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All India Sikh Conference Babbar Warns

Uttarakhand Govt Over Historic Gurdwara Shri Gyan Godhri



The Sikh Times Simmi Kaur Babbar

New Delhi 30 March, In a strong and emotionally charged statement, Sardar Gurcharan Singh Babbar, President of the All India Sikh Conference Babbar, has announced that the Sikh sangat will forcibly reclaim the historic and sacred site of Gurdwara Shri Gyan Godhri Sahib on 13 April 2026, the auspicious occasion of Baisakhi, at Har Ki Pauri.

Addressing the media through a detailed statement, Sardar Babbar reiterated that the Gurdwara, associated with Guru Nanak Dev, is a sacred and historic shrine belonging to



the Sikh Qaum, and its land must be returned without any further delay. He alleged that during the tragic period of the November 1984 anti-Sikh riots, the Haridwar administration, in collusion with

local anti-social elements, demolished and desecrated the historic Gurdwara. Following its destruction, the land was allegedly encroached upon, and over time, permanent (occupation) was established. According to the statement, government offices were later constructed on the sacred land, including a major office of the Bharat Scouts and Guides. Continued news page 2

Punjab Cabinet clears monthly cash dole for women

The decision was taken at a meeting of the Council of Ministers chaired by the Chief Minister. Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema had announced the scheme in his Budget speech in the Assembly on March 8.



New Delhi.(Agency)

The Punjab Cabinet Sunday gave its nod for the launch of the Mukh Mantri Mawan Dheeyan Satkar Yojna across Punjab, ensuring a monthly financial assistance of Rs 1,000 to all eligible women and Rs 1,500 to those from Scheduled Castes.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the Council of Ministers chaired by the Chief Minister. Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema had announced the scheme in his Budget speech in the Assembly on March 8. After the meeting, a spokesperson of the government said, "Mukh Mantri Mawan Dheeyan Satkar Yojna (State Scheme) will be launched in the state. The scheme makes a provision of a cash benefit of Rs 1,000 per month to all other women and Rs 1,500 per month to women from Scheduled Castes. This scheme will have a monumental effect on the upliftment of women by making them independent and empowering them. It will give them choice and, clubbed with financial literacy, it will promote savings, thrift and investment and will enable dignity in fulfilling their small desires."

He added, "The scheme is expected to benefit more than 97% of women, making it one of the most comprehensive women-centric social protection initiatives in the country. The scheme represents a landmark step towards ensuring direct economic support to women across the state and reflects the government's vision that women's empowerment must translate into tangible financial independence." Addressing an event in Fatehgarh Sahib on Saturday, AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal had said, "With this scheme, we have fulfilled all our guarantees (promises made at the time of 2022 Punjab polls)."

The scheme has been designed as a direct benefit transfer initiative, under which financial assistance will be transferred directly into the bank accounts of beneficiaries. There will be no restriction on the number of eligible women in a family who may avail benefits under the scheme, and existing social security pensioners will also continue to receive full financial benefits under this scheme in addition to their pensions, enhancing its reach and impact.

Women aged 18 years or above, registered as a voter in Punjab and possessing a valid Aadhaar card reflecting Punjab residency along with a valid voter ID issued by the Election Commission of India, shall be eligible to be enrolled as a beneficiary under the scheme. To ensure effective last-mile delivery, the government will undertake extensive outreach and enrolment efforts, including mobilisation support to assist women in completing documentation, activating bank accounts and ensuring seamless registration, particularly in rural and underserved areas.

Nitish Kumar resigns from Bihar legislature weeks after election to Rajya Sabha

JDU MLC Sanjay Gandhi arrived at the Bihar Legislative Council on Monday to formally submit the Chief Minister's resignation letter to the secretariat.

New Delhi.(Agency)

In a major political development in Bihar, Chief Minister Nitish Kumar has officially resigned from his position as a Member of the Legislative Council (MLC). The Janata Dal United (JDU) MLC Sanjay Gandhi arrived at the Bihar Legislative Council today to formally submit the Chief Minister's resignation letter to the secretariat.

Cabinet Minister Vijay Kumar Chaudhary confirmed the move, signalling a significant shift in the state's leadership structure. According to sources within the party, this resignation is a precursor to a larger transition, as Nitish Kumar is also expected to resign from the post of Chief Minister in the coming days. The sudden resignation has sparked intense speculation



regarding the next political chapter for both Kumar and the JDU-led administration.

KUMAR'S JOURNEY TO RAJYASABHA

Barely four months after being sworn in for a record 10th term as Bihar Chief Minister, Kumar filed his nomination for the Rajya Sabha earlier this month, setting off intense political activity in Patna and fuelling speculation over who could succeed him in the top post. He was accompanied by Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Deputy Chief Minister Samrat Chaudhary and other National Democratic Alliance (NDA) candidates.

On March 16, when Bihar went for the Rajya Sabha polls in the state assembly, Kumar received votes from 44 MLAs, securing his spot in the Upper House of the Indian Parliament. After his election, speculation arose that Kumar would soon submit his resignation as a member of the Bihar legislature as well as the sitting Chief Minister of Bihar.

BJD MP quits Parliamentary panel over controversial remark on Biju Patnaik

Nishikant Dubey, the head of the Parliamentary standing committee on Communications and IT, allegedly called Biju Patnaik a CIA agent, which triggered a major controversy.

New Delhi.(Agency)

Biju Janata Dal (BJD) MP Sasmit Patra resigned from the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Communications and IT, headed by BJP leader Nishikant Dubey, after the latter allegedly made a controversial remark on the former Odisha Chief Minister Biju Patnaik. As per sources, Dubey allegedly called Patnaik a 'CIA agent', which resulted in a major controversy.

"In protest, and as a matter of principle, I am resigning from the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Communications and IT under the chairmanship of Shri Nishikant Dubey. I cannot, in good conscience, continue to serve under someone who makes disrespectful remarks about Late Shri Biju

Patnaik ji as he did in a public statement," Patra wrote in a letter to the Rajya Sabha Chairperson, as reported by news agency.

The controversy erupted a few days back when Dubey allegedly said that Biju Patnaik, who served as the Chief Minister of Odisha twice (1961-63 and 1990-95), was the link between the former Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and the CIA in the 1960s. It triggered widespread protests among several members of Parliament, with Patra taking charge.

Soon after the papers were laid on Monday in the Upper House, Patra rose to record a serious protest against the disparaging, false and concocted statements made by MP Nishikant Dubey against Biju Patnaik."



Hema Malini demanded a special package for developing Mathura as an international tourist destination

Mathura, March 30 — Mathura Lok Sabha MP Hema Malini demanded a special package to develop Mathura as an international tourist destination, and requested its inclusion in the FY 26-27 budget, on Friday in Lok Sabha. She said that Mathura is a popular tourist destination in India now, and Vrindavan is also witnessing a record number of tourists. The number is expected to go up since an airport is coming up in Jewar. Mathura has the potential to become a key cultural and religious tourism destination. A special package is therefore needed to ensure world-class tourist facilities, to enhance Road and Rail connectivity, to provide for standard amenities, to develop the Yamuna Riverfront, and to develop and beautify Brij 84 Kos Parikrama Marg."



Hema Malini said, "Hema Malini said, we have seen a gradual rise in the number of foreign visitors and visitors from India. We need to upgrade our infrastructure if we aspire to become international tourist destination. My request to hon'ble Minister to include the package in this year's budget will speed up the process. "It's my longstanding wish to highlight and preserve the route and major locations of Brij 84 Kos Parikrama," she said. The package will help to preserve one of the richest cultural and religious heritages of the city. The 84 Kos Parikrama covers a distance of 252 km and have major temples in UP and Rajasthan.

Married Navy staffer kills lover, chops body into 3 parts; stores in freezer, hides under bed



Visakhapatnam.(Agency)

Behind the closed door of a rented flat in Visakhapatnam, a brutal crime unfolded piece by piece. And for hours. No one outside had any idea what had happened within.

A 30-year-old Navy technician, Chintada Ravindra, has been arrested for allegedly killing his girlfriend Mounika, dismembering her body, and hiding the remains inside his home.

It ended not with a chase, but with a confession. Ravindra had been living as a tenant in Gajuwaka for nearly two years. On the day of the incident, he asked Mounika to come over in the afternoon.

Police say the meeting quickly turned tense. An argument broke out inside the flat and within those walls, it escalated into violence.

By the time it ended, Mounika was dead.

Investigators say this was not entirely impulsive. Before the killing, Ravindra had gone to a store in Srinagar looking for knives. When he could not find them, he ordered them online.

What followed after the murder has left even officers shaken. Ravindra allegedly cut the body into three parts inside the house. One portion was pushed into a refrigerator, concealed behind an ordinary door in an otherwise ordinary room. Another was stuffed into a gunny sack and hidden under the bed. The third, the head, was taken away and burned in an isolated area at Adavivaram.

Inside the flat, traces of the crime remained.

Neighbours later spoke of an eerie normalcy. "Nothing seemed unusual. No noise, nothing," one resident said. Police said Ravindra's wife had recently delivered a child and was staying at her parents' home. With the house empty, he had called Mounika over. Investigators are still piecing together what triggered the fatal argument, but what is clear is how quickly it turned irreversible.

Punjab Cabinet clears desilting of River Satluj to fast-track NHAI highway projects

The Sikh Times

CHANDIGARH, 29 March: The Punjab Cabinet led by Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann on Sunday took several key decisions, including paving the way for the launch of the Mukh Mantri Mawan Dheeyan Satkar Yojna across Punjab, ensuring a monthly financial assistance of ₹1000 to all other women and ₹1500 to women from Scheduled Castes, benefiting more than 97% of women in Punjab. The decision was taken in a meeting of the Council of Ministers chaired by the Chief Minister. Disclosing this, the Chief Minister's Office said, "Mukh Mantri Mawan Dheeyan Satkar Yojna (State Scheme) will be launched in the State. The Scheme makes a provision of a cash benefit of ₹1000 per month to all other women and ₹1500 per month to women from Scheduled

Castes. This scheme will have a monumental effect on the upliftment of women by making them independent and empowering them. It



will give them choice and, clubbed with financial literacy, it will promote savings, thrift and investment and will enable dignity in fulfilling their small desires." It further said, "Punjab has already made considerable progress in social welfare and human development indicators; however, a large number of women across the state, particularly those belonging to economically vulnerable households, continue to lack independent financial security. Strengthening women's financial autonomy is essential for improving household welfare, promoting gender equity, and enhancing women's participation in social and economic decision-making." Highlighting the scale of the initiative, the CM Office added, "The scheme is

expected to benefit more than 97% of women, making it one of the most comprehensive women-centric social protection initiatives in the country. The scheme represents a landmark step towards ensuring direct economic support to women across the state and reflects the Government's vision that women's empowerment must translate into tangible financial independence." The scheme has been designed as a Direct Benefit Transfer initiative, under which financial assistance will be transferred directly into the bank accounts of beneficiaries. There will be no restriction on the number of eligible women in a family who may avail benefits under the scheme, and existing social security pensioners will also continue to receive full financial benefits under this scheme in addition to their pensions, significantly enhancing its reach and impact. Contd.....page-3

Front continued news

## All India Sikh Conference Babbar Warns Uttarakhand Govt ,Over Historic Gurudwara Shri Gyan Godhri

Furthermore, it has been alleged that the Uttarakhand Government built commercial shops on the Gurudwara land and sold them to private individuals, deepening the injustice faced by the Sikh community.

Highlighting another critical issue, Sardar Babbar pointed to a nearby large tract of land known as Nanak Wada, which he stated historically belonged to Guru Nanak Dev Ji. He alleged that approximately 50 acres of this land have been illegally occupied by local residents and authorities, where a large unauthorized settlement has now developed. He emphasized that this land too is part of the Guru's legacy and must be restored.

The President of the All India Sikh Conference Babbar issued a direct appeal to the Uttarakhand Government to immediately return the sacred land of Gurudwara Shri Gyan Godhri Sahib to the Sikh Qaum. He warned that the Sikh community will not compromise on this issue at any cost, describing the Gurudwara as a "sacred trust (amanat)" of the Sikh Panth.

Issuing a firm warning, he stated that on Baisakhi, 13 April 2026, Sikh devotees will gather in large numbers at Haridwar and reclaim possession of the historic site. The move, he said, reflects the deep-rooted faith, history, and emotions of Sikhs across India and the world.

Sardar Babbar further informed that formal communications have already been sent to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah, the Governor of Uttarakhand, the Director General of Police, the Chief Secretary of Uttarakhand, and the District Magistrate of Haridwar, apprising them of the situation and the planned action.

The organization has also urged the government to ensure that no repression, injustice, or excessive force is used against Sikh devotees arriving in Haridwar on Baisakhi. It specifically appealed to the Prime Minister and Home Minister to direct the Uttarakhand administration and police not to suppress the Sikh sangat or file false cases against them.

The statement with a strong message that the issue of Gurudwara Shri Gyan Godhri Sahib is not merely administrative, but one of faith, heritage, and justice, and that the Sikh Qaum remains determined to reclaim what it considers its rightful religious legacy.

## FIR against 4 for cheating renewable energy firm of Rs 2 crore in Gurgaon



NOIDA.(Agency)

Economic offences wing (EOW) has registered an FIR on Sunday in connection with an alleged fraud of over Rs 2.19 crore at a renewable energy company, naming four accused, including an employee of a third-party service provider and representatives of a vendor firm.

According to a complaint by ReNew Private Limited, the fraud was detected during an internal review of advance payments made to a vendor, Shayona Enterprises. The company found that advances worth Rs 2.31 crore were processed against work orders of only Rs 21.6 lakh.

The complaint alleged that Manish Kumar Jha, an employee of Mynd Integrated Solutions Pvt Ltd deployed at the company's Gurgaon office, misused his position to process fraudulent payments. He was responsible for handling vendor payments and advances. An internal investigation conducted in July and Aug 2025 found that Jha processed payments based on fake or inflated proforma invoices that were not approved by the company's departments. These invoices were shared with him through personal communication channels.

The company alleged that Jha acted in collusion with Shayona Enterprises and its associates-Dharmendra Ramchandani, Anjana Gurnani and Ajay Singh Yadav to siphon funds by generating fraudulent invoices and bypassing internal checks. During the internal enquiry, Jha allegedly admitted to entering into an arrangement with the vendor around Aug 2024 and facilitating payments in exchange for kickbacks. "He disclosed that he received around Rs 65 lakh from the accused through various channels, including bank transfers and other means," the complaint stated.

# Crumbling roads, neglected green spaces: What ails Noida's Sector 75

NOIDA.(Agency)

Residents of Sector 75 in Noida have raised serious concerns over the deteriorating condition of roads and green spaces in their neighbourhood. In a formal complaint to the district magistrate, they highlighted the poor state of parks, roads and other public facilities that they said are essential to community well-being

According to long-time resident Gaurang Dixit, despite several areas being earmarked for the development of parks and green belts, many have turned into garbage dump-yards. Residents have expressed their frustration over the lack of maintenance and development, particularly regarding open spaces between residential societies, which have now become havens for stray animals and litter. "The roads, specifically in front of the Maxblis Grand Wellington and Grand Kingston societies, are in a dire state. They are being used as parking areas for



visitors to the Spectrum Metro Mall, leaving little room for the residents' vehicles," said Dixit, who wrote to the DM. Roads in the area are also riddled with potholes that pose a hazard to daily

commuters, he added. Dixit said that the RWAs have approached the Noida Authority multiple times, appealing for urgent action to mitigate these issues. However, they were informed that the

responsibility lies with the builders of the residential societies, who have been unresponsive to the community's demands, he said. "Noida Authority appears to be shirking its responsibilities concerning the maintenance of common public facilities, leaving residents in an unfortunate and unacceptable situation," said Navin Misra, another resident of the sector. Despite submitting complaints through official channels like the Noida Authority's portal, residents said they have received no satisfactory responses. The discontent has prompted them to stage a procession recently to draw attention to their plight, yet the community is still awaiting a decisive response from local authorities. "Raising public awareness of our plight is now our only recourse to redress other than repeat complaints with the authority," Dixit added.

## Like a movie: After drive through war-torn Iran & evacuation via Armenia, 8 Indian sailors land in Mumbai

Gurgaon.(Agency)

A long and anxious wait for families of Indian sailors stranded in Iran since last Dec came to an end on Sunday morning as all eight of them reached Mumbai after a difficult journey across a conflict-hit region. For Mukesh Mehta, a resident of Ghaziabad's DLF Colony, the moment brought immense relief, though reunion is still a day away. His son Ketan Mehta is among the eight to be back on home soil after uncertainty, weeks of detention and a perilous evacuation that involved driving 2,000km across Iran to reach Armenia and take a flight to Dubai and eventually to Mumbai from there. Ketan, 27, spoke to his father through a borrowed phone. "Ketan called me and said, 'Papa, we are finally in India'. We had been waiting to hear these words from him for a long time," Mukesh said. Ketan's phone was taken away by the Iranian authorities when their ship was seized on Dec 8. The family, including his mother and two sisters, have since spent their days waiting for that call — hoping he would get hold of a phone and inform them that

he was okay. While lodged in an Iranian jail, Ketan phoned his family during the



calls authorities allowed every two to three days. The sailors' return follows months of a tumultuous ordeal — from being captured and jailed to their eventual release through diplomatic intervention — and a delayed evacuation as the outbreak of war stalled their journey home. Ketan was in the crew of oil tanker MT Valiant Roar, which was intercepted in international waters near the port of Dibba in UAE and taken to Iran on Dec 8. The vessel had 18 crew members on board

— 16 Indians, one Sri Lankan and one Bangladeshi. Iranian authorities later split the team — 10 were moved to Bandar Abbas prison, where Ketan was lodged, while eight were kept confined on the ship.

Iranian authorities had alleged that the vessel was involved in the smuggling of around 6,000 tonne of fuel, an allegation the families and crew representatives strongly contested, saying that the tanker was carrying only very low sulphur fuel oil (VLSFO), which is standard, legally loaded cargo. Vijay Kumar, 40, captain of the ship, was also among those to have returned. His family is in Meerut. Speaking from Mumbai on Sunday, Vijay said the ordeal had taken a toll on their mental and physical wellbeing. "It has been a long and tiring journey. We will only be arriving in Delhi after completing all formalities on Monday night. After that, we will head to our respective homes and finally meet our families," he said. Vijay described the last three months as a "movie". "It was filled with action, emotion and reaction.

## Only 26% private schools meet fee disclosure deadline in Haryana

NOIDA.(Agency)

Despite clear instructions from the directorate of elementary education, compliance on the fee disclosure norms has remained low. Only 2,442 out of 9,230 private schools — about 26% — have submitted the required Form-6 data as of March 25, raising concerns over transparency in the state's education system. Against this backdrop, Haryana education minister Mahipal Dhandha has issued a stern warning to private schools over non-compliance. All institutions must declare seat availability and upload detailed fee structures on the govt portal before the March 31 deadline, Dhandha said. The govt maintains that the primary goal of Form-6 is to protect parents from hidden costs and ensure that economically weaker students continue to benefit from free education schemes. The Form-6 mandate was introduced to regulate fee structures and prevent arbitrary hikes by ensuring that schools publicly disclose a complete breakdown of charges. However, the issue has escalated into a standoff, with the Private School Association, led by Rampal Yadav, alleging that the govt has pending dues exceeding Rs 300 crore under Rule 134-A and the Right to Education Act. The association has warned of a "No Payment, No Admission" policy if reimbursements are not cleared promptly, intensifying tensions between private institutions and the state authorities. Taking a hardline approach, the minister dismissed the pressure tactics and reiterated that compliance with regulations is non-negotiable. He reminded schools that last year, the govt shut down the portals of nearly 1,400 institutions for failing to follow norms, signalling that strict action could be repeated. Addressing concerns over pending payments, he assured that govt dues would be cleared but cautioned schools against jeopardising students' futures by denying admissions, warning of serious consequences for such actions. With only a few days remaining before the deadline, the coming week is expected to be crucial in determining whether private schools fall in line or face regulatory

## Woman accuses blackmail, sexual assault & forced conversion, 1 held in Haryana

NOIDA.(Agency)

A man from Nuh was arrested after a 23-year-old woman alleged she was sexually assaulted, blackmailed and pressured to convert her religion. The survivor who hails from Punjab said she was sexually assaulted "multiple times" and blackmailed "using obscene videos" after being lured to his village on the pretext of marriage. According to the complaint, the woman came in contact with the accused through social media nearly a year ago. "The two began interacting frequently after which the accused promised to marry her and convinced her of a long-term relationship," an officer said. On March 20, the woman was called to the accused's village on the assurance that he would marry her around the time of Eid, police said. Between March 20 and March

24, she alleged that she was sexually assaulted repeatedly during her stay in



Nuh. When she insisted on marriage, the accused demanded that she convert her religion as a precondition. On her refusal, he assaulted her, threatened to kill her and forced her out of the house, police said. After the incident, the woman managed to reach Firozpur Jhirka City police station

and lodged a complaint. The officer said, "The survivor statement is being recorded before a magistrate and her medical examination has been conducted."

