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PM Modi inaugurates Noida's Jewar airport in big boost for Delhi-NCR connectivity

As a major airport opens in Uttar Pradesh, PM Modi links development to governance, attacks past regimes and speaks on global crisis, fuel prices and farmers, setting the tone for a larger political message.

New Delhi.(Agency) Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday inaugurated Phase 1 of the Noida International Airport in Jewar, pitching it as a major boost to connectivity, jobs and economic growth...

The Prime Minister also inspected the terminal after the inauguration. BOOST FOR WEST UTTAR PRADESH PM Modi said the airport would transform the region's prospects.



Faridabad and this entire region are going to benefit greatly," he said. "This airport is going to bring many new opportunities for the farmers, small and medium sized businesses and the youth of West UP. From

here, aircraft will fly around the world, and it will become the symbol of the flight of developed Uttar Pradesh."

'VIKSIT UP, VIKSIT BHARAT' PUSH

Linking the project to a broader vision, the Prime Minister said, "Today, we are starting a new chapter of the 'Viksit UP, Viksit Bharat' campaign. The biggest state in the country has now become the state with the most international airports."

He also spoke about his association with the project. "You all gave me the good fortune to lay the foundation stone and also to inaugurate this airport," he said.

ATTACK ON PREVIOUS GOVERNMENTS

PM Modi accused earlier governments of stalling the project. "Noida Airport was cleared during Atal Bihari Vajpayee's time in 2003. But Congress and the regional governments here did not even allow the foundation stone to be laid. The project remained only on paper," he said. He added that the project moved forward only after the BJP came to power at both the Centre and in Uttar Pradesh.

Rs 2.38 lakh cr-defence push: DAC clears 5 S-400 missile systems from Russia, transport aircraft

New Delhi.(Agency)

The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) on Friday cleared a proposal to procure five additional S-400 long range surface-to-air missile systems from Russia, months after the S-400s reportedly demonstrated their capability during Operation Sindoor.

The clearance for the S-400s, which has been under discussion for the last several months, comes four months after Russian President Vladimir Putin's visit to India in December last year.

In 2018, India had signed a \$5.43 billion deal with Russia to buy five squadrons of the S-400s. While three squadrons have been delivered, and deployed on the borders facing Pakistan, the two remaining squadrons are likely to be delivered later this year.

The induction of the medium transport aircraft, which will replace the ageing transport fleet of the IAF's An-32 and Il-76 aircraft, will meet the strategic, tactical and operational airlift requirements of the Services, the MoD said.

There was no official word on the number of squadrons of remotely piloted strike aircraft to be procured. However, officials told The Indian Express that the unmanned jets, which are a programme of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), will likely take seven to eight years to materialise.

'99% Hindus want out of Congress; it will become single-community party after Assam polls': CM Himanta

New Delhi.(Agency)

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma has claimed "99%" of Hindu members of the Congress want to leave the party. The remark comes right ahead of the April 9 Assam Assembly election.



Kurmi, all of whom won on Congress tickets previously. He said Assam has seen massive development on a par with larger states and that he is confident the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) will score again this year with a record-breaking win.

with news agency.

The Congress has seen big defections in the run up to the elections, Congress MP Pradyut Bordoloi and former state Congress president Bhupen Kumar Borah joining the BJP. Other leaders include MLAs Kamalakhya Dey Purkayastha, Sushil Kanta Das, Basanta Das, Sushanta Borgohain, and Rupjyoti

'Now, it's Bengal's turn': Amit Shah targets TMC, releases chargesheet on 15-year rule ahead of polls

New Delhi.(Agency)



Addressing a press conference in Kolkata, Home Minister Shah said that while the TMC may dismiss it as a BJP document, it actually reflects the concerns of the people of Bengal, with the party merely giving voice to them.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday released the Bharatiya Janata Party's list of charges against the ruling TMC. Addressing a press conference in Kolkata, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said the chargesheet highlights key issues from the Trinamool Congress government's 15 years in power.

Shah added that while the TMC may dismiss it as a BJP document, it actually reflects the concerns of the people of Bengal, with the party merely giving voice to them.

"In today's press conference, our chargesheet focuses on issues against the 15 years of governance by the Trinamool Congress government. While the Trinamool Congress may claim that this chargesheet belongs to the Bharatiya Janata Party, I believe the people of Bengal have presented a chargesheet against Mamata Banerjee and her government, and the Bharatiya Janata Party is giving a voice to it," he said. Speaking about the upcoming West Bengal

elections and releasing a chargesheet against the TMC government, Home Minister Shah said, "The security of the entire country is inextricably linked to the outcome of the Bengal elections. Only one route remains through which infiltrators enter the country, compromising national security. Therefore, the Bengal election is vital for Bengal in many respects. Bengal must align itself with the rapid pace of progress and development currently sweeping the nation, a journey characterised by trust and a liberation from the terror of fear. This election is the opportunity to make that decisive choice."

Highlighting development under BJP-led governments, Shah said, "The double-engine government has many examples of transforming states; Uttar Pradesh went from being underdeveloped to unparalleled development; Madhya Pradesh set new standards in progress; Assam, which had years of insurgency, is now seeing a semiconductor plant being set up. Now, it is Bengal's turn."

A month into war, Iran chokes energy supply, Trump scrambles for exit

New Delhi.(Agency)

It's been a month since the first wave of missiles rained down on Tehran, wiping out its Supreme Leader and the country's leadership, as the US and Israel sought to bring about regime change in Iran. The planning had been on for months. But, within a few days, the US and Israel realised that they were up against an opponent that had proved itself to be more resilient and disruptive than Donald Trump and Benjamin Netanyahu had thought.



busters and whatnot, Iran has tormented the Gulf countries via a swarm of low-cost missiles and drones and maintained a stranglehold on the world's energy supplies by blocking the Strait of Hormuz.

With oil prices jumping by more than 40%, Trump had to eventually veer towards negotiations, and paused strikes on Iran's power plants for 10 days till April 6. A decimated but buoyant Iran, which has repeatedly stressed that the war would end on its terms, has also opened backchannel talks for a ceasefire. But beneath the calm lies the spectre of a US ground invasion, with thousands of Marines and paratroopers nearing the Middle East.

Thus, a month on, the status of the war remains fluid. Here's a recap of how the conflict reached this stage.

'Mothers and sisters will have to guard...If they terrorise then, come out with anything you find at home' EC seeks report on Mamata's speech

An EC source said the poll panel had sought a report as soon as possible from CEO Manoj Agarwal on the speech made by Banerjee at a public meeting at Nandaprasad Girls' High School Ground, Naxalbari in Darjeeling.

New Delhi.(Agency) THE ELECTION Commission on Friday sought a report from the West Bengal Chief Electoral Officer on Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's speech on Wednesday where she allegedly encouraged women to be on guard and use whatever they can, including household items, to ward off any attempted rigging, which EC sources said was a threat to the CRPF personnel deployed at polling stations.

An EC source said the poll panel had sought a report as soon as possible from CEO Manoj Agarwal on the speech made by Banerjee at a

public meeting at Nandaprasad Girls' High School Ground, Naxalbari in Darjeeling. At the public meeting, Banerjee said: "Yesterday, I have seen at Bankura, Central forces carrying the BJP's flag. This has never happened." She was referring to a viral image on social media of a CAPF personnel accompanying a BJP candidate, carrying cut-outs of the party's symbol.

"I am giving one responsibility to mothers and sisters. On the

election day, till the voting machine does not reach the



counting centre, mothers and sisters will have to guard. If you want to live for five years then you have to guard for one day. [You have to ensure] those who came

from Delhi can't give chhappa vote. If they terrorise then, come out with anything that you will find at home, you people do cooking, I need not say anything more," Banerjee said.

While the Trinamool Congress was yet to respond to the allegation, a TMC source said: "Let the full video and its context be seen... things will be clear. It's the BJP that believes in the politics of violence... If asked, we will also file our reply to the Commission." Polling in West Bengal is scheduled to be held on April 23 and April 29.

Act now on petrol, diesel & DAP supply to protect farmers and national food security: CM Mann

The Sikh Times

CHANDIGARH, 28 March: Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann on Saturday called upon the Government of India to urgently ensure enhanced and uninterrupted supply of petrol, diesel and DAP fertiliser as Punjab gears up for a 140 Lakh Metric Ton (LMT) wheat harvest, warning that any disruption in fuel availability could directly impact national food security. While reiterating that there is no shortage and no cause for panic, the Chief Minister underscored that timely action by the Centre is essential to keep harvesting operations and grain movement running smoothly, even as Punjab stands ready with 181 LMT wheat and 139 LMT paddy to support the nation. Addressing a press conference, CM Bhagwant Singh Mann stated, "During a virtual meeting

with the Prime Minister on Friday evening, I



apprised that Punjab is likely to produce 140 Lakh Metric Ton (LMT) of wheat this year. To ensure smooth harvesting and ferrying of the crop, regular supply of petrol and diesel is needed. A large number of tractors, trolleys, har-

vesters and trucks will be used during harvesting, so fuel supply must be enhanced in larger public interest. It is the need of the hour to ensure that the food security of the country is maintained by all means." Reassuring the public, the Chief pointed said there was no need for panic. "There is currently a stock of 12-14 days of petrol and diesel and six days of LPG in the state, which is usually the same throughout the year. This stock is intact and supply is going on unabated. The country has import agreements with 41 nations and at the national level 60 days of petrol and diesel stock and 30 days of LPG stock have already been secured. There is no need for hoarding or panic buying as the Chief Secretary is keeping an eagle eye on supplies. Hoarders and black marketers will not be spared at any cost."

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AIADMK's Women Push In 2nd Poll Candidates' List As EPS Eyes Comeback

Chennai.(Agency):

With the Tamil Nadu assembly elections shaping up into a high-stakes, multi-cornered contest, the AIADMK has unveiled its second list of candidates, signalling a calibrated mix of experience, youth, and increased representation for women as party chief Edappadi K Palaniswami, or EPS, looks to engineer a political comeback.

Of the 127 candidates announced in this phase, 29 are sitting MLAs, 26 are former legislators, and five are ex-MPs - reflecting a conscious attempt to balance continuity with change. The party has



also given a noticeable push to women, fielding 17 candidates so far. However, the reshuffle comes with its share of exclusions.

Sitting MLAs such as Yercaud's Chitra, Kallakurichi's Senthilkumar, and former Ministers Arami's Sevoor Ramachandran, Vaigai Selvan KV Ramalingam, Rajalakshmi, Pandiyarajan, Manikandan and Rahim have been denied tickets, indicating a willingness by the leadership to make tough calls.

The list also spotlights several new faces.

Among them are S Syed Sultan Samsuddin, IT wing Secretary fielded from Palayamkottai; legal wing member Mangulam Mahendran; Dr S Dhivya from Krishnarayapuram; and Maragatham Vetrivel from Pappiretipatti.

A member of the party's core team told NDTV that EPS has "chosen a fine mix of experience, freshers, and more women," underlining the strategic recalibration ahead of the polls.

News box

A tattoo, a missing brother and a Gurgaon cop who refused to give up

Gurgaon.(Agency)

A sub-inspector in Gurgaon who did not see the discovery of an unidentified body as another routine case ultimately helped bring closure to a family in Assam. The body was found on March 22 near a powerhouse in Civil Lines with injury marks on the face, suggesting death due to a fall and asphyxia. SI Omprakash noticed a small but significant detail — a tattoo in English on the man's chest that read "Nisha". Autopsies for unidentified bodies are done within 72 hours, but Omprakash sought more time. There were no identity documents on the body and the officer and his team had no clear leads. "Prima facie, it appeared he may have fallen while under the influence of alcohol," Omprakash said. But instead of giving up, the officer began to work with whatever he had. "I felt that we should make every possible effort to identify him so that his family can be informed. A person should not remain unidentified," he added. The man's facial features suggested he could be from the Northeast, which prompted Omprakash to reach out to community groups and NGOs from the region. "We connected with several organisations and circulated his photographs. His facial features indicated he could belong to the Northeast, so we focused our efforts there," he said. After several attempts, a woman came forward, stating that her brother had been missing. She said that he worked as a caterer and would often stay away from home for work, and confirmed that he had a tattoo. The man was identified as 38-year-old Umesh Khati, a native of Assam, who was living in Patel Nagar with his sister and brother-in-law. Police coordinated with Assam Bhawan in Delhi to establish contact and verify the details, and found Nisha was his divorced wife's name. Police said he was found dead in an inebriated state and is believed to have fallen face-first, leading to the injuries. On Friday, Khati's body was transported back to his family in Assam with the help of an NGO.

15-day deadline for STP sampling, 3-month mapping target under Yamuna action plan in Haryana

GURGAON.(Agency)

Haryana State Pollution Control Board (HSPCB) has set timelines for interventions under Yamuna Action Plan, directing officials to complete fresh sampling of sewage treatment plants (STPs) within 15 days and finish mapping of all pollution sources within three months. The directions were issued during a review meeting chaired by HSPCB member secretary Yogesh Kumar at Vikas Sadan on Friday, where the progress of ongoing works to curb pollution in drains flowing into the Yamuna was assessed. Stressing the need for better coordination among agencies, Kumar asked officials from HSPCB, GMDA and MCG to complete projects within deadlines and ensure visible results.

"Untreated wastewater flowing from leg-III to leg II should be diverted for treatment within a fortnight so that treated water can be reused, including for irrigation," Kumar said. The meeting also addressed untreated discharge into city drains. GMDA was asked to prepare a standard operating procedure for cleaning stormwater drains and sewer lines, with a system to identify and remove illegal sewer connections.

Further, authorities were given three months to identify and map all pollution points in leg II. Officials were also directed to assess the quantity of solid waste removed from drains and ensure its scientific disposal, while maintaining records for monitoring.

Concerns over unregulated tanker operations were also raised. MCG was asked to submit a report on newly registered tankers and form a team to act against illegal operators.

Land, FDs, pvt schools: After Noida airport payouts, money spent wisely, not impulsively

NOIDA.(Agency)

Hanshraj Singh gave away 10 bigha (around 2.5 hectares) of his land at Dayanapur village in Jewar in 2019 when UP govt began acquiring land to build Noida airport. The compensation of Rs 2.5 crore eased the 70-year-old's anxieties about displacement and his family's future.

In the months that followed, the world suddenly changed with the Covid pandemic, bringing sweeping new uncertainties and changing outlooks. One of the biggest farmers in the region, Hanshraj needed little convincing when govt approached him again for more land to build roads around the airport. Over 2020 and 2021, he sold his remaining 15 bighas. "In total, my compensation came up to roughly Rs 9.5-10 crore," Hanshraj told TOI.

Around 30% of this money went into buying agricultural land so that he could continue farming. Both his sons are employed, one with police, the other with a private sector firm. "I purchased 10 bigha land in Karoli village (around 18km from the airport) for Rs 28 lakh per bigha," he said. Hanshraj also bought a 162-square-metre residential plot for around Rs 35 lakh at Sector 16B of Yamuna Expressway to build a two-storey house. Another chunk went into investments. Some more was spent on improving quality of life. There would be no splurging.

Families in Jewar that had a cash windfall by giving land for the airport project have been more careful than cavalier in their spends. The shift in lifestyles and acquisition of cars -- mostly Thar and Fortuner -- came over time. Perhaps it was Covid, perhaps stories from other parts on wasteful splurge of big compensation money that put the leashes on impulse spending.

After the first phase of acquisition, cash flowed into Jewar. Two farmers crossed the Rs 10-crore mark, the maximum compensation being Rs 12 crore. Around 30 farmers received payouts between Rs 5 crore and Rs 10 crore. Most of them continue to anchor their future in agriculture, only now with landholdings in neighbouring districts like Mathura, Aligarh, and Bulandshahr. Subsequent acquisitions for utilities have taken compensation upwards of Rs 20 crore for some. The total number of farmers who have received more than Rs 5 crore is, according to officials, around 50-60.

Faridabad teachers pulled up over reels during school farewell; education department bans videos on campus

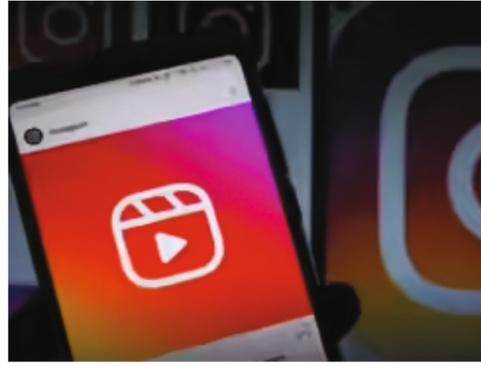
Gurgaon.(Agency)

Two govt school teachers in Faridabad have been summoned by the education department after they were allegedly found making and posting social media reels during a Class 12 farewell party held during school hours. The incident has prompted authorities to issue a district-wide notice banning such activities on school campuses. The matter came to light after a complaint, along with screenshots, was sent to the additional chief secretary of the education department. The Panchkula-based directorate took immediate cognisance and directed local officials to conduct an inquiry and submit a detailed report. Sources said that one teacher each from Government Girls Senior Secondary School, NIT-1, and Government Model Senior Secondary School, Sarai, has been named in the complaint. The initial probe established that the reels were filmed during school hours. Authorities have sought written

explanations from the teachers, as well as from their respective school heads.

The teachers appeared before officials on Wednesday and Friday. However, their responses have not yet been made public.

The anonymous complaint alleged that students were frequently involved in the videos and were encouraged to participate, disrupting their studies and negatively affecting them. It stated that some videos featured students dancing to "vulgar songs," which lowered the dignity of the institution. The complaint also highlighted that posting such content, particularly of students in school uniforms, violated govt service conduct rules and harmed the school's reputation. Additionally, it was alleged that school premises were being used for personal social media promotion and that such activities encourage inappropriate social



media engagement among students.

In a district-wide order issued on Wednesday evening, the education department directed heads of all 378 govt primary, middle, high, and senior secondary schools to impose a blanket ban on making reels and short videos within school premises. The order also

restricts the unnecessary use of mobile phones by teachers during class hours.

Officials clarified that exceptions would be allowed only for educational, cultural, or awareness-related content, subject to prior approval from the department. Any such activity must be conducted under the supervision of an authorised teacher. Non-compliance with these instructions will invite disciplinary action, the order stated. District elementary education officer Basant Kumar Dhillon confirmed that the

matter is under active review. "At present, we can say that the teachers did make reels, and these were of an entertainment nature. The matter is being investigated. Once the inquiry is completed, a detailed report will be sent to the directorate," he said.

Noida airport inauguration today, flights likely from May as security clearance, tariff approval awaited

NOIDA.(Agency)

Noida International Airport will be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday, but the earliest date for flight operations to begin is likely only by May. The delay is not because of unfinished infrastructure. It is because of final regulatory steps that every airport must clear before airlines can open bookings and begin operations.

The most important of these is the Aerodrome Security Programme (ASP) certification by Bureau of Civil Aviation Security. ASP is the airport's core security framework, laying down how checks will work from entry gates to boarding, and assigning responsibilities to all stakeholders, including the airport operator, airlines, Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) and ground handlers. It also sets out contingency plans to help authorities respond quickly to any security situation.

Shailendra Bhatia, nodal officer for Noida International Airport Ltd, UP govt's special purpose vehicle overseeing the airport project, said ASP clearance is expected shortly. "ASP is an important stage after the aerodrome licence, which was granted to Noida International Airport on March 6. Once that is approved, it will pave the way for commercial flight operations in the next 30 to 35 days. So, it is likely May," he added. Another key step pending is the airport's tariff, which is crucial for airlines. On March 23, Airports Economic Regulatory Authority held a consultation with stakeholders on the tariff and invited feedback till April 17. Only after the tariff is finalised can airlines formally publish routes and open ticket sales, a process that is expected to take about a month. For now, IndiGo, Akasa Air and Air India Express have committed to operate domestic flights from the airport. The initial network is expected to link Noida with major cities such as Mumbai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Chennai, Lucknow and Dehradun, though the final route list will be confirmed after the security clearance comes through.

