

Congress slams Modi over Lok Sabha seats expansion plan, calls it 'Weapon of Mass Distraction'

Jairam Ramesh alleges proposal will favour larger states and widen representation gaps, accuses Centre of pushing it without proper consultation and public debate.

New Delhi.(Agency) The Congress on Sunday launched a sharp attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi over the proposal to increase the number of Lok Sabha seats, alleging that the move disproportionately benefits larger and more populous states and calling it a "Weapon of Mass Distraction (WMD)."



Sabha is also increased by 50%." "This is hoodwinking the people of the country in which the PM has unique expertise," Ramesh said.

He further said, "Mr. Modi is bulldozing a proposal that will work more to the benefit of larger and populous states since their already large numbers will get further magnified." Ramesh also said states such as Punjab, Haryana and those in the Northeast would see their relative influence decline.

4 Cops Suspended For Chaos During Suwendu Adhikari's Nomination Filing

In a communique to the West Bengal chief secretary, the poll panel said the direction is based on a recommendation from state Chief Electoral Officer Manoj Kumar Agarwal.

Ranchi.(Agency) The Election Commission on Saturday directed the suspension of four Kolkata Police officials and initiation of disciplinary proceedings against them for "failing" to maintain law and order during BJP leader Suwendu Adhikari's nomination filing in the hotly contested Bhabanipur seat.



CM Bhagwant Singh Mann gifts Jaito development projects worth Rs. 28.68 crore

The Sikh Times FARIDKOT, 5 April : Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann on Sunday continued his government's development push across Punjab, unveiling projects worth 28.68 crore in Faridkot's Jaito, including the upgradation of the Community Health Centre into a 30-bed hospital and key investments in drinking water and sports infrastructure, while asserting that the 2022 mandate for the 'Jhaadu' (AAP's electoral symbol) has begun realising the dreams of Shaheed-e-Azam Bhagat Singh.



poverty and rising hardships. Announcing that a special session on April 13 will enact a stringent anti-sacrilege law it deserves our salute. Whether it is literature or struggle, whenever the need arose in any field, Jaito has always stepped forward and stood at the forefront." The Chief Minister asserted, "Every vote casted to Akalis will be mandate in favor of sacrilege of Guru and Gurbani."

Takht Sahib." He further stated, "Jathedars of Sri Akal Takht Sahib are selected and removed from their pockets, which is totally unfair." Referring to claims of development, CM Bhagwant Singh Mann asserted, "The former Deputy Chief Minister claims that massive development of the state took place during their regime but turns blind eye towards Kotakpura, Behbal Kalan and others where sacrilege of Sri Guru Granth Sahib took place and innocents were killed."

Weapon of mass distraction: Congress slams govt's delimitation proposal

The Sikh Times New Delhi: The Congress launched a scathing attack on the Modi government on Sunday over its delimitation proposal related to the implementation of the women's reservation law, saying it will benefit larger and populous states more and is nothing but a "weapon of mass distraction".



populous states and others will increase In a post on X, Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh said, "The PM is up to his usual tricks of making misleading statements that are meant to deceive. He says South Indian states will not be hurt in any way if the strength of the Lok Sabha is increased by 50% and the number of seats of each state in the Lok Sabha is also increased by 50%."

between Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu will increase from 41 to at least 61, Ramesh said, adding that such examples can be multiplied. "Mr. Modi is bulldozing a proposal that will work more to the benefit of larger and populous states since their already large numbers will get further magnified," the Congress leader said. It is not just south India but states like Punjab and Haryana and those in the northeast that will also see their relative influence decline, he argued. "The nation is facing a serious economic and foreign policy crisis. All that the PM is bothered about is pushing through an increase in the strength of the Lok Sabha and Vidhan Sabhas without meaningful consultations and widespread public debate. This is nothing but a Weapon of Mass Distraction (WMD)," Ramesh said.

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News box

Gang extorting vendors busted, 2 held

GURGAON.(Agency)

Police busted an extortion racket targeting street vendors and shopkeepers in Sadar, arresting two and launching a manhunt for others.

On Friday, a paan shop owner, Ranjit Kumar Mahto, filed a complaint alleging that a group of locals had been extorting money from him for months. An FIR was filed. The complainant said the accused, identified as Nitin, Himanshu, Sonu and their associates, demanded monthly payments of Rs 2,000 and threatened to kill him if he refused or continued his business without paying. Mahto, a native of Jharkhand, has been living in Jharsa for the past seven-eight years. He said he set up his kiosk on municipal land behind Unitech Cyber Park in Sector 39 after obtaining a licence from the municipal corporation. Despite this, the accused allegedly asserted dominance over the area and forced him into paying under fear. Investigations revealed that the group targeted multiple street vendors and shopkeepers in the locality. Police said that the Sector 39 crime branch team, led by SI Mohit, acted immediately after the complaint was registered at Sadar police station. "Two accused, Nitin Kaushik and Himanshu Swami, both residents of Jharsa, were arrested within hours. Nitin has a criminal history involving eight previous cases, including extortion, assault and attempt to murder, while another suspect, Shubham, who is currently absconding, is linked to nine criminal cases," Sandeep Turan, police spokesperson, said. Raids are underway to arrest the remaining accused. "The action sends a strong message against street-level bullying and organised extortion. Any attempt to threaten or extort residents will lead to strict and immediate legal action," Sandeep

Work starts to lay block tiles on unpaved road in Sector 84

GURGAON.(Agency)

Manesar mayor Underjeet Kaur Yadav on Saturday inaugurated work to lay interlocking pavement block (IPB) tiles along both sides of a road connecting several residential societies in Sector 84. The project covers the stretch linking societies, including Gurgaon One, Spaze Privy AT4, Devaan Pivotal, The Coralwood and SS Almeria. The estimated cost of the project is Rs 60 lakh. Residents have long demanded paving the pathway along the road, citing problems with dust and mud during the rainy season caused by the unpaved stretch. Speaking at the event, Yadav said the civic body is committed to improving basic infrastructure and ensuring development across the municipal area. She also assured residents that their grievances would be addressed promptly. "The doors of my home and office are open 24 hours for public welfare works. Residents won't have to make rounds of the office for any kind of work related to MCM, just inform me," she said.

Residents present at the stone-laying ceremony said they had earlier raised the issue with the corporation, seeking the construction of a paved pathway to address the daily inconvenience faced by commuters and pedestrians.

Ward 19 councillor Ravi Yadav and executive engineer Mandeep Dhankar were among the officials present at the event. Meanwhile, on Thursday, senior deputy Mayor Praveen Yadav held a meeting with officials of the engineering wing of MCM. He conducted an in-depth review of the development works underway in the corporation area. In the meeting, emphasis was laid on completing civil works before the monsoon.

He said the wards where work on roads, drains and drainage is underway should be completed on priority so that the public does not face problems during the monsoon.

Woman poses as domestic help, drugs senior citizen & steals gold chain

NOIDA.(Agency)

A woman posing as a domestic helper allegedly drugged and robbed an elderly resident at a residential society in Greater Noida West. Police said the incident took place at Amrapali Golf Homes Kingswood Society in Gaur City 2. According to a complaint filed by the woman's son, Dharmendra Kumar Mishra, an unidentified woman arrived at their apartment around 3.30pm on Friday when Mishra and his wife were out at work. His mother, Shanti Mishra, was at the house with their six-month-old child. When Shanti answered the doorbell, the woman said that her daughter-in-law had sent her for household chores. Believing her, Shanti allowed the woman inside. Shortly afterward, the helper allegedly threw a sedative substance at the elderly woman, rendering her unconscious. Once Shanti fainted, the helper removed a locket attached to a gold chain from her neck and fled.



Nearly an hour later, she woke up after hearing the infant crying. In no time, she informed her son, who alerted the police. A team from Biskrah police station reached the spot. Officers said a case has been registered against the unidentified woman. Investigators are examining possible entry and exit routes.

The incident, however, has disturbed the residents of the society. They alleged the woman was not captured in CCTV footage because she exited through an area not covered by the cameras. They said security lapses have been a recurring issue and claimed that adequate night security guards are not deployed as per norms. They also stated that incidents of theft have been reported frequently in recent months. They had even staged a protest at the beginning of the week, demanding improved security measures within the premises.

Meanwhile, the district police commissionerate has announced a special security audit across residential societies and institutions.

SUV on wrong side crashes into scooter, 2 die in Gurgaon

GURGAON.(Agency)

A birthday outing ended in tragedy in the early hours of Saturday when an SUV, allegedly being driven on the wrong side, slammed head-on into a scooter near a housing society in Sector 57, killing two young men. The two who died were Kartik Suresh (24), a student at a private university in the city, and Ritik, a Motihari resident who worked at a call centre in Sector 24 and also drove a bike taxi to augment his income. According to a complaint filed by Kartik's father, Mathur Shankara Narayan Suresh, Kartik had left home on the evening of April 3 after telling his family he was going to a friend's birthday party. Around 2.40 am on Saturday, he was on a scooter bearing registration number BR05AQ/7376, travelling from Boom Plaza via Dharmamarg Road towards Golf Course Extension Road.

