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"Assam Ready For NDA's 3rd Term, We Will Win Over 90 Seats:" Amit Shah

Polling in Assam will be held on April 9, while counting of votes is scheduled for May 4. This will be the first Assembly election in the state after the 2023 delimitation exercise.

New Delhi.(Agency)

Union Home Minister Amit Shah said the NDA is confident of winning more than 90 seats in the upcoming Assam Assembly elections, as he began a two-day visit to the poll-bound state.

Speaking to reporters, Shah said, "The people of Assam are excited to bring the NDA government into power for a third consecutive term and we will win over 90 seats in the upcoming assembly polls." He made the statement on Saturday as he began his two-day visit to the poll-bound state with a roadshow in Guwahati.

The Union Home Minister held a massive roadshow in Guwahati to reach out to voters ahead of the Assam Assembly polls. The roadshow started from Arya Vidyapeeth College field, passed through key areas of the city, and ended near Nepali Mandir. Shah also attended a party meeting at the BJP's state headquarters, Atal Bihari Vajpayee Bhawan. According to party

sources, he is also scheduled to address two Vijay Sankalp Samaroh programmes in Dhekiajuli and Tihu today. During his two-day visit, Shah will



take part in several election rallies across Assam and hold meetings with senior BJP leaders. Shah said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Himanta

Biswa Sarma, major development work has taken place in Assam. He said world-class infrastructure has been built in the state.

"In Assam, extremism, bomb blasts, and firing have stopped. Health infrastructure is being developed here. The state has become the hub of health and education in the entire Northeast," he said.

After the Election Commission announced the polling date of April 9, major political parties in the state stepped up their election campaigns. In the outgoing Assam Assembly, the BJP has 64 MLAs. Its allies include the Asom Gana Parishad with nine MLAs, the United People's Party Liberal with seven, and the Bodoland People's Front with three members. In the opposition, the Congress has 26 MLAs, the AIUFD has 15, and the CPI(M) has one MLA. There is also one Independent legislator.

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Farooq Abdullah attack sparks outrage in J&K Assembly - 'Grave security lapse'

New Delhi.(Agency)

The J&K Lieutenant Governor's administration came under sharp criticism in the J&K Legislative Assembly over law and order, with legislators across party lines condemning the assassination attempt on former chief minister Farooq Abdullah as a "grave security lapse". During the two-hour discussion allowed by Speaker A R Rather, National Conference's Mir Saifullah voiced concern over the silence of the administration, "which has the Home Ministry, Police and security agencies under its control".



"After so many days, why has there been no statement from the LG's office, the Home Department or the Police on the reasons for the attack, the security lapse, and why the police were absent at the venue?" he asked, adding that he was surprised at the "silence of the police, LG's office and the

agencies". Describing the attack as part of a conspiracy, he said Abdullah was targeted at a place where police should have been present, with neither frisking nor metal detectors in place. "We should be informed why the police were not there and what action has been taken against the concerned SP, SHO or the in-charge of the police post." The House has a right to know "how it happened, why it happened and what action has been taken by the police", he added.

Churn in Uttarakhand as 2 former MLAs from BJP, 1 from BSP jump ship to Congress

New Delhi.(Agency)

With less than a year for the polls, two former BJP legislators and an ex-BSP MLA joined the Congress in New Delhi Saturday. The leaders are Rajkumar Thukral, a popular leader from Rudrapur and two-time MLA, who was denied a ticket in 2022 by the BJP; Bhimlal Arya, former Ghansali MLA who was suspended from the BJP for supporting Congress in 2016; Narayan Pal, a BSP MLA from Sitarganj. Others



include Gaurav Goyal, former Mayor of Roorkee, Lakhn Singh Negi, who is the current District Panchayat member from Bhimtal, Anuj Gupta, former Municipal Chairman of Mussoorie, and Yashpal Rana from Roorkee.

Thukral had contested from Udham Singh Nagar's Rudrapur in 2012 and 2017 on a BJP ticket, even securing 59.19 per cent votes polled in 2017. However, in 2022, the BJP denied him a ticket, after which he contested as an independent. He came third, getting 20 per cent of the votes polled, while the Congress polled 30.9 per cent in the seat. Thukral shot to popularity during the statehood movement when he was jailed. In 2003, he became the Municipal Chairman of the Bharatiya Janata Party.

Ethanol blending to cut fuel imports

PM's big E20 push amid Hormuz crisis

New Delhi.(Agency)

Amid the energy crisis triggered by the Middle East war, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday lauded the Centre's ethanol blending policy for helping India reduce its dependence on imported crude oil.

Speaking at the inauguration of the Noida International Airport in Jewar, PM Modi thanked sugarcane farmers of Western UP for helping India save money on crude oil.

"Had it not been for ethanol blending, we would have had to import 4.5 crore barrels from abroad," PM Modi said, adding that the farmers have played a huge role in helping India save crucial foreign exchange.

PM Modi's statement comes amid high crude oil prices due to the conflict in West Asia, a region which supplies over 40 per cent of India's oil.

INDIA'S ETHANOL BLENDING PROGRAMME

India's ethanol blending programme, which aims to reduce costly crude oil imports, save foreign exchange and lower carbon emissions, has received a big boost under the Modi government. India met its target of blending 20 per cent ethanol in petrol last year, five years ahead of schedule. Notably, starting April 1, oil marketing companies have been mandated to supply ethanol-blended petrol, also called E20, across all states and Union Territories.

The government has also set the target of increasing ethanol in petrol to 30 per cent by 2030. India has saved approximately Rs 1.36 lakh crore in foreign

exchange in the last 10 years by reducing its dependency on imported crude oil, said the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas in July 2025.



Speaking at the inauguration of the Noida International Airport in Jewar, PM Modi thanked sugarcane farmers of Western UP for helping India save money on crude oil. PM Modi's statement comes amid high crude oil prices due to the conflict in West Asia, a region which supplies over 40 per cent of India's oil.

Delhi Airport vs Jewar: Inside the battle for passengers, and why both matter

New Delhi.(Agency)

Why does Delhi-NCR need a second international airport when Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) is already the country's largest?

The answer lies in the ever-increasing passenger load.

The IGIA currently handles about 10.5 crore passengers annually, with its capacity expected to rise to 12.5 crore by the end of this decade. As per Delhi Master Plan 2026, which is under consideration, its capacity might touch 14 crore annually between 2035-2040.

However, the demand is projected to far outpace this growth.

As per a 2018 feasibility study conducted by global consultancy firm PwC for the Noida International Airport, by 2050, air travel demand from NCR's catchment area is expected to reach 25 crore passengers annually.

However, IGIA — the country's busiest airport — is likely to hit saturation around 2030. Located in a densely populated urban area, space constraints would limit its further expansion.

This is where Jewar airport comes in. Capacity constraint at IGIA, along with the horizontal expansion of Delhi, has necessitated the requirement of a new airport, noted the PwC report. Even now, when IGIA has not reached saturation, the airport is expected to witness capacity constraints at peak hours. This may result in spill-over of traffic to Jewar, it added.

Thus, in the initial years, Jewar airport is likely to cater to peak-hour demand that would remain unfulfilled by IGIA — the excess traffic is expected to spill over to the new airport. The potential spillover may start picking up significant pace by 2029-30, as IGIA reaches its saturation point.

US report flags Pakistan-based terror groups targeting India

According to the analysis, Pakistan remains both a hub and a target for a wide range of armed non-state actors, many of which have been active since the 1980s.

New Delhi.(Agency)

A report by the US Congressional Research Service has reinforced India's longstanding concerns over militant groups operating from Pakistan, particularly those focused on Jammu and Kashmir.

The report identifies several Indian and Kashmir-oriented groups—including Lashkar-e-Taiba, Jaish-e-Mohammed, Harakat-ul Jihad Islami, Harakat ul-Mujahidin and Hizbul Mujahideen—as continuing to operate from Pakistani territory, posing enduring security challenges. According to the analysis, Pakistan remains both a hub and a target for a wide range of armed non-state actors, many of

which have been active since the 1980s. Despite repeated military operations and policy measures, networks designated as terrorist organisations by the United States and the United Nations have not been fully dismantled.

The report, intended to brief US lawmakers and prepared by South Asia specialist K Alan Kronstadt, categorises these groups into five types: globally oriented, Afghanistan-focused, Indian and Kashmir-oriented, domestically focused, and sectarian, particularly anti-Shia outfits. It notes that 12 of the 15 groups listed are designated as

Foreign Terrorist Organizations under US law, with most driven by Islamist extremist ideologies.



Among globally oriented groups, the report names Al Qaeda, Al Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent and Islamic State Khorasan Province, while Afghanistan-

focused groups include the Taliban and the Haqqani Network. Domestically focused outfits

include Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan, Balochistan Liberation Army and Jaysh al-Adl, while sectarian groups include Sipah-e-Sahaba Pakistan and Lashkar-e-Jhangvi.

The report notes that a 2014 National Action Plan aimed to ensure that no armed militias operate in the country, but adds that multiple large-scale military offensives, including airstrikes and intelligence-based operations, have failed to eliminate these groups.

Vijay to contest 2 seats, calls Tamil Nadu polls direct fight between TVK and DMK

New Delhi.(Agency)

In his maiden electoral venture, actor-turned-politician and Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam chief Vijay on Sunday announced he will contest from two constituencies in the April 23 Assembly elections in Tamil Nadu, as he unveiled a detailed list of candidates across the state. He said "it will be C Joseph Vijay" contesting from Perambur in Chennai and Tiruchirappally East. Polling for all 234 Assembly segments is scheduled for April 23.

CORE TEAM GETS KEY SEATS

Addressing party functionaries, Vijay introduced candidates drawn largely from his core team, placing trusted leaders in key constituencies.

The list includes N Anand from T Nagar, Venkat Raman from Mylapore, Aadhav Arjuna from

Villivakkam, KA Sengkottaiyan from Gobichettipalayam, KG Arunraj from



Tiruchengode and CTR Nirmal Kumar from Tirupparankundram.

Other candidates named were JCD Prabhakar from Thousand Lights, VS Babu from

Kolathur and Dr Maria Wilson from RK Nagar. "I have selected those who will respond to your queries," Vijay said. "Just like how I left everything for you, I am giving these candidates to you. Please give us one chance."

'PEOPLE'S ALLIANCE' VS DMK BLOC

Positioning the contest as a direct fight, Vijay said, "It is only between us and Stalin sir alliance," referring to the ruling Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam led by Chief Minister MK Stalin. He criticised the alliance, calling it a "patch-up", and said his candidates were chosen for their integrity and connection with ordinary people. "Our candidates come from ordinary backgrounds they understand the struggles of the common man," he said.

UP woman finds Rs 10 crore in her bank account, says take it back

Uttar Pradesh.(Agency)

A routine balance check at an ATM turned into a moment of disbelief in Uttar Pradesh's Mainpuri district after a woman discovered nearly Rs 10 crore had been credited to her bank account, triggering confusion and raising questions over banking systems.

The woman holds an account at a branch of the Bank of India. According to her family, the amount Rs 9.99,49,586 appeared unexpectedly, leaving them stunned.

ATM CHECK LEAVES FAMILY SHOCKED

Her son, Arun Kumar, said he had gone to the ATM to generate a PIN and check the balance when the unusually large amount appeared on the screen. "I checked the balance and it was very high, around Rs 9 crore. We don't know whose money it is," he said, adding that the family plans to visit the bank once it reopens. The woman, identified as Sita, said



she had no knowledge of the transaction. "We don't know how this money came. Whoever it belongs to should take it back," she said.

Her husband, Farzan, echoed the same sentiment, saying the family, which depends on agriculture, had no claim over the funds. "When the bank opens, we will go and return the money," he said.

VIDEO GOES VIRAL, BANK CALLS IT TECHNICAL ERROR

A video of the ATM balance check has since gone viral on social media, drawing widespread attention.

Officials at the Bank of India's Sultanganj branch have attributed the incident to a "technical error". The branch manager said the woman had an existing loan account and the issue could have been resolved had she approached the bank earlier. The incident has sparked debate around banking accuracy, even as authorities are expected to verify and correct the anomaly.

News box

Out to buy groceries, retired Armyman run over by truck in Gurgaon

Gurgaon.(Agency)

A 62-year-old Army veteran died on the spot after being mowed down by a speeding truck near Kalwari Chowk in the Bilaspur area on Thursday evening. The victim, identified as Kabul Singh, a resident of Khor village, was a soldier who took up farming post-retirement. The incident occurred around 7.30pm when Singh went to the local market at Kalwari Chowk to purchase household supplies. According to police, a truck arriving from the Tauru side — driven at a high, reckless speed — struck Singh with such force that his body was left scattered across the road. The driver managed to flee after the accident. By the time Singh's son Sandeep reached the spot after receiving a call from a passerby, his father already died of injuries.

A team from the Bilaspur police station arrived at the scene with the vehicle shortly after being informed. Police have begun a manhunt for the unidentified driver. The body was shifted to the mortuary for a postmortem examination. Police registered a case under sections 281 (rash driving), 125 (endangering life), and 106 (causing death by negligence) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) at Bilaspur police station. Police are currently scanning CCTV footage from cameras installed on the Tauru-Bilaspur stretch to identify the truck's registration number. The body was handed over to the family on Friday following the autopsy. In another accident, a 21-year-old man died after his tractor overturned near a commercial construction site in Sector 12 on Saturday. The victim, identified as Himanshu Rajput, was originally from UP and was residing in Sector 23, Palam Vihar. Rajput was a water supplier and went to refill a tanker at an under-construction commercial site in Sector 12. He lost balance of the vehicle, which overturned and he got crushed underneath it. Police have initiated inquest proceedings in the case.

Former wife accuses Noida crime branch inspector of rape

Noida.(Agency)

A crime branch inspector posted in Greater Noida was named in an FIR after his former wife accused him of rape, assault and forcing her to undergo an abortion. The case was registered at Kankerhera police station in Meerut, where the woman lives.

According to police, the allegations came to light after a one-and-a-half-minute-long video by the woman surfaced on social media. In the purported video, the woman narrates her ordeal and levels serious accusations against the officer posted in the IT cell of Greater Noida Zone.

The FIR was registered on March 26.

The complainant said that she married the accused in 2007 according to Hindu customs and traditions. She alleged that her family gave substantial dowry at the time of the wedding, soon after which she was subjected to physical and verbal abuse by her husband.

The woman further alleged that the abuse continued for several years, ultimately leading to their divorce in 2022. Despite the legal separation, she claimed that the inspector assured her that they would remarry through a court marriage once his circumstances improved and she continued to remain in touch with him.

According to the complaint, the officer later kept her in a flat where he assaulted her sexually. She has also accused him of forcing her to terminate a pregnancy against her will. Additionally, the woman alleged that a house provided to her by the accused shortly before their divorce was sold by him without her knowledge. The complainant also claimed that the officer believed strongly in superstition, which contributed to repeated incidents of mistreatment and abusive behaviour.

Following the complaint, Meerut's Kankerhera police registered a case under sections 67 (sexual intercourse by a husband upon his wife during separation without her consent), 89 (causing miscarriage without the woman's consent), 115(2) (voluntarily causing hurt) and 351(3) (criminal intimidation) of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita. Police officials confirmed that an investigation has begun and statements are being recorded as part of the probe. Officials from the Greater Noida Police said that they have not yet been formally contacted by the investigating police station but assured that full cooperation will be extended.

Noida hospitals launch free of cost HPV vaccination drive for teens

NOIDA.(Agency)

Hansraj Singh gave away 10 bigha (around 2.5 hectares) The Post-Graduate Institute of Child Health (Child PGI) in Sector 30 administered the first dose of the HPV vaccine in Noida on Friday as part of the Centre's initiative to curb cervical cancer.

Under the 'Swastha Nari' programme, girls aged 14-15 are eligible to get vaccinated free of cost at a dedicated clinic. At Child PGI, the vaccination service will be running daily. "This programme is a significant step towards preventing cervical cancer and reflects our commitment to public health. We aim to ensure that every eligible girl benefits from timely vaccination," said Dr AK Singh, director of Child PGI. Hospital authorities added that the vaccination was conducted under strict medical protocols, with beneficiaries kept under observation post-administration to record their health and ensure safety. Apart from HPV vaccination, Government Institute of Medical Sciences (GIMS) has also intensified its focus on adult immunisation, issuing a public advisory and launching awareness initiatives to address gaps in vaccine coverage among older populations. The institute highlighted that immunity from childhood vaccines can decline over time, making adults vulnerable to infections. "Adult immunisation is the need of the hour. With increasing life expectancy and a growing elderly population, vaccines are critical to prevent diseases that can otherwise lead to serious health and economic consequences," said Dr Rakesh Gupta, director of GIMS. "Immunisation services at GIMS are functional throughout the week with immunisation OPD running daily from 9am till 1pm under the supervision of departments of paediatrics and community medicine. The vaccine is provided to all age groups including pregnant women and adults.

'Unfair': Court rejects chargesheet, seeks new probe in land fraud case in Gurgaon

Gurgaon.(Agency)

Terming a police investigation into a land fraud case "unfair" and "lacking seriousness", a district court rejected the supplementary chargesheet and asked police to appoint an ACP rank officer to re-investigate the case.

The court pointed out that the police exonerated some of the accused only on the basis of an affidavit submitted by the accused without carrying proper investigation. The case is related to illegal occupation and sale of 400 square yard residential plots Rajendra Nagar. Two Delhi cops and their family members are also accused in the case. A case was registered at Rajendra Park police station in Feb 2025 for cheating, forgery, forging document and criminal conspiracy. It was alleged a forged general power of attorney (GAP) was used to sell the plots and illegal occupation.

Gurgaon police in Oct 2025 filed a

supplementary chargesheet before the court in which several of the accused were given clean chit. The police report was challenged before court by complainant in the case and landowner Jaydev Yadav. Judicial magistrate 1st class (JM1C) Uditi Mittal in the order pointed that investigation indicated that GPA on the basis of which the property was sold was forged. "There is no indication that such claims have been subjected to independent verification through objective investigation. The approach of accepting self-serving affidavits, without corroborative inquiry, is contrary to the settled principles governing criminal investigation, as it effectively substitutes investigative scrutiny with untested assertions," said the court. The court observed the investigation appears to have failed in examining one of the most crucial aspects of the case — the financial trail. "In cases

involving allegations of cheating, forgery, and conspiracy, the flow of funds often provides critical evidence linking various



actors," said court. The court observed that forensic analysis, and digital and technical investigation were also not carried out properly. "These deficiencies are not merely procedural irregularities

but go to the root of the matter, affecting the ability of the court to ascertain the truth," said the court. Citing a 1985

Supreme Court order, the court pointed that magistrate is not bound by the conclusion arrived at by the investigation officer and is required to apply an independent judicial mind to material placed on record. "The court has the jurisdiction to direct further investigation where the existing investigation is found to be unfair, incomplete, or unsatisfactory, and that such power is to be exercised to ensure that justice is not defeated on account of a defective investigation," the court said.