5 years late, Haryana Rera asks developer to hand over home with 11% interest

Gurgaon.(Agency)

Haryana Real Estate Regulatory Authority (HRera) has directed a developer to hand over possession of flats to allottees along with applicable interest — following a delay of five years. Rera asked Sunrays Heights Private Limited to hand over possession of flats, while hearing a batch of complaints related to delay in an affordable housing project in Sector 63. The complaints, including a lead case filed by Kinshuki Goel, pertain to the project 63 Golf Drive, spread over 5.9 acres. No fixed handover date has been specified in the order.

Allottees alleged that despite paying substantial amounts — in some cases over Rs 13 lakh — possession was not offered even years after the promised timeline. As per records, the due date of possession was March 16, 2021, but neither an occupation certificate was obtained nor possession offered.

The authority, chaired by Arun Kumar, held that under Section 18 of the Real Estate

(Regulation and Development) Act, 2016, an allottee who chooses not to withdraw from the project is "entitled to interest for every month of delay" until possession is handed over. The order clarified that the prescribed rate of interest would be linked to the State Bank of India's marginal cost of lending rate (MCLR) plus 2%. Based on the prevailing MCLR (marginal cost of funds-based lending rate) of 8.80% as of Jan 30, 2026, the applicable interest rate works out to 10.8% per annum.

The authority noted that the core issue across all complaints was the developer's failure to deliver timely possession, in violation of provisions of the Act.

The complainants sought possession along with delay compensation and relief from any additional charges not included in the builder-buyer agreement.

During proceedings, the developer attributed the delay to force majeure conditions, including restrictions on mining activities, shortage of raw materials, environmental regulations and

disruptions caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. The builder also cited delays due to GRAP restrictions and lockdowns, claiming that these factors cumulatively impacted construction timelines.

However, HRera observed that such delays cannot indefinitely deprive homebuyers of their rightful possession.

HRera also emphasised that promoters are obligated to fulfil their commitments under the agreement for sale and cannot shift the burden of delays onto buyers. The authority rejected the developer's contention that buyers had defaulted on payments, noting that such issues do not override statutory obligations to complete and deliver the project.

The ruling reinforces the rights of homebuyers in delayed housing projects and underscores the regulatory body's stance on timely delivery. The authority directed the builder to comply with its obligations and ensure possession is handed over along with due interest, bringing relief to affected allottees.

Birthday party spirals into brawl over DJ song at Faridabad club; FIR lodged against youths for assault

Noida.(Agency)

A birthday celebration at a club in Sector 88 in Faridabad ended in violence after a man, his daughters and their friends were assaulted by a group of youths over a dispute in playing music. An officer said one of the youths, Rishit Chitkara, has been rounded up and further investigation is underway to learn the role of the other accused youths. The complainant, Raman Grover, a resident of Sector 21A, alleged he had booked Vayu Brewery on the night of March 26 to celebrate his elder daughter's birthday. According to his statement, his daughters and her friends requested the DJ to change the song at one point in the evening, which triggered an argument with a woman present there. The argument escalated and the woman slapped his daughter, Grover claimed. "They started abusing and misbehaving with my daughters and their friends over a

simple request to change the song," Grover stated. Around midnight, Grover had to allegedly rush to the club after he received a distress call from his daughter. He claimed that when he reached the



venue and tried to rescue the children, he was attacked by a group of around 10-12 young men, including Rishit Chitkara. "When I tried to save my daughters, they attacked me as well and chased us out of

the premises while assaulting us," he said. Grover further claimed that during the attack, his wallet containing Rs 22,000 and a diamond earring worth approximately Rs 10.5 lakh were snatched. He said club bouncers were also part of the group carrying out the assault on them and accused the club management of negligence. Describing the group, he said each member was heavily intoxicated. "They were under the influence and showed no restraint," he said. She planned the celebration before leaving the country. "The owner's son was present but no one tried to stop the assault or protect us," Grover said. The victim added that his daughter, who is pursuing a finance degree in Canada, was scheduled to return on March 28. Following the incident, the complainant said he managed to take the children to safety and later returned to the spot with police.

No footbridge: Commuters in Gurgaon forced to dash across NH8, risk their lives

Gurgaon.(Agency)

Along NH8, over 700 people every hour attempt what feels less like a commute and more like a race against death. At a stretch of Delhi-Gurgaon Expressway near Binola Industrial Area, every workday begins with a gamble for factory workers, delivery staffers and daily wagers; for some, it ended in tragedy. The daily wagers include those employed at the sprawling warehouse of an e-commerce firm across the highway.

Their only way to reach work is to cross a relentless, high-speed corridor with no safe passage. In 2024 and 2025, 21 road users met with accidents at this very hotspot. Fourteen lost their lives. Among them were eight pedestrians — five in the past year alone — who died while simply trying to get to work or return home. Satbir, a transporter, told TOI, "One of my drivers died last year while crossing here. A foot overbridge (FOB) started but then slowed due to objections. There is an urgent need for this FOB," he said. National Highways

Authority of India (NHAI) proposed the FOB considering the heavy pedestrian movement in the Binola industrial hub.

The Binola FOB is part of a larger Rs 282-crore NHAI project to build nine-foot overbridges along a 59-km stretch between Kherki Daula and Jaisinghpur Khera, including locations such as Shikohpur, Manesar, Rathiwas, Malpura, Jaisinghpur Khera, Sidhrawali, Kharkhara and Khajuri.

"Construction of the FOB at Binola is currently underway and is expected to be completed by the end of April," an NHAI official said. Until then, as the sun rises and sets over NH8, the crossing continues. Workers will pause, judge the speeding traffic and run. And hope they make it across.

"I hold my breath every day," said a local dhaba owner. "We don't know who will survive the crossing." The FOB, meant to be their lifeline, stands unfinished. Its skeletal structure a daily reminder of delayed safety. According to the locals, construction began over a year ago but slowed after objections

from a landowner adjacent to the proposed site, leaving thousands exposed. During construction, the landowner of the property adjacent to the FOB site objected, requesting the structure be shifted to nearby vacant land, citing concerns over access to their property. A detailed audit by the traffic engineering centre (TEC) of Gurgaon traffic police earlier this year found the original location to be both feasible and necessary. Engineers noted that a large number of pedestrians already cross at the same point where the FOB is planned.

They also observed that the landowner retains access from two sides, including a 140-metre stretch sufficient for entry and exit. In contrast, shifting the FOB 35 metres away would cut off the only road access to the vacant land. The audit highlighted multiple hazards compounding the risk. Open drains between the service road and the main carriageway force pedestrians to climb over them before even reaching traffic. Boarding and alighting take place directly on the highway,

with 32 buses and 22 auto-rickshaws stopping every hour, handling around 276 passengers — many of whom are then forced to navigate the dangerous crossing. Every morning and evening, the same scene unfolds.

Workers climb over wide, open drains, gather at the edge of the roaring highway and wait. Minutes stretch endlessly as vehicles whiz past at unforgiving speeds. Then comes the moment of decision: a dash across four lanes, sometimes with children in tow, sometimes burdened with bags, always under pressure.

For those who witness the danger daily, the urgency is deeply personal. "I am here for the past five years and have seen several people, mainly pedestrians, die while crossing the road," said Babu, a biryani seller. "Last year, three women of the same family died in front of my eyes. Many more will die if the bridge is delayed further." Parking and encroachment worsen the situation. Heavy vehicles occupy the minor road, shrinking usable space, while

sidewalks are blocked by parked vehicles and street vendors.

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Grassroots intelligence & public participation strengthen crackdown against drug abuse in Faridkot

The Sikh Times

FARIDKOT, 28 March: Faridkot has emerged as a leading example of the Bhagwant Mann Government's intensified campaign against drug abuse, with the district recording a sharp 37% decline in overall crime and a 97% recovery rate in snatching cases, reflecting the impact of sustained action under the ongoing 'Yudh Nashean Virudh' (war against drugs) and 'Operation Prabar'. The transformation in Faridkot is being driven by a combination of strict enforcement, technology-backed surveillance and deep community engagement, which together have broken the local drug networks and strengthened law and order on the ground. The Bhagwant Mann Government's focused push to dismantle drug ecosystems is now yielding visible results at the district level. Police officials highlighted that regular coordination meetings with Village Defence Committees (VDC), NGOs and social organisations have significantly strengthened grassroots intelligence. This has led to growing public participation, with residents actively sharing information about drug peddlers and anti-social elements, enabling quicker and more targeted police action. Senior Superintendent of Police Pragna Jain, IPS, who is closely supervising the campaign, underlined the

importance of direct citizen engagement, stating, "People have developed strong trust in the police because informers' identities are kept completely confidential

at key locations across Faridkot, significantly enhancing surveillance and response capabilities. In Dhillwan Kalan village, a comprehensive CCTV network

Sukhjeet Singh Dhillwan, Coordinator Yudh Nashean Virudh central Malwa Zone Punjab, said that CCTV monitoring has helped detect suspicious movement linked to drug trafficking, allowing timely police intervention and arrests before crimes could be committed. Civil society representatives also acknowledged the shift, pointing to a visible rise in public confidence and a strong deterrent effect on offenders. Chairman of Sahara Service Society Praveen Kala stated that strict enforcement has dismantled a significant portion of the drug trafficking network in the district, while public cooperation with the police has increased substantially. Officials further added that alongside enforcement, sustained outreach initiatives are being undertaken to build long-term resistance against drug abuse. These include awareness campaigns, coordination with local administration, and community-driven efforts such as environmental initiatives and sapling distribution. With intensified policing, technology integration and strong citizen participation under the Bhagwant Mann Government's 'Yudh Nashean Virudh' campaign, Faridkot is setting a clear benchmark for district-level action, demonstrating how coordinated efforts can decisively weaken drug networks and restore public confidence in law enforcement.



and action is taken promptly. Citizens across age groups are actively supporting the drive." She noted that this trust has become a critical force multiplier in the district's crackdown on drugs and crime. Technology has played a crucial role in this transformation, with CCTV cameras

now covers link roads and nearby highways, with real-time access available to both village authorities and the police, ensuring constant monitoring of suspicious activity. Local residents affirmed the impact of these measures on ground. Village sarpanch Rajwinder Singh &

Act now on petrol, diesel & DAP supply to protect farmers and national food security: CM Mann

Contd.....Front page

Citing operational data, he added, "Till Thursday, 71,000 requests for LPG refilling were received, out of which 69,000 have already been delivered. There is no possibility of any lockdown in the state and everything is functioning smoothly. A total of 1,497 checks have been conducted, during which 301 LPG cylinders were seized." He further stated, "The Punjab Government is committed to ensuring that both agriculture and industry do not face any disruption. A helpline number 01723321001 has been launched for LPG, petrol and diesel-related issues." Highlighting Punjab's role in national food security, the Chief Minister said, "Amidst the ongoing situation, Punjab is ready to provide 41 LMT of wheat currently in its godowns, along with 140 LMT expected this year and 139 LMT of paddy for serving people across the country. The state has always helped the needy and poor. If the country requires this 181 LMT of wheat and 139 LMT of paddy, it can be lifted anytime. Punjab will uphold its glorious tradition to support the nation in this hour of need and no stone will be left unturned for this noble cause." He also welcomed the Centre's move on fuel pricing, stating, "The decision of the Government of India to reduce additional tax on petrol and diesel is a confidence-building measure." Raising further concerns, CM Bhagwant Singh Mann said, "The Union government must ensure regular supply of DAP fertilizer on priority as paddy transplantation in Punjab begins from June 1. The waiting period of 45 days for LPG refills in rural areas should also be reduced to 25 days, at par with urban areas." Referring to his interaction with the Prime Minister, he said, "During the virtual meeting, I flagged all key issues pertaining to Punjab. I urged the Prime Minister to proactively use diplomatic channels so that the country does not face any shortages. Though we claim to be a Vishva Guru, we must ensure that our actions reflect self-reliance and strategic strength in securing essential resources."

AIIMS Delhi surgeons remove 21.8 kg uterine sarcoma tumour in high-risk operation

New Delhi: Doctors at AIIMS Delhi's Dr B R Ambedkar Institute Rotary Cancer Hospital (Dr BRA-IRCH) successfully removed a massive 21.8-kg tumour from a 46-year-old woman diagnosed with advanced uterine sarcoma this week. The Delhi resident, who was also recently diagnosed with diabetes and hypertension, had endured progressive abdominal fullness for four months, followed by severe distension, pain, and functional limitations over the last three months. However, she reported no bowel or

bladder issues. After receiving initial symptomatic treatment, she underwent evaluation and was found to have a gigantic mass filling her entire abdomen and pelvis, according to Dr M D Ray, a professor in the Department of Surgical Oncology at Dr BRA-IRCH. "On examination, we found a tumour measuring approximately 45 cm, occupying the whole abdomen," Dr Ray said. The rapidly growing mass was compressing vital organs like the kidneys and ureters, risking renal failure within a month or

two. It also triggered lower back pain, walking difficulties, and respiratory distress, he told PTI. On March 23, the team

revealed the tumour's origin in the uterus. Surgeons excised the uterus, ovaries, fallopian tubes, and the enormous

operation carried high risks, including potential rupture of major vessels and massive haemorrhage leading to shock, Dr Ray explained. Yet, blood loss was limited to 500 ml, managed with one unit of packed red blood cells (PRBC) intraoperatively. Post-surgery, the patient was shifted to the ICU for close monitoring. Dr Rakesh Garg was the anaesthetist in charge who managed intra op and ICU care properly, Dr Ray said, adding that remarkably, she began walking the very next day and is recovering swiftly. "She is likely to be discharged today," he said. "The take-away is that a massive tumour does not necessarily mean it is inoperable or considered terminal. With expert care and an expert centre, it can be managed effectively," he added.



performed an exploratory laparotomy, which

Man kills wife with gas cylinder in Gurugram

Gurugram: A 22-year-old woman was allegedly beaten to death by her husband in their rented house in Chauma village under Bajghera police station area. The suspect had absconded after the incident, but the police arrested him on Thursday. A murder case was registered against him at Bajghera police station. According to police, the deceased was identified as Gunjan. She lived with her husband Sunil as tenants in Rambilas's house near Chauma railway crossing. Gunjan's room door had been locked since Tuesday night. When it remained closed until Wednesday evening, residents peered through the window and found her body inside. They then informed the police. The police arrived at the scene, took custody of the body, and questioned the landlord. He said the couple had rented the house several months earlier. Her husband, Sunil Kumar, a labourer, had absconded since the incident. An FIR was registered, and the suspect husband—identified as Sunil (22), from village Kancha, district Samastipur, Bihar—was arrested. "Police interrogation revealed that the accused and his wife often quarrelled. On the night of March 23, Sunil argued with Gunjan and killed her by striking her with a mini gas cylinder. We are questioning him further," said the Gurugram police spokesperson.

Protesters flag concerns over Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Amendment Bill

New Delhi: Transgender community members, activists, and students protested at Jantar Mantar on Thursday against the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Amendment Bill, claiming it threatens their rights, dignity, and autonomy. The demonstration occurs as the Bill, passed by Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, awaits the President's assent. Protesters fear amendments will dilute safeguards and undermine self-identification, a core community demand. Carrying placards



ards and chanting slogans, participants decried the Bill's narrow, institutional approach to identity. Many warned it imposes medical or bureaucratic scrutiny on transgender individuals. One protester called the legislation a "limited and outdated understanding" of transgender experiences, insisting identity defies documentation or official approval. Another said it grants authorities undue power, adding: "Who we are should not depend on procedures or external validation." Demonstrators stressed amendments could marginalise further by barring rights access and recognition. They urged the government to reconsider and consult transgender voices widely. Jantar Mantar drew a strong crowd, reflecting community unease over the Bill's direction. Protesters insisted legislation must be inclusive, respectful, and grounded in lived realities. The protest underscores demands for equality, dignity, and self-identification rights, pressing authorities for a sensitive, consultative approach.

Engage in public service, youth urged at Yuva Connect event

New Delhi: The Indraprastha Institute of Information Technology Delhi (IIIT-Delhi) hosted the Viksit Bharat Yuva Connect Programme (VBVCP) 2026 on Thursday, bringing together students, faculty and young changemakers to discuss leadership and nation building. Organised by the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports through MY Bharat, the programme is part of a national initiative aimed at connecting youth with India's developmental vision of Viksit Bharat@2047. The session focused on encouraging dialogue around the role of young people in shaping the country's future. The highlight of the event was an interactive session by youth icon Vanaj Vidyaa, who secured All India Rank 278 in the UPSC Civil Services Examination 2025 and is also a practicing Supreme Court advocate. Addressing students, he spoke about his journey and the importance of collective responsibility in building an inclusive nation. He said, "Everybody has to equally contribute to shape a progressive and inclusive nation. We will need more clarity of purpose and ethical leadership for this purpose."

NAME CHANGE

I, AV SANDHYA mother of JC-879999L, Rank-NB SUB, Name-SUMESH AV residing at VILL-CHERUTHAZHAM, PO-VILAYAN-CODE, TEH. PANYANUR, DISTT-KANNUR, KERALA-670504, have changed my name from AV SANDHYA to AVARONTHAN VEETIL SATHAKUMARI for all future purposes, in my son's service record my date of birth wrongly mentioned as 01/07/1963 instead of my correct date of birth as 23/11/1959. Vide Affidavit dated 28/03/2026 before Notary Public Delhi.

NAME CHANGE

I, SREE LAKSHMI wife of JC-340599A, Rank-SUB, Name-BASHYAM KIRAN MADHAV presently residing at VILL-RUDRAVARAM, PO-JUTTUR, TEHSIL-ATMAKUR, DISTT-NANDYAL, ANDHRA PRADESH-518501, have changed my name from SREE LAKSHMI to BASHYAM SREE LAKSHMI for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 28/03/2026 before Notary Public Delhi.

NAME CHANGE

I, MOHAMMAD NASEER S/O MOHAMMAD SULEMAN residing at B-97 JOSHI COLONY PATPAR-GANJ, I P EXTENSION SHANKARPUR DELHI-110092 have changed my name to MOHD NASEER for all future purpose.

NAME CHANGE

I, PREM CHANDER JOSHI S/O K C JOSHI residing at H NO-45-C, STREET NO-10, NEW GOVIND PURA, KRISHNA NAGAR, SHAH-DARA, DELHI-110051 have changed my name to PREM JOSHI for all future purpose.

NAME CHANGE

I, MOHAMMAD NASEER S/O MOHAMMAD SULEMAN residing at B-97 JOSHI COLONY PATPAR-GANJ, I P EXTENSION SHANKARPUR DELHI-110092 have changed my name to MOHD NASEER for all future purpose.

NAME CHANGE

I, NANDANI D/O SURESH CHOUHARY residing at N-249/11 SAURABH VIHAR BADARPUR, JAIT PUR, DELHI-110044 have changed my name to NANDANI CHAUDHARY for all future purpose.

Public Notice

I Monika D/O SH. Ishwar Singh HN. 671, ward no.30 kakroi road, Sonapat, Haryana 131001. UNDERTAKE THAT I MONIKA CHANGE MY NAME Aditya AND GENDER AS MALE. I MONIKA HENCEFORTH BE KNOWN AS ADITYA S/O ISHWAR SINGH. THE ABOVE STATEMENT MADE BY ME IS TRUE AND 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 AS FOR ANY CONSEQUENCES ARISING THEREFROM.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that PNB Housing Finance Ltd., having its branch office at Laxmi Nagar, New Delhi, intends to extend a financial facility to Mr. Arpit Aggarwal, against the security of Built-up Single Storey Property bearing No. J-295/A, having land area measuring 50 Sq. Yds. (i.e., 41.80 Sq. Mts.) Out of Khassa No. 800, situated at Village Ghonda Gujran Khadar in the abadi of Gali No. 1, Near 3rd Pusta, Kartar Nagar, Ilaqa Shahdara, Delhi-110053. The Said Property was owned by Mr. Harsaran Sharma, who derived title thereto by virtue of Notarized General Power of Attorney dated 05.12.1989 and Notarized Agreement to Sell dated 05.12.1989, executed by Mr. Kishori Lal. Mr. Harsaran Sharma expired intestate on 17.03.2018, leaving behind the following legal heirs: - 1) Mr. Manoj Kumar Sharma (Son), 2) Mr. Devesh Sharma (Son), 3) Mrs. Mamta Sharma (Daughter) & 4) Mrs. Santosh Devi (Wife). The present Public Notice is being issued to invite claims and objections, if any, and to ascertain the legal heirs of Late Mr. Harsaran Sharma in respect of the Said Property. Any person(s) having any right, title, interest, claim, or objection in respect of the Said Property, or claiming to be a legal heir of Mr. Harsaran Sharma, is hereby called upon to submit their claim along with supporting documentary evidence within 7 days from the date of publication of this Notice to Adv. Rishi Maheshwari (Mobile: +91-9340118309). In case no claim or objection is received within the stipulated period, it shall be presumed that no person has any claim or objection in respect of the Said Property, and PNB Housing Finance Ltd., shall proceed with the proposed financial facility at its own risk and responsibility, without any further reference.