Police said Ritik was riding the scooter and Kartik was sitting on the pillion. However, there is ambiguity over whether Ritik was Kartik's friend or whether Kartik had booked him as a bike

taxi for a ride home from the party.

Near Legend society in Sector 57, a Tata Harrier (UP16EF/4574) allegedly entered their lane from the opposite direction while being driven at high speed on the wrong side and ploughed into the scooter. The force of the collision threw both men onto the road, leaving them with severe head injuries. Passersby rushed to help. Ritik was taken in a private ambulance to Artemis Hospital. By the time police reached the spot, Kartik was still lying on the road. The cops shifted him to a local govt hospital. Both succumbed to injuries during treatment. Police said two mobile phones were found at the scene. "A call came on one of the phones from a contact saved as 'AAMA'. We answered it and informed the caller, Kartik's father, about the accident," a police officer said.

Narayan then rushed to the spot and identified his son from photographs shown by locals. Cops took photos of the damaged scooter and SUV before both vehicles were removed by a crane and taken to the police station. Ritik's body



was kept in a local mortuary for post-mortem, while Kartik's body was handed over to his family after the autopsy on Saturday. An FIR was registered at Sector 56 police station under sections 281 (rash driving), 106 (causing death by negligence), 324(4) (mischief), and 125(b) (act endangering life or personal safety of others) of BNS. Investigating

officer Deepak said the SUV had been impounded and its driver would be called to join the investigation. Till late on Saturday, no arrest had been made.

In a separate accident, a 25-year-old man died after a truck hit his scooter on April 2 and fled the scene. Originally from Kannauj in UP, Salman Hossain worked as a vendor at a private company on Patheri Road and lived nearby in a rented accommodation.

His cousin Shahbaz told police he had accompanied Salman from his rented room around 1pm and got off on the way, while Salman continued towards work. Soon after, a truck coming from Bilaspur Chowk allegedly hit the scooter at high speed, throwing Salman onto the road. He was taken to a govt hospital, where doctors declared him dead.

A case was registered at Bilaspur police station under sections 281 and 106 of the BNS after a formal complaint was submitted on Friday. Sub-inspector Ghanshyam said police had noted down the truck's registration number, HR-47E-0802, and are trying to trace the driver.

Clear all applications for laying gas pipelines, govt tells corpns

Gurgaon.(Agency)

Haryana govt has asked municipalities to grant "deemed permission" to pending applications for city gas distribution pipelines and approve all new requests within 24 hours. The order, issued recently by commissioner and secretary of ULB department Ashok Kumar Meena, makes the directions binding on municipal bodies to remove delays in permissions required for laying gas pipelines. Under the directive, all pending applications with municipalities will be treated as approved. The move comes amid concerns over delays by local authorities in granting right-of-way (ROW) permissions for gas pipeline projects, which state govt said has slowed the expansion of pipeline-based infrastructure for CNG and piped natural gas (PNG). In a subsequent clarification issued by the department, govt said these directions will remain applicable till June 30. MCG has already approved proposals for laying around 39km of PNG pipelines across the city. The order follows communication from the ministry of petroleum and natural gas indicating that

ongoing geopolitical developments have disrupted global energy supplies. The Centre has invoked powers under the Essential Commodities Act to regulate the supply and distribution of natural gas and



LPG. Officials said the rapid expansion of city gas infrastructure is critical to ensuring stable domestic energy supply and reducing dependence on LPG, particularly during potential supply disruptions. "We don't have any pending applications from the agencies to lay pipeline networks as of now. We have clear directions to expedite and grant approval of new requests within a day,"

said MCG executive engineer Sandeep Sihag. The order also states that municipalities should not impose restrictions on (city gas distribution) CGD work with respect to working hours or seasons, provided adequate safety precautions are followed. If CGD companies undertake restoration of public assets at their own cost and commit to restoring them as per standards, they may be allowed to proceed with pipeline work in lieu of restoration and permission charges. "The State is facing the following difficulties: Slow expansion of pipeline-based infrastructure for CNG/PNG in the State; shortage of LPG in Black Swan event; shortage of CNG/PNG to overcome and replace LPG; obstruction in timely completion of the CNG/PNG infrastructure, causing delay in supply of CNG/PNG for domestic and commercial purposes," read the order issued on March 23. Directions have been issued to speed up the rollout of CNG and PNG infrastructure across the state and strengthen energy security by expanding access to natural gas for domestic and commercial consumers.

With GPS, discom set to map its power network

Noida.(Agency)

The city power department has launched a GPS mapping survey of the electrical infrastructure across the district to improve power management. "This will enable easy monitoring of power lines," a Paschimanchal Vidyut Vitran Nigam Ltd (PVVNL) official told TOI. The survey — which aims to create a comprehensive digital database across 180 sectors and over 70 notified villages — will provide real-time data on power distribution and load requirements to address speedy fault correction, thefts and issues related to overloading, power department officials said. This measure is expected to mitigate problems associated with system overloading, which has been a key concern for maintaining a stable power supply to consumers. "This transition to a

digital platform aims to streamline operations and improve service delivery, ultimately benefiting consumers through enhanced power reliability," PVVNL superintending engineer (technical) Vivek Kumar Patel said. The mapping process employs advanced GPS technology, ensuring that each pole, transformer, panel box and other infrastructure components are accurately recorded on the district's digital map. Each transformer will be assigned a unique code number and plotted onto this system, facilitating a thorough audit of the entire electrical network. The survey aims to be more comprehensive. Chief engineer of the Noida power department Sanjay Kumar Jain said, "The integration of GPS technology into this initiative marks a significant advancement in the

management of electrical assets, positioning the district for improved service and better energy management in the future." The initiative focuses on accurately mapping electrical infrastructure, including substations, transmission lines, transformers, panel boxes and electricity poles etc. It is part of the power department's broader strategy to digitise and register its assets.

GB Nagar's Uttar Pradesh Power Corporation Limited (UPPCL) network includes over 150 substations and more than 24,000 transformers (18,000 transformers placed throughout urban and rural Noida, while 6,000 serve the more rural areas of Greater Noida, Dadri, Jewar, and Dankaur) across the district, serving approximately 4.75 lakh consumers in Noida and Greater Noida.

Excessive, taxing': Parents protest 7-hr long school days at DPS Ghaziabad

Gurgaon.(Agency)

Over 300 parents staged a protest outside Delhi Public School (DPS) Ghaziabad on Saturday opposing the longer school timings introduced from the new academic session. The demonstration, held at the school gate, saw parents raising concerns over the management revising daily school hours to seven and calling it excessive and detrimental to the children's well-being.

As per the new schedule, junior classes now run from 8.30am to 3.30pm, while senior students attend school from 7.30am to 2.30pm. Parents argued that the longer duration is particularly taxing for younger children, leaving them exhausted and affecting their overall routine.

"My son studies in Class 1, and earlier he would return home by around 2:30pm. Now he reaches home close to 4:30pm, completely drained," said a protesting parent. "He is too tired to play, eat properly or even complete his homework on time.



At such a young age, children need rest and recreation, not such long academic hours. This change has disrupted his daily schedule entirely."

Another parent, whose daughter studies in Class 4, raised concerns over health and nutrition. "My child gets only one proper meal during school hours, and seven hours is too long for that. She often returns home hungry and complains of

headaches and fatigue," the parent said. "We have already noticed health issues cropping up due to this prolonged schedule. Children cannot remain attentive for such long durations without proper breaks and meals." School authorities, however, defended the revised timings, stating that the decision was taken to ensure better academic coverage and structured learning. A school

official said that the extension in hours is minimal and has been compensated for with regular short breaks between classes.

"The school management has revised the schedule after careful consideration of academic requirements. The extension is marginal, aimed at allowing adequate time for syllabus completion and co-curricular engagement," the official said. "To ensure that students do not feel burdened, a five-minute break has been incorporated between each class. The principal is also in active discussions with parents to address their concerns, and efforts are being made to arrive at a mutually agreeable solution." Meanwhile, district education authorities have taken note of the issue. Basic Shiksha Adhikari (BSA) OP Yadav stated that the prescribed duration for school hours is generally six hours and assured that the matter would be examined. "Govt schools follow a six-hour schedule. We have

received complaints from parents regarding the extended hours in this case. The matter will be reviewed, and appropriate action.

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CM Bhagwant Singh Mann gifts Jaito development projects worth Rs. 28.68 crore

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The real name of this gimmick of Akali Dal is parivar bachao yatra." He added, "I dare the Akali leaders to explain that after looting the state for 15 years, from whom they are trying to save the state." He said, "Akalis have plundered the state mercilessly, bruised the psyche of Punjabis emotionally and patronised several mafias." He asserted, "The Akali leadership can never be forgiven as it was responsible for the genocide of several generations, as the drug trade was patronized by them and bloomed during their long misrule." He added, "The hands of these leaders are drenched with the blood of millions of youth who fell prey to drugs supplied in the state in their official vehicles." He said, "The sins of these leaders are unpardonable and they can never be forgiven by the people for their long saga of misdeeds."