"A fair investigation is a facet of Article 21 of the Constitution, and any investigation which is tainted, biased, or not conducted in accordance with law would vitiate the administration of criminal justice," it added.

Rain to bring down temperature by 4°C this week in Gurgaon, says IMD

Gurgaon.(Agency)

India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued a yellow alert for the city for the next two days, forecasting light to moderate rainfall. The wet spell is likely to be accompanied by thunderstorms, lightning and gusty winds with speeds of 40 to 60kmph.

The alert comes as a western disturbance over the Himalayan region begins to influence weather patterns across Haryana from Saturday night. "Rainfall activity is expected to increase from Sunday across Haryana, with isolated places likely to witness thunderstorms, lightning and strong surface winds," IMD said. Meanwhile, the city recorded a dip in minimum temperatures on Saturday. At the Gurgaon KVK station, the minimum settled at 16.5°C, down from 18.5°C a day



earlier. A similar trend was observed at the NorthCap University monitoring station, where the minimum temperature fell to 17.9°C from 20.1°C on Friday. Despite a cool start to the day, the daytime temperature reached 32.3°C at the KVK

station, up from 30.6°C recorded on Friday. At NorthCap University, the maximum was 33.9°C, compared with 32.2°C the previous day. Across Haryana, the average maximum temperature has increased by 1.7°C but remained within the normal range. The highest maximum temperature in the state was recorded at 34.7°C in Nuh. Over the next two days, IMD forecast a drop of 3 to 4°C in maximum temperatures.

"Rain and cloud cover will also lead to a drop in temperatures," IMD said.

Officials have advised residents to remain cautious during thunderstorms due to the risk of lightning and strong winds. They have advised people to avoid going out and not to take shelter under trees during thunderstorms and lightning.

Runway to dreams: For many, airport a launchpad for jobs, trade & global access

Noida.(Agency)

As PM Modi unveiled the Noida International Airport, the crowd gathered under the sun carried more than just curiosity — they carried plans.

For Shivam Kumar, a BTech student from Bulandshahr, the airport is a bridge to his future abroad. For Raj Kumar Sharma's family, it is the foundation of a business dream. Across Noida, Jewar and neighbouring towns, the mood at the inauguration was one of quiet optimism, driven by the promise of opportunity, faster travel and a local economy.

Thousands attended the event, many hoping the airport would bring prosperity along with convenience.

Shivam Kumar, who studies computer science at Gautam Buddha University, said the airport would significantly cut travel time for those living in Noida and western UP. "My elder brother works in Dubai and usually flies from Delhi. Reaching IGI takes three to four hours from Bulandshahr. With this airport, it will be about an hour. I also hope to go

abroad after my studies, and this will make a huge difference," he added. For families whose land was acquired, the project represents both loss and new beginnings. Raj Kumar Sharma from Nangla Shri Gopal village said his 12



acres were acquired for the airport. "My children are studying. One is preparing for UPSC, another is pursuing BA LLB. My daughter is studying fashion design in Ahmedabad. With new projects coming up in YEIDA area, she now plans to start

her own venture in the apparel park," he said. The ripple effect is already visible in neighbouring districts. Ganpat Singh from Dibaai noted that land prices in Bulandshahr have doubled in recent years. "Rates have gone from Rs 8-10 lakh per acre to nearly Rs 20 lakh.

Once the airport is operational, it will benefit our region as well," he said. Located about 50km from the airport, he added that Bulandshahr farmers could soon use cargo facilities to transport produce more efficiently.

The project has also generated employment. Fatima, a resident of Kishorpur, said her husband has been working as a labourer at the site for four years. "We may have to relocate in the future, but the airport has brought jobs. It has made a difference to us," she said.

As the project moves towards completion, the airport is emerging not just as a transport hub, but as a catalyst. For many, it's reshaping aspirations, livelihoods and

How airport has transformed Yamuna city

Gurgaon.(Agency)

Areas under Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority (YIEDA) have undergone a major transformation in the past few years, driven by the emergence of Noida International Airport — a catalyst for investment and industrial expansion along the Yamuna Expressway corridor.

What was once a largely agrarian and low-density stretch is now evolving into a planned industrial ecosystem. While the Yamuna Expressway was essentially floated as a gamechanger for the realty landscape along the stretch, the real change came towards 2020, ahead of the foundation stone laying of the airport. According to a research report by real estate firm SquareYards, apartment prices recorded a noticeable acceleration towards 2023. Data from a CAG report and a board meeting held by Yamuna Authority earlier this year show that in the last 15 years, the prices of properties have increased by 600-1,000% in different categories from 2008-09 to 2026-27.

In 2008-09, residential plots were priced at Rs 4,750/sqm, which



increased to Rs 36,260/sqm in 2026-27; group housing plots were Rs 4,000/sqm and rose to Rs 54,380/sqm; commercial plots from Rs 9,500/sqm to Rs 72,510/sqm; institutional plots from Rs 3,050/sqm to Rs 18,680/sqm; and industrial from Rs 1,400/sqm to Rs 16,240/sqm. This year, the Authority has committed substantial financial resources to sustain this momentum, including a Rs 11,829 crore budget for 2026-27, with a major share earmarked for land acquisition around the airport region.

A significant portion of the outlay, about Rs 8,000 crore, has been earmarked for acquiring land for a proposed industrial and urban ecosystem near the airport.

Another Rs 2,011 crore will go towards development and construction in Yamuna City, while Rs 502 crore has been set aside for the airport-related works, and Rs 300 crore for multi-modal connectivity projects. Yamuna Authority area is spread along Yamuna Expressway in a 3,352sqkm area. It spans 1,149 villages in six districts — Gautam Buddha Nagar, Bulandshahr, Aligarh, Mathura, Hathras and Agra. The Authority's notified area is being developed as an integrated urban-industrial region anchored around the airport. The shift is visible in both the scale and diversity of projects being rolled out — ranging from a medical development park, data centre,

apparel park, and logistics hubs to a proposed film city and sector-specific industrial clusters.

In the past year alone, industrial allotments increased. At least 54 new industrial plots were allocated, 731 lease deeds conducted, and 795 people got physical possession of their properties.

Additionally, the Authority sanctioned maps of 398 plots during one year. At present, YIEDA areas have 341 under-construction industrial sites, 60 completed units, 33 functional units.

Real estate developers said Noida International Airport is set to emerge as a powerful gateway for Uttar Pradesh, significantly enhancing global connectivity and attracting investments across sectors. "We anticipate a strong ripple effect on the real estate market, with property values witnessing a steady upward trajectory in the coming years," said Manoj Gaur, CMD, Gaur Group.

He added that the development of this world-class airport will not be limited to Noida or Greater Noida but will serve as a strong gateway for the entire state of

Cylinder explodes in Gurgaon, 5 people cooking food at home injured

NOIDA.(Agency)

Five workers living in a rented accommodation in Kherki Majra village have sustained 30 to 40% burns after a 5 kg LPG cylinder exploded on Friday. They were rushed to the civil hospital from where they were referred to AIIMS Delhi. They are currently under treatment.

According to police and hospital officials, six workers who belong to the same family from Bihar had rented out the room from a local named Bittu. The incident occurred around 9 pm when one of the workers had stepped out to buy flour. The others were cooking on a small cylinder inside the room.

Police suspect that a gas leak triggered a sudden fire. It caused the cylinder to explode. Flames engulfed the workers within moments, leaving them critically



injured. Neighbours rushed them to the civil hospital. Doctors referred them to AIIMS Delhi due to the severity of their burn injuries. They said the victims are aged between 30 and 35 years. A team from the Dhankot chowki reached the scene and launched an investigation. Police said the exact cause is being looked into. Family members of the injured workers have been informed. Suresh, the sixth occupant of the room, said he had gone out to buy flour when the incident happened. "We returned from work in the evening. We were cooking food and I went to the market while others were preparing the

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IIT-Delhi to study Capital's bus route rationalisation plan

New Delhi: The Delhi Government has roped in the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Delhi, to conduct a comprehensive

Transport Department officials, the 12-month study will be held from March 2026 to February 2027 and will be carried

coverage across the city. The rationalisation programme was initiated last year in view of the phased retirement of 15-year-old

to reduce travel time and improve last-mile connectivity. Earlier this year, the government rolled out route rationalisation in the West Region, following a similar exercise in East Delhi. The initiative, undertaken jointly with the DTC, focused on minimising passenger wait time and ensuring better reliability without reducing

service availability. Officials maintained that no 12-metre bus routes were discontinued. Instead, services were reorganised based on ridership patterns and corridor importance. Transport Minister Pankaj Singh said the next phase of rationalisation would be taken up in the North Zone. The plan also

includes deploying electric "Devi" buses alongside existing fleets and increasing frequency during peak hours under a unified timetable. With the IIT-led study now underway, the government aims to further streamline Delhi's bus network and make public transport more efficient and commuter-friendly.



study of its bus route rationalisation programme, aimed at improving the efficiency, accessibility and service quality of the Capital's public transport system. According to

out in collaboration with leading partners. The exercise comes as the government looks to optimise the existing fleet of Delhi Transport Corporation buses while expanding

low-floor CNG buses, a move mandated under statutory norms. The study is expected to assess route efficiency, commuter demand and service gaps, and recommend measures

Day after toddler's death, business as usual at congested Badli Road

New Delhi: Barely hours after an SUV ran over a toddler on the road leading to Siraspur village in north-west Delhi, nothing seems to have changed on the ground. A visit to Samaypur Badli's congested lanes, the site of Sunday's tragedy, found children still playing near the same stretch, oblivious to the dangers that persist. Rampant encroachments by roadside car washing units and visitors to nearby nurseries have turned the stretch into a potential death trap, where accidents have become commonplace. Poor traffic discipline continues to add to the risk. The road, beginning at Bawana main road and skirting the Badli industrial area before ending at Siraspur village, remains choked with illegally parked vehicles. Much of the congestion is due to numerous nurseries and car washing outlets, most of which reportedly operate without valid permits. These establishments draw water from the Western Yamuna Canal running parallel to the road. During a visit by this correspondent on Monday, several children, barely two to three years old, were seen playing on the roadside barely 50 metres from Sunday's accident spot. "Most families here are migrant workers employed in nearby factories. Parents work in shifts and struggle to supervise their children, who often wander onto the road," said Deepak Singh, an employee at a nursery nearby. Another resident, Channo Devi, who hails from Gonda in Uttar Pradesh, said the incident had left her deeply shaken.

In a first for India, Delhi doctors remove newborn's parasitic twin in rare surgery

New Delhi: Doctors at Maulana Azad Medical College (MAMC) and Lok Nayak Hospital have successfully treated what is being reported as India's first known case of a palatal parasitic twin in a newborn boy. A palatal parasitic twin is an extremely rare form of a congenital condition known as Fetus in Fetu, in which an underdeveloped twin is found attached to or embedded within the body of its normally developed sibling. In this condition, the parasitic twin lacks vital organs and depends entirely on the host twin for blood supply. When the parasitic twin develops in the oral cavity,

it is referred to as a palatal parasitic twin, as it is attached to the hard or soft palate. Such growths may contain partially formed limbs, tissues, or organs and can obstruct feeding and breathing in newborns, requiring prompt surgical intervention for survival. The baby was delivered at 36 weeks by caesarean section after antenatal scans showed a large growth inside the mouth. After birth, the infant developed severe airway obstruction and was immediately put on ventilation. The mass, measuring 15x12x8 cm, was attached to the hard palate, restricting breathing and head movement. A

surgical team led by Dr Sujoy Neogi, Professor, Department of Pediatric Surgery, performed the removal procedure with the assistance of Dr Deepak Goel, Dr Divya Tomar and Dr Rakesh. The operation required precise dissection to separate the growth from normal tissues. The work was supported by Dr Simmi K Ratan, Head of Pediatric Surgery, and a larger team, including Dr Praful Kumar, Dr Chiranjiv Kumar,

Dr Sheetal Upreti, and Dr Raghav Narang. After surgery, the baby was kept in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) for breathing and feeding support. The child, now two months old, has recovered and is feeding with a bottle. "This case exemplifies the power of early antenatal diagnosis, surgical precision, and collaborative care, an inspiring testament to India's advancing pediatric surgical capabilities," hospital authorities said.

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 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.

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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 (VBYP) 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 Vidyam, who secured All India Rank 278 in the UPSC Civil Services Examination 2025 and is also a practicing Supreme Court advocate. Addressing students, she 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."

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

New Delhi: Doctors at AIIMS Delhi's Dr B R Ambekar 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 performed an exploratory laparotomy, which revealed the tumour's origin in the uterus. Surgeons excised the uterus, ovaries, fallopian tubes, and the enormous tumour in a grueling five-hour procedure. The 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) intra-operatively. 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

takeaway 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.

Massive fire breaks out in Delhi slum near Rithala metro station; 1 dead

New Delhi: Police personnel and others gather as firemen try to douse a fire breaking out in a cluster of huts near Rithala metro station at Rohini area in New Delhi early Saturday. A man died and another sustained burn injuries after a massive fire broke out spreading to around 500 shanties near Rithala metro station in Delhi's Rohini, the Delhi Fire Services (DFS) said. Police said several LPG cylinders were said to have exploded late Friday evening, intensifying the blaze and triggering panic among residents. Thick plumes of smoke were seen rising from the area even as locals scrambled to save their belongings and move to safer places. Preliminary information suggests that 400 to 500 huts have been gutted, fire officials said. The DFS said it received a call regarding the blaze at 10.56 pm, following which multiple fire tenders and firefighting robots were rushed to the spot.

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

takeaway 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.

NAME CHANGE
I, ABDUL TAWWAB S/O Shri Abdul Rehman Resident of House No. C-16, Abhimanyu Gali, Near Babu Ram Chowk, Arjun Mohalla, Moujpur, Delhi-110053 have changed my name to ABDUL TAWWAB for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE
I, SIDDHARTH RANA S/O BHAGWAN RANA residing at H No-1074, SIRASPUR, DELHI-110042 have changed my name to SIDDHARTH RANA for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE
I Kapil Kumar Yadav S/O Dinesh Yadav R/o House No-523 P, Sector-14, Gurgaon, Haryana-122001, Have Changed My Name To Kapil Yadav For All Purpose

NAME CHANGE
I, Pradeep Kumar S/o Prem Chand R/O D-754/A, Gali No.1, Ashok Nagar, Shahdara, Delhi-110093 have changed the name of my minor son from Arjun to Arjun Vaidwan.

NAME CHANGE
I, Anupama D/o Pradeep Kumar R/O D-754/A, Gali No.1, Ashok Nagar, Shahdara, Delhi-110093 have changed my name to Anupama Chaudhary.

NAME CHANGE
I, VINOD KUMAR S/O UDAY SINGH residing at FLAT NO-G-3/8, NEAR DDA WATER TANK, SECTOR-4, ROHINI, DELHI-110085 have changed my name to VINOD KUMAR KUSHWAHA for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE
I Manoj Ram S/o Ram Bilash Ram R/O Flat No-6, Tower-8, Harmela Street, IRIS, Vatika City, Sector-49, Gurgaon, Haryana-122018, Have Changed My Name To Manoj Kumar For All Purpose

NAME CHANGE
I Taran Preet Singh Kochhar S/O Manpreet Singh Kochhar R/O 10C/80 SFS Flats Green View Apartment Mayapuri Road Hari Nagar West Delhi-110064 Have Change My Given Name Taranpreet Singh and Surname Kochhar for all purpose.

NAME CHANGE
I Sarvepreet Kaur Kochhar R/O Manpreet Singh Kochhar R/O 10C/80 SFS Flats Green View Apartment Mayapuri Road Hari Nagar West Delhi-110064 Have Change My Given Name Sarvepreet kaur and Surname Kochhar for all purpose.

NAME CHANGE
I, DEEPAK KUMAR VERMA S/O PARTAP SINGH resident of H.No.16, Tara Nagar Main Kakrola Road, Kakrola, South West Delhi, Delhi-110078 have changed the name of my minor daughter SHREYA ALIAS SHREYA VERMA aged 13 years, and she shall hereafter be known as SHREYA VERMA.

NAME CHANGE
I, hitherto known as SAMEERA SINGH, D/O SUDHIR KUMAR SINGH residing at Flat No.E-1058, River Heights, Raj Nagar, Extension, Tower-15, Ghaziabad, U.P.-201001, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as SAMEERA SINGH AMETHIA.

NAME CHANGE
I, Sushma D/O Shambu Prasad Dharamna W/O Vinod Kumar R/O B-6 Police Colony Mandir Marg New Delhi 110001 Have changed my name to Sushma Badola for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE
I Swaran Kaur Sawhney W/o Prith Pal Singh R/O 10C/80 SFS Flats Green View Apartment Mayapuri Road Hari Nagar West Delhi-110064 Have Changed My Name to Swaran Kaur for all purpose.

NAME CHANGE
I, Jugal Kishor S/O Lala Dhar R/O H.No-196 S/F, Kh.No-619/21, Chattr Pur, South Delhi, Delhi-110074 have changed the name of my minor daughter namely Krishna Devi aged 16 years and she shall hereafter be known as Priya.

NAME CHANGE
I, hitherto known as Farman S/O Akeel Ahmed R/O B 272/27, Gali No 4, Subhash Mohalla North Ghonda, Garhi Mendu, Bhajan Pura, North East, Delhi-110053 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Farman Ahmed.

NAME CHANGE
I, hitherto known as Atif S/O Manzoor Khan R/O 1/99-C, 4/F/F, Gali No.5, Guru Harkrishan School Wali, Gali, Katori Nagar, Gokal Pur, North East Delhi, Delhi-110094 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Atif Khan.

NAME CHANGE
I, hitherto known as Akash S/O Makan Singh Rawat R/O 2087/5, Gali No.20, Prem Nagar Patel Nagar, Patel Nagar S.O, Central Delhi, Delhi-110008 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Akash Rawat.

NAME CHANGE
I, hitherto known as Sanam Kumari W/o Samarjeet Gupta R/O E-400-D, Block-E, Ashok Nagar, Vasundhara Enclave, East Delhi, Delhi-110096 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Sanam Sav.

NAME CHANGE
I, hitherto known as Lakshman Yadav alias Bhavikshan Yadav S/O Bechan Yadav R/O Gram Debra, Post Bela, Thana Babubari, Ward No-02, Bela, PO Bela, Dist Madhubani, Bihar-847224 Have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Bhavikshna Yadav.