NAME CHANGE

I, SREE LAKSHMI wife of JC-340599A, Rank-SUB, Name-BASHYAM KIRAN MADHAV presently residing at VILL-RUDRAVARAM, PO-JUTTUR, TEHSIL-ATMAKUR, DISTT-NANDYAL, ANDHRA PRADESH-518501, have changed my name from SREE LAKSHMI to BASHYAM SREE LAKSHMI for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 28/03/2026 before Notary Public Delhi.

NAME CHANGE

I, MOHAMMAD NASEER S/O MOHAMMAD SULEMAN residing at B-97 JOSHI COLONY PATPAR-GANJ, I P EXTENSION SHANKARPUR DELHI-110092 have changed my name to MOHD NASEER for all future purpose.

Painter beats 70-year-old man to death over minor dispute, held

New Delhi: In a shocking incident, a painter beats a 70-year-old man to death over a minor altercation in Dundaheera village under the Udyog Vihar police station. The Gurugram police arrested the accused painter. The police received information about a fight in Dundaheera village. A police team reached the spot, where a blood-stained stone was found lying on the street and the injured person was already taken to the hospital. The police team then reached the hospital where the son of the injured filed a complaint. Son of the injured stated that at around 4:00 pm, he received a call from a villager informing him that his father had gotten into a fight with a man named Monu near the liquor shop. During the altercation, Monu pushed his father Jagdish (70), a resident of Dundaheera village to the ground. He also kicked and punched him and hit him in the chest and face with a large stone. Following the complaint, an FIR was registered under relevant Sections of the BNS at the Udyog Vihar police station. In the late night on Monday, Jagdish succumbed to his injuries during the treatment. After this the police added the Section of murder in the FIR and arrested the accused painter Monu (27), a native of Bulandshahar in Uttar Pradesh on Tuesday. "During interrogation, the accused revealed that he works as a painter. On Monday, he had an argument with Jagdish over something, which led to his murder. The matter is under investigation and we are questioning the accused," said a spokesperson of the Gurugram police.

Public Notice

I Karishma D/O Harilal R/O house no.510, gali no.7,vijay Nagar, Ballabgarh, PO:Ballabgarh, DIST :Faridabad ,Haryana-121004 UNDERTAKE THAT I Karishma CHANGE MY NAME Kyanish Rajput AND GENDER AS MALE. I Karishma HENCEFORTH BE KNOWN AS Kyanish Rajput S/O Harilal. THE ABOVE STATEMENT MADE BY ME IS TRUE AND 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 AS FOR ANY CONSEQUENCES ARISING THEREFROM.

NAME CHANGE

I Ankit Sharma S/o Ratish Sharma R/o B-43, Third Floor, Phase-1, Ashok Vihar, North West Delhi, Delhi-110052 have changed the name of my minor Daughter Aadya Sharma aged 3 years and she shall hereafter be known as ANVIKA Sharma.

NAME CHANGE

I hitherto known as Shaan Grover S/o Sandeep Kumar Grover R/o 907, B1 Best Residency, Shri Samati, CGHS, Plot No-1 Sector-19B, Dwarka Dwarka Sector 19, Dwarka Sec-6 Delhi Cantonment South West Delhi Delhi-110075 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Shaan R Grover.

KIND ATTENTION RAIL PASSENGERS!

INTRODUCTION OF NEW WEEKLY EXPRESS TRAIN BETWEEN ANAND VIHAR (T) - PURULIA JN.-ANAND VIHAR (T)

It is notified for the information of all concerned that Railways will introduce the regular run of Train No. 14022/14021 New Express Train (Weekly) between Anand Vihar (T) - Purulia Jn. - Anand Vihar (T) stations as per following, time-table & stoppages:-

Train No. 14022/14021 Anand Vihar (T) - Purulia Jn. - Anand Vihar (T) Express (Weekly)					
Train No. 14022	STATIONS		Train No. 14021		
ARR.	DEP.		ARR.	DEP.	
--	05:00	Anand Vihar (T)	23:10	--	
08:15	08:25	Moradabad	19:38	19:48	
10:10	10:15	Bareilly Jn.	17:46	17:48	
14:20	14:30	Lucknow Jn.	13:05	13:15	
16:25	16:30	Ayodhya Cantt	10:25	10:30	
21:40	21:50	Varanasi Jn.	07:10	07:15	
22:40	22:45	Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn.	05:40	05:45	
23:24	23:26	Bhabua Road	04:35	04:37	
23:53	23:55	Sasaram	03:52	03:54	
00:08	00:10	Dehri-on-Son	03:30	03:32	
00:55	00:57	Japla	02:15	02:17	
02:30	02:35	Garwa Road Jn.	01:40	01:45	
03:13	03:15	Daltonganj	00:30	00:32	
03:43	03:45	Barwadih Jn.	00:01	00:03	
04:20	04:22	Latehar	22:55	22:57	
05:15	05:17	Tori	22:15	22:17	
06:00	06:02	Lohardaga	21:10	21:12	
07:20	07:30	Ranchi	19:35	19:45	
08:40	08:42	Muri	18:18	18:20	
10:40	--	Purulia Jn.	--	17:00	

Days of Run : 14022 Ex Anand Vihar (T) from 02.04.2026 (every Thursday) and 14021 Purulia Jn. from 03.04.2026 (every Friday). Accommodation: 1AC, AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & General.

For any kind of information and detailed time-table etc. passengers are requested to contact RailMaddad Helpline No. 139 or visit Indian Railways website <https://enquiry.indianrail.gov.in> or NTES App.

Please join us on **NORTHERN RAILWAY** Your Convenience-Our Concern Visit us at: www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

NAME CHANGE

I hitherto known as SONAM W/O ANIL R/O A-4/113, NAND NAGRI, NORTH EAST DELHI, DELHI-110093 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as PRERNA. It is certified that I have complied with other legal requirements in this connection.

NAME CHANGE

I Pinki D/o Shriam Sharma and W/o Shiv Kumar R/O RZ-39B, A1, B-Block, Street No-6, Kailashpur, Palam, New Delhi-110045 have changed my name to Pinki Sharma for future references.

NAME CHANGE

I, Musina alias Musina Parveen W/o Mohd Ravi and D/o Idrees R/o Plot No. 72, G/F, Block R-3 A-2, Mohan Garden, Uttam Nagar, Delhi-110059 have declared that mine, my husband and my father's correct name is Musina, Mohd Ravi and Idrees, and my correct DOB is 01/01/1974, for all purpose in future.

NAME CHANGE

I, Mohd Zahid Ali S/o, Kurban Ali R/o. H.No.E-574, Gali No-11, Nehru Vihar Mustafabad Delhi-110094 have changed my name to Zahid Ali for all future purposes

NAME CHANGE

I, Neeraj Jain R/o. Flat No-164, 7th Floor, Vasundhara Apartment Sector-7, Rohini Delhi-110085 have changed the name of my minor Son's from Armaan Jain to Arman Jain for all future purpose.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that PNB Housing Finance Limited, having its Branch Office at Sonapat Haryana, proposes to extend a loan facility to Mr. Rohit against the security of DDA Built-up Flat bearing No. 86-A on Ground Floor, Category Janta, Block and Pocket AF, having plinth to area measuring 25Sq.Mts. situated at Shalimar Bagh, Delhi-110088; (hereinafter referred to as the "Said Property"). The Said Property was originally owned by Mr. Madan Lal by virtue of a Conveyance Deed dated 24.03.2014, duly registered as Document No. 4474, in Book No. 1, Volume No. 5132, Page No. 28 to 30 on 25.03.2014, duly registered in Sub Registrar VII Delhi, executed by the President of India through DDA. Mr. MadanLal died intestate, leaving behind the following legal heirs:- 1) Mr. Deepak(Son), 2) Mrs. Monika (Daughter), 3) Mrs. Sonia (Daughter), 4) Mrs. Sunita (Daughter), 5) Mrs. Sushila (Wife) & 6) Mr. Vikas (Son). The present Public Notice is being issued to invite claims and objections, if any, and to ascertain the legal heirs of Late Mr. Madan Lal in respect of the Said Property. Any person(s) having any right, title, interest, claim, or objection in respect of the Said Property, or claiming to be a legal heir of Mr. Madan Lal, is hereby called upon to submit their claim along with supporting documentary evidence within 07 days from the date of publication of this Notice to Adv. Rishi Maheshwari (Mobile: +91-9340118309). In case no claim or objection is received within the stipulated period, it shall be presumed that no person has any claim or objection in respect of the Said Property, and PNB Housing Finance Limited, shall proceed with the proposed financial facility at its own risk and responsibility, without any further reference.

NEWS BOX

Five Indians injured after fire breaks out at UAE industrial unit following

World (Agency)

UAE authorities said fire broke out early Saturday at an industrial zone following a missile and drone attack from Iran, leaving five people with injuries. A statement released by government media office said "the incident has resulted in injuries ranging from moderate to minor sustained by five individuals of Indian nationality". The United Arab Emirates' defence ministry said air defences were responding to incoming cruise missiles and drones fired by Iran, as Tehran pressed strikes in the Gulf a month into the regional war. The Abu Dhabi government media office said in a statement posted online that authorities were dealing with two fires in the area of the emirate's Khalifa Economic Zones. The statement said the fires had broken out due to falling debris from a "successful interception" of a ballistic missile. 8io

"Epstein Island" Tag Appears On White House Number Due To Google Glitch

World.(Agency)

The official phone number of the White House appeared on some Android phones as "Epstein Island" for a brief period before Google fixed it, The Washington Post reported. It came to light when The Post reporters called the Oval Office this week.

The calls reached the correct number, but the unusual label appeared on the screen instead of the "White House". The issue affected mainly Android devices, particularly Google Pixel phones, while iPhone users saw no name at all. "It was not a wrong number. That's what the phone displayed when some Washington Post journalists called the White House switchboard," The Post reported. Soon after, the American daily reported the issue to Google. A company spokesperson, Matthew Flegal, stated that it originated from a "fake edit" someone had made in Google Maps. This incorrect information briefly appeared in the call ID feature of some Android phones. Google confirmed the error had been corrected, and the White House now appeared correctly on all devices. Calls to the number now show only the phone number, with no name attached. Flegal added that the edit violated Google's policies, and the user responsible had been blocked from making further edits.

Mike Blumenthal, an expert who helps businesses manage their Google listings, has long criticised Google for how easy it is for someone to change business names or phone numbers in Google's systems, including Google search, Google Maps, and the caller ID feature on phones. It's unclear how long the 'Epstein Island' name was attached to the White House switchboard number or how many callers may have seen it," he told the outlet. The White House has faced several questions about Trump's past friendship with Jeffrey Epstein, who died by suicide in 2019 in federal custody at a Manhattan jail. Epstein had been charged with sex trafficking of minor girls.

"Either Dead Or In Very Bad Shape": Trump On Mojtaba Khamenei

World.(Agency)

US President Donald Trump has claimed that Iran's top leadership has been wiped out and suggested that the country no longer has a functioning supreme leader, saying even Ayatollah Mojtaba Khamenei may be dead or wounded. Trump said US military action had destroyed Iran's leadership and military power, leaving its highest authority effectively eliminated.

Speaking about the impact of American military action, Trump said Iran's leadership and military power had been destroyed. He claimed that even the country's highest authority no longer existed. "No, their leaders are dead. Their supreme leader is no longer supreme. He's dead. The son is either dead or in very bad shape because nobody's heard from him," Trump said. Trump made these remarks during an address at the Future Investment Initiative Priority Summit in Miami, where he also gave an assessment of the war and described Iran as being weakened by US operations. He said the US forces had gone far beyond expectations in dismantling Iran's military capabilities. "Iran's navy is gone. It's all sunk at the bottom of the gulf... Their air force is totally, completely dead... Their anti-aircraft and communications capabilities are totally dismantled and dead," Trump said.

"We're crushing Iran's weapons stockpiles, destroying their missiles and drone factories at levels nobody ever thought were possible, and turning their defense industrial base into nothing," he added.

Follow LIVE Updates

After Iran's supreme leader Ali Khamenei was killed in strikes on February 28, Tehran announced that his son, Ayatollah Mojtaba Khamenei, had been named as his successor. However, questions remain over Iran's leadership, as Mojtaba Khamenei has not been seen publicly since being named the new supreme leader. US officials have said he was wounded during the war, while Iran's Guard and other military units appear to be operating without any central command. Earlier also, Trump had expressed uncertainty about Mojtaba Khamenei's condition. On March 16, he said it was unclear whether Iran's new leader was still alive after reports that he had been injured in an air strike. "We don't know if he's dead or not. I will say that nobody has seen him, which is unusual," Trump had said at an event at the White House. Meanwhile, Trump further claimed that Iran was now seeking talks and pushing for a deal. "They are negotiating. They are begging to make a deal," he said during his Miami speech.

Canada passes new legislation that strengthens asylum rules; immigration system and border security

Under the new law, the federal government can share certain immigration-related information with provinces and territories.

LOS ANGELES. (Agency)

The Canadian government has passed a new law to tighten its asylum rules, allowing authorities to stop accepting, suspend, or terminate the processing of immigration applications. The law also gives powers to suspend, cancel, or change immigration documents such as work permits, study permits, temporary resident visas, and permanent resident visas, and to impose or modify conditions on temporary residents. On March 26, Canada's Immigration System and Borders Act (Bill C-12) received Royal Assent and has now come into effect. The law aims to strengthen the country's immigration and asylum systems and

provide law enforcement agencies with more tools to secure borders, combat transnational organized crime, illegal fentanyl, and illicit financing.

Under the new law, the federal government can share certain immigration-related information with provinces and territories. This is meant to improve coordination between different levels of government, including access to services and program management. Information sharing will take place through formal agreements and must follow privacy rules. The law also gives the government authority to manage immigration application processing in certain situations. These include cases involving system integrity concerns, public health or safety risks, or technical issues. Authorities may temporarily pause or limit the processing of some applications or documents in such cases. Indian nationals make up the largest group of asylum seekers in Canada. According to the Immigration and Refugee Board (IRB) of Canada, more than 45,000 asylum claims have been made by Indian nationals since



December 2012. In the first six months of last year alone, nearly 9,770 refugee claims were filed by Indian citizens. Most of these claims are reportedly from Punjab and are often linked to political or security concerns. Under the new rules, individuals who file an asylum claim more than one year after their first entry into Canada on or after June 24, 2020, will usually not have their cases referred to the Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada (IRB) for a full hearing. "The asylum claims made more than one year after someone's first entry into Canada after June 24, 2020, would not be referred to IRB regardless of whether

the person has since left and returned. Also Asylum claims from people who enter Canada between ports of entry along the Canada-US land border and who make a claim after 14 days would not be referred to the IRB," it states.

The government said these new eligibility requirements will reduce pressure on the asylum system, protect it from sudden increases in claims, close loopholes, and discourage people from using asylum claims as a shortcut to regular immigration pathways. "Guidance will be provided to officers to consider the individual circumstances of unaccompanied minors, given their lack of legal guardianship. People who are affected by these new rules will still have access to a pre-removal risk assessment (PRRA) to prevent them from being sent back to a country where they face risks like persecution, torture or other harm," it added. "With the passage of Bill C-12, we're strengthening the practical tools that keep our immigration and asylum systems fair, efficient and working as intended."

Millions expected to hit US streets in protest against Trump's war and policies

UNITED STATES. (Agency)

Massive nationwide protests against US President Donald Trump are expected Saturday as millions of people vent fury over what they see as his authoritarian bent and other forms of cruel, law-trampling governance.

It is the third time in less than a year that Americans will take to the streets as part of a grassroots movement called "No Kings," the most vocal and visual conduit for opposition to Trump since he began his second term in January 2025. And now they have something new to fume over -- the war in Iran that Trump launched alongside Israel, with ever-shifting goals and timelines for completion. The first such nationwide protest day came in June on Trump's 79th birthday and coincided with a military parade in Washington that he insisted on holding. Several million people turned out, from New York to San Francisco and many places in between. The second "No Kings" day in October drew an estimated seven million protesters, according to organizers.

The goal now is to bring out even more people on Saturday, as Trump's approval rating is low at around 40

percent and midterm elections loom in November, when Trump's Republicans could lose control of both chambers. Just as Trump is worshipped by many in his "Make America Great Again" movement, on the other side of



America's wide political chasm he is disliked or even loathed with equal passion. Trump foes bemoan his penchant for ruling by executive decree, his use of the Justice Department to prosecute opponents, his embrace of fossil fuels and climate change denial even as the planet warms, his fight against racial and gender diversity programs, and his newfound taste for flexing US military power after campaigning as a man of peace.

"Since the last time we marched, this administration has dragged us deeper into war," said Naveed Shah of

Common Defense, a veterans association that belongs to the "No Kings" movement. "At home, we've watched citizens killed in the streets by militarized forces. We've seen families torn apart and immigrant communities targeted. All of it done in the name of one man trying to rule like a king," Shah said. Springsteen in Minneapolis -Organizers say more than 3,000 rallies are planned, an increase from the last protest day, in major cities coast to coast and in suburbs and rural areas -- even in the Alaskan town of Kotzebue, above the Arctic circle.

Minnesota will be a key focal point, returning to the limelight months after becoming ground zero for the national debate over Trump's violent immigration crackdown. Legendary rocker Bruce Springsteen, a fierce critic of the president, is scheduled to perform in St. Paul, the capital of the northern state, his song "Streets of Minneapolis." It is a ballad he wrote and recorded in the space of 24 hours in memory of Renee Good and Alex Pretti, Americans shot and killed by federal agents during protests in frigid January weather against Trump's immigration offensive.

1 Month On, Where US-Israel War On Iran Stands And What It Cost So Far

World.(Agency)

What the US and Israel thought would be a short-term aerial bombardment of Iran to take out the top leadership and make way for a more Western-friendly establishment has landed them in choppy waters.

Despite the assassination of Iran's Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Khamenei, and other top military and intelligence officials, Tehran still shows no signs of buckling under pressure.

How It Unfolded

On February 28, Washington and Tel Aviv launched air strikes on Tehran, Minab and a number of other cities. The attacks have continued unabated, killing about 1,900 people, including 175 school girls, and displacing 3.2 million people. Iran's response was swift and wide-ranging. Missiles and drones were launched at Israel and Gulf nations, including Kuwait, the UAE, Saudi Arabia and Jordan. In the UAE, intercepted debris in Abu Dhabi killed two, while Kuwait's Shuwaikh Port was hit. US Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth, in a recent briefing, claimed that America has destroyed more than 10,000 targets that included underground facilities and buildings critical to Iran's defence industrial base and sunk over 150 Iranian naval vessels. Over 4,500 people, including 1,900 in Iran, have been killed across more than a dozen countries involved since February 28. The Independent reported. Two major steel plants in Iran were damaged in airstrikes, according to Iranian media. It is being reported that key sites linked to Iran's nuclear programme were also targeted. Former Pentagon official Elaine McCusker has estimated that battle damage and replacement of losses in the first three weeks alone could cost the US between \$1.4 billion and \$2.9 billion. Beyond Iran, the conflict has triggered clashes between Israel and Hezbollah that have impacted thousands in Lebanon. Over 1,100 people have been killed there and millions displaced, as per The Independent.