Meanwhile, outlining legislative action, CM Bhagwant Singh Mann said, "The AAP government has convened the special session of the state assembly on April 13 to amend the Jagat Jot Sri Guru Granth Sahib Satkar Act, 2008." He added, "Anyone attempting sacrilege will face the strictest punishment, with a minimum of 10 years and up to life imprisonment." He further said, "The state government has roped in the best legal experts to frame the law, and the Sant Samaj is also being consulted." Coming down heavily on the Akali leadership, CM Bhagwant Singh Mann said, "These are opportunist leaders who change their colors and stance like a chameleon as per their convenience and vested political interests." He added, "Everyone knows that this family was a stooge of Britishers and was conferred the title of Sir by them for hobnobbing against patriots." He further stated, "The family had feted General Dyer, the perpetrator of Jallianwala Bagh massacre on April 13, 1919, by hosting a dinner for him after

this heinous incident." He said, "This act exposed their anti-national and anti-Punjab mindset." He added, "Not only this, the family also ensured that General Dyer was bestowed siropa and forgiveness at Golden Temple." CM Bhagwant Singh Mann further said, "It is even more shocking that Jathedar Arood Singh, who granted the siropa, was the maternal grandfather of former Lok Sabha MP Simarjit Singh Mann." Emphasising history, CM Bhagwant Singh Mann asserted, "History cannot be wiped out and the dubious characters of Badal's ancestors are etched on its pages." He added, "The hands of this family are drenched with the blood of patriots and their role in backstabbing nationalists can never be forgotten." Calling out the Congress, CM Bhagwant Singh Mann said, "In Congress every leader is aspiring to become the head of the state. They have more CMs than workers." He added, "Their top leader has snubbed them publicly during a recent rally." He further remarked, "The Congress is a divided

house that will collapse due to infighting." He said, "It is a pity that leaders sent to unite them are not even aware how to pronounce their names." Outlining the 2027 choice, CM Bhagwant Singh Mann said, "People will have three pens to choose from." He explained, "The first pen is Congress with red ink symbolising attack on Sri Harmandir Sahib, riots of 1984 and other anti-Sikh stances." He added, "The second pen is of Akalis with one ink of desecration of Sri Guru Granth Sahib." He asserted, "The third pen is AAP, which is transforming Punjab into Rangla Punjab through path-breaking initiatives." Highlighting governance, CM Bhagwant Singh Mann said, "The state government has taken several pro-people initiatives leading to visible transformation." He added, "The tax money of people is being judiciously spent on welfare, with people's money returning through development, schools, hospitals and roads." Detailing achievements, CM Bhagwant Singh Mann said, "We have provided free electricity to 90%

households, with over 65,000 jobs without corruption, improved roads, closed toll plazas saving 70 lakh daily and strengthened infrastructure." He further said, "Canal water usage has increased from 22% to 71% and will reach 90% by the coming paddy season." Emphasising education, CM Bhagwant Singh Mann said, "Freebies cannot eliminate poverty; education is the key to uplift people." He added, "Education is the light that dispels darkness, which is why we are prioritising it." On healthcare, CM Bhagwant Singh Mann said, "Under Mukh Mantri Sehat Yojna, health cards are being issued to 65 lakh families." He added, "Each family is entitled to free treatment up to 10 lakh, with over 30 lakh cards issued and 1.65 lakh treatments already provided." He urged people to avail benefits. On power supply, he said, "For the first time, more than eight hours of uninterrupted power has been supplied to farm tube wells during paddy season." He added, "Farmers are receiving daytime electricity, transforming their lives." He reiterated,

"Every penny of the state exchequer is being used for public welfare." Referring to social welfare, CM Bhagwant Singh Mann said, "Under Mawan Dheeyan Satkar Yojna, 1000 per month is being given to other category women and 1500 to SC women above 18 years." Calling the gathering an interaction, CM Bhagwant Singh Mann said, "This is not a political rally but a platform to connect with people." He added, "Previous governments played musical chairs and plundered the state, but people voted for change, leading to transformation in schools, hospitals and other sectors." Referring to Jaito, he said, "This sacred land has always scripted history and contributed immensely to Punjab's destiny." He added, "Traditional leaders were born with silver spoons and never suffered for the country." He said, "They believe they have a divine right to rule, but in democracy people are supreme." Taking a swipe at Sukhbir Singh Badal, CM Bhagwant Singh Mann said, "Instead of discussing education and welfare, he

talks about buffaloes, reflecting a narrow mindset." He added, "Despite getting multiple chances, they looted the state and were rejected by people." Criticising opposition conduct, CM Bhagwant Singh Mann said, "Instead of raising real issues, they indulge in mudslinging and wait for their turn to plunder resources." He added, "Their only aim is power, not public welfare." Reiterating AAP's agenda, CM Bhagwant Singh Mann said, "We talk about education, health, power and agriculture, while others focus on grabbing power." He added, "Their agenda is family welfare, ours is people's welfare." He said, "Due to their misrule, people elected Aam Aadmi Party, which is working tirelessly." Reminding people of past regimes, CM Bhagwant Singh Mann said, "Traditional parties have never been loyal to Punjab." He added, "They are envious because AAP has set the agenda of welfare." He further said, "Sukhbir Singh Badal is not even aware of Punjab's basic topography but seeks power." Targeting other leaders, CM Bhagwant

Singh Mann said, "Captain Amrinder Singh and his family have consistently stood with forces inimical to Punjab." He added, "AAP was formed to transform the system, and Punjab is progressing rapidly, especially in education and health." On national issues, CM Bhagwant Singh Mann said, "Those ruling the country are not acquainted with people's well being." He added, "The country is led by a master of phraseology who spends significant time abroad and remains disconnected from ground realities." He said, "The LPG and oil crisis should have been anticipated." Earlier, AAP Punjab Prabhari Manish Sisodia said, "It is a matter of immense pride that Bhagwant Singh Mann has proved to be the most popular Chief Minister." He added, "He is the only Chief Minister working for people's welfare, and the party will return to power with a massive mandate." Speaker Kultar Singh Sandhwan, Cabinet Ministers Dr Baljeet Kaur and Dr Balbir Singh and others were also present.

Weapon of mass distraction: Congress slams govt's delimitation proposal

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He pointed out that polling in Tamil Nadu and West Bengal is scheduled later in April and 39 MPs of Tamil Nadu and 28 MPs of West Bengal are in the opposition benches in the Lok Sabha. They will be fully engaged in their constituencies from April 16 to 18, Chidambaram said on X. If critical Constitution amendment bills are brought for discussion and to vote on those dates, how will these 67 MPs in the Lok Sabha participate and vote, he asked. "Since the drafts of the Bills that the government proposes to introduce in Parliament on April 16-18 have not been revealed, I cannot comment on the substance of the Bills. But the Hon'ble Prime Minister's speech yesterday gives a hint on what the Bills are likely to contain," he said. "The proposal to increase the strength of

the Lok Sabha from 548 (current strength 543) to 816 is retrograde and will widen the difference between the more populous States and the Southern States that have stabilised their population," Chidambaram said. Reservation of one-third of the seats for women in the Lok Sabha can be achieved by reserving one-third of the current strength of seats, he said. A Lok Sabha with 816 members will become a large and unwieldy gathering with each member having fewer occasions and lesser time to speak, he argued. What can an MP say when he or she has an opportunity to speak once in three months and for no more than a few minutes, Chidambaram said. He further asked what is the tearing hurry to convene Parliament on April 16 and why cannot Parliament be convened on April 29. Karnataka Chief

Minister Siddaramaiah said the issue has never been about whether the number of Lok Sabha seats of southern states increases, it is the concern about how they increase and who benefits disproportionately. "Under the proposed expansion, while every state may see an increase, the rate and scale of increase clearly favour BJP-dominated states. Uttar Pradesh is expected to go from 80 to 120 seats (+40), Maharashtra from 48 to 72 (+24), Bihar from 40 to 60 (+20), Madhya Pradesh from 29 to 43-44 (+14-15), Rajasthan from 25 to 37-38 (+12-13), and Gujarat from 26 to 39 (+13). "In contrast, southern states see smaller gains. Karnataka rises from 28 to 42 (+14), Tamil Nadu from 32 to 58-59 (+26), Andhra Pradesh from 25 to 37-38 (+12-13), Telangana from 17 to 25-26 (+8-9), and Kerala from 20 to 30 (+10)," Siddaramaiah said.