Now, a case has been registered under charges of rape, criminal intimidation, extortion and provisions of the Haryana Prevention of Unlawful Conversion of Religion Act, 2022. The woman said during an earlier meeting at a hotel, the accused raped her and secretly recorded an obscene video on his phone. He then used the video to blackmail her and continued to sexually exploit her over several months, the complainant told police. She said that around Rs 1 lakh was extorted from her during this period on multiple occasions, with the accused repeatedly assuring her that he would marry her.

## 'What's next for us': Over 1,000 Jewar workers fear job losses as Noida International Airport phase 1 work winds down

NOIDA.(Agency)

The mood in Jewar is celebratory with Noida International Airport formally inaugurated and poised to open. But many local youths who worked for contractors engaged with the airport project, fear the good days are coming to an end for them as work on the first phase of the airport begins to wrap up.

What next? It's a question that has many of them worried as they look to align their own futures with that of the airport.

The project, they are certain, will bring many job opportunities to Jewar, but how and when that will take shape is anyone's guess. Should they bide their time or move on? Roughly 1,000 workers employed across roles ranging from housekeeping and plumbing to welding and machine operation say no permanent positions have been offered, no medical cover extended, and no clarity given on whether their contracts will survive the shift from construction site to operational airport. Mahendra Ambedkar, a BSc graduate with diplomas in computer science, IT, and civil engineering, once earned Rs 25,000 a month as a lab assistant at a Delhi hospital. Today, he earns Rs 14,000 a month as a contractual worker doing any odd jobs assigned at the airport site, a role he has held for the past 10 months, since



losing his hospital job during the Covid-19 pandemic. His family gave up 10 bigha of land for the airport project and received Rs 46 lakh in compensation. "After I lost my job, I started working here because it is near my home in Jewar Banger. The income is lower than before, but at least there was employment in the area," he said.

For many, like Ambedkar, the gap between what was promised and what was

delivered is measured not just in pay slips but also in the lack of job security.

Yash Kumar (20), from Taharpur village, earns around Rs 14,000 a month working eight to nine hours a day.

His family, he said, were farmers for generations. "There is little land now, so we have to work. At the airport, there are many types of jobs, and I never refuse any work." But after petrol, food, electricity,

and contributions to his siblings' education, little remains. "And now even that income is uncertain. Since the last few weeks, the new contractor has not given me any job," he said.

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Punjab Cabinet clears desilting of River Satluj to fast-track NHAI highway projects

Contd.....Front page Women aged 18 years or above, registered as a voter in Punjab and possessing a valid Aadhaar card reflecting Punjab residency along with a valid Voter ID issued by the Election Commission of India, shall be eligible to be enrolled as a beneficiary under the scheme. To ensure effective last-mile delivery, the Bhagwant Mann Government will undertake extensive outreach and enrolment efforts, including mobilisation support to assist women in completing documentation, activating bank accounts and ensuring seamless registration, particularly in rural and underserved areas. Reinforcing the scale of the

initiative, a sum of ₹9,300 crore has already been sanctioned in the Budget for the financial year 2026-27 and, given the scale and outreach of the scheme, it is expected to become one of the largest women-centric social welfare initiatives undertaken by the Government of Punjab. The Cabinet also accorded approval to fill 70 Direct Posts in the Department of planning. The process for merger of the Economic Policy and Planning Board and the Directorate of Statistics, Punjab has already been initiated. In view of this exercise, the requirement on vacant posts to be filled has been revised. So the approval was given to fill 70 posts of direct recruitment

by the Officers' Committee. The Cabinet also gave approval to amend the "Terms regarding qualifications and experience required for the appointment of Chairman-cum-Managing Directors (CMDs) and Directors" of Punjab State Power Corporation Limited (POWERCOM) & Punjab State Transmission Corporation Limited (TRANSCO). The Cabinet also gave green signal to appoint statutory manpower and Supporting Staff by PSPCL on contract basis for operation and maintenance of Pachhara Central Coal Mine (PCCM) at District Pakur, Jharkhand. It was also decided to constitute an Empowered Committee

comprising Administrative Secretary as Chairman and Chairman-cum-Managing Director and Director / Generation, PSPCL as members. This empowered committee was authorized to give all approvals pertaining to recruitment and extension in contractual engagement of Statutory Manpower / Supporting Staff for the operation and maintenance of Pachhara Central Coal Mine, Pakur. The Cabinet also gave consent to amendments in the policy for Conversion of leasehold industrial plots/sheds to freehold. As per it, industrial plots mortgaged with banks or financial institutions shall be eligible for conversion to freehold,

subject to submission of a No Objection Certificate from the concerned bank and compliance with prescribed safeguards. A conversion fee of 5 percent shall be applicable where the current title documents do not contain any clause relating to unearned increase, irrespective of its presence in earlier title documents. The Cabinet also gave nod to introduce the Punjab Common Infrastructure (Regulation and Maintenance) (Amendment) Bill, 2026 to comprehensively reform the Punjab Common Infrastructure (Regulation and Maintenance) Act, 2012 to strengthen the

effectiveness, transparency and financial sustainability of Special Purpose Vehicle (SPVs) for better management of industrial areas across Punjab. The proposed amendments will address administrative and operational challenges that have emerged over the years due to the expansion of industrial parks and the emergence of new industrial clusters outside notified industrial estates. It will also create a streamlined system for collection and utilization of service charges for the maintenance of common infrastructure such as roads, street lights, parks, security, drainage systems and other shared facilities in industrial areas. Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs)

will be created in all industrial areas which will be registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860. This SPV will be responsible for the operation and maintenance of common infrastructure within industrial areas on a no-profit, no-loss basis. Also, a District Monitoring Authority will be established to oversee the functioning of SPVs and provide an institutional mechanism for monitoring and dispute resolution. The Cabinet also gave nod for relaxing the conditions for desilting in River Satluj to provide simple earth to the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) for the construction of various highway projects in the state. This is part of various

initiatives being taken by the Department of Water Resources involving the excavation of longitudinal channels in major rivers across Punjab as part of its broader river management and flood mitigation efforts.

NAME CHANGE I Shashikant Tyagi S/o Anil Kumar Tyagi R/O House No. 853, Vasundhara, Sector 13, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh have changed my name to Shashikant for all future purposes. NAME CHANGE I Nitesh Kumar S/O Krishan Kushwaha R/O 142, BLOCK-H NAVEEN VIHAR BEGUM PUR Sultanpur C Block North West Delhi - 110086 have changed my name to Nitesh Kushwaha for all future purposes. NAME CHANGE I Pardeep Kumar S/O Rakesh Kumar R/O House No-160, Gali No-1, Krishna kurnj, Nayaagon, Bhandsi, Gurgaon, Haryana 122102, I Have Changed My Name To Pardeep

Man kills wife with gas cylinder in Gurugram

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

NAME CHANGE I, DEEPA KUMAR S/O RAJESH GUPTA R/O 2085 STREET No 6 KAILASH NAGAR DELHI 110031, CHANGED MY NAME TO DHURUV GUPTA. NAME CHANGE I, SEEMA DEVI wife of No-10246233F, Rank-HAV, Name- RAJIV KUMAR THAKUR residing at VILL-KHADERPUR, PO-BHADURPUR, TEH-DALSINGHARAI, DISTT-SAMASTIPUR, BIHAR-848114, have changed my name from SEEMA DEVI to SEEMA KUMARI for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 30/03/2026 before Notary Public, Delhi.

PUBLIC NOTICE Notice is hereby given that REHNA aged about 50 years wife of Sakir Khan Resident of House No. 152-A, Gali No. 03, Near Mukul Builder, Surya Vihar, Part-3, Agwanpur, Amar Nagar, Faridabad, Haryana-121003, has separated/debarred my disobedient son named "HAYAT KHAN" aged about 33 years, he has been residing separately from my home, I have disowned/dishonoured him from my moveable and immovable properties. If any person's deal with any consideration amount they have sole responsible.

NAME CHANGE I, Sonam Arora w/o Manish Malhotra R/O H no 391 sector 14 Gurgaon Haryana 122 001 have changed my name to Sonam Malhotra NAME CHANGE I, IQBAL S/O INADUL MANDAL R/O HOUSE NO-1512, C-1, NEAR DURGA MATA MANDIR, PHASE-6, AYA NAGAR, SOUTH DELHI, DELHI-110047 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO IQBAL MANDAL FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSE. NAME CHANGE I, SNA W/O ZISHAN SAGHIR residing at H NO-114131 2ND FLOOR, LALITA PARK, LAXMI NAGAR, DELHI-110092 have changed my name to SNA ZISHAN for all future purpose.

PUBLIC NOTICE It is for general information that I, HIMANI GUPTA W/O AMIT GUPTA, R/O B-19 SECOND FLOOR, FRONT SIDE, SANJAY ENCLAVE, UTTAM NAGAR, PO, D.K MOHAN GARDEN, DIST: WEST DELHI, Delhi-110059 declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as MAYA in my 10th class educational Documents. The actual name of mine is HIMANI GUPTA, which may be amended accordingly. It is certified that I have complied with other legal requirements in this connection.

NAME CHANGE I, Parveen Kumar S/O Chand Ram R/O MIG-2-176, Phase 02, Near Tiranga Chowk, Shahid Bhagat Singh Ward No 21, Tatibandh, Post Tatibandh, Dist Raipur, Chhattisgarh-492099, have changed my minor son's name from Sumit Dalal aged 9 years to Zigar Dalal forever. NAME CHANGE It is for general information that I VINOD KUMAR SHARMA S/O RAM ASREY R/O A-5/86, Bhalaswa, Resettlement Colony, Bhalaswa Dairy, North West Delhi, Delhi-110042 declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as VINOD KR SHARMA in my Driving Licence No-DL-11 19960054567. The actual name of mine is VINOD KUMAR SHARMA which may be amended accordingly.

STORES E-PROCUREMENT

E-Procurement Tender Notice No.: S/45/2025-26, Dtd: 26-03-2026. E-Tender are invited by the undersigned for the following works.

SI.No.: 1; Tender No.: 30/25/1453A/OT/236/2025-26; Closing/Opening Date: 08-04-2026 Brief Description : Description of the item is:-Set of pins, bushes for FIAT IR bogie as per schedule 1 Pin. 1901877 Ver 00, or latest, Qty. 16 2 Bush. 1274591 Ver 00, or latest, Qty.16 3 Bolt. 1262374 Index 2, or latest, Qty.08 4 Locking pin. 1227320 Index 6, or latest, Qty. 32 5 Distance bush. 1268583 Ver 01, or latest, Qty.16 6 Pin. 1901864 Ver 00, or latest, Qty. 4 7 Security plate. LW05114 Alt - a, or latest, Qty.08 8 Security plate. 1268843 Ver 01R, or latest, Qty.02 9 Security plate. 1356259 Alt-05R, or latest, Qty. 16. [ Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery ] [ Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp.: No, Stages: 0] [UJAM Linking: ] Item Type: Goods (supply). i) Qty-655 set for New Bongaigaon WORKSHOP DEPOT, NFR(Assam), ii) Qty 660 set for Katihar GSD, NFR(Bihar), iii) Qty-457 Set for Dibrugarh Town WORKSHOP DEPOT, NFR (Assam). P.L. No-33509300.

SI.No.: 2; Tender No.: 30/25/5144/OT/237/2025-26; Closing/Opening Date: 17-04-2026 Brief Description : Description of the item is:- Set of pins, bushes for FIAT IR bogie as per schedule 1 Pin. 1901877 Ver 00, or latest, Qty. 16 2 Bush. 1274591 Ver 00, or latest, Qty.16 3 Bolt. 1262374 Index 2, or latest, Qty.08 4 Locking pin. 1227320 Index 6, or latest, Qty. 32 5 Distance bush. 1268583 Ver 01, or latest, Qty.16 6 Pin. 1901864 Ver 00, or latest, Qty. 4 7 Security plate. LW05114 Alt - a, or latest, Qty.08 8 Security plate. 1268843 Ver 01R, or latest, Qty.02 9 Security plate. 1356259 Alt-05R, or latest, Qty. 16. [ Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery ] [ Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp.: No, Stages: 0] [UJAM Linking: ] Item Type: Goods (supply). Qty-430 Set for SSE/C/C/Guwahati, NFR(Assam). P.L. No-331402610029.

SI.No.: 3; Tender No.: 50/26/5039/OT/238/2025-26; Closing/Opening Date: 17-04-2026 Brief Description : Description of the item is:- Set of pins, bushes for FIAT IR bogie as per schedule 1 Pin. 1901877 Ver 00, or latest, Qty. 16 2 Bush. 1274591 Ver 00, or latest, Qty.16 3 Bolt. 1262374 Index 2, or latest, Qty.08 4 Locking pin. 1227320 Index 6, or latest, Qty. 32 5 Distance bush. 1268583 Ver 01, or latest, Qty.16 6 Pin. 1901864 Ver 00, or latest, Qty. 4 7 Security plate. LW05114 Alt - a, or latest, Qty.08 8 Security plate. 1268843 Ver 01R, or latest, Qty.02 9 Security plate. 1356259 Alt-05R, or latest, Qty. 16. [ Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery ] [ Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp.: No, Stages: 0] [UJAM Linking: ] Item Type: Goods (supply). UJAM Item Ref. (Item Id - 3100065 - SMPS Based Integrated Power Supply (IPS). Sub Item Id-3100065001 - SMPS Based Integrated Power Supply (IPS). Qty-7 Set for SSE/SIG/Goalpara Town, NFR (Assam). P.L. No- 567926000030.

SI.No.: 4; Tender No.: 37/25/0759A/OT/239/2025-26; Closing/Opening Date: 28-04-2026 Brief Description : Constant contact polyurethane side bearer pad assembly for NLB Bogies. Drg. No: RDSO's approved Drg. No - AAL-021101/N Alt - 1. Mat. Spec: WD-38-Misc-2004 (Rev.2) or latest. [ Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery ] [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp.: No, Stages: 0] [UJAM Linking: Item :3100354, Constant Contact Side Bearer for rolling stock Sub Item: Constant Contact Side Bearer for CASNUB 22NLB Bogies ] Item Type: Goods (supply). i) Qty- 108 Nos for Pandu GSD, NFR(Assam), ii) Qty-586 Nos for New Jalpaiguri GSD, NFR (West Bengal), iii) Qty- 1793 Nos for Bongaigaon WORKSHOP DEPOT, NFR (Assam). P.L. No-38106462.

SI.No.: 5; Tender No.: 61/26/5161/OT/240/2025-26; Closing/Opening Date: 24-04-2026 Brief Description : Constant contact polyurethane side bearer pad assembly for NLB Bogies. Drg. No: RDSO's approved Drg. No - AAL-021101/N Alt - 1. Mat. Spec: WD-38-Misc-2004 (Rev.2) or latest. [ Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery ] [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp.: No, Stages: 0] [UJAM Linking: Item:3100354, Constant Contact Side Bearer for rolling stock Sub Item: Constant Contact Side Bearer for CASNUB 22NLB Bogies ] Item Type: Goods (supply). Qty-7552 Nos for SSE/PWAY/TD/Bongaigaon, NFR (Assam). P.L. No-60090042.

SI.No.: 6; Tender No.: 61/26/0103A/OT/241/2025-26; Closing/Opening Date: 23-04-2026 Brief Description : Manufacture and supply of Thick Web Switch Expansion Joint (TWSEJ) as per RDSO drg.No.T-8822 (Alt: 04). (All conditions applicable as per RDSO letter No. CT/JW/3 dt.04/07/2023 or as per latest RDSO guideline). List of fittings as per RDSO drg.No.T-8822 (Alt: 04) excluding ERC MKV, GFN Liner and PSC Sleeper. (The Alt. in drawings and Specifications issued by RDSO upto one month prior to tender closing date shall be applicable in this tender.) [ Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery ] [ Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp.: No, Stages: 0] [UJAM Linking: Item :3100582,THICK WEB SWITCHES, THICK WEB SEJ & END FORGING Sub Item: THICK WEB SEJ] Item Type: Goods (supply). Qty-262 Set for Bongaigaon DEPOT, NFR (West Bengal). P.L. No-6000060244.

SI.No.: 7; Tender No.: 61/25/5503A/OT/242/2025-26; Closing/Opening Date: 22-04-2026 Brief Description : Manufacture and supply of Thick Web Switch Expansion Joint (TWSEJ) as per RDSO drg.No.T-8822 (Alt: 04). (All conditions applicable as per RDSO letter No. CT/JW/3 dt.04/07/2023 or as per latest RDSO guideline). List of fittings as per RDSO drg.No.T-8822 (Alt: 04) excluding ERC MKV, GFN Liner and PSC Sleeper. (The Alt. in drawings and Specifications issued by RDSO upto one month prior to tender closing date shall be applicable in this tender.) [ Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery ] [ Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp.: No, Stages: 0] [UJAM Linking: Item :3100582,THICK WEB SWITCHES, THICK WEB SEJ & END FORGING Sub Item: THICK WEB SEJ] Item Type: Goods (supply). Qty-2364 Set for SSE/P.WAY/TD/Bongaigaon, NFR(Assam). P.L. No-60190115.

SI.No.: 8; Tender No.: 61/26/5152/OT/243/2025-26; Closing/Opening Date: 23-04-2026 Brief Description : Manufacturing fabrication and supplying of assembly for Improved Switch Expansion Joint to RDSO Drg. No. T-6930 (Alt-3) conforming to IRS-T-10-2025 for long welded Rail with 65 mm max. Gap B.G 52 Kg U.I.C on PSC sleepers with all the fittings as per drawing but excluding ERCs, Liners & Rubber Pads [ Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery ] [ Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp.: Yes, Stages: 1] [UJAM Linking: Item :3100042, Improved Switch Expansion Joint Sub Item: Improved Switch Expansion Joint for 65 mm Gap (Max.)] Item Type: Goods (supply). Qty-133 Set for SSE/P.Way/TD/Bongaigaon, NFR(Assam). P.L. No- 600608300606.

SI.No.: 9; Tender No.: 20/26/0499/OT/244/2025-26; Closing/Opening Date: 13-04-2026 Brief Description : Air Compressor [Main] (Oil Lubricated) 1745 LPM Capacity as per RDSO Spec. No. RDSO/2018/EL/SPEC/0137, Rev.0' or latest & conforming to RDSO STR No. RDSO/2007/EL/STR/0015, Rev-1 or latest for 3 phase locomotives. [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery] [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp.: No, Stages: 0] [UJAM Linking: Item:3100136, Main Compressor (Oil Lubricated) for Electric Locomotives (1745 LPM Capacity)] Item Type: Goods (supply). i) Qty-2 Nos for Malda Town DEPOT NFR (West Bengal), ii) Qty-03 Nos for New Guwahati DEPOT, NFR (Assam), iii) 02 Nos for Siliguri Jn. DIESEL DEPOT, NFR (West Bengal). P.L. No-29510016. Note : For full details of Tender Notice and Tender Documents, Tenderer may log on to the website (www.ireps.gov.in) prospective bidder who intend to participate in above tenders are required to log in themselves with the above website and submit their offer electronically, if they are already registered with IREPS. In case they are not registered with IREPS, they are advised to obtain class-III Digital Signature Certificate from the certifying agencies under Govt. of India IT Act 2000 and participate in the above tenders.

PCMM, Maligaon NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY Serving Customers With A Smile

NAME CHANGE I, SEEMA DEVI wife of No-10246233F, Rank-HAV, Name- RAJIV KUMAR THAKUR residing at VILL-KHADERPUR, PO-BHADURPUR, TEH-DALSINGHARAI, DISTT-SAMASTIPUR, BIHAR-848114, have changed my name from SEEMA DEVI to SEEMA KUMARI for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 30/03/2026 before Notary Public, Delhi.