Economic Pressure Point
Despite being under heavy bombardment, Iran has managed to exert global pressure through its control of the Strait of Hormuz, a route that carries nearly 20 per cent of the world's oil. By blocking ships linked to its rivals, Iran has disrupted the global oil supply, which has driven crude prices higher.
Where Things Stand Now
US President Donald Trump has delayed further strikes on Iran's energy infrastructure by 10 days, saying peace talks are "going very well."
Iran has rejected US proposals as "one-sided and unfair" and has put forward its own non-negotiable demands that include sovereignty over the Strait of Hormuz and war reparations.

US Woman Awarded Rs 132 Crore After Eating Ice Cream With Nails, Metal Shards

HANOI.(Agency)

A US woman has been awarded Rs 132 crore (\$14 million) in damages by a court jury after she ate an ice cream cone containing nails and other metal fragments. The Brevard County court found Bruster's Real Ice Cream liable for serving the contaminated dessert to Brandy Buckley, which led to serious medical complications for the Florida resident. The lawsuit was originally filed in 2019, but the case went to trial earlier this month. Buckley went to the ice cream shop in Palm Bay with her two children to get ice cream cones on September 11, 2018. She was eating a waffle cone with butter pecan ice

cream when she noticed something wrong. As per her attorneys, Buckley swallowed some of the metal pieces, which caused internal injuries. "She took a big bite of it and swallowed it quickly. She felt something but thought it was pecans," Scott Alpizar, the lead attorney in the case was quoted as saying by Florida Today. Buckley ended up going to the hospital, where X-ray tests showed she had ingested metals along with at least one nail. Surgery was performed to remove the foreign objects from the body, but she continued to have health problems as not all of the metal was removed. "It's really hard to understand how metal

could have ended up in the ice cream. No matter how much trust you have in national brands, mistakes happen. You just need to be careful," said Scott. The woman's attorneys also submitted photos of the ice cream cone remnant and a nail in front of the jurors who ended up delivering the judgment in favour of the mother of two. This case highlights the critical importance of food safety and the responsibility that both local operators and national brands have to protect consumers," said Scott. John Alpizar, the other attorney representing Buckley, said his client was grateful to the jury for fulfilling their civic duty.

Prime Minister To Ouster To Arrest: Rise And Fall Of KP Sharma Oli

World.(Agency)

Tough-talking Nepali leader Khadga Prasad Sharma Oli spent decades in communist politics and served as prime minister four times before he was ousted in 2025 by deadly youth protests.

He was arrested on Saturday morning, one day after the country's new prime minister took office, following the defeat of the 74-year-old's bid for a political comeback in elections earlier this month. Oli, leader of the Communist Party of Nepal-United Marxist Leninist (CPN-UML), painted the polls during campaigning as a "competition between those who burn the country and those who build it".

He suffered a decisive defeat.

Oli was detained by police after a government-backed commission recommended his prosecution for his alleged role in the September violence that killed at least 77 people. He has previously denied responsibility or that he ordered the police to open fire.

'No effort'

The protests were triggered by the Oli

government's brief ban on social media, but were driven by widespread frustration over economic stagnation and entrenched corruption. He quit as premier as mobs torched his house, parliament and government offices. In his resignation letter, Oli said he hoped stepping down would help "move towards a political solution and the resolution of the problems". In January, he gave a statement to a commission established by the interim government to investigate the deadly crackdown on the youth-led uprising.

Oli had denied he had told the police to open fire on protesters. "I did not give any orders to shoot," he said, in an audio statement posted on his social media accounts in January. Instead, he has blamed "infiltrators" or "anarchic forces" for igniting violence -- without giving further details. "The children were led to such a point where the law itself orders shooting," he added. The commission report said Oli had held responsibility as the government's head.

The commission report said that it was "not established that there was an order to shoot", but said that "no effort was made to stop or control the firing". Authoritarian streak Political journalist Binu Subedi said



Oli had an authoritarian streak, and considered his word as "final", rarely accepting criticism or suggestions.

Often known by his first initials "KP", Oli spent years cultivating a cult-like image, with life-size cutouts and banners of "KP

Ba (father), we love you" at rallies.

Oli's political career stretches nearly six decades, a period that saw a decade-long civil war and Nepal's 2008 abolition of its monarchy. Drawn into underground communist politics as a teenager, he was 21 when arrested in 1973 for campaigning to overthrow the king. "I was sentenced to harsh imprisonment for 14 years, with four years of solitary confinement", he wrote in a book of selected speeches. He studied and wrote poetry in detention, penning his verses on cigarette boxes when he couldn't access paper. "My crime was that I fought against the autocratic regime," Oli added. "But this never deterred me; instead, it emboldened me to continue the struggle."

After his release in 1987, he joined the CPN-UML and rose through the ranks, winning a parliamentary seat. He first became prime minister in 2015, before being re-elected in 2018 and reappointed briefly in 2021 in Nepal's often turbulent parliament.

NEWS BOX

Educationists call for two-language policy after Karnataka's SSLC grading decision

BENGALURU.(Agency)
Soon after the Department of School Education and Literacy (DSEL) announced grades for Third Language exams instead of marks for SSLC students, most of the academicians have welcomed the move. They advised the department to take necessary steps in this regard considering various factors like Urdu medium schools, total number of schools teaching Kannada as third language in the state and other reasons. They also urged the state government to implement the State Education Policy from the next academic year, so that these confusions can be avoided. The SEP draft policy provides for implementation of two language policy focusing on Kannada or the mother tongue and English languages. Kannada Development Authority Chairman Dr Purushottam Bilimale has welcomed the decision.

He said, "This decision complements the bilingual policy advocated in the SEP and will reduce unnecessary language pressure on students and also promote the growth of the Kannada language." Bilimale said this decision is an effective step towards making the state's education system Kannada-friendly.

However, Prof Venugopal KR, former Vice-Chancellor, Bangalore University, said, "The government must not conduct state-level board exams for third language if they have decided to grade it. For instance, in the higher education system, we have some subjects that we call audit subjects. Such subjects are not considered for total marks. Hence, students are given some assignments or internal tests instead of conducting exams."

Mandya district emerges hub of communal clashes, witnesses 34 of 70 cases in Karnataka

MYSURU.(Agency)
Mandya, the sugar bowl of Karnataka, is witnessing an erosion of its long-standing tradition of communal harmony. Of the 70 cases registered across the state in connection with communal clashes, including those during the Ganesh festival, 34 cases (48.57%) were reported from Mandya district. The data was a reply to a question asked by MLC Madhu G Madegowda in the Council to Home Minister Dr G Parameshwara in the recent legislature session.

Traditionally an agrarian region, Mandya has been known for peaceful coexistence, with people from different religions working together in agriculture. However, in recent years, the entry of communal politics into rural pockets has led to growing social and religious polarisation, resulting in clashes between groups.

The annual Sankeertana Yatra organised by Hindu groups in Srirangapatna tend to be a flash point. The hoisting of a Hanuman flag in Keragodu village had triggered widespread unrest across the district.

The situation deteriorated with communal clashes in Nagamangala taluk during a Ganesha procession, followed by incidents of stone-pelting and violence during a Ganesh idol procession in Maddur taluk. These incidents intensified tensions district-wide. In 2024, a total of 24 cases were registered in Nagamangala, while Maddur police registered 10 cases in 2025. In response to the rising number of communal incidents, a Special Action Force (SAF) has been constituted in Mandya district. According to a senior police officer, the SAF was established following an order issued on May 28, 2025, as part of a broader state-level initiative.

Over 22 lakh cases pending in Karnataka courts

SHIVAMOGGA.(Agency)
Karnataka's subordinate courts have 22,61,280 pending cases, ranking the state sixth in the country. The Karnataka High Court has an additional 3,31,468 cases waiting, making it the seventh most burdened high court in India.

Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Law and Justice Arjun Ram Meghwal, replying to an unstarred question from Davanagere MP Dr Prabha Mallikarjun in the Lok Sabha at the ongoing budget session of Parliament, said case disposal remains the judiciary's domain, but the government is committed to supporting faster justice delivery.

The figures, drawn from the National Judicial Data Grid and current as of March 23, placed the national subordinate court backlog at over 4.86 crore cases. High courts together carry 63,95,572 pending cases, and the Supreme Court 92,782. Uttar Pradesh leads all states with over 1.19 crore pending cases in subordinate courts. Maharashtra 59.61 lakh cases, West Bengal with 39.22 lakh, Bihar with 37.09 lakh and Rajasthan with 25.96 lakh are ahead of Karnataka.

The minister pointed to Phase III of the e-Courts Mission Mode Project, running from 2023 to 2027 with an allocation of Rs 7,210 crore, as its primary intervention. Over 660 crore pages of court records have been digitised, 2,444 eSewaKendras established and over 3.97 crore hearings conducted through video-conferencing.

5 killed after tourist bus loses control, crashes into huge rock in Odisha

The tourist bus with 40 passengers lost control, hit a rock and overturned, killing at least five.

Odisha.(Agency)
At least five people, including four women, were killed and more than 20 others injured after a tourist bus lost control and crashed into a large roadside rock in Odisha's Nayagarh district late on Friday night, police said. The accident occurred when the private bus was carrying over 40 passengers from Berhampur to Harishankar on an excursion when the driver allegedly lost control of the vehicle. After ramming into a huge rock on the roadside, the vehicle overturned. The victims include the driver and four passengers, identified as Hari Patra, Laxmi Patra, Suprabha Sahu and Sumati Sahu – all from Berhampur. The impact of the crash was severe, throwing several passengers out of the vehicle, while more than 10 people were trapped beneath the mangled bus. Rescue teams from nearby police stations, along with fire services



personnel and ambulances, rushed to the spot and launched a major rescue operation. Those trapped inside the wreckage were rescued using gas cutters. The injured were initially shifted to a nearby hospital, and around 15 critically injured passengers were later referred to the District Headquarters Hospital for advanced medical care. Police said further investigation into the incident is underway.

Set up control rooms to ensure accurate information flow: Saini on fuel supply

Chandigarh.(Agency)
Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini Friday chaired a late night meeting with the Deputy Commissioners, Superintendents of Police and senior officials via video conferencing and assessed the situation regarding the fuel supply situation.

According to a government spokesperson, Saini directed the officials that "control rooms be established in every district to provide verified updates to the public at regular intervals... The move is aimed at curbing misinformation and preventing panic among citizens."

The CM also instructed the district administrations and all the concerned departments' heads to take immediate steps to counter public apprehensions regarding the fuel availability. Saini also directed the officials to maintain continuous coordination with oil and gas companies. "Administrative Secretaries have been assigned to oversee monitoring efforts across districts, while local officials have been asked to stay in regular contact and provide timely updates. CM also

urged district administrations to discourage unnecessary bulk purchasing and stockpiling of fuel and LPG," the spokesperson added. He reassured citizens that adequate supplies are available and that access to essential



commodities will remain uninterrupted. The Chief Minister also ordered prompt action against those responsible for spreading rumours and 'misinformation'. He stressed that ensuring the flow of accurate information is essential to maintaining public confidence and order. "Referring to the ongoing harvesting season, he noted that diesel consumption typically rises during this period. Officials have also been

asked to engage with farmer organisations, village panchayats... to reassure them of uninterrupted diesel availability... Power Department has been directed to ensure uninterrupted electricity supply..." the spokesperson said.

The CM also said the state has operationalised a dedicated helpline number and an online portal for the citizens to register complaints or suggestions, the official said. Earlier in the day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi also chaired a high-level review meeting via video conferencing with the Chief Ministers to assess the fuel supply situation. The meeting was to evaluate the impact of the West Asia situation on the availability and distribution of petroleum products across the country.

The Haryana CM joined the discussion from Chandigarh and briefed PM Modi on the state's preparedness. Saini assured the state is fully alert and equipped to handle any eventuality, and said the availability of petrol, diesel, and gas in Haryana remains unchanged compared to four months ago. He said he has personally reviewed the situation with petroleum companies to ensure seamless supply.

HC gives Patra Chawl members 'last chance' to take possession of rehab flats

Mumbai.(Agency)
The Bombay High Court on Friday granted a last chance to members of Patra Chawl in suburban Goregaon (East) to enter into an agreement with MHADA to take possession of the rehab building within a week, and if the disputes are not resolved, the HC permitted MHADA to use the flats for Project Affected Persons (PAPs) from rest of the city or other public purposes including for use of civic body, to ensure they do not remain vacant and are utilised.

developer Guru Ashish Constructions (which later faced an Enforcement Directorate case) had defaulted, Maharashtra Housing and Area Development Authority (MHADA) took over project completion responsibility in 2018.



On March 11, observing nearly Rs 18 crore burden on the state exchequer from delayed Permanent Alternate Accommodation Agreements (PAAA) by Patra Chawl tenants, the HC had said that further burden on public funds must end. It had also ordered stopping of

transit rent payments from April 1. On Friday, the lawyer representing MHADA informed a bench of Justices Girish S. Kulkarni and Aarti A Sathe that the members were resisting execution of PAAs.

The lawyer for the petitioner, however, said that MHADA cannot force members to enter into a PAAA based on terms not agreeable to the members while final third-party structural audit report was awaited.

The interim report had found each of the eight buildings, having 16 wings, to be "sound, stable and fit for habitation."

"You are passing time. We are completely aware of it. They do not want brand new premises...let them not take it. Those members who want, let them take possession," Justice Kulkarni orally remarked.

SSLC third language score won't be included in final marks: Minister Madhu Bangarappa

BENGALURU.(Agency)
In a significant relief to students, the Karnataka government on Friday announced that the third language paper in SSLC exams will not be allotted marks, but will be graded. It will also not be included in the total marks. The move comes after over 1.64 lakh students failed in the third language and of them, 1.48 lakh students flunked in Hindi in 2024-25. The new system comes into effect from the current academic year, even as over 8 lakh students will appear for the third language exams on March 31. Calling an "urgent" press conference on Friday, Minister for Primary and Secondary Education Madhu Bangarappa said, "From this year, we are introducing a grade system for third language instead of marks. Students will write the exam for 100 marks as usual and they will be given grades A, B, C and D. However, it will not be considered for total marks. The total marks henceforth will be 525 instead of 625." He said, "In other states,

including Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh, they teach only two languages in schools and students too write exams only for those two languages. Only our state is teaching three languages in schools. For now, the grading system is limited to SSLC and the



department will decide on other classes soon." He asserted that students from Karnataka will be able to score better in SSLC and get jobs like people from other states. Third language includes Hindi, Kannada, English, Arabic, Marathi, Urdu, Tulu, Konkani and Sanskrit.

'Favouritism' or 'balanced growth'?- CM Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, Jai Ram Thakur clash over NABARD projects

BJP MLA Vinod Kumar alleged 'selective allocation' of NABARD-funded projects in the state and questioned why Opposition-held constituencies were not receiving an equitable share.

Shimla.(Agency)
A sharp political exchange over the implementation and distribution of projects under the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) scheme dominated proceedings during Question Hour in the Himachal Pradesh Assembly on Saturday, with the Opposition BJP accusing the Congress-led government of favouring ruling party constituencies.

The debate was triggered by BJP MLA Vinod Kumar from Nahan, who questioned the alleged "selective allocation" of NABARD-funded projects, claiming that several constituencies represented by BJP legislators, including Nahan and Seraj, were being overlooked. Raising the issue, Kumar sought clarity from Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu on the criteria being adopted for sanctioning projects under NABARD, and

why Opposition-held constituencies were not receiving equitable shares. Joining the debate, BJP MLA Sukhram Chaudhary pointed to his Paonta Sahib constituency, alleging that despite an available project limit of around Rs 70 crore, proposals had not been approved. He questioned the government's intent and accused it of sidelining Opposition areas.

Leader of Opposition Jai Ram Thakur escalated the matter further, terming the government's stance "contradictory" and "politically motivated". He argued that while the state government frequently accuses the Centre of discrimination, Himachal Pradesh had received substantial financial assistance under NABARD and other central government schemes—amounting to

nearly Rs 47,519 crore over the past three years. He dismissed the state



government's allegations against the Centre as "baseless". Thakur went on to allege that the Sukhu government was disproportionately allocating NABARD

schemes to constituencies represented by Congress MLAs. Specifically, he claimed that nearly 11 schemes had been sanctioned for Nadaun—the chief minister's own constituency—raising questions about fairness and adherence to norms. During a heated moment, the Speaker intervened, asking Thakur to confine himself to a supplementary question. However, Thakur insisted on continuing, asserting his right to raise what he described as a "serious issue of public importance".

He demanded an assurance from CM Sukhu that future NABARD allocations, including those in upcoming budgets, would be distributed equitably across all constituencies, irrespective of political affiliation.

Over 80% in Mumbai unaware blood in stool is a sign of colorectal cancer: Survey

Mumbai.(Agency)
Only 18.9 per cent of respondents in Mumbai recognise blood in stool and changes in bowel habits as warning signs of colorectal cancer, according to a nationwide Lifestyle & Digestive Health Awareness Survey, highlighting significant gaps in awareness and care-seeking behaviour in the city. The survey, supported by Merck Specialities Pvt. Ltd., covered 10,198 individuals aged 25-65 years across 14 cities: Kolkata, Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Calicut, Chandigarh, Chennai, Delhi, Hyderabad, Indore, Jaipur, Kochi, Lucknow, Mumbai and Pune, to assess how people interpret digestive symptoms and when they seek medical help.

Findings presented by oncologists including Dr. Jyoti Bajpai of Apollo Hospitals Navi Mumbai, Dr. Mubarakunnisa Touse of Hiranandani Hospital Mumbai, and Dr. Darshit Shah of Sir H.N. Reliance Hospital Mumbai pointed to low awareness, high reliance on self-medication, and delayed medical consultation as key concerns.

Across India, over 80 per cent of respondents reported self-medicating for digestive issues such as acidity, indigestion or constipation instead of consulting a doctor. More than 65 per cent said they experience irregular bowel movements. Over 50 per cent consume outside or packaged food at least three times a week, with 28.1 per cent eating outside almost daily. Only 45.2 per cent reported exercising regularly, while 54.8 per cent said they do not exercise at least three times a week. Tobacco consumption was reported by 39.9 per cent respondents. Among younger respondents, 40 per cent reported ignoring digestive symptoms and not seeking medical advice, assuming them to be lifestyle-related. Notably, over 80 per cent were unaware that blood in stool can be an early warning sign of colorectal cancer.

Transgender rights amendment Bill: Harming those it seeks to protect

The Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Amendment Bill, 2026 recently passed by Parliament makes several sharp changes to the 2019 Act. It narrows the definition of a transgender person to only specific socio-cultural identities such as kinner, hijra, aravani, jogta or eunuch, or biologically defined intersex variations, or persons compelled into such an identity through a procedure. It explicitly excludes persons with different sexual orientations and non-heteronormative, gender-fluid identities.

The Bill removes the right to 'self-perceived gender identity' from Section 4(2), replaces the simple process of certification by the district magistrate with a medical board headed by a chief medical officer, mandates hospitals to report every transgender gender-change surgery to the magistrate, and substitutes Section 18 with far harsher penalties up to rigorous imprisonment for life for forcing anyone into transgender 'presentation' ndments fix the vagueness and implementation failures of the 2019 Act, they actually perpetuate and w

While the government claims these ameorsen the structural problems that have plagued Indian policy for years. The Bill still lumps 'persons with intersex variations' (now defined biologically) directly inside the definition of transgender persons. This is one of the biggest flaws that experts have criticised since the 2019 Act. The Act's definition of 'transgender persons' includes persons with intersex variations, erasing specific needs of intersex persons like protection against non-consensual surgeries. Intersex is a natural biological spectrum—chromosomal, hormonal, anatomical variations present at birth—affecting 1-2 percent of births globally. Transgender identity is a psychological and social construct. Retaining this conflation under one label violates Article 21 rights to bodily integrity and privacy. It leaves intersex infants without a specific ban on 'normalising' surgeries and ignores repeated calls for separate intersex legislation.