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is for general information that I, BALJEET SINGH S/O GURCHARAN SINGH R/O 12/32, Geeta Colony, East Delhi-110031 declare that name of mine, my wife and my minor daughter has been wrongly written as BALJEET SINGH CHUGH, GURPREET KAUR CHUGH, JASLEEN KAUR CHUGH in my minor daughter JASLEEN KAUR aged 16 years in her 10th class Educational Documents. The actual name of mine, my wife and my minor daughter are BALJEET SINGH, GURPREET KAUR and JASLEEN KAUR respectively, which may be amended accordingly.

NAME CHANGE
I, MOGHAL FATHIMA BAIG Wife of JC-3550171 Rank-NB/SUB Name-MOGHAL MOHAMMAD BAIG Presently residing at 9-5-5, ANDHRA RATNA NAGAR, PER-ALA HIGH SCHOOL, PER-ALA, CHIRALA PRAKASAM DISTRICT, ANDHRA PRADESH-523157, have changed my name from MOGHAL FATHIMA BAIG to FATHIMA SHAIK for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 16/07/2025 before First Class Magistrate, Shillong, Meghalaya.

NAME CHANGE
I, NO-17007475L Rank-NK Name-JITENDRA GANGWAR S/O LATE NIRANJAN LAL GANGWAR R/O WARD NO-11, MOHALLA GYASPUR, NEAR BANGALI BABA MANDIR, BILASPUR, PILLIBHIT, UTTAR PRADESH-262201 have changed my minor son's name from DAKSH GANGWAR to YASH GANGWAR for all future purposes vide Affidavit Dated 05/09/2023 before Notary Public, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE
I, NO-17007475L Rank-NK Name-JITENDRA GANGWAR S/O LATE NIRANJAN LAL GANGWAR R/O WARD NO-11, MOHALLA GYASPUR, NEAR BANGALI BABA MANDIR, BILASPUR, PILLIBHIT, UTTAR PRADESH-262201 have changed my minor son's name from DAKSH GANGWAR to YASH GANGWAR for all future purposes vide Affidavit Dated 05/09/2023 before Notary Public, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE
I, ANITA BANSAL W/O PAWAN BANSAL residing at B-504, MAYUR-DHWAJ APARTMENT, I.P. EXTN, EAST DELHI-110092 have Change my name to ANITA RANI BANSAL for all future purposes.

PUBLIC NOTICE
I, Jyoti pal W/O Sunil Kumar R/O WZ-125, Village Begumpur, North West Delhi, -110086, declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as Jyoti in my minor Daughter Yashika aged 14 years in her school cords and birth certificate no MCDOLR09368299. The actual name is Jyoti Pal.

NAME CHANGE
I, PUNNAM DEVI Wife of No-14913053K Rank-HAV Name-NARENDER SINGH R/O C-7, LAXMI GARDEN, NAJAFGARH, NEW DELHI-110043 have changed my name from PUNNAM DEVI to POONAM DEVI for all future purposes vide Affidavit Dated 30/09/2023 before Notary Public, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE
I, NEETAS DEVI Wife of No-3204848W Rank-HAV Name-DHARMENDRA SINGH R/O NEERUNDA, POST-MURSA, DIST-HATHRAS, U.P. 204213 have changed my name from NEETAS DEVI to NITESH DEVI for all future purposes vide Affidavit Dated 30/09/2023 before Notary Public, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE
I, Taran Preet Singh Kochhar S/O Manpreet Singh Kochhar R/O 10C/80 SFS Flats Green View Apartment Mayapuri Road Hari Nagar West Delhi-110064 Have Change My Given Name Taranpreet Singh and Surname Kochhar for all purpose.

NAME CHANGE
I Sarvepreet Kaur Kochhar R/O Manpreet Singh Kochhar R/O 10C/80 SFS Flats Green View Apartment Mayapuri Road Hari Nagar West Delhi-110064 Have Change My Given Name Sarvepreet kaur and Surname Kochhar for all purpose.

NAME CHANGE
I, hitherto known as ASHISH KUMAR RATHOR S/O PURAN LAL R/O Q-48, RAJEEV NAGAR BEGUM PUR, NORTH WEST DELHI, DELHI-110086, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as RAZA AHMED.

NAME CHANGE
I, SANJAY KUMAR CHOUDHARY S/O LATE SH. LAXMAN CHAUDHARY Permanent R/o Parsauri Khrohdar, Sitamarhi, Bihar-843325 and Presently Residing at Plot No. B-20, Second Floor, Dass Garden, Baprola Vihar, Najafgarh, New Delhi-110043, declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as SANJAY CHOUDHARY in my minor daughter namely SHIWANGI CHOUDHARY aged 17 years in her 10th class Marksheet. The actual name of mine is SANJAY KUMAR CHOUDHARY, which may be amended accordingly.

NAME CHANGE
I, VINOD KUMAR S/O UDAY SINGH residing at FLAT NO-G-3/8, NEAR DDA WATER TANK, SECTOR-4, ROHINI, DELHI-110085 have changed my name to VINOD KUMAR KUSHWAHA for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE
I, SANTOSH KUMAR S/O VISHVA NATH PRASAD residing at PLOT NO-58859, FLAT NO-2, STREET NO-5, HAVENS GARDEN MATIALA, DELHI-110059 have changed my name to SANTOSH KUMAR GUPTA for all future purposes

NAME CHANGE
I, Anil Balakrishna Panicker s/o Angakattil Narayan Balakrishna Panicker R/O A-6/334-A, Janta Flats, Paschim Vihar, Delhi-110063, have changed my name to Anil Bala Panicker permanently.

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is for general information that I, NIDHI AGGARWAL YADAV D/o VIRENDER KUMAR AGGARWAL and Ex. Wife of AMIT YADAV, R/O H.No.E-12, Hauz Khas, South West Delhi-110016, declare that I got divorce from my Ex. Husband AMIT YADAV vide Court Decree HMA No. 603/2019 dated 30-04-2019, further I have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as NIDHI AGGARWAL. I also have changed the name of my minor son namely AAYAN YADAV, aged 16 years and my minor daughter namely ARSHIYA YADAV, aged 13 years and they shall hereafter be known as AAYAN AGGARWAL and ARSHIYA AGGARWAL respectively, which may be amended accordingly.

NAME CHANGE
I, Kulsum w/o Rozuddin R/O B-17, Gali No.3A, Near Mohalla Dilshad Masjid, Old Mustafabad, Delhi-110094, have changed my name to Kulsoom for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE
I Swaran Kaur Sawhney W/o Prith Pal Singh R/O 10C/80 SFS Flats Green View Apartment Mayapuri Road Hari Nagar West Delhi-110064 Have Changed My Name to Swaran Kaur for all purpose.

NAME CHANGE
I Tajinder Kaur W/o Jaspreet Singh Bawjea R/O 5243 Ramjas Road Karol Bagh Delhi -110005 Have Changed My Name To Tajinder Kaur Bawjea For All Purpose.

NAME CHANGE
I Sarvepreet Kaur Kochhar R/O Manpreet Singh Kochhar R/O 10C/80 SFS Flats Green View Apartment Mayapuri Road Hari Nagar West Delhi-110064 Have Change My Given Name Sarvepreet kaur and Surname Kochhar for all purpose.

NAME CHANGE
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NAME CHANGE
I, S. VANITHA W/O No. 14838283N Rank-HAV/MT Name-RAAMESH P R/O VILL-SEDRAMPUTTU, PO-SEDRAMPUTTU, TEH-POLUR, DIST-THIRUVANNAMALAI, TAMIL NADU-632315, have changed my name from S VANITHA to VANITHA R for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 15/07/2025 before Notary Public, Kuppara.

NAME CHANGE
I, SH AUTAR SINGH Father of JC-413677X Rank-SUB MAJ Name-BHAGAT SINGH presently residing at VILL-BILTIYA SUKOLI TALLI PO-DHAUNTIYAL, DIST-PAURI GARHWAL, UTTARAKHAND, 246155 have changed my name from SH AUTAR SINGH to AVTAR SINGH for all future purposes vide affidavit dated 12/03/2024 before Notary Public, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE
I, NO-17007475L Rank-NK Name-JITENDRA GANGWAR S/O LATE NIRANJAN LAL GANGWAR R/O WARD NO-11, MOHALLA GYASPUR, NEAR BANGALI BABA MANDIR, BILASPUR, PILLIBHIT, UTTAR PRADESH-262201 have changed my minor son's name from DAKSH GANGWAR to YASH GANGWAR for all future purposes vide Affidavit Dated 05/09/2023 before Notary Public, Delhi.

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NAME CHANGE
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NAME CHANGE
I Sarvepreet Kaur Kochhar R/O Manpreet Singh Kochhar R/O 10C/80 SFS Flats Green View Apartment Mayapuri Road Hari Nagar West Delhi-110064 Have Change My Given Name Sarvepreet kaur and Surname Kochhar for all purpose.

NAME CHANGE
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NEWS BOX

Pakistan to host talks with Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Türkiye on West Asia conflict

World (Agency)

Pakistan will host a quadrilateral meeting of foreign ministers from Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Türkiye in Islamabad on Sunday, as part of efforts to address escalating tensions in West Asia and explore avenues for de-escalation.

According to Pakistan's Foreign Office, the foreign ministers of Egypt and Türkiye arrived in Islamabad on Saturday at the invitation of Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar. The Saudi Foreign Minister, Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud, is expected to join the discussions on Sunday.

They are scheduled to hold consultations on recent regional developments and will also call on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. Officials indicated that the talks would focus on "in-depth discussions" aimed at reducing tensions and promoting diplomatic engagement in the region. In a parallel development, Dar held a telephonic conversation with Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, during which both sides reviewed the evolving situation. Dar reiterated that dialogue and diplomacy remain the only viable means to achieve lasting peace. Dar also announced that Iran had agreed to permit 20 additional Pakistan-flagged ships to pass through the Strait of Hormuz, a critical global energy corridor through which nearly one-fifth of the world's oil supply transits.

Ground Report: Buildings Reduced To Rubble, Beirut Residents Say 'Not Slept For A Month'

World.(Agency)

A war between Iran-backed Hezbollah and Israel in Lebanon has reduced several buildings to rubble, with residents saying they have not been able to sleep for a month. Crisis-hit Lebanon was pulled into the Middle East war on March 2 when Hezbollah, which is the most prominent actor in the so-called axis of resistance -- regional pro-Tehran armed groups opposed to Israel -- fired rockets towards Israeli cities to avenge the killing of Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. Israel then responded with large-scale strikes on Lebanon, leaving more than 1,100 people dead and displacing over one million people, more than a fifth of the country's population. "I'm scared. I want to sleep," George, a Beirut resident, told NDTV's Nazir Masoodi.

He said he has not slept for a month.

Walking his dogs on a nearly deserted street, he said even his pets have become "aggressive" due to relentless bombings. He also said the Lebanese people are "stupid" to step into this war.

"When you take your leg in any war, you are stupid," he said.

Hezbollah-Israel War

Hezbollah was founded during the Lebanese civil war after Israel besieged the capital Beirut in 1982. The armed group fought a month-long war with Israel in 2006 that killed some 1,200 people in Lebanon, mostly civilians, and 160 in Israel, mostly soldiers, after the group kidnapped two Israeli troops in a cross-border raid. Hezbollah, whose name means "Party of God" in Arabic, had also exchanged fire with Israeli forces when Hamas's October 7 attack on Israel triggered a war in Gaza. More than 5,000 Hezbollah fighters were killed in the 2023-2024 war. Hezbollah this week announced a series of attacks, including claiming its fighters had launched a surface-to-air missile at an Israeli warplane over Beirut. In south Lebanon, Hezbollah said its fighters had clashed with "Israeli enemy army forces in the villages of Bayada and Shamaa at point-blank range with light and medium weapons".

'Underwater Supercar': Scientists Create World's Fastest Submarine With Dolphin-Like Speed

World.(Agency)

A Dutch company has built the world's fastest submarine, with a jaw-dropping price tag of \$5.75 million. According to Metro, Super Sub is a sleek, high-performance vessel engineered by experts and often described as an "underwater supercar." Designed for both speed and luxury, it represents a new generation of personal submersibles.

The Super Sub can reach speeds of up to nine knots (around 10 mph), making it one of the fastest submersibles ever built—roughly comparable to the pace of a dolphin. It accommodates three people and can dive to depths of 300 metres, with deployment on a billionaire's yacht expected soon after completing sea trials. It can ascend and descend at steep angles, allowing it to navigate complex underwater terrain with far greater control than traditional submersibles. Its hydrodynamic design and advanced propulsion system enable smooth, fast movement while maintaining precision. Built by U-Boat Worx, a Dutch company with over two decades of experience in luxury underwater vehicles, the submarine underwent extensive testing off Curaçao. Engineers evaluated its performance, safety systems, handling, and onboard technology before declaring it ready for operation. The vessel is equipped with advanced features, including a wide-angle sonar system that scans the seabed and assists navigation, along with redundant life-support and control systems for added safety. It also offers up to 96 hours of life support in emergencies, ensuring occupants remain secure even in unexpected situations. Designed to deliver a "flight-like" experience underwater, the Super Sub uses hydrodynamic lift to create a smooth gliding motion during dives. Its winged profile enhances stability, while a transparent acrylic pressure hull provides passengers with panoramic, unobstructed views of the underwater world.

'No Kings' rallies draw crowds across US, in Europe. Springsteen headlines Minnesota demonstration

Trump's immigration enforcement push, particularly in Minnesota, was just one item on a long list of grievances that also included the war in Iran and the rollback of transgender rights.

ST. PAUL, Minn. (Agency)

Large crowds protested Saturday against the war in Iran and President Donald Trump's actions in "No Kings" rallies across the U.S. and in Europe. Minnesota took center stage, with thousands of people standing shoulder-to-shoulder to celebrate resistance to Trump's aggressive immigration enforcement. Minnesota's flagship event on the Capitol lawn in St. Paul drew Bruce Springsteen as its headliner. He and other speakers praised

the state's people for taking to the streets over the winter in opposition to a surge of U.S. Customs and Immigration Enforcement agents. Springsteen performed "Streets of Minneapolis," the song he wrote in response to the fatal shootings of Renee Good and Alex Pretti by federal agents. Springsteen lamented Good and Pretti's deaths but said the state's pushback against ICE gave the rest of the country hope. "Your strength and your commitment told us that this was still America," he said. "And this reactionary nightmare, and these invasions of American cities, will not stand." People rallied from New York City, with almost 8.5 million residents in a solidly blue state, to Driggs, a town of fewer than 2,000 people in eastern Idaho, a state Trump carried with 66% of the vote in 2024. Big but mostly peaceful crowds U.S. organizers have estimated that the first two rounds of No Kings rallies drew more than 5 million people in June and 7 million in October. They expected 9 million participants Saturday, though it was not clear whether those expectations were met. Organizers

said more than 3,100 events — 500 more than in October — were registered, in all 50 states. Protests were mostly peaceful, but some arrests were reported. In Los Angeles, authorities deployed tear gas near a federal detention center downtown. One man had a leaf blower, attempting to clear the air. The



Los Angeles Police Department later arrested people for failing to disperse. Earlier in the day, a band was playing and people were dancing to Spanish-language music. The Denver Police Department said on the social platform X that it declared an unlawful assembly and deployed smoke canisters after a small group of protesters

blocked a road and did not leave as asked. Some threw the canisters back at officers, police said. At least eight people were arrested, as was a ninth person later on who police said was throwing objects. GOP officials dismissive of protests. White House spokesperson Abigail Jackson called them the product of "leftist funding networks" with little real public support. The "only people who care about these Trump Derangement Therapy Sessions are the reporters who are paid to cover them," Jackson said in a statement. The National Republican Congressional Committee was also sharply critical. "These Hate America Rallies are where the far-left's most violent, deranged fantasies get a microphone," spokesperson Maureen O'Toole said.

Protesters have a long list of causes. Trump's immigration enforcement push, particularly in Minnesota, was just one item on a long list of grievances that also included the war in Iran and the rollback of transgender rights. Speakers at the Minnesota rally decried billionaires' economic power.

North Korea conducts engine test for missile capable of targeting US mainland

SEOUL.(Agency)

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un observed a test of a high-thrust, solid-fuel engine for weapons and hailed it as a development to boost the country's strategic military capability, state media reported Sunday. The test likely indicates Kim is intent on enlarging and modernizing an arsenal of missiles capable of reaching the United States mainland. The report on Sunday from Korean Central News Agency came days after Kim delivered a speech at North Korea's Parliament pledging to irreversibly cement his country's status as a nuclear power and accusing the U.S. of global "state terrorism and aggression," in an apparent reference to the war in the Middle East.

Kim watched the ground jet test of the newly upgraded engine using a composite carbon fiber material, according to KCNA, which reported the engine's maximum thrust is 2,500 kilotons, up from about 1,971 kilotons reported in a similar solid fuel engine test in September. A push to increase

the engine power is likely associated with efforts to place multiple warheads on a single missile to increase chances of defeating U.S. defenses, observers say. KCNA did not report exactly when or where the test occurred. The test was conducted as part of the country's five-year military escalation program. The plan's objectives include upgrading "strategic strike means," KCNA



reported. The reference is understood to mean nuclear-capable, intercontinental ballistic missiles targeting the continental U.S.

Kim said the latest engine test had "great significance in putting the country's strategic military muscle on the highest level," KCNA reported.

In recent years, North Korea has tested a variety of ICBMs demonstrating the potential range to reach the U.S. mainland, including missiles with solid propellants that make detection prior to liftoff more difficult. The country's older liquid-fuel missiles must be fueled before liftoffs and cannot last long. Some foreign experts say North Korea still

faces technological hurdles before it has a functioning ICBM, such as ensuring its warheads survive the harsh conditions of atmospheric reentry. But others dispute that assessment given the number of years the country has spent on its nuclear and missile programs. North Korea has pushed hard to expand its nuclear arsenal since Kim's high-stakes diplomacy with U.S. President

Donald Trump collapsed in 2019. In a ruling Workers' Party congress in February, Kim left open the door for dialogue with Trump but urged Washington to drop demands for the North's nuclear disarmament as a precondition for talks.