PUBLIC NOTICE Information is given to general public at large that our client Mrs. Neelam W/o Mr. Sunil Kumar is the owner of Freehold Residential Built-up Property area measuring 60 Sq. Yds., out of Khaska No. 117/15 & 116/11/2, Situated in the area of Village Burari, Delhi, abadi known as B-Block, Sant Nagar, Burari, Delhi-84, by virtue of Relinquishment Deed dated 25.06.2024, duly regd. on SR-1, Kashmir Gate (Central), as Doc. No. 2024/191/6775, in Book No. 1, Vol. No. 10869, Page No. 163-176, dated 25.06.2024., in the chain documents below mentioned documents not available i.e. SMC of Late Mr. Net Ram S/O Lt. Mr. Jai Kishan in now our client is declaring that that any other person does not have any right over the said property, and same has been financed by ECL (ECLFL) Finance Ltd. Branch: Pusa Road, New Delhi. If any person(s) have any objection(s) or claim(s) with respect to the right, title or interest in the Said Property then contact us within 07 days from the date of Publication of this notice and or the same to the undersigned if found by anyone. Thereafter no claim shall be entertained. [NAVEEN KUMAR VERMA] Advocate F-211, Sector-3, Vaishali, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201010 (Contact at 09958871432)

NAME CHANGE I, BABU RAM S/O HARI LAL R/O House No: 281, Type-1, Revenue Officer Colony, Near Sector-14, Rohtak - 124001, Haryana have changed my name to NARESH SHARMA for all intents and purposes. NAME CHANGE I, NARESH S/O BABU RAM SHARMA R/O House No: 281, Type-1, Revenue Officer Colony, Near Sector-14, Rohtak - 124001, Haryana have changed my name to MONICA AHUJA for All future purposes. NAME CHANGE I, GEETHAMMA W/O Late Ex 293616-S JWO RADHAKRISHAN NAIR B (address) RADHALAYAM, ACKOLILCHERRY, MYYANAND P.O, KOLLAM, KERALA-691303, have changed my name from GEETHAMMA to GEETHA NAIR proposed/adopted New name) vide Affidavit dated 30/03/2026 at before Notary Public, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE I, hitherto known as NAJAMA W/O MD IRFAN R/O H-16/27/42 Sangam Vihar Pushpa Bhawan South Delhi Delhi-110062 have change my name and shall hereafter be known as NAZMA. NAME CHANGE I, GEETHAMMA W/O Late Ex 293616-S JWO RADHAKRISHAN NAIR B (address) RADHALAYAM, ACKOLILCHERRY, MYYANAND P.O, KOLLAM, KERALA-691303, have changed my name from GEETHAMMA to GEETHA NAIR proposed/adopted New name) vide Affidavit dated 30/03/2026 at before Notary Public, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE I, NITIN S/O ANAND KUMAR R/O 319 Krishna Gali Kashmiri Gate Delhi Delhi G.P.O North Delhi Delhi-110006 have changed the name of my minor son DEV SINGHAL aged 10 years and he shall hereafter be known as DAKSH SINGHAL. Public Notice My client Sh.Mahender singh,S/o Sh.Mangh Singh,R/o-187,Near Gurudwara,Jhngola,North-west,Delhi-36 sever all relations & disowned/debarred his son jasvinder singh from all movable & immovable property & assets due to their misbehavior.Anybody dealing with them shall do at their own risk. PANKAJ KUMAR JHA (Advocate)Ph.no.7840039970

NAME CHANGE I, Dinesh D Pandey S/O Dayanand R Pandey R/O D-1116, Sayan Zion, Gaur City 1, Near Kidzee School noida west, Greater Noida West, PO: Sector - 16C, Dist: Gautam Buddha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh - 201318 have changed the name of my minor daughter Navya Pandey aged 9 years and she shall hereafter be known as Naavya Pandey

NAME CHANGE I, Dinesh D Pandey S/O Dayanand R Pandey R/O D-1116, Sayan Zion, Gaur City 1, Near Kidzee School noida west, Greater Noida West, PO: Sector - 16C, Dist: Gautam Buddha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh - 201318 have changed the name of my minor daughter Saayasha Pandey aged 3 years and she shall hereafter be known as Vamika Pandey

NAME CHANGE I, PRADEEP / PARDEEP KUMAR S/O Chaman Lal R/O H.No.410, Ground Floor, Sector-12, Friends Society, Vasundhara, Ghaziabad-201012, Uttar Pradesh, have changed my name to PARDEEP CHAWLA permanently NAME CHANGE I, SANJAY SUNAIYA S/O SUNDER LAL, residing at 8A/107, DDA JANTA FLAT, TRILOK PURI, DELHI-110091 have changed my name to SANJAY for all future purpose.

NAME CHANGE I, PRANAV KUMAR SEN S/O ANIL CHANDRA SEN R/O 246/A, Block-F-2, Jai Vihar, Baprolia, Nagafgarh, South Delhi, Delhi-110043 have changed the name of my minor son DEVANSHU SEN aged 15 years and he shall hereafter be known as DEVANSHU SEN. NAME CHANGE I, Satish Kumar S/O Brij Lal Ulkey R/O Vidhyavihaar, Vindyansini Ward, Ward 32, Dhamtari, Chhattisgarh-493773, have changed my name to Satish Kumar Ulkey

NAME CHANGE I, Mohit Kumar S/O Surender Kumar R/O H.No.470 B-Block, Gali No.3, Svaraj Mandir, Baba Colony, Kamal Pur Majra, Burari, Delhi-110084 have changed the name of my minor daughter Hemakshi Vats aged 05 years and she shall hereafter be known as Anika Vats. NAME CHANGE It is for general information that I, SHAVANA KHATUN W/O MOHD NASIM R/O 113, Shastri Mohalla, Patpar Ganj, Patparganj, East Delhi, Delhi-110091, declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as SABANA PRAVEEN in my minor daughter namely NISHA PRAVEEN aged 13 years in his school records and birth certificate No. MCDOLIR-0113-005614842 and as my husband wrongly written as MOHD NASEEM in my Aadhaar Card No. 927484262250 The actual name of mine and my husband are SHAVANA KHATUN and MOHD NASIM respectively which may be amended accordingly.

NAME CHANGE I, Dinesh D Pandey S/O Dayanand R Pandey R/O D-1116, Sayan Zion, Gaur City 1, Near Kidzee School noida west, Greater Noida West, PO: Sector - 16C, Dist: Gautam Buddha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh - 201318 have changed the name of my minor daughter Saayasha Pandey aged 3 years and she shall hereafter be known as Vamika Pandey

NAME CHANGE I, SANJAY SUNAIYA S/O SUNDER LAL, residing at 8A/107, DDA JANTA FLAT, TRILOK PURI, DELHI-110091 have changed my name to SANJAY for all future purpose. NAME CHANGE I, ASHISH KUMAR DUBEY S/O PREM NARAYAN DUBEY R/O A 801, IRWO CLASSIC APARTMENT SECTOR-57, RAIL VIHAR WAZIRABAD GURGAON HARYANA-122003 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO ASHISH DUBEY ALL FUTURE PURPOSE. NAME CHANGE I, JYOTI GUPTA W/O MUKUL GUPTA R/O H.NO-508/22,STREET NO-10,KHANDSA ROAD, SHIVJI PARK, GURGAON, HARYANA-122001 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO JYOTI GOEL FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSE.

NAME CHANGE I, BABU RAM S/O HARI LAL R/O House No: 281, Type-1, Revenue Officer Colony, Near Sector-14, Rohtak - 124001, Haryana have changed my name to NARESH SHARMA for all intents and purposes. NAME CHANGE I, NARESH S/O BABU RAM SHARMA R/O House No: 281, Type-1, Revenue Officer Colony, Near Sector-14, Rohtak - 124001, Haryana have changed my name to MONICA AHUJA for All future purposes. NAME CHANGE I, GEETHAMMA W/O Late Ex 293616-S JWO RADHAKRISHAN NAIR B (address) RADHALAYAM, ACKOLILCHERRY, MYYANAND P.O, KOLLAM, KERALA-691303, have changed my name from GEETHAMMA to GEETHA NAIR proposed/adopted New name) vide Affidavit dated 30/03/2026 at before Notary Public, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE I, NITIN S/O ANAND KUMAR R/O 319 Krishna Gali Kashmiri Gate Delhi Delhi G.P.O North Delhi Delhi-110006 have changed the name of my minor son DEV SINGHAL aged 10 years and he shall hereafter be known as DAKSH SINGHAL. Public Notice My client Sh.Mahender singh,S/o Sh.Mangh Singh,R/o-187,Near Gurudwara,Jhngola,North-west,Delhi-36 sever all relations & disowned/debarred his son jasvinder singh from all movable & immovable property & assets due to their misbehavior.Anybody dealing with them shall do at their own risk. PANKAJ KUMAR JHA (Advocate)Ph.no.7840039970

NAME CHANGE I, Dinesh D Pandey S/O Dayanand R Pandey R/O D-1116, Sayan Zion, Gaur City 1, Near Kidzee School noida west, Greater Noida West, PO: Sector - 16C, Dist: Gautam Buddha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh - 201318 have changed the name of my minor daughter Saayasha Pandey aged 3 years and she shall hereafter be known as Vamika Pandey

NAME CHANGE I, SANJAY SUNAIYA S/O SUNDER LAL, residing at 8A/107, DDA JANTA FLAT, TRILOK PURI, DELHI-110091 have changed my name to SANJAY for all future purpose. NAME CHANGE I, ASHISH KUMAR DUBEY S/O PREM NARAYAN DUBEY R/O A 801, IRWO CLASSIC APARTMENT SECTOR-57, RAIL VIHAR WAZIRABAD GURGAON HARYANA-122003 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO ASHISH DUBEY ALL FUTURE PURPOSE. NAME CHANGE I, JYOTI GUPTA W/O MUKUL GUPTA R/O H.NO-508/22,STREET NO-10,KHANDSA ROAD, SHIVJI PARK, GURGAON, HARYANA-122001 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO JYOTI GOEL FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSE.

NAME CHANGE I, BABU RAM S/O HARI LAL R/O House No: 281, Type-1, Revenue Officer Colony, Near Sector-14, Rohtak - 124001, Haryana have changed my name to NARESH SHARMA for all intents and purposes. NAME CHANGE I, NARESH S/O BABU RAM SHARMA R/O House No: 281, Type-1, Revenue Officer Colony, Near Sector-14, Rohtak - 124001, Haryana have changed my name to MONICA AHUJA for All future purposes. NAME CHANGE I, GEETHAMMA W/O Late Ex 293616-S JWO RADHAKRISHAN NAIR B (address) RADHALAYAM, ACKOLILCHERRY, MYYANAND P.O, KOLLAM, KERALA-691303, have changed my name from GEETHAMMA to GEETHA NAIR proposed/adopted New name) vide Affidavit dated 30/03/2026 at before Notary Public, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE I, NITIN S/O ANAND KUMAR R/O 319 Krishna Gali Kashmiri Gate Delhi Delhi G.P.O North Delhi Delhi-110006 have changed the name of my minor son DEV SINGHAL aged 10 years and he shall hereafter be known as DAKSH SINGHAL. Public Notice My client Sh.Mahender singh,S/o Sh.Mangh Singh,R/o-187,Near Gurudwara,Jhngola,North-west,Delhi-36 sever all relations & disowned/debarred his son jasvinder singh from all movable & immovable property & assets due to their misbehavior.Anybody dealing with them shall do at their own risk. PANKAJ KUMAR JHA (Advocate)Ph.no.7840039970

NAME CHANGE I, Dinesh D Pandey S/O Dayanand R Pandey R/O D-1116, Sayan Zion, Gaur City 1, Near Kidzee School noida west, Greater Noida West, PO: Sector - 16C, Dist: Gautam Buddha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh - 201318 have changed the name of my minor daughter Saayasha Pandey aged 3 years and she shall hereafter be known as Vamika Pandey

NAME CHANGE I, SANJAY SUNAIYA S/O SUNDER LAL, residing at 8A/107, DDA JANTA FLAT, TRILOK PURI, DELHI-110091 have changed my name to SANJAY for all future purpose. NAME CHANGE I, ASHISH KUMAR DUBEY S/O PREM NARAYAN DUBEY R/O A 801, IRWO CLASSIC APARTMENT SECTOR-57, RAIL VIHAR WAZIRABAD GURGAON HARYANA-122003 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO ASHISH DUBEY ALL FUTURE PURPOSE. NAME CHANGE I, JYOTI GUPTA W/O MUKUL GUPTA R/O H.NO-508/22,STREET NO-10,KHANDSA ROAD, SHIVJI PARK, GURGAON, HARYANA-122001 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO JYOTI GOEL FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSE.

NAME CHANGE I, BABU RAM S/O HARI LAL R/O House No: 281, Type-1, Revenue Officer Colony, Near Sector-14, Rohtak - 124001, Haryana have changed my name to NARESH SHARMA for all intents and purposes. NAME CHANGE I, NARESH S/O BABU RAM SHARMA R/O House No: 281, Type-1, Revenue Officer Colony, Near Sector-14, Rohtak - 124001, Haryana have changed my name to MONICA AHUJA for All future purposes. NAME CHANGE I, GEETHAMMA W/O Late Ex 293616-S JWO RADHAKRISHAN NAIR B (address) RADHALAYAM, ACKOLILCHERRY, MYYANAND P.O, KOLLAM, KERALA-691303, have changed my name from GEETHAMMA to GEETHA NAIR proposed/adopted New name) vide Affidavit dated 30/03/2026 at before Notary Public, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE I, NITIN S/O ANAND KUMAR R/O 319 Krishna Gali Kashmiri Gate Delhi Delhi G.P.O North Delhi Delhi-110006 have changed the name of my minor son DEV SINGHAL aged 10 years and he shall hereafter be known as DAKSH SINGHAL. Public Notice My client Sh.Mahender singh,S/o Sh.Mangh Singh,R/o-187,Near Gurudwara,Jhngola,North-west,Delhi-36 sever all relations & disowned/debarred his son jasvinder singh from all movable & immovable property & assets due to their misbehavior.Anybody dealing with them shall do at their own risk. PANKAJ KUMAR JHA (Advocate)Ph.no.7840039970

NAME CHANGE I, Dinesh D Pandey S/O Dayanand R Pandey R/O D-1116, Sayan Zion, Gaur City 1, Near Kidzee School noida west, Greater Noida West, PO: Sector - 16C, Dist: Gautam Buddha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh - 201318 have changed the name of my minor daughter Saayasha Pandey aged 3 years and she shall hereafter be known as Vamika Pandey

NAME CHANGE I, SANJAY SUNAIYA S/O SUNDER LAL, residing at 8A/107, DDA JANTA FLAT, TRILOK PURI, DELHI-110091 have changed my name to SANJAY for all future purpose. NAME CHANGE I, ASHISH KUMAR DUBEY S/O PREM NARAYAN DUBEY R/O A 801, IRWO CLASSIC APARTMENT SECTOR-57, RAIL VIHAR WAZIRABAD GURGAON HARYANA-122003 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO ASHISH DUBEY ALL FUTURE PURPOSE. NAME CHANGE I, JYOTI GUPTA W/O MUKUL GUPTA R/O H.NO-508/22,STREET NO-10,KHANDSA ROAD, SHIVJI PARK, GURGAON, HARYANA-122001 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO JYOTI GOEL FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSE.

NAME CHANGE I, BABU RAM S/O HARI LAL R/O House No: 281, Type-1, Revenue Officer Colony, Near Sector-14, Rohtak - 124001, Haryana have changed my name to NARESH SHARMA for all intents and purposes. NAME CHANGE I, NARESH S/O BABU RAM SHARMA R/O House No: 281, Type-1, Revenue Officer Colony, Near Sector-14, Rohtak - 124001, Haryana have changed my name to MONICA AHUJA for All future purposes. NAME CHANGE I, GEETHAMMA W/O Late Ex 293616-S JWO RADHAKRISHAN NAIR B (address) RADHALAYAM, ACKOLILCHERRY, MYYANAND P.O, KOLLAM, KERALA-691303, have changed my name from GEETHAMMA to GEETHA NAIR proposed/adopted New name) vide Affidavit dated 30/03/2026 at before Notary Public, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE I, NITIN S/O ANAND KUMAR R/O 319 Krishna Gali Kashmiri Gate Delhi Delhi G.P.O North Delhi Delhi-110006 have changed the name of my minor son DEV SINGHAL aged 10 years and he shall hereafter be known as DAKSH SINGHAL. Public Notice My client Sh.Mahender singh,S/o Sh.Mangh Singh,R/o-187,Near Gurudwara,Jhngola,North-west,Delhi-36 sever all relations & disowned/debarred his son jasvinder singh from all movable & immovable property & assets due to their misbehavior.Anybody dealing with them shall do at their own risk. PANKAJ KUMAR JHA (Advocate)Ph.no.7840039970

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NEWS BOX

## US could take Iran's Kharg Island very easily: Trump

World (Agency)

US President Donald Trump has raised the idea of American forces seizing Iran's Kharg Island, its main oil terminal in the Persian Gulf. The comment by Trump came in an interview published early Monday by The Financial Times. "Maybe we take Kharg Island, maybe we don't. We have a lot of options," Trump told the newspaper. "It would also mean we had to be there (on Kharg Island) for a while." Asked about Iranian defences there, he said: "I don't think they have any defense. We could take it very easily."

The US already launched airstrikes once it said targeted military positions on the island. Iran has threatened to launch its own ground invasion of Gulf Arab countries and new attacks if US troops land on its territory. Trump said that Iran's parliament speaker authorised the passage of oil tankers through the Strait of Hormuz, the narrow mouth of the Persian Gulf. The comment by Trump in the interview is the latest signal by the Americans of Mohammad Bagher Qalibaf's importance within Iran's theocracy.

"They gave us 10" Pakistani-flagged tankers, he said. "Now they're giving 20 and the 20 have already started and they're going right up the middle of the Strait."

"He's the one who authorised the ships to me," Trump told the newspaper about Qalibaf. "Remember I said they're giving me a present? And everyone said: 'What's the present?' When they heard about that they kept their mouth shut and the negotiations are going very well." Qalibaf has maintained a combative personality through his X account in the war, mocking the Americans and issuing threats.

But the former Revolutionary Guard commander has seen his profile rise as senior members of its theocracy have been killed.

## China resumes direct flights to North Korea after six years

BEIJING.(Agency)

China's flag carrier resumed direct flights between Beijing and North Korea's capital of Pyongyang on Monday not long after the restoration of passenger train services between the capitals.

The Air China flight was welcomed by the Chinese ambassador to North Korea, Wang Yajun, and other diplomats, according to Chinese state media.

Passenger train service from China to North Korea had resumed March 12. Flights and passenger trains to North Korea had been suspended since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020.

North Korean carrier Air Koryo resumed flights between the capitals in 2023. North Korea banned all foreign tourists during the pandemic but has started easing the restrictions, with a Russian tour group entering the country in 2024. Chinese tour groups had made up 90% of all visitors to North Korea prior to the ban, and the delay on resuming Chinese tours surprised observers. China is Pyongyang's biggest trading partner and major ally, but Beijing has expressed disapproval over the years at North Korea's test-launches of missiles that could be used to target South Korea and the United States. North Korean leader Kim Jong Un traveled to Beijing in September to attend a massive military parade, marking the first time a North Korean leader had been present at a Chinese military parade in decades.

## The Twelve Moon Walkers: Humanity's First Footsteps Beyond Earth

World.(Agency)

In the coming days humans are set to return to the moon. Initially on a flyby NASA mission named Artemis-2, four astronauts will fly as early as April 1 to the farthest point humans have ever gone in outer space. This ten-day moon mission will pave the way for the USA setting up a permanent moon base near the South Pole of the Moon. But before this new leap, a dozen humans, all Americans, have already walked on the moon. Between 1969 and 1972, a total of twelve human beings walked on the surface of the Moon, an achievement that remains unmatched more than half a century later. NASA's official Moon Walkers record preserves the names, missions, and historical context of these explorers, all of whom flew as part of the United States' Apollo programme during a brief but extraordinary era of human spaceflight.

The moonwalkers were not merely astronauts; they were pioneers of a new planetary frontier. Their journeys transformed the Moon from a distant celestial object into a place where humans could stand, work, experiment, and return safely to Earth. In all, 24 American astronauts travelled from Earth to the Moon, but only half of them descended to the lunar surface. The others orbited above, supporting the missions from the command module.

The story begins with Apollo 11 in July 1969. As the lunar module Eagle touched down in the Sea of Tranquility, Neil Armstrong became the first human to set foot on another world. His words, spoken as he descended the ladder, have become the most quoted sentence in the history of space exploration, "That's one small step for a man. One giant leap for mankind." Moments later, Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin joined Armstrong on the Moon, making Apollo 11 the first mission to turn science fiction into lived human experience. Their moonwalk marked the beginning of direct human interaction with the lunar surface, conducted under Earth's gravity reduced to one-sixth, in spacesuits designed to sustain life in a vacuum.

Expanding The Lunar Frontier

Apollo missions that followed did far more than repeat the first landing. Apollo 12 demonstrated pinpoint landing accuracy, touching down near the robotic Surveyor 3 spacecraft that had arrived on the Moon two years earlier. Astronauts Charles "Pete" Conrad and Alan Bean not only walked on the Moon but also examined and photographed earlier unmanned hardware, symbolising the handoff from robotic precursors to human explorers.