The Bill's definition also directly contradicts established international standards. The UN and WHO clearly define intersex as innate variations in sex characteristics that do not fit typical male or female binaries, requiring distinct legal recognition and explicit protections against non-consensual medical interventions. By forcing intersex persons into a transgender category, the Bill erodes the human rights framework India has committed to uphold. The amendment leaves outdated titles of the National Council for Transgender Persons and state welfare boards unchanged. It ignores the longstanding proposal to rebrand them as a National GIESC Welfare Council and state GIESC welfare boards (where GIESC stands for gender identity/expression and sex characteristics). This keeps the entire policy architecture trapped under the problematic 'transgender' umbrella instead of creating a scientifically-accurate, inclusive framework.

This heteronormative bill erases the reality that transgender persons can and do have diverse sexual orientations like trans-gay, trans-lesbian, trans-bisexual or queer. It reduces transgender existence to a narrow, culturally-scripted role that fits neatly into a heterosexual societal framework, ignoring the full spectrum of human diversity and reinforcing the very stigma the original Act was meant to combat. At the same time, the Bill does nothing to regulate or dismantle the colonial hijra jamaat gharana system. Under this, hijra nayaks control their wards' earnings from begging and prostitution, trapping abandoned, gender-non-conforming children in bonded labour. The new offences target individuals, but leave the hierarchical community structures untouched. No reform, rehabilitation or special protection for minors trapped in these systems is provided.

A ticking time bomb of oil spills

Ongoing regional conflicts like in West Asia are catastrophic for our planet

ALL wars are destructive. They cause massive loss of life and property, displace populations, worsen economic distress and trigger social disruption. The physical and psychological scars left on the affected people are rarely part of the calculus of leaders deciding on war and peace. War inevitably leads to demonisation and dehumanisation of the enemy, and these mental frames may persist over generations long after the wars have ended. Modern warfare has seen a quantum jump in lethality and the scale of death and destruction that can be unleashed in increasingly compressed time frames. These impacts are visible and figure on the gruesome scoreboard of war.

There are far more consequential and pervasive impacts of war that are dismissed as inevitable collateral damage, but these are literally shredding the delicate life-sustaining systems of our fragile planet. The series of regional conflicts over the past five years have become fused into a singular, interconnected ecological catastrophe which will continue to reverberate long past the conclusion of the ongoing wars. If there ever was a compelling argument for peace, this is it. On March 7-8, following a series of massive Israeli air strikes on Iran's oil storage facilities outside Tehran, a plume of hydrocarbons and soot rose several kilometres into the sky. When this toxic cloud reacted with the local weather system, it triggered a phenomenon known as "Black Rain". The rain was a thick, oily and acidic sludge that stained the city dark and caused chemical burns and respiratory crises among Tehran's 10 million residents.

As these particles are carried on air currents in various directions, weather patterns are affected, soot is being scattered on Himalayan glaciers and millions of tonnes of carbon are being added to the earth's atmosphere. Israel is guilty of a climate crime. In Ukraine, now in the fifth year of the war with Russia, the rich black soil which once fed the world is turning into a graveyard. It is estimated that 1.2 million hectares of rich farmland have been contaminated by heavy metals — lead, mercury and tungsten — from high explosives used in Russian bombing runs and missile attacks. Even when the guns fall silent, these toxins will enter the food chain

and poison those who ingest these particles. In Gaza, the scale of destruction visited upon its hapless population by relentless aerial bombing and ground operations by Israel over the past more than two years has created over 60 million tonnes of debris. This is not merely rubble but a hazardous cocktail of pulverised concrete, asbestos and industrial chemicals. This is now leaching into the coastal aquifers and contaminating precious water supplies. A similar fate awaits Iran and the Gulf states on an even larger scale.

The oceans, too, are becoming a silent casualty. The seabed in the Black Sea, the Red Sea and now the western reaches of the Indian Ocean are littered with the corroding hulls of warships and tankers, even as oil spills

destruction than on peaceful pursuits. The US is spending a billion dollars a day on the Iran war. The sustenance of the planet is way down on the list of priorities. The war in West Asia has made India a "frontline state". We are aware of the adverse impact on our energy security due to the disruption of oil and gas supplies from the Gulf. We are deeply concerned about the safety and welfare of the 9 million-strong Indian diaspora living and working in what is now a war zone. Our trade and investment relations with the prosperous oil kingdoms of the Gulf are in jeopardy. But beyond this are ecological dangers which have so far escaped attention. One, the soot and aerosols generated by the oil fires in Iran and other countries will impact the monsoon over the Indian sub-continent in

ways not very well understood. We know that soot from these fires is being scattered across the Himalayan glaciers and may accelerate snow melt already in progress due to global warming. It is expected that the massive smoke plumes and high temperatures generated by fires across the war zone will affect the monsoon winds in unexpected ways. India's food and water security are at a heightened risk.

The Arabian Sea has become a high-risk zone where maritime disasters are inevitable. There could be a massive oil spill or chemical contamination that may pollute our coasts, destroy mangroves and decimate fish stocks as well as marine life. The effects will be of long duration. There could be a major challenge of evacuating a large number of Indian migrants from the Gulf and resettling them in India. There will be a strain on employment. While there have been successful evacuations from conflict zones in the past, the scale this time round may be far greater. The essence of any national

security strategy is to anticipate likely challenges and plan ahead. There should be a scenario-building exercise for potential contingencies and plans on how each should be dealt with. This involves both short-term contingencies and long-term challenges. The objective should be to enhance India's resilience. This cannot be delinked from the resilience of the Indian sub-continent, which is a single geopolitical space and a densely interconnected ecological space. Indian foreign policy must reflect this compelling reality.



spread from across the battle zone. Each sunken vessel is a ticking time bomb of oil spills and chemical leaks that are destroying coral reefs and mangroves which maintain the health of our oceans. In 2025, global military spending hit \$2.5 trillion. At the Belem climate summit in November 2025, there was a commitment to raise \$1.3 trillion in climate finance by 2035. This is unlikely to be met as war aims compete with climate goals. History bears witness that more money will always be spent on the instruments of death and

Transgender Bill: Contentious legislation passed in haste

The absence of a constructive engagement with stakeholders weakens both the law's legitimacy and its effectiveness

PARLIAMENT has passed the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Amendment Bill, a contentious legislation that raises more questions than it seeks to answer. While the Union government has presented the Bill as a step towards "administrative clarity" and targeted protection, its narrowing of the definition of transgender identity has caused a furore among legal experts, activists and Opposition parties. "Self-perceived gender identity" and broader sexual orientations have been omitted from its ambit. The amendment, which anchors recognition primarily in the biological criterion and, in some cases, medical certification, appears to move away from a rights-based approach to a regulatory one. This shift strikes at the core of dignity and autonomy, principles that are central to India's constitutional vision of equality. Critics argue that the legislation risks undermining hard-won legal recognition of transgender people. The insistence on medical boards for identity certification raises concerns about privacy and individuality. More significantly, it may reverse the



progressive understanding that gender identity is deeply personal and cannot be reduced to medical validation. It's

unfortunate that the Bill was passed despite calls for wider consultation, including demands to send it to a select committee. A Supreme Court-constituted Advisory Committee's request that the legislation be withdrawn went unheeded. When a Bill directly affects a historically marginalised community, the absence of a constructive engagement with stakeholders weakens both the law's legitimacy and its effectiveness. The government's emphasis on stricter punishment for crimes against transgender persons is a positive step. However, protection cannot be meaningful if the very definition of who is protected becomes restrictive. If India is to truly uphold transgender rights, it must ensure that laws empower rather than constrain, and that recognition is rooted in respect for individual identity. Inclusion must be the guiding principle of any legislation aimed at social justice.

Why Bhagat Singh defies easy labels

Bhagat Singh did not write to construct a theory in the abstract; he read, selected and deployed ideas in the urgency of political struggle

BHAGAT SINGH was not merely a young man who died early. He was a young revolutionary who chose to die. At 23, when most people are still finding direction, he had reached a clarity that bound thought to action with uncommon force. His sacrifice was neither impulsive nor tragic in the ordinary sense — it was deliberate, reasoned and political. Fully aware of the consequences, he embraced them with conviction, understood the inevitability of the gallows and yet, moved forward with a conviction that transformed death into an instrument of awakening. In him, ideas did not remain confined to books; they found their fulfilment in action. To begin with, Bhagat Singh, therefore, is to begin not with the question of how much he read or what label we assign to him, but with the rare unity of intellect, purpose and sacrifice that defined his life. It is precisely this unity that makes attempts to define his intellectual identity both compelling and problematic. In his article, "Why Bhagat Singh was not a Marxist thinker" (The Tribune, March 23), Bhagwan Josh cautions against reading Bhagat Singh as a systematic Marxist and questions the tendency to equate textual engagement with ideological commitment. The intervention is important — not least because it departs from Josh's own earlier position.

In his work in Punjabi, where he has devoted a detailed discussion to "Bhagat Singh da Markasvad (Marxवाद)", Josh argues at length for Bhagat Singh's Marxist orientation. He locates Bhagat Singh within the distinct Leninist current that was emerging in Punjab between 1928 and 1931 — an intellectual formation grounded in study, debate and ideological seriousness and set apart from what he saw as the more pragmatic and often anti-intellectual strands within Indian

communism. The contrast between Josh's two positions is striking. In the earlier formulation, Bhagat Singh appears as part of a developing Marxist trajectory; in the recent article, he is distanced from that framework because textual engagement does not amount to ideological practice. This shift is not merely interpretive; it reveals a deeper tension within historiography itself — whether Bhagat Singh is to be understood through the texts he encountered, or through the political conditions in which he acted and the choices he ultimately made.



It is in this context that comparisons are often invoked — most notably, with figures such as Che Guevara, an Argentine Marxist revolutionary, and Antonio Gramsci, an Italian Marxist philosopher. Yet such comparisons, while intellectually tempting, can obscure more than they illuminate. Gramsci's intellectual formation was rooted in a sustained engagement with European philosophical traditions, producing a systematic body of theoretical work. Guevara, too, emerged from a different historical trajectory, where revolutionary action and

ideological articulation evolved within a distinct Latin-American context. Bhagat Singh's path was neither identical nor derivative. He entered the national movement propelled not by a completed ideological system but by an inherited political consciousness, sharpened by experience and directed by an intense moral resolve — a jazba (passion) that preceded and, in many ways, anchored his later intellectual engagements.

To read him solely through such comparisons is to risk mistaking resemblance for equivalence. Bhagat Singh did not write to construct a theory in the abstract; he read, selected and deployed ideas in the urgency of political struggle. His writings do not aspire to systematic closure; they bear the marks of a mind working under pressure — absorbing, testing and reshaping thought in relation to action. The search for a fixed ideological label, therefore, tells us less about Bhagat Singh and more about our own desire for intellectual categorisation. It is here that the recurring emphasis on the number of books he read reveals its limitations. Claims that Bhagat Singh read several hundred books — often repeated without scrutiny — have acquired the status of fact. Yet these claims rest on a fragile methodological base. Much of the material cited in support of such numbers does not constitute a personal record of reading but emerges from a wider archival context shaped by colonial surveillance and collective activity within the revolutionary network. The same caution applies to the interpretation of the 'Jail Notebook'. It has often been treated as evidence of systematic study, with the number of quotations taken as an index of the number of books read. But the notebook itself does not support such a reading. It is a working

document — an assemblage of extracts, phrases and reflections that Bhagat Singh found useful or striking. To treat it as a bibliographical record is to impose a structure that the document was never meant to bear.

What emerges instead is not a closed ideological system but a mind in motion — engaging with diverse sources, absorbing ideas and reshaping them in response to immediate political needs. His references range across revolutionary, nationalist and socialist writings, but they do not resolve into a single doctrinal identity. They point, rather, to an evolving and pragmatic engagement with ideas. Attempts to fix Bhagat Singh within rigid categories — Marxist, anarchist, nationalist — often tell us more about our own need for classification than about his thought. It is easier to assign labels than to engage with complexity. It is easier to count books than to understand what reading meant in a life shaped by urgency, risk and purpose. Bhagat Singh's life resists such simplification. His courtroom statements, his hunger strike and his prison writings reveal a figure who combined intellectual curiosity with remarkable moral clarity. His critique of imperialism was inseparable from a vision of a just and egalitarian society, yet it remained open, dynamic and responsive to context. When a student, a worker or a farmer raises the cry of "Inquilab zindabad", the question of ideological classification dissolves. The slogan survives because it speaks to a condition, not a doctrine. In the same way, Gandhi continues to inspire acts of resistance across contexts that would have been unimaginable in his own time. In the end, Bhagat Singh does not need to be measured by the number of books he read, nor confined within the boundaries of any single ideology. At the age of 23, he consciously embraced death, transforming his trial and execution into a political act of enduring significance.

SP leader arrested for objectionable comments on Lord Ram: Police



Lucknow.(Agency)

Hardoi police on Friday arrested a local politician, Yadunandan Lal Verma, for allegedly making objectionable comments on Lord Ram and his mother Kaushalya. "Verma was arrested around 4 pm today from Harpalpur area (from where belongs) and was produced before the local court which sent him to jail," Satyendra Singh, Circle Officer (CO), Harpalpur area said.

A case has been lodged against Verma by a policeman of the Saandi police station on various charges including promoting enmity on ground of religion and IT Act.

While police claimed Verma is a local Samajwadi Party (SP) leader and a former state office bearer, SP media cell in a post on X denied Verma's association with the party, claiming he was linked to the BJP instead.

According to CO Singh, Verma made the alleged comments at an event, marking the birth anniversary of emperor Ashok, in a village under Saandi police station on March 25, hurting Hindu sentiments. A video of the speech went viral, prompting a policeman to lodge a complaint.

70-yr-old man dies in Hardoi road accident, his sons beat vehicle owner, brother to death

Lucknow.(Agency)

A road accident in Uttar Pradesh's Hardoi on Friday escalated into violence, leaving three people dead. First, a 70-year-old man was fatally hit by a car while walking home, police said. Angered by the accident, the victim's sons allegedly beat the car's owner, who was driving the vehicle, and his brother to death.

The elderly man, identified as Bharat Pandey, was struck by a Bolero car. Following Pandey's death on the spot, his four sons — Anup, Atul, Chhuttane, and Shyam — allegedly attacked the vehicle's occupants, Shivam (30) and Aman (17), using sticks and rods, police said.

After the two fell unconscious, the assailants fled the scene. According to police, they received information about the death of two persons in a clash in Dholiya village under the Sursa police station area. A police team immediately rushed to the spot and shifted the injured to the hospital, where both the victims, from the Other Backward Class, were declared dead, they said.

Ashok Kumar Meena, Superintendent of Police, Hardoi, said police are carrying out a detailed investigation into the incident. He said that four teams have been formed to arrest those involved. Additionally, police have deployed adequate forces in the village, which has a mixed population, to maintain law and order. However, the situation is under control, Meena added.

Long queues at UP petrol pumps for second day in a row, authorities reassure stable fuel supply

Lucknow.(Agency)

Long queues were seen outside petrol pumps for the second consecutive day across parts of Uttar Pradesh, even as authorities and oil companies reiterated that there is no shortage of fuel and urged people not to resort to panic buying.

Sudhir Bora, Vice President of the UP Petrol Pump Association, said panic buying peaked late Thursday night and early Friday but subsided later in the day. Sources said that teams were deployed by the district administration in cities like Lucknow to monitor petrol pumps and prevent disruption.

Indian Oil Corporation's Executive Director and State Level Coordinator for oil companies in UP, Sanjay Bhandari, while speaking to the media, provided a detailed breakdown of fuel and LPG availability, stressing that supplies are stable.

He said petrol pumps across the state — numbering around 13,000 — currently hold 4-5 days of stock, while depots have a combined petrol and diesel stock of nearly 18 days. "There is regular inflow of crude oil. There is no shortage whatsoever," he said.

On LPG, Bhandari said that UP has around 4.85 crore domestic consumers, with daily supply of about 7 lakh cylinders like in the past against average bookings which has reached 11 lakh per day. He said that there is a backlog of about 3.7 days across Uttar Pradesh for all oil companies, claiming that even for the commercial users, the supply has increased.

Bhandari said that while initially for hospitals, industries, and educational institutions, supply was limited to 20% of their average consumption in early March, a provision allowing an additional 10% allocation was ordered once the state fulfilled certain conditions.

Stones thrown, arson attack: Clashes during Ram Navami in Murshidabad, Purulia

Violence marred Ram Navami processions in Murshidabad and Purulia as authorities deployed forces to restore law and order.

Kolkata . (Agency)

Tensions gripped Murshidabad district on Friday after an altercation between two communities during a Ram Navami procession escalated into violence. Both sides were involved in throwing of stones and vandalism. Members of one community alleged that stones were thrown at their procession in Raghunathganj, while members of the other community claimed that provocative remarks were made during the rally. Police sources said the situation

was brought under control after local police and central forces were deployed in the area. Authorities have since been conducting route marches to maintain law and order in the district. A police officer said strict action will be taken against those involved in the violence. Residents have also been urged to remain calm, with security tightened across the region. A similar incident was reported on the same day in Purulia's Para. According to local authorities, the situation there was also brought under

control. Purulia Superintendent of Police Vaibhav Tiwari said a group of people were travelling in a vehicle to participate in a Ram Navami rally, when it was vandalised by members of another community. The driver sustained injuries in the incident. The situation subsequently became tense, with members of two communities throwing stones at each other. It was later brought under control after a joint contingent of central forces and state police reached the spot.



27 manufacturing clusters along expressway for UP's industrial expansion

12 being undertaken in first phase, about Rs 500 crore approved for development of two in past one fortnight

Lucknow.(Agency)

Ahead of the upcoming polls, Uttar Pradesh is gearing up to become a manufacturing hub, leveraging its vast Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME) base for political and economic gains. The government is pushing to expand industrial clusters, integrate small enterprises with larger supply chains, and demonstrate job creation, higher incomes, and economic activity.

As part of this push, funds have been approved for two manufacturing clusters in the past fortnight: Rs 245 crore for Sambhal's Integrated Manufacturing Logistic Hub and Rs 213 crore for Meerut's cluster, both to be developed along the soon-to-be-inaugurated Ganga Expressway.

However, both these recent approvals of about Rs 500 crore are part of a wider plan to build industrial capacity along high-speed transport corridors. The Integrated Manufacturing and Logistics Clusters (IMLCs)

initiative is a key component of this plan, with policies focused on improving business ease, cutting logistics costs, and drawing investments. Conceptualised last year, the plan includes development of 27 IMLCs, spanning over



12,700 acres across 26 districts, along five major expressways: Purvanchal, Bundelkhand, Agra-Lucknow, Gorakhpur Link Expressway, and Ganga Expressway.

Government sources indicate that 12 clusters will

be taken up in the first phase, with Unnao's 300 acres nearly fully allocated. The 12 clusters are being developed in districts including Meerut, Sambhal, Shahjahanpur, Hardoi, Unnao, Firozabad, Etawah, Budaun, Sultanpur, Amethi, Ambedkar Nagar and Hamirpur.

Sources say these were identified based on industry demand from B2B meetings held across India and abroad. A senior official, associated with the project, said planning is being done based on industry demand, including global requirements, with a focus on creating ready industrial ecosystems.

"There are 27 clusters planned along the expressways. In the first phase, we are taking up 12 nodes from west to east—starting with Meerut and Sambhal on the western side and moving towards central and

eastern districts like Hardoi, Shahjahanpur and Barabanki. Land has been acquired in bulk, and in most nodes, industries will have direct access from the service road," the officer said.

Five-day faculty development programme in civil engineering underway at CEPT University

Ahmedabad.(Agency)

CEPT University Ahmedabad, through its CEPT Professional Programs (CPP), is hosting a five-day, on-campus Faculty Development Programme (FDP) for 100 faculty members of civil engineering from Government Engineering Colleges across Gujarat.

Recommended by the Gujarat Directorate of Technical Education, the programme is designed to equip educators with contemporary teaching-learning pedagogies in engineering education, with a specific focus on Civil Engineering and Applied Mechanics. It aims to address the growing need for academic frameworks that respond to rapid urbanisation, technological advancements, and evolving industry expectations, the university officials said.