Skies Glow Red In Western Australia Amid Dust Storm Ahead Of Cyclone Narelle

HANOI.(Agency)

The sky over parts of Western Australia, most notably in Shark Bay and Denham, turned a dramatic and eerie blood-red due to massive dust storms triggered by Tropical Cyclone Narelle. The "apocalyptic" visual was caused by the cyclone's powerful winds lofting iron-rich red soil and dust into the atmosphere. The dense concentration of fine dust particles scattered shorter blue wavelengths of light, allowing only the longer red wavelengths to pass through, creating a deep crimson glow that blotted out the sun. Residents reported daylight being erased within minutes, visibility dropping to near zero, and air becoming thick with dust. While the

red skies were most prominent in the Gascoyne region (Shark Bay), the broader storm system impacted the Pilbara coast, including towns like Exmouth and Karratha. The videos also sparked accusations of editing trickery. Some claimed the scene looked too dramatic to be real, prompting others to add "no filter" captions to their shares. Others argued the colour had been boosted, fuelling the debate. About Cyclone Narelle

Cyclone Narelle has been a rare and persistent "triple-strike" storm, crossing multiple Australian states. It first hit Queensland's Cape York Peninsula on March 20, moved through the Northern Territory, and then re-intensified over the Indian

Ocean before reaching Western Australia. It reached Category 4 strength with wind gusts exceeding 200 km/h, causing structural damage such as ripped-off roofs in Exmouth and Coral Bay. As of March 29, Narelle has been downgraded to a Category 3 system and is expected to weaken further into a subtropical low as it moves southeast toward the southern coast of WA. Queensland Premier David Crisafulli said, "In many cases it will be the strongest wind people have experienced in this part of the state for a long, long time." Despite the eerie red skies, experts say it's not uncommon—a similar event in 2009 turned Sydney's skies orange. Natural wind erosion, exacerbated by drought, is behind these dramatic scenes.

Iran-backed Houthis enter the monthlong war and could further threaten global shipping

DUBAI.(Agency)

Iranian-backed Houthi rebels entered the monthlong war in the Middle East on Saturday, claiming two missile launches at Israel. About 2,500 U.S. Marines arrived in the region. And Pakistan's government said regional powers plan to meet Sunday to discuss how to end the fighting.

The war has threatened global supplies of oil and natural gas, sparked fertilizer shortages and disrupted air travel. Iran's grip on the strategic Strait of Hormuz has shaken markets and prices. The United States and Israel continue to strike Iran, whose retaliatory attacks have targeted Israel and neighboring Gulf Arab states. More than 3,000 people have been killed. The Houthis' entry could further hurt global shipping if they again target vessels in the Bab el-Mandeb Strait off the Red Sea, through which about 12% of the world's trade typically passes. There could be limited relief after Iran on Friday agreed to allow humanitarian aid and agricultural shipments through the strait following a United Nations request. U.S. President Donald Trump, meanwhile, has given Iran

until April 6 to reopen the strait. Witnesses in Tehran reported heavy strikes late Saturday. Israel's military earlier said it targeted Iran's naval weapons production facilities that it would finish attacking essential weapons production sites within "a few days." The U.S. said it has struck more than 11,00 Iranian targets in the war.

Iran fired missiles toward Israel, while air defenses early Sunday intercepted missiles and drones across Gulf countries.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy visited Gulf nations Saturday as his country offers defense help with drones. Houthi involvement sparks concerns Houthi Brig. Gen. Yahya Saree said on the rebels' Al-Masirah satellite television station that they launched missiles toward "sensitive Israeli military sites" in the south. If the Houthis increase attacks on commercial shipping, as they have in the past, it would further push up oil prices and destabilize "all of

maritime security," said Ahmed Nagi, a

millions of barrels of crude oil a day through it because the Strait of Hormuz is effectively closed. Houthi rebels attacked more than 100 merchant vessels with missiles and drones, sinking two vessels, between November 2023 and January 2025. The group said it acted in solidarity with Palestinians in Gaza during the Israel-Hamas war.

The Houthis' latest involvement would complicate the deployment of the USS Gerald R. Ford, the aircraft carrier that arrived in Croatia on Saturday for maintenance. Sending the ship to the Red Sea could draw attacks similar to those on the



senior Yemen analyst at the International Crisis Group. "The impact would not be limited to the energy market."

The Bab el-Mandeb, at the southern tip of the Arabian Peninsula, is crucial for vessels heading to the Suez Canal through the Red Sea. Saudi Arabia has been sending

USS Dwight D. Eisenhower in 2024 and USS Harry S. Truman in 2025.

The Houthis have held Yemen's capital, Sanaa, since 2014. Saudi Arabia launched a war against the Houthis on behalf of Yemen's exiled government in 2015 and they now have an uneasy ceasefire.

NEWS BOX

MP-UP Cooperation conference to be held in Kashi; CM Yadav to preside

Varanasi.(Agency)
The "Madhya Pradesh-Uttar Pradesh Cooperation Conference" is scheduled to be held on March 31 in the holy city of Kashi. Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav is set to arrive in Kashi on March 30, where he will offer prayers and seek blessings at the Shri Kashi Vishwanath Temple. The following day, the conference will be organised under his chairmanship at a hotel located in the Cantonment area. During the recent Mahakumbh, lakhs of devotees were able to offer prayers at the Shri Kashi Vishwanath Dham with great ease. The Chief Minister intends to gain a deep understanding of the efficient "crowd management" model implemented during this period. These successful crowd management strategies are slated to be implemented in Madhya Pradesh for the "Simhastha Mahakumbh" scheduled to be held in 2028.

There are plans to adopt in Madhya Pradesh the successful model employed at the Shri Kashi Vishwanath Dham, which enabled lakhs of devotees to offer prayers without facing any inconvenience. Senior officials from Madhya Pradesh will participate in this conference alongside administrative officials from Varanasi. The meeting will feature detailed deliberations, specifically focusing on the framework for developing the Kashi-Ujjain-Chitrakoot religious tourism circuit. This conference will serve as a unique confluence of investment, exports, and innovation.

Maha: 1381 students form massive human 'peace sign' in Chandrapur

Chandrapur.(Agency)
In a remarkable display of unity and coordination, as many as 1,381 students from an institute in Maharashtra's Chandrapur came together on Saturday to create a giant human formation depicting a 'peace sign', claiming it as a new world record. The formation was organised by Somayya Group of Institutions, operated by Maharashtra Shikshan Prasarak Mandal. Maharashtra's Guinness World Records representative, Swapnil Dangarikar, was present on the occasion. According to the organisers, the large-scale formation was meticulously planned, with each participant positioned at specific points to accurately shape the symbol. The initiative was aimed at spreading a message of peace, harmony, and global brotherhood. Students participated enthusiastically, demonstrating strong coordination to execute the formation successfully. Teachers and staff members also extended their support, contributing to the smooth conduct of the programme. The event attracted attention not only for its scale but also for the powerful message it conveyed. Organisers noted that such initiatives play a vital role in fostering social awareness and a sense of collective responsibility among the youth.

115 singers set world record with 54-hour non-stop musical marathon in Pune

Pune.(Agency)
In an initiative to set a world record, as many as 115 singers came together to perform 575 songs non-stop over a span of 54 hours. Recognising this extraordinary achievement, organised by Swamini Music Academy in collaboration with Valentina Women Empowerment at Bal Gandharva, Pune, the initiative was honoured with the international award "Excellence England." All the artists who participated in this record-setting event were felicitated by the organisers and distinguished guests present on the occasion, including Meghraj Rajebhosale, President of the All India Marathi Film Corporation, and renowned actress, director, and producer Shweta Shinde. Veteran accordion player Anil Gode was also specially honoured with the "Lifetime Achievement" award. Well-known actress and singer Pushpa Chaudhary played a key role in organising the world-record event and the felicitation ceremony for the 115 singers. On this occasion, several dignitaries attended and congratulated the artists and Pushpa Chaudhary for providing such a significant platform. These included Trupti Desai, founder of the Bhumata Brigade and social activist; corporator Reshma Barate; Abasaheb Chorghye, Chairman and Managing Director of Valentina Industries; along with Santosh Bandal, Sandeep Pawar, and Ashwini Pawar. They also extended their best wishes for future endeavours.

Five Bengaluru city corporations together present Rs 20,216 crore budgets, aim for self-sufficiency

The maiden budgets uniformly allocated Rs 2.25 crore for each of the 369 wards, against the demand of Rs 5 crore placed by city legislators in the pre-budget meetings.

BENGALURU .(Agency)
The maiden 2026-2027 budgets of all the five city corporations under the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) totalled Rs 20,216.41 crore, as against the Rs 19,927.08 crore presented by the erstwhile Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) last year. The increase is around Rs 289.33 crore.



While it was the sixth consecutive budget presented in the absence of an elected council, it is likely that fresh budgets would be presented once elections are held to the five corporations, as per the Supreme Court directions to complete the election process before June 30. The total tax revenue of all the five corporations amounts to Rs 6,195.19 crore. Amidst concerns that the newly formed corporations might face the same fate as New Delhi, where

the split corporations were merged back into one entity following financial constraints, the five city budgets have focused on generating their own revenue to be self-sufficient and rely less on government funds. Amid the revenue-deficit concerns raised by the State Finance Commission against the Bengaluru West City Corporation (BWCC), it presented the budget with the largest outlay

among all corporations at Rs 4,732.73 crore. It was followed by the Bengaluru North City Corporation (BNCC) with an outlay of Rs 4,341.20 crore, Bengaluru East City Corporation (BECC) with Rs 3,889.98 crore, Bengaluru South City Corporation (BSCC) with Rs 3,825.95 crore and Bengaluru Central City Corporation (BCCC) with Rs 3,426.61 crore. The maiden budgets uniformly allocated Rs 2.25 crore for each of the 369 wards, against the demand of Rs 5 crore placed by city legislators in the pre-budget meetings. A common thread connecting all the civic bodies is that of Municipal Bonds, with each corporation aiming to mop up Rs 200 crore and, in return, get an incentive of Rs 26 crore each from the Union government. Infrastructure boost was the other common factor in the budget.

For six years, justice for husband and son has been our only prayer: Family in Sathankulam custodial deaths

TENKASI. (Agency)
A deafening silence permeated the rental house in Tenkasi, where the family members of Jayaraj and Bennix—the father-son duo beaten to death by Sathankulam police in 2020—currently reside. Accompanying the overwhelming quiet are the framed photographs of wedding events, in which Jayaraj and Bennix had posed with their family members, hanging in the hall. J Selvarani (60), Jayaraj's wife and Bennix's mother, was sitting on the kitchen floor, lost in her thoughts. J Persis (38), one of Jayaraj's daughters, now works in Tenkasi, away from their home in Sathankulam. The streets, roadside mobile shops, and the church of the town have become a constant reminder of police brutality, said Selvarani, who has hardly visited the town over the past six years.



Persis, recalling the cruelty her father and younger brother had endured at the hands of the Sathankulam police, said, since the incident, there had not been a day her family did not cry. "Although my father and brother will not return, the recent conviction of nine police personnel in the Sathankulam custodial death case has finally consoled us. For years, we

could not sleep peacefully. I lost the love of my father and my brother. However, we hope that the punishment to be pronounced on Monday at the trial court in Madurai will ensure that nobody else in Tamil Nadu undergoes the torture they had gone through," she said. The family further expressed their gratitude towards police constable Revathy, who spoke out about the custodial torture, as well as activists, political parties and the public for their support. "We were six in our family, including my husband, three daughters, and our only son

Bennix," said Selvarani. "Be it a family function or church festival, Jayaraj and Bennix used to be the first persons to receive the attendees. After their demise, we could not wholeheartedly attend any function in Sathankulam. We lost both the men in our family. My prayers over the past six years have been about getting justice for them," she added. Persis was in Vijayawada on the day of the incident. She recalled how the two never missed a day to call and enquire about her well-being. She said, "The CBI chargesheet states that the convicted police personnel, after taking Jayaraj and Bennix into custody, talked among themselves that they had a father and son to practise beating on. How cruel was that! My father and brother were not involved in any crime. They were killed only because they argued with the police. The ego of the police ruined our family."

When asked about the extrajudicial acts by police personnel continuing even after the Sathankulam incident, Persis said, "The police should not think that the public are their slaves. The men in their custody also have wives and children depending on them. Even if the accused had committed a crime.

Sameera cycles through Odisha carrying message of women's empowerment

BHUBANESWAR. (Agency)
When Sameera Khan lost her father in 2015, she ventured out to find a new meaning in life, which led her on a hilly path, literally. She began to ascend mountains but life had more plans for her. It brought her back to the ground, to make a difference in the lives of women of the country, who continue to be affected by gender inequalities, violence, discrimination and lack of opportunities.



After a personal loss, she left a well-paying job as a corporate event planner. Many advised her to get married and settle down, but she did not. She chose to travel. She wanted to understand people, more importantly, herself. In the years that followed, Sameera turned to mountaineering. She climbed 11 peaks in the

Himalayas and European countries. She also took to cycling. Since 2015, she has travelled across 37 countries on her bicycle. These journeys changed her. She saw how women lived in different parts of the world and compared them with the state of affairs in India. This is when, she found her goal. In March last year, she began a new journey. This time across India. She started cycling to different states on her gravel

bike with the sole aim to create awareness among young girls in rural areas on social and religious constraints, patriarchy, misogyny, abuse, sexual and mental harassment and various diseases affecting women. So far, Sameera has covered nine states of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and

West Bengal. She arrived in Odisha on March 3 and started her awareness journey from Baripada, followed by Balasore, Bhadrak, Jajpur, Keonjhar, Angul, Dhenkanal, Cuttack, Bhubaneswar and Puri. On Wednesday, she reached Berhampur and plans to visit Bhawanipatna, Phulbani, Balangir, Sambalpur and Rourkela before moving into Chhattisgarh.

Gujarat: Man duped of Rs 77 lakh through fake investment fraud

Ahmedabad.(Agency)
Ahmedabad: A 45-year-old man has filed a complaint with the cybercrime police after being allegedly cheated of Rs 76.85 lakh by fraudsters posing as stock market advisors. Police confirmed that a formal complaint has been registered and a detailed investigation is currently underway to trace the money trail.

According to the complaint, the victim was lured through a deceptive social media investment post promising high returns. He was added to a WhatsApp messaging group and convinced to download a fake trading app designed to look like a reputed firm. The accused also sent forged letters bearing a



fake regulatory SEBI logo to gain the victim's trust. After investing large sums into multiple bank accounts, the victim was unable to withdraw his funds. When he attempted to cash out, he was asked to pay additional "service" charges, raising suspicion of fraud. The cybercrime cell is now analyzing the digital footprints and beneficiary accounts used in the scam.

Radio collared tigress poisoned and buried in Madhya Pradesh, five arrested

According to the forest department, the prime accused, a 50-year-old man, allegedly poisoned the tigress by mixing urea in the animal's kill.

BHOPAL. (Agency)
A radio-collared tigress from the Satpura Tiger Reserve was found dead and buried in a forest area of southern Madhya Pradesh, with officials arresting five men, including the main accused, in connection with the case. The decomposed body of the tigress was found on Friday in a pit in the West Chhindwara Forest Division, outside the reserve's territory. According to the forest department, the prime accused, a 50-year-old man, allegedly poisoned the tigress by mixing urea in the animal's kill. During initial questioning, the accused said he killed the tigress to avenge the death of his ox, which was attacked by the big cat. He mixed urea in the carcass, knowing the tigress would return to feed on it. The

tigress later died after consuming the poisoned meat. The carcass was then buried with the help of four aides, and the radio-collar was burnt to destroy evidence. However, officials indicated another possible motive. "The prime accused had lost a cattle in killed by tiger in June 2025 and received Rs 15,000 compensation from the forest department. So why will he actually go for revenge killing over the loss of cattle now, despite knowing well that he would get due compensation for the loss," a source said. "During questioning, the prime accused said that he had spotted that the tiger which was attacking his ox was actually radio-collared.



Since the incident happened close to the place of his illegal opium cultivation, he might have feared that the forest department officials, tracking the tiger through the radio-collar, may ultimately land at the concerned spot, leading to the

surfacing of the illegal cultivation before the authorities, followed by punitive action against him by the police. Possibly it was that fear which might have actually made him decide to kill the tigress, by mixing urea in the kill, which the big cat returned to feed upon later. He also burnt the radio-collar," sources added. Officials said the tigress had been relocated from the Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve in 2018 and had established its territory outside the reserve boundary. Its movement was being tracked through a radio-collar. When the collar signals became stationary, a search team located the carcass in the Sangakheda Range of the West Chhindwara Division. Tracker dogs later helped officials trace the accused and his aides.

Maharashtra Congress to lead 'Farmers' Struggle Justice March' on Monday

Mumbai.(Agency)
In a show of support for farmers' rights, the Maharashtra Pradesh Congress Committee has organised a 'Farmers' Struggle Justice March', a foot march scheduled to take place on Monday in Dharashiv district of Maharashtra. The march, to be led by State Congress President Harshvardhan Sapkal, will see participation from senior party leaders, office-bearers, and farmers. It will commence from Suratgaon on the Solapur-Tuljapur highway and culminate in a public meeting at Sharada Mangal Hall in Tuljapur. Due to the pro-industrialist policies of the BJP government, farmers are being pushed into distress. Farmers are not receiving fair prices for their produce, and the BJP government's promises of doubling farmers' income have remained unfulfilled. The government has also failed to enact a law guaranteeing Minimum Support Price (MSP), said Congress in a press note. The party alleged that announcements about taking action against those offering prices below MSP have remained only on paper. The rate of farmer suicides has increased, and the Modi government, by entering into a trade agreement with the United States, has further harmed farmers. This agreement is expected to devastate agriculture and farmers in India, said the release, adding that the Congress is fighting in Parliament, the legislature, and on the streets to ensure justice for farmers. The Maharashtra Pradesh Congress Committee has appealed to farmers to participate in large numbers in this struggle march.

When maths is used to discriminate

There is a notion that the Union government shares its tax revenue with the states as an act of benevolence. However, the constitutional provision for a Finance Commission amply clarifies that every state has a legitimate claim to the Union tax revenue. The framers of our Constitution expected the commission's neutrality as an adjudicator to distribute the revenue.

Understandably, even if an adjudicator is technically fair, any hint of partiality undermines the legitimacy of its decisions in the eyes of the claimants. The 16th Finance Commission (16FC) faces this doubt on two counts. First, for its tweaking of the horizontal devolution formula to convert the efficiency criteria. And second, the interesting deviation from its predecessors in not providing an annexure detailing the calculations for each criterion. The state-wise data used for the calculations was uploaded to the Finance Commission website days after the report was presented to Parliament. Though the 16FC retained 41 percent as the states' share, seemingly minor tweaks in the horizontal devolution formula created massive changes in the states' relative shares. Of the six criteria used by the 15FC, three (2011 population, area, and per-capita state GDP distance) were retained with only minor adjustments to the weights; the remaining three (forest, demographic performance and tax effort) were modified. Here, we discuss two hugely consequential modified criteria. Demographic performance was measured by the 15FC by the impact of states' total fertility rates (TFRs) on their 1971 populations, whereas 16FC measures the impact of population growth rate (1971-2011) on the 2011 population. And the tax effort in 15FC is replaced in 16FC by the square-root of states' contribution shares to GDP as an efficiency criterion. The reason for dropping TFR is that it leads to an increase in the ageing population, which the 16FC thinks should be discouraged. This argument is very much contestable, as many academic studies show that a TFR decrease is not the sole reason for a population ageing.