# Kuwait confirms an Indian worker killed in Iranian strike on desalination plant service building.

Kuwait City.(Agency)

Kuwait's Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy on Monday stated that an Indian worker was killed and a service building at a major power and water desalination plant sustained significant damage following what authorities described as Iranian strikes on Sunday evening. According to a statement issued by the ministry's official spokesperson, the strike targeted a service building at one of Kuwait's power and water desalination plants, resulting in the death of the Indian national and "significant material damage" to the facility. A service building at one of the power and water desalination plants was attacked as part of the Iranian aggression against the State of Kuwait. This resulted in the death of one worker (of Indian nationality) and significant material damage to the building," the statement read. Technical and emergency teams were deployed immediately under approved emergency plans to manage the aftermath of the incident and help sustain the plant's operational capacity. The ministry said this response was undertaken in full

coordination with Kuwait's security and relevant authorities to secure the affected site. Technical and emergency teams immediately began their work, in accordance with the approved emergency plans, to address the aftermath of the incident and maintain operational efficiency. This was done in full coordination with security and relevant authorities to secure the affected sites," the statement added.

The spokesperson further urged calm among the public and warned against spreading rumours, stressing that official updates would be released transparently as the situation develops. The ministry reaffirmed that ensuring the stability and safety of electricity and water systems remained a top priority and that technical teams were working around the clock to anticipate any further contingencies and ensure continuity of essential services. Meanwhile, a United Nations peacekeeper was killed and another critically injured after a projectile struck a UNIFIL position near Adchit Al Qusayr in Southern Lebanon, the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon

(UNIFIL) said on Monday.

In a statement, the UNIFIL stated that the



origin of the projectile remains unknown, and an investigation has been launched to determine the circumstances surrounding the incident. UNIFIL also expressed condolences to the family, friends, and colleagues of the fallen peacekeeper, describing the loss as a tragic event for those serving the cause of peace. The injured peacekeeper is currently hospitalised with serious injuries.

"No one should ever lose their life serving the cause of peace," the statement read.

UNIFIL called on all actors in the region to respect their obligations under international law, ensure the safety of UN personnel and property, and refrain from actions that may endanger peacekeepers. The organisation emphasised that deliberate attacks on peacekeepers are serious violations of international humanitarian law and UN Security Council Resolution 1701, potentially amounting to war crimes. Earlier, the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) stated that its troops eliminated Hezbollah operatives in southern Lebanon who were attempting to plant explosive devices and launch mortar attacks on Israeli forces, while also uncovering a weapons depot containing dozens of munitions. According to a statement issued by the IDF, soldiers from the 91st Division identified the Hezbollah operatives overnight on Sunday as they prepared to target Israeli positions. In a rapid response operation, the troops fired on and neutralised the terrorists. No Israeli soldiers were injured during the incident.

## Air Canada CEO apologises after backlash over English-only condolence message

World.(Agency)

The CEO of Air Canada has apologised after facing massive flak and calls to resign for not speaking French in a condolence video following a deadly collision between a plane and a truck at New York's LaGuardia Airport. In a four-minute video published day after the accident last week, Michael Rousseau delivered his message almost entirely in English, using only two French words -- 'Bonjour' and 'Merci'. The video included subtitles in both languages. The backlash has since grown into a broader debate in Canada over language, overshadowing the deaths of two young pilots in the collision.

LANGUAGE ROW ECLIPSES TRAGEDY

Canada has two official languages, English and French. The issue carries particular weight in Quebec, a predominantly French-speaking province where Air Canada is headquartered. Montreal, the flight's point of departure, is located in Quebec, and one of the pilots who died

was French Canadian. As of March 27, the Office of the Commissioner of Official Languages had received 2,195 complaints over Rousseau's video, mostly from people piqued at the Air Canada boss not delivering



condolences in both official languages. The controversy also drew sharp reactions from political leaders.

Prime Minister Mark Carney said the English-only message showed "a lack of compassion," while Quebec Premier Francois Legault said Rousseau should step down if he cannot speak French. Rousseau, an anglophone who lives in Quebec, has faced scrutiny over his French-

language skills since his appointment in 2021.

AIR CANADA CEO ISSUES APOLOGY

In a written statement released in both English and French last Thursday, Rousseau apologised, while also acknowledging that the controversy had shifted focus away from the victims.

"Despite many lessons over several years, unfortunately, I am still unable to express myself adequately in French. I sincerely apologize for this, but I am continuing my efforts to improve," he said. He added he was deeply saddened that his inability to speak French "diverted attention" from grieving families and Air Canada staff.

DEADLY PLANE - TRUCK COLLISION

The accident occurred when an Air Canada Express jet carrying 72 passengers collided with a fire truck on the runway after landing at LaGuardia Airport on March 22.

## Australian police fatally shoot a suspect in a three-hour standoff after two officers killed

MELBOURNE.(Agency)

Australian police said they believe they shot dead a suspect Monday accused of killing two police officers and seriously wounding a third in a remote forest region seven months ago.

There had been no confirmed sightings of Dezi Freeman, 56, since he allegedly opened fire on police officers who came to serve a warrant at his home near Porepunkah in Victoria state northeast of Melbourne on Aug. 26 last year, Victoria's Chief Commissioner of Police Mike Bush said on Monday. A man believed to be Freeman was fatally shot by police on Monday at a remote location in the northeast region of the state outside the Porepunkah area, Bush said. "We believe it is Freeman, but we have to go through a formal identification process," Bush told reporters in

Melbourne. Identification could take up to 48 hours through processes including fingerprinting. Heavily armed Special Operations Group



tactical police were involved in a standoff for three hours before the suspect was shot. He had been inside a shelter like a shipping container and did take up a police offer to surrender, Bush said. "This was all about bringing this to a conclusion as safely as possible. Our ultimate goal was to

arrest the person there ... as peacefully as possible," Bush said. Bush said he "strongly believed" the suspect was armed. Bush could not say whether the suspect fired at police.

Australian news outlets widely reported that Freeman espoused co-called sovereign citizen beliefs and had grievances with police. He had wilderness survival skills that police feared could sustain him living in the open indefinitely. The shooting of three police officers led to a massive search across Victoria's heavily forested alpine region. In recent months, police said they suspected Freedman had killed himself. "We have to follow every avenue of inquiry and there was a lot to suggest that Freedman had taken his own life," Bush said. Bush would not say whether a tipoff led police to the suspect on Monday.

## In latest message, Mojtaba Khamenei thanks people of Iraq for support in war

World.(Agency)

Iran's new supreme leader Mojtaba Khamenei has in a written message thanked the people of Iraq for their support in the war against the United States and Israel, Iranian media said on Sunday.

Mojtaba Khamenei, the son of former supreme leader Ali Khamenei who was killed in an airstrike at the start of the war on February 28, has still yet to appear in public after being named and has only issued a handful of written statements. His failure to appear in person has led to intense speculation over his condition and whereabouts, but state television and some Iranian officials have indicated he is recovering from wounds sustained in an airstrike. In the a message, Khamenei "expressed his appreciation to the supreme religious authority (in Iraq) and the people of Iraq for their clear stance against aggression against Iran and their support for our country," the ISNA news agency said, referring to the Iraq-based Grand Ayatollah Ali Sistani, one of the most revered figures in Shia Islam. The message was delivered following a meeting between the Islamic Supreme Council of Iraq, a Shia party, and the Iranian ambassador to Baghdad, it said. No further details were given on how the message was transmitted.

Since being named, Mojtaba Khamenei has released a first statement as supreme leader and a message for the Persian New Year, Nowruz.



Both statements, read out on television by another speaker, defiantly predicted victory in the war.

State media regularly publish images of Mojtaba Khamenei but without giving any indication that they are new. He also has his own official Telegram and X accounts. US President Donald Trump last week said Washington was dealing with a "top person" in talks with Iran but made clear it was not the supreme leader.

"We have not heard from the son... We don't know if he is living," said Trump. Mojtaba Khamenei is the third supreme leader since the 1979 Islamic revolution, succeeding his father and revolutionary founder Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

# Trump says he has 'no problem' with Russian oil tanker bringing relief to Cuba despite blockade

DUBAI.(Agency)

President Donald Trump on Sunday night said he has "no problem" with a Russian oil tanker off the coast of Cuba delivering relief to the island, which has been brought to its knees by a U.S. oil blockade. "We have a tanker out there. We don't mind having somebody get a boatload because they need... they have to survive," Trump told reporters as he flew back to Washington.

When asked if a New York Times report that the tanker would be allowed to reach Cuba was true, Trump said: "I told them, if a country wants to send some oil into Cuba right now, I have no problem whether it's Russia or not." Tracking data shows the oil tanker carrying approximately 730,000 barrels of oil, was just off the eastern tip of the island on Sunday night and slated to arrive in the city of Matanzas by Tuesday. Journalists working for Cuban state media also reported the on the boat's expected arrival, though Cuban officials did not immediately respond to a request



for comment. The vessel, Anatoly Kolodkin, is sanctioned by the United States, the European Union and the United Kingdom following the war in Ukraine. Trump, whose government has come at its Caribbean adversary more aggressively than any U.S. government in recent history, has effectively cut Cuba off

from key oil shipments in an effort to force regime change. The blockade has had devastating effects on the civilians Trump and Secretary of State Marco Rubio say they want to help, leaving many desperate. Island-wide blackouts have roiled Cubans already grappling with years of crisis, and lack of gasoline and basic resources has

crippled hospital and slashed public transport. Experts say the anticipated shipment could produce about 180,000 barrels of diesel -- enough to feed Cuba's daily demand for nine or 10 days. Island-wide blackouts have roiled Cubans already grappling with years of crisis, and lack of gasoline and basic resources has crippled hospital and slashed public transport. Cuba has long been at the heart of geopolitical tug-of-war between the U.S. and Russia, dating back decades. Trump on Sunday dismissed the idea that allowing the boat to reach Cuba would help Russian President Vladimir Putin. "It doesn't help him. He loses one boatload of oil, that's all it is. If he wants to do that, and if other countries want to do it, it doesn't bother me much," Trump said. "It's not going to have an impact. Cuba's finished. They have a bad regime. They have very bad and corrupt leadership and whether or not they get a boat of oil, it's not going to matter."

He added: "I'd prefer letting it in, whether it's Russia or anybody else because the people need heat and cooling and all of the other things."

NEWS BOX

**Attack on Tripura Minister during ADC election campaign**

Agartala.(Agency)

Tension runs high in Teliamura-Maharani region of Tripura's Khowai district amid the election campaign for Tripura Tribal Areas District Council (ADC), following an assault on Tribal Welfare Minister Bikash Debbarma on Sunday evening. The incident resulted in injuries to several individuals, including security personnel and the minister's driver. Villagers reportedly opposed the entry of Minister Debbarma and his son-in-law, Billa Jamatia, who is contesting the ADC election as a BJP candidate in the area. They chanted slogans against Debbarma, accusing him of prioritizing personal gain over the interests of the tribal community. With police and the minister's security present, the villagers blocked the road and demanded that he leave, stating they would not vote for the BJP. Reports indicate that the villagers insulted the minister and his son-in-law, accusing them of misappropriating tribal development funds. Despite the villagers' objections, the minister's convoy continued towards Manikbazar area to carry on with the election campaign. A group of individuals began throwing stones and bricks at the convoy, causing damage to several vehicles and injuring at least four people, including a driver. Minister Debbarma was also struck by a brick but narrowly escaped serious injury. However, police managed to secure the minister and the candidate from further harm. Debbarma said, "The assailants are affiliated with the TIPRA Motha party, and they abused our party, as well as the Prime Minister, Home Minister, and Chief Minister, in addition to me. I urged them that voting is a personal choice, and as the Tribal Welfare Minister, I am obligated to inform them about the development initiatives undertaken by the government and to ascertain whether the villagers are benefiting from them. Unfortunately, they resorted to violence."

**Tripura ADC poll: TIPRA Motha founder hoping for a BJP call for post-poll tie-up**

Agartala.(Agency)

Faction-ridden ruling TIPRA Motha in the Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council (ADC) founder Pradyot Kishore Debbarma voiced his apprehension that, should the BJP not achieve a majority in the ADC poll slated for April 12, he might communicate with Delhi regarding a possible understanding. Pradyot clarified that such communication would not originate from the Chief Minister of Tripura but would come directly from the senior leadership in Delhi. His comments have introduced a new aspect to the political discussions over the forthcoming elections for ADC. He signalled potential negotiations following the elections in the event of a hung council and the likelihood of shifting alliances based on the electoral results. While BJP sources interpreted it as a pragmatic evaluation of post-election dynamics, Motha perceived it as an indication that behind-the-scenes communications and strategic maneuvers could significantly influence the aftermath of the election results.

**Chakankar steps down: High-stakes battle for NCP women's president's slot begins**

Mumbai.(Agency)

Following the controversy surrounding the Ashok Kharat case in Nashik, there has been a significant upheaval within the NCP (Ajit Pawar faction). After Rupali Chakankar's resignation, political activity has intensified to fill the now-vacant post of State Women's President. Five prominent names are currently being discussed for this prestigious post, each bringing their own political role. Sana Malik: As the daughter of MLA Nawab Malik, she represents a young and educated face. Her appointment could strengthen the party's influence in Mumbai and among minority communities. Saroj Ahire- The MLA from Deolali is known for her studious nature and parliamentary experience. Her calm leadership is seen as a significant asset for the party's image. Rajlakshmi Bhosale: The former Mayor of Pune brings vast organisational experience and a strong network within the Pune municipal region, making her a formidable candidate. Pratibha Shinde: A recent entry from the Congress, Shinde is viewed as a fierce and aggressive leader from North Maharashtra who could take a bold stand against the opposition. Vaishali Nagwade: Known for her deep-rooted loyalty to the party and extensive work in rural Pune, Nagwade represents the grassroots strength of the organization. Strategic Considerations for the Party The decision-making process for Sunetra Pawar involves several strategic layers: After the backlash over the Ashok Kharat case, the party is under pressure to appoint a leader with a clean and unblemished reputation to restore public trust.

**The afterlife of a crime: How leaked videos of sexual assault are silencing Nashik 'godman' Kharat's victims a second time**  
**As videos circulate faster than police can remove them, victims fear exposure – even within their own families**

Nashik.(Agency)

For families caught in the Nashik sexual exploitation case, the ordeal has not ended with the arrest of 'godman' Ashok Kumar Eknath Kharat. It continues in the form of explicit videos of the crime being shared rapidly through WhatsApp and social media — and the constant fear that someone they know will spot them. "We never thought something like this would happen," the relative of a victim, visibly distressed, told this newspaper. "Our condition is not good. We are not even able to work properly. Our lives are at stake now." These videos are also silencing potential witnesses, actively obstructing the police investigation in the case. Family members of at least three victims told The Indian Express that their daily lives have been

upended with constant anxiety. Police say the two challenges, pursuing justice and containing the fallout, are now inseparable.



"Some victims are hesitant to come forward because they are scared their identity will be revealed, not just publicly but even within their own families," a police officer said.

According to police sources, some victims had not disclosed the abuse even to their families at home. This has created tension and silence within families, they said, with some members only recently becoming aware of what happened. "We get sudden stress and shock," said another relative of a victim who spoke on the condition of anonymity. "There is a constant fear that our identity will be revealed. Only we know how we are handling ourselves. The situation has traumatised the whole family." Several other victims refused to speak to this newspaper despite repeated assurances of anonymity, illustrating what officers describe as a chilling effect that is now shaping the investigation itself.

**One woman devotee dies, two hurt as ceiling of roof in temple collapses**

Chennai.(Agency)

In a tragic incident, a 32-year-old woman devotee of neighbouring Thanjavur district died and two other injured, when a portion of cement ceiling of the roof collapsed and fell on them at the Mandapam belonging to the famous Goddess Samayapuram Mariamman temple in Tiruchi district of Tamil Nadu on Sunday. The Mandapam was built for the benefit of visiting pilgrims to stay and rest and it was located in the Sannathi street close to the ancient temple, which used to attract a large number of devotees, that would swell during weekends and on auspicious occasions and during the months of Tamil month Aadi and Thai. The injured were a 14-year-old girl and her mother after a patch of reinforced cement concrete from the ceiling fell on them when they were fast asleep in the Mugappu Mandapam. Police said the deceased was identified as 32-year-old M. Nathiya and the injured persons were S. Ranjini (35), and her daughter S.Babiksha (14) and they were admitted to the Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Government Hospital in Tiruchi for treatment. Nathiya along with some devotees from their village came on pilgrimage by foot to the Samayapuram temple. After worshipping the deity they were stay in the Mandapam when the tragedy occurred. All the three were rushed to the Manachanallur Government Hospital where the doctors declared Nathiya dead and her body was shifted to the Srirangam Government Hospital for autopsy.

**Gujarat Govt found 169 bogus doctors in 3 years; 154 FIRs registered**

Ahmedabad.(Agency)

The state government investigated 2,724 complaints of bogus doctors made from 2021 to 2023 and found that 169 people had fake degrees, stated Minister of State for Health Praful Pansheriya. The minister said this in a written response to an unstarred question raised by Kankrej Congress MLA Amrutji Thakor in the Vidhan Sabha. The data tabled in the Assembly revealed that as many as 839 such complaints were submitted to the health department in 2021, 875 in 2022 and another 1,010 in 2023, thus bringing the total to 2,724. District-wise, Morbi (577), Mehsana (568) and Surat (520) contributed over 61 per cent (1,665) of these complaints. Surprisingly, however, no bogus or fake doctor was found in any of the 577 cases in Morbi, the reply stated. In Mehsana and Surat, two and three bogus doctors were found, and FIRs were registered against them. Out of the 169 cases of fake degrees, 59 were detected in 2021, 43 in 2022 and 67 in 2023. "FIRs were registered against 154 bogus doctors during this period," the response stated, adding that 56 FIRs were registered in 2021, 42

in 2022 and 56 in 2023. Even after the implementation of the Gujarat Clinical Establishments (Registration and Regulation) Act, 2022, which makes it mandatory for every clinical establishment to get registered as per the provisions of the Act, the complaints against fake doctors did not cease.



On March 25 this year, the state Legislative Assembly passed the Gujarat Clinical Establishment (Registration and Regulation) (Amendment) Bill, 2026 without opposition, making it the second time that the legislation was amended. The first amendment was made

in 2025. While presenting the Bill, Pansheriya stated, "This law was enacted in the year 2021 to provide legal backing to doctors with proper medical qualifications in the state and to control the diagnosis and practice done by unqualified practitioners. It was implemented on September 13, 2022." "It was necessary to implement the Act as there were cases wherein bogus doctors played with the lives of people. With the coordination of the health and police departments, such bogus doctors were caught and legal action taken against them," Pansheriya had said in the House. Under this law, the registration of small clinics to multi-specialty hospitals and laboratories is mandatory. As of March 20, 2026, the state has about 41,000 temporary and 2,000 permanent registrations. The opposition Congress, meanwhile, has been pointing out the increasing cases of fake doctors. Making his case, Congress Patan MLA Kirit Patel, while speaking about the Act and the Bill, stated that the Bill had the party's support, but questioned the need for a second amendment.

**207 taluks stare at drinking water crunch this summer**

MYSURU.(Agency)

Soaring summer temperatures could precipitate a drinking-water crisis across the state. According to the latest report by the State-Level Weather Watch Committee, 207 taluks are expected to face water shortage this summer, while 60 taluks are already in the midst of water scarcity. In addition, 2,258 gram panchayats have been flagged as vulnerable, with 212 panchayats currently experiencing acute water scarcity. Among the state's 31 districts, the worst-affected taluks are concentrated in Uttara Kannada (12), Belagavi (14), Kalaburagi (11) and Tumakuru (10). At the gram panchayat level, Kalaburagi accounts for 180 affected local bodies, followed by Uttara Kannada (170), Haveri

(138), Mandya (130) and Belagavi (126). To mitigate the crisis, authorities have deployed four departmental water tankers and 56 private tankers. They have



also engaged 270 private borewells to sustain supply, from where water is being delivered to 246 villages. During the peak summer season of March to May, authorities anticipate above-normal maximum temperatures in most parts of the state. Above-normal

heatwave days with positive anomalies – ranging from three to six days – are likely over much of the north-interior districts and in select pockets of south-interior Karnataka, including Kolar, Chikkaballapur, Bengaluru Rural and Bengaluru Urban. Authorities said a transition from La Niña to ENSO-neutral conditions is expected in April, with ENSO-neutral conditions likely to prevail through May to July. From June to August, El Niño is expected to emerge (62% chance) and persist at least through the end of 2026. The shift from a dissipating La Niña phase toward ENSO-neutral conditions is already under way. There is a high likelihood (70%) of El Niño developing between June and September.

