding school, a library, a police station and Marine Task Force houses at a total cost of Rs. 116 crore in Surat at the police housing colony



in Piplod on Thursday afternoon. Surat police Commissioner Anupam Singh Gahlaut was also present. "Society has high expectations from the police. Police should behave

respectfully and politely with citizens. Complaints of impolite or rough behaviour of police have decreased, but they can always try to improve more and create a good image in front of citizens. At times, the conduct of a few personnel has negatively impacted the entire department's reputation," Patil, a former cop himself, said. "Jawans of the Indian Army fight at the border and protect our country from enemies, and citizens deeply respect them. Similarly, police officers also wear uniforms and protect citizens from internal threats. So why do many citizens feel resentment toward the police," he questioned.  
Addressing the gathering of policemen and their families, Sanghavi said the "dabangiri" by police should be limited to police stations and not be brought home.

**Mumbai residents can gain access to free genetic risk screening and counselling at Cama Hospital from April 1**

**Mumbai. (Agency)**  
Cama and Albles Hospital will launch a dedicated genetic counselling department from April 1, a move expected to significantly improve early diagnosis, treatment planning and long-term outcomes for patients with inherited disorders. Hospital authorities said the new unit will bridge a crucial gap in public healthcare by offering specialised services such as genetic testing, risk assessment, counselling and personalised treatment strategies. Medical Superintendent Dr Tushar Palve said the department will help patients and families better understand hereditary conditions and make informed medical decisions.  
The unit will be led by Dr Shabana Borate and Dr Kshamata Kindre, who will oversee clinical services supported by diagnostic facilities and evidence-based protocols. Genetic counselling, a key component, will involve assessing the likelihood of disease transmission, advising on reproductive choices and providing psychological support to affected families.  
The department will cater to conditions such as Down syndrome, Thalassaemia, Sickle cell anemia and Turner syndrome, along with other chromosomal and inherited disorders. It will



also focus on early detection of abnormalities during pregnancy and identifying genetic conditions in newborns, enabling timely intervention.  
Doctors said the initiative will reduce delays in diagnosis, improve disease management and

help prevent complications through early intervention. By expanding access to specialised genetic services within the public system, the hospital aims to ease the burden on patients who otherwise rely on costly private care.

**Mumbai court verdict today: 5 Haryana cops face fate in decade-old killing of North India's most infamous gangster Sandeep Gadoli**

**Gunned down in a Mumbai hotel room in 2016, the Gadoli case has since seen multiple linked deaths including his aide, his rival's kin, and girlfriend Divya Pahuja underscoring a trail of violence beyond the alleged encounter**

**Chandigarh. (Agency)**  
A Mumbai sessions court on Friday is set to decide the fate of eight accused that include a total of five Haryana policemen for the killing of gangster Sandeep Gadoli in a Mumbai hotel that triggered allegations of a staged encounter.  
On February 7, 2016, Sandeep Gadoli, was shot dead in an alleged encounter with a team of the Gurgaon Police at Airport Metro hotel near the international airport in Mumbai. Gadoli a notorious gangster rose from a small-time operator to one of the most wanted gangsters in North India before his controversial killing in 2016.  
Born into a family with a direct link to law enforcement—his father, Bhup Singh Jat, served as a Sub Inspector in the Haryana Police—Gadoli's trajectory into the underworld stood in stark contrast to his background. Despite this, his early years

remain thinly documented, with little clarity on his formal education. His entry into crime began as a minor extortionist, operating in local circuits, but a turning point often cited in accounts of his life was a deeply personal incident: his sister was



allegedly harassed by a youth, whom Gadoli later allegedly killed in broad daylight. He initially aligned himself with the gang of Binder Gujjar, a known figure in Gurgaon and the NCR underworld, but over time, differences between the two escalated into open rivalry.

Gadoli eventually broke away and established his own gang, consolidating influence in illicit liquor smuggling, extortion, and property-related dealings.  
Between 2005 and 2015, he grew into one of the most prominent gangsters operating in Gurgaon and southern Haryana. During this period, police records mounted steadily against him, with nearly 36 criminal cases registered, including murder, attempt to murder, and extortion. Haryana Police declared him a most-wanted criminal, announcing a reward of ₹1 lakh for information leading to his arrest. Despite this, he managed to evade capture for years, aided by a network of loyal aides and a strategy of constant movement. He often presented himself as a property dealer and real estate businessman, using this front to mask and facilitate his operations.

**Kanpur anti-Sikh riots: How SIT narrowed 1,251 cases to 11, filed chargesheets against 74 accused**

**Lucknow. (Agency)**  
Of the 1,251 cases linked to the 1984 anti-Sikh riots in Kanpur, which had claimed at least 127 lives in the district, the Special Investigation Team (SIT) set up by the Uttar Pradesh government identified 40 cases as particularly serious. Chargesheets had been filed in 11 cases, while closure reports were submitted in the remaining 29. The team reopened 20 of those 29 cases for further investigation, uncovering fresh evidence in 11 and initiating action against the accused. In the other 9 cases, no new evidence emerged and closure reports were filed again.  
In 2023, the team concluded its probe into all 11 cases, identifying the involvement of 96 persons. Of them, 22 had died. It filed chargesheets against the remaining 74 accused, all aged above 60 years, after arresting them. The chargesheets invoked serious offences including murder, dacoity

with murder, and arson with intent to destroy property using fire or explosives.  
On Tuesday, the Allahabad High Court dismissed petitions by seven of the accused seeking quashing of the chargesheets and proceedings against them, calling the nature of incidents similar to "genocide".  
The single bench of Justice Anish Kumar Gupta observed, "The nature of the incidents was like a genocide against a particular community in which various innocent persons were killed, ablazed alive, house and properties were burnt, destroyed and looted (sic)."  
It further said, "Such a large scale crime, committed against humanity gone unnoticed and in almost all such cases, the final reports were submitted in a hurried manner to save various accused persons who were involved in the

incident."  
Kamlesh Kumar Pathak, the government-appointed Special Public Prosecutor for the riot cases, said trials have commenced

instances. He added that most accused have secured bail.

**Workings of the SIT**

In February 2019, the four-member SIT was set up under former UP Director General of Police Atul. It included retired district judge Subhash Chandra Agarwal and former Additional Director General (Prosecution) Yogeshwar Krishna Srivastava as members, while then Superintendent of Police (now retired) Balendu Bhushan Singh was appointed member-secretary. Acting taking suo motu cognisance of requests raised in a petition before the Supreme Court on the riots, the state government had directed the SIT to review the cases and, where warranted, carry out further investigation under Section 173(8) of the Code of Criminal Procedure.



in 5 of the 11 cases, with witness testimonies currently being recorded. Proceedings in the remaining cases are expected to start soon, added Pathak, although courts have stayed trials in a few

**As spotlight fades, Vadodara theatre searches for a second act**

**Vadodara.(Agency)**  
ON A regular evening in the city, theatre artistes can be seen rehearsing their trade in rented halls, classrooms, or at improvised studio spaces, often after their work hours. The city has historically been associated with theatre, through folk traditions and formal training institutions.  
Yet, for countless practitioners today, sustenance just through theatre has become an ordeal due to shrinking audience, rising costs, and limited venues.  
"Today, to get the audience to watch a performer is really, really challenging," says Dr P. S. Chari, director of Vadodara's oldest-running theatre group, Triveni. Chari has been associated with theatre practice and education in Vadodara for nearly four decades.  
Financial sustainability remains a major barrier for many artists. Jay Merchant, a Vadodara-based theatre practitioner and acting trainer, notes that theatre alone can no longer sustain livelihoods.  
"I don't know anyone in Vadodara who can run their household through just theatre," says Merchant. "Even modest production requires significant investment. A production costs around ₹1 to ₹1.25 lakh. The hall rent can itself go up to ₹30,000-35,000 and rehearsal spaces cost another ₹10,000-15,000. And after that one has to still account for technicians, actors, lights and costumes."  
Recovering these costs through ticket sales is difficult. Merchant says local productions rarely cross 50-60% occupancy, even after sustained promotion.  
"If a well-known actor from Mumbai performs, the auditorium fills up immediately," he says. "But when local groups perform, audiences are often hesitant to spend money on tickets."

**CAG flags Rs 114.76 crore stamp duty loss**

**BENGALURU.(Agency)**  
A comprehensive audit has uncovered revenue leakages in Karnataka's stamp duty and registration system, alongside earlier flagged deficiencies in the excise and transport departments, pointing to procedural lapses and weak enforcement mechanisms across key revenue-generating sectors.  
The audit revealed that misclassification and improper execution of legal instruments — including Powers of Attorney, Agreements of Sale, Release Deeds and Mortgage Deeds — led to substantial short-levy of stamp duty and registration fees. Undervaluation of properties, deviation from prescribed guidance values, and suppression of key transaction details, particularly in Joint Development Agreements (JDAs), further compounded the revenue loss. Collectively, these lapses resulted in collection shortfall of Rs 114.76 crore.  
The audit recommended a series of corrective measures, including

mandatory detailed scrutiny of documents at Sub-Registrar Offices (SROs), strengthening the internal audit wing to track high-value transactions, and greater reliance on automation to minimise human role. It also called for the revamp of Kaveri software system to flag undervaluation, detect multiple transactions involving the same property, and ensure that JDAs lacking key valuation parameters are subject to closer review. Integration of land use and planning data from other departments was also suggested to enable real-time valuation and standardisation.  
These findings come on the back of earlier audit observations highlighting lapses in the Excise department. Under the Karnataka Excise Duties and Fees Rules, 1968, excise duty and additional excise duty (AED) are levied on liquor based on declared prices approved by the Excise commissioner. The distribution of Indian Made Liquor is routed through the state beverages corporation.

## The salesman dies again

It is easier to begin a war than to end one. Few would have expected that a "twice-obiterated" Iran could still strike back. War, once set in motion, acquires a momentum that resists both prediction and control. It unleashes forces we barely account for—suffering, memory, pride—those non-quantifiable elements that outlast matériel.

Unlike wars driven by territory or ideology—or even by the pathologies of individual leaders—the present conflict has taken on a distinctly transactional character under Donald Trump: war as the deal. Many have compared him to Willy Loman in *Death of a Salesman*, who crashes his car and dies so his son Biff can receive \$20,000 in insurance. The premise is simple. Apply sufficient pressure and alignment will follow; once alignment is secured, outcomes can be managed. It is, in effect, bombing conducted as part of a corporate deal.

Trump's has been consistent in one respect: he treats geopolitics as extended real estate. It is in this light that he imagines Gaza—not as a political tragedy, but as a site for reconstruction, a Mediterranean Riviera. He has found a natural ally in Israel, to which Yahweh apparently promised the Greater Israel project. The language of policy slides into the language of property. And god wields a bulldozer the size of Earth. In this framework, policies are measured in terms of cost and return. Conflicts become arenas in which advantage can be extracted. The size of the deal justifies everything. The method reflects a worldview articulated in Trump's autobiography, *The Art of the Deal*: "I like thinking big. If you're going to be thinking anything, you might as well think big." In business, scale can be an asset. In war, it can become a liability. Total war is total destruction.

The stated objectives of the war were clear enough: to roll back Iran's strategic capabilities, to stabilise the region and, more vaguely, to induce political change within Iran. Yet, outcomes have diverged sharply from these aims. Iran has not collapsed. It continues to act—launching missiles and sustaining pressure across multiple fronts. The region is not stabilised; it is more volatile. The prospect of regime change remains distant. And the Strait of Hormuz is closed to the US.

Trump also wagered that decisive action would consolidate a coalition. Instead, the opposite has occurred. European allies have kept their distance. Major powers such as China have declined direct intervention. India has maintained strategic neutrality. This is not alignment. It is drift.