But the curious twist lies in how the replaced variable is used. The 15FC took the inverse of this TFR and multiplied it by the 1971 population, while the 16FC did the same with the inverse of population growth, multiplied by the 2011 population—thereby completely discarding the 1971 population. In doing so, the 16FC effectively combined the 10 percent weight of demographic performance with 17.5 percent of the population criterion. The states that controlled population gained only 1 percent of the devolution share, compared to the situation in which the population criterion had 27.5 percent weight and demographic performance 0 percent.

But the real issue is in the mathematical properties of an inverse function. In such a function, there exists a nonlinearity in the rate of change when the values of the denominator are greater or less than those of the numerator. The TFR calculated by the 15FC is greater than 1 for all states; its inverse, 1/TFR, places all states on the same side of the line. The 16FC's formula, where the numerator is greater for the states that controlled population, results in injustice to performing states. The shift in the base year for population from 1971 to 2011 amplifies the degree of differential treatment. A similar mathematical property of a square-root function is again used to avoid giving the performing states their legitimate share under the contribution to GDP criterion.

On the case of the missing annexure, the previous two FCs had provided these tables with precise decimal points, making the calculations transparent and verifiable. Even a slight difference can shift the share's decimal point, and this shift can yield a significant monetary gain or loss for the states. The critical issue is particularly with reference to the estimates of GSDP and population projections to derive per-capita GSDP numbers, as two criteria with a combined weight of 52.5 percent are using these estimates to derive states' shares.

The freedom to retain your religion

When requests are made by the non-Catholic party for conversion, the priest informs the party that changing religion is not a necessity.

THE Catholic Bishops of Maharashtra, affiliated to the Western Region Bishops' Council, have officially protested against the Freedom of Religion Bill, 2026 passed by both Houses of the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly. I am happy the Bishops did so. As a practising Catholic, I would have been dismayed if they had meekly accepted the intended insult to the Constitution that this "freedom" entails. Before I elaborate on the "insult" to our Constitution, let me assign one point in favour of the present BJP government. It has a sense of humour! To deny a citizen the freedom to choose or practise a religion of his or her choice and then term that restriction as a "freedom" is indeed like a magician's sleight of hand. Our Prime Minister talks of "Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas", but his followers do not allow

Muslims, the main target of their hate, to sell their wares in Hindu localities, though they have been doing so from times immemorial. Personally, I am not in favour of conversions. What I mean to say is that our priests and nuns should not deliberately preach the gospel in order to attract followers of other religions to Christianity. But if by their Christian life of truth, justice, mercy and compassion some non-Christians get attracted to Christianity, can our priests and nuns shoo away these would-be "converts"? They cannot and should not. And the Indian Constitution is very clear on this issue. It is true that many non-Christians, both women and men, married to Christians approach the priests for admission to the faith through baptism. This is more common in the lower economic brackets. Among the more affluent, there are rare cases. In my own immediate family, one of my two daughters married a Parsi Zoroastrian. Neither my daughter nor her husband converted. In any case, Parsi Zoroastrians do not allow conversions to their faith. Like the Jews, they say that you have to be born a Zoroastrian to be a Parsi. Judaism and Zoroastrianism are the two oldest monotheistic religions the world has ever known.

Though Judaism is the foun of the Abrahamic religions, the ones who emerged from Judaism, the Christians and the Mohammedans, turned out to be proselytising religions and militantly so. The followers of these two Abrahamic religions were taught to believe that theirs was the only true religion in the world, a treatise that defies proof but continues to exist. It is in continuation of this belief that the marriage rules of both, Christianity and Islam, required both parties entering into matrimony in the church or the mosque, to be of the same faith. If

they were not, the non-Christian had to convert to Christianity and the non-Muslim to Islam if the demand was for the marriage to be solemnised by their respective laws and customs.

The Catholic Church discarded this compulsion decades ago. When requests are made by the non-Catholic party for conversion, the priest informs the party that conversion is not a necessity. He adds that the party can wait for five or more years to decide on the issue.

I recount here the case of two Navy doctors, both products of the AFMC (Armed Forces Medical College), Pune, belonging to different faiths, who fell in love while studying. The groom was the son of the Chief Medical officer of the Pune municipality. His mother and my



mother were neighbours and schoolmates in the tiny Goan village of Badem in Bardez taluka. The bride was the daughter of a serving or retired Major General in the Indian Army and belonged to a well-known Chittpavan Brahmin family of Pune.

When the pair approached the Jesuit priest, who was a German, to declare their intention of tying the knot, the girl said that she was willing to convert to Catholicism. Promptly came the reply: "There is no such necessity. In fact, I advise you to wait for five years at least before you take any such decision." Just as well. Because soon after his son was born, the officer took a joy ride in a helicopter with colleagues of the Aviation Branch of the Navy and never returned. The helicopter disappeared in

the ocean, killing all the occupants. My mother's classmate told my mother that after some time, her husband and she persuaded the young widow to marry again, which she did. The relations between the former daughter-in-law and her first husband's family continue to be close and intimate. The grandson visits his paternal grandparents regularly.

I mention this case in detail to prove that the Catholic Church has changed dramatically over the years, adjusting Church teachings to modern thought. It is easy to achieve this in a hierarchical structure like the Catholic Church of Rome. In Islam, the decision-making levels are not easily discernable, sometimes confusing, and astonishing, "Firmans" are announced by local "mullahs" who may not have the education or intellectual capacity to decide on such issues.

But changing marriage laws can only be done by the community itself. If a nikah can be allowed without changing one's religion, that would solve many problems. At present, the only solution to avoiding the "forcible conversion" accusation is to get married in the "Registrar of Marriages" office, like my daughter did. Recently, the Gujarat High Court ordered the male partner, a Muslim, to marry in the Registrar's office and deposit an amount of Rs 3 lakh in the escrow account of his Hindu lady partner so that her parents' demand that she be told to return to her parental home was denied. The boy complied immediately, proving that his love was genuine and not motivated by any "jihad".

The BJP governments in power in certain states have to cater to their core constituency that has been fed on the canards that every Muslim man has four wives and a dozen children. A time will come, they are told, when the Muslims will outnumber the Hindus and introduce the laws of the Sharia. The thinking ones among this constituency know that the figures are all wrong, but they seem to be marching along in order to preserve Hindu pride. The legislation enacted to protect the "freedom" of religion will affect the tiny Christian community also. A few conversions following marriage do occur, but our priests themselves are enjoined to advise the non-Catholic partner before the marriage is solemnised that conversion is not a requirement, as it used to be five decades or more earlier.

Clean energy shift: New targets a challenge and an opportunity

The Union Cabinet has set revised climate targets, including an increase in the forest and tree cover

INDIA'S shift to clean energy technology from its dependence on coal and other fossil fuels now has a new roadmap, the success of which will depend on the direction and pace of the transition. Amid energy security concerns and global supply chain disruptions, the Union Cabinet has set revised climate targets, including an increase in the forest and tree cover. It marks another step forward in the long-term goal of achieving net-zero emissions by 2070. The Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) — voluntary climate action plans by countries under the Paris Agreement — for 2031-2035 aim to reduce the emissions intensity of the GDP, or the amount of greenhouse gas produced per unit of economic output, by 47% from the 2005 levels. Increasing the share of non-fossil fuel-based installed electricity capacity to 60% may seem ambitious on paper, but is doable, given With the country bearing the brunt of the impact of climate change, the updated NDCs include several measures related to climate adaptation and



disaster resilience. Protecting vulnerable coastlines through mangrove restoration, early warning systems for cyclones and storm surges, glacier monitoring, biodiversity conservation and climate-resilient infrastructure in regions facing landslides and glacial lake outburst floods are all vital interventions. These, along with heat action plans and community-based disaster preparedness, need urgent scaling-up and utmost attention. Decarbonising the power sector while ensuring affordability and energy security is a tough ask, as is large-scale funding for clean energy technology. An implementation-focused climate strategy demands wholehearted public participation. Awareness and the readiness to embrace change are key elements of renewable energy expansion. It's both a challenge and an opportunity for the country. India's track record of meeting some key targets ahead of schedule.

Let's talk local governance in Punjab

Karnataka allows PRIs to collect 20 different taxes, whereas Punjab permits only three

Punjab's development discourse recently has gravitated towards bottom-up narratives, with political rhetoric underscoring the power of panchayat members being equal to that of MLAs. This claim, although rhetoric, raises a deeper fundamental question on whether local bodies in the state today lack power or funds/resources? The latest Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) report, tabled during the Budget Session of the 16th Vidhan Sabha, offers a far more uncomfortable answer. The problem, it suggests, is neither merely of power nor of funds, but of the system's limited capacity to effectively utilise either.

Structural discrepancies

At the heart of this lies a deeper structural issue which policymakers have long pointed as a misalignment between funds, functions, and functionaries. Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs), for instance, have been assigned 29 functions on paper, yet in practice exercise meaningful control over only 13. A similar pattern emerges in urban governance where Urban Local Bodies (ULBs), despite the nominal devolution of all 18 functions, retain full operational control over only six, with the remaining functions fragmented across multiple departments. Capacity constraints at the level of local institutions further deepen their crises. PRIs in Punjab face a 38 percent manpower shortage, including a striking 66 percent shortage of tax collectors.

In contrast, the CAG report shows that ULBs present an inverse distortion, while small towns have excess staff, municipal corporations face a shortage of nearly 9,000 personnel.

Compounding this is the limited fiscal autonomy granted by the state laws to the local bodies. The devolution of powers to generate revenue varies significantly across states. Karnataka, among the better-performing examples, allows PRIs to collect 20 different taxes,



whereas Punjab permits only three (Ministry of Panchayati Raj, 2025). This is a growing challenge at even lower levels of government. Another report on PRIs highlighted that the Zilla Panchayats (ZPs) did not have their own sources of revenue and were dependent on "...government grants for even their establishment expenditure".

CAG: funds not released

To add to this, the CAG report further highlights that Punjab's State Finance Commission (SFC) funds were also not released to PRIs between 2021 and 2023, severely constraining local fiscal operations.

ULBs continue to suffer from persistent gaps in revenue collection, with over Rs 126 crore in uncollected charges and widespread property tax evasion. The CAG report also points to incomplete assets worth Rs 1.4 crore lying

idle for years, alongside unused infrastructure valued at nearly Rs 8 crore. Even projects worth Rs 2,000 crore lacked third-party audits, while cost overruns approached 40 percent. Together, these trends point to a governance system that is structurally under-capacitated. Addressing the local governance challenges, requires a legal and institutional overhaul that aligns powers with ground realities.

Institutional overhaul needed

Firstly, since planning, asset management and service delivery are inherently local in nature, there is a pressing need to shift from compliance-driven targets to models of 'local co-designing'. For this, the state must undertake a clear function — authority mapping exercise to establish a minimum viable level of state capacity at the local level. Such an exercise would not only clarify

institutional roles but also improve fund usability. The focus should be staffing reforms where role-based staffing and the creation of specialised municipal cadres, particularly in finance, engineering and planning must be adopted. Secondly, Punjab must urgently revise regulations that limit local revenue generation. A key feature of the 73rd and 74th amendments was the concept of local self-governance and hence placing 'local finance' within the state list. This has empowered states with the freedom to grant power to local bodies to decide and generate their own sources of revenue. A healthy stream of own source revenue also allows the local bodies to address local challenges in the manner and time deemed fit.

Lastly, strengthening local revenue systems through targeted capacity enhancement programmes will also be critical to building robust fiscal capacity. At present, record-keeping practices remain largely oriented towards audit compliance, as evidenced by the absence of asset registers, estimated histories and reliable financial reporting.

Digitise systems

Moving forward, Punjab needs to build simple, functional digital systems capable of tracking assets, projects, and expenditures in real time. This would enable local officials to make more informed decisions.

For example, linking asset creation to mandatory digital registration and maintenance plans, potentially through blockchain-based systems could help address the recurring problem of underutilised and deteriorating public assets. Punjab's local bodies collectively manage between Rs 6,000 crore and Rs 10,000 crore annually. Even a modest improvement in efficiency on the order of 15 to 20 percent could unlock substantial fiscal space and significantly improve developmental outcomes.

Telangana Assembly Budget Session enters 10th day, key bills and budget demands on agenda

Hyderabad.(Agency)

The Budget Session of the Telangana Legislative Assembly entered its 10th day on Sunday, convening at 10 A.M. with a packed legislative agenda, including the introduction of key bills and the final phase of voting on demands for grants for 2026-27.

According to the agenda released by Assembly Secretary Rendla Thirupathi, the Question Hour was dispensed with for the day.

Deputy Chief Minister (Finance, Planning and Energy) Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu is scheduled to table multiple annual reports of power utilities and corporations, including TSGENCO, TRANSCO, and DISCOMs, along with reports of renewable energy and regulatory bodies.

The House will also take up a condolence motion over the demise of former MLA A Govind Naik, expressing deep sympathy to the bereaved family.

Several significant government bills are slated to be introduced, including the Telangana Value Added Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2026, the Telangana Hate Speech and Hate Crimes (Prevention) Bill, 2026, and a bill aimed at welfare and social security for platform-based gig workers. Amendments to the Panchayat Raj Act and a bill on employees' accountability concerning parental support are also on the legislative agenda. The session will witness the fourth and final day of voting on demands for grants under the Annual Budget for 2026-27. Key allocations include substantial outlays for school.

Yuva Bharat Run 2026 draws massive crowd in Hyderabad; Governor calls for fit and disciplined youth

Hyderabad.(Agency)

The Yuva Bharat Run 2026, one of the country's largest youth-led fitness initiatives, drew an overwhelming response at People's Plaza, Necklace Road here on Sunday morning, with over 10,000 participants joining to promote fitness, unity, and healthy living.

Organised by Delhi Public School (DPS) and Pallavi Schools, with support from the Fit India initiative and the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, the event commenced at 0600 hours. Red FM partnered as the official radio broadcaster.

Participants competed in multiple categories, including a 5K timed run titled "The Challenge," a 2K "Run & Bond" for families and beginners, and a 500-metre "Young Runners" race for children from Grades 3 to 5.

Telangana Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla, former Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu, union Minister G. Kishan Reddy, State IT Minister D. Sridhar Babu, BJP State President N attended the event. Ramachander Rao, film actor Sharwanand, and MLC Malka Komuriah, among other dignitaries. They jointly flagged off the runs and encouraged youth to adopt a healthy and active lifestyle.

Inner fight of ruling TIPRA Motha of Tripura ADC turns ugly ahead of poll

Agartala.(Agency)

The internal squabble in the ruling TIPRA Motha of Tripura's Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council (ADC) has intensified following allegations against two Motha legislators of meeting with BJP leaders and candidates before the upcoming ADC polls on April 12.

A photo went viral showing Animesh Debbarma, a senior TIPRA Motha leader and the state's forest minister, together with MLA Chittaranjan Debbarma attending an organisational meeting at the BJP's Ambassa Circuit House in Dhalai district.

Motha MLA Ranjit Debbarma expressed dissatisfaction with these developments, revealing that the two MLAs not only attended the Ambassa meeting but also participated in another meeting in Khawai with BJP candidates.

He accused Animesh Debbarma of minimal involvement in Motha's election campaign and of covertly supporting BJP candidates and made similar allegations against Chittaranjan Debbarma for reportedly aiding the BJP's electoral strategies.

In response, Minister Animesh Debbarma emphasised the need for a broader political approach beyond appeals to ethnic emotions and criticised TIPRA Motha for its inconsistent ideologies and shifting commitments.

He pointed out the party's changing campaign slogans, from 'Greater Tipraland' in 2021 to a 'constitutional solution' for tribal issues in 2023 and a 'Tiprasa Accord' leading up to the 2024 parliamentary elections, highlighting the resulting confusion among the party's workforce, allies, and supporters.

Coastal Road bottleneck triggers South Mumbai's 'Unlock the Exit' drive

Mumbai.(Agency)

For Malabar Hill resident Mehul N. Shah, the daily commute home has an ironic twist -- after a swift drive on Coastal Road, nearly 40% of his total travel time is spent crawling through a 300-metre stretch after exiting at Breach Candy. Shah, who is also vice president of Bharat Diamond Bourse in BKC, is among a growing number of south Mumbai residents demanding an additional exit at Nepeansea Road (NSR) on the northbound arm of Coastal Road -- a demand that has evolved into a citizen-led campaign called Unlock the Exit.

The movement argues that a critical exit proposed in earlier planning stages was dropped in the final detailed project report (DPR) of 2016, leading to severe congestion today. While Coastal Road has reduced travel time from Bandra to south Mumbai -- with the stretch from the

Bandra-Worli Sea Link toll to Amarsons Interchange taking eight to ten minutes -- the final 300 metres to Mukesh Chowk can take 20-25 minutes during peak hours.

Residents say a technically feasible solution exists, involving direct access via a plot under Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation (MSRDC), without affecting ongoing garden and promenade plans. The proposal includes both a vehicular exit and a pedestrian walkway and has been discussed with stakeholders.

Mahesh Malkani, a resident of Bomanji Petit Road, says that without a dedicated NSR exit, vehicles are forced to exit at Amarsons Garden. "This has created a massive bottleneck where 300-metre stretches can take 25 to 45 minutes to navigate during



peak hours. Traffic diversion through Bomanji Petit Road, already burdened by school traffic and illegal valet parking, has worsened the situation. "Echoing this, Nandini Chabria, speaking on behalf of Breach Candy ALM and Breach Candy Residents Forum (BCRF), said the issue extends beyond one neighbourhood. "The bottleneck is affecting the entire Breach

Candy-Kemps Corner-NSR-Malabar Hill corridor," she said, adding that feasibility discussions have taken place with Coastal Road officials. Residents also noted that local MLA MP Lodha had written to the BMC chief in April 2025 requesting evaluation of the NSR exit. Documents reviewed by show that earlier frameworks -- including the Development Plan of 1991 and a 2011 joint technical committee (JTC) report -- had recommended an NSR exit.

However, it was omitted in the 2016 DPR without any publicly stated reason. Shah recalls opposition at the time: "Back then as well, I knew that this was a crucial exit and hence never agreed to those who said there shouldn't be an exit at NSR." Residents further argue that DPR recommendations to expand nearby roads remain unimplemented and impractical.