**LPG allocation to Karnataka raised to 68%; priority supply begins**

BENGALURU.(Agency)

Karnataka Food and Civil Supplies Minister KH Muniyappa said that the Union Government has increased the LPG allocation to the state to 68%, and they are supplying 29,463 commercial cylinders under "priority-based regulated distribution" from Sunday. "With this increase in allocation, hotels and restaurants would receive 17,500 cylinders daily. The allocation to hotels is now up, and 60% of their regular demand is fulfilled with the increased allocation," he said. The minister called upon people to use LPG judiciously, and use an electric stove and firewood wherever possible till situation improves. Addressing the media in Bengaluru on Sunday with an update on the status of the commercial cylinder supply, Muniyappa said, "Commercial cylinders are distributed on a priority basis. Of the 29,463 cylinders available daily as per the increased quota, 4,200 are supplied to educational institutions

and hostels, 1,200 to airports, railway stations and bus stands and 6,000 cylinders are supplied to seed processing industries, agriculture and allied sectors and 563 cylinders are given on request." He said there is no shortage of auto LPG and the State Government is closely monitoring the supply. "Auto LPG is readily available at 72 auto LPG dispensing stations across Karnataka, including 31 stations in Bengaluru. The oil marketing companies (OMCs) are supplying auto LPG at Rs. 77.74 per litre," he said. During the last week, public sector OMCs dispensed an average of 64.9 tonnes of auto LPG per day, compared to 57.6 tonnes per day prior to the conflict, indicating an increase in supply, he added. The minister said 27 FIRs and 1,169 cases have been booked for illegal storage of cylinders. A total of 1,603 domestic and commercial cylinders have been confiscated, Muniyappa said.

**Shakti scheme BMTC yet to get Rs 850cr from government**

**Until February 2026, the scheme launched almost three years ago recorded 680.87 crore free bus rides by women across Karnataka, of which 217.62 crore were offered by the BMTC.**

BENGALURU.(Agency)

The Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) is staring at a significant financial gap caused by the state government's Shakti scheme – it has suffered a shortfall of around Rs 850 crore, as the government has reimbursed only Rs 2,247.35 crore out of the Rs 3,097.27 crore it was to get for providing free bus rides to women passengers. Until February 2026, the scheme launched almost three years ago recorded 680.87 crore free bus rides by women across Karnataka, of which 217.62 crore were offered by the BMTC. The figures were disclosed in response to a question raised by MLC HS Gopinath in the Legislative Council recently, which sought details of the total free bus rides

taken by women and the reimbursement of ticket fares by the government. Year-wise figures show that while the financial burden has steadily increased, reimbursements have not kept pace. The government acknowledged that the BMTC was already under financial stress, with liabilities amounting to Rs 1,383.86 crore prior to the scheme's rollout. Pending payments to fuel companies, provident fund obligations and supplier dues had compounded the situation. In addition, rising diesel prices, staff salary revisions and increasing maintenance costs added to the operational burden in the subsequent period, the Council was told. In response, the government said it

has been releasing funds in advance every month under the Shakti scheme, with allocations for the period up to March 2026. To stabilise the BMTC's finances, several measures have been undertaken, including permitting the corporation to raise Rs 589.20 crore in loans with state

guarantee and providing budgetary support for repayment, it said. The government also highlighted its efforts to expand and modernise the fleet, including the induction of diesel and electric buses, and the approval for the purchase of 4,500 electric buses under the PM e-Drive scheme. An additional 1,000 diesel buses have been announced in the 2026–27 Budget. While the Shakti scheme has significantly boosted public transport usage among women, the data points to growing concerns over the financial sustainability of transport corporations, particularly the BMTC, amid rising ridership and operational costs.



## Watershed moment or more of the same

The election results on May 4 will offer insights into five key questions for Tamil Nadu. First, as actor-turned-politician C Joseph Vijay suggested in July 2025, could this election mark a watershed moment, comparable to 1967 and 1977? Second, is Vijay the X factor in this contest, and if so, to what extent can he shape outcomes? Third, has the AIADMK retained its 2021 strength? Fourth, in Jayalalithaa's absence, does the DMK hold a clearer advantage? And finally, what might these results indicate about the BJP's longer-term prospects in the state?

In 1967, C N Annadurai's DMK defeated an undivided Congress led by K Kamaraj in a two-cornered contest, aided by a broad alliance that lent weight to what critics had described as a relatively smaller party. In 1977, M G Ramachandran secured power in a four-cornered contest with a 30 percent vote share, supported by alliances that proved crucial to his success. In both instances, electoral breakthroughs were underpinned not only by leadership appeal but also by organisational depth and political partnerships.

Vijay's entry presents a different dynamic. Since launching the Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam in February 2024, he has stayed away from electoral contests and is now entering the fray independently. At this stage, his role is best understood as that of an X factor—one who could influence margins, particularly in urban and semi-urban constituencies, even if the extent of that influence remains uncertain. His ability to draw large crowds, especially among younger voters, is evident. With nearly a fifth of the electorate under 30, this demographic presence is not insignificant. There may also be some support from sections of women, minority communities and voters who had earlier backed smaller parties. However, the translation of such visibility into votes is not always linear. The trajectory of Vijayakanth offers a useful, if not directly comparable, reference point. In 2006, his DMDK secured 8.4 percent of the vote in a trilateral contest, affecting outcomes across several constituencies. By 2009 and 2011, his role had evolved through alliances, enabling him to emerge as a significant player for a period.

At the same time, sustaining such a position proved challenging. The experience underscored the importance of organisational consolidation, leadership depth and consistent political engagement beyond electoral cycles. In that sense, while Vijay may register a notable presence, the extent to which it translates into a durable political role will depend on factors that go beyond immediate electoral performance. In the current context, it is plausible that he could emerge as a third force or influence the balance in a closely contested scenario. Achieving that, however, would require sustained organisational development, broader leadership structures and more consistent engagement with both cadres and the public sphere. The AIADMK's performance will be closely watched, too. In 2021, the difference between AIADMK and DMK was relatively narrow in terms of vote shares, within the framework of alliances that shaped the contest.

Subsequent realignments, including the return of T T V Dhinakaran's AMMK to the AIADMK fold, may have some bearing on electoral arithmetic in specific regions. Such shifts could help consolidate sections of the vote base that had previously been fragmented. At the same time, electoral outcomes in the state have often been influenced by broader alliance configurations and campaign dynamics. Edappadi K Palaniswami has consolidated his position within the party, and the extent to which that translates into electoral traction will become clearer as the contest unfolds. Since Jayalalithaa's passing, the DMK has held office and maintained its organisational presence across the state. Its alliance structure and welfare-oriented approach form part of its electoral strategy, as is typical of governance in Tamil Nadu. As with any incumbent, there are both advantages and challenges. How these are weighed by the electorate will depend.

## Keeping your enemies closer

### Pak's sudden diplomatic visibility raises uncomfortable questions about India's positioning

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS Minister S Jaishankar was absolutely right when he told an all-party meeting on the West Asia crisis earlier this week that "India is not a dalaal nation." Jaishankar, a former diplomat who understands the value of words, used the Hindi word 'dalaal', meaning broker, when Opposition leaders asked him about Pakistan's role in ending the four-week-long US-Israel war against Iran. It's understandable that Jaishankar was angry. The Hon'ble MPs were clearly asking about — and, therefore, comparing — India's position in this Persian Gulf conflict with that of Pakistan. It seems the country's military establishment, led by Donald Trump's "favourite Field Marshal" Asim Munir, has been passing messages between Iran and the US, which has helped Trump proclaim a pause in the war till April 6. Pakistan has offered to host the talks; Turkiye and Egypt could be the other venues.

Whichever way you look at it, Pakistan has managed to insert itself into the global limelight these last 48 hours. Nothing may come of it in the coming week. Trump may still order a ground invasion of Iran.

But these Hon'ble MPs at the all-party meeting, otherwise mostly concerned about their impending polls in Kerala, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and Assam, had clearly noticed that something was seriously amiss, and not just because the price of their household gas cylinder has gone up. Clearly, Jaishankar has a right to be angry. The Pakistani military establishment, which has orchestrated one horrendous attack after another upon innocent Indians, killing people again and again over the decades, from Mumbai to Pahalgalam, needs to be called out for its heinous crimes — not applauded by no less than the most powerful man in the world, the US President. Perhaps this is a good moment for India to do some soul-searching about the direction in which we, the people of an ancient and unique civilisation, are moving in this modern and fast-paced world. Mostly, Indians aren't too concerned about foreign policy issues — we are satisfied that Prime Ministers as varied as Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Manmohan Singh and Narendra Modi mostly protect us from the big and bad influences abroad. Some things we know. First, that India has become the world's fourth largest economy, even though in per capita terms (about \$2,700-3,000), we occupy the 140th place in the list of nations.

Second, the Indian diaspora's influence is exploding, especially in the US. And third, India's chief rival on the world stage is China, not puny Pakistan. Why, then, is puny Pakistan besting India by offering to mediate between the warring parties, the US and Iran — and more to the point, why is the world listening?

Let's take a step back. Perhaps we are asking the wrong question. The right question is not whether Pakistan has succeeded in being one-up on India — that game can be played in many ways and on many occasions — but whether India has lived up to its own image of being a nation with a peculiar moral centre, one which has stood us in good stead since the freedom movement, which allows the occasional straying in pragmatic directions (like not speaking up when Netanyahu flattens Gaza or when Vladimir Putin invades Ukraine), but one which

Unfortunately, it hasn't quite worked out that way. By taking sides in an unfortunate and unjust war, India forsook the Middle Path that a son of India — Gautam Buddha — taught it several centuries ago. The politically astute PM must have understood the widespread unease that followed the cold-blooded assassination of Iranian Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei by US missiles; or the bombing of a school in Minab, Iran, which the UNHRC is finally debating. Not that Indians were applauding Khamenei's hardline religiosity or what he stood for; we were simply aghast at the impunity with which one or two countries were violating every rule in the book.

And so, although India has resisted an outright condemnation of Khamenei's killing, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri was sent to the Iranian embassy in Delhi to sign the condolence book. Both Modi and Jaishankar have, since, spoken to Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian and Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, respectively — even if it is to help India-flagged ships loaded with oil cross the Strait of Hormuz.

The Iranians, bloodied but not bowed, have played the game in an even more sophisticated manner. They understood that Indians — ordinary folk in Kashmir collected money and jewels for their Iranian brethren, while the elite wrote opinion pieces in newspapers like The Tribune — were not fully comfortable with the government's gambit. It seems that some Iranian missiles now have "thank you, India..." written on them.

That brings us to the several foreign policy learnings this week. First, talk to all sides, even if you don't agree with them — so, both Iran and Israel, the UAE and Saudi Arabia. Second, listen to all sides — one reason why Indians

were so surprised that Pakistan had made a successful bid to mediate between Iran and the US is because we no longer have access to the Pakistani media as all newspapers and TV channels and several X accounts have been banned since Operation Sindoor; if you hear only from the New York Times and Wall Street Journal and not the Dawn and The News about what's happening inside Pakistan, then your ability to both listen and understand will be circumscribed. Which brings me to the third point, about reading your favourite Chanakya regularly — while you need to keep your friends close, you need to keep your enemies closer.



still won't support an immoral or unjust fight.

This is India's biggest strength — the need to return to the centre. So even if PM Modi went to Israel only two days before his host Benjamin Netanyahu, in conjunction with the US, ordered air strikes that sought to decimate Iran, the fact is that the Modi government has since been forced to abandon its earlier position of openly siding with US-Israel. India probably thought, like Trump and Netanyahu, that Iran wouldn't be able to resist the most powerful nations on earth. (Who would dare?) That, in any case, it had such huge stakes in the US-Israel-UAE triangle of nations — trade, diaspora, defence — and that an early position would earn it brownie points.

## Petrol tax cut : Consumer relief depends on states, oil firms

### Unless states correspondingly reduce their taxes, the benefit of the Centre's move risks being only partial

THE Union government's decision to cut excise duty on petrol and diesel — reducing it to Rs 3 per litre on petrol and effectively zero on diesel — comes at a politically and economically sensitive moment. With tensions rising in West Asia and global crude prices showing volatility, the move is clearly aimed at cushioning consumers from a potential fuel price shock. But the real question is whether this relief will meaningfully reach the common citizen. In principle, a reduction in central excise duty should lower retail fuel prices. However, India's fuel pricing structure is layered, with state-level VAT playing a significant role. Unless states correspondingly reduce their taxes, the benefit of the Centre's move risks being only partial. Such tax cuts often translate into modest price reductions, if at all, depending on how oil marketing companies adjust retail rates. The timing of



the decision is equally telling. With inflationary pressures

persisting and elections looming in several states, the excise cut appears as much a political calculation as an economic intervention. It reflects the government's attempt to strike a balance between revenue needs and public sentiment, particularly when fuel prices directly influence transportation costs and household budgets. There is also a fiscal dimension to consider. Excise duties on fuel have been a major source of government revenue. A steep cut, therefore, may strain public finances unless offset by other measures or improved tax buoyancy elsewhere.

Ultimately, the effectiveness of the move will depend on coordinated action with states and transparency in price transmission. Without that, the excise cut risks being seen less as substantive relief and more as symbolic politics in a volatile global energy landscape.

## Why BSF shouldn't be deployed for elections

### History offers ample evidence that whenever border vigilance is reduced, there is a corresponding spike in illegal migration, cross-border smuggling and infiltration attempts.

As India prepares for the upcoming state Assembly elections in April-May 2026 across Assam, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and Puducherry, a familiar yet deeply concerning pattern has re-emerged: the large-scale diversion of the Border Security Force (BSF) from its primary role of guarding the nation's borders to perform internal security and election duties. The BSF, India's first line of defence on the western and eastern frontiers, is mandated to safeguard the Indo-Pakistan and Indo-Bangladesh borders against infiltration, terrorism, illegal migration, smuggling, and trans-border crime. This role is not merely operational; it is strategic and a critical component of the national security architecture. However, over the years, "national compulsions" have led to the frequent redeployment of BSF units for internal security tasks such as maintenance of law and order, counter-insurgency operations, and, most routinely, election duties. While the importance of free and fair elections cannot be overstated, the cost of ensuring this demands urgent scrutiny. Recent orders from the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) directing the withdrawal of a substantial number of BSF units from both western and eastern borders for election deployment raise serious operational concerns. Reports indicate that out of the seven service companies authorised in a BSF battalion, five are being moved out for election duties. This leaves only two companies to guard stretches of the international border that are ordinarily manned by six companies. Border management is a complex, manpower-intensive task requiring constant vigilance, domination of terrain, and rapid response capabilities. Thinning out troop deployment to such an extent inevitably creates

vulnerabilities. These gaps are quickly exploited by hostile elements, be it infiltrators, smugglers, or anti-national networks. History offers ample evidence that whenever border vigilance is reduced, there is a corresponding spike in illegal migration, cross-border smuggling and infiltration attempts. The consequences are not confined to border areas; they ripple into the hinterland, adversely impacting internal security. Equally concerning are certain operational directives that betray a lack of understanding of the role, training, and equipment profile of the force. In a recent instance, ad hoc battalions of the BSF deployed in a northeastern state were reportedly instructed to perform election duties armed only with batons/lathis. This was ostensibly aimed at avoiding a recurrence of tensions witnessed during the 2024 Lok Sabha poll in West Bengal. Such directions are not merely impractical; they are dangerous. BSF personnel are trained and equipped to operate with small arms in high-threat environments, particularly along sensitive international borders.

To deploy them in potentially volatile election settings without appropriate defensive equipment is to expose them to avoidable risk. It creates a mismatch between threat perception and response capability, placing personnel in harm's way and undermining their confidence in leadership. Even if such instructions were subsequently diluted or not strictly enforced, the very issuance of such an order has a detrimental effect on morale. Forces that operate in high-risk environments depend critically on clarity of role, adequacy of equipment, and trust in command decisions. Any deviation from these fundamentals has consequences that extend far beyond a single deployment. The

implications of such redeployments go beyond operational risks. The BSF follows a structured training and rotation cycle, wherein one company in a battalion is designated as a training company. This company undergoes essential training, rest, and recuperation for 4-6 weeks annually, ensuring that personnel remain physically fit, mentally alert and professionally



competent. By pulling out five out of seven companies, this carefully calibrated cycle is disrupted. Training schedules are compromised, and the much-needed rest and recuperation for personnel deployed in arduous border conditions are sacrificed. The human cost of such decisions is often overlooked, but it directly impacts morale, efficiency and long-term operational readiness. India already has a designated force for internal security and election duties — the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF). With its nationwide deployment grid, experience in handling elections, and specialised training in crowd control and law-and-order management, the CRPF is institutionally structured to

shoulder these responsibilities.

The continued reliance on the BSF for such duties, therefore, reflects not a lack of institutional capacity but a deviation from established role clarity. While exigencies may occasionally warrant inter-force support, the routine and large-scale diversion of a border guarding force undermines both operational efficiency and strategic intent. A more balanced approach would involve optimising the deployment of the CRPF and strengthening coordination with state police forces, thereby minimising the need to draw heavily from border guarding units. It is particularly disquieting that such practices persist despite clear recommendations from the Kargil Review Committee, which emphasised the need to avoid diverting border guarding forces from their primary responsibilities. The Committee, constituted after the Kargil War, highlighted the dangers of diluting border management and called for role clarity among security forces. Yet, more than two decades later, the same structural issues remain unaddressed.

The security of India's borders cannot be treated as elastic, stretched to accommodate every internal requirement. A nation's borders are its first shield, and any weakening of this shield—however temporary—carries risks that far outweigh short-term administrative gains.

As the country heads into another election cycle, policymakers must reassess this approach. Ensuring free and fair elections is vital, but not at the cost of compromising border security. The answer lies not in overextending every force, but in adhering to defined roles, strengthening existing capacities, and respecting the strategic importance of dedicated border management.

### BJP questions utilisation of Rs 44,519 crore Central Funds in Himachal

Shimla.(Agency)

BJP State Chief Spokesperson Rakesh Jamwal on Sunday questioned the utilisation of central funds by Congress government in Himachal Pradesh, alleging that development activities in the state have slowed despite significant financial assistance from the Centre over the past three years.

He claimed that in a statement, Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu has himself admitted that the state has received Rs 44,519 crore from the Centre during the last three years, which raises serious questions about the functioning and efficiency of the state government. Citing year-wise figures, he stated that the state received Rs 16,592 crore in 2023-24, Rs 16,192 crore in 2024-25 and Rs 11,735 crore in 2025-26.

The funds were released under various heads including Revenue Deficit Grant (RDG), State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF), National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF), Centrally Sponsored Schemes, externally aided projects and special assistance schemes, he added.

He said that despite the financial support, the pace of development in the state appears slow and questioned the effectiveness of fund utilisation by the state government.

Jamwal also referred to what he described as a gap between the government's claims of balanced development and the situation on the ground. The BJP leader also raised concerns over government offices operating from rented private buildings, stating that existing government infrastructure should be utilised more effectively to avoid additional expenditure.

### HPV vaccination drive launched in Shimla, 221 girls vaccinated on first day

Shimla.(Agency)

The district-wide vaccination campaign against Human Papillomavirus began in Shimla on Sunday, with 221 adolescent girls receiving the vaccine on the first day at 39 Cold Chain Points (CCPs) established across the district.

According to the Health Department, the vaccination drive was conducted smoothly with the support of field staff and health workers. However, the expected turnout was somewhat affected due to inclement weather in several parts of the district.

Statewide, a total of 1,992 girls were vaccinated on the first day of the campaign through 336 vaccination centres set up across Himachal Pradesh.

Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Shimla Dr. Yashpal Ranta appealed to parents, school teachers, health staff and community leaders to support the campaign by encouraging eligible adolescent girls to come forward for vaccination.

Health officials said that girls aged 14 years (completed) up to 15 years and 90 days are eligible to receive the HPV vaccine under the campaign. The Health Department has scheduled the next vaccination sessions on April 5 and April 12, 2026.

Officials have urged all stakeholders to ensure maximum mobilisation and participation in the upcoming sessions to achieve wider coverage and help protect adolescent girls from cervical cancer and other HPV-related diseases.

### Rs 9,666 crore allocated to education sector in Himachal Budget: Rohit Thakur

Shimla.(Agency)

Himachal Pradesh Education Minister Rohit Thakur on Sunday said the state government has accorded priority to the education sector by allocating Rs 9,666 crore in the budget, which accounts for about 18 per cent of the total outlay, despite financial constraints.

The minister said that Himachal Pradesh has made significant progress in education since 1947.

He stated that the literacy rate in the state, which was around seven per cent at the time of Independence, has now reached 99.30 per cent, a matter of pride for the hill state.

Thakur was addressing a gathering after inaugurating a newly constructed library at the Government Senior Secondary School in Sarog under the Theog Assembly constituency on Sunday.

The facility has been dedicated to students as well as the general public, and he urged people to make effective use of the modern library even though it is located in a rural area. The Education Minister said that 151 schools in the state have been granted affiliation with the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), including four schools in the Theog area — Theog, Kumarsain, Matiyana and Sainj.

He also announced the introduction of the commerce stream at the Government Senior Secondary School, Sarog.

# RS polls cross-voting: 'Voting my right, did for region's welfare': Israil shares stage with BJP's Narbir Singh

## Haryana Rajya Sabha poll row deepens as Congress MLA Mohammad Israil defends cross-voting and shares stage with BJP minister Rao Narbir amid party action.