The expectation that shared interests in the deal would translate into coordinated action has not borne out either. It turns out there are no shared interests. States have behaved not as firms responding to the deal, but as political entities balancing domestic pressures, reputational risks and long-term calculations. The result is a thinning of support rather than its consolidation. "In war," Napoleon said, "the moral is to the physical as three is to one." By physical he meant the measurable elements of power—troops, weapons, matériel. By moral he referred to the less tangible forces—morale, legitimacy, belief, cohesion and the willingness to endure. Napoleon would know. His march on distant Russia in 1812 was a disaster; he began the campaign with some 600,000 soldiers and, after his defeat, came back with 20,000. The "moral" had won. We may think wars are willed by great men; in reality, they emerge from countless decisions and forces beyond any single actor's command, as Leo Tolstoy suggests in *War and Peace*, a novel on the subject of Napoleon's march on Moscow. The belief that a conflict can be shaped and concluded according to intention is, for Tolstoy, an illusion. History moves through turns, twists and accumulations, not commands independent of individual will. War introduces variables that cannot be priced: public opinion, historical memory, ideological commitment. These forces do not align neatly with material interests. The war has also imposed reputational costs. Across large parts of the world, the US is no longer seen as the leader of the free world—if it ever was.

## Asim Munir walks Iran tightrope amid Shia-Sunni strains

Pakistan's Field Marshal has been careful to project his neutrality to the Iranian leadership and not hesitated to flaunt his mediatory capacity to the Americans

IN an unusual development, Pakistan's Field Marshal Asim Munir addressed a gathering of prominent Shia Ulama in Islamabad on March 19, where he issued a stern warning that any incitement of violence over events happening in other countries would not be tolerated. Dressed ironically enough in civvies at the interaction, he was accompanied by Lt Gen Mohd Asim Malik, Director General, Inter-Services Intelligence (DG, ISI) and Lt Gen Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry, Director General, Inter-Services Public Relations (DG, ISPR), two of his most loyal henchmen of recent times. The Shia Ulama were led by Allama Sheikh Shifa Nirgi, Muttawali (Imam) of the Sector G-9 Imambargah, Islamabad. The meeting comes as a sequel to the

spontaneous, violent anti-American protests held by Shias in Karachi, Lahore, some towns of Gilgit-Baltistan and Islamabad on March 1, in the aftermath of the killing of Ayatollah Khamenei in Iran. Though reporting in Pakistani media was muted, police firing occurred in several places, leading to casualties, mostly of Shia youth, as also of some security personnel in Gilgit-Baltistan. In his Friday sermon (Khutba) on March 20, Allama Nirgi lamented that the meeting was hardly cordial as the Field Marshal came across in a rather harsh vein, even as some of the clergy tried hard to explain that they had urged the agitated Shia youth to exercise restraint and not resort to violence. Munir dismissed their arguments outright. He also pointed out that activists involved in the May 9, 2023 anti-army violence in Gilgit-Baltistan (mostly Shias) would soon be tried in military courts.

This points to a growing strain within Pakistan's military and civilian leaderships as they come under increasing pressure, notably from the Saudis, to provide more teeth to their commitments extended under the recently concluded Saudi-Pak Defence accord—at least in the matter of more concrete air defence protection against the Iranian drone and missile attacks. Such a message may have been conveyed by Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman al Saud to Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Asim Munir during their March visit to Riyadh. In stark contrast, public opinion in Pakistan remains strongly uneasy about any such hasty or partisan

involvement of the Pakistani defence forces in the Gulf war theatre. Against this backdrop, it is interesting that Asim Munir chose to visit border troops in Kurram district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) for recording the customary Eid-ul-Fitr sympathy presence and ceremonial exchanges. Expectedly, he praised their valour in combating the Tehrik-e-Taliban (TTP) during the recent 'Ghazab-lil-Haq' operations. Kurram district was earlier the Kurram Agency of Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) and is now merged in KP. It is the only Shia-majority district of the province. Pakistan's sectarian history offers several precedents of how some areas of Kurram have been chronically prone to Shia-Sunni discord for many years. In August 1988,

and Bangash in contiguous areas of the district. Discord has usually erupted over road blockages on the Thall-Parachinar highway after even minor clashes. Earlier, influential village elders (maleks) could resolve matters by working out hefty ransom payments to one aggrieved party or the other. However, these agreements proved short-lived. In the past, there was a possibility of accessing alternative routes to inaccessible border areas traversing through circuitous routes across Khost and Paktia, in Afghanistan. With the TTP enjoying a safe haven in these areas, this option is no longer available to ordinary commuters or even servicemen taking state transport buses. At one stage, during floods, food shortages or other natural disasters, the local administration had even provided for helicopter operations, which could not, however, take root on a regular commercial basis.

In more recent times though, the KP administration has failed to keep open the crucial Thall-Parachinar highway. It has remained virtually closed ever since November 2024 after the outbreak of the latest Shia-Sunni clashes in the Bagan area of the highway in Kurram. A food and medicine convoy heading to outlying areas, led by the deputy commissioner of the district, was attacked and caught in the crossfire of sectarian groups in January 2025, leading to injuries to the latter. Though Asim Munir has spent a considerable time in Saudi Arabia, serving in junior command, training or deputational stints there, and his closeness or loyalty to the Saudi monarchy has been frequently displayed, he has been careful to project his neutrality to the Iranian leadership and not hesitated to flaunt his mediatory capacity to the Americans during the rapidly developing crises of recent days.

In the past, just before Asim Munir's turbulent ascension to the Army Chief's post, a combative Imran Khan, then recently ousted from power, was not averse to raising before the Saudis the spectre of Munir's pro-Shia leanings or connections of his wife's family especially to the Ahle Tashi sect, which apparently the Saudis and the Pakistani politicians chose to ignore.

Munir and Pakistan's decision-makers will have to tread the sectarian tightrope carefully as they try to project their counselling credentials before their erstwhile Gulf benefactors and newly made US-Israeli friends in the days to come.



just a fortnight before Zia's plane crash in Bahawalpur, Allama Arif al Hussein, founder of the Shia Tehreek Nafae Fiqhe Jafariya (TNFJ) was assassinated in Parachinar, capital of Kurram district.

The Shia pilot revenge theory did the rounds in conspiracy circles after the plane crash. In October, 1991, one of Zia's favourite generals, Fazle Haq, then Governor of the North-West Frontier Province (NWFP, now renamed KP) was also shot dead. On both occasions, activists of the radical Sunni outfits, Anjumani Sipah-e-Sahaba, later merged into Lashkar-e-Jhangvi (LeJ), were believed to have been involved. The current sectarian tension in Kurram stems from a communication access problem due to the presence of Shia Turi tribes and Sunni Mangal

## Bengal duel: SIR, officers' transfers create discord

The stakes are so high that both the Trinamool Congress and the BJP will show no mercy for each other

THE battle lines are hardening in the run-up to the West Bengal Assembly elections, which will be held in two phases (April 23 and 29). The bitter fight between the Trinamool Congress and the BJP is inseparable from the no-holds-barred Centre-State conflict. The Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls continues to be a contentious issue. Confusion and uncertainty persist among voters even after the publication of the first supplementary list on Monday night. It contains the names of around 29 lakh electors whose cases have been adjudicated by judicial officers. The fate of over 30 lakh voters still hangs in the balance. Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has upped the ante against the Election Commission of India (ECI), accusing it of crossing all "boundaries of decency and constitutional propriety". She has alleged that since the start of the SIR exercise in the state, the ECI has acted in a biased manner, ignoring ground realities and



public welfare. The poll body led by Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, however, insists that it is

doing its job of purifying voter lists by removing duplication and ineligible entries. Amid the slanging match, lakhs of eligible voters are at risk of being left out of the electoral process. The gruelling SIR is also taking its toll on booth-level officers, many of whom have succumbed to work pressure. The recent transfers and postings of key administrative and police officers have also raised eyebrows. The controversial move has been challenged in the Calcutta High Court. The ECI faces the onerous task of ensuring a level playing field, even as the situation is also getting tougher for Central forces and the police. West Bengal is no stranger to poll-related violence, and the inevitable is expected this time too. The stakes are so high that both the Trinamool Congress and the BJP will give no quarter. The animosity is set to keep Bengal on edge over the next five weeks.

## India in a fracturing world

India does not have to find its place. It is the place

INTERNATIONAL orders rarely collapse in a single moment; they erode. The architecture built after 1945 was designed to prevent catastrophic instability by channelling power through rules and anchoring growth in predictable frameworks. For decades, this design held. Yet even in its infancy, the system carried the imprint of competing ambitions. The very states entrusted with upholding the order often pursued parallel strategic agendas, testing the limits of the rules they authored. What followed was the normalisation of selective adherence.

The Cold War imposed discipline through rivalry; the world was divided, but stabilised by the predictability of blocs. The collapse of the Soviet Union briefly gave way to a unipolar moment, where globalisation accelerated and supply chains stretched across continents.

The seeds of strategic strain

Within that expansion lay the seeds of strain. Interdependence deepened, but so did asymmetry. Efficiency began to outpace resilience. The networks that enabled prosperity also created vulnerabilities to be exploited through coercion or the disruption of critical nodes. Economic integration, once seen as an automatic stabiliser, increasingly revealed itself as a terrain of contestation. Today, the structure stands, but its authority travels less far. Rules are cited, yet selectively applied. What we witness is not a sudden collapse, but the slow withdrawal of consent from the disciplines that once sustained the order. As the pillars of the old consensus weaken, the world searches for a new point of gravity.

The grammar of balance

Who can provide that point of gravity is not a trivial question. Not every power is equally placed to steady a system in drift. It requires a convergence of geography, history, civilisational memory and a demonstrated

record of restraint. It also demands a strategic culture that is non-hegemonic in intent and a constitutional impulse that accommodates diversity rather than imposes uniformity. It must be anchored in a plural ethos that engages the free world without being subsumed by it. Without such attributes, drift does not correct itself; it deepens, often to the advantage of those who shape the rules yet find reason to bypass them.

Civilisation, scale and responsibility

India's civilisational memory, combined with its geographic centrality, creates a distinct strategic condition. It is a continent in itself, anchored by a Himalayan north that has long served as both shield and passage. This Himalayan arc has not only protected but filtered waves of exchange and invasion across centuries, shaping a civilisation that absorbs without losing coherence. Its peninsular reach extends into the maritime commons, projecting presence into the arteries of global trade. From the Strait of Hormuz to the Strait of Malacca and the Bab el Mandeb, India sits proximate to the principal maritime corridors of commerce. Together, these endowments create the capacity not merely to withstand disorder, but to steady it.

Balance as active strategy

In a fracturing world, balance is no longer a passive outcome; it is an active strategy. India's approach is to engage widely without being subsumed, and to maintain autonomy without retreating into isolation.

This posture is often described as strategic autonomy, but its essence lies in equilibrium, the ability to hold relationships across competing poles and sustain dialogue without dilution of interest. It recognises that alignment today is rarely absolute and often situational.

Such balance is neither neutrality nor indecision. It is a

conscious positioning that recognises the limits of alignment in a world where alliances are increasingly transactional. It requires discipline and clarity of purpose. In an era of fragmentation, the ability to act as a bridge is more valuable than the impulse to join a side.

The credible calibration of force

Balance cannot rest on restraint alone; it must be

underwritten by the credible capacity to act when

equilibrium is threatened. India's approach is not the rejection of force, but its calibration. When pushed, it has demonstrated the willingness to respond firmly and proportionately. Force is not a departure from balance; it is an instrument to restore it when other levers fail.