Metro 9 Ph I likely to start Apr 3; Pod Taxi bhoomipujan, Thane-B'vi TBM launch on cards

Mumbai.(Agency)

The first phase of Metro Line 9 between Kashigaon and Dahisar is likely to be inaugurated on April 3, with final approval awaited from the state government. The event is also expected to include the bhoomipujan of a Pod Taxi system in BKC and the launch of tunnel boring machines (TBMs) for the Thane-Borivali tunnel project. The 4.5-km elevated Metro stretch has completed trials and received key safety clearances, while the Golden Nest flyover -- which had drawn criticism over lane narrowing -- is also slated to be opened for motorists.

The development gained traction after Bhayander MLA Narendra Mehta shared a video indicating that the Metro line could be opened soon. However, officials from Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority said the date is not yet final. "We have requested the date and are awaiting approval," said an official.



The inauguration is expected to be attended by chief minister Devendra Fadnavis and deputy chief ministers Eknath Shinde and Sunetra Pawar.

Metro Line 9 is an extension of the operational Metro Line 7 (Dahisar-Gundavli). Commuters from Mira Road will be able to travel directly to Gundavli without changing trains, as the

corridor seamlessly merges at Dahisar, providing a continuous link up to Andheri East.

Passengers heading towards the western suburbs can interchange at Dahisar to reach Andheri West, which connects with DN Nagar metro station on Metro Line 1 for onward travel towards Versova and Ghatkopar. The Phase I stretch includes four stations -- Dahisar (East), Pandurang Wadi, Miragaon and Kashigaon -- serving the growing Mira-Bhayandar region.

The controversial Golden Nest Junction flyover, which became a talking point due to narrowing of lanes, is also set to open. The Pod Taxi project in BKC, estimated at Rs 1,016 crore under a PPP model, will span 8.8 km with 38 stations, using pods carrying 3-6 passengers. Meanwhile, the 11.8-km Thane-Borivali twin tunnel project will see the launch of TBMs, with the corridor expected to cut travel time to around 15 minutes.

Revision in timelines for licensed mining activities in Una

Una.(Agency)

With the objective of ensuring effective control over illegal mining and unregulated transportation within the district, District Magistrate of Una, Jatin Lal, has issued new directives by amending previously issued orders regarding licensed mining activities.

This decision has been taken under Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, based on the recommendation of the Police Department.

According to the amended orders, a complete ban will be imposed on all mining-related activities between 7:00 PM and 6:00 AM.

Conversely, activities such as mining, excavation, and loading may only be conducted between 6:00 AM and 7:00 PM.

Furthermore, the transportation of mined material via tippers or trucks will be permitted only between 8:00 AM and 7:00 PM.

The district magistrate has clarified that all mining operations must be conducted strictly in accordance with valid permits and licences.

To ensure the effective implementation of these orders, the Police Department and the Mining Department will jointly conduct regular inspections, and strict action will be ensured in cases involving illegal mining or unauthorised transportation.

These orders have come into force with immediate effect and shall remain operative until further orders are issued.

Govt exam fever reshapes public infra in Gujarat

Ahmedabad.(Agency)

The scale of Gujarat's govt job aspiration is now rewriting both classrooms and public infrastructure. The intensity is now visible at two pressure points--the fiercely competitive entrance test of the Sardar Patel Institute of Public Administration (SPIPA) and a rapid, statewide expansion of public libraries that have turned into mass study-cum-reading centres for competitive exams.

SPIPA, the state's premier civil services training institute, offers just 635 seats across centres, while an estimated 20,000 to 25,000 candidates appear annually for its entrance test. So fierce is the competition to get into SPIPA that aspirants pay for coaching at two private institutes in Ahmedabad that now offer three-month courses--charging around Rs 10,000--exclusively to prepare students for the SPIPA entrance exam, which follows the UPSC preliminary format.

Similar coaching institutes have spawned in Gandhinagar, Mehsana, Rajkot, Surat and Vadodara.

Meanwhile, across Gujarat, govt libraries--once underutilised--have become vital exam preparation hubs. In-charge Director of State Libraries Pankaj Goswami confesses that his "office is under relentless pressure to build more libraries-cum-reading rooms, in not just in talukas, but at village levels too." Goswami adds, "Most libraries are now study centres



operating till late night for competitive exam students."

In the last five years, the libraries department's budget has increased from around Rs 40 crore to nearly Rs 180 crore. Infrastructure growth has been swift--61 new taluka libraries and seven district libraries were approved in 2024, followed by 71 taluka libraries in 2025 and another 17 cleared in the 2026 budget. New

taluka libraries cost between Rs 4 to Rs 6 crore, while district libraries go up to Rs 12 crore. A major focus has been the tribal belt, where new library cum reading rooms are coming up in districts such as Dahod, Narmada, Chhota Udepur and Aravalli--areas that previously lacked structured study spaces. Today, Gujarat has over 200 functional taluka libraries and libraries in all 33 districts, with the state aiming for full taluka coverage.

Badhai Ho! 1st Great Indian Bustard chick born in a decade in Gujarat

Ahmedabad.(Agency)

In a landmark moment for wildlife conservation, Gujarat has recorded the birth of a Great Indian Bustard chick in the wild after nearly a decade. The chick hatched on March 26 in the grasslands of Kutch, marking a significant breakthrough for one of India's most endangered bird species.

Forest officials confirmed and Bhupendra Yadav, Union minister for environment, forest & climate change, tweeted about the birth.

Officials said that post-birth, the mother GIB and chick could not be traced by forest guard fuelling apprehension of an untoward incident. However, the mother-chick duo were sighted on

Saturday triggering a congratulatory wave in the local forest community. The entire development was being kept under wraps with only few seniors involved even the experts from IUCN were not involved in the process.

Yadav termed it a "significant milestone" in India's conservation journey. "Gujarat witnessed the birth of a chick after a decade, in Kutch, through a novel conservation measure known as the Jumpstart Approach. The effort was planned a year back which was coordinated by the MoEFCC, along with the state forest departments of Rajasthan and Gujarat and the Wildlife Institute of India."

The last successful breeding of the species in Gujarat was recorded in 2016. Since then, the situation had worsened dramatically, especially after the disappearance of the last known male bustard in the state in September 2018. This male GIB who went missing in 2016 was the last born in the wild in the state. With only three surviving females left in Kutch, all subsequent eggs laid over the years were infertile, pushing the species to the brink of local extinction in the state.

Forest officials revealed that the breakthrough came through a first-of-its-kind inter-state conservation initiative known as



the "jumpstart approach." Under this method, a fertile, partially incubated egg was transported from Rajasthan to Gujarat and carefully placed in a wild nest. The egg was brought from conservation breeding centres in Rajasthan after initial reluctance from Rajasthan, which was later resolved following intervention by the Wildlife Institute of India

and MoEFCC.

The operation involved transporting the egg over a 770-kilometre distance from Sam in Rajasthan to Naliya in Gujarat. Officials created a half-free corridor to ensure the safety and viability of the egg during the 19-hour journey in a portable incubator. The egg, already incubated for about 21 days, was placed in the nest on March 22 when the female temporarily left to forage.

Experts explained that female bustards egg hatches typically after around 22-24 days of incubation. The female would abandon the egg after hatching it for nearly 25-28 days.

'Thankful to Gulf countries for helping Indians living there': PM Modi on Man Ki Baat on Middle East crisis

Addressing the 132nd Mann Ki Baat, the PM noted that after the Covid pandemic, everyone expected the end of tough situations; however, soon conflicts started in various parts of the world.



New Delhi.(Agency)

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said that he was grateful to Gulf countries for taking good care of Indians living there. He observed that a large number of countrymen have their family members, relatives, or friends living in these countries. Addressing the 132nd Mann Ki Baat, the PM noted that after the Covid pandemic, everyone expected the end of tough situations; however, soon conflicts started in various parts of the world. "In recent times there has been constant disturbances across the world. The COVID-19 pandemic was a period of immense pain for all. Everyone thought after the pandemic, the world would move towards the path of

progress with a fresh start. However, war and conflict have continued to emerge from across the world," he said.

India receiving cooperation from various countries: PM Modi

The PM added, "At the moment, a major conflict is going on in our neighbourhood for a month. Several families in India have relatives residing in these countries. Many of them work in the Gulf nations. I am deeply grateful to the Gulf countries for extending every possible support for Indians living there".

Speaking about the crisis in Middle East, he added, "The region where the conflict is going on serves as a major hub of India's energy sector. A crisis has emerged related to

petrol and diesel supplies. However, thanks to our global ties, we are receiving help from various nations. India is standing firm and fighting these circumstances with determination".

'Citizens must stay united'

"I once again urge to all my fellow countrymen that we must stand united in the current situation. Those who are attempting to politicise this issue must not do so. This is a matter that concerns the people in our country. Those who are spreading rumours are causing a huge harm to the nation. I appeal to the citizens to remain vigilant and not fall prey to wrong information. People must only believe in information provided by the government," The PM further said.

Ex-househelp turns killer after woman demands return of gold, cash

New Delhi.(Agency)

A woman from Gujarat was allegedly drugged and murdered by an ex-maid. The victim is identified as Shanti Ben Akediwala, a resident of Palanpur, Gujarat. Shanti had been missing for the past week before her body was recovered from the basement of an abandoned showroom in Palanpur.

The accused, Rekha Rathore, worked in Shanti's family and knew them for over 15 years. Later, both became friends, and Shanti helped Rekha to start her furniture business. According to the officials, Shanti Ben had lent Rekha cash and gold jewellery to help in her



business one year ago. Later on, when Shanti Ben began demanding his lent items and cash, Rekha set a lethal ambush.

How does Rekha commit crimes?

Rekha lured Shanti to her furniture shop under the guise of a meeting, then she drugged her and brutally murdered her with four aides.

The accused stuffed Shanti Ben's body into a sack to remove the evidence of the crime. Rekha and her four aides transported her body and dumped it in the basement of an abandoned showroom in Palanpur.

On the other hand, Shanti Ben's family registered a missing person complaint, and the police immediately initiated a search operation. Acting on a tip-off and forensic leads, the police found Shanti Ben's body.

Officials also identified Rekha's involvement in the murder. The accused's family members held a protest at the police station, demanding strict actions and the strictest possible punishment for the accused.

Civil Aviation Minister sets 45-60 day timeline for flights from Noida International Airport

New Delhi.(Agency)

Civil Aviation Minister K Ram Mohan Naidu confirmed that the newly inaugurated Noida International Airport (NIA) is expected to run commercial flight operations within the next 45 to 60 days on Saturday, March 28. Naidu addressed the media after the inauguration ceremony of the airport, saying the preparation process had begun and the necessary arrangements, like security planning, are currently in progress. "Flight operations from the airport would start in 45 to 60 days," Naidu said. "Airline operators have already shown interest in commencing



services from the airport, with IndiGo keen to begin flights once operations are cleared to start," he added.

The security arrangements are among the final steps before commercial operations commence. The Noida International Airport is expected to boost the aviation infrastructure in the National Capital Region (NCR) and will ease the passenger surge in Indira Gandhi International Airport, New Delhi. The airport is among the largest greenfield airports in India and will operate once the four phases are complete. Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the first phase on Saturday, March 28, where Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and Aviation Minister Naidu were also present.

About Noida International Airport

The Noida International Airport is situated in Jewar, Gautam Budh Nagar district, and in the initial phase, around 1.2 crore passengers will be handled annually.

New medical college in Delhi's Dwarka: 'Green' building with smart classrooms, EV charging units among key proposed facilities

The construction of the hospital was among the key proposals announced by Chief Minister Rekha Gupta as she presented the Budget 2026-27 in the Delhi Assembly on March 24.

New Delhi.(Agency)

Smart classrooms in an eight-storey building, a residential complex for faculty apart from hostels for male and female students, and a surveillance system to ensure safety in the campus will be among the key highlights of the new government medical college being constructed in Sector 17 of West Delhi's Dwarka at a proposed cost of Rs 806 crore, officials have said. With the Delhi government aiming to cut down the pollution in the Capital, the facility — set to come up near the Indira Gandhi Hospital — will boast of a green building and will also have a charging station for electric vehicles.

The construction of the hospital was among the key proposals announced by Chief Minister Rekha Gupta as she presented the Budget 2026-27 in the Delhi Assembly on March 24. At Rs

12,645 crore, the health sector has got the second highest allocation in the Rs 1.3 lakh-crore Budget after education.



The new medical college spread across an area of 46,212 square metre will be constructed in a phased manner, said officials. "The plan is to develop a medical college having an eight-storey building, along with a hostel for girls and boys and residential facility for faculty. The institution will be

accessible via Metro," said a senior official. The hostels will have capacity to accommodate 676 students each in the hostels for male and female students.

These facilities were discussed during a meeting earlier this month, which was chaired by CM. "The faculty residential will have flats from Type 4 to Type 7 with 27 units. Type 4 flats will have 30 floors, while 5, 6, 7 will have 20, 10 and 7 floors," the official said. Type 4 to Type 7 flats in Delhi represent senior-level to top-tier government accommodations, focusing on modern, high-rise, and eco-friendly units.

The proposed facility is also set to get state-of-art, high-tech facilities for students like smart classrooms with audio-video system, façade lighting, access control system and firefighting fire alarm system, said officials.

Delhi sees series of fire incidents: 4 injured in Bhajanpura blaze, others controlled swiftly

Multiple fire incidents were reported from the national capital, as four people were injured in Bhajanpura after a fire erupted in parked two-wheelers on Sunday at around 2 am.

New Delhi.(Agency)

A blaze ignited in parked two-wheelers at a house in Bhajanpura, New Delhi, in the early hours of Sunday. Four people sustained injuries, and the fire was so severe that 11 fire tenders were used in the operation, officials said.

Fire tenders received the information about the incident at 2 am, and authorities immediately sent the rescue teams to the scene. The fire was brought under control at 3:50 am, the ANI news agency reported. Four people jumped from the first floor trying to escape from the incident. They were taken to a nearby hospital for treatment.

"The fire department received a call at 2 am about a fire in four two-wheelers parked in the ground-floor parking lot of a house in the Bhajanpura area of North East Delhi. Four people jumped from the first floor and were taken to a



nearby hospital. Others were rescued from the house," the news agency quoted Delhi Fire Services.

Earlier, a fire broke out in a factory in the Bawana Industrial Area in Delhi. The incident occurred in Sector 2 of the area. The Delhi Fire Department's swift response brought

the fire under control, with 17 fire tenders rushing to the scene. Another incident of fire broke out at Hard Rock Cafe in Connaught Place. The fire department received the information around 12:31 p.m., and immediately four fire tenders rushed to the spot.

According to the ANI, officials confirmed that the blaze originated from the restaurant's chimney, and the fire tenders swiftly brought the situation under control within minutes. By 12:50 p.m., the fire was brought under control, and no injuries or casualties were reported in the incident.



(Southeast), formed a special staff team led by Inspector R S Dagar, including Inspector Shubham Chaudhary, to identify the accused and nab them.

"Leveraging CCTV footage, they identified one vehicle. Analysis of UPI payments revealed a key phone number. Call detail records and FASTag data pinpointed the second car," a police officer said.

Simultaneous raids across locations netted Rishabh Raghav, 25, a cab driver from Chhattarpur, with his vehicle, followed by Nabojit De, 30, a gym trainer from Panchsheel Vihar; Sanjay alias Joey, 28, a vet assistant; Harleen alias Jenny; and Sahil Chauhan from Panchsheel Vihar.

The interrogation revealed Harleen allegedly posed as 'Sherry' on the app to lure men, then robbed them with her gang at pre-planned spots. Recoveries included two Hyundai Aurus, five mobile phones, and bank accounts.

"This tech-driven probe exposes dating app perils," said the DCP, adding that further raids are aimed at dismantling the network amid rising cyber-lured crimes in Delhi. The police said they suspected the gang was previously involved in more such cases, as their interrogations were ongoing.

IMD issues yellow alert for Delhi, predicts wet spell for northwest India

New Delhi.(Agency)

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has predicted a wet spell for northwest India between March 29 to March 30. Isolated heavy rainfall is expected to hit parts of Kashmir on March 30. Rainfall is also expected in Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Punjab and Chandigarh, according to the IMD.

Weather in Delhi and other northern and northwestern states

A yellow alert for rains is in place for Delhi on March 29. Rainfall is likely in the afternoon and sky is expected to remain cloudy in the national capital. Light rains are expected in the city.

As for areas around Delhi, Haryana's Fatehabad, Barwala, Adampur, Hissar and Hansi are also expected to experience a downpour in the morning. Punjab is also likely to see light to

moderate rainfall.

Generally cloudy sky accompanied by thunderstorms, lightning and strong surface winds from the morning to forenoon is predicted in New Delhi. Similar conditions are expected to prevail till the evening hours of the day, said scientists at IMD.

The maximum temperature in the city and the surrounding areas is expected to be between 30 to 32 degrees Celsius, while the minimum will be between 20 to 22 degrees Celsius. The minimum temperature will be above normal, by 1.6 to 3 degrees Celsius at may places over Delhi and maximum will be near normal, for this time of the year. Rainfall in Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh

and Himachal Pradesh is likely to intensify on between March 28 to March 30, said IMD. Thunderstorms and light



gusty winds are also expected in these regions on the day. Uttarakhand is also likely to see increased rainfall activity between March 29 to March 31.

The weather department has also warned of light to moderate rainfall in Rajasthan and parts of Uttar Pradesh.

Northeast India

Northeast India will see widespread rains accompanied by thunderstorms and strong winds till March 31. While rains will hit Arunachal Pradesh between March 27 to March 29, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura will also see rains till March 29.

Arunachal Pradesh will also see heavy rains on April 1-2, while in Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura it is expected to rain heavily on March 29. Assam and Meghalaya will see heavy rains from March 28 to March 30 and April 1 and 2, said the weather department.

NEWS BOX

Senegal show off AFCON trophy as players defy controversial call to strip title

New Delhi. (Agency)
Senegal showcased the Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) trophy on Saturday before their friendly match against Peru at the Stade de France in Saint-Denis. This came despite the Confederation of African Football's (CAF) order for the team to return the trophy. About an hour before kickoff, Senegal's players and coach Pape Bouna Thiaw took a lap around the pitch carrying the trophy, receiving an enthusiastic response from a nearly full stadium. CAF had reversed Senegal's 1-0 final win over Morocco on March 17, awarding a 3-0 victory to Morocco due to Senegal's players leaving the field without the referee's permission during the match on January 18 in Rabat. CAF had reversed Senegal's 1-0 final win over Morocco on March 17, awarding a 3-0 victory to Morocco due to Senegal's players leaving the field without the referee's permission during the match on January 18 in Rabat.