The numbers are telling. Five southern states together gain barely 63-66 additional seats, while just these seven BJP-dominated states gain about 128-131 seats — nearly double," he said. Such a structural change cannot be pushed without consultations or public debate, Siddaramaiah added. The remarks by Opposition leaders came a day after Prime Minister Modi said the Budget session of Parliament has been extended for three days so that the law enacted in 2023 for providing 33 per cent reservation to women in the Lok Sabha and

state assemblies can be implemented from 2029. The session will reconvene on April 16 after a brief recess to pass bills to increase the number of Lok Sabha seats from 543 to 816 so that the women's reservation law can be implemented at the earliest. Addressing an NDA election rally in Kerala on Saturday, Modi said the government will ensure, during the April 16-18 Parliament sitting, a legal stamp that no state, whether it is Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Goa, or Telangana, will see a reduction in Lok Sabha seats.

Road accident victim dies; kin creates ruckus at Gurugram hospital

Gurugram: A huge uproar erupted at a private hospital in Sector 49 on Wednesday night after a young man, injured in a road accident, died. Family members blocked the road, accusing doctors of extorting money for treatment. They alleged the hospital charged over Rs 5 lakh for

treatment by declaring the deceased youth alive, though he had died 24 hours earlier. Despite this, management continued billing in the name of treatment. The police arrived after receiving information. They counselled the family members and sent them home. Only after hospital management spoke to them was the body sent for postmortem. The deceased youth was identified as Azrul Islam (20), a CNG auto-rickshaw driver

residing in Sector 66. He met with an accident on Monday and was rushed to the private hospital. Doctors treated him in the emergency ward.

NAME CHANGE
I, hitherto known as the RAHUL MURMU D/O BABURAM MURMU R/O K-13, Savan Park Phase-3, Ashok Vihar, North West Delhi, Delhi-110052 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as RAHEL MURMU.

NAME CHANGE
I, hitherto known as KM.SHIVANI ALIAS SHIVANI CHAUDHARY D/O HARISH SINGH W/O JATIN MALIK R/O 642, NEW KRISHANPURA, BAGHPAT ROAD, KRISHANPURA, MEERUT, UTTAR PRADESH-250002 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as SHIVANI.

NAME CHANGE
I, SHYAM SHUNDAR Father of NO-14661062K, Rank-HAV Name-GIRJIA SHANKAR residing at VILL-PANAPAR, PO-BHANSHA BAZAR, TEHSIL-KHAJUNI, DIST-GORAKHPUR, UTTAR PRADESH-273212, have changed my name from SHYAM SHUNDAR to SHYAM SHUNDAR SHUKLA for all future purposes, in my son's service record my date of birth wrongly mentioned as 01/07/1951 instead of my correct date of birth as 01/09/1952. Vide Affidavit No- DL87786643023611Y dated 04/04/2026 before Notary Public Delhi.

NAME CHANGE
I, SATYAWATI Devi Mother of NO-14661062K, Rank-HAV Name-GIRJIA SHANKAR residing at VILL-PANAPAR, PO-BHANSHA BAZAR, TEHSIL-KHAJUNI, DIST-GORAKHPUR, UTTAR PRADESH-273212, have changed my name from SATYAWATI DEVI to SATYAWATI SHUKLA for all future purposes, in my son's service record my date of birth wrongly mentioned as 01/07/1955 instead of my correct date of birth as 06/01/1954. Vide Affidavit No- DL87787472544550Y dated 04/04/2026 before Notary Public Delhi.

NAME CHANGE
I, SHYAM SHUNDAR Father of NO-14661062K, Rank-HAV Name-GIRJIA SHANKAR residing at VILL-PANAPAR, PO-BHANSHA BAZAR, TEHSIL-KHAJUNI, DIST-GORAKHPUR, UTTAR PRADESH-273212, have changed my name from SHYAM SHUNDAR to SHYAM SHUNDAR SHUKLA for all future purposes, in my son's service record my date of birth wrongly mentioned as 01/07/1955 instead of my correct date of birth as 06/01/1954. Vide Affidavit No- DL87787472544550Y dated 04/04/2026 before Notary Public Delhi.

NAME CHANGE
I, SHYAM SHUNDAR Father of NO-14661062K, Rank-HAV Name-GIRJIA SHANKAR residing at VILL-PANAPAR, PO-BHANSHA BAZAR, TEHSIL-KHAJUNI, DIST-GORAKHPUR, UTTAR PRADESH-273212, have changed my name from SHYAM SHUNDAR to SHYAM SHUNDAR SHUKLA for all future purposes, in my son's service record my date of birth wrongly mentioned as 01/07/1955 instead of my correct date of birth as 06/01/1954. Vide Affidavit No- DL87787472544550Y dated 04/04/2026 before Notary Public Delhi.

NAME CHANGE
I, SHYAM SHUNDAR Father of NO-14661062K, Rank-HAV Name-GIRJIA SHANKAR residing at VILL-PANAPAR, PO-BHANSHA BAZAR, TEHSIL-KHAJUNI, DIST-GORAKHPUR, UTTAR PRADESH-273212, have changed my name from SHYAM SHUNDAR to SHYAM SHUNDAR SHUKLA for all future purposes, in my son's service record my date of birth wrongly mentioned as 01/07/1955 instead of my correct date of birth as 06/01/1954. Vide Affidavit No- DL87787472544550Y dated 04/04/2026 before Notary Public Delhi.

NAME CHANGE
I, SHYAM SHUNDAR Father of NO-14661062K, Rank-HAV Name-GIRJIA SHANKAR residing at VILL-PANAPAR, PO-BHANSHA BAZAR, TEHSIL-KHAJUNI, DIST-GORAKHPUR, UTTAR PRADESH-273212, have changed my name from SHYAM SHUNDAR to SHYAM SHUNDAR SHUKLA for all future purposes, in my son's service record my date of birth wrongly mentioned as 01/07/1955 instead of my correct date of birth as 06/01/1954. Vide Affidavit No- DL87787472544550Y dated 04/04/2026 before Notary Public Delhi.

NAME CHANGE
I, SHYAM SHUNDAR Father of NO-14661062K, Rank-HAV Name-GIRJIA SHANKAR residing at VILL-PANAPAR, PO-BHANSHA BAZAR, TEHSIL-KHAJUNI, DIST-GORAKHPUR, UTTAR PRADESH-273212, have changed my name from SHYAM SHUNDAR to SHYAM SHUNDAR SHUKLA for all future purposes, in my son's service record my date of birth wrongly mentioned as 01/07/1955 instead of my correct date of birth as 06/01/1954. Vide Affidavit No- DL87787472544550Y dated 04/04/2026 before Notary Public Delhi.

NAME CHANGE
I, Siddhant Kumar S/o Suman Kumar R/O A-65, 3rd Floor, Gali No.9, Chander Vihar, Mandawali Fazolepur, Delhi-110052 have changed my name to Sidhant Kumar.

NAME CHANGE
I, LOKESH KUMAR S/o GOPI CHAND R/O 1/9786, Gali No. 1 A, Babarpur Road West Gorakh Park, Vtc: Shahdara S.O Dist: East Delhi, State: Delhi, 110032, have changed the name of my minor son KAVY BHARDWAJ aged 6 years and he shall hereafter be known as KIYANSH BHARDWAJ.

NAME CHANGE
I, Rukiya Shekh W/O Musa Shekh R/O 324-A, First Floor, Hari Nagar, Ashram, PO Jungpura, Distt. South Delhi, Delhi-110014 declare that the real and correct Date of Birth is 01.01.1973.

NAME CHANGE
I, Rukiya Shekh W/O Musa Shekh R/O 324-A, First Floor, Hari Nagar, Ashram, PO Jungpura, Distt. South Delhi, Delhi-110014 declare that the real and correct name of my father is Romjan Mandal instead of Ramzan Shekh.

NAME CHANGE
I, POONAM W/O PAWAN SAHNI R/O H NO-C-27, GROUND FLOOR, GALI NO-3, RADHEY PURI, KRISHNA NAGAR, DELHI-110051, have changed my name to POONAM SAHNI for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE
I, PAWAN KUMAR S/O CHUNNI LAL R/O H NO-C-27, GROUND FLOOR, GALI NO-3, RADHEY PURI, KRISHNA NAGAR, DELHI-110051, have changed my name to PAWAN SAHNI for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE
I, PAWAN KUMAR S/O CHUNNI LAL R/O H NO-C-27, GROUND FLOOR, GALI NO-3, RADHEY PURI, KRISHNA NAGAR, DELHI-110051, have changed my name to PAWAN SAHNI for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE
I, PAWAN KUMAR S/O CHUNNI LAL R/O H NO-C-27, GROUND FLOOR, GALI NO-3, RADHEY PURI, KRISHNA NAGAR, DELHI-110051, have changed my name to PAWAN SAHNI for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE
I, PAWAN KUMAR S/O CHUNNI LAL R/O H NO-C-27, GROUND FLOOR, GALI NO-3, RADHEY PURI, KRISHNA NAGAR, DELHI-110051, have changed my name to PAWAN SAHNI for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE
I, SHAHJAN KHATOON W/O MOHD DILSHAD R/O B-674 GALI NO-8 SUBHASH MOHALLA NORTH EAST DELHI-110053. HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SHAJANA KHATOON

NAME CHANGE
I, BHARAT SETHI S/O AMAR NATH SETHI R/O FC-36 SHIVAJI ENCLAVE TAGORE GARDEN DELHI 110027. CHANGED MY NAME TO BHARAT BHUSHAN SETHI.