In the contemporary domain, credibility extends beyond the kinetic. Algorithms and artificial intelligence now shape battlefield awareness and decision advantage. Dependence on externally controlled technological ecosystems introduces a new vulnerability, the possibility that capability itself may be denied at critical

moments. However, technological self-reliance is not a retreat into protectionism; it is the prerequisite for secure connectivity. It is about building a sovereign digital core that allows for global interoperability without creating systemic dependence. Strategic autonomy today is the ability to participate in the global network while ensuring that the off switch remains in your own hands.

The discipline of conflict termination

Conflict termination is the clearest test of strategic understanding. It is not enough to act; one must know when to stop. The 1971 conflict remains a global benchmark for this discipline: a decisive military outcome followed by an immediate transition to sovereign stability for a new nation, without territorial aggrandisement.

From 1947 to the present, India's use of force has reflected an implicit recognition of this boundary, the ability to signal intent, impose cost and disengage once the message has registered. Op Sindoor stands as a masterclass in this specific form of restraint: the application of enough force to alter a strategic trajectory without surrendering to the gravity of uncontrolled escalation. The fulcrum role in a new era

In mechanical terms, a fulcrum does not dominate the system; it enables balance within it. Its value lies not in the force it exerts, but in the stability it allows others to achieve. A fulcrum also enables judgment, allowing choices to be weighed and consequences understood.

Such a role carries an obligation to signal, not merely to steady. Public silence need not imply passivity; restraint in the open can coexist with purpose behind the scenes.

India does not seek to become a pole in a new binary. But where forces intersect, it can clarify options and lend weight to outcomes that restore equilibrium.



**GIFT City launches initiative to support women-led fintech startups**



**Ahmedabad.(Agency)**

Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City) on Thursday announced the launch of Women in Fintech Accelerator, an initiative that aims to improve the participation of women-led startups at the International Financial Services Centre. Launched under the GIFT International Fintech Innovation Hub (GIFT IFIH), the initiative is designed as an investment readiness programme to help women-led fintech ventures better access institutional capital and scale their operations, officials said.

Sanjay Kaul, MD and group CEO, GIFT City, said, "GIFT City is committed to fostering a globally competitive financial ecosystem that encourages innovation, inclusivity, and entrepreneurship. Through initiatives such as the Women in Fintech Accelerator, we aim to support high-potential women-led startups with the capabilities and access required to engage with institutional capital."

**UP RERA amendments brings relief: Homebuyers in unregistered projects can now file complaints**

**Lucknow.(Agency)**

The Uttar Pradesh Real Estate Regulatory Authority (UP RERA) has notified the 10th amendment to its General Regulations, 2019, bringing relief to the allottees buying property in projects not registered with RERA. The amendments, effective from March 25, aim to protect consumer interests and enhance transparency in the state's real estate sector.

In a statement issued on Thursday, RERA stated several important changes have been introduced through these amendments with the objective of protecting consumer interests and enhancing transparency and accountability in the state's real estate sector. These amendments have been issued under Section 85 of the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016 (RERA Act) and have come into effect from March 25.

The key amendment includes inclusion of three new sub-clauses under Regulation 24, which relate to judicial proceedings before the benches of UP RERA. For long, it was unclear if allottees of unregistered projects could approach the Authority and what remedies were available under RERA. These amendments have now clarified these provisions, providing major relief to homebuyers.

UP RERA chairman, Sanjay Bhooresreddy, stated that the amendment aims to enhance transparency in the real estate sector and protect the interests of allottees.

**Long lines, spike in fuel demand across Lucknow's petrol pumps despite govt reassurance**

**Jammu.(Agency)**

As long queues were seen outside several petrol pumps in Lucknow and other parts of the state amid the ongoing conflict in West Asia, the Uttar Pradesh government on Thursday assured that there was no shortage of fuel and warned against the spread of rumours through social media.

"Petrol and diesel are being supplied as per demand, and no district is facing any shortage," said Principal Secretary, Food and Civil Supplies, Ranveer Prasad, and urged people not to indulge in panic buying based on unverified information.

He said the messages of fuel scarcity circulating on social media were baseless and "handiwork of mischief-makers", and warned of strict action against those found spreading such rumours.

"District administrations have been put on alert and instructed to closely monitor the situation at petrol pumps to ensure uninterrupted supply. The state is also maintaining constant coordination with oil companies to manage logistics and ensure buffer availability if required," the officer said.

**Surge in demand**

Earlier in the day, long queues were seen outside several petrol pumps in Lucknow and parts of the state as a sudden surge in demand led to temporary shortages at some outlets. Officials attributed the rush to panic buying triggered by social media posts.

Lucknow District Supply Officer Vijay Singh said the surge appeared to be driven by rumours of an impending shortage, leading people to stock up on fuel. "There is no crisis as such. Supply is coming regularly, but demand has suddenly increased," said Sudhir Bora, vice-president of the UP Petrol Pump Association.

**BMC shuts 'musical road' at night after Breach Candy residents flag noise concerns**

The directive was issued by Municipal Commissioner Bhushan Gagrani following repeated complaints from residents in the vicinity, who flagged disturbance, safety concerns, and potential risks to motorists.

**Vadodara .(Agency)**

Acting on complaints of noise pollution from Breach Candy residents, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation has restricted access to the 'Melody Road' stretch on the Coastal Road during night hours, shutting it between 11 pm and 7 am.

The directive was issued by Municipal Commissioner Bhushan Gagrani following repeated complaints from residents in the vicinity, who flagged disturbance, safety concerns, and potential risks to motorists.

The 500-metre stretch, India's first 'musical road', was inaugurated on February 11 between

Priyadarshini Park and Amarsons Garden. However, soon after the stretch, which plays the tune of the Oscar-winning song 'Jai Ho' when vehicles pass over it, became the source of complaints for the neighbourhood. In a letter to the civic body, residents from Breach Candy also raised concerns over road safety, noting that the music could distract drivers or cause them to slow down abruptly on a high-speed arterial road.

Taking note of the complaints, the BMC has initiated a decibel-level study to assess the impact of the sound generated by the road. Even as the study is underway, the



civic chief ordered the night-time closure of the stretch.

On Wednesday night, the BMC barricaded the road to restrict vehicular movement during the specified hours. "The stretch will remain operational during the day, but will be closed at night considering residents' concerns," a senior civic official told.

The project, built at a cost of ₹6.21 crore, marks India's first experiment with musical road technology. Developed by Routes Worldwide India in collaboration with Hungary-based UTKOPRO Kft., the concept uses specially engineered grooves on the road surface to produce music when vehicles travel over them at a steady speed.

**NFR Speeds Up Running of 35 Trains During FY 2025-26**

Giving a Major Boost to Train Operations

**The Sikh Times**

Maligaon, 27th March: Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) has undertaken a significant initiative to enhance operational efficiency and passenger convenience by increasing the speeds of 35 trains across its network during the FY 2025-26. This concerted effort has resulted in a cumulative saving of 675 minutes in travel time, with an average reduction of approximately 19.29 minutes per train. The speed augmentation covers a mix of daily, weekly and bi-weekly train services connecting important destinations, thereby ensuring widespread benefits across different categories of passengers. Among the major improvements, prominent trains such as New Jalpaiguri-Bongaigaon Express, Howrah-Guwahati Saraighat Express, Dibrugarh-Deogarh Express

alongwith several others have witnessed substantial time savings, reflect NFR's continuous commitment towards modernizing train



operations and maximizing network efficiency. The increase speeds in train operations brings multiple advantages for the Railways and its passengers. For passengers, reduced travel time leads to greater convenience, improved journey experience and better connectivity. Faster services also enhance reliability and punctuality, making rail transport a more attractive option compared to other modes. Meanwhile for the Railways, optimized speeds lead to better utilization of rolling stock and track capacity, improved turnaround time of trains and overall operational efficiency. Additionally, time savings contribute to energy efficiency and cost optimization, while also enabling the possibility of introducing additional services within the same infrastructure. This initiative is part of NFR's broader vision to provide faster, safer and more efficient rail services to the people of the region. Continuous efforts are being made to upgrade infrastructure, streamline operations and adopt technological advancements to further enhance train performance. NFR always remains committed towards delivering improved services and ensuring a superior travel experience for its passengers.

**LG, CM express gratitude to PM, HM, FM for releasing Rs 5,000 Cr addl central assistance to J&K**

**Jammu.(Agency)**

Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today expressed gratitude to the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, union Home Minister Amit Shah and union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman for the release of the Rs 5,000 Crore additional central assistance to the UT of Jammu and Kashmir.

In a post on X, the Lieutenant Governor has said: "I extend my sincere gratitude to PM Narendra Modi, HM Amit Shah and FM Nirmala Sitharaman for releasing Rs 5,000 Crore as additional central assistance to J&K, which will help in consolidating the fiscal condition of UT."

This vital support will alleviate budgetary constraints, guarantee on-schedule project delivery and drive J&K's robust economic growth by bolstering infrastructure and creating lasting opportunities for sustained prosperity.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah also expressed his heartfelt gratitude to the Government of India, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, for extending Additional Central Assistance of Rs 5,000 crore to Jammu and Kashmir.

The Chief Minister conveyed his sincere thanks to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Amit Shah, and union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman for their continued support and commitment towards the development of Jammu and Kashmir.

He noted that this timely and crucial assistance will significantly bolster ongoing development initiatives, accelerate key infrastructure projects, and enhance public welfare across Jammu and Kashmir.

"I express my sincere gratitude to the Prime Minister and the union Government for this generous support. This Additional Central Assistance will go a long way in addressing the fiscal gap and ensuring that our developmental commitments and welfare programmes are implemented effectively for the benefit of our people," the Chief Minister said.

**Tragedy that court must hear of malnutrition deaths in "progressive" Maharashtra: HC on Malghat deaths**

**Mumbai.(Agency)**

The Bombay High Court on Thursday said it was a "tragedy" that despite 79 years of Independence, in a "progressive" state like Maharashtra, the court has to hear the state government and parties on deaths of children, pregnant women and lactating mothers due to malnutrition in Melghat in Amravati district and other tribal regions in the state. The HC asked the government to consider the suggestions given by various parties to the PILs raising concerns over the malnutrition deaths and respond to the same "positively" during the hearing next month.

The bench also asked the state government to commence construction of 300-bedded district-hospital level facility at Dharni in Melghat region. "The deaths of young adults (due to anaemia), pregnant women, and lactating mothers are being discussed in this PIL after a passage of 25 years of continued passing of orders by various benches of this court speaks louder than words. It is a tragedy that this court has to hear submissions on steps occurring due to malnutrition, lack of medication and nutrition and lack of appropriate medical support to malnourished patients, pregnant women and lactating mothers," a division bench of Justices Ravindra V Ghuge and Abhay J Mantri noted, adding that Melghat

has been discussed "more for the wrong reasons" of such deaths.

Justice Ghuge orally remarked, "In a progressive state of Maharashtra, after 79 years of Independence, we are still talking of babies dying due to malnutrition? This discussion on malnutrition itself is a defeat of the policies. Because the policies did not work, in 2026, the



lawyers and the parties have to argue that the government needs to save children from malnutrition."

One of the petitioners, Dr Ashish Satav of the NGO Mahan Trust working in the Melghat region, told the bench that in the last at least 26 years, most of the parents in the region have not been able to admit their severely malnourished children in the hospital due to poor socio-

economic conditions and lack of transport facilities. Examining photographs of children and youth from Melghat submitted by the petitioners, the HC observed "only ribs and bones of human beings were seen" having "no strength to stand properly on their feet."

"New batch of PILs started in 2007. After 20 years the deaths should have stopped," Justice Ghuge orally remarked.

Stressing on the "disparity" between how the rich and poor patients were treated in the region, the bench remarked that the Charity Commissioner has been taking action against hospitals which convey to poor people about unavailability of beds and instead admit rich people on such beds.