Chandigarh. (Agency)

Hathin MLA Mohammad Israil has now shared stage with Haryana Environment Minister and BJP leader Rao Narbir, after Congress Punahana MLA Mohammad Ilyas' back-to-back meetings with Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini and Union Minister Manohar Lal Khattar. This comes amid the political stir in Haryana following the Rajya Sabha cross-voting.

On Saturday, Israil was seen sitting with Narbir Singh on the same sofa on the occasion celebrating Ram Navami and Eid Milan. Rao Narbir confirmed the Hathin MLA's cross-voting and told the media, "The MLA took a courageous decision for the development of the region."

Israil said, "I voted for Satish Nandal based on my conscience and for the welfare of the region. Voting is my right and I did what I believed was right." Ilyas and Israil are among the five Congress MLAs who allegedly cross-voted in the recently concluded Rajya Sabha polls for two seats in Haryana.

Addressing the gathering, Narbir Singh said Israil's vote to Independent and BJP-supported candidate Satish Nandal would not impact national or state politics, as there are full-majority governments at both the levels. He also said the vote was cast with the intention of eliminating the region's backwardness. The Haryana minister assured that under Saini's



policy of "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas" (together with all, development for all), Hathin would not be left behind in development. The government will put all the effort into advancing and developing

Hathin's industrial area, he said. Narbir Singh also said whatever demands Israil puts forward for the area's development will be fulfilled to the best possible extent. However, sources from the Congress said by pulling the party MLAs representing Muslim-dominated areas, the BJP appears to be working on a new strategy of ruling the Muslim-majority Mewat region of Haryana. The other three MLAs who allegedly cross-voted are: Sadhaura MLA Renu Bala, Naraingarh MLA Shalley Chaudhry and Ratia MLA Jamal Singh. The Congress has issued show-cause notices to all the five MLAs, seeking explanation for allegedly cross-voting.

## Congress block president murdered in Punjab's Ludhiana; "AAP govt sleeping," says Warring

Ludhiana.(Agency)

Congress's Machhiwara block president Parminder Tiwari was allegedly killed by unidentified assailants at Hadiyan on Kohara Road of Ludhiana late on Sunday.

Tiwari, in his fifties, was sitting at his rented quarters when the assailants arrived and opened an attack on his head with an axe, said Lakhvir Singh Lakha, Congress's former Payal MLA and president of Khanna district committee.

"He was rushed to Fortis Hospital but he died. Tiwari was our loyal party worker and block president from Machhiwara. We demand that assailants should be arrested at the earliest," said Lakha.

Tiwari, a native of Takhran village near Machhiwara, had rented out some quarters on Hadiyan Road where he also had his office, said Lakha. "He was sitting there in the evening when the attackers came and axed him to death," said the former MLA.

Speaking to The Indian Express, Ludhiana Police Commissioner Swapn Sharma said that the incident happened within

Koomkalan police station's jurisdiction. "We are on it. Assailants will be arrested soon. Prima facie, it appears to be a case of personal rivalry. A probe has been initiated," said CP Sharma.

Punjab Congress president Amrinder Singh



Raja Warring targeted the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) for deteriorating law and order in the state. "Deeply shocked and saddened by the murder of our block president from Machhiwara Sahib, Parminder Tiwari ji. He was hardworking and an integral part of the INC Punjab family, and his loss is deeply felt. My heartfelt condolences to his

family in this hour of grief," wrote Warring on X. He wrote: "Punjab's law and order continues to deteriorate, yet the AAP government remains asleep at helm."

Congress leader Captain Sandeep Sandhu said that he along with Warring reached the Emergency of Fortis Hospital but Tiwari was "declared dead on arrival".

"Our local leadership first contacted Khanna police but they said that the crime did not happen within their jurisdiction. We then contacted Ludhiana city police and Warring spoke to the police commissioner. Only then the Ludhiana police swung into action," said Sandhu, adding that the deceased was survived by his wife, two sons and a daughter.

Sandhu said that this was the fourth such incident where the party has lost its block president in a crime under the AAP government. "Similar incidents have earlier happened in Moga, Sahnewal and Tarn Taran. This says a lot on what the current law and order situation is under the AAP government," he said.

## NFR Deploys Advanced OFC-Based Communication System at Level Crossing Gates

The Sikh Times

Maligaon, 30th March: Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) has introduced an advanced OFC-based Integrated Voice-cum-Data Communication System at Level Crossing (LC) Gates to enhance safety and operational efficiency. The system is being implemented across 50 LC Gates using the robust Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) network of Indian Railways, ensuring reliable and uninterrupted communication between Station Masters and gate operators. The system has already been installed at Senchoa Station and Barpathar station connecting non-interlocked and interlocked gates. With this system, Station Masters can monitor real-time gate status, including opening and closing, directly from the SM room, significantly improving control and coordination. Equipped with high-quality voice communication,



integrated voice logging, an IP-based Public Address system and CCTV integration, the system enables both audio and

visual monitoring of LC Gates. It features single-touch calling, group communication and battery health monitoring to enhance operational efficiency. A key technological advancement is the AI-enabled noise filtering at the master console, which effectively removes ambient sounds such as train horns and station announcements during critical operations. The system also supports centralized monitoring of all LC Gate cameras and facilitates public address announcements through additional IP-based PA units installed at gate locations, ensuring seamless and reliable communication. This initiative underscores Northeast Frontier Railway's commitment to leveraging modern technology for enhanced safety, improved communication and efficient management of railway operations, particularly at vulnerable Level Crossing Gates.

# IDFC-CREST scam: Project director of CREST arrested, sent to five days' police custody

## Police say money from bank accounts of CREST that was diverted to shell companies was transferred to bank accounts of the officer, his relatives and contacts

Chandigarh. (Agency)

Investigating the CREST-related fraud allegedly involving employees of IDFC First Bank, the Special Investigation Team (SIT) of Chandigarh Police Sunday arrested the project director of CREST (Chandigarh Renewable Energy and Science & Technology Promotion Society), Sukhwinder Abrol.

He was produced before the duty magistrate and sent to five days' police custody, said a police official. As per the police, an FIR was registered on the complaint filed by the chief executive officer of CREST, Sector 19, Chandigarh. Police said that cheating of Rs 83.04 lakh has been committed by the

alleged accused, namely Abhay Kumar, Seema Dhiman, Ribhav Rishi, all officials of IDFC First Bank.

According to the police, during investigation, it emerged that the money from bank accounts of CREST that was diverted to shell companies was transferred to bank accounts of Sukhwinder Abrol, his relatives and contacts.

Further investigation is being carried out to find the cash trail and role of other employees of CREST, said the police. The three IDFC First Bank officials — Rishav Rishi, Abhay Kumar and Seema Dhiman — have allegedly



disclosed during interrogation that "bank accounts of CREST were opened in their branch by them with the connivance of CREST officials", and that shell firms were subsequently created to route the siphoned money, as per remand papers of Chandigarh

Police. As per police sources, the accused officials were posted at the bank's Sector 32 branch between 2023 and 2025 and played a key role in facilitating the operation of these accounts. The police stated that large sums of public funds were parked in the CREST accounts and later diverted through a structured mechanism involving dummy entities. The remand papers of police reveal that the accused bank officials made shell firms with the connivance of Smart City Project officials and Municipal Corporation officer. Three such firms — CAPCO Fintech, R S

Traders and Swastik Desh Project — have been identified during the probe. These firms were allegedly floated in the names of close aides, including drivers and relatives of the accused, in an attempt to obscure the financial trail, as per the police remand paper. During questioning, the accused also disclosed the utilisation of the siphoned funds. As per the police sources, the alleged fraud amount has been invested in real estate business with the help of accused Vikram Wadhwa, who has already been arrested, and is currently in judicial custody. Earlier findings in the case had indicated that a total of 272 unauthorised transactions were carried out in CREST bank accounts.

## Focus on active participation of farmers to save endangered medicinal plants: Experts

Solan (HP).(Agency)

An interactive meet on Strategic Prioritisation of Threatened and Endangered Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (MAPs) through Farmer Participation was held at Dr. Yashwant Singh Parmar University of Horticulture and Forestry (UHF), Nauni, in collaboration with the Himachal Pradesh Forest Department.

The programme, organised by the Department of Forest Products, brought together scientists, researchers, forest officials and progressive farmers to deliberate on conservation, cultivation and sustainable utilisation of medicinal and aromatic plants in Himachal.

Addressing the gathering, Head of Forest Force and Chief Project Director of the JICA Forestry Project, Dr. Sanjay Sood, highlighted the immense potential of medicinal plant cultivation in the state. He emphasised the need to focus on species with high scientific and economic value and called for research programmes aligned with stakeholder needs. He also pointed out the growing impact of climate change on the natural habitats of MAPs and stressed the role of academic and research institutions in awareness generation and conservation efforts. He added that medicinal farming has strong potential to improve rural livelihoods and the economy.

Vice-Chancellor Prof. Rajeshwar Singh Chandel emphasised that medicinal plants have the potential to significantly enhance farmers' income and strengthen the rural economy. He called for systematic collaboration between departments and farmers to prioritise threatened and endangered species.

Highlighting land constraints, he advocated intensive cultivation, intercropping, and adoption of natural farming practices, along with strong quality assurance mechanisms and supply chain development.

Earlier, Dr. CL Thakur, Dean, College of Forestry, welcomed the participants and underlined the importance of medicinal plants in traditional healthcare systems. Dr. Yashpal Sharma, Head, Department of Forest Products, informed that the university is currently working on 32 medicinal and aromatic plant species and has standardised agro-technologies and nursery raising techniques for several of them.

# Centre blocks over 83,000 WhatsApp accounts, fraud apps in cyberfraud crackdown

**The crackdown extended heavily into mobile and network security, with authorities blocking 8.45 lakh SIM cards and 2.39 lakh mobile IMEI numbers identified through the National Cybercrime Reporting Portal (NCRP) system.**

**New Delhi.(Agency)**

In a massive crackdown on escalating digital arrests and investment scams, the Ministry of Home Affairs' (MHA) cyber wing, the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C), has launched a comprehensive "digital strike" against cybercriminals. According to sources, the cyber wing has blocked 3,962 Skype IDs and 83,867 WhatsApp accounts that were central to executing sophisticated scams since the beginning of 2025. This high-octane operation, conducted in coordination with the Department of Telecommunications (DoT), police forces, and telecom service providers, has resulted in the large-scale neutralisation of digital infrastructure used by fraudsters. The crackdown extended heavily into mobile and network security, with authorities blocking 8.45 lakh SIM cards and 2.39 lakh mobile IMEI numbers identified through the National Cybercrime Reporting Portal (NCRP) system. To further dismantle the



ecosystem of online fraud, the ministry blocked 827 malicious mobile applications and utilised the Sahyog portal to remove or block over 1.11 lakh pieces of suspicious online content. By implementing a real-time

mechanism to freeze devices and credentials used in criminal activities, the MHA aims to protect citizens from the rising tide of financial and psychological exploitation orchestrated by cyber syndicates.

## Parliamentarians call for comprehensive Space Activities Bill



**The DOS is working on a Space Activities Bill. Clarity in expected regulations can attract investors, and give a boost to commercial space operations from India.**

**New Delhi.(Agency)**

A Parliamentary Standing Committee report has highlighted the need for a comprehensive legislative framework for operations in space by entities based in India. Currently, space operations are largely guided by a patchwork of policy documents, vision statements and mission guidelines. With space hardware having increasing strategic and security implications, as well as the growing participation of Non-Governmental Entities together demonstrate the pressing need for a comprehensive legal framework to regulate, authorise and oversee space activities by India.

The Department of Space is drafting a Bill to regulate space activities. The proposed legislation is aimed at providing a robust, transparent and forward-looking framework for the orderly development of the space sector in India. The Parliamentary Committee also noted that entities operating under the DOS are also obtaining approvals from IN-SPACE, the single window clearing agency for all space activities in India, which has been identified as an unnecessary procedural layer. The Committee has recommended that the authorisation requirements be reserved for Non-Governmental Entities operating in space. This is one of the proposed provisions for the Space Activities Bill, to ensure greater administrative efficiency.

Clear regulations can boost burgeoning space sector to greater heights

Partner at Deloitte India had earlier explained to us, "While the India Space Policy 2023 highlights the government's vision for the sector, the industry believes that the possibility of a policy not being enforceable in a court of law is unfavourable for the sector. This is because challenges around international and national obligations and liabilities, and enforcement of standards can be conclusively answered only in the form of legislation. Hence, the early enactment of the much-anticipated Space Activities Act may be optimal for the Indian space ecosystem."

In a recent report by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) and IN-SPACE, there were proposals for a number of regulations designed to encourage commercial operations in the space domain, but the report stopped short of calling for a comprehensive Space Activities Act. The Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) and the SatCom Industry Association (SIA)-India has developed a comprehensive framework for space cyber security, introducing 'security-by-design' and 'defence-in-depth' approaches. All of these recommendations can be included in the Space Activities Act, which are along the lines of the demands of the industry.

## No legal obligation: Allahabad High Court rules women don't have to support in-laws

**New Delhi.(Agency)**

The Allahabad High Court has ruled that a daughter-in-law is not legally obligated to maintain her parents-in-law under Section 125 of the CrPC – now Section 144 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) In a recent order, Justice Madan Pal Singh observed that the right to claim maintenance is a statutory right and is confined only to the categories of persons expressly mentioned in the section itself, and the parents-in-law do not fall within that ambit. The court said that a moral obligation, however compelling it may appear, cannot be enforced as a legal obligation in the absence of a statutory mandate. Dismissing a revision petition filed by an elderly couple



against their daughter-in-law, the court said, "The legislature, in its wisdom, has not included parents-in-law within the ambit of the said provision. In other words, it is not the scheme of the legislature to fasten liability of maintenance upon a daughter-in-law towards her parents-in-law under the said provision." The couple had moved the high court challenging an August 2025 order passed by a family court in Agra, which rejected their application seeking maintenance under Section 144 of the BNSS. The couple submitted that they were old, illiterate, indigent and wholly dependent on their deceased son during his lifetime.

## Delhi Police arrest law school dropout from Mysuru for sending 1,500 hoax bomb threats

**New Delhi.(Agency)**

In a major breakthrough following a high-stakes digital manhunt, the Delhi Police have apprehended a 47-year-old man in Karnataka for allegedly orchestrating a massive campaign of hoax bomb threats that spanned across India and even reached international borders. The suspect, identified as Shrinivas Louis, was arrested on Thursday from his rented residence in Mysuru's Vrindavan Layout. The operation was a joint effort between the Delhi Police Cyber Unit and local Karnataka authorities. Louis, a law school dropout who is currently



unemployed, is accused of sending nearly 1,500 threatening emails over several months. His targets were primarily judicial institutions, including the Delhi High Court and various district courts in the national capital. He has also targeted the international judicial bodies, specifically targeting courts in Pakistan's Sindh and Balochistan regions and various other government institutions and potentially several Delhi schools (currently under verification). Police believe Louis's primary motive was a deep-seated frustration stemming from his failure to complete his legal education and his lack of employment. "It is suspected that his intention was to paralyse the legal system and stall court proceedings," a senior official part of the investigation team said. The arrest was the culmination of a meticulous two-week investigation by the Delhi Police Cyber Police unit.

## Lashkar terrorist who handled terror modules from Bangladesh arrested near Delhi

**Shabbir Ahmad Lone alias Raja alias Kashmiri, was allegedly operating from Bangladesh under ISI direction and coordinating Lashkar's terror plots in India.**

**New Delhi.(Agency)**

A Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) operative accused of plotting attacks in India while operating out of Bangladesh has been arrested near the Delhi border, officials said on Monday. The accused, Shabbir Ahmad Lone alias Raja alias Kashmiri, is a resident of Kangan in Jammu and Kashmir's Srinagar district. He was arrested by Delhi Police's Special Cell in coordination with central agencies after being on the radar for his alleged role in running India-focused terror operations.

Officials said that Lone had been based in Bangladesh, where he was handling Lashkar's anti-India activities under the direction of Pakistan's intelligence agency, ISI. He is accused of recruiting Bangladeshi nationals, including those residing illegally in India, to execute

terror plots while masking Pakistan's involvement. The arrest came days after security agencies busted a Lashkar-linked module operating



across Delhi and parts of South India. That module had allegedly put up anti-India posters at several locations in Delhi and Kolkata, pointing to an attempt to spread propaganda alongside operational groundwork.

Officials said Lone is a trained militant of

Lashkar-e-Taiba who underwent both Daura-e-Aam (basic) and Daura-e-Khaas (advanced) training at a terror camp in Muzaffarabad. His links with the outfit's top leadership date back nearly two decades.

Lone was first arrested by the Special Cell in 2007 along with a heavy cache of arms and ammunition, including an AK-47 rifle and grenades. At the time, officials had established his direct links with Jamaat-ud-Dawa chief and 26/11 Mumbai attacks mastermind Hafiz Saeed, as well as Lashkar commander Zaki-ur-Rehman Lakhvi.

Lone remained lodged in Tihar Jail until 2018 before securing bail. According to officials, he later resurfaced in Bangladesh, where he allegedly rebuilt Lashkar networks and continued coordinating operations targeting India.

## From bedside nursing to key policy-making role: Nisha Mehta, an AIIMS Delhi alumna, is new Nepal health minister

**Nisha Mehta, an AIIMS Delhi nursing alumna, is Nepal's new Health Minister, marking a significant milestone. Her appointment brings a frontline healthcare perspective to top policymaking, highlighting the expanding leadership potential of nurses and healthcare professionals. This move underscores their vital role in shaping national health policies and systems, promising impactful contributions to Nepal's public health.**

**New Delhi.(Agency)**

Nisha Mehta took oath as the health minister of Nepal on March 27 after being appointed in that position. Mehta is an alumna of the College of Nursing, AIIMS, Delhi. AIIMS Delhi issued a statement saying, "This remarkable achievement is a moment of great pride for the institution and the nursing community at large. Mehta's journey from bedside nursing to a key policy-making role reflects the expanding scope and leadership potential of the nursing profession."

Her appointment as Nepal's Minister of Health and Population marks a major milestone. It underpins the growing role of healthcare professionals in top policymaking positions.

**She is affiliated with Rastriya Swatantra Party**

Mehta is affiliated with the Rastriya Swatantra Party in Nepal. In past elections, the party had placed her on its proportional representation list for Parliament. However,

she was not elected — a result that was repeated in the latest election cycle. Despite this, her professional background continues to be significant, reports said. In the March 5 elections, the RSP secured a landslide win — 182 seats out of the total 275 seats in the House of Representatives (HoR) and formed a majority government.

**Her journey from care to cabinet**

Between 2006 and 2010, Mehta pursued her BSc in Nursing from AIIMS, New Delhi. After this, she undertook her postgraduate studies in nursing from Jiwaji University, Gwalior. Her appointment has drawn huge attention for her strong academic credentials and clinical expertise.

She is from a purely medical background. She built her career in nursing and then moved into public life. Her journey reflects a move from frontline healthcare to a key decision-making position in the government. According to analysts, her experience in healthcare could go a long way in shaping policy decisions.



## Indane asked me to have patience. Now, I am game

**My LPG supplier sent me a terse message amid the war in the Middle East. But the message from fellow Indians that I got on a short driving trip was one of resilience and hope.**

**New Delhi.(Agency)**

"Pls avoid repeated calls and have patience," is what Indane, my LPG supplier, told me tersely through an SMS on March 21. I actually had been calling up the automated number once every day to check if Indane would allow me to book a refill. The SMS hit home. I bought an induction cooktop and struck the gas-guzzling aloo parantha, rajma and bhuna mutton off the menu.

I always took care to order a refill when one of my two LPG cylinders ran out. But like the Iranians negotiating in Geneva, I was caught off guard this time. The Strait of Hormuz turned into a minefield and oil and gas plants across the Middle East were up in flames. It was only after the government increased the booking wait-time that I realised that my kitchen was running on the last of

the two cylinders. That's what made me call Indane and try my luck. My last LPG cylinder was delivered on February 21, and I needed to wait for 30 days before I was able to book a refill.

But this story isn't just about me or my LPG refill. It's more to do with what I saw, heard and realised while driving from Delhi to Orchha in Madhya Pradesh. A driving trip planned months in advance which I cut by half, with the war in the Middle East being one of the reasons.

By this time, the US-Israel-Iran war had entered its fourth week, and I saw enough people scurrying for LPG cylinders. The scarcity of LPG refills was hitting almost everyone. That's because other than gas and oil, India

runs on corruption. And it is the system that promotes and facilitates it. From



small eateries to mid-sized hotels, most run on the 14.2-kg LPG cylinders meant for domestic use but procured by them on the black market. At the current rate, a 14.2-kg cylinder costs Rs 913 in Delhi while the 19-kg commercial cylinder

costs around Rs 1,885.