NAME CHANGE
I, ANTONY FRESHOW S/O LUCAS DASS R/O H.No. F-146, FOURTH FLOOR, KILOKARI VILLAGE, JEEVAN NAGAR, NEW DELHI 110014 have changed my name from ANTONY FRESHOW to ANTONY FRESHOW LUCAS for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE
I, DHANESH DOBHAL S/O NARENDRA KUMAR DOBHAL R/O 217 DDA FLAT D-BLOCK POCKET-3 BINDAPUR UTTAM NAGAR NEW DELHI 110059 have changed the name of my minor son ATHRAV DOBHAL aged 14 years and he shall hereafter be known as ATHARV DOBHAL.

NAME CHANGE
It is for general information that I, ANUSUYA PRASAD S/O MOLAK RAM, Permanently Residing at VIL-LAGE BARMIWARI, NAG JAGAYI, RUDRAPRAYAG, UTTARAKHAND-246419, Presently Residing at H/O DGBR, SEEMA SADAQ BHAWAN RING ROAD NARAINA, NEW DELHI-110010 declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as ANSUYA PRASAD in my Service Records. The actual name of my mine is ANUSUYA PRASAD, which may be amended accordingly.

Public Notice
It is for general information that I Khushi Mavi D/O: Devender Kumar Mavi, R/O G-111 TF, KH NO-1076/52/859, Near Seelampur Gol Chakkar, Dilsahd Colony, Old Seemapuri, PO: Jilmi, DIST: East Delhi, Delhi-110095, declare that name of my father has been wrongly written as Devender Mavi in my 10th Class educational documents. The actual name of my father is Devender Kumar Mavi, respectively which may be amended accordingly.

NAME CHANGE
I, KEMPE GOWDA Father of No-16113690L Rank-HAV Name-VEERABHADRA Presently residing at MANDYA TALLUK, URA-MARKASALAGERE, KALENAHALLI, KRISHNARAJPET MANDYA, KARNATAKA-571402, have changed my name from KEMPE GOWDA to KEMPEGOWDA for all future purposes and in my son's service records my date of birth wrongly mentioned as 01/07/1958 instead of my correct date of birth as 01/01/1948 vide Affidavit dated 04/04/2026 before Notary Public, Delhi.

DATE OF BIRTH CHANGE
I, MAHADEVAMMA Mother of No-16113690L Rank-HAV Name-VEERABHADRA Presently residing at MANDYA TALLUK, URA-MARKASALAGERE, KALENAHALLI, KRISHNARAJPET MANDYA, KARNATAKA-571402, in my son's service records my date of birth wrongly mentioned as 01/07/1960 instead of my correct date of birth as 01/01/1964 vide Affidavit dated 04/04/2026 before Notary Public, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE
I, MANOHER DEVI GAMBHIR W/O KRISHAN GAMBHIR, R/O A-601, SECTOR-19 NOIDA, UTTAR PRADESH have Changed my Name From MANOHR DEVI GAMBHIR to MANOHER DEVI GAMBHIR for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE
I, KEMPE GOWDA Father of No-16113690L Rank-HAV Name-VEERABHADRA Presently residing at MANDYA TALLUK, URA-MARKASALAGERE, KALENAHALLI, KRISHNARAJPET MANDYA, KARNATAKA-571402, have changed my name from KEMPE GOWDA to KEMPEGOWDA for all future purposes and in my son's service records my date of birth wrongly mentioned as 01/07/1958 instead of my correct date of birth as 01/01/1948 vide Affidavit dated 04/04/2026 before Notary Public, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE
I, KEMPE GOWDA Father of No-16113690L Rank-HAV Name-VEERABHADRA Presently residing at MANDYA TALLUK, URA-MARKASALAGERE, KALENAHALLI, KRISHNARAJPET MANDYA, KARNATAKA-571402, in my son's service records my date of birth wrongly mentioned as 01/07/1960 instead of my correct date of birth as 01/01/1964 vide Affidavit dated 04/04/2026 before Notary Public, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE
I, MANOHER DEVI GAMBHIR W/O KRISHAN GAMBHIR, R/O A-601, SECTOR-19 NOIDA, UTTAR PRADESH have Changed my Name From MANOHR DEVI GAMBHIR to MANOHER DEVI GAMBHIR for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE
I, Army No - 15228463F, Rank - Hav, Name - Choutipalle Narendra, Father of Choutipalle Ruthvika Presently residing at, - Gundampada, Post - Gundampada, Teh - Sirivella, Dist - Nandyal, State - Andhrapradesh, Pin - 518583, have changed my minor daughter's name from Choutipalle Ruthvika to Choutipalle Ruthvika for all future purposes. Vide Affidavit dated 04/04/2026 before Notary Public Delhi.

NAME CHANGE
I, hitherto known as ABHIRAJ SINGH S/O SHAMBU PRASAD SINGH R/O H.No-3450 GRD Flr, Kh No-12425, G No-91, B-B, Saket Nagar, Barari, PO: Barari, Dist: North Delhi, Delhi, 110084 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as CHUNCHUN KUMAR SINGH.

NAME CHANGE
I, hitherto known as BABAN SAH S/O DOMA SAH Residing at 65 B, Rajan Vihar, Hastal Village, Uttam Nagar, West Delhi, Delhi - 110059 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as BABBAN SAH.

NAME CHANGE
It is for general information that I, PARANEET SINGH R/O H.No-504, Gali No-29 VTC, Harsh Vihar, Dist: North East, Delhi-110093 declare that the name of mine has been wrongly written as PRASHANT KUMAR in my minor son namely HEMANT SHARMA aged 16 years in his Aadhar No. 6518 0235 1427 and name of mine and my minor son has been wrongly written as PRASHANT KUMAR and HEMANT in his 10th Class Educational Documents.

NAME CHANGE
I, hitherto known as SAMUDRA DEVI D/O KIRPAL SINGH W/O BALWANT SINGH R/O C-42, D.T.C. Colony Rana Pratap Bagh Delhi, Near Nanak Pao, Gurudwara, D. Mukerjee Nagar S.O., North West Delhi, Delhi, 110099 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as SAMODRA DEVI

NAME CHANGE
I, hitherto known as KHUSHNUR W/O MOHD SHAFIQ ANSARI R/O B-2-70, Madangri, Dr. Ambedkar Nagar, Delhi, 110062 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as KHUSHNOOR.

NAME CHANGE
I, hitherto known as R. P. RAI S/O BALSHWAR RAI R/O 1239 NITI VIHAR, KIRARI SULEMAN NAGAR, NEW DELHI, 110086, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Ram Parvesh Rai.

NAME CHANGE
I, hitherto known as SUMRAN S/O MAHADEV R/O 1243 BLOCK I QTR NO-241T 260 CHIRKY COLONY PUSHA KAROL BAGH, DELHI 110005, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Sumran.

NAME CHANGE
I, MOHD TOHEED S/O SHAUKAT ALL, residing at H.No-2961, GALI NAL WALI, SHAHGANJ, ALMERI GATE, DELHI-110006, have changed my name to TOHEED for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE
I, SHITRA W/O NO-JC463213W RANK: NB SUB. NAME: SHINDE SACHIN TANAJI, Presently residing VILL- RANAND POST -RANAND, TEH. MANDIST- SATARA (MAHARASHTRA)-415508 Have Changed my name from SHITAL TO SHINDE SHITAL SACHIN and Date of Birth from 07/04/1993 for all future purpose vide affidavit dated 02/03/2026 Before Notary Public Delhi.

NAME CHANGE
I, SUREKHA MO NO-JC463213W RANK: NB SUB. NAME: SHINDE SACHIN TANAJI, Presently residing VILL- RANAND POST -RANAND, TEH. MANDIST- SATARA (MAHARASHTRA)-415508 Have Changed my name from SUREKHA TO SUREKHA TANAJI. SHINDE and Date of Birth from 01/06/1954 for all future purpose vide affidavit dated 02/03/2026 Before Notary Public Delhi.

NAME CHANGE
I, hitherto known as SAMUDRA DEVI D/O KIRPAL SINGH W/O BALWANT SINGH R/O C-42, D.T.C. Colony Rana Pratap Bagh Delhi, Near Nanak Pao, Gurudwara, D. Mukerjee Nagar S.O., North West Delhi, Delhi, 110099 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as SAMODRA DEVI

NAME CHANGE
I, hitherto known as KHUSHNUR W/O MOHD SHAFIQ ANSARI R/O B-2-70, Madangri, Dr. Ambedkar Nagar, Delhi, 110062 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as KHUSHNOOR.