The HC referred to "disparity" between news reports showing pregnant woman in Melghat region carrying on foot by "poor people" across jungle on Charpoi to the hospital and patients being driven to hospitals including those run by charitable trusts in chauffeur-driven cars.

The court also asked the authorities to look into issues raised by Senior advocate Jugal Kishore Gilda for petitioners over dues of Rs. 30 crore related to water supply schemes and petitioner Purnima Upadhyay raising concerns over non-payment of Rs 7 crore under MNREGA, affecting several people in the region.

**APL wheat scam 2012: Ludhiana court awards five years in jail to 13, four others get 4 years**

**Ludhiana. (Agency)**

The Ludhiana court of special judge Amrinder Singh Shergill has awarded five years in prison to 13 and four years to four accused, and has acquitted six, in the Ludhiana 2012 Above Poverty Line (APL) wheat scam. Among the 17 convicted accused, 15 are depot holders, while two others include a flour mill owner and a private firm owner.

The quantum of punishment was pronounced late on Wednesday. The conviction in the case was pronounced on March 23.

There were a total of 30 accused in the wheat scam case, of which the court convicted 17 and acquitted six. While acquitting these six, the court in its order said, "In these

facts and circumstances... this Court is of the opinion that for want of evidence, the prosecution has failed to discharge its onus of proving the commission of offence... beyond any reasonable shadow of doubts, entitling them the benefit of doubt and their acquittal from the charges framed against them."

Advocate S S Haidar, counsel for acquitted Sanjay Attri, said: "Majority of those who have been convicted are depot holders. My client was just an employee of one of the depot holders and had no link with the scam."

The court order read, "The prosecution has successfully discharged its onus of proving beyond shadow of reasonable



doubted a criminal conspiracy entered by these accused with accused Jaspal Singh (since deceased), in-charge, Punjab Agro Godown, Machhiwara and accused Harjinder Singh Rai (since deceased), in-charge PUNGRAIN godown, Ludhiana,

from where release orders were issued, in getting released 1,110 bags of APL Wheat from Punjab Agro Godown at Machhiwara through forged and fabricated gate passes to misappropriate the same and convert it to their personal use without it being distributed to the

ration card holders from their concerned depots... and corresponding wrongful loss to Punjab Agro, forging gate passes, a valuable security, through which, huge quantity of wheat stood released, using those forged and fabricated gate passes as genuine, knowing fully them to be forged and fabricated, the accused depot holders have committed an offence punishable."

The Punjab Vigilance Bureau, Ludhiana wing, registered an FIR in the case on September 1, 2012, for cheating, criminal conspiracy, criminal breach of trust and other offences under several IPC Sections and under Section 13 of Prevention of Corruption Act (PCA).

# 50% of commercial planes reported technical defects: Parliament panel after audit

**Of the 754 aircraft audited, 377 were found to have recurring technical defects, with IndiGo accounting for the highest number, prompting calls for a 'fundamental reset' amid wider lapses.**

**New Delhi.(Agency)**  
A Parliamentary panel has raised serious safety concerns in India's civil aviation sector, noting that nearly 50 per cent of commercial aircraft audited over the past year showed recurring technical defects. Of the 754 aircraft audited between January 2025 and February 2026, 377 were found to have repeated technical issues. The findings, part of the Standing Committee on Civil Aviation's latest report, have prompted calls for a "fundamental reset" of the country's aviation safety architecture.

IndiGo had the highest number of aircraft reviewed and also topped the list for defect incidence. Of the 405 aircraft analysed till

February 3, as many as 148 were found to have recurring defects. A significant proportion of defects was also observed in the fleets of Air India and Air India Express. Of the 166 Air India aircraft inspected, 137 were reported to have recurring defects, while 54 of the 101 aircraft operated by Air India Express showed persistent technical issues. The Committee noted that nearly half of all defects flagged during the audit were concentrated in these two carriers.

The Committee also expressed concern over the scale and persistence of these defects,



warning that such trends could have serious implications for passenger safety and operational reliability. The report also referred to a comprehensive

DGCA audit of Air India conducted between July 1 and 4, 2025, following the Ahmedabad crash that killed 270. The audit identified around 100 safety lapses, including seven Level 1 violations that required immediate corrective action.

The panel further highlighted recurring training gaps among Boeing 787 and 777 pilots, instances of inadequate cabin crew on at least four international flights, and violations of Flight Duty Time Limitations. In one case, a Milan-Delhi flight exceeded the permissible duty time by 2 hours and 18 minutes. The Committee also highlighted regulatory

action taken against airlines, noting that Air India alone received nine show-cause notices from the DGCA for safety violations. By late 2025, a total of 19 safety violation notices had been issued across operators, citing issues such as breaches of flight duty norms, lapses in quality assurance, unauthorised cockpit access, and operation of aircraft with expired emergency equipment.

In a particularly serious instance, the DGCA imposed a penalty of approximately Rs 1 crore on Air India in February 2026 for operating an Airbus A320 on eight commercial flights on November 24 and 25, 2025, without a valid Airworthiness Review Certificate.

## 12 With Links To ISIS, Al-Qaeda Arrested. They Met On Gaming App

**New Delhi.(Agency)**

12 people with suspected links to banned terrorist outfits like al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent (AQIS) and the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) have been arrested after a multi-state operation.

Andhra Pradesh's Mohammad Rahmatullah Shareef, Mirza Sohail Beg and Mohammad Danish, Bihar's Shadman Dilkush and Ajmanullah Khan, Lucky Ahmed, a resident of Delhi's Rohini, Mir Asif Ali (West Bengal), Zeeshan (Rajasthan), Abdul Salam (Karnataka), Shah Rukh Khan and Shiyak Piyaz ur Rehman (Maharashtra), and Saida Begum from Telangana were arrested after a joint operation conducted by the police in Andhra Pradesh and Delhi.

They met the foreign handlers of the AQIS and ISIS through a gaming app and later joined them.

Officials said that they had links with "Benex Com", a group associated with ISIS. They allegedly replaced the national flag with that of ISIS on their social media posts. They also burnt the national flag, praised ISIS and advocated for transforming India into an Islamic State. They also mocked the national anthem, officials said.

Investigation further revealed that they were planning to travel to Pakistan within a month to take part in training. They were also motivating youth to undergo training in Pakistan and Afghanistan.

### 3 Accused Watched Osama bin Laden's Videos

Investigation revealed that the three accused, Mohammad Rahmatullah Shareef, Mirza Sohail Beg and Mohammad Danish, all residents of Vijayawada, had formed a group named "Al Malik Islamic Youth" to radicalise youth and prepare them for jihad.

They were allegedly working towards the concept of Ghazwa-e-Hind (war against India) and had expanded their network across several states by coordinating with operatives in different regions, officials said. They also posted videos projecting themselves as Mujahideen, watched videos of al-Qaeda chief Osama bin Laden and imitated him while engaging in radical propaganda.

## Married man's live-in relationship not crime: Allahabad High Court

**New Delhi.(Agency)**

The Allahabad High Court observed that a married man's live-in relationship is not an offence. The bench said that social morality cannot override a court's decision to protect a citizen's right. The observation was made by the court while hearing the Anamika and another v State of UP and Others case.

### Court was hearing live-in couple's plea for protection

The bench of Justice JJ Munir and Justice Tarun Saxena was hearing a plea by a couple who are in a live-in relationship, against the woman's family. The woman's family has reportedly been threatening the 2, reported Bar and Bench. The lawyer for the woman's family argued that since the man is already married, it is an offence for him to stay with another woman. However the court responded by saying that the law should be kept separate from social morality.

The Bench observed, "There is no offence of the kind where a married man, staying with an adult in a live-in relationship, by consent of the other person, can be prosecuted for any offence, whatsoever. Morality and law have to be kept apart. If there is no offence under the law made out, social opinions and morality will not guide the action of the Court for protecting the rights of citizens."

The woman, the court said, had already submitted an application at the police station in UP's Shahjahanpur stating that she was staying with the man of her own free will. She, the court said, is an adult and is free to make the decision. The application reportedly said that the woman has been threatened with death by her family and also the couple have been warned of honour killing by her family.

### Police took no action on woman's complaint: Allahabad High Court

The court observed that despite the application being submitted to the Superintendent of Police, no action was taken against the family. It observed that it was the duty of the police to protect 2 adults living together. The court said, "Particular obligations in this regard are cast upon the Superintendent of Police, as held by the Supreme Court in Shakti Vahini v.

## Government rubbishes lockdown rumours amid panic buying at petrol pumps over Iran war

**Union Minister Hardeep Puri on Friday clarified that the central government is not considering any plan to impose a nationwide lockdown like at the time of the Covid-19 pandemic.**

**New Delhi.(Agency)**

Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Hardeep Puri, on Friday clarified that the rumours of a Covid-19-like nationwide lockdown are completely false as the central government is not considering any such move amid the deepening Middle East crisis.

"Rumours of a lockdown in India are completely false. Let me state this clearly, there is no such proposal under consideration by the Government of India. In such times, it is important that we remain calm, responsible, and united," he wrote on X.

The rumours of a possible nationwide lockdown arose amid panic buying at several petrol pumps and a shortage in the supply of LPG cylinders, following the closure of the energy corridor Strait of Hormuz due to the prevailing conflict in the Middle East. However,

Puri affirmed that India's energy position is secure as the central government is leaving no stone unturned to keep the supply of energy and fuel intact.



"Under the leadership of Hon'ble PM @narendramodi Ji, all necessary steps are being taken to ensure uninterrupted availability of fuel, energy, and other critical supplies for our citizens. We are fully prepared to handle emerging challenges," he further mentioned in

the post.

He also said that India has shown "resilience in the face of global uncertainties" and will continue to act in the same way in the upcoming time.

Puri's assurance over the energy situation came a few days after Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed both the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha on the prevailing West Asia war.

Modi said that citizens do not need to fear as the government is trying to procure gas and crude oil from all available sources, and efforts will continue in the upcoming days.

He also mentioned that the country's oil position is secure, as the central government created 53 lakh metric tons of oil reserves in the last 11 years. He also informed that an additional 65 lakh metric tons of strategic oil reserves will be created in future.

## Amid Hormuz closure, LPG vessel Jag Vasant docks in Gujarat's Kandla Port

**New Delhi.(Agency)**

Another LPG cargo ship named Jag Vasant docked in Gujarat's Kandla Port on Friday amid the prevailing conflict in the Middle East and the closure of the energy corridor Strait of Hormuz. The ship carried a total of 42,000 metric tons of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), and the mid-sea transfer of the LPG is expected to begin shortly.

On Monday, Jag Vasant, along with another LPG tanker named Pine Gas, started heading for India. The two ships took an unusual route to cross the Strait of Hormuz. India Today tracked the positions of LPG tankers in the Gulf and

found that these vessels were crossing the Strait of Hormuz via the Qeshm-Larak channel, rather than taking the shorter and straighter conventional path into the Arabian Sea. As they began their journey home, both vessels sailing close to one another changed their onboard messaging, shifting from generic identifiers such as "IND SHIP AND CREW" and "ALL INDIA CREW" to more specific signals like "PINE GAS INDIAN SHIP" and "JGVASANTINDSHIPINDCRW" while transiting via the Larak channel.

This indicated that these tankers had possibly received prior approval from



Iranian authorities to cross and were explicitly broadcasting their identities to reduce the risk of being targeted while passing through the channel.

Earlier, Rajesh Kumar Sinha, Special Secretary of the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, said in a press briefing that Jag Vasant safely transited through the Strait of Hormuz and was expected to arrive on March 26. Jag Vasant became the third Indian LPG tanker to arrive in India.