Because of the ease-of-doing business that LPG delivery guys provide, these roadside stalls and eateries prefer to pay Rs 200 more than the legal price and buy them on the black market. If it weren't for the war, a 14.2-kg LPG cylinder would have cost around Rs 1,100 on the black market in Delhi. But the squeeze at Hormuz was felt in the squeeze in LPG supplies in India.

In Delhi, the cost of a 14.2-kg cylinder jumped to Rs 3,500 on the black market. In Agra, I was told, it was around Rs 2,500. In rural Sitamarhi of Bihar, an acquaintance paid Rs 1,600 for a cylinder because he urgently needed it for the halwai for his son's engagement ceremony.

NEWS BOX

### Tiger Woods' partner issues final warning after car crash, reveals insider

New Delhi. (Agency)

Tiger Woods' partner Vanessa Trump has reportedly issued a stern warning to the golf legend following his recent DUI (Driving Under the Influence) arrest and car crash, with insiders suggesting the relationship could be at a crossroads if he fails to address his ongoing issues. According to sources cited by the Daily Mail, Vanessa was left deeply upset after Woods was detained for nearly eight hours at Martin County Jail before being released on bail. "She's not happy at all. She's both disappointed and a little bit pissed, if I'm being honest," a source said, describing her reaction in the immediate aftermath of the incident. The insider added that the episode has triggered serious concerns for Vanessa, who has now drawn a clear line. "It's a definite red flag, and she told him that he's going to get this sorted out and that she's going to require that. He has to get things under control, or she's not going to stick around." While the couple are believed to share a strong bond rooted in their mutual connection to golf, sources say the relationship has not been without its



complications. "They are good together as they both have golf in their lives. That propels the romance in a certain sense," another insider noted. "Still, it is not without its challenges. She does all she can but some of it is out of her hands." A separate source was more blunt in their assessment of Woods' current situation. "They are an intense couple. It's serious but Tiger has yet to look in the mirror and say, 'You're 50 years old and need to act like it.'"

#### DONALD TRUMP REACTS TO TIGER WOODS CRASH

Former US President Donald Trump also weighed in on the incident, expressing concern for the 15-time major winner. "I feel so badly. He's got some difficulties," Trump said while speaking to reporters on a Miami airport tarmac. "There was an accident, that's all I know. He's a very close friend of mine. He's an amazing person, amazing man, but some difficulties."

### I am not here to show how talented I am: Ajinkya Rahane

MUMBAI. (Agency)

Dismissive of the never-ending speculation around his future, experienced India batter and Kolkata Knight Riders captain Ajinkya Rahane says he is playing cricket for



personal growth and not to prove a point to the naysayers. The 37-year-old Rahane had stepped down from Mumbai's Ranji Trophy captaincy last season and he also did not lead the side in white-ball domestic competitions. The move triggered another round of chatter around the future of the batter, who hasn't played for India since 2023. "Let people talk about me. They have been talking about me since like what, 20 years now. Let them talk," Rahane told reporters when asked if his 40-ball 67 with five sixes and three fours against Mumbai Indians here on Sunday was in any way a statement especially for those in Mumbai's cricket circuit. "I am really happy with the way I am batting at the moment. I am not here to show anyone how talented I am and what's my game. People are watching. Let them watch. Let them talk," he said. "But I am really happy, in the last 2-3 years, (in the) white ball formats (with) the way I have improved my game. It's important to grow as a cricketer, as a batsman, and that's what I am trying to do. People will keep talking and let them talk," he added. Rahane confirmed he only suffered with cramps during the second half of the contest which KKR lost by six wickets. "I was just cramping. It's a very bad feeling to sit outside with the cramps and you don't have any control when the bowlers were bowling, it's a bad feeling but first I'm really happy the way I batted," he said. Rahane credited Jasprit Bumrah for producing another tight spell towards the end which prevented KKR to get the total they were eyeing.

# CSK in Dhoni-Samson transition phase CEO Kashi Vishwanathan sparks buzz

**IPL 2026: CSK's transition from MS Dhoni to Sanju Samson may already be taking shape. With Dhoni sidelined, the franchise now has an early chance to test its future core this season.**

New Delhi. (Agency)

Chennai Super Kings could be edging closer to a long-anticipated transition phase as MS Dhoni misses the opening weeks of IPL 2026, with Sanju Samson stepping in behind the stumps. CEO Kashi Vishwanathan's recent comments have only added to the growing buzz around a potential shift within the franchise. Dhoni, ruled out of the first two weeks due to a calf strain, will miss the initial matches of the season, forcing CSK to make early adjustments. Speaking to RevSportz, Vishwanathan confirmed that Samson will take over wicketkeeping duties in Dhoni's absence, hinting at a possible glimpse into

the team's future structure. "See, obviously, Sanju will be keeping because his MS Dhoni is not going to play. Sanju's form is great and he's been knocking well in the nets also. So we're hoping that he'll give the impact that CSK is looking for during the current season. Of course, we have Rituraj, who is also capable of taking the team to higher levels, and his captaincy is one which definitely will lift the team, Vishwanathan said. "As far as Sanju is concerned, we don't want to put any pressure on him because we know his capabilities. I have not spent much time talking to Sanju, as I met him only a couple of days back, and during practice, I would never go and disturb him. I'm very confident that Sanju, with his abilities and his form, will be a great bet for us," he added. The development comes amid increasing speculation about Dhoni's future. Having already stepped away from captaincy and taken on a reduced on-field role over the past few seasons, the 44-year-old has gradually transitioned into a situational finisher rather than a constant presence in the XI.

Samson's arrival from Rajasthan Royals, in a

high-profile trade that also involved Ravindra Jadeja and Sam Curran, had already sparked conversations about succession planning. Fresh off a standout

layer of intrigue to Samson's new role. IS CSK READY FOR LIFE WITHOUT DHONI?

The bigger question, however, goes beyond just a few matches.



T20 World Cup 2026 campaign where he emerged as Player of the Tournament, Samson now finds himself at the centre of CSK's evolving structure.

With Rituraj Gaikwad leading the side, CSK appear to be building a new core while still relying on Dhoni's experience in the background. The upcoming clash against his former team, Rajasthan Royals, adds another

Dhoni's influence on CSK has never been limited to numbers alone. Across 278 matches and over 5,400 runs, he has been the central figure in shaping the franchise's identity, leading them to five IPL titles and instilling a sense of calm in high-pressure situations. But over the last few seasons, signs of transition have been evident. The impact player rule has reduced his involvement, while his batting role has been pushed further down the order. His appearances have become more strategic, often limited to late cameos rather than match-defining innings. IPL 2025 further highlighted the need for change, as CSK endured a difficult campaign and finished at the bottom of the table. The current season, therefore, represents more than just a fresh start—it could be a testing ground for life beyond Dhoni.

## KKR know why Cameron Green is not bowling: Cricket Aus hits back at Rahane

New Delhi. (Agency)

Cricket Australia has issued a sharp response to Kolkata Knight Riders captain Ajinkya Rahane, who claimed that only the Australian board knew why all-rounder Cameron Green did not bowl a single delivery in the team's thrashing against Mumbai Indians. KKR were hammered by Hardik Pandya's side on Sunday, March 29, as MI chased down 221 with six wickets and five balls to spare. Openers Rohit Sharma and Ryan Rickelton added 148 runs for the first wicket, effectively taking the game away from KKR inside the first 10 overs. Searching for answers, KKR could not turn to their premier all-rounder Cameron Green, who was bought for a record price tag of Rs 25.20 crore. After the loss, Rahane cut a frustrated figure. Asked why Green did not bowl a single over, the KKR captain told presenter Ian Bishop that the question should be directed to Cricket Australia, hinting that the board had

restricted the player from bowling in the IPL. WHY DID CAMERON GREEN NOT



BOWL IN MI vs KKR?

Cricket Australia, however, responded on Monday, stating that KKR had been informed well in advance that Green would not bowl in the first 10-12 days of the IPL due to a back injury. "Cameron has a lower back injury which is being managed but

requires him to abstain from bowling for a short period," a CA spokesperson said. Cameron is currently rebuilding his bowling loads in India with a view to return in around 10-12 days' time.

"KKR has been communicated with and is fully aware of this information."

Green's absence as a bowling option leaves KKR in a difficult position. The team is already dealing with injuries to Harshit Rana and Matheesha Pathirana, and has also been forced to part ways with one of their key purchases, Mustafizur Rahman.

If KKR follow Cricket Australia's timeline, Green is unlikely to bowl in at least the first four matches of the IPL.

For now, if selected, Green will feature purely as a specialist batter against SunRisers Hyderabad, Punjab Kings and Lucknow Super Giants until around April 9.

## Fakhar Zaman charged as ball-tampering allegations haunt PSL

**"Fakhar denied the charge leveled against him during a disciplinary hearing led by the match referee Roshan Mahanama," the Pakistan Cricket Board said in a**

NEW DELHI. (Agency)

Fakhar Zaman was charged and his side Lahore Qalandars penalised for alleged ball tampering in a Pakistan Super League match against Karachi Kings.

Needing 14 runs to win off the final over, Kings were awarded five penalty runs after the umpires decided that Pakistan batter Zaman had broken rules by "unfairly changing the condition of the ball". Seamer Haris Rauf was due to bowl the final over and he together with Lahore skipper Shaheen Shah Afridi and Zaman were seen

working on the ball at some stage during their discussions with each other.

Umpire Faisal Afridi then inspected the ball and after a long discussion with second on-field umpire Sharfuddoula of Bangladesh decided that the ball had been deliberately



tampered with. Five penalty runs were awarded to Karachi, reducing their target to nine runs off the last six balls while the ball was changed at the request of the batting

side. Kings completed their win with three balls remaining for a four-wicket victory.

"Fakhar denied the charge leveled against him during a disciplinary hearing led by the match referee Roshan Mahanama," the Pakistan Cricket Board said in a statement. "Another hearing is set to take place within the next 48 hours after which the match referee will share his verdict."

If the left handed batter is found guilty in the hearing that was adjourned until Monday, he could be slapped with a one-match ban, the minimum punishment for a Level 3 offense. "I don't know about this. We will see if it is that in the camera. We will discuss," Shaheen Afridi was quoted as saying by the BBC. Cricket laws only allow players to shine the ball and not alter its shape or size under any circumstances.

Law 41.3.2 states "it is an offence for any player to take any action which changes the condition of the ball".

Meanwhile, Shaheen Afridi and overseas player Sikandar Raza were accused of breaching team security protocols at their hotel.



get better and better? To begin with, it would be criminal not to doff your hat to Shardul Thakur, who picked up three wickets and dismissed KKR's top three of Ajinkya Rahane, Finn Allen and Cameron Green.

Mind you, KKR were steamrolling the MI bowling at one point, and even Bumrah went for 11 runs in his first over. This is when Shardul did what he does best—pick up wickets. But this wasn't the turning point of the game. It all comes down to the 12th over of the KKR innings, where Bumrah's magic was in full flow. HOW BUMRAH'S OVER CHANGED THE GAME FOR MUMBAI?

Before heading into this 12th over, let's look at what happened in the game until that point. KKR got off to a dream start with the bat. Rahane and Allen added 69 runs off 32 balls, and Green came in and tried to continue the onslaught. Rahane was batting beautifully and 250-260 appeared to be on the cards at that point. There were very few overs that went for single digits, and it seemed KKR were well on the ascendancy. By the 10th over, KKR were 120 for two and sizing up a big total.

## Indian football chief Kalyan Chaubey accused of harassment by women's panel head

**AIFF President Kalyan Chaubey faces harassment allegations from women's committee head Valanka Alemao, bringing fresh scrutiny on the federation's internal functioning.**

NEW DELHI. (Agency)

All India Football Federation (AIFF) president Kalyan Chaubey has come under fresh scrutiny after Valanka Alemao, head of the AIFF Women's Committee, accused him of harassment during an Executive Committee meeting in New Delhi. The allegations, made in a formal letter, have once again brought the spotlight on governance and conduct within Indian football.

The incident is said to have taken place during the AIFF Executive Committee meeting at the Football House on March 29, where Alemao alleged she was "heckled and harassed" by senior officials. The controversy comes just days after she had raised strong concerns over administrative lapses during India's Women's Asian Cup campaign. In a letter addressed to Exco members, Alemao detailed her allegations against Chaubey and other officials: "I wish to place on record the entirely disgusting behaviour of the AIFF President Mr Kalyan Chaubey, Vice President Mr N. A. Harris and Deputy Secretary General M Satyanarayan. I feel deeply prejudiced and I found that several attempts were made by the President to suppress my voice."

"The President made remarks against me which were unnecessary and disrespectful. He along with the DSG raised his tone and again beyond an acceptable decibel with the intention to intimidate me. Throughout

the course of the meeting, I was consistently targeted," she alleged.

WHO IS VALANKA ALEMAO?

Valanka Alemao is the current head of the AIFF



Women's Committee and a key figure in Indian football administration. She also serves as the CEO of Churchill Brothers Football Club Goa and is the daughter of former Goa Chief Minister and club owner Churchill Alemao. In a notable achievement,

she became the first Indian woman to be appointed to FIFA's Women's Football Development Committee for the 2025-2029 term, further underlining her growing influence in global football.

WHAT IS THE FEUD BETWEEN CHAUBEY AND ALEMAO?

The friction between Chaubey and Alemao appears rooted in deeper administrative disagreements within the AIFF. Alemao, in her capacity as the women's committee chief, had earlier written to Chaubey seeking accountability following what she described as a "series of blunders" during India's Women's Asian Cup campaign in Australia. The concerns ranged from issues related to team management and logistics to broader questions around decision-making. She also flagged a lack of consultation with key bodies such as the Executive Committee and the Women's Committee on major decisions, pointing towards transparency concerns within the federation.

## West Asia conflict drives Crude Oil past \$116; Natural Gas declines amid supply

MUMBAI.(Agency)

Crude oil prices recorded a sharp jump on Monday morning. WTI prices went up about 3.20%, after which it crossed \$102 per barrel. Meanwhile, Brent crude prices appreciated by 3.20% to reach \$116 per barrel. This is the highest level of oil prices since July 2022. Amid the ongoing US-Israel and Iran war in West Asia, speculation has intensified that the United States may deploy ground forces in Iran. Also, attacks by Houthi rebels in the Red Sea have increased the risk of disruption in oil supply. Meanwhile, natural gas recorded a decline of around 3%. Gasoline prices have also risen by 2.28%.

Crude oil opened the week around 3% higher, trading above \$102 per barrel, marking its highest level since July 2022 amid intensifying geopolitical risks. The Middle East conflict has entered its fifth week, with escalation driven by Houthi attacks on Israel and threats to key energy routes like the Red Sea. Additional US troop deployment and potential ground operations in Iran have heightened fears of prolonged disruption. Markets are increasingly pricing in supply risks, especially as critical transit points like the Strait of Hormuz—handling nearly 20% of global oil flows—face ongoing instability.

US Natural Gas price

US natural gas futures declined to \$2.93 per MMBtu on Monday, ending a four-session rally as updated forecasts signaled slightly cooler weather, though still above seasonal norms through March-end. The EIA reported a larger-than-average storage withdrawal last week, likely the final draw of the winter season. While the Middle East conflict has pushed global LNG prices higher due to disruptions from Qatar, US prices remain contained as domestic production meets consumption needs. Additionally, LNG export terminals are operating at full capacity, limiting the ability to capitalize on higher international prices.

## Nobody in Sweden office after 4:30 pm: Indian Techie's viral post shows sharp contrasts with longer working in India

New Delhi.(Agency)

An Indian tech professional working in Sweden has gained widespread attention online after sharing a video of her vacant workplace at 4:30 pm with no professionals present, highlighting the work culture of the country. The clip shared on social media has sparked extensive discussion on the significance of striking a balance between professional responsibilities and personal happiness.

Taking to Instagram, Swati posted a clip showing a quiet workplace in Sweden at around 4:40 pm with no colleagues around. In the video, she walks through the quiet office space and explains that in Sweden the emphasis is placed on the quality of work rather than the number of hours spent at the desk. Swati explains that the entire workplace is empty by 4:30. She says that in Europe work-life balance is crucial and maintaining office hours is not necessary. What counts is the quality of work and how you deliver it. You don't have to sit after five or work on weekends. You simply take pleasure in spending time with your family and friends and pursue your hobbies. Swati wrote in her caption that Sweden is all about flexible working hours, work-life balance, time for yourself, your hobbies and your family.

Netizens React

The video has attracted widespread reactions online with many users praising the work-life balance while some draw comparisons to work-life in India.

One user commented, "It is good to know."

Another user commented, "The same concept is followed in Indian government sector. Target oriented. Your output should define the timings."

## Insolvency law main factor in improving health of country's banking sector: FM in Lok Sabha



Kolkata.(Agency)

Finance and Corporate Affairs Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday said in the Lok Sabha that the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) has been a main and very crucial factor in improving the health of the country's banking sector, including recovery of non-performing assets. Piloting a bill for further amending the IBC in the Lok Sabha, the minister stressed that companies have been doing well and their corporate governance practices have also improved after coming out of the insolvency resolution process. She made the remarks while replying to the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment) Bill, 2025, as reported by the Select Committee. The Bill has proposed 12 amendments to the IBC, which came into force in 2016.

The IBC has been a main and very crucial factor in improving the health of the country's banking sector, Sitharaman said, adding that more than half of the NPAs (Non-Performing Assets) have been recovered by the banks through the resolution process.

On August 12, 2025, the government introduced the Bill in the Lok Sabha to amend the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), proposing a raft of changes, including provisions to reduce the time taken for admission of insolvency resolution applications.

# Stock market crash: Investors lose Rs 6.4 lakh crore as volatility hits Dalal Street

**Markets remained under pressure as rising oil prices, global tensions and continued foreign investor selling triggered volatility, eroding investor wealth and keeping sentiment weak despite brief recovery attempts.**

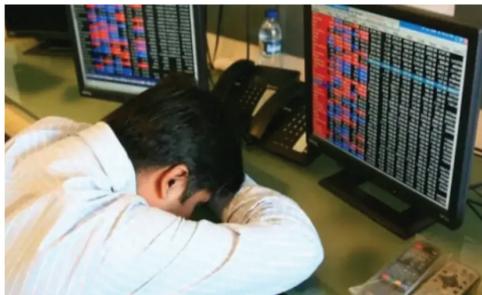
New Delhi.(Agency)

Dalal Street faced significant pressure on Monday afternoon as volatility and broad selling wiped out over Rs 6.4 lakh crore in investor wealth. The sharp decline reflected growing concerns among market participants amid unsettled global and domestic factors. By 12:57 pm, the

total market capitalisation of BSE-listed companies fell from Rs 421.62 lakh crore at the previous close to Rs 415.25 lakh crore. The benchmark indices mirrored this weakness, with the BSE Sensex dropping 1,098.02 points to 72,485.20 and the NSE Nifty50 falling 319.15 points to 22,500.45. It may be noted that markets opened sharply lower and despite some attempts at recovery, they failed to maintain upward momentum. This showed a fragile market sentiment driven by multiple pressures.

Volatility indicators also pointed to nervousness. The India VIX, known as the market's fear gauge, rose over 5% during the session, signalling increased uncertainty among investors. Selling was broad-based, led by banking and financial stocks. Axis Bank slipped over 3.6%, while State Bank of India and

Bajaj Finance declined by more than 3%, weighing heavily on the indices. Other major companies such as Bharti Airtel,



Larsen & Toubro, Infosys and Kotak Mahindra Bank also traded lower, indicating weakness across sectors. The broader market reflected a clear risk-off mood among investors, with widespread selling pressure. However, some sectors

showed resilience. Oil and commodity-linked stocks like ONGC and Coal India gained between 1% and 2%, while Hindalco rose supported by higher global commodity prices.

The key factor behind the sell-off was the sharp rise in crude oil prices, which hovered around \$115-116 per barrel amid escalating tensions in West Asia. As India imports most of its oil, higher prices increase the import bill, fuel inflation, and pressure corporate margins, all of which negatively affect equity markets. Foreign institutional investors continued to reduce their exposure, adding to the selling pressure amid global uncertainty. Despite efforts to stabilise, the market tone remained weak, and with crude oil prices staying elevated and geopolitical risks ongoing, volatility is expected to persist in the near term.