The FDP will emphasise a shift from conventional, content-heavy instruction towards experiential, studio-based, and problem-solving methodologies that foster critical thinking, adaptability, and interdisciplinary learning among the students. The ongoing programme will contextualise these approaches across core civil engineering subdomains, including structures, water resources systems and geotechnical

The FDP is specifically designed for professors from Government Engineering Colleges under the Government of Gujarat and seeks to build a strong foundation for pedagogical transformation across engineering institutions in the state.



engineering, transportation and highway engineering, and construction materials and technology. Participants will engage in sessions that introduce outcome-based education

frameworks, explore innovative pedagogical tools, and strengthen the integration of experiential learning in course design. By the end of the programme, faculty members will be equipped to design and deliver courses that build practical competencies and align with industry needs.

Speaking about the initiative, B H Talati, Commissioner of Technical Education, said, "Education is most effective when it is participatory. In the spirit of the adage, 'Tell me and I forget, teach me and I may remember, involve me and I learn,' we

deeply value the expertise provided by CEPT University in delivering the 'Pedagogy Shifts' programme. This intensive training has empowered our faculty to adopt 'studio-based' methods, ensuring we now have a prepared cohort ready to fundamentally elevate the learning experience for every Civil Engineering student in our system."

Prof Aanal Shah, Dean, Faculty of Technology at CEPT University, added, "At CEPT University, we believe that the future of engineering education lies in bridging theory with practice through immersive and interdisciplinary learning environments.

Anna University professor arrested for harassment over remarks on student's innerwear, periods

An Anna University professor was arrested for allegedly harassing a student over several years. He is accused of making inappropriate remarks about her innerwear and menstrual cycle.

Chennai. (Agency)

A professor at Anna University in Chennai has been arrested on charges of sexual harassment and stalking following allegations by a woman student, police said.

The complainant submitted her complaint at the Chennai Police Commissioner's office, alleging that Professor A Gnavel Babu had harassed her over a prolonged period through phone calls, inappropriate conversations, explicit messages, and even offers of money. She stated that the harassment began when she was in her second year, when the professor offered to help her secure an internship after learning about her family's financial struggles. According to the

complaint, the situation worsened in her third year, when the professor allegedly forced her to stay in contact, spoke about her innerwear, discussed her menstrual cycle, and raised personal topics such as marriage. The student also alleged that the professor would call her after 10 pm and continued attempts to reach her even after she blocked him, including contacting her through friends. She later approached the college's Internal Complaints Committee under the Prevention of Sexual Harassment (PoSH) mechanism. The student has requested a "safe inquiry" to encourage other victims to come forward and share their experiences. She also alleged that several other female students may



have been subjected to similar harassment. Police registered a case under the Tamil Nadu Prohibition of Harassment of Women Act, 1998, and Section 78 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita

(BNS) for stalking. A senior police official said the accused, identified as Gnavel Babu, was arrested in Tirunelveli by a special Chennai police team and is being brought to the city for

Gujarat fake note case: 1 more arrested; accused planned to use 50% of profit to set up another ashram, say police

Ahmedabad.(Agency)

The Ahmedabad Police on Thursday arrested another accused in connection with the seizure of Fake Indian Currency Notes (FICN) having a face value of Rs 2.48 crore, taking the number of arrests in the case to eight.

Acting on a tip off, the Ahmedabad crime branch arrested Bhavesh Gajera, 46, a resident of Kamrej in Surat and native of Amreli in Saurashtra. Gajera runs an air condition business and has been associated with main conspirator self-styled godman Pradeep Jotangiya (Yogi Maharaj) of Surat since 2023. Gajera was produced before the Ahmedabad District Court, which sent him to police remand for six days.

According to police, Jotangiya had collected Rs 30 lakh from his nearest disciples for printing FICN and circulating the notes in the market. The accused were planning to use 50 per cent of the profit from the illegal activity to set up another 'Ashram', the Ahmedabad crime branch said.

Speaking to The Indian Express, Ahmedabad Crime Branch police inspector S J Jadeja said, "Bhavesh Gajera had invested Rs 6 lakh in printing and circulating the FICN notes in the denomination of Rs 500. While another accused Ramesh Balar had invested Rs 20 lakh, Mukesh Thummer invested Rs 5 lakh and the remaining arrested persons invested between Rs 2 lakh and Rs 4 lakh."

Jadeja said that the 'godman', Pradeep Jotangiya, had given the green signal to plan at a meeting at his 'ashram' in Surat.

"In the meeting of key conspirators, it was decided that 50 per cent of the profit will be used to purchase land for setting up another ashram and the remaining amount will be equally distributed. The accused have circulated FICN in the face value of Rs 20 lakh, in Rs 500 denomination. They identified agents in different parts of Gujarat and handed them FICN and collected 30 per cent Indian currency notes as commission," Jadeja explained.

interrogation. The arrest comes amid protests on campus, with students alleging that no concrete action was taken despite earlier complaints. They have demanded the immediate removal of the professor and reforms in the university's grievance redressal system.

Following the FIR and growing unrest, Anna University placed the professor under immediate suspension pending a detailed internal and police inquiry.

The case has also triggered political reactions. Tamil Nadu BJP leader K Annamalai expressed "deep shock" over the incident and questioned why such cases continue to recur in a premier institution.

IndiGo flight makes emergency landing in Delhi, engine failure suspected

A Visakhapatnam-Delhi IndiGo flight, carrying 161 passengers, made an emergency landing at the Delhi airport due to suspected engine failure.



New Delhi.(Agency)
A full emergency was declared on a runway of Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport, Delhi, after an IndiGo flight from Visakhapatnam (6E 579) reported a suspected engine failure on Saturday. Runway 28 of the airport was placed on high alert, as airport authorities immediately activated emergency protocols. However, the Visakhapatnam-Delhi flight, a Boeing 737-800 aircraft carrying 161 passengers, landed safely at around 11 am. All passengers were safely evacuated, sources said.

Information about the emergency landing was received at 10.53 am, following which all agencies were kept on alert, and fire tenders were dispatched. Authorities said no damage was reported. "A flight made an emergency landing at Delhi airport. The fire department received information about the emergency landing at 10.53 am and immediately dispatched fire tenders. The flight landed safely," the Delhi Fire Services (DFS) said in a statement.

IndiGo, in a statement, said a "technical snag" was detected shortly before landing. "As a precautionary step and in accordance with the standard operating

procedure, the pilots requested priority landing, and the aircraft arrived safely at IGI Airport," the statement said.

Last month, a full emergency was declared at Delhi airport after a SpiceJet Delhi-Leh flight reported an issue in one of its engines. The flight, carrying around 150 passengers, returned to Delhi. It was also a Boeing 737 aircraft, which has recently come under scrutiny over repeated engine failures. In fact, several international airlines have also reported a recurring pattern of failures involving the CFM56 engines on Boeing 737s. Last year, Aerolineas Argentinas grounded eight Boeing 737-800 aircraft.

Bungalow built after razing 15th century ASI monument allotted to Delhi Chief Secretary

New Delhi.(Agency)
A bungalow in Southeast Delhi's Kilokri Jal Vihar, allegedly constructed by former Delhi Jal Board (DJB) CEO Udit Prakash Rai by razing down a 15th century monument, has a new occupant – Chief Secretary Rajeev Verma, The Indian Express has learnt. "He has moved into the Jal Vihar bungalow. It has been a month now," a senior official said.

There was controversy related to the bungalow in 2023 when the Delhi Vigilance department issued a show cause notice to Rai for allegedly razing a 15th century Pathan period 'Mahal' – dating back to 1418 when the Sayyid dynasty ruled Delhi – to construct a lavish official bungalow for himself. The bungalow, constructed at a cost of nearly Rs 4 crore, was built on a site measuring 700 sq m on a plot of 5,500 sq m.

Verma – a 1992-AGMUT (Arunachal Pradesh-Goa-Mizoram and Union Territory) cadre IAS officer, who was appointed the Chief Secretary (CS) of Delhi last October – had not been staying in a government-allotted accommodation due to non-availability of a bungalow. "Usually, different types of houses are allocated to officials according to their rank, cadre and seniority. The CS was initially looking for an official accommodation in Chankyapuri's Satya Marg, where most of the former chief secretaries stayed during their tenure. However, due to non-availability of any official flat, bungalow 2 at Kilokri Jal Vihar was allotted to him," said the official. "The bungalow will be returned to the DJB, after the CS vacates it," the official added.

Verma, who is set to retire in December, did not respond to calls and messages seeking a comment on the matter. Officials said the Public Works Department (PWD) is the nodal agency for allotting houses to officers of Delhi government, even to the Chief Minister and the ministers. Bureaucrats need to apply to PWD for allotment of official accommodations.

'Bought a chopper...', 'headed to Thailand...': Good times take off in land sale windfall as Noida airport readies for inauguration

New Delhi.(Agency)
The hustle and bustle of the preparation for the inauguration of the Noida International Airport — pitched to be one of Asia's largest once complete — has been palpable in the villages nearby. The National Capital Region's (NCR) second international airport is set to be inaugurated by PM Narendra Modi on Saturday as multiple dignitaries mark attendance at the grand event.

Good times rolled out with the commencement of the project as many reaped the benefits of the land sale windfall, according to Shivam Prajapati (26), a resident of Banwari Bas village. "Most of the people are very happy with the airport being constructed and their land being acquired. Sabne apne shauk shuk pure kar liye (everyone had their wishes fulfilled)," he told The Indian Express as he stood at a shop near the airport on the eve of inauguration.

Prajapati is one of the subcontractors of labourers involved in the construction of the airport, as well as the Tata Power's solar plant nearby. "A large landowner, who got around Rs 15 crore for his land, even bought a helicopter," he claimed, adding that he is planning to go to Thailand next month with his friends.

In the Kishorpur village, a resident shared his before-and-after story. "I was earlier one of the poorest in the village... but now, I earn around Rs 60,000 per month just by letting labourers leave their helmets and keys with me at the shop," said Ajay Beniwal, while lying on a cot inside a shop, as he admitted that he struck gold by leveraging the opportunity.

Another resident of Banwari Bas, Nanak Chand (56), shared that he constructed six additional rooms in his house to rent them out over the last few years when he saw a huge influx of migrant labourers in the area. But now, he is anxious. "Now the number of labourers have gone down. Two years back, all my rooms used to be rented out. But now, only one is..." he said, pointing out that he used to earn Rs 3,000 per month from every room.

Man hangs daughters, 10 and 11, upside down overnight over theft suspicion; 1 dead

A suspected case of brutal child abuse in Maharashtra's Sangli has left a 10-year-old girl dead and her elder sister critically injured.

New Delhi.(Agency)
A father allegedly subjected his two minor daughters to brutal torture on suspicion of theft, leading to the death of one and leaving the other critically injured. The accused, identified as Dadu Haibat Yamgar, tied the hands and legs of his daughters, 10-year-old Sanika and 11-year-old Anuja, and hung them upside down from an iron angle in their house around 5 pm on Wednesday. The girls were allegedly left hanging through the night, crying in pain and repeatedly asking for water, which they were denied.

found unconscious and seriously injured. She was rushed to hospital, where she later regained consciousness and narrated the incident to doctors,



The horrific ordeal ended only the next morning when their grandfather untied them around 6 am. By then, Sanika had died, while Anuja was

following which a police complaint was registered. Sanika was declared dead on arrival at a private hospital. Preliminary

information suggests that neighbours had raised suspicions of theft against the girls, prompting the father to carry out the brutal punishment.

In a disturbing development, family members allegedly attempted to conduct Sanika's last rites quietly to prevent the incident from coming to light. However, the truth emerged after Anuja's statement.

Further, it has also emerged that the accused allegedly attacked the girls' grandfather, who had freed them, with a sharp weapon and issued death threats.

Police have taken the accused father into custody and launched a detailed investigation into the case.

Commercial LPG supply now increased to 70%, says Delhi minister

New Delhi.(Agency)
The Delhi government has increased commercial LPG allocation to 70% of previous levels, minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa on Friday as he underlined that there is no supply shortage in the city. This comes after the latest directives from the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas. Now, about 6,300 cylinders of 19 kg will be available on a daily basis for commercial establishments in the Capital (against the normal consumption of 9,000 cylinders), according to an official statement.

According to the statement, hospitality and food-related establishments, including hotels, restaurants, dhabas, food processing units and dairies, received the largest daily share at 3,375 cylinders. "Delhi's industries and eateries can now operate without disruption. This 70% allocation is a direct result of coordinated efforts at the Centre and state level," said Sirsa.

Continuous monitoring shows no hoarding or panic, with booking details reflecting normal demand patterns across Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs), he said. "The Delhi government remains committed to fair distribution, urging consumers to book promptly and apply for PNG

where feasible," Sirsa added. "There is absolutely no shortage; supplies are stable, thanks to proactive measures," Sirsa said. Essential services such as education, healthcare, transport and public utilities have been allocated 225 cylinders, while similar quantities have been earmarked for caterers, government institutions and community kitchens.



Sports facilities and stadiums will receive 270 cylinders, the statement said, adding that 5 kg refills for migrant workers and students have also been provided.

On Thursday, Sirsa said the government has increased the commercial LPG cylinder allocation from 20% to 50% of average daily consumption, raising the supply from 1,800 to 4,500 cylinders (19 kg equivalent) per day.

Amid the war in West Asia, the Food and Supplies department had on March 14 capped the daily regulated supply of commercial LPG cylinders at 20% of the city's average daily consumption – 1,800 cylinders in place of the usual 9,000 – dividing consumers into eight priority sectors with hospitals, educational institutions, Railways and airports getting 100% allocation.

West Asia conflict: Will ensure uninterrupted services to citizens, coordinating with Centre, says Delhi CM

New Delhi.(Agency)
The Delhi government is in close coordination with the Centre to ensure uninterrupted services and smooth arrangements for citizens, said Chief Minister Rekha Gupta after attending the high-level meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the ongoing West Asia war.

Reviewing the potential impact, and the preparedness, in light of the conflict, PM Modi on Friday told Chief Ministers that addressing the challenge is a "shared responsibility" and urged them to work together as "Team India" to "successfully overcome the situation."

In a video conference with CMs and Lieutenant Governors of States and Union Territories — except those going to polls — Modi underlined that his government's priorities were to maintain economic and trade stability,



ensure energy security, safeguard the interests of citizens, and strengthen industry and supply chains.

Gupta in a post on X, said, "Participated virtually in the high-level meeting of

States and Union Territories chaired by PM..."

She said, "Amid the global scenario, maintaining the country's economic dynamism and the uninterrupted

availability of essential resources is our shared priority." Saying that public interest is the top-most concern of the Modi government, Gupta said effective and far-reaching steps are being taken by the central government under the leadership of the PM to further strengthen the supply chain.

"With the unbreakable spirit of 'Team India'... we all are fully committed to ensuring that no additional burden of global circumstances falls on our common citizens," she said.

In a statement after the meeting, the PMO said, "The PM highlighted that the situation remains dynamic, necessitating continuous monitoring and adaptive strategies. He said that an Inter-Ministerial Group has been operational since March 3, reviewing the situation on a daily basis and taking timely decisions."

Sidewalks, cycle tracks, green corridors, public plazas: Five key stretches in Delhi set for revamp

New Delhi.(Agency)
Five key stretches and junctions in Delhi, which witness heavy traffic, including Minto Road-ITO-Karkardooma, Delhi Gate, Netaji Subhash Marg-ITO and Najafgarh Road, are set to undergo a major redesign aimed at easing traffic congestion and creating pedestrian-friendly, green urban spaces. The plan includes segregated pedestrian sidewalks, dedicated cycle tracks, green corridors, transit stops, public plazas, bus stops and open urban spaces, officials said.

A proposal in this regard was recently reviewed by Lieutenant Governor Taranjit Singh Sandhu, based on a comprehensive redevelopment plan prepared by the School of Planning and Architecture (SPA), Delhi, they added.

According to the officials, SPA has identified five high-traffic corridors that routinely face congestion, especially during peak hours. They are Minto Road-ITO-Karkardooma; Minto Road-Aruna Asaf Ali Marg-Jawahar Lal Nehru Marg-Delhi Gate; Netaji Subhash Marg-Shanti Van-Mahatma Gandhi Marg (along the Yamuna)-ITO-IT Estate Metro Station; Dhaura Kuan-Jail Road/Cariappa Marg-Tilak Nagar Crossing; and Uttam Nagar-Tilak Nagar-Rajouri Garden on Najafgarh Road. These stretches are located in Central, West and East Delhi, connecting prominent areas such as Connaught Place, Delhi Cantonment, Raj Ghat and ITO, which houses several government offices including the Delhi Secretariat, among others. "The LG reviewed the SPA presentation on transforming transit corridors into green and pedestrian-friendly spaces," said an official from LG office.

Officials said the plan also includes upgrading stormwater drainage to prevent flooding and reduce silt-related dust pollution, along with building scientifically-designed green central verges. Integrated pedestrian pathways with cycle tracks, public utilities and resting shelters have also been proposed, they added.

To boost night-time economy in these areas, the plan envisions movable vending zones and informal craft bazaars. Additional features include improved street lighting, short-duration parking and enhanced surveillance to improve safety, particularly for women and children.

An official from SPA said, "If we plan a complete street design, integrating multiple transport modes and developing these corridors with a focus on improving mobility and infrastructure while promoting beautification and night economy, not only will traffic jams be reduced but this will also create vibrant urban corridors accessible for everyone." Under this plan, a multimodal approach would go on to integrate walking and cycling, as well as various modes of transport like buses, light rail and private vehicles. Officials said the LG has assured full support in assessing the project's feasibility and coordinating between agencies such as the PWD, MCD and DDA for its implementation. He also suggested that Kingsway Camp-Mall Road stretch should be considered for development on the same lines, they added.

NEWS BOX

IPL 2026 complete guide: Where to watch, FAQs, schedule and all you need to know

New Delhi. (Agency)
The wait is over. The 19th edition of the Indian Premier League begins on March 28 and runs until May 31, promising two months of high-intensity T20 action across packed stadiums in India. The season will feature 70 league matches, followed by Qualifier 1, Eliminator, Qualifier 2 and the final.
On Friday, the BCCI announced the second part of the league-stage schedule, confirming that each team will play 14 matches, seven at home and seven away, before the top four advance to the playoffs. Matches will be held across 13 venues. The tournament opener will see defending champions Royal Challengers Bengaluru take on 2016 winners Sunrisers Hyderabad in Bengaluru. After ending their



long wait for a maiden title in 2025, RCB enter the new season with renewed confidence, but also the pressure of proving last year's triumph was no fluke. There will be no shortage of storylines elsewhere. Chennai Super Kings, who finished bottom of the table for the first time last season, will be desperate for a turnaround. Mumbai Indians, five-time champions, are still chasing their first title since 2020.
Punjab Kings, Lucknow Super Giants and Delhi Capitals remain in search of their maiden IPL crown, while Gujarat Titans and Rajasthan Royals will aim to add to their one title each. The Kings played the final last season, but lost to RCB at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad. A major talking point this season is the use of second homes. RCB have shifted marquee home games against MI and Kolkata Knight Riders from Bengaluru to Raipur. Punjab Kings will host MI, RCB and Delhi Capitals in Dharamsala, while Rajasthan Royals will take key fixtures against MI, Chennai Super Kings and RCB to Guwahati.

IPL 2026: New season, 10 Indian captains, but the old Dhoni question remains

NEW DELHI. (Agency)
As the Indian Premier League wanders into its 19th year, Indian cricket is not merely ticking along; it is basking in a golden white-ball age. Fresh from defending the ICC Men's T20 World Cup crown, attention now turns to the ever-beating heart of it all, the Indian Premier League. From 28 March, the circus rolls back into town, bringing with it the finest players, sharpest minds and a familiar swirl of chaos for two breathless months, this time under the watch of ten Indian captains. The IPL rarely does dull, and 2026 already has the look of a proper scrap. Squads have been shuffled, tweaked, and in some cases entirely rebuilt at the auction table. Every side appears convinced it has struck the right balance, a dash of youthful swagger, a measure of seasoned calm, and a handful of players capable of turning a game on its head in a matter of overs. That, in many ways, is the essence of the tournament. The IPL thrives on its refusal to behave. One over can swing a contest, an unfamiliar name can become the story of the week, and the most carefully laid



plans can unravel in an instant. With that in mind, we have taken a close look at all ten teams, weighing their strengths, probing their vulnerabilities, and sketching out what might pass for the best XI on current form. Yet the IPL has never been just about cricketering muscle. It is about identity, theatre and a fair bit of local pride. Each franchise carries the mood and colour of its city. Home grounds are not merely venues; they are puzzles to be solved. Teams obsess over boundary dimensions, study how surfaces behave under lights, and quietly hope conditions hold just long enough to suit their methods.