NAME CHANGE
I, hitherto known as KHUSHNUR W/O MOHD SHAFIQ ANSARI R/O B-2-70, Madangri, Dr. Ambedkar Nagar, Delhi, 110062 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as KHUSHNOOR.

NAME CHANGE
I, hitherto known as KHUSHNUR W/O MOHD SHAFIQ ANSARI R/O B-2-70, Madangri, Dr. Ambedkar Nagar, Delhi, 110062 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as KHUSHNOOR.

Gurugram liquor scam: Fake QR codes expose major illicit trade; 1,400 bottles seized

Gurugram: A major case of alleged illegal liquor trade and fraud has surfaced in Gurugram, with authorities uncovering discrepancies in track-and-trace QR codes and holograms on seized bottles. The Excise and Taxation Department found 1,400 bottles of country liquor with irregular QR codes and holograms at Vintage Wines, Shikohpur, on November 12, 2025. Forensic verification revealed the codes

were linked to Associated Traders, Bahadurgarh, indicating possible supply chain tampering. An FIR has been registered against Vintage Wines, Associated Traders, and supplier ADS Spirit Zest at the Khedki Daula police station. One person has been detained. This isn't an isolated case; similar incidents have been reported in Gurugram, pointing to a

larger nexus involving supply chain manipulation and tax evasion. In one such case near Signature Tower, authorities had seized over 60,000 bottles of premium foreign liquor, while another case was reported from Rajiv Chowk. Authorities are investigating to identify the network and fix accountability.

NAME CHANGE
I, BHARAT BHUSHAN MAHAJAN S/O SURENDER KUMAR GUPTA R/O E-7 TOP FLOOR GALI NO 3 CHANDER NAGAR KRISHNA NAGAR DELHI 110051, CHANGED THE NAME OF MY MINOR DAUGHTER FROM SUNAKSHI GUPTA TO SAMRIDHI MAHAJAN FOR ALL PURPOSE.

NAME CHANGE
I, BHARAT BHUSHAN MAHAJAN S/O SURENDER KUMAR GUPTA R/O E-7 TOP FLOOR GALI NO 3 CHANDER NAGAR KRISHNA NAGAR DELHI 110051, CHANGED THE NAME OF MY MINOR SON FROM KARTIK GUPTA TO KARTIK MAHAJAN FOR ALL PURPOSE.

NAME CHANGE
I, BHARAT BHUSHAN GUPTA S/O SURENDER KUMAR GUPTA R/O E-7 TOP FLOOR GALI NO 3 CHANDER NAGAR KRISHNA NAGAR DELHI 110051, CHANGED MY NAME TO BHARAT BHUSHAN MAHAJAN FOR ALL PURPOSE.

NAME CHANGE
I, No-16116710Y Rank-NK Name-RAVI PATIL S/O KASHINATH KALLAPPA PATIL residing at VPO- SAMBARA, DISTT- BELGAUM, KARNATAKA-591124 have changed my minor daughter's name from ARADHYA R PATIL to ARADHYA RAVI PATIL for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 04/04/2026 before Notary Public Delhi.

(BEDAKHAL)
I, KISHAN CHAND SON OF TRILOK CHAND declare as under that I disowned my son's ANKUSH and his wife PINKI DIWAKAR from my all movable/immovable/Patrick properties/assets for his wrong behaviour. I shall not be held responsible for any kind of acts done by him in money or transactions and police cases and criminal activity illegal/legal and property purposes in the future. That he debarred from entering my premises situated at HOUSE NO-H-47, STREET NO-04, GARHWALI MOHALLA, LAXMI NAGAR, DELHI-110092.

NAME CHANGE
I, RUPA DEVI Wife of No-15785638A Rank-NK Name-PANKAJ KUMAR SHUKLA Presently residing at VILL-SHUK-LAPURA, PO-DARIYAPUR, TEH-LARA, DIST-BHOJPUR, BIHAR-802301, have changed my name from RUPA DEVI to RUPA KUMARI for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 04/04/2026 before Notary Public, Delhi.

Public Notice
I MUSKAN D/O SHRI MANOJ KUMAR R/O HOUSE NO WZ-392 HARIJAN COLONY 80 GAJ TILAK NAGAR WEST DELHI DELHI - 110018 UNDERTAKE THAT I MUSKAN CHANGE MY GENDER AS MALE. I KNOW HENCE-FORTH BE KNOWN AS MAHIR S/O SHRI MANOJ KUMAR THE ABOVE STATEMENT MADE BY ME IS TRUE AND CORRECT TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE AND BELIEF IN ANY LEGAL ISSUE ARISES IN THIS REGARD AT ANY STAGE I WILL BE PERSONALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SAME AND THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLICATION WILL NOT BE LIABLE AS FOR ANY CONSEQUENCES ARISING THEREFROM

NAME CHANGE
I, TANAJI F/O NO-JC463213W RANK: NB SUB. NAME: SHINDE SACHIN TANAJI, Presently residing VILL- RANAND POST -RANAND, TEH. MANDIST- SATARA (MAHARASHTRA)-415508 Have Changed my name from SUREKHA TO SUREKHA TANAJI. SHINDE and Date of Birth from 01/06/1954 for all future purpose vide affidavit dated 02/03/2026 Before Notary Public Delhi.

NAME CHANGE
I, TANAJI F/O NO-JC463213W RANK: NB SUB. NAME: SHINDE SACHIN TANAJI, Presently residing VILL- RANAND POST -RANAND, TEH. MANDIST- SATARA (MAHARASHTRA)-415508 Have Changed my name from SUREKHA TO SUREKHA TANAJI. SHINDE and Date of Birth from 01/06/1954 for all future purpose vide affidavit dated 02/03

NEWS BOX

Israeli strikes kill at least two children in Lebanon as military urges evacuation near Syrian border

World. (Agency)

Israeli strikes on southern Lebanon killed at least two girls and wounded 40 people on Saturday, Lebanon's health ministry said, while the Israeli military announced the death of another soldier in battle. The Israeli military has carried out strikes across Lebanon and launched a ground invasion in the south since March 2, when Hezbollah entered the US-Israeli war on Iran, backing Tehran. In separate statements, the Lebanese health ministry reported that an Israeli strike on Habbush killed at least two girls and wounded 22 people, while a strike on al-Hawsh near the coastal city of Tyre wounded 18, including a child, three women and three paramedics. The ministry had said in an earlier statement the strike on al-Hawsh damaged a nearby major hospital. The director of the Lebanese Italian Hospital told the state-run National News Agency (NNA) that it would "remain open to provide the necessary medical care" despite the damage. Tens of thousands of people have left Tyre, but around 20,000 remain, including 15,000 displaced from surrounding villages, despite Israeli evacuation warnings covering most of the city and a swathe of the south. Hours after the attack, the Israeli army struck three buildings in and around Tyre it had warned people to evacuate, according to the NNA. An AFP correspondent said a missile hit an 11-storey building northeast of Tyre, completely destroying it and reducing it to a pile of rubble that covered a nearby gas station. A second raid on a five-storey building near the city levelled half of it, leaving the other half standing. The third strike was on the Burj al-Shamali Palestinian refugee camp, southeast of the city. Overnight strikes destroyed two buildings nearby, an AFP correspondent saw, shattering windows and also causing suspended ceilings to collapse in the hospital, management said. Another Israeli airstrike targeted and completely destroyed a mosque in the town of Baraashit in the Bint Jbeil district, the NNA reported, along with other bombings across the south.

US satellite imagery firm announces blackout on Middle East war pics

World. (Agency)

US satellite imagery company Planet Labs said Saturday it will stop publishing high-resolution aerial pictures of the area involved in the Middle East war, following a request from President Donald Trump's government. The United States and Israel have conducted joint strikes against Iran since late February, prompting the Islamic Republic to retaliate with daily missile barrages targeting Israel and several neighbouring countries across the region. Planet said the US government had asked satellite imagery providers to implement an "indefinite withhold of imagery." "Effective retroactively from March 9, 2026, Planet is moving to a managed access model, extending the publication delay for all new imagery within the designated AOI (area of interest), and releasing imagery on a case-by-case basis and for urgent, mission-critical requirements or in the public interest," the company said in a message to clients received by AFP. This area was defined in a previous announcement as all of Iran and allied bases in the area, as well as Gulf states and existing conflict zones. Planet, founded in 2010 by former NASA scientists and whose images are widely used by media and researchers, said it expected the new policy to last until the end of the conflict. On March 10 the company said it would impose a two-week delay on access to its images of the Middle East because of the war, extending an initial 96-hour delay.