## Iran war rattles metal stocks: What should investors do Check top picks

New Delhi.(Agency)

Metal and aluminium stocks are seeing mixed moves even as the broader market remains under pressure due to the ongoing Iran war and rising oil prices. While benchmark indices have been falling, select metal stocks are showing resilience, supported by global supply concerns and rising commodity prices. The BSE Metal index was trading at 36,869.52, up 33.25 points or 0.09% around 10:42 am, indicating mild gains. However, the trend on the NSE remained slightly weak, with the Nifty Metal index down 0.05% at 11,156.20. On the NSE, gains were seen in select stocks. National Aluminium Company (NALCO) rose 4.56%, SAIL gained 3.56%, Hindalco Industries climbed 2.92%, and Vedanta was up 2.09%. JSW Steel also saw a mild gain of 0.14%. At the same time, several stocks remained under pressure. Hindustan Zinc fell 0.71%, NMDC slipped 0.19%, and JSW Steel declined 1.13% in early trade. Adani Enterprises dropped 1.65%, while Jindal Steel and

Power fell 1.79%. Among the sharpest losers, Tata Steel declined 2.27%, APL Apollo Tubes fell 1.79%, Lloyds Metals dropped 2.35%, and Hindustan Copper saw a steep fall of 5.06%. WHY THE SECTOR IS UNDER PRESSURE

The metal sector has already seen a correction in recent weeks. Nifty Metal has declined by nearly 9% over the past month. This fall is linked to several factors, including rising global uncertainty due to the West Asia conflict, tariff-related news, volatility in base metal prices, higher trading margins, and profit booking in stocks that performed strongly through 2025. The Iran war has further added to volatility. Rising oil prices are increasing input costs and affecting investor sentiment across global markets. HOW THE IRAN WAR IS IMPACTING METALSThe ongoing Iran war is now directly affecting the global metals supply chain, especially aluminium. According to a CLSA report, the Middle East accounts for

about 6.9 million tonnes of aluminium smelting capacity, which is roughly 9% of global primary aluminium supply. It also holds around 4.5 million tonnes of alumina refining capacity, much of which is export-focused. Any disruption in this region can quickly tighten supply. One aluminium smelter with capacity of 0.6 million tonnes has already stopped production. The report notes that shutting and restarting smelters is a long and costly process, which means supply disruptions can have a lasting impact. The report states that a prolonged conflict could raise energy costs and transport costs, tightening the demand-supply balance. It draws a comparison with Europe's 2022 energy crisis, when smelter shutdowns led to sustained supply issues. This has made aluminium one of the most sensitive metals to the current conflict. INDIAN COMPANIES MAY BENEFITDespite short-term volatility, global supply concerns are creating opportunities for Indian metal companies.

## Coal India's arm CMPDIL shares make weak market debut: Stock declines 7%

New Delhi.(Agency)

The shares of Coal India's subsidiary company, Central Mine Planning & Design Institute (CMPDI), listed on weaker note in the stock market on Monday. On NSE, the stock made its debut at Rs 160, which was below the issue price. On BSE, the counter opened at Rs 162.80 apiece. The market players anticipate a strong listing, however, the weak debut led to initial losses for investors.

CMPDI share listed at Rs 160 on NSE, about 7% below the issue price of Rs 172. On BSE, it opened with a decline of around 5 per cent at Rs 162.80. This listing was much weaker than market expectations. A single lot of CMPDI IPO consisted of 80 shares with a total value of Rs 13,760. At the time of listing, investors suffered a loss of about Rs 960 per lot.

CMPDI grey market premium (GMP) was around Rs 5 to Rs 10, expecting a listing gain of 2-3%.

CMPDI's IPO opened on March 20 and



closed on 24 March. The issue received a subscription of 1.05 times. In the QIB category, it garnered 3.48 times subscription, while demand remained weak in the retail and NII categories. The retail portion was subscribed 33%,

and the NII portion received 35% subscription. The issue was entirely an Offer For Sale (OFS) of 10.71 crore shares, worth Rs 1,842.12 crore at the upper end, by Coal India, with no fresh issue component. CMPDIL was incorporated in 1975 as a wholly-owned subsidiary of Coal India. The company is engaged in the business of providing consultancy and support services for the entire spectrum of coal and mineral exploration, as well as mine planning and design services. The arm of state-owned Coal India also provides services, including environmental management, management systems, geomatics, specialised technology services, infrastructure engineering, primarily for the coal industry and other minerals.

# Why Gold & Silver prices fell Rate hike fears & Middle East impact explained

New Delhi.(Agency)

Gold and Silver prices marginally declined on 31 March 2026 (Monday). On MCX, gold was trading around Rs 146,584 per 10 grams, reflecting a decline of 0.46%. Meanwhile, silver price stood at Rs 227,392 per kilogram. There are signs of weakness in the domestic market.

Gold prices fell in the retail market today by about Rs 680 to reach Rs 146,630 per 10 grams. The price of 24-carat gold stood at Rs 14,663 per gram. Silver rates went down by about Rs 350 to reach Rs 228,030 per kilogram. The price of 999 fine silver remains around Rs 228 per gram. The impact of industrial demand and global signals is clearly visible on silver.

Silver Price Outlook

Silver declined nearly 2% toward \$68 per ounce on Monday, reversing prior gains as geopolitical tensions persisted into the fifth week. Prices are now 30% lower than their March peak, reflecting



sustained pressure. Escalation in the Middle East, including Houthi attacks and potential US ground operations, has driven oil prices higher, intensifying inflation concerns. This has led markets

to reprice expectations, shifting from two anticipated rate cuts to a possible Federal Reserve rate hike this year, weighing heavily on non-yielding assets like silver.

Gold Price Outlook

Gold dropped nearly 1% to around \$4,450 per ounce on Monday, trimming previous gains as geopolitical tensions persisted into the fifth week. Prices are still more than 15% below their March peak, reflecting sustained weakness. Escalation in the Middle East, including Houthi attacks and potential US ground operations, has pushed oil prices higher, intensifying inflation concerns and reinforcing expectations of interest rate hikes by major central banks. Additionally, a slowdown in central bank gold purchases, which earlier supported the rally, has further pressured prices amid rising liquidity measures to counter war-driven economic risks.

(Disclaimer: This article is only meant to provide information. News9 does not recommend buying or selling shares or subscriptions of any IPO, Mutual Funds, precious metals, commodity, REITs, InvITs and any form of alternative investment instruments and crypto assets.)



# Radhikka Madan

Reacts To Hansal Mehta Saying She 'Deserves Better Opportunities' In Bollywood



Radhikka Madan, who recently impressed audiences with her performance in *Subedar*, starring Anil Kapoor, has proved her mettle with several unconventional roles. Radhikka often receives appreciation from fans for her talent, but one special compliment that has her beaming with joy came from none other than ace filmmaker Hansal Mehta. Hansal Mehta recently praised Radhikka for her role in *Subedar* and publicly admitted that the actor "deserves better opportunities" than what is given to her. Reacting to the same, Radhikka, in a recent chat with *Hindustan Times*, shared that she was almost in tears when she first read the comment.

The actress said, "When I first read that, I was almost teary-eyed because when you come in this industry, you need to make a mark for yourself and you want to be noticed by these veteran, legend filmmakers. When you get that kind of acknowledgement and support, and if somebody like him feels for you, takes your side, or gives a voice to whatever you have been feeling for so many years, it just means a lot. It fuels the passion that I have for my work. I want to work even harder now and be even more hungry. I strive for acknowledgement from people I look up to, and that is enough for me." Speaking about whether she has been given the right opportunities, the actress said, "Whoever I have met in this industry, nobody feels that they've achieved it all. Everybody feels that lack, that only if I got that project or only if I got to work with this particular filmmaker. I am yet to meet somebody who has told me that he or she is happy."

Radhikka does believe that Hansal's words have a huge impact on her career. "That acknowledgement in itself is enough, because all you want to feel is to be seen, to be heard. His acknowledgement of that particular feeling is more than enough for me to go on for years. He has given me fuel for years," Radhikka added.

**About Subedar**

*Subedar*, directed by Suresh Triveni, stars Anil Kapoor, Radhikka Madan, Aditya Rawal, Saurabh Shukla, and Mona Singh. The film follows Subedar Arjun Maurya, a retired soldier attempting to adjust to civilian life in a rapidly evolving society. Set against the backdrop of Madhya Pradesh, the narrative examines his confrontation with local corruption and social breakdown, while also focusing on his strained relationship with his daughter, Shyama, played by Radhikka Madan. As Arjun faces adversaries within his community, he draws upon his military discipline and combat training to safeguard his family.

**Aneet Padda's Sister Reet Gets Backlash; Karan Kundrra Reacts To Secret Wedding Rumours**



Aneet Padda has found herself at the centre of a social media storm after posts and comments by her sister, Reet Padda, went viral online. The controversy erupted after Reet reportedly described films like *Dhurandhar: The Revenge*, *The Kerala Story* and *The Kashmir Files* as "propaganda," triggering sharp reactions across platforms. Recently, the reports around Karan Kundrra and Tejaswi Prakash began circulating that the two had secretly tied the knot. Amid speculations, he has now reacted to the rumours. Karan Kundrra took to his X (previously Twitter) handle and wrote, "Shaadi vaadi toh chalo har do chaar saal baad karwa hi dete hain.. how cute is bhindi Maamu!!!" His tweet was a response to Bharti Singh's YouTube vlog. Akshay Kumar and Priyadarshan's *Bhooth Bangla* is currently slated for a theatrical release on April 10. The horror-comedy brings this iconic actor-director duo 16 years after their last outing, *Khatta Meetha*. However, speculations are rife that its release date could be postponed. As per reports, this move could be influenced by Aditya Dhar's *Dhurandhar: The Revenge*, which is wreaking havoc at the box office.

Rishab Shetty is back in the spotlight, but this time not for a film release. The actor-director, last seen leading *Kantara: Chapter 1*, has reportedly stirred curiosity online after unfollowing several associates on social media.

Akshay Kumar is currently busy promoting his upcoming film, *Bhooth Bangla*. Ahead of the big release, the team of *Bhooth Bangla* was seen joining Akshay on the sets of the reality show, *Wheel of Fortune*. The game show is hosted by Akshay. While the team was playing the game, Ekta Kapoor decided to give the winning amount to Rajpal Yadav as a gesture of support.

**Preity Zinta Joins Dino Morea For Def Leppard Concert, Calls It 'Full Circle' Moment**



A casual plan, a rock concert, and a whole lot of nostalgia... Preity Zinta's latest Mumbai outing had all the right ingredients for a memorable night. What started off as a spontaneous decision soon turned into something much more special. The actor recently attended British rock band Def Leppard's live performance in Mumbai, joining Dino Morea for what she described as an impromptu plan. Sharing moments from the night on Instagram, Preity expressed her excitement and gratitude for being included at the last minute.

She wrote, "Sometimes last minute plans Rock. Thank you so much @thedinomorea ( my concert buddy ) for letting me pile on last minute for the @defleppard concert." Preity also shared glimpses from the event, capturing the high-energy atmosphere of the concert. Reflecting on the experience, she said she thoroughly enjoyed the evening despite the weather, adding, "The Mumbai heat did not dampen our spirits & it was so much fun."

The actor revealed that she walked into the concert familiar with only a handful of tracks, but was pleasantly surprised when all of them were performed live.

Celebrating the spontaneity of the evening, she noted, "Here's to last minute plans, friends you can pile on to last minute & rock concerts that take you down memory lane."

One particular song made the night especially meaningful for her. Recalling her early days in Mumbai, Preity shared, "Pour some sugar on me was a track I had on repeat, when I first came to Mumbai. Now this is what I call life coming full circle."

Preity was also seen posing with Dino Morea and friends for photographers after the concert, wrapping up the night on a cheerful note.

Def Leppard performed in Mumbai on March 27, 2026, at Jio World Garden in Bandra Kurla Complex as part of their India tour. The band delivered a power-packed setlist featuring tracks such as *Top of the Rock*, *Fireflies*, and *Pretty Child*, along with fan favourites including *Pour Some Sugar on Me*, *Hysteria*, *Love Bites*, *Animal*, and *Rocket*. Following their Mumbai show, the band is scheduled to perform next in Shillong and Bengaluru as part of their 2026 India tour.



# Sejal Kumar

Launches 'Project 30' EP As She Turns 30, Calls It Her Most Personal Work Yet

Content creator-turned-musician Sejal Kumar is stepping into a new decade of her life with a deeply personal creative offering. Titled *Project 30*, her latest EP arrives as both a celebration and a quiet reckoning, shaped by reflection, growth and a renewed sense of self.

At the heart of the release is a handwritten note shared by Sejal, offering an intimate glimpse into the emotions and intent behind the project. "I turned 30 last year. A year of sitting with myself, growing out of old patterns, noticing myself, trusting myself and embracing this new decade," she writes, setting the tone for what feels less like a conventional release and more like a personal archive of transition.

**A Journey Of Letting Go And Becoming**

Sejal describes the EP as a culmination of who she has become, a reflection of the lessons, people and experiences that have shaped her over time. She notes that *Project 30* is about "letting go, forgiving people and trusting the timeline you're on," underlining the emotional maturity that anchors the project.

Through her words, it becomes clear that this is not just music, but a process of self-reclamation. "I'm usually at ease when I have a new project to work on. It excites, motivates and pushes me ahead, gives me a sense of purpose," she shares, revealing how creativity continues to serve as her anchor.

**Music As A Mirror**

The EP, she explains, began as fragments of thoughts, ideas and melodies scattered in her mind. Over time, these pieces found shape through writing,

reflection and a deeper understanding of her own voice.

"Much of this EP began as fragments in my head... I slowly carved further by visiting myself at home or my quietest, loneliest places," she writes. It is this inward gaze that gives *Project 30* its textured, introspective quality. She also credits her collaborators, noting that the project was shaped with care alongside composer-producer Nischay



Parekh. "Nischay Parekh is introspective yet hopeful. I made closely-knit collaborators... we built the atmosphere, how we want these songs to come together, creating a cohesive, honest sound," she adds.

**Rooted In Real Emotion**

In her note, Sejal reflects on how correcting old patterns, embracing stillness and finding clarity in everyday life have influenced the EP. "While correcting today felt more intentional, the journey of these feelings stays with me."



**The rules of professional world are changing fast. These are five fundamental skills that you need to be a good professional**

**The art of innovation:**

In today's competitive world, innovation is the buzzword. One needs to push one's creative boundaries. You need to think different and think of innovative way to bring in more productivity. Innovation also involves celebrating the power of imagination.

Most people in position of authority don't delegate out of sheer insecurity and fear and of course with a superiority complex that makes them think nobody can do a better job than them. It's

**Be decisive:**

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

necessary to trust people and let them take responsibility for the work they do. Delegation makes the work process easier and gives others the opportunity to show their strengths as well. It instills confidence and a sense of well-being in people.

**Learn to delegate:**



# 5 skills you need to improve your Work life

**People skills:**

Most of our professional life is centered on interacting with people. It is essential to have great people's skill which means one should be at ease with both his/her seniors or subordinates. Having effective people's skills means one

creates a pleasant environment around him/her and exudes positive energy.

**Higher Emotional Quotient:**

The new-age working environment needs

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

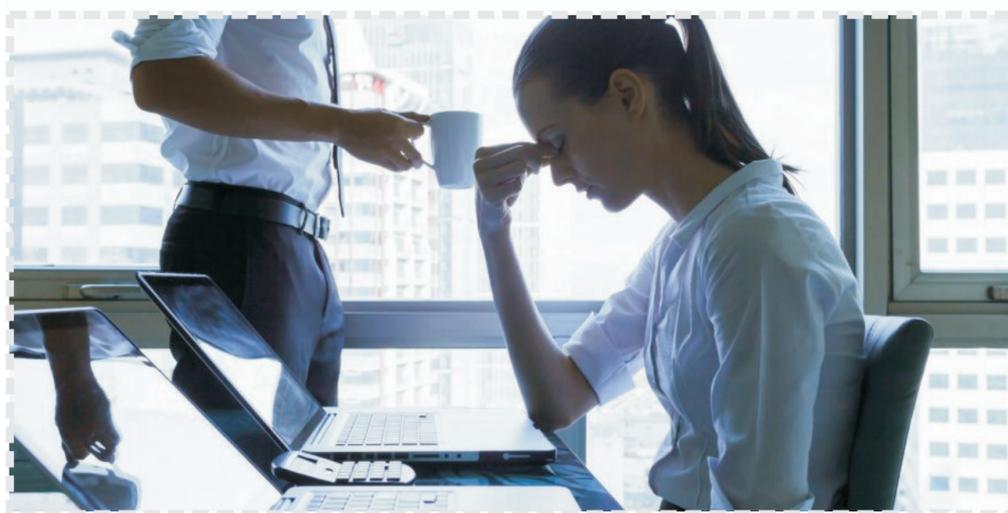
## China to allow full foreign ownership of e-commerce businesses

China will allow full foreign ownership of some e-commerce businesses, aiming to encourage foreign investment and the development and competitiveness of the industry, the ministry of Industry and Information Technology said. The move, effective immediately, will apply to "online data handling and trade handling services", the ministry said in a statement on its website. It was not immediately clear how this would affect e-commerce



companies already operating in China. China's e-commerce industry has been booming, with companies like Alibaba Group Holding Ltd and JD.com Inc benefiting from a rising middle class with more disposable income. Other players include US online retailer Amazon.com Inc, Vipshop Holdings Ltd and US supermarket chain Wal Mart Stores Inc, through its stake in shopping site Yihaodian. Allowing full foreign ownership "supports our country's e-commerce development, encourages and brings in the active participation of foreign investment, and further excites market competition," the ministry said. In recent years, the government has lent its support to the industry by keeping taxes low and loosening restrictions on cross-border trade, among other concessions. E-commerce and the internet sector more broadly have been shining stars for Chinese industry. Companies including Alibaba, social networking and online entertainment firm Tencent Holdings Ltd and search leader Baidu Inc account for hundreds of billions of dollars in stock market capitalization. Their success comes as the world's second-largest economy grows at its slowest pace in three decades and Beijing looks to catalyze a shift away from a dependence on manufacturing and towards higher-value services.

## 10 signs that you're being bullied at work



While bullying is usually perpetrated by someone in a position of power and authority, peers and even subordinates are also known to engage in bullying. A bully (read: weak soul) is actually an insecure, paranoid, control freak. Their aim is to belittle and ultimately diminish their prey through persistent hostile and unnecessarily rude behaviour. Can you spot such a type at work? Here are 10 signs that you're being bullied at the office:

**See obvious biasness**

Others in your work group are receiving preferential treatment top projects, travel perks and free time. Meanwhile, you find that most of your requests along the same lines are denied without reasonable explanation.

**Your progress goes unseen**

Say you've been given a directive with certain objectives, an ultimate goal and a deadline. You work hard and with focus only to find out, that suddenly there's a change in direction on the project. Your progress is not celebrated or applied to the new project, but not even taken into account.

**All your decisions are questioned**

So you are constantly bombarded by excessive micro-managing? You don't feel like your intuition or decisions are being trusted, and you can't explain why. Your boss and others hover over you much more than telling you what to do

(and what not to do). You get the sense that you are wrongly perceived as incompetent and your decision-making capability is greatly reduced as a result.

**You are socially alienated**

All of a sudden, you're excluded from meetings you once attended. Your colleagues tend to discuss work prior to your arrival and you are left with absolutely no clue what to do. Besides, you are not marked on important mails. Co-workers tend to avoid you and keep interaction to a minimum. You may also find that you're no longer invited to post work drinks with your teammates.

**You often feel targeted**

Often, when you make a comment, suggestion or disagree with someone's

opinion, you're responded to with a plethora of responses by others. It doesn't matter whether you're right -the gang mentality is determined to prove you wrong.

**Your health is failing**

Mentally, you're drained and your energy is zapped. You're sleeping more and getting out of bed is a real task for you. Exercising and socialising with your folks is a chore. Bullying can lead to depression, anxiety, panic attacks and mood swings. There are physical

symptoms such as increased blood pressure, rapid heart beat, and loss of appetite (or excessive eating).

**Have experienced verbal spat**

You're subjected to negative, abusive language -reprimanded often in front of the entire office. Verbal abuse can also be more subtle than loud insults. You may find that you are being joked around with in a way that makes you feel uncomfortable and small, and that too can be verbal bullying.

**Your work is publicly diminished**

Your dedication to your job is not acknowledged by your boss or they give credit to others (for your hard work) in a public setting such as a meeting.

**Face unnecessary criticism**

It seems that in the eyes of your boss, you are ineffective and unprofessional. Feedback is always provided in the form of criticism and delivered in a way to make you feel awful about yourself. There's no effort to provide guidance.

**Presented unreasonable obstacles**

So does the boss man purposely throw roadblocks in front of you to prevent you from successfully completing a project? Now, this is a major act of bullying.

**How to deal?**

Once you've come to the realisation that you're a victim of bullying -at work, or life -it's important to know what kind of recourse you have. Here are possible



actions that you could take.

- Speak to a trusted authority in the organisation: A good start may be human resources. They should be able to help you under stand, if you're actually being bullied. If it's determined that a bullying situation exists, they can also provide guidance on how to deal with it. Alternatively, you may feel more comfortable speaking with a higher authority senior colleague.

- Know your rights: If you feel that you're not being heard within your company, you might seek external counsel.

- Find another job: This should be a last resort. But sometimes it's not worth the fight -emotion ally and financially. Respect your self. Look for new employment with a company possessing a strong culture of integrity. Such companies have zero tolerance policies.