Prior to Jag Vasant, two other LPG tankers, Nanda Devi and Shivalik, also docked in Gujarat's ports. Shivalik reached Gujarat's Mundra Port on March 16, and Nanda Devi docked in Gujarat's Vadinar Port a day later. The two ships jointly carried over 92,000 metric tons of LPG.

## India to get 4th S-400 on first Op Sindoor anniversary; final delivery by year-end

**India is set to receive the fourth squadron of the Russian-made S-400 air defence system by May, around the first anniversary of Operation Sindoor. The fifth and final squadron is expected by the end of this year.**

**New Delhi.(Agency)**

India is set to receive the fourth squadron of the Russian-made S-400 air defence system by May, sources told India Today TV. The delivery is expected around the first anniversary of Operation Sindoor, during which the system played a key role in countering Pakistani aerial threats. The fifth and final squadron is likely to be delivered later this year. So far, India has received and operationalised three S-400 squadrons. In 2018, India signed a deal worth approximately Rs 35,000 crore with Russia for five S-400 squadrons. These advanced air defence systems are central to strengthening India's layered air defence network and protecting critical strategic assets.

### STRATEGIC DEPLOYMENT

### ACROSS KEY REGIONS

The S-400 systems have been deployed across crucial locations to bolster

India's defence preparedness. One squadron has been positioned to secure the Siliguri Corridor, a narrow and vital link connecting the Northeast with the rest of the country. Another has been deployed in the Pathankot region to reinforce air defence over Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab, guarding against potential threats from both China and Pakistan.

The third squadron has been deployed along India's western frontier, covering key areas in Rajasthan and Gujarat.

These systems proved crucial during Operation Sindoor, when India effectively countered incoming



Pakistani missiles alongside indigenous air defence platforms. Following heightened tensions with China in

Ladakh in 2020, India has accelerated efforts to enhance its air defence capabilities.

### S-400: A POWERFUL SHIELD

Designed to intercept fighter jets, ballistic missiles, cruise missiles and even drones, the S-400 is among the most potent air defence systems in India's arsenal.

The system can detect aerial threats at distances of up to 600 km and engage targets at ranges of up to 400 km using four different types of missiles.

Each S-400 squadron comprises 16 vehicles, including missile launchers, advanced radar systems, command-and-control units and support vehicles.

NEWS BOX

**Manpreet dismisses fallout rumours with Turkey: He wants me to play 500 games**

**New Delhi. (Agency)**  
Manpreet Singh has dismissed rumours of a rift with Dilip Tirkey, revealing that the Hockey India president has in fact encouraged him to go past his record tally of international appearances. Speaking during a media interaction on March 27, Manpreet said he had personally spoken to Tirkey to clear the air amid speculation over tensions between the two. "A lot of things happened. I have spoken to Dilip sir personally as well. He told me he does not have any problem if I play the 412th game. He wants me to break the record. He wants me to become the first Indian to play 500 games. That's what he wants. He said that he would be very happy if I break the record," Manpreet said. The comments come after reports earlier this year suggested friction over Manpreet's selection and his pursuit of Tirkey's long-standing milestone. Tirkey, one of India's most decorated players, remains among the most capped hockey players in the world, having crossed the 400-match mark during his career. However, Tirkey himself had recently dismissed any notion of rivalry, backing Manpreet to surpass his achievements. "I will



be very happy if Manpreet breaks my record. Records are meant to be broken," Tirkey said during a session at RevSportz Trailblazers 4.0. Reflecting on his own career, Tirkey underlined the demands of sustaining such longevity at the highest level. "I was the first player in the world to cross 400 international caps and that feat will always remain with me. I am well aware of the hard work that goes into it - one has to be extremely fit and perform consistently for the country," he said. Tirkey added that Manpreet has the potential to go well beyond his mark if he maintains his current standards. "If Manpreet continues to play the way he is playing right now and maintains his fitness, he stands a good chance to not only cross my milestone but also bring more laurels to India."

**Italy stay alive in FIFA World Cup 2026 race, Gyokeres hat-trick boosts Sweden**

**NEW DELHI. (Agency)**  
Italy kept their FIFA World Cup 2026 hopes alive with a composed 2-0 win over Northern Ireland in Bergamo, taking a crucial step forward in the European playoffs. The result means the four-time world champions are now just one win away from ending their 12-year absence from the tournament. After a tense first half, Italy found their breakthrough in the 56th minute through Sandro Tonali, whose clean half-volley settled nerves and shifted momentum firmly in their favour. From that point, Italy looked far more assured, controlling possession and dictating the tempo. The second goal arrived in the 80th minute, and once again Tonali was at the heart of it. His



crossfield pass found Moise Kean, who took a composed touch before sliding his finish past the goalkeeper to seal the win. It was a performance that combined patience with precision, something Italy have often lacked in recent campaigns. Under Gennaro Gattuso, Italy now move on to face Bosnia and Herzegovina in a high-stakes playoff final. With two consecutive World Cups missed, the pressure remains immense, but this victory at least keeps their revival on track.

**GYOKERES HATTRICK BOOSTS SWEDEN'S HOPES**

Elsewhere, Viktor Gyokeres delivered one of the standout performances of the playoff round, scoring a hat-trick in Sweden's 3-1 win over Ukraine. The striker, who had endured a quiet qualifying campaign, stepped up when it mattered most. Gyokeres struck early, added a second soon after the break, and then completed his hat-trick from the penalty spot to cap a dominant display. His performance not only secured Sweden's progression but also reignited belief after a difficult group stage.

**World's tallest college basketball player turns heads in March Madness showdown**

**Olivier Rioux, the tallest player in college basketball, left opponents stunned as the Florida Gators men's basketball cruised past the Prairie View A&M Panthers men's basketball in their March Madness clash.**

**New Delhi. (Agency)**  
The spotlight at March Madness is rarely short of drama, but this time sheer size took centre stage. At 7 feet 9 inches, Olivier Rioux, the tallest player in college basketball history, drew widespread attention during the Florida Gators men's basketball's emphatic 114-55 win over the Prairie View A&M Panthers men's basketball team in the NCAA Tournament. Rioux's appearance was brief, and he did not register any statistics. He did not touch the ball. Even so, his presence was enough to leave opponents and fans taken aback. When Rioux came on late in the game, he was matched up against Hassane Diallo,



who stands at 6 feet 8 inches. What followed quickly drew attention. Diallo looked him up and down more than once, clearly surprised, before sharing a light exchange. The moment showed just how large Rioux's frame is, even in a sport filled with tall athletes. Prairie View head coach Byron Smith had said before the game that his team might need "some help from the Lord." The scene involving Rioux only added weight to that remark as Florida

moved smoothly towards a second-round clash. The reaction off the court was immediate. "How do you defend against that?" one fan wrote. Another, recalling Rioux's time at IMG Academy, described him as "a nice kid who works hard" and noted how much he has improved over the years. Others responded in a lighter vein, joking that he was "playing on Easy Mode." While Rioux drew much of the attention, Florida's

overall display was controlled and dominant. The Gators overran Prairie View with a series of strong runs and set an NCAA record in the process, underlining their potential in the tournament. Head coach Todd Golden praised his team's focus and intensity after the game. "We have the ability to go on some runs, and we're at our best when we do that," Golden said. He added that he had not been part of a team that could produce such bursts within a single half, and pointed to the discipline shown even with a large lead. Florida's response followed a defeat in the SEC Tournament against Vanderbilt, with Golden stressing the need to return to their basic identity built on defence, rebounding, and quick transition play. "We knew what we had to get back to doing," he said. "When we do that, we're going to be tough to beat." At 20, Rioux's story goes beyond basketball. He previously held the Guinness World Records title for the world's tallest teenager at 7 feet 5 inches. In his official profile, he has spoken about the everyday challenges that come with his height, from ducking through doorways to finding clothes that fit, with doctors linking his stature to genetics.

**IPL 2026: Rishabh Pant, Prithvi Shaw headline 5 potential redemption arcs**

**New Delhi. (Agency)**  
When you go by the exact meaning of it, people say it is a narrative journey in which a character experiences significant personal growth, leading to a transformation. Over the years, we have seen many instances in the IPL, where players have gone on to get themselves up from a slumber to achieve greatness once again. Over the years, the stories of Shivam Dube, Kuldeep Yadav, David Miller and Mohammed Siraj have often come to everyone's minds. They have all had a period during their careers where they fell off before reinventing themselves and coming back into the limelight. Some may say that is the beauty of cricket and IPL in general. The IPL 2026 season is building up to be one of the biggest seasons in recent memory, with a lot of interesting stories around players already coming to the limelight. Among them, there are a few players who will be looking to redeem themselves this season. For some of them, it is all about finding the

form that made them one of the sought-after players in the competition. For others, it is all about making a comeback and showing that they truly belong on the big stage. **IPL 2026: 5 POTENTIAL REDEMPTION**



**STORIES**  
**Rishabh Pant**  
Rishabh Pant's cricketing journey has been nothing short of spectacular. After a near-death experience in late 2022, the Indian wicketkeeper fought for his career and made

a spectacular return to cricket. IPL 2024 acted as a launch pad for his return, where he scored 446 runs in 13 matches at an average of 40.55. So when he was bought for Rs. 27 crore by Lucknow Super Giants in the 2025 auction, normally everyone expected him to carry on the form and become a regular in India's T20I side. But what followed was a downfall that no one could really understand. Pant scored just 269 runs in 14 matches with an average of 24.45. The stats look better thanks to the hundred he scored in LSG's final game against RCB. A repeat isn't something the LSG skipper can afford to have and the preparation for the new season has been measured, yet fully covered. He started off the preps with a few training sessions under Yuvraj Singh, something that has changed the games of Abhishek Sharma and Shubman Gill in recent times. Irfan Pathan revealed that more than the technical aspects, Yuvraj was working with the wicketkeeper to improve the mental side of his game.

**Hardik Pandya fulfils promise, rewards Wankhede groundsmen after T20 World Cup win**

**CHANDIGARH. (Agency)**  
Hardik Pandya once again showed why his impact goes beyond the cricket field, this time with a heartwarming gesture towards the Wankhede stadium groundsmen. The T20 World Cup-winning all-rounder fulfilled a promise he had made months earlier, taking time out to honour the groundsmen with gifts and financial help. The Mumbai Indians captain had spent long nights training at the venue in the lead-up to the ICC T20 World Cup 2026, often his practise session stretching well beyond regular hours. During that phase, the groundsmen ensured he had uninterrupted access and support, something Hardik had acknowledged and promised to repay. On Thursday, he did exactly that. Hardik felicitated the grounds staff at the Wankhede, handing out gifts and financial incentives as a token of gratitude for their efforts. The hard work, both his and theirs, eventually paid off.



India went on to successfully defend their T20 World Cup title, defeating New Zealand by 96 runs in the final in Ahmedabad. Hardik played a key role throughout the campaign, contributing with both bat and ball to seal another memorable triumph. The title win also made him a two-time T20 World Cup champion, having been part of the 2024-winning squad as well. But it was this off-field moment that stood out, reinforcing his reputation as someone who values the people working behind the scenes. Hardik's act was not a one-off. Over the years, he has consistently shown support to teammates, fans and those around the game, often in ways that do not always make headlines. **HOW HARDIK WINS HEARTS OFF THE FIELD**  
His impact off the field extends to his teammates as well.