PCB issues show-cause notice to Naseem Shah over controversial social media post

← The Pakistan cricket board issued a show-cause notice to Naseem Shah over a social media post. The pacer must respond as the board reviews disciplinary action.



New Delhi. (Agency)
The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has issued a show-cause notice to fast bowler Naseem Shah for allegedly violating the terms of his central contract and media regulations. The development comes just a day after a controversial social media post from his account during the opening night of the Pakistan Super League 2026 season. The post, which was later deleted, appeared to question the treatment of Maryam Nawaz, the Chief Minister of Pakistan's Punjab province, at the event. In an official

statement, the Pakistan Cricket Board confirmed that disciplinary proceedings had been initiated on the pacer's actions. "Naseem Shah is required to provide a response within the stipulated time." The PCB remains committed to upholding professional standards, contractual

obligations, and the integrity of the game." The board did not specify the exact clause breached but indicated that the matter would be reviewed after receiving Naseem's response. **WHAT WAS NASEEM SHAH'S CONTROVERSIAL POST ABOUT?** The controversy stemmed from a post shared

on Naseem's X account during the PSL opener at Lahore's Gaddafi Stadium. The post included a video of Maryam Nawaz arriving at the venue and read: "Why is she treated like a queen at Lord's?" The post was quickly deleted, and a follow-up message claimed that Naseem's account had been hacked and later recovered. However, the explanation did not prevent the issue from escalating. The incident gained further attention as it came on a high-profile opening night attended by dignitaries, despite earlier decisions to limit public attendance due to external factors. **WHAT HAS PCB SAID ON NASEEM SHAH?** The PCB maintained that the pacer's actions potentially breached both contractual obligations and media policies, which prohibit public criticism or inappropriate remarks related to officials, institutions or stakeholders. The board has taken a firm stance on player conduct in recent times, particularly around public statements and political references. The case will now proceed based on Naseem's explanation, following which any disciplinary action will be decided.

IPL 2026: CSK talisman MS Dhoni out for 2 weeks due to calf strain

New Delhi. (Agency)
Chennai Super Kings will not have the services of legendary MS Dhoni in the first two weeks of the Indian Premier League. Dhoni has been ruled out for the first few games due to a calf strain, confirmed the franchise on Saturday, March 28.

terms of leadership and finishing ability. Dhoni, who retired from international cricket in 2020, has continued to play exclusively in the IPL. Last season, he featured in all 14

underlining both his longevity and importance to the franchise. For now, though, CSK will have to navigate the early phase without their biggest icon, with all eyes on how they adjust in his absence. **WHO KEEPS WICKETS IN ABSENCE OF MS DHONI?**

Praggnanandhaa carries India's hope as Candidates Tournament begins in war-threatened Cyprus

CHANDIGARH. (Agency)
India's R Praggnanandhaa will carry the nation's hopes as the FIDE Candidates Tournament gets underway in Cyprus on Sunday, March 29, with the winner earning the right to challenge reigning world champion D Gukesh later this year. Praggnanandhaa is the sole Indian in the Open section of the elite eight-player field, and faces a stern test in a tournament that will unfold over a fortnight in a double round-robin format. Each participant will play the others twice, with the highest scorer securing a place in the World Championship match. The tournament is being played in the middle of a war-torn West Asia, where the conflict between Iran and Israel shows no signs of stopping. On current form, American Grandmaster Fabiano Caruana enters as the favourite, closely followed by compatriot Hikaru Nakamura, who qualified via ratings. The ever-consistent Anish Giri is also expected to be a strong contender if he finds early momentum. The rest of the field features China's Wei Yi, Uzbekistan's Javokhir

The legendary wicketkeeper batter, who has faced injury issues in recent years, is expected to miss the first four games of the IPL 2026 season for the franchise. In place of Dhoni, either Sanju Samson or Urvil Patel are expected to take over the wicketkeeping duties for the team. **WHICH IPL 2026 MATCHES WILL MS DHONI MISS?**



Dhoni is expected to miss at least the first four games of the season during his recovery period: **March 30:** Rajasthan Royals vs Chennai Super Kings
April 3: Chennai Super Kings vs Punjab Kings
April 5: Royal Challengers Bengaluru vs Chennai Super Kings
April 11: Chennai Super Kings vs Delhi Capitals
His absence will test CSK's squad depth early in the season, particularly in

Chennai Super Kings identified Sanju Samson as the successor of MS Dhoni. They traded him from Rajasthan Royals for Ravindra Jadeja and Sam Curran. Samson, who will be opening the innings for CSK this season is expected to keep wickets for the team as well, having executed in the role in the T20 World Cup recently. CSK can also opt to hand the keeping gloves to 27-year-old Urvil Patel as well, however, there are no indications of that at the moment. CSK will play their first game of the season against Rajasthan Royals. The match is scheduled to be played at the Barsapara Stadium in Guwahati on March 30.

Raphinha, Phil Foden join growing injury list ahead of FIFA World Cup 2026

NEW DELHI. (Agency)
The injury list ahead of the FIFA World Cup 2026 continues to grow, with Raphinha and Phil Foden the latest high-profile names to suffer setbacks. With several key players already sidelined, concerns are mounting for national teams just months before the tournament. Foden's injury came during England's friendly against Uruguay, where a heavy challenge from Ronald Araujo left the Manchester City midfielder in visible pain. Despite a VAR check, no booking was issued, and Foden was forced off shortly after, replaced by Cole Palmer. The incident drew a strong reaction from England boss Thomas Tuchel, who was visibly frustrated on the sidelines. For Foden, the setback comes at a crucial time as he looks to cement his place both at Manchester City

and in the England setup. After a promising start to the season, his form had dipped, and the Uruguay game was seen as an opportunity to make a statement — one that ended prematurely.

The Barcelona winger was forced off in the first half of Brazil's 1-2 loss to France, with scans later confirming a right hamstring injury. The 29-year-old is set to return to FC Barcelona for treatment and is expected to be out until May. Early reports suggest it is the same hamstring issue that troubled him earlier in the season, raising fears of another prolonged absence. His absence will not only impact Barcelona's upcoming fixtures but also disrupt Brazil's preparations, given his importance in the attacking setup. **BIG NAMES INJURY LIST GROWS**



The list of injured players ahead of the World Cup continues to expand, with Cristiano Ronaldo among the biggest names dealing with fitness concerns. Several key players across nations are either ruled out or racing against time to recover.

Sindarov, Russia's Andrey Esipenko, and Germany's Matthias Bluebaum, making it one of the most competitive Candidates line-ups in recent years. For Praggnanandhaa, the build-up has been mixed. After a stellar 2025 season that saw him top the FIDE circuit standings to qualify, the young Indian endured a dip in form towards the end of the year, which extended into the Tata Steel Masters earlier this season. However, he arrives in Cyprus well-rested, having taken a break from competitive chess since February to focus solely on preparation. Sindarov, the youngest participant in the field, is widely regarded as the dark horse. The Uzbek made headlines by winning the Chess World Cup last year and possesses the tactical sharpness.

ISL media rights reboot draws big bids, but can AIFF avoid last season's chaos

← AIFF reopened ISL rights bidding with strong offers from two bidders. The process looks improved, but doubts over execution remain.

Sports has put forward a massive offer of Rs 2129 crore for a 20-year cycle, while FanCode has submitted a bid worth around Rs 1190 crore. The gap between the two bids is significant, but more importantly, the presence of multiple bidders itself marks a shift from last year's failed process. The structure of the deal has also been redesigned. The contract is set for a 15-year base period with an option to extend by another five years. There is also a built-in clause of a 5 percent annual increase in value, offering a more stable long-term financial model compared to the uncertainty that surrounded the previous tender. On the women's side, Capri Sports is the sole bidder, having placed a Rs 150 crore offer for the Indian Women's League and its second division. The separation of men's and women's rights into different packages is another notable change in this cycle. All of this comes after a season where the league's future itself was under threat. With



strong numbers now on the table, the focus shifts to whether the federation can convert this into a stable and transparent deal, or risk slipping back into the same issues that plagued the system last year. **WHAT WAS THE AIFF ISL MEDIA RIGHTS**

CONTROVERSY?
The backdrop to this process is last year's collapse. The end of the Master Rights Agreement between AIFF and FSDL triggered a crisis that the federation struggled to handle. The initial tender for long-term rights attracted zero bids. High financial expectations, centralised control, and lack of clarity pushed potential bidders away. The result was a five-month delay to the 2025-26 season, which eventually began in a truncated format with just 91 matches. Clubs faced uncertainty, some even pausing operations, while several openly criticised the federation's handling of the situation. The season only began after external intervention, and even then, broadcast rights were sold at a heavily reduced value. Trust in the system took a major hit.

Govt plans to borrow Rs 8.2 lakh crore in H1 FY27, Rs15,000 crore via green bonds

MUMBAI.(Agency)

The Government plans to borrow Rs 8.2 lakh crore in the first half of the financial year 2026-27. The total gross market borrowing target for the year was pegged at Rs 17.20 lakh crore initially, later it was revised down to Rs 16.09 lakh crore after bond switches. "Of Rs 16.09 lakh crore, Rs 8.20 lakh crore (51.0%) is planned to be borrowed in H1 through issuance of dated securities, including Rs 15,000 crore of Sovereign Green Bonds (SGrBs)," the Finance Ministry said in a release.

The borrowing will be carried out via 26 weekly auctions across a wide maturity spectrum ranging from 3-year to 50-year securities. The largest chunk will come from 10-year bonds, which account for 29% of the planned issuance, followed by 5-year (15.4%) and 15-year (14.5%) papers. To manage its debt profile, the government will use several other tools such as switching and buyback of securities to smoothen redemptions. It will also retain the option to accept an additional Rs 2,000 crore per security through the greenshoe option during auctions. Separately, treasury bill issuances in the first quarter are estimated at Rs 24,000 crore weekly, across 91-day, 182-day and 364-day tenors.

To address temporary cash mismatches, the RBI has set the Ways and Means Advances (WMA) limit for the first half at Rs 2.5 lakh crore.

Jan Vishwas Bill 2026 introduced in Lok Sabha: 717 provisions to be decriminalised

BANGKOK.(Agency)

The government on Friday introduced the Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2026 in the Lok Sabha, proposing wide-ranging changes including decriminalisation of several provisions to simplify India's regulatory framework and reduce compliance burdens. Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Jitin Prasad introduced the Bill at the Lok Sabha seeking to amend 784 provisions across 79 Central Acts administered by 23 ministries. One of the major amendments include the decriminalisation of 717 provisions, aimed at replacing criminal penalties with civil or administrative measures. The government expects that this move will remove the fear of prosecution for minor and technical violations, thereby building a conducive business environment. "The Bill seeks to rationalise more than 1000 offences, removing outdated and redundant provisions thereby improving the overall regulatory environment. The Bill envisages a shift from criminal penalties for minor, technical, or procedural defaults to civil and administrative enforcement mechanisms," stated the Ministry of Commerce in its release.

In addition, the Bill proposes 67 amendments focused on improving ease of living, signalling a broader push to make regulatory processes more citizen-friendly. The revised bill called for changes to provisions in several laws, including the Indian Ports Act and Merchant Shipping Act, both introduced in 2025, the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, the Delhi Police Act, 1978, and the Delhi Municipal Corporation Act, 1957, among others. Previously, Jan Vishwas 2023 Act, notified on 11 August 2023, had decriminalised 183 provisions in 42 central Acts administered by 19 ministries/departments.

Unemployment crawls down to 3.1% in 2025 from 3.2% a year ago, reveals govt survey

New Delhi.(Agency)

The rate of unemployment crawled down by one tenth of a percentage point between 2024 and 2025, a government survey has revealed. According to the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) 2025, rate of unemployment for persons aged 15 years and above stood at 3.2% in 2024 which has come down to 3.1% in 2025. The PLFS was released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation on Friday, March 27. The PLFS is conducted annually and it offers estimates of the employment and unemployment situation in the country. It provides data for Labour Force Participation Rates (LFPR), Worker Population Ratio (WPR), Unemployment Rate (UR), etc. Unemployment among educated individuals

Unemployment rate in usual status among educated persons (secondary and above) came down from 7.0% in 2024 to 6.5% in 2025. Incidentally, usual status unemployment is an indicator of chronic unemployment, of those who remained without work for more than 183 in a year.

Share of agriculture down

Though agriculture employs the biggest share of workers, its share in the employment scenario has gone down from 44.8% in 2024 to 43.0% in 2025 — a significant drop considering it took place in just one year. Construction is another labour-intensive sector. Its share in employment crawled down from 12.3% to 12%. Employment in the manufacturing sector rose from 11.6% to 12.1%. Employment in other services have gone up too — from 12.2% to 13.1% between the two above-mentioned years. Unemployment rates gender-wise

The Periodic Labour Force Survey also revealed that males have made progress in employment with the unemployment count going down from 3.3% in 2024 to 3.1% in 2025. However, the rate of unemployment among women remained the same in 2025 compared to that in 2024 — 3.1%.

The rural picture

The survey revealed that rural male labour force participation was at 80.5% while rural female participation was slightly more than half that rate and stood at 45.9%. But it was steady compared to the previous years.

Want a bank locker You may be asked to buy insurance, ULIP or investment first

This is the fourth part of Lock & Key, a series that examines how India's bank locker system really works, from safety and insurance to access and now, the growing concerns around how lockers are being allotted.

New Delhi.(Agency)

A customer at a private bank walked in to request a locker, a fairly routine banking need. He was ready to meet the formal requirements, including maintaining a fixed deposit linked to the locker. But instead of a simple application process, he was given a choice. Buy a ULIP worth around Rs 1 lakh. Or take a term insurance policy of about Rs 40,000. The

customer (wishes to remain anonymous), who has an account with Kotak Mahindra Bank, refused. He said he was willing to make the required fixed deposit, but not buy financial products he did not need. His request for a locker was effectively turned down. What makes this more concerning is that such conditions are not part of the rules.

This is the fourth part of Lock & Key, a series that examines how India's bank locker system really works, from safety and insurance to access and now, the growing concerns around how bank lockers are being allotted.

WHAT RBI RULES ACTUALLY SAY

The Reserve Bank of India has laid down clear guidelines on how lockers should be allotted. "Banks are strictly prohibited from linking the allotment of bank locker to the purchase of any other financial product or service," said Abhishek Kumar, Seni Registered Investment Adviser (RIA) and founder of Sahaj Money. According to RBI rules, the only financial requirement a bank can

mandate is a term deposit covering up to three years of locker rent and charges for breaking open the locker in case of emergencies. "Any demand for insurance, mutual funds, or additional



investments is a violation of these regulatory norms," Kumar said.

WHAT CUSTOMERS ARE EXPERIENCING ON THE GROUND

Despite these rules, customers say the reality can be very different. "Customers are frequently pressured to purchase

insurance or other investment products as a hidden condition for locker allotment," Kumar said.

He added that this is not an isolated issue.

"This practice is relatively widespread, particularly in high demand urban branches where the scarcity of lockers gives staff leverage over applicants."

With lockers in short supply, customers often face a difficult choice — wait indefinitely or agree to additional conditions. "Many customers comply with these informal demands simply to avoid long wait times or potential rejection," he said.

WHY LOCKERS ARE BEING USED AS LEVERAGE

The reasons behind this behaviour lie in how locker services are positioned within banks. "In our experience, branch staff push these products primarily because locker services offer low profit margins and involve high administrative overhead," Kumar said. In contrast, selling financial products brings direct revenue.

RBI orders banks to impose daily caps to curb speculative trading on rupee

New Delhi.(Agency)

In a bid to curb speculative trading to cap decline in the Indian rupee, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has ordered banks acting as authorised dealers to limit their end-of-day open positions in the onshore rupee to USD 100 million. The domestic currency had slid to fresh lows amid widening trade gaps tied to the US-Israel and Iran conflict. The central bank mandated that commercial banks must implement the daily cap by April 10, adding that the regulator may set different limits depending on evolving market conditions. Analysts said that the RBI may bring in more measures if depreciation in rupee continues, adding that its support to the currency has sharply reduced its foreign-exchange reserves, limiting its ability to intervene aggressively. The domestic currency

eased below the 94 per dollar mark for the first time on Friday, dipping almost 1 per cent against the greenback, leading to a cumulative of over 4 per cent since the start of the US-Iran war.



Brent crude trading well above USD 100 per barrel far above the USD 70 baseline assumption of the RBI in October has raised India's import bill

and complicated the central bank's task of balancing inflation and currency stability.

A smart recovery is likely in Indian markets as the crude overhang wanes and price-earnings (P/E) premiums contract, a recent report had said.

Emkay Global Financial Services, in its latest report, projected that the Indian rupee could bounce back toward Rs 91 per US dollar and the 10-year government bond yield to ease to about 6.65 per cent from 6.83 per cent currently, with normalisation taking two to three months.

India's overall economic position remains stable despite rise in fuel prices and crude oil prices will be crucial in shaping the country's external balance in FY27, another report had said.

Rs 6,855 crore probe deepens: SFIO tightens grip on IFCI; S Nayar, M Mukherjee, AK Rai under scanner

New Delhi.(Agency)

A Rs 6,855 crore loan-related case linked to IFCI is now under detailed investigation, with the Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO) stepping up its action and moving the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) with a wide-ranging petition.

The probe covers several years and goes beyond a single leadership period. It involves institutions, senior executives, and multiple corporate borrowers, raising serious concerns about how such large loans were approved and managed. At the centre of the case are alleged irregularities in loans worth Rs 6,855 crore. Authorities suspect that funds may have been diverted or misused, with complex transactions possibly used to hide the money trail. There are also concerns

about possible coordination between borrowers and decision-makers, along with lapses in loan approvals, restructuring, and recovery processes. Probe Spans Multiple Leadership Periods



One of the most unusual aspects of the case is that three former Chairmen and Managing Directors of IFCI are under scrutiny: Such a situation is rare and

suggests that the issues may not be limited to one phase but could have continued across different leadership tenures. Investigators are trying to determine whether this was a one-time failure or a pattern over time. Big Companies Also Under Lens

The investigation includes several well-known corporate groups, many of which have faced financial stress or insolvency. These include: Their involvement has raised questions about how loans were evaluated and monitored.

Case Filed In NCLT

The matter has been formally taken to the NCLT through a petition filed on January 24. The case was registered in March and has already reached the admission stage, with an interim order passed.

Indian stock markets dip for 5th consecutive week amid geopolitical tensions

New Delhi.(Agency)

The Indian equity benchmarks closed lower for the fifth consecutive week, amid persistent geopolitical tensions, elevated crude oil prices and sustained foreign outflows. Nifty dipped 1.28 per cent during the week and declined 2.09 per cent on the last trading day to settle at 22,819. At close, Sensex was down 1,690 points or 2.25 per cent, at 73,583. It declined 1.27 per cent during the week. Both indices remained volatile and under pressure throughout the week, although they attempted intermittent recoveries during the week. Bank Nifty underperformed the broader market, closing near 52,274, down 2.67 per cent on Friday. It posted a steep weekly decline of around 2.16 per cent.

The key overhang remained the ongoing geopolitical uncertainty surrounding the US-Iran conflict, keeping markets highly event-driven.

Concerns around global energy supply disruptions persisted, with Brent crude prices hovering in the \$98-\$115 range, continuing to exert pressure on inflation expectations and overall macro stability.