Halfway To The Moon, Artemis II Astronauts Report A Smelly Toilet

Houston. (Agency)

Now more than halfway to the moon, the Artemis II astronauts prepared for their historic lunar fly-around to push deeper into space than even the Apollo astronauts. On the downside, their toilet is on the blink again. The three Americans and one Canadian are set to reach their destination Monday, photographing the mysterious lunar far side as they zoom around. It is the first moon-bound crew in more than 53 years, picking up where NASA's Apollo program left off. "The Earth is quite small, and the moon is definitely getting bigger," pilot Victor Glover reported. Until the Orion capsule's bathroom is fixed, Mission Control has instructed the astronauts to break out more of the backup urine collection bags. The so-called lunar loo malfunctioned following Wednesday's liftoff and has been hit-and-miss ever since. A version of the Artemis II toilet was tested on the International Space Station several years ago. Watch: NASA's Artemis II Astronauts Exercise, Cook In Space During Moon Mission. Engineers suspect ice may be blocking the line that is preventing urine from completely flushing overboard. The toilet is still open for No. 2 business. Debbie Korth, NASA's Orion program deputy manager, said the astronauts have also reported a smell coming from the bathroom, which is buried in the floor of the capsule with a door and curtain for privacy. "Space toilets and bathrooms are something everybody can really understand... it's always a challenge," she said, noting that the space shuttle toilet was also often on the fritz. John Honeycutt, chair of the mission management team, said it is human nature to be interested in the space commode, and even though it is "in a good state right now," he'd like it to be working at 100%.

Iran rejects Trump's 48-hour deadline for deal, targets Israel and Kuwait

President Donald Trump told NBC the F-15 loss would not affect negotiations with Iran, saying: "No, not at all. No, it's war."

TEHRAN. (Agency)

Iran's central military command rejected US President Donald Trump's threat to destroy the country's vital infrastructure if it does not accept a peace deal within 48 hours, and launched missiles and drones at Israel and Kuwait early on Sunday. General Ali Abdollahi Aliabadi, in a statement from the Khatam al-Anbiya Central Headquarters, said Trump's threat was a "a helpless, nervous, unbalanced and stupid action." And, echoing the religious

language of Trump's social media post, he warned that "the simple meaning of this message is that the gates of hell will open for you. Kuwait and Israel said their air defences were responding to the latest attacks from Iran, part of the war that erupted more than a month ago with US-Israeli strikes that triggered retaliation by Tehran. The war has spread conflict throughout West Asia and convulsed the global economy. Iran's forces maintain a tight grip on the Strait of Hormuz shipping lane -- a vital conduit for oil and gas -- and strike economic targets in Gulf neighbours they see as linked to the US-Israeli war effort. The economic strikes are also going the other way. An Israeli or US strike on a petrochemical hub in the southwest of Iran killed five people Saturday, according to the deputy governor of Khuzestan province. "Remember when I gave Iran ten days to MAKE A DEAL or OPEN UP THE HORMUZ STRAIT," Trump wrote Saturday on Truth Social, referring to an

ultimatum issued on March 26. "Time is running out -- 48 hours before all Hell will reign (sic) down on them." Trump later posted a video showing explosions lighting up a night sky along



with text that said: "Many of Iran's Military Leaders... are terminated, along with much else, with this massive strike in Tehran", without specifying when it took place. Search for airman Tehran said Friday it had shot down an F-15 warplane and US

media reported United States special forces had rescued one of its two crew members, with the other still missing. Iran's military also said it downed a US A-10 ground attack aircraft in the Gulf, with US media saying the pilot of that plane was rescued. Washington has et to publicly acknowledge either of the shootdowns and has provided no updates on efforts to find the missing airman, whom Iran is also hunting. The local Mehr news agency on Saturday quoted the deputy governor of Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad province, Fattah Mohammadi, as saying the search for the airman involved "popular forces and tribesmen alongside military forces and is still ongoing." He added that "last night, people fired at enemy helicopters with rifles and did not allow them to land." Images posted on social media and verified by AFP TV showed Iranian police firing at a US helicopter in southwestern Iran as US forces searched for the airman.

'WE GOT HIM!': Trump says missing US airman rescued as Iran claims it downed search aircraft

World. (Agency)

US President Donald Trump said on Sunday that the second crew member from the American F-15 fighter jet that was shot down inside Iran was "safe and sound" following a search and rescue operation. "WE GOT HIM! My fellow Americans, over the past several hours, the United States Military pulled off one of the most daring Search and Rescue Operations in US History, for one of our incredible Crew Member Officers, who also happens to be a highly respected Colonel, and who I am thrilled to let you know is now SAFE and SOUND!" Trump posted on his Truth Social platform. The Republican president wrote that he directed the US military to send "dozens of aircraft, armed with the most lethal weapons in the World, to retrieve" the airman. "He sustained injuries, but he will be just fine," Trump wrote. US media

reported Friday that American special forces had rescued one of two crew members of a downed F-15, the first US fighter jet to go down inside Iran since the start of the war. Iran's military also said it downed a US A-10 ground attack aircraft in the Gulf, with US media saying the pilot of that plane was rescued. Trump confirmed the "successful rescue of another brave Pilot, yesterday," adding it was not disclosed to avoid jeopardizing the second rescue mission. "This is the first time in military memory that two US Pilots have been rescued, separately, deep in Enemy Territory," he wrote, adding that both operations were concluded "without a SINGLE American killed, or even wounded." Meanwhile, Iran's Revolutionary Guards said a US aircraft that had been searching for the crewmember of a missing American fighter jet had been

destroyed, Iranian media reported on Sunday. "An American enemy aircraft that was searching for the pilot of a downed fighter jet was destroyed by the fighters of Islam in the southern region of Isfahan," the Tasnim news agency quoted the Guards as saying. Trump's announcement comes amid his threat to destroy Iran's vital infrastructure if it does not accept a peace deal within 48 hours, which Iran has rejected, labelling the threat "a helpless, nervous, unbalanced and stupid action." Meanwhile, Iran also launched missiles and drones at Israel and Kuwait early on Sunday, as the war — triggered by joint US-Israel strikes on Feb. 28 — has killed thousands, shaken global markets, disrupted key shipping routes and spiked fuel prices. Both sides have threatened and struck civilian targets, prompting warnings of possible war crimes.

Israeli forces destroy 17 UN peacekeeper cameras in south Lebanon: UN official

BEIRUT. (Agency)

Israeli forces destroyed 17 surveillance cameras linked to the United Nations peacekeepers' main headquarters in southern Lebanon in 24 hours, a UN security official told AFP on Saturday. Since the start of the Israel-Hezbollah war on March 2, the UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) has been caught in the crossfire in the country's south, with Hezbollah launching attacks on Israel and its troops, and Israeli forces pushing into border towns. The official, who requested anonymity, said "17 of the headquarters' cameras have been destroyed by the Israeli army" in the coastal town of Naqura. UNIFIL spokeswoman Kandice Ardiel told AFP on Saturday that "the cameras appear to have been destroyed by some kind of laser." She added that "(Israeli) soldiers are present in Naqura and have been undertaking massive demolitions of buildings in the village this week". Earlier this week, Ardiel told AFP that "not only have these demolitions destroyed civilian homes and businesses, but the strength of the blasts have caused damage to UNIFIL's headquarters". Three Indonesian peacekeepers from the UN force have been killed in two separate incidents



over the past week. UNIFIL also reported Friday an "explosion" in one of its bases near Odaisseh in south Lebanon that wounded three personnel, adding that they "do not yet know the origin of the explosion". The Israeli army accused Hezbollah of firing "a rocket that landed in a UNIFIL outpost". The UN office in Jakarta said on Saturday the wounded were Indonesian. Indonesia condemned the incident as "unacceptable", saying "these events underscore the urgent need to strengthen protection for UN peacekeeping forces amid an increasingly dangerous conflict situation". According to the UN, 97 force members have been killed in violence since its establishment in 1978 to monitor the withdrawal of Israeli forces after they invaded Lebanon.

Chinese Firms Use AI To Track US Military Moves In Iran War: Report

Washington. (Agency)

Chinese firms are using artificial intelligence and open-source data to track US military movements during the Iran war, raising fresh concerns in Washington about emerging battlefield surveillance risks, a media report said. A growing number of Chinese private companies are marketing intelligence tools that claim to "expose" the movements of US forces, even as Beijing publicly distances itself from the conflict, according to The Washington Post. The firms are combining artificial intelligence with publicly available data — including satellite imagery, flight trackers and shipping information — to produce detailed analyses of US military deployments in the Middle East. The trend has gained momentum since the start of the Iran war five weeks ago. Online posts have circulated

showing granular details of US carrier movements, aircraft positioning and base activity, reflecting what analysts describe as a rapidly expanding intelligence marketplace. Some of the



companies involved have links to China's military ecosystem. They are part of Beijing's broader push to integrate private-sector innovation into defence capabilities, backed by significant state investment under its civil-military integration strategy. The Washington Post reported. US officials

and analysts are divided on how serious the threat is, the daily said. Some question whether these tools are being actively used by adversaries. Others warn that their increasing sophistication could make it harder for the US to conceal troop movements in future conflicts. "The proliferation of more and more capable private sector geospatial analysis companies in China will augment China's defence capabilities and ability to contest US forces in a crisis," Ryan Fedasiuk, a fellow at the American Enterprise Institute, told The Washington Post. One firm has claimed it can track US military activity in real time using a mix of Western and Chinese data sources filtered through AI, the report said. Another company has said it can analyse aircraft communications and monitor large-scale military movements.