**IPL 2026: Can Shreyas Iyer do the double after an agonising miss last season**

**NEW DELHI. (Agency)**  
That's how Shashank Singh signed off Punjab Kings' IPL 2025 campaign. But by then, the mood at the Narendra Modi Stadium had already shifted. When Josh Hazlewood began the final over with two dot balls, Royal Challengers Bengaluru could sense it, their wait, an eternity in IPL terms, was finally coming to an end. For Punjab Kings, the script had already been written. From the dugout, Shreyas Iyer watched on, almost frozen, perhaps replaying that one moment he would want back. After scoring over 600 runs in the tournament, Shreyas faltered when it mattered most. When Romario Shepherd dismissed him for just one, RCB felt the door open, and they didn't need a second invitation. What followed was history for them, and heartbreak for PBKS. It brought back memories of 2014, another final, another near miss. Opportunities like this don't come often for Punjab Kings, which is why this one hurt that little bit more.

Had PBKS gone all the way, Shreyas would have become the first captain to win the IPL with two different franchises. That moment slipped away. But a new season brings a reset. Last year, it was RCB ending their



long wait. Now, the question is simple, can Shreyas make it Punjab's turn?  
**STRONGER THAN EVER**  
Shreyas Iyer walks into IPL 2026 with one of Punjab Kings' most balanced squads in recent years. There's continuity, there's

clarity, and more importantly, there's belief after what they managed last season. At the top, Priyansh Arya and Prabhsimran Singh offer stability, while the middle order has enough muscle and flexibility with Marcus Stoinis, Marco Jansen, Azmatullah Omarzai and Shashank Singh. It's a lineup that can adapt depending on the situation, something PBKS have often lacked in the past. With the ball, Arshdeep Singh continues to lead the pace attack, while Yuzvendra Chahal adds control and experience in the middle overs. It's a unit that looks far more rounded than before, with options to mix and match. The mini-auction only added to that depth. Players like Cooper Connolly, Ben Dwarshuis, Pravin Dubey and Vishal Nishad strengthen the bench, giving Shreyas multiple combinations to work with across conditions.

**West Asia war: Iran bans sports teams from visiting 'hostile' countries**

**Iran has banned its national and club teams from travelling to countries it considers "hostile" until further notice, citing safety concerns amid the ongoing conflict involving the United States and Israel. This move could put its participation in the FIFA World Cup 2026 in serious doubt.**

**BANGKOK. (Agency)**  
Iran has banned its national and club sports teams from travelling to countries it considers hostile until further notice, citing concerns over athlete safety, Iranian media reported on Thursday. The Sports Ministry issued the directive amid rising tensions affecting the nation's sporting engagements. The ministry stated that the presence of Iranian teams in countries deemed hostile and unable



to guarantee the security of athletes and team members is prohibited. This move directly impacts Iran's participation in international competitions, including the upcoming FIFA World Cup 2026. The Iranian football

federation and clubs have been instructed to notify the Asian Football Confederation to facilitate the relocation of match venues. The ministry referenced Tractor FC's recent match against a United Arab Emirates team

in Saudi Arabia but did not specify which venues or countries are considered hostile. Iran has qualified for the 2026 FIFA World Cup, which will be jointly hosted by the United States, Canada, and Mexico. However, the team's participation is under threat due to the travel ban and ongoing geopolitical tensions, particularly with the U.S. and Israel.

Earlier this month, former U.S. President Donald Trump commented that while Iran's national team is welcome to compete in the U.S., concerns remain regarding their safety. This has added uncertainty to Iran's World Cup plans. In response, the Iranian football federation is in discussions with FIFA about moving Iran's World Cup matches from the United States to Mexico, federation President Mehdi Taj said last week. These talks aim to secure Iran's continued participation in the tournament. Meanwhile, the Iranian squad is training in Turkey ahead of friendly internationals against Nigeria and Costa Rica scheduled for this week. These matches are part of the team's preparation for the World Cup.

## Rupee at record low as it slips past 94 mark against US dollar

MUMBAI.(Agency)

The rupee fell to a record low on Friday, slipping past the 94 mark against the US dollar, as concerns around the ongoing Middle East war continue to weigh on global markets.

The currency dropped to 94.1575 per dollar during the day. This is lower than its previous all-time low of 93.98, which was recorded earlier this week.

Since the war began late last month, the rupee has weakened by about 3.5%, showing the continued pressure on the Indian currency.

### ENERGY CRISIS ADDS TO PRESSURE

The fall in the rupee is largely linked to worries about an ongoing energy supply crisis. The conflict in the Middle East has raised fears that oil supply disruptions may continue for a longer period.

India depends heavily on imported oil, and higher global crude prices increase the country's import bill. This puts pressure on the rupee, as more dollars are needed to pay for oil imports. Oil prices have stayed above the \$100 per barrel mark, which has added to concerns across markets. The rise in oil prices has not only affected currencies but also impacted global equities and bond markets.

Stock markets across the world have seen pressure, while bond yields have moved higher. This reflects growing concern among investors about inflation and economic growth. For India, the impact is being closely watched, especially as the country is one of the largest energy importers.

### GROWTH AND INFLATION WORRIES

Analysts have started to cut their growth forecasts for India due to the ongoing situation. There are also expectations that the Reserve Bank of India may have to raise interest rates over the next 12 months.

Higher oil prices can push inflation higher, which may require policy action from the central bank.

Even if the conflict does not last very long, risks remain. Some global firms believe the rupee could weaken further in the coming months. Bernstein has said there is a realistic chance that the rupee may fall to around 98 per dollar this year. The pressure is expected to come mainly from India's current account balance, which could worsen if oil prices stay high. For now, the rupee remains under pressure, and its movement will depend on how the global situation develops, especially the path of oil prices and the ongoing conflict in the Middle East.

## Gold, silver surge on safe-haven demand amid West Asia tensions

BANGKOK.(Agency)

Gold and silver prices surged on Friday, driven by safe-haven demand amid persistent uncertainty and fading hopes of de-escalation in the West Asia conflict. Gold futures for April 2 delivery jumped as much as 2.27 per cent, or Rs 3,167, to hit an intraday high of Rs 1,42,660 per 10 grams on the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX) around 11:20 AM. The yellow metal was later trading at Rs 1,42,500, up Rs 3,007 or 2 per cent. During the session, gold touched an intraday low of Rs 1,40,287, still reflecting gains of 0.56 per cent or Rs 794. Silver futures (May 5) also rallied sharply, rising up to 3.65 per cent to touch an intraday high of Rs 2,27,901 per kg on the MCX. The white metal hit a low of Rs 2,23,515 earlier in the session and was trading at Rs 2,27,799, up Rs 7,925 or around 3 per cent at the last count. Analysts said the rise in precious metals was supported by geopolitical tensions, which have kept risk sentiment fragile and boosted demand for safe-haven assets. In the international market, COMEX gold was trading in the USD 4,400-USD 4,500 range, holding above key short-term moving averages, though the broader trend remains volatile.

"A sustained move above USD 4,600 could push prices towards USD 4,750, while a break below USD 4,300 may trigger fresh weakness," according to them. On the domestic front, MCX gold continues to hold above the Rs 1,40,000 support level, indicating underlying strength despite intraday volatility.

## India's energy supply fully secure, no need for national energy emergencies: Govt

New Delhi.(Agency)

Petroleum and LPG supply situation is under control and there is no shortage of petrol, diesel or LPG anywhere in the country, while retail outlets have sufficient stocks and are dispensing fuel without interruption, according to the government.

As the world's 4th largest refiner and 5th largest exporter of petroleum products, India's domestic availability is structurally assured, according to Petroleum Ministry. While other nations are declaring "National Energy Emergencies" or implementing rationing, India has no need for such measures. The government has called out a "deliberately mischievous" campaign of misinformation on social media. Isolated instances of crowding at petrol pumps were driven by fabricated videos rather than actual shortages. Oil company depots have operated through the night to ensure pumps remain replenished.

Despite the situation at the Strait of Hormuz, India is receiving more crude oil from its 41-plus global suppliers than before the disruption.

High volumes from the western hemisphere have more than compensated for any gaps, and every Indian refinery is currently running at over 100 per cent utilisation. Contrary to claims of a 6-day stock, India has a total reserve capacity of 74 days, with current actual stock cover at approximately 60 days. This includes crude stocks, product stocks, and dedicated strategic storage in caverns.

Crude procurement for the next 60 days has already been secured, according to Petroleum Ministry.

Following the LPG Control Order, domestic refinery production has increased by 40 per cent, reaching a daily output of 50 TMT. This covers more than 60 per cent of the daily requirement, significantly reducing the net daily import requirement to only 30 TMT.

# Could crude oil at \$150 trigger a recession BlackRock CEO Larry Fink answers

**Larry Fink also warned that rising energy prices could have a direct impact on people, especially in countries that depend heavily on imports.**

New Delhi.(Agency)

BlackRock CEO Larry Fink has warned that crude oil prices could rise to as high as \$150 a barrel, a move that may push the global economy into a recession. His warning comes as tensions in West Asia continue and raise concerns over the safety of key energy supply routes.

Speaking on the BBC's Big Boss Interview podcast published on Wednesday, Fink said it is still too early to know how the ongoing conflict involving Iran, Israel and the United States will end. However, he made it clear that oil prices will depend

on what happens after the fighting stops. "If there is a cessation of war, and yet Iran remains a threat, a threat to trade, a threat to the Strait of Hormuz, a threat to this peaceful coexistence of the GCC region, then I would argue that we could have years of above US\$100 closer to US\$150 oil which has profound implications in the economy," he said. He added that such a situation could lead to "a probably stark and steep recession".

### OIL OUTLOOK DEPENDS ON WHAT FOLLOWS

Fink said that if the conflict is resolved and Iran becomes a country that is accepted again by the international community, oil prices could fall below their pre-war level of around \$70 a barrel. But he also said that this outcome would depend on more than just a ceasefire. His comments come at a time when oil markets are reacting sharply to both military developments and signs of possible diplomatic progress. The conflict has now lasted for more than three weeks, and uncertainty continues to drive

volatility in energy prices.

### SUPPLY RISKS CENTRED ON STRAIT OF HORMUZ

The situation has raised serious concerns



about supply disruptions, especially around the Strait of Hormuz. This narrow route carries about one-fifth of the world's oil and gas supply and remains critical for global energy trade. The International Energy Agency has described the current disruption as the largest in the history of the global oil market. The conflict has nearly halted

shipments of oil and liquefied natural gas through this route, adding to fears of a supply shock. Oil prices have already surged in response. Brent crude climbed to its highest level in nearly four years, at one point nearing \$120 a barrel. However, prices later eased by about 4% to around \$98 after reports that the United States had sent Iran a 15-point proposal aimed at ending the conflict, raising hopes of a ceasefire. Despite this, Iran has rejected claims by US President Donald Trump that talks are underway. In a video shared by Iranian media, a military spokesperson dismissed the suggestion, saying the United States was "negotiating with itself" and made it clear that Iran is not willing to enter talks under current conditions.

### HOUSEHOLDS MAY FACE THE IMPACT

Fink also warned that rising energy prices could have a direct impact on people, especially in countries that depend heavily on imports.

## Anthropic eyes \$60 billion IPO: Here's all you need to know

New Delhi.(Agency)

Artificial intelligence (AI) giant Anthropic, the company behind the Claude chatbot, is considering a potential initial public offering that could raise up to \$60 billion, with a listing being discussed as early as October 2026, according to reports.

The plans are still under discussion, and the company has not filed any official documents yet. But if it goes ahead, this could be one of the largest IPOs ever and a defining moment for the AI industry. AI BOOM DRIVING THE TIMING

Anthropic's IPO plans come at a time when artificial intelligence has become the dominant theme in global markets. Massive investments have flowed into companies building large language models, data infrastructure, and enterprise AI tools. Businesses are increasingly adopting AI for coding, automation, and customer operations, driving rapid growth across the sector.