The AFCON final had descended into disorder when Senegal's players walked off in protest after Morocco was awarded a penalty late in stoppage time. Captain Sadio Mane persuaded the team to return, and after Morocco's Brahim Diaz missed the penalty, Pape Gueye scored in extra time to secure Senegal's 1-0 victory. CAF ruled that Senegal's players violated the rules by leaving the field without permission. The Senegalese Football Federation has appealed the decision with the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) and remains determined to retain the title. On a separate note, Senegal breezed past Peru in the match on Saturday. Nicolas Jackson scored the first goal easily after a strong run by Senegal's teenage player Ibrahima Mbaye, who stepped up in Mane's absence. Sarr then scored a second goal after powering past two defenders following a ricocheted ball.

Kimi Antonelli wins Japanese GP, extends title charge with second straight

NEW DELHI. (Agency)
Kimi Antonelli continued his remarkable rise in Formula One, winning the Japanese Grand Prix to secure his second straight victory and move to the top of the 2026 drivers' standings. At just 19, the Mercedes driver became the youngest championship leader in F1 history, taking his tally to 72 points after three races. Starting from pole position, Antonelli endured a difficult opening lap, dropping down to sixth after being overtaken into Turn 1. However, the Italian steadily rebuilt his race, climbing back through the field with consistent lap pace and smart tyre management. He eventually took control of the race after a



perfectly timed pit stop under the safety car and crossed the finish line 13.7 seconds ahead of Oscar Piastri. Charles Leclerc finished third for Ferrari, while Antonelli's teammate George Russell came home fourth to maintain Mercedes' strong start to the season. Lando Norris finished fifth, followed by Lewis Hamilton in sixth as Ferrari showed improved competitiveness compared to last season. The turning point came on lap 22 when Oliver Bearman crashed heavily after running onto the grass while chasing Franco Colapinto, triggering a safety car. With several frontrunners, including Russell, having already pitted, Antonelli was able to stop under the safety car and retain track position, effectively sealing control of the race.

Rahane, Narine or Allen-Seifert KKR face tricky opener dilemma before MI clash

← IPL 2026: Aakash Chopra believes KKR must settle their opening combination early, as constant changes could hurt their rhythm. With multiple options and overseas balance at play, the decision is likely to shape their approach and results in the opening phase of the season.

New Delhi. (Agency)
Kolkata Knight Riders are staring at a tricky selection call ahead of their IPL 2026 opener against Mumbai Indians on March 29, with their opening combination still undecided. Former India batter Aakash Chopra believes the decision could shape KKR's campaign early on. KKR's struggles at the top last season have made this call even more crucial. Despite Ajinkya Rahane finishing as their leading run-scorer and Sunil Narine being



among their most impactful batters, the team failed to find a settled opening pair, finishing with no fifty-plus stands in IPL 2025. This becomes a concerning stat as the side prepares to kickstart their IPL 2026 season against MI, who have a tremendous bowling attack. Chopra pointed out that KKR may be forced into a fixed combination from the very first game, especially given the overseas balance involving Finn Allen and Tim

Seifert, while Cameron Green is expected to slot in at No. 3. "What you do today, you will have to do that for at least four or five matches. I hope they think about Sunil Narine, but they won't be able to think about him because they have to play Finn Allen and make Ajinkya Rahane open," Chopra said. "If they have to get both of them open, how will Sunil Narine come, and if Ajju doesn't open, his stature would be halved.

That is one big question that they need to answer. After that, what is Cameron Green's right number? I think three is his right number. Make him bat there," he added. WHO WILL OPEN FOR KKR IN MI CLASH?

The dilemma is not just about form but also about team balance. If KKR opt for Allen or Seifert as an overseas opener, it affects the number of overseas slots available for the rest of the XI. Seifert offers wicketkeeping stability, while Allen provides explosive intent at the top. Alternatively, KKR could rely on an Indian keeper like Angkrish Raghuvanshi, which would allow greater flexibility in overseas selection. Narine remains a strong option at the top given his past success, but accommodating him alongside Rahane and an overseas opener creates a selection headache. With KKR coming off a disappointing season, getting the opening combination right is not just about strategy but about setting the tone for IPL 2026. As Chopra suggested, the call they make now could define their approach for the next few matches.

SRH issue Brydon Carse injury update, seek boost after poor show vs RCB

New Delhi. (Agency)
CSunrisers Hyderabad head coach Daniel Vettori provided an update on Brydon Carse after the pacer missed SRH's IPL 2026 opener against Royal Challengers Bengaluru. Vettori revealed that Carse picked up a hand injury in the nets but is expected to be in contention for their next game. SRH suffered a heavy defeat in Bengaluru despite posting 201, with RCB chasing down the target comfortably in just 15.4 overs. Speaking after the game, Vettori explained the reason behind Carse's absence and gave a hopeful update on his recovery. He got hit on the hand in the nets when he was batting, on his bowling hand. It was cleared of any break, but there was quite a lot of swelling and he tried to push for the game, but it was difficult for him to hold the ball. "He has been improving, so we are hoping he is available for selection for Kolkata." Carse's return could provide a much-needed boost

for SRH, especially with their bowling attack struggling for impact in the absence of key players.

HOW SRH'S BOWLING FLOPPED VS RCB



scrutiny after failing to defend a 200-plus total on a batting-friendly surface. With Pat Cummins and Carse unavailable, the attack lacked a cutting edge. The burden fell on David Payne, who had only just arrived

as a replacement ahead of the match. Although Payne picked up two quick wickets, he conceded 35 runs in his three overs and struggled to maintain control. Overall, Payne, Harshal Patel, Eshan Malinga and Harsh Dubey leaked 144 runs in 11 overs, allowing RCB's batters to dominate the chase. Earlier, SRH had recovered well with the bat, thanks to a 38-ball 80 from Ishan Kishan and a quickfire contribution from Ankit Verma to post 201 for nine. However, the lack of discipline with the ball meant the total was never enough. Carse's availability for the clash against Kolkata Knight Riders could force a change in the playing XI, with either Payne or Malinga likely to make way.

With no confirmed return timeline for Cummins yet, SRH will be hoping Carse's recovery comes as a timely boost as they look to fix their bowling issues early in the season.

Can injury-hit Kolkata Knight Riders pass the stiff Wankhede test

CHANDIGARH. (Agency)
Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) have endured a nightmare run at Mumbai's Wankhede Stadium over the years in the Indian Premier League (IPL). Having lost 10 of their 12 matches at the venue, the three-time champions have struggled to crack the code at one of the league's most iconic grounds. So, when they take on Mumbai Indians (MI) in their opening game on Sunday, they will know the scale of the challenge ahead. The MI-KKR rivalry has also been one of the most one-sided in IPL history, with Mumbai winning 24 of the 35 meetings



between the two sides since 2008. For Kolkata, the task on March 29 looks even tougher, with injury concerns already disrupting their plans before the start of the campaign.

MI, meanwhile, remain one of the most successful franchises in the tournament's history, with five IPL titles to their name. However, the last five seasons have been a mixed bag, marked by inconsistency and missed opportunities. In 2026, Mumbai will be desperate to rediscover the ruthless edge and killer instinct.

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Two-year ban not enough: Sunil Gavaskar urges BCCI for stricter IPL withdrawal rules

NEW DELHI. (Agency)
Indian cricket legend Sunil Gavaskar has called for stricter measures against last-minute withdrawals in the IPL, urging the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) to revisit its current punishment system. The former India captain believes the existing two-year ban rule is not strong enough to deter players from pulling out after being picked in the auction. Gavaskar's remarks come in the wake of multiple high-profile withdrawals, with overseas players opting out of IPL commitments citing workload management or personal priorities. Speaking exclusively to India Today on the issue, Gavaskar highlighted how the BCCI should opt for more impactful punishments in such cases. "It is a tough one. Clearly, Ben Duckett had a very good Ashes series, and if he had not been bought for the amount he was at The Hundred auction, maybe things would have been different. One can understand that, having been bought at a very good price in The Hundred, he was probably quite happy to miss this and say he wants to focus on his England Test career,"

Gavaskar said. But yes, what should be done is something for the BCCI to think about as well, because a two-year ban is obviously not working. You have to look at something that will have an impact. As long as it's not having an impact on the player and his



chances of coming back to the IPL, it won't work," he added. The IPL had introduced a rule that bars overseas players from participating in the tournament and future auctions for two seasons if they withdraw after being picked, unless the reason is a verified injury or medical condition. However, recent cases suggest that the rule may not be acting as a strong enough deterrent.

WHY DUCKETT'S IPL EXIT SPARKED

DEBATE?
Ben Duckett's withdrawal from IPL 2026 has reignited the debate around player commitment and league regulations. The England batter, who was signed by Delhi Capitals for Rs 2 crore, opted out of the season to prioritise red-ball cricket and spend time at home. His decision came shortly after a demanding international schedule, including the Ashes and the T20 World Cup. As per IPL rules, Duckett now faces a potential two-year ban from the league and future auctions. His case follows that of Harry Brook, who had earlier pulled out after being bought for Rs 6.25 crore and is currently serving a similar ban. These repeated withdrawals have raised questions about whether players are taking advantage of the system, something Gavaskar had previously warned about. He has also suggested that franchises should take a tougher stance on such players in future auctions. With the IPL continuing to attract global stars, the BCCI may now be forced to reassess its policies to ensure better accountability and commitment from overseas players.

IPL 2026: RCB's Jacob Duffy lives up to captain Rajat Patidar's faith

← IPL 2026: RCB captain Rajat Patidar heaped praise on fast bowler Jacob Duffy for his Player of the Match performance on his IPL debut. The pacer ended his spell with figures of 3-22.

BANGKOK. (Agency)
IRoyal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) have started their title defense with a 6-wicket win over Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) in the season opener, thanks in part to a scintillating debut by New Zealand's Jacob Duffy. The Kiwi finished his four overs with 3 crucial wickets of Travis Head, Abhishek Sharma, and Nitish Kumar Reddy, while conceding just 22 runs. While the Chinnaswamy Stadium had already found a new favourite in Duffy, who did more than just fill in for the

yet-to-be cleared Josh Hazlewood, RCB captain Rajat Patidar praised the New Zealand pacer for making the most of his opportunity. Speaking at the post-match press conference, Patidar emphasised that both he and the team management had full faith in Duffy's T20 bowling credentials. "As we all know, he is a specialist T20 bowler," said Rajat Patidar, RCB captain, in the post-match press conference. "We have a lot of confidence in him and that's why we have given him the chance. The way he is delivering and showing his skills, I think that was tremendous."

HOW DUFFY STOLE THE SHOW IN RCB VS SRH

Duffy, who had endured a difficult outing just three weeks before the IPL opener in the T20 World Cup final against India, where he returned wicketless figures of 0 for 42 in three overs, chose to stick to his strengths. "I just tried to keep things fairly simple," Duffy said after receiving the Player of the Match for his ferocious opening spell. "The plan

was to use the new ball, especially since it does a bit here in Bengaluru. We spoke a lot about lengths and what works on this surface." While Duffy's fiery debut was the story of the day, RCB's bowling display



against SRH also carries some credit to Hazlewood himself. Duffy himself acknowledged the stature of the Australian pace ace, who is currently working his way back to full fitness after dealing with a hamstring injury and Achilles issues that

ruled him out of the home Ashes and the recent T20 World Cup.

"Josh Hazlewood had a really good season here last year, so it was about building on what he did well and trying to replicate that in my own way," Duffy said. Despite not being available for selection, Hazlewood still played a key role behind the scenes after linking up with the squad ahead of the opener.

"The last practice session before the game, I think Hazlewood spent a lot of time with the fast bowlers, and his inputs definitely helped them (in their performance against SRH)," added Patidar during his press conference.

Duffy's impactful spell, which included the key wickets of Travis Head, Abhishek Sharma and Nitish Kumar Reddy, ensured SRH never fully recovered from the early blows. His ability to hit hard lengths, extract bounce and adjust quickly after being put under pressure stood out, giving RCB not just a short-term replacement, but a genuine bowling option even when Hazlewood returns.

Domestic investors cushion the fall amid persistent foreign outflows

MUMBAI.(Agency)

Amid the persistent foreign outflows, domestic institutional investors (DIIs) continue to provide strong support, emerging as net buyers to the tune of Rs 26,897 crore last week, effectively absorbing the selling pressure from FIIs. This continued domestic participation helped cushion the downside and provided stability near key support zones, said analysts. Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) remained consistent net sellers throughout the week, with cumulative outflows of approximately Rs 24,596 crore, driven by global uncertainty, rising bond yields, and a stronger US dollar," said Ponnudi R, CEO, Enrich Money, a SEBI-registered online trading and wealthtech firm. Despite DII dominance over FII outflows, overall market sentiment remains weak, clearly reflecting the impact of broader global and macroeconomic headwinds, he mentioned. As of March 27, FIIs extended their aggressive selling in Indian equities.. This pushed March MTD (month-to-date) outflows past Rs 1.13 lakh crore — the sharpest single-month sell-off in FY26 — driven by West Asia tensions and elevated oil prices. "DIIs countered strongly with Rs 25,000+ crore of net buying weekly, cushioning the fall," said Vinit Bolinjar, Head of Research-Ventura. Near-term outlook stays cautious and "we expect range-bound action and elevated VIX until global risk sentiment eases", he mentioned. "Yet robust domestic flows and any de-escalation in geopolitics should limit downside, favouring quality large-caps and domestic themes over high-beta plays," said Bolinjar. Meanwhile, 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.

Sweet heist Nestle says 12 tonnes of KitKat stolen

BANGKOK.(Agency)

A huge shipment of Nestle's crunchy KitKat chocolate bars was stolen in Europe, the brand said, warning that the heist risked causing shortages in stores right before Easter. KitKat, owned by Swiss food giant Nestle, confirmed in a statement sent to AFP on Saturday that "a truck transporting 413,793 units of its new chocolate range has been stolen during transit in Europe". The shipment, weighing around 12 tonnes, disappeared last week while heading between production and distribution locations, it said. "We've always encouraged people to have a break with KitKat," a spokesperson for the brand said, referring to its catchphrase.

"But it seems thieves have taken the message too literally and made a break with more than 12 tonnes of our chocolate." The brand warned that "the theft may lead to a shortage of KitKats appearing on shelf", acknowledging that "consumers, unfortunately, may struggle to find their favourite chocolates ahead of Easter". The stolen truck had left central Italy and was making its way to Poland, with a plan to distribute the bars in countries along the way. KitKat did not say where specifically the goods had gone missing, but said "the vehicle and its contents remain unaccounted for". Investigations are ongoing in close collaboration with local authorities and supply chain partners," it said. KitKat warned that the missing chocolate bars "could enter unofficial sales channels across European markets".

Asset allocation for post-retirement life: Know a few effective strategies

Kolkata.(Agency)

Financial independence in post-retirement life is extremely independent. Most individuals don't have any regular income like a job or rental income after retirement. They have to solely depend on the income from prudent asset allocation. Therefore, the significance of asset allocation cannot be overestimated for anyone. Investment strategists emphasise that the focus of asset allocation after 60 should be generating a steady cash flow to defray the regular expenditures in life and to ensure that a part of it also attempts to generate creation of new capital.

"The crossover from a general citizen to a senior citizen is not a physical development. It is also a psychological one. Diseases and frail health catch up with many while other costs mostly remain intact. Therefore, regular cash flow assumes paramount importance to most in post-retirement," remarks Nilanjana De, director Wishlist Capital and an investment strategist for quarter of a century. 50-30-20 principle

This is a widely accepted strategy. In other words what it signifies is that one should divide the post-retirement corpus into three groups — debt, equity and liquid funds. The number 50 signifies that 50% of the money should be deployed in debt which will generate solidity and safety and predictable returns. The number 30 indicated 30% allocation to equities, and the rest 20% should be invested in liquid funds. This strategy ensures capital appreciation and safety, the latter being of crucial importance to a retired individual. The equity will attempt capital appreciation while the liquid funds can cover unforeseen expenses, while generating decent returns. Medical emergency is the biggest unforeseen incident that can happen to a senior citizen.

Systematic Withdrawal Plan

This is a widely practiced strategy too. SWP is usually done in mutual funds. SWP refers to a method where investors withdraw a fixed or variable amount monthly, quarterly or even annually from their investments. Mirae AMC describes it as a reverse SIP. While the investor withdraws a steady amount, the rest of the corpus keeps growing the various funds. However, before beginning a SWP, one should have a clear picture of the regular expenses that you incur every month.

Bank to be closed for 5 days between March 31 and April 5-- Check list of

Banking activities on mobile and internet will remain uninterrupted, though several bank branches will remain closed on account of bank holidays over the next week.

New Delhi.(Agency)

Banks in several cities will be closed for 5 days over the next week. These are not consecutive off days though. Bank branches will be closed between March 31 and April 5 on account of several regional festivities and weekend bank holidays. However, banking activities on mobile and internet will remain uninterrupted, though several bank branches will remain closed on account of bank holidays. Banks will be closed on



March 31 in Mumbai, New Delhi, Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Chennai, Kolkata, Lucknow and Hyderabad on account of Mahavir Jayanti.

Bank Holiday April 1

As per RBI holiday calendar banks across major cities in India will remain closed on April 1 on account of Banks' Closing of Accounts. Cities like Ranchi, Shillong, Shimla, Kohima, Gangtok, Aizawl are

not dotted on RBI holiday calendar.

Bank Holiday April 2

Banks will be closed in Kochi on April 2 on account of Maundy Thursday.

Bank Holiday April 3

Banks in most cities will remain closed on account of Good Friday on April 3. Chandigarh, Guwahati, Jaipur, Jammu and Srinagar however are not dotted on RBI holiday calendar.

Bank Holiday April 5

All scheduled and non-scheduled banks will observe public holiday on Sunday (April 5).

Furthermore, you must note that the banks will NOT be closed for all the days consecutively in all states or regions. This is the total number of days when banks in different parts of the country will remain closed for state-observed holidays. For instance banks will be closed for Thiruvalluvar Day in Kochi, but in other states it will NOT be closed for the same reason. Reserve Bank of India places its Holidays under three brackets --Holiday under Negotiable Instruments Act; Holiday under Negotiable Instruments Act and Real Time Gross Settlement Holiday; and Banks' Closing of Accounts. However, it must be noted that the bank holidays vary in various states as well not observed by all the banking companies. Banking holidays also depend on the festivals being observed in specific states or notification of specific occasions in those states.

Only 5 days of strategic oil reserves left in India Govt clarifies truth behind viral claim

New Delhi.(Agency)

Some social media posts are claiming that India has 'only 5 days of strategic oil reserves'. Fact-checking agency PIB has refuted the social media claim. PIB has stated that the claim being made in this post is misleading.