Sectorally, Nifty metal and PSU Banks emerged as the top losers on a weekly basis. Nifty IT and pharma were the only weekly gainers, rising 1.17 per cent and 0.11 per cent, respectively.

Broader indices showed performed in line with the benchmark indices during the week, as the Nifty Midcap100 lost 1.38 per cent, while Nifty Smallcap100 dipped 0.63 per cent.

The Indian rupee weakened further, breaching the 94-mark against the US dollar, reflecting stress from elevated crude prices, and persistent capital outflows. Vinit Bolinjar, Head of Research, Ventura predicted range-bound action in the markets and elevated VIX until global risk sentiment eases. "Robust domestic flows and any de-escalation in tensions should limit downside, favouring quality large-caps and domestic themes over high-beta plays," he said.

The Nifty 50 index is currently attempting to stabilise in the 22,850-22,750 zone, indicating initial signs of consolidation after the recent decline, market participants said. Immediate resistance is located at 23,000-23,100 zones, they said. For Bank Nifty, 52,000-51,800 zones are viewed as the immediate support levels followed by 51,500-51,000 levels, market participants said. On the upside, 3,000-53,600 acts as immediate resistance, they added. Elevated oil prices are expected to keep pressure on markets, while any pullback could prompt short-covering and support a rebound, an analyst said.

On Friday, FIIs extended their aggressive selling in Indian equities, clocking net outflows of around Rs 25,000-30,000 crore during the week.

New Delhi.(Agency)

Gold prices gained 5.77 per cent during the week, amid sustained geopolitical tensions and pull back in crude oil prices.

On Friday, MCX gold April futures added 0.15 per cent while MCX silver May futures declined 0.09 per cent. Currently, gold futures stand at Rs 1,44,500, while silver futures at Rs 2,27,750 per kg. The price of 10 grams of 24-carat gold was at Rs 1,42,942 on Friday, up from Rs 1,35,141 seen on Monday market opening, according to data published by the India Bullion and Jewellers Association (IBJA). Gold spot prices dipped marginally on the last day of the trading as a strong US dollar weighed on the market. MCX gold in India showed a steady recovery from a weekly low of Rs. 1,29,595 per 10 gram, while COMEX gold ended above USD4,500 per troy ounce. Analysts said that the recent dip in gold came as the traders sold bullion to raise cash amid risk-asset losses but the underlying upside momentum remains strong as the central bank continues bullion buying and geopolitical risk underpin prices. Further, elevated US



Treasury yields had also reduced the relative appeal of non-yielding assets like gold during the week.

Analysts noted that a pullback in Brent crude from near USD 120 per barrel to about USD 93 per barrel earlier in the week eased inflation fears and helped gold rebound from oversold levels. Traders remain cautious as near-

term swings are likely to be sharp, driven by news from the Middle East, volatile crude prices and central bank policy signals. "The commodities market enters the week in a phase of measured stabilisation following last week's sharp correction," an analyst said.

"The recent decline has eased overbought conditions, with prices now attempting to

rebuild momentum amid mixed global cues, including a firm US dollar and evolving geopolitical developments in the Middle East," he added.

The MCX Gold prices are trading near support levels after a sustained multi-week uptrend with Rs 1,36,000- Rs 1,40,000 zone acting as a strong base, a market participant said.



Madhuri Dixit

Shells Out Rs 2.81 Crore To Lease Mumbai Office For Five Years

Madhuri Dixit has now leased an office in Lower Parel, adding another address to her professional portfolio. According to property registration documents reviewed by Square Yards, Dixit has taken a commercial unit on lease at One Lodha Place for a period of five years. The total rental value of the agreement stands at Rs 2.81 crore. The office spans a carpet area of 731 sq ft and comes with one dedicated car parking space. The lease agreement, registered on March 24, 2026, includes a stamp duty payment of Rs 72,600 and registration charges of Rs 1,000. A security deposit of Rs 17 lakh has also been paid as part of the deal. The property has been leased from Rinku Parikshit Joshi.

The rental structure follows a step-up model over the tenure. The monthly rent begins at Rs 4.25 lakh in the first year and increases annually by 5 per cent. It rises to Rs 4.46 lakh in the second year, Rs 4.68 lakh in the third, Rs 4.91 lakh in the fourth, and reaches Rs 5.16 lakh in the final year of the lease.

Neither Madhuri Dixit nor the property owner responded to queries regarding the transaction. Dixit, who began her acting journey with Abodh in 1984, rose to prominence with Tezaab and went on to headline several successful films including Dil, Beta, Hum Aapke Hain Koun..!, and Dil To Pagal Hai. Over the years, she has earned multiple Filmfare Awards and built a strong reputation across both commercial and critically acclaimed cinema.

In recent years, she has balanced film appearances with television, serving as a judge on popular dance reality shows such as Jhalak Dikhhla Jaa and Dance Deewane. She has also appeared in projects like The Fame Game, Dedh Ishqiya, Total Dhamaal, and Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3.

Beyond acting, Dixit is associated with philanthropic work and has collaborated with UNICEF since 2014 on initiatives supporting children's rights. She also co-founded the production company RnM Moving Pictures. She has been married to Shriram Nene since 1999, and the couple has two sons.



Aishwarya Rai's Old Take On Her 'Ideal Man' Goes Viral Amid Rumours Of Separation From Abhishek Bachchan



Aishwarya Rai and Abhishek Bachchan are one of the most loved couples in town. Every time they step out in the city or attend an event together, they turn heads with their impeccable style, effortless charm, and the undeniable chemistry that fans adore. Lately, they have been grabbing headlines for all the wrong reasons. Several divorce rumours have been doing the rounds online. However, the couple has time and again put an end to these speculations by making joint appearances. Amid the ongoing reports, an old interview of Aishwarya talking about her 'ideal man' is now going viral. In an old interview with Rediff conducted before her marriage to Abhishek Bachchan, Aishwarya Rai shared what she considered her ideal man. The actress said that her ideal man should be deeply in love with her, as she wouldn't accept anything less. She said, "My ideal man should be madly in love with me because I won't have it any other way. I am a total romantic at heart, so naturally, my ideal mate better be well-versed in the art of romance. Not flirting, but romance. And there is quite a difference. I dig dignity. It is rare and priceless in a world that's so taken over by images and put-ons."

Abhishek and Aishwarya's paths first crossed on the sets of Dhaai Akshar Prem Ka. Soon, they became good friends. They fell in love around 2006 while filming Umrao Jaan and Guru. Although friends since their first film, their relationship deepened in 2006, leading to an official proposal in New York and a wedding on April 20, 2007. Earlier, in an interview with Oprah Winfrey, Abhishek revealed that he proposed to Aishwarya on the same balcony in New York where he first wished to marry her.

He had said, "I was filming in New York for a movie. And, I used to stand on the balcony of my hotel room and wish, 'One day, wouldn't it be nice if I was together with her, married.' Years later, we were there for the premiere of Guru. After the premiere, we were back in the hotel. So, I took her to the very same balcony, and I asked her to marry me."

They welcomed their first daughter, Aaradhya Bachchan, on November 16, 2011. Professionally, Aishwarya and Abhishek have worked together in films like Dhaai Akshar Prem Ke, Kuch Naa Kaho, Guru, Dhoom 2, and Raavan.

Varun Dhawan Reveals Daughter Lara Was Diagnosed With DDH At 1.5 Years: 'Walk Tedhi Hojaati Hai'



Varun Dhawan is one of the most bankable actors in the industry currently. He has been enjoying the success of Border 2. Well, amid this, the actor recently opened up about a deeply personal chapter in his life, revealing that his daughter Lara was diagnosed with Developmental Dysplasia of the Hip (DDH) when she was just 1.5 years old. His revelation left fans surprised.

In a conversation with Yuvaa, Varun shared that when Lara was 1.5 years old, she was diagnosed with DDH. He said, "My daughter was diagnosed with DDH, in which the hip slips out of the hip socket. Ek pair lamba chota hojaata hai jiski wajah se walk tedi hojaati hai".

He added, "You get Arthritis early, slip disc early. West main iska bahut accha treatment hota hai birth pe hi India main har jagah nahi hai itna. But yahan bhi bahut acche doctors hai jo iska care karte hain (In the West, this condition is treated very well from birth itself. In India, that level of treatment is not available everywhere yet. But there are also many excellent doctors here who take care of it). She didn't need to do a surgery. With one procedure they could put the hip back. But she had to be in a spica cast. That means she had to be in cast for 2.5 months. Which is extremely difficult. To put her in anaesthesia and then she woke up in a cast. Now the cast is out. I want to write a book on it."

Lara's birth announcement

On June 3, 2024, Varun Dhawan and his wife Natasha Dalal welcomed a baby girl at Mumbai's Hinduja Hospital. Varun and Natasha are childhood sweethearts. They tied the knot on January 24, 2021, in the presence of their families and closest friends after dating for a few years.

Varun Dhawan talks about his father David Dhawan's ICU phase

Recalling the toughest moment, he said, "Helpless in that moment...aap kya hi kar sakte ho. But his passion and his resilience even in the weakest of the moment was something which inspired me. Like nothing. Matlab I got so much inspiration that a man in ICU is telling me go and work. Vo keh raha hai jaake kaam karo..producer ka paisa waste mat karo..jaake kaam karo...that gave me lot of power actually in that situation..like in the weakest situation you fight back.. don't give up.. and me and my brother both went. I could not shoot without my brother that day."

Urfi Javed

Shares Glimpse Of 'No Budget Dhurandhar' Look, Says 'This Ain't AI Bros'

Urfi Javed has once again grabbed attention on social media with her latest quirky post. This time, she has given fans a glimpse of her "no budget Dhurandhar" look. Known for her experimental fashion choices, she added a twist while referencing the buzz around Dhurandhar 2. Taking to her Instagram handle, Urfi Javed shared the video in which she was seen introducing her look and wrote, "No budget dhurandhar ! This ain't AI bros ! Making jaldi dalungi , kaafi easy tha !" Fans immediately reacted with fire emojis. Urfi Javed is popular for getting such looks and

change their looks over time. Urfi previously revealed that she had lip fillers since the age of 18. Last year, she shared videos and pictures of herself before and after dissolving them. The actress explained that her fillers were misplaced and she wanted to remove them for a more natural look.

The actress uploaded a video showing the process, where her lips and face swelled immediately after the fillers were dissolved.

She warned fans: "Please watch this video at your own risk. Mere jo fillers the, kaafi misplaced the."

She added, "Main 2-3 hafte baad araam se ache se naturally karwaungi (After 2-3 weeks, I'll get them done again, properly and naturally)."

Despite the pain, Urfi reassured fans that she would get her fillers again, but in a more subtle, natural way. She captioned her Instagram post: "Removing my lip fillers, I can't believe I've had them since I was 18.

Never seen myself without these pouty lips. I will get them again in a week though, but this time more subtle."

About Dhurandhar 2

Dhurandhar 2: The Revenge serves as a sequel to the 2025 blockbuster Dhurandhar, which followed the story of Hamza infiltrating a Baloch gang in Lyari, Pakistan, as part of a mission to dismantle a terror network. The latest instalment explores the origins of the character, tracing how Jaskirat transforms into Hamza.



enjoys a strong fan following. **Urfi Javed Opens Up About Cosmetic Work** Urfi Javed recently attended a Ramadan event and spoke candidly to the media. When asked about cosmetic procedures, she said, "I have never gone under the knife... Maine sirf fillers aur Botox karaye hain (I have only done fillers and Botox)." She also shared that people naturally want to

Simple tips to do up your Car Interiors



Just like we do up the interiors of our homes, we should also do up our car interiors. Here is how...

New cars may be rolling on to the roads today, but not many would like to shell out big bucks with their dipping bank balance during the on going recession. In such times, you can still 'own a new car'; all you need to do is give your car a much-needed makeover with interior car accessories.

The interior of a car is often the most overlooked area, when it comes to customizing or redoing a car. However, people fail to realise that it's the interior of the car that you see more often than the exterior. So, dress up your 'old' car to make it a 'new' one. Pick one or all of the car accessories that will help dress up your car, after all, when you are driving in your 'new' car, you'll feel better too!

Replace old seat covers

Since seats make up a large part of the car interior, changing their colours can make a big difference in how the car looks and feels. With time while leather seats get scratched, fabric seats show stains and tears. Replace old seat covers with new ones to help cover up those stains and scratches and give your car a 'renewed life'. Car seat covers are easy to install, and cost much less than it would to replace leather seats.

Change floor mats

Rubber floor mats will not only cover up worn



out spots on your car's floor, but will also give it a cleaner look. Everyday, mud, sand, slush, and debris are tracked into your vehicle and mats protect the car carpet from these. Easier to maintain, these can be washed from time to time with just water. You can also customize the floor mats to perfectly fit the model of your car.

Place sun films

The installation of these films on front windshield, back windshield or side

windows helps combat ultraviolet rays. It helps cut annoying glare on your windshield reducing intense bright spots on sunny days and blinding headlights at night. These films also make your air conditioner functioning more effective.

Cover the steer

Leather steering wheel covers are easily available and slip onto your steering wheel, giving it a new sporty look. The contoured ribs in the steering wheel cover help your

hands relax while you drive.

Seat cushions

Jazz up your car interior with colourful seat cushions. Not only will this add to the accessories, if you buy a massage car cushion or heated cushion, you can have a comfortable ride home from work.

Music to soothe your ears

Replace the old audio cassette music system

in your car with a high tech MP3 music. This will not only allow you to increase your choice of music, but will eliminate the tedious work of changing cassettes. And for all the tech savvy people, get a USB slot installed in your car to plug in your ipod to it. To experience better sound, you could get amplifiers and woofers installed too.

Install SatNav guides

SatNavs not only save you from getting lost, but also eliminate the task of asking people for direction. The technology however is still at a nascent stage in the country. The GPS technology and digital mapping keep you on the move with easy-to-follow directions, through simple and clear voice prompt and visual directions. All you have to do is enter the street name that is located closest to where you would like to go. And the guide will calculate the best route for you.

Get the sporty look

Many car enthusiasts add sporty pedals and gear knobs, antilock brakes, to their vehicles in an effort to reduce weight and increase foot traction. You could also install tachometer, ideally meant for speedsters, to know engine RPM (revolutions per minute).

It merely tells you that how fast your engine's crank-shaft is rotating and has nothing to do with fuel efficiency.

All of these accessories can turn even the oldest car into a flashier car. Well, how much will it cost for a 'car makeover' depends on what you buy and where you buy it from



Turn your bath area into a glam zone

Taking a shower in a very glammed up and pleasant bathroom is a rejuvenating experience.

Here is how can make your bathroom the best place in your house:

Deck up the interiors

Starting from the bath tub to the bathroom fittings, make sure there is class and plan the combinations out. Match the colour of the walls with that of the bathtub or choose reverse colours or contrast colours if you



like it to be spunky.

Colour code the bath place

Taking from the bath linen to colours of the tiles and the wash basin, plan what colours will pep up your mood and get your bathroom designed accordingly. Color therapy works everywhere, even in the bathroom. So pick up the colour sheet and work out some best colour combos for tiles, fittings as well as walls.

Jazz it up with tech

Starting from installing a wireless phone to making the bathroom a wi-fi zone to installing a touch screen panel with internet connectivity and to touch sensitive bathroom fittings, you can think of all the high end stuff that will totally revamp and make your bathroom an envious special zone. This will only pep up the atmosphere of your bedroom.

Stock up some spa essentials

Essential oils, body and face scrubs of your choice and a little bit of aroma therapy. What else do you need? A sauna? Well if you can install it, wonderful, otherwise a hot shower or a hot water bath in the Jacuzzi will let you rejuvenate equally.

1. Don't clutter with furniture

"People tend to have too much furniture in their house in a bid to show off their taste. This doesn't give a feeling of lightness, but only creates clutter and makes your room look smaller than it already is," says interior designer Shehzad Khan.

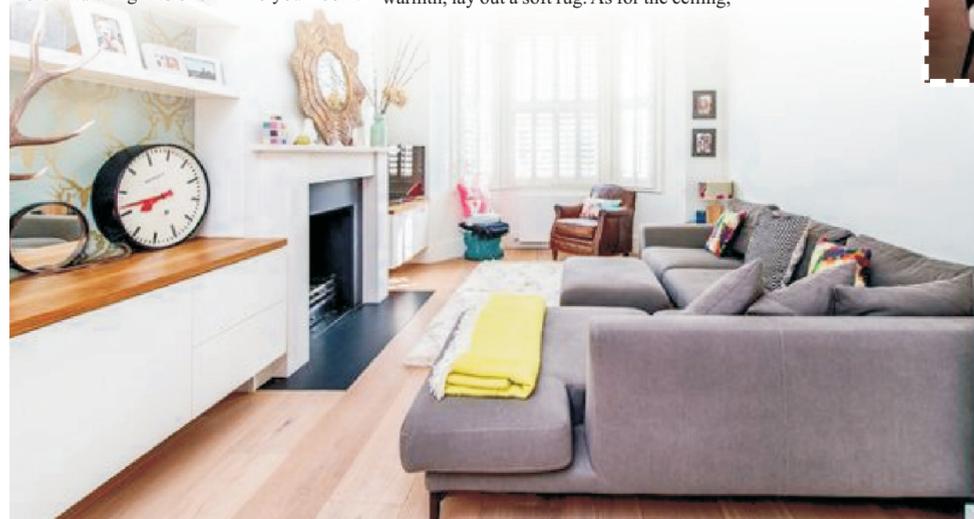
Conversely, spacing your furniture out and resting it flat against the wall is a fool's errand. It doesn't ensure a bigger room, instead your room ends up looking sparse. The trick is to angle it right. For instance, you can place a small console behind the sofa to create a sense of space. You can do the same thing with your bed and a side table in the bedroom.

2. Don't use too many small paintings

Fine art lends aesthetics and a sense of timelessness to your home. However, scattering small paintings or prints all over the walls will make a shoebox-sized home look smaller and more congested than it already is. Instead, invest in one life-size three-dimensional scenic painting on canvas, the keywords here being life-size and scenic. "Use wall cladding on the chosen surface and install the 3D canvas on it," says Gogia. Scenery gives a lot of depth to the wall. A DIY option is to paint the wall yourself. This way, you get to express and show off your creativity too. The market is also flooded with readymade wallpapers of scenic pictures that can be directly purchased and applied to one wall.

3. Do install French windows

Floor-to-ceiling glass windows is how the French won the West over, at least when it comes to decor. French windows automatically give spaciousness to the room. There are two reasons for this. They provide more natural light to stream into your room.



From optical illusion to colour schemes and fine art, there are plenty of ideas to dig into for a more spacious-looking living space

Also, instead of an opaque wall, you have glass and openness extending beyond it.

4. Do have a white floor or ceiling

This may sound too stark for us Indians, since we love colour and all things vibrant. Having a stark white ceiling or floor is an international trend that is catching on in India. The easiest option for a white floor is marble. There is a variety available out there, so feel free to experiment. For a bit of warmth, lay out a soft rug. As for the ceiling,

white is usually right. Says Girish Gogia, former interior decorator, "A milk white ceiling doesn't feel heavy on the head." Pure and pristine, white is the best colour to instill a sense of airiness. Choose from ghost white, eggshell, pearl, cream or the popular 'off white'.

5. Do invest in multi-functional decor

Streamline your room with multi-functional pieces. For instance, a dining table that folds into a coffee table or seater. A trunk or an ottoman with built-in storage to keep your reading material in. In the mood to splurge? A number of decor labels are now available in India. For a DIY approach, look up the internet to design your own functional pieces.

6. Do use paints in



pastels

As far as walls are concerned, try to paints from the pastel family to make it appear brighter. Pastel colours are also easy on the eyes. "In fact, you can take the pastel theme further and do up your home with upholstery in pastel shades," says interior decorator Suraj Dutta.

"Looking at the current scenario in Mumbai where the apartments are small, opt for lighter shades. The flooring shouldn't have too much design. It should have straight lines. Silver leafing and champagne leafing on the walls and even on the ceiling make your room appear larger. The technique adds a royal touch to your home and is quite the rage right now. It looks equally good in a 2 BHK flat as it does in an apartment studio of a bachelor."