Anthropic has emerged as a key player in this space. Its Claude models are seeing strong enterprise adoption, and the company's annualised revenue is estimated to be around \$14 billion,

reflecting the pace at which demand for AI tools is expanding. This is exactly the kind of environment companies look for when going public. Strong investor interest, high



valuations and a clear growth story.

The scale of the proposed IPO also reflects a fundamental reality of the AI business. It is extremely capital intensive. Anthropic is reportedly planning to invest tens of billions of dollars, potentially up to \$50 billion, in data centres and computing infrastructure to support its models.

Even with strong revenue growth, this level of spending requires continuous access to large pools of capital.

The company has already raised billions from investors and is backed by major

technology firms such as Amazon and Google. But as competition with rivals intensifies, especially with players like OpenAI, access to public markets becomes a strategic advantage.

The IPO is as much about funding future growth as it is about strengthening its position in the global AI race.

**BIG OPPORTUNITY, BIG QUESTIONS** While the growth story is strong, there are important questions around profitability. Anthropic has generated billions in revenue so far, but there remains a gap between current earnings and projected run-rate figures, which are significantly higher. This reflects a broader trend across the AI sector, where companies are scaling rapidly but also spending heavily on infrastructure and research. The IPO will effectively test how public markets value this model.

If investors are willing to back high growth despite uncertain profits, it could open the door for a wave of AI listings. If not, it could trigger a reassessment of valuations across the sector.

## Petrol, diesel prices after duty cut: check your city's latest rates

New Delhi.(Agency)

The government has reduced excise duty on petrol and diesel by Rs 10 per litre, but prices still vary across cities due to different state taxes and local factors.

In Delhi, petrol is around Rs 94 per litre and diesel about Rs 87. In Mumbai, petrol is higher at roughly Rs 104 and diesel near Rs 92. In Chennai, petrol costs about Rs 100 while diesel is around Rs 92. In Kolkata, petrol is close to Rs 103 and diesel about Rs 90. Looking at other cities, petrol in Bengaluru is around Rs 102 and diesel near Rs 88. In Hyderabad, petrol is about Rs 107 and diesel around Rs 95.

In Jaipur, petrol is near Rs 104 and diesel

about Rs 90. In Lucknow, petrol is around Rs 95 and diesel close to Rs 88.

In Patna, petrol is among the highest at



around Rs 105 and diesel near Rs 92. In Chandigarh, petrol is cheaper at about

Rs 94 and diesel around Rs 82.

**Why Prices Differ Across Cities**

Fuel prices are not uniform because each state charges different VAT rates. Transport costs and dealer margins also affect the final price you pay.

**Why Relief May Be Limited**

Even after the Rs 10 duty cut, rising global crude oil prices are keeping fuel rates high. Oil companies may not reduce prices immediately as they try to balance their costs.

**What You Should Know**

Fuel prices change daily, so rates in your city may go up or down depending on global oil prices and currency movement.

**A recent case also highlighted that while tenants have rights, these cannot override safety concerns if a building becomes dangerous.**

New Delhi.(Agency)

Tenants often face situations where landlords delay or completely ignore essential repair work. Indian law, however, provides certain protections to ensure that rented properties remain safe and habitable. A recent case also highlighted that while tenants have rights, these cannot override safety concerns if a building becomes dangerous. The first step is to formally inform the landlord in writing about the required repairs. Proper documentation is important, as verbal communication may not hold value in disputes. Tenants should also allow reasonable time for the landlord to respond and fix the issue. If the landlord still does not act, tenants can approach local municipal authorities or take legal



action to enforce their rights.

### Can tenants carry out repairs themselves?

In urgent situations, tenants may get essential repairs done on their own, especially if the issue affects safety or basic living conditions. However, they must keep proof such as bills, photos, and

prior communication with the landlord.

The landlord can be asked to reimburse these expenses, provided the repairs were necessary and the landlord was informed in advance.

### Is rent deduction allowed?

Tenants may adjust repair costs against rent, but only under specific conditions and

after following proper procedure. Randomly stopping rent payments or making deductions without notice can lead to legal trouble or even eviction.

### What tenants should avoid

Tenants cannot recover repair costs by taking possession of items from the property.



# Priyanka Chopra

## Meets Fans In Delhi Ahead Of 'New Adventure'

Priyanka Chopra has returned to India and was recently spotted at the Delhi airport. The actor greeted paparazzi with folded hands and happily clicked pictures with fans before leaving for Amritsar. Priyanka kept her airport look casual yet stylish. She wore a satin silver shirt paired with blue jeans, along with a denim cap and oversized round glasses. Before getting into her car, the actor stopped for a few moments to pose for photographers and interact with admirers waiting outside the airport.

Fans quickly praised her for being patient and friendly. Several people on social media appreciated the way she took time out to click photos with fans instead of rushing away. Many called her "humble" and said she remains a "true desi girl."

### Priyanka Chopra Heads To Amritsar, Shares 'Another Adventure' Post

After leaving the airport, Priyanka shared a post on Instagram that caught the attention of fans. The actor uploaded a screenshot of a flight route from Delhi to Amritsar and captioned it, "Chalo, another adventure." She did not reveal the purpose of the trip, leaving fans curious about what the adventure might be. Whether it is related to work, a personal visit, or a spiritual trip remains unclear for now.



### Priyanka Chopra Stuns At Bvlgari Eclettica High Jewellery Event In Milan

Before arriving in India, Priyanka had been attending major international events. She recently appeared at the Oscars 2026 and was also present at the Bvlgari Eclettica High Jewellery Showcase held in Milan, Italy. As one of Bvlgari's global ambassadors, the actor stunned in an elegant black gown featuring a sweetheart neckline and a sculptural detail on one shoulder. She paired the outfit with a striking diamond-and-emerald necklace and matching rings, letting the jewellery stand out.

Her presence at the event was praised by Maxim Sapozhnikov, founder and CEO of Fashion To Max magazine. Sharing a video with Priyanka, he described her as someone who "brings light into a room" and thanked her for her kindness.

### Priyanka Chopra Upcoming Movies: Varanasi And Citadel Season 2

On the work front, Priyanka was recently seen in the pirate action-adventure film The Bluff directed by Frank E. Flowers. The film, which also stars Karl Urban and Ismael Cruz Córdova, received mixed reviews but her action-packed role was widely appreciated. It is currently available to watch on Prime Video.

## Jungkook's Viral Dance Challenge Gets A Tiger Shroff Twist, Fans Call It 'Amazing'



Tiger Shroff's fitness is always impressive, but it's his smooth dance moves that fans truly can't get enough of. He proved that yet again with his latest reel. Tiger jumped on the trending Left Right Left Right challenge, inspired by Jungkook's viral moment. Adding his own effortless style to it, Tiger's version struck the right chord with fans and had them loving every bit of it.

### Tiger Is A Jungkook Fan!

Tiger took to Instagram and dropped a video of himself grooving to the Left Right Left Right trend, and honestly, he nailed it. His moves looked super effortless, like he was just having fun with it, and that's exactly what made it so good to watch.

Midway through the reel, he even threw in a few smooth spins, all in a shirtless avatar, which only made fans lose it even more. After BTS' Jungkook had already set the internet on fire with his now-viral double spin on the same trend, Tiger jumped in with his own take and matched the vibe perfectly. Safe to say, fans were impressed and couldn't get enough. Tiger captioned his reel with, "Don't try this version at home."

For the unversed, the 'Left Right Left Right' challenge is a viral dance trend that started on TikTok with BBNO\$'s track. It's all about quick, snappy footwork, moving side to side in rhythm with the music. Dancers usually throw in jumps, and some fun hand gestures to match the fast-paced and energetic vibe of the track.

### Fans In Awe

Tiger's reel crossed over 2 lakh likes and received over 4,000 comments. One comment read, "Ohhh, my two favourites won the trend, Tiger and JK." Someone added, "From Jungkook to Tiger Shroff, what a month March of 2026 is!" A user remarked, "Jungkook did it first!" Another one commented, "Jungkook se bhi acha kiya yaar." A fan wrote, "Absolutely amazing...guys he is 36 and has this energy!!" "Mr. Jungkook is truly a trendsetter," wrote another user.

### Tiger Shroff: On The Work Front

Beyond acing social media trends and keeping fans hooked with his dance videos, Tiger also has some exciting projects lined up.

## Bhagyashree And Son

### Abhimanyu's Trip To Gujarat Is Filled With 'Instinct To Stillness'



Bhagyashree's son, Abhimanyu, recently made their fans a part of their trip to Gujarat with his latest carousel posted on social media. From immersing in the divine blessing of the Somnath temple to enjoying the thrill of the Gir National Park, the Meenakshi Sundareshwar actor seemed to have a lovely time over there. On Instagram, Abhimanyu shared a series of pictures and videos from his recent trip to Gujarat with his parents, Bhagyashree and Himalaya Dasani. The mother-son duo was seen posing for the camera with their hands folded, and the Somnath temple in the background of the opening frame. Decked in traditional clothes, they were seen seeking pure blessings at the spiritual site.

### Inside Abhimanyu's Trip To Gujarat With Family

The following frames featured the family of three enjoying a safari ride amidst the woods. They even captured some lovely moments of wild animals in their natural settings, along with a few other unmissable glimpses. In some of the videos, Abhimanyu gave a sneak peek into his relaxed and refreshing stay at one of the incredible retreats of Gujarat. "From the wild to the divine. Instinct to stillness. Gir to Somnath," he wrote in the caption while talking about his journey to Gujarat.

### Abhimanyu's Recent And Upcoming Works

The 36-year-old made his acting debut in 2018 with the action film Mard Ko Dard Nahi Hota, for which he won the Filmfare Award for Best Male Debut. However, he rose to fame only in 2021 after his appearance in the romantic comedy Meenakshi Sundareshwar and the action film Nikamma, which was released the following year.

Afterwards, the actor appeared in a cameo role in Monica, O My Darling that same year. In 2023, he did another cameo in Kisi Ka Bhai Kisi Ki Jaan, alongside his parents. Dassani also starred in the comedy-drama Aankh Micholi as part of an ensemble cast alongside Mrunal Thakur. Yet again, he made a cameo in Jigra, which stars Alia Bhatt as a troubled young woman who must rescue her brother (played by Vedang Raina) from a foreign prison after he is incarcerated for a crime he did not commit. The action thriller film, directed by Vasan Bala, was produced under the banners of Viacom18 Studios, Dharma Productions, and Eternal Sunshine Productions, and released in 2024.

# Bhumi Pednekar

## Reveals Her Flight Gets Delayed Due To Security Threat

Bhumi Pednekar recently talked about a concerning experience she had this morning while flying between countries for work. She revealed how the lack of civic sense among the travellers led to a three-hour delay. In a video, she explained how a man who wasn't even a passenger on the flight triggered a security protocol and caused inconvenience.

Taking to her Instagram stories, Bhumi Pednekar shared



a video explaining a concerning experience she had this morning. She says in the video, "We had a crazy morning, so Richa and I are flying for some Backbay work." For the context, Backbay is a premium, sustainable beverage brand launched in August 2025 by Bhumi and her sister, entrepreneur Samiksha Pednekar.

### Bhumi Pednekar Reveals How A "Silly Joke" Caused Her Flight's 3-Hour Delay

The actress continues, "Now, when we were boarding our flight, this guy was kind of misbehaving with the

on-ground staff. And he wasn't even a passenger on our flight. You know, the on-ground staff has to like call out, find a call, blah blah blah, whatever. He keeps getting triggered. He's like, why are you disturbing me? We kind of laughed about it, and we entered."