PIB has tweeted, "India's total storage capacity is 74 days and currently around 60 days of stock is available. This includes crude oil storage, product storage and dedicated strategic storage in underground caverns. A steady supply of fuel for about two months has been ensured across the country. The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas had previously clarified that the supply situation of petroleum and LPG in the country is completely safe and under control. There is adequate supply in all retail fuel shops. There is no shortage of petrol, diesel or LPG anywhere in the country. The ministry has appealed to the citizens not to be misled by the well-planned campaign of misleading information being deliberately spread, the aim of which is to spread unnecessary panic." India is at the forefront of energy security. India is the world's fourth largest petroleum explorer and fifth largest

exporter, supplying refined fuels to more than 150 countries. Being a net exporter to the world, availability of domestic petrol and diesel in India is structurally assured. More than one lakh retail fuel shops across the country are open and supplying fuel without any interruption. No shops



have been told to limit supply. Many countries across the globe are facing challenges such as price hikes, limited supply, odd-even vehicle bans and forced station closures," said Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

Some countries have declared "national energy emergencies". There is no need for any such measures in India, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas added. "While other countries have limited supply, there is no dearth of

supply in India. There has been sporadic panic buying at some select pumps, caused by deliberate misinformation spread by some videos on social media. Despite the increase in demand at such pumps, fuel was supplied to all consumers and depots of oil companies remained open overnight to increase supply. Steps have also been taken to increase the credit period extended by oil companies to petrol pumps from the earlier one day allowance to more than 3 days to ensure that there is no shortage of petrol and diesel at any pump due to working capital issues of petrol pump owners," it said.

Despite the situation in the Strait of Hormuz, India today receives more crude oil from its more than 41 supplier countries around the world than before. High volumes available from international markets, particularly Western countries, have compensated for any disruption. All refineries in India are running at more than 100 percent capacity. Indian oil companies have already ensured the supply of crude oil for the next 60 days. There is no shortage of supplies.

PNG users can now surrender LPG connection from home, no dealer visit needed

New Delhi.(Agency)

Consumers who have switched to piped natural gas (PNG) can now surrender their LPG connection from home without visiting a dealership, using just their registered mobile number or LPG ID, Petroleum and Natural Gas Secretary Neeraj Mittal said on Friday. The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG) has launched a new digital platform, MyPNG-D Portal, to make it easier for PNG users to give up their LPG connections online. Sharing the update on X, Mittal said that consumers who have already switched to PNG no longer need to visit LPG dealerships to surrender their connections. The process can now be completed from home using either a registered mobile number or LPG ID.



"PNG consumers can surrender LPG from at home. You don't need to visit the dealership. Just need you registered mobile or your LPGID," Mittal said.

The move is aimed at simplifying the process and encouraging more consumers to voluntarily give up their LPG connections, which can then be made available to households that still

do not have access to PNG. According to the Secretary, 1,797 consumers have already surrendered their LPG connections within a day of the portal's launch.

He thanked these users for their participation and urged more people to come forward and support the initiative. "1797 responsible citizens have surrendered theirs since yesterday! A big thanks to them," he stated. "You too surrender your LPG connection and help those who don't have access to PNG," he added. The government believes that such steps will help improve access to cleaner cooking fuel and ensure better distribution of LPG connections, especially for those who are still dependent on traditional fuel sources.

Rs 5,000 SIP vs FD: Which gives better returns in 5 years

New Delhi.(Agency)

Imagine this. Two friends start investing at the same time. Both put aside Rs 5,000 every month. One chooses a safe FD (fixed deposit). The other goes with a SIP (Systematic Investment Plan) in mutual funds. Five years later, they compare results. Who comes out ahead? The answer isn't as simple as it may seem. THE RETURN GAP: SMALL ON PAPER, MEANINGFUL OVER TIME

Over five years, a Rs 5,000 monthly SIP in equity mutual funds can grow to roughly Rs 3.8-4.2 lakh at 10-12% returns. In comparison, an FD or RD may reach about Rs 3.4-3.6 lakh at 6-7%, says Siddharth Maurya, Founder and MD of Vibhvangal Anukulakara Pvt Ltd. He explains, "A monthly SIP of Rs 5,000 in equity mutual funds can generate better returns than a recurring deposit after five years because of market-based returns, while FDs provide steady but lower growth." At first glance, the gap may not feel dramatic. But over longer periods, even small differences in returns can add up meaningfully. STABILITY VS GROWTH: WHAT MATTERS MORE?

The real difference lies in how these two options behave. FDs are predictable. You know exactly what you will get at the end. SIPs, however, move with the markets and can see ups and downs along the way. Sachin Jain, Managing Partner at Scripbox, puts it into perspective, "SIP and FD have different objectives. Fixed deposits offer predictable returns, while SIPs depend on markets and may even deliver lower returns in a downturn over five years."

In other words, one offers certainty, the other offers possibility.

COMPOUNDING: SAME CONCEPT, DIFFERENT PACE

Both SIPs and FDs benefit from compounding, but the journey looks very different. FDs grow at a steady, fixed rate. SIPs, on the other hand, rely on market performance, which can speed up growth over time. Compounding works in both, but differently. In FDs, interest builds steadily at a fixed rate. In SIPs, returns compound based on market performance, which can accelerate growth over time.

Maurya points out that SIPs benefit from dynamic compounding and rupee cost averaging, where investors buy more units when prices are low, which can improve long-term returns. Jain offers a simple way to understand the difference, "At 6%,



money may take about 12 years to double, while at 12%, it could double in around 6 years."

But he also cautions, "The full benefits of equity compounding may take more than five years to be realised." VOLATILITY: FRIEND OR FOE?

Market swings often make investors uneasy, but for SIPs, they can actually be helpful. Maurya explains that downturns allow investors to accumulate more units at lower prices, which can boost returns when markets recover. Jain agrees, but adds, "Volatility benefits long-term investors, but over shorter periods like five years, returns can be uneven."

Put simply, patience plays a big role.

TAX: THE SILENT DIFFERENTIATOR

Taxation can quietly influence your final returns. FD interest is taxed every year based on your income slab, which can eat into gains.

"Interest from Fixed Deposits (FDs) is taxed annually as per your income slab, which can reduce post-tax returns, especially for higher earners," Maurya says. "In contrast, Systematic Investment Plans (SIPs) in equity mutual funds are taxed only on redemption."



Kiara Advani

Was My First And Only Choice': Toxic Director Geetu Mohandas Heaps Praise On Actress

Kiara Advani, who is currently embracing her motherhood journey, has consistently showcased her versatility as an actor. From Kabir Singh and Lust Stories to Good Newwz, Shershaah, and Guilty, she has delivered performances that highlight her range across genres. Now, the new mommy is gearing up to step into the role of Nadia in Toxic: A Fairy Tale for Grown-Ups, where she stars alongside Yash. Ahead of the film's release, director Geetu Mohandas recently opened up about casting Kiara, revealing that she was her "first and only choice" for the role.

Toxic director Geetu Mohandas is all praise for Kiara Advani

In an interview with Grazia India, Geetu Mohandas shared that she believes Kiara's screen presence feels "deeply human." Speaking about casting her in Toxic, she shared, "Nadia (portrayed by Advani) embodies fragility and ferocity at once, so from the very beginning, she was my first and only choice. There is something about her screen presence that feels deeply human. Sometimes cinema begins not with logic, but with a feeling, and casting Kiara was exactly that kind of feeling."

According to Geetu, it is evident that Kiara spends time living with the character in her mind long before the camera begins rolling. She said that the actress's curiosity sets her apart as it transforms the filmmaking process into a collaborative conversation rather than a one-sided direction. The director added, "Her dedication is not loud or

performative. It is quiet, disciplined and deeply sincere. She doesn't just follow directions, she participates in building the emotional architecture of the character. You can see that she has spent time living with the character in her mind long before the camera starts rolling. But what truly sets her apart is her curiosity, which transforms the filmmaking process into a conversation rather than a one-sided direction."

Meanwhile, Toxic: A Fairy Tale For Grown-Ups also stars Nayanthara, Tara Sutaria, and Huma Qureshi in key roles. The film was shot simultaneously in English and Kannada, with dubbed versions planned for Hindi, Telugu, Tamil, Malayalam, and several other languages. It is all set to hit theatres on June 4, 2026.



Jasmine Sandlas

Reveals Dhurandhar 2 Song Jaiye Sajana Was Made At 4 AM On Launch Day

Singer Jasmine Sandlas has fans raving about her work on Dhurandhar The Revenge's soundtrack. Among the five songs she recorded for the Ranveer Singh-starrer, one track, Jaiye Sajana, has especially captured audience attention, so much so that Jasmine revealed it was composed and finalised in the early hours of the album launch itself.

The music album for Dhurandhar 2 officially launched on March 17, just a day before the film hit theatres. Jasmine told Humans of Bombay that the song came together at 4 am with composer Shashwat Sachdev. "[Jaiye Sajana] was created the day of the music album launch. I was at the studio at 4 am with Shashwat, and we were recording and writing the song the day that the music album launched! The day that we performed the songs, was the day it was recorded!" She explained that while parts of the track had been drafted months earlier, the final version was completed at the last minute. "Kuch kuch parts humne teen mahine pehle likh liye the, record kar liye the, and it was finalised ekdam se... poori album bani hui hain aur ek achcha gaana hain jo apko lagta hain ki its nice, its beautiful. It is very true to the feeling of loneliness and betrayal. The whole team and myself could not have imagined what the song has done! Abhi, all Indians worldwide are talking about that song," Jasmine said. Jasmine also praised singer Satinder Sartaaj's contribution to the track, especially his rendition of the hook. She wrote on Instagram, "It's a dream come true to work with

the one and only @satindersartaaj. I am such a big fan and I deeply adore his music. My mom is so happy and that is my biggest victory. @shashwatology I love you bro. You pushed me to my limits to write these songs. The sleepless nights in the studio were all worth it. You're a mad man walking the earth and your obsession to create beautiful music is unreal. You've changed my life. My concerts feel like festivals now."

The Dhurandhar franchise follows an Indian spy navigating Karachi's criminal and political



underworld, with storylines inspired by historical events such as the 1999 IC-814 hijacking, the 2001 Indian Parliament attack, the 2008 Mumbai attacks, and Operation Lyari. Dhurandhar 2 continues the saga, showing Ranveer Singh's character trained as Hamza Ali Mazari and taking charge of Lyari's power dynamics while dismantling a terror network threatening India. The film features intense confrontations, including a standout face-off between Ranveer Singh and Arjun Rampal. The star-studded cast also includes R Madhavan, Rakesh Bedi, Sara Arjun, Danish Pandor, and Sanjay Dutt.

Raha Kapoor's Mom Alia Bhatt Asks Sadhguru's Advice On Being A Good Parent, His Response Is Unmissable



Spiritual guru Jaggi Vasudev, widely known as Sadhguru, often finds himself in meaningful conversations that bridge philosophy with everyday life. He recently met actress Alia Bhatt in Chennai, where they shared an engaging chat blending personal insights with deeper reflections on life. Giving a glimpse into their conversation, Sadhguru shared a short clip on social media. In the video, Alia opens up about motherhood and seeks guidance on raising her daughter, Raha Kapoor. Responding with his characteristic calm and clarity, he reassured her, explaining why parents need not be overly worried.

Alia Bhatt takes parenting advice from Sadhguru

Sadhguru took to his Instagram Stories to share a glimpse of the moment he and Alia came together, posting a video of the two offering a prayer before beginning their session. He later shared another clip from their interaction, where Alia is seen asking him, "Your one advice to a parent who's worried if they're being a good parent would be?" He laughs and replies, "A worried parent is not a good parent." As the audience laughs, Alia replies, "I don't think you can take worry out of it. I think you'd admit. Going by Sadhguru's Instagram Stories, the interaction appeared to conclude on a warm and candid note, with Alia seen holding his hand and continuing their conversation in a relaxed, heartfelt manner. Sadhguru also posted pictures from the conversation on social media and wrote, "Alia Bhatt engages with Sadhguru for a delightful conversation hosted by JITO Chennai Plus (Jain International Trade Organization)."

Fans were delighted to see them together. One fan commented, "Wonderful both my favourite people." Another fan wrote, "Song selection for her." One of the fans also wrote, "Wow."

Meanwhile, Alia Bhatt and Ranbir Kapoor tied the knot in April 2022 after dating each other for quite some time. The power couple went on to welcome their daughter Raha Kapoor in November 2022. As the star kid turned one, Ranbir and Alia chose to reveal her face in front of the media. However, they have now asked the paparazzi to avoid clicking pictures of Raha after Saif Ali Khan's stabbing incident.

Kritika Kamra Soaks In Post-Wedding Bliss With Gaurav Kapur, Drops Loved-Up Vacay Pics



Actress Kritika Kamra is still basking in the glow of her recent wedding with host Gaurav Kapur, as she shared a glimpse of her relaxed vacation with her husband on social media. Kritika took to Instagram, where she shared a string of images from her getaway with her husband, enjoying the sun, sand, sea, swimming pool and some delicious meals. She reflected on the past few weeks, describing the phase as a whirlwind that moved from work commitments to wedding festivities, followed by a relaxing getaway.

For the caption, Kritika wrote: "Partied hard and recovered slow. March went from work to wedding to sun, swim, eat, repeat. Back to work and still soaking in all the love."

It was on March 11, when Kritika and Gaurav tied the knot. The couple hosted intimate wedding celebrations with their families and a close circle of friends. The wedding was set against a theme inspired by sunset tones and golden-hour hues, the ceremony was elegant, intimate and deeply meaningful.

They chose to mark the occasion with a registrar wedding at home, stepping away from a traditional large-scale affair and instead celebrating the moment in a setting that felt personal and close to their hearts.

The two shared in a joint statement, "We've always believed that the most meaningful moments in life are the ones shared with the people you love. As we begin this new chapter together, we're so grateful to celebrate our wedding surrounded by our families and closest friends at home, in Mumbai".

On the work front, the two were seen in The Great Shamsuddin Family. Set over one day in Delhi, the narrative follows Bani as mothers, aunts, cousins and former romantic interests descend on her apartment, each bringing their own emergencies. The film features Farida Jalal, Shreya Dhanwanthary, Juhi Babbar Soni and Sheeba Chadda.

Kritika made her acting debut in 2007, with Yahan Ke Hum Sikandar. In 2009, she played a singer, Arohi in Kitani Mohabbat Hai opposite Karan. She was then seen in Pyaar Ka Bandhan, Kitani Mohabbat Hai 2, Kuch Toh Log Kahenge.



Social

networks cause stress to

Children

A lot of research has shown the significance of social relationships in influencing adult human behavior and health, but children's perception of their social networks correlates with stress and how it may influence development is still untapped.

A research team from the University of Missouri has determined that children and adolescents physically react to their social networks and the stress those networks may cause.

Scientists believe that the quality and size of the social relationships nurtured in childhood may have important physiological consequences for physical and mental health for youth.

Researcher Mark V. Flinn said that cortisol and salivary alpha-amylase are secreted in response to outside pressure or tension. A part of the autonomic nervous system, release of cortisol in the system is quick, unconscious and can be measured in saliva; therefore, measuring cortisol is a good indicator of stress in the body.

He added that the typical physiological response to stress is the release of hormones like cortisol into the system.



In the study, the researchers wanted to explore the association between children's personal social networks, as well as perceived social network size and density with biomarkers like cortisol and alpha-amylase that can indicate levels of stress in youth.

Flinn said that using the data they have collected they found out children who were stressed about the size and density of their perceived social networks had elevated anticipatory cortisol levels and responded by secreting more alpha-amylase.

The study appears in the journal Social Neuroscience.

Simple exercises you can do in your car

Are you stuck in your car during peak-hour traffic and don't know how to while away your time? Instead of surfing through your smartphone or honking at other vehicles, try these simple in-car exercises. Of course, make sure you've applied your parking brakes or turned off the engine.



Spine exercises

From a normal sitting position in the car, slowly roll your upper waist forward, away from the seat so as to form an arch in the small of your back. Hold for five seconds and slowly roll your back flat against the seat. Repeat this process a few times. This helps to mobilise your back, especially if you are unable to sit for long periods due to backache or stiffness.

Sit straight with your back slightly arched. Exhale and tighten your abs slightly

(towards your spine) while keeping your back straight. Focus on breathing normally while holding the tension in the abdominal muscles. Hold for five seconds. Repeat five times. Sitting straight, rotate your trunk to one side. Hold for five seconds. Repeat on the other side.

Arm exercises

You can do simple push-ups using your

steering wheel. Hold the steering wheel at 10 and two o'clock position and perform push-ups by moving your chest and head together as you bend your elbows. Squeeze your shoulder blades at the end as you reach near the steering wheel. Release your back slowly and repeat five times. This helps release any tension in the shoulder blade and arm regions

Neck exercises

Turn the neck to one side, hold for five seconds. Repeat five times. Repeat on the other side.

Sit straight, look forward and tilt your head to your right shoulder, so that your ear touches the shoulder. You should feel the stretch on the side of the neck. Hold for five seconds. Get into the sitting position and relax for five seconds. Repeat on the other side.

Blazing summer raises Fever pitch



The capital is clearly feeling the heat, what with a spurt in the number of people being rushed to hospital with exhaustion, dehydration or nausea.

Doctors spoke to said that while prolonged exposure to sun was the main cause of such conditions, diabetics were susceptible even more. The worst time to step out in this heat would be between 12 noon and 3pm, they said.

Doctors advise heavy intake of fluids to avoid dehydration.

Dr Rommel Tickoo, senior consultant (internal medicine) Max Hospital, Saket, said 2-3 people were consulting him in OPD daily over complaints of nausea, headache and weakness. "These are the classic symptoms of heat exhaustion. I haven't come across any heat-stroke case, though," Tickoo said.

Safdarjung Hospital, too, had reported a rise in cases of fever and headache linked to increased body temperature.

A doctor said: "Heat cramps and exhaustion are

common among labourers or sales executives who are outdoors during the hottest part of the day."

Drinking enough water, the doctors said, could help ward off heat-related illnesses. Also, one should avoid a sudden change in temperature. Dr Anoop Misra, chairman, Fortis C-Doc, said people with pre-existing illnesses, for example diabetes, were highly vulnerable to heat-related ailments as they were already on medications that interfered with body's cooling system. "Hot weather leads to a decrease in blood pressure and a change of medication is required in patients suffering from hypertension, heart disease and diabetes," he added. Early symptoms of a heat stroke are weakness, dry tongue and cramps.

Sweltering heat can affect the skin too, if precautions, such as appropriate clothing and application of sunscreen, are not followed. Fungal allergies are also common during summer because of excessive sweating.