"And 10 minutes after we were deboarded, there was a security threat. And we later found out the same guy, who wasn't even a passenger on our flight, thought it was funny to kind of scream that there was a bomb on that flight, etc. And obviously, Indigo had to call a protocol and take all the security measures that it had to and kudos to them for doing that. But he wasted three hours, and I'm sure there was a massive economic impact," she adds. In an overlaying text on the video, she also writes, "Crazy morning. Woke up at 5 am for an 8:45 am flight. Cause of a silly joke or a loose

statement some irresponsible man made, we were delayed by 3 hours. I'm told hoax calls/jokes like this happen often. We really need more civic sense.

Kudos to @indigo.6e for following protocol and making the re-boarding process easy. Finally reached (folded hands emoji)."



# World's best whale-watching Experiences



**Of all the sights nature offers, whale watching never ceases to inspire and thrill us. The best whale watching experiences are worth travelling the world for, and can be enjoyed from land and from sea. The size of the whale, as well as its graceful movements and epic migrations, bewitch us. To watch their lively social interactions, intricate ways of communicating and agile play is to catch a glimpse of the natural world at work. You can view these gentle giants—and there are many species, from blue whales to humpback and minky whales (the Baleen species), to sperm, orca and pilot whales (the toothed whale species)—from locations in 40 countries as they migrate the globe to mate, calve and follow the blooming plankton that they feed on.**

**Orcas off Vancouver Island**  
 Orcas (Killer Whales like the famous ocean mammal celebrity, Shamu) are the most popular residents around Vancouver Island, joined in the migrating season by humpbacks and grey whales. Agile orcas have a range of interesting behaviours, which range from the frolic-and-shake to the-spray, the tail-slap, the jump-and-flop and the show-off-Shamu-leap, but they are always entertaining. Their smaller size means orcas are more playful than other whales and brave visitors can kayak amongst them, though be prepared to get sprayed or splashed! Other harbour residents are the harbour seals, porpoises and sea lions.

**Humpback whales in Madagascar**  
 Between June and September Humpback whales grace the waters around Isle Sainte Marie to give birth to and raise their calves in the warm waters, and their booming, melodic calls permeate the oceans quiet. Whales surround the island and even travel through the narrow channel that separates Isle Sainte Marie from mainland Madagascar, so you can get an excellent view of their graceful, 30-ton passage, but you can also get closer by taking a boat trip out amongst the pods. When feeding, whales gather in groups to herd plankton together and trap blooms while animals feed individually. This is an awe inspiring sight to behold, as is the whales frolicking play and the mothers' gentle

direction as the calves continue their first migration. Orchids and lemur-covered mango and palm trees cover Isle Sainte Marie and its outlying reefs make it a fantastic place to dive and snorkel.

**Whales of Antarctica**  
 For animal lovers with an adventurous streak, this stark, angular backdrop of glaciers, icebergs, mountain peaks and unpredictable seas provides the perfect wilderness setting for whale and wildlife watching. Fin, sei, humpback, orca, and minke whales live in these chilly waters as well as several seal and dolphin species, penguin colonies and other hardy seabirds.

**The humpbacks in Tonga**  
 Jump into the sapphire waters of the South Pacific Ocean and swim with one of the most majestic and impressive creatures of the sea. Patience is the key to interacting with the humpback; mothers protecting calves might avoid your path while curious juveniles will come out and investigate. Encounters can last a few minutes or a few hours but will prove to be unforgettable no matter the length. Don't forget to admire the coral reefs of these waters, which are equally as remarkable. Tours are available between July and October.

**Wildlife of Canada's Arctic region**  
 Polar bears, arctic foxes, caribou, snowshoe hare, beluga whales, wolves, moose and seals are just some of the animals that thrive in the freezing tundra and pack ice of northern Canada and the Arctic Circle. They have adapted to the seasonal environment and take advantage of both the winters, when much of the bay freezes and polar bears hunt on the ice, and the warmer weather when the ice melts revealing salt marshes that support huge water fowl nurseries. Visitors to the region will also be wowed by the Northern Lights and impressed by the vast, silent, open, untouched spaces. Canada's polar bears are a dangerous lot and have been known to hunt the gentle beluga whale as well as seals and walrus. Much of this region is too far north and too frozen to have been seriously effected by logging or mining, so 90 percent of it remains in its virgin state. It is only in recent years that concerns about the bay being frozen for shorter periods have caused conservationists to worry about the habitat of

these southern most polar bears and their animal contemporaries. The best times to see polar bears is between January and April, the best time for whale watching is between June and August, and the best time to see the Northern Lights is between September and October and January through May.

**Bay of Fundy's whales**  
 Bay of Fundy is a very natural, unspoiled location for whale watching. The islands and coastline surrounding the bay is a wilderness, and the tides are the world's most variable - in some places up to 14 metres



difference (the literature says one hundred billion tonnes of sea water rolls in and out of the bay each day.) This constant churning of water creates excellent conditions for plankton blooms, and baleen whales especially find plenty to feed on. Scientists have seen fifteen different whale species in the Bay of Fundy, the largest (and I think the most unusual) are the Finbacks who are known for tall spouting. Lucky whale watchers will also see Humpbacks, Minkes, Sei Whales and North Atlantic Right Whales, which are one of the world's most endangered species and are known to mate in the bay. Other kinds of whales are known to drop in from time to time including the world's biggest animal, the Blue Whale. You can also see the occasional Basking Shark or Porpoise. The food is best during Summer.

**Humpback migration in Hervey Bay**  
 Hervey Bay calls itself the whale watching capital of the world, which may be an overstatement, but it is definitely one of the most popular whale watching spots. It's on the migration route for Humpbacks between the cold waters of the Antarctic and the warmer tropical waters off Queensland where they calve. Part of the spots popularity must be due to the calves and mums on their way home. Humpbacks are the whale world's most playful and most vocal, and this is one of a whale's most frisky times, so the frolicking, breaching and tail and fin slapping that people enjoy seeing happens here frequently. Humpbacks are also huge - the world's fifth largest animal. I read statistics saying they're the size of twelve elephants. There are a lot of companies operating in this small area and the bay can be busy. The marine park is also home to dolphins, dugongs and sea turtles.

**Whale watching in Tromso**  
 This beautiful coastal region fringed with fjords, glaciers and arctic mountain scenery is a pristine whale watching setting. The ocean around Tromso is deep near the continental shelf, and the churning waters there create a breeding ground for whale food and herrings, which draws Humpbacks, Killer Whales, Minke, Orcas and Fin Whales. Regular operators have counted more than 600 Killer Whales in the waters around Lofoten and most pods travel in large groups, so you have a good chance of seeing twenty or more whales at a time. If you want to get close up, go with an operator with a zodiac. They're easy to manoeuvre, but you may get nudged around by a whale, so make sure they also provide waterproof suits. Whale watchers are also likely to come across dolphins, otters and seals. Top off your experience by seeing the truly magical Northern Lights in one of Norway's traditional west coast villages with wooden houses. If you stay in Tromso you can also visit the world's most northern brewery.

**Digby Neck's whale migration**  
 Digby is a long narrow rocky peninsula on the tip of Canada, with the Atlantic Ocean on one side and a protected bay on the other, and is a great spot to watch the annual whale migrations. Many different types of whales pass along this coast and rest here to snack on the marine life teeming from the warmer waters of the bay. Digby Neck is on the route of minke, humpback, right, pilot and blue whales. Sea birds are also attracted to the peninsula by the abundance of food, and bird watchers will be impressed with the variety of bird life. The tides of Digby Neck's bay are some of the world's most dramatic, and when the icebergs on the bay have risen up higher than the level of the docks, it's a truly unique sight. Visitors brave the powerful swell through the mouth of the bay to the best whale watching spots on the tip of the peninsula or else take to the open seas to get up close to the whales. The best time to meet the whales at Digby Neck is between May and October when you will hopefully catch the boys at their most playful while they perform all kinds of leaping and splashing antics while trying to attract a mate.

**Whale Sharks of Ningaloo Reef**  
 Swim in clear, warm waters with the majestic, gentle giant, the Whale Shark. The Ningaloo Reef is one of the few places in the world where Whale Sharks regularly visit in large numbers. It is also close to the shore and shallow enough for people to snorkel safely. These spotted leviathans feed on the coral spawn which happens on mass during April and July, and aren't at all what you would anticipate from their name. Though up to 12 metres in length, Whale Sharks don't have the shark's signature sharp teeth and are generally good tempered around people. Other smaller and less friendly sharks are also common in the area, including the dangerous Tiger Shark and the well camouflaged, nocturnal Wobbegong.



## Must-visits in Andaman and Nicobar

A perfect summer getaway, Andaman and Nicobar, is an archipelago at the confluence of the Bay of Bengal and Andaman Sea. With an array of thrilling water sports, leisure facilities, and a host of activities, a vacation in Andaman and Nicobar can be as relaxed or filled with adventure as you'd like it to be. The weather is temperate most of the year and the best time to visit is between December-May. If you're planning to head here in this summer break then here's a pick of outdoorsy things which will keep you

busy.  
**Radhanagar Beach, Havelock Island**  
 Beach number 7 (or more commonly known as Radhanagar Beach) was bestowed with the title of 'Asia's Best Beach' in 2004 by the TIME magazine. Known for its picturesque sunset, white sand and turquoise blue waters, the beach is a very popular hub lying on the western coast of Havelock Island. There's a watersports centre at the beach where visitors can hire snorkelling and scuba equipment and boats.

**Havelock Island, the Andamans**  
 Havelock Island at the Andamans is the most popular spot for scuba diving. Home to one of the richest coral reef ecosystem in the world, the waters here are pristine, and teeming with diverse marine life. There are two diving operators on Havelock—Barefoot Scuba and Dive India—which provide wannabe divers with training and all the requisite equipment. Both the operators are PADI (Professional Association of Diving Instructors) certified dive centres.

**Mangrove creek, Baratang Island**  
 Baratang Island is located about 100 kilometres away from the Port Blair city and offers a boat-safari, amidst the

nature-made tunnel of thick mangrove plantations. A variety of exotic birds can be spotted along the lush trail of dense tree knots and canopies. This mangrove creek leads to the magnificent Lime Stone Caves, for which you must carry a torch with you.  
**Baratang Island** is located about 100 kilometres away from the Port Blair city and offers a boat-safari, amidst the nature-made tunnel of thick mangrove plantations. A variety of exotic birds can be spotted along the lush trail of dense tree knots and canopies. This mangrove creek leads to the magnificent Lime Stone Caves, for which you must carry a torch with you.

**North Bay Beach, Port Blair**  
 Located just 15 minutes away from the Rajiv Gandhi Water Sports Complex, the North Bay Beach offers one of the easiest water sports—Sea-walking—in Andaman and Nicobar. Walking barefoot on the base of the sea offers you an exquisite view of rich marine-life and the corals. If you're heading to Andaman and Nicobar, don't miss this. Skilled life guards accompany you underwater, to ensure maximum safety.

**Best time of the day to visit: Morning and afternoon.**  
 Required equipment: A transparent helmet, which pumps the oxygen in from an oxygen cylinder kept in the pontoon.

**Mt. Harriet, the Andamans**  
 This trek stretches up 16 kilometres starting from Mt. Harriet to Madhuban, winding across a picturesque terrain. Expect to see exotic birds and rare plants along the lush trail. Taking a guide along is highly recommended. Tents and all the trekking equipment are available on hire from the Andaman Teal House. Do not forget to acquire food, water, torch, and first aid, before you start. The best time to go hiking here is November-April.

**Rajiv Gandhi Water Sports Complex, Port Blair**  
 Located in the heart of Port Blair, the Rajiv Gandhi Water Sports Complex offers an array of aqua-sports: banana rides, jet skiing, parasailing, speed boat rides, rowboat paddling, you name it! This ought to be your first pit-stop in the Andamans. The Centre is well-equipped with changing rooms, and trained staff to ensure safety.