Detection To Destruction: Pentagon's 'Project Maven' Is AI-Assistant In War

United States. (Agency)

A Pentagon AI program called Project Maven is at the center of the US strikes against Iran and potentially one of the most consequential transformations of modern warfare. **What is it?** Project Maven is the Pentagon's flagship artificial intelligence program, launched in 2017 as a narrow experiment to help military analysts make sense of the torrent of drone footage pouring in from conflict zones. Operators were drowning in imagery, searching frame by frame for objects of interest that might appear for only a moment before vanishing. Maven was built to find the needle in the haystack. Eight years later, the program has evolved into something far more expansive: an AI-assisted targeting and battlefield management system that has vastly accelerated what is known in war-making as the kill chain -- the process from initial detection to destruction. **How does it work?** Maven functions like both the air traffic

control of battle and its cockpit. Aalok Mehta, director of the CSIS Wadhvani AI Center, described the system as "essentially an overlay" that fuses sensor data, enemy troop intelligence, satellite imagery, and information on troop deployment. In practice, that means rapidly scanning satellite feeds to detect troop movements or identify targets, while also "taking a snapshot of the operational theater" to determine the best course of action for striking a specific target. In a recent demonstration posted online, a Pentagon official described how Maven "magically" turns an observed threat into a targeting workflow, weighing available assets and presenting a commander with options. The emergence of ChatGPT was another leap forward, broadening the use of the technology to a far greater range of users who can interact with Maven in natural language. For now, this capability is supplied by Anthropic's Claude — though that arrangement is coming to a bitter end after the Pentagon bristled at the AI lab's demand that its model not be used for fully



automated strikes or the tracking of US citizens. **Why did Google say no?** The ethical question was a factor in Maven's early years, when Google was the program's original AI contractor. In 2018, more than 3,000 employees signed an open letter protesting the company's involvement, arguing that the contract crossed a line. Several engineers resigned. Google declined to renew when the contract expired, and subsequently published AI principles explicitly ruling out participation in weapons systems. The episode exposed a fault line in Silicon

Valley between engineers who viewed autonomous targeting as an ethical red line and defense officials who saw it as essential. More recently, Google removed its AI policy restrictions and said it is leaning further into national security work. The Pentagon has said that Google, along with xAI and OpenAI, are in the mix to replace Claude in Maven. **What is Palantir's role?** In 2024, Palantir — founded in part with CIA seed funding and built from the start around government intelligence work — stepped into the space Google vacated. The company has reportedly become Maven's primary technology contractor, and its AI now forms the operational backbone of the program. Palantir CEO Alex Karp frame the stakes explicitly. "This is a have, have-not world," he said at a recent Palantir event, arguing that it was important for the West to achieve capabilities the rest of the world lacked. A system that compresses a kill chain from hours to seconds makes an adversary obsolete, he said.

NEWS BOX

75-year-old woman crushed to death as Mahindra Thar 'rolls backward' in UP

Lucknow.(Agency)

In what appears to be a freak accident, a 75-year-old woman was crushed to death between a Mahindra Thar and a wall in Uttar Pradesh's Farrukhabad. Police said they are ascertaining the circumstances leading to the tragedy, which took place in the Kadrigate area on Thursday. Police said prima facie the vehicle, which was parked by the victim's grandson, appears to have rolled backward. The entire incident was captured on a CCTV camera installed at the house. In the CCTV footage, the victim is seen opening the gate of the house for the Thar to enter. After the vehicle is driven in, she begins to close the gate. At that moment, the vehicle suddenly starts rolling backward. The woman can be heard shouting as she gets trapped between the Thar and the boundary wall.

The video also shows a young man rushing towards the car in an attempt to stop it, struggling to open the door. He then raises an alarm, rushing into the house to alert his family. "It appears to be an accident. The victim, Sarla Katiyar, died after the vehicle rolled back as the handbrake had not been applied properly," said Kapil Kumar, Station Officer of Kadrigate police station. "The incident took place two days ago, but we came to know about it only yesterday after the video surfaced." He added that the vehicle had been parked by the victim's grandson, and so far, no evidence of foul play has been found during the initial inquiry. Police said no FIR has been registered in the case as the victim's family has not lodged any complaint.

Hanging glaciers a real threat to millions in Himalayas: Study

BENGALURU. (Agency)

An ongoing study by glaciologists has sounded an alert about at least 858 'hanging glaciers' across the 2,500km-long Himalayan range in India, posing a serious threat to lives and properties of millions living in hamlets, villages and towns located downhill in the mountainous region. Hanging glaciers are small and steep and are found on mountain slopes and cliff edges. They are extremely unstable and vulnerable to climate change.

Experts said the havoc created by them when they break is bigger because of the volume of water and ice stored in them. Glaciologists raised the alert for a catastrophe especially in summer, as melting is faster and loss of life and property can be higher because locals and tourists are present in larger numbers in the region. Elevated warming in the Himalayas has intensified this hazard, the experts have pointed out.

Data collated in the study by experts from the Bengaluru-based Divecha Centre for Climate Change (DCCC) over the last two years has revealed that, so far, of the 858 hanging glaciers found and assessed, 99 are in the Yamuna basin, 219 in the Alaknanda basin, 261 in the Bhagirathi basin and 279 in the Kali basin. The cumulative water stored in the glaciers is 3,236 gigatonnes.

Greater Bengaluru Authority chief tells officials to impose fines on those encroaching footpaths

BENGALURU.(Agency)

Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) Chief Commissioner Maheshwar Rao instructed officials to take action against those who have encroached upon footpaths along Old Madras Road by imposing fines and clearing the encroachments, while also ensuring the development of smooth and accessible pedestrian pathways.

He gave the instructions during an inspection conducted on Saturday during along Old Madras Road, from Swami Vivekananda Metro Station to Ulsoor Lake, within the jurisdiction of the Bengaluru Central City Corporation. He directed that teams be deployed to undertake mass cleaning drives on footpaths. Officials were also instructed to repair damaged slabs and curb stones on footpaths to facilitate smooth pedestrian movement.

"It was noticed that waste was being dumped at a damaged portion of the MEG compound wall on Old Madras Road. Near the Anjaneya Temple, footpaths had been encroached upon by a nursery, a granite shop and along Murphy Road," he said.

Commissioner Rajendra Cholan of the Central City Corporation instructed officials to install information boards to keep the public informed about the ongoing projects at Ulsoor Lake in the corporation limits. "Ulsoor Lake, spread across 106 acres, is undergoing comprehensive development at a cost of Rs 33.50 crore. The Executive Engineer informed that the works will be completed before the monsoon," he said and added the construction of a bridge connecting the adjoining park to the lake is nearly complete.

Red alert at sea: Maharashtra's new app can spot suspicious boats in seconds

Police, Navy and IIT Madras deploy Marine Domain Awareness system to track 32,000 vessels and plug surveillance gaps along the 877-km coastline

Mumbai.(Agency)

In a push to strengthen coastal security, the Maharashtra Police, in collaboration with the Indian Navy and the Indian Institute of Technology Madras, have rolled out a mobile application, Marine Domain Awareness (MDA) to track suspicious vessels along the state's coastline from Palghar to Sindhudurg.

The initiative aims to plug critical gaps in the existing surveillance system, which relies heavily on the Automatic Identification System (AIS). While AIS effectively tracks large commercial ships, it struggles to monitor smaller vessels such as fishing and passenger boats that often operate without identification systems. The MDA application, developed by a professor at IIT Madras, seeks to address this gap.

With nearly 32,000 boats including around 28,000 fishing vessels and 4,000 passenger boats operating along Maharashtra's 877-km coastline, authorities have long faced

challenges in distinguishing between Indian and potentially suspicious vessels. Under the new system, mobile phones equipped with the MDA application will be distributed to



fishermen and passenger boat operators for onboard use. During its pilot phase, the app was tested on 100 fishing boats over a month within Indian waters and was found to be highly effective in tracking movement patterns. Vessel activity will be monitored through a central control room at the Mahim Sagari Police Station, with additional control

rooms planned across seven coastal districts to enable real-time monitoring and faster emergency response. Inspector General of Police Rajiv Jain, heading Maharashtra's coastal security, said, "The system would significantly enhance surveillance and response capabilities". "The project has proven successful during trials, and work is underway to expand server capacity," Jain said, adding that discussions are ongoing with the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) to strengthen connectivity between vessels and control rooms. More coastal towers are being installed to improve network coverage at sea. Once fully implemented, all registered Indian vessels will transmit identifiable "green" signals to control rooms, while any unidentified or suspicious vessel entering Indian waters will trigger a "red" alert for interception. Speed boats from the coastal police, Indian Coast Guard and Indian Navy will be strategically deployed for patrol and rapid response.

Over 550 detained in one-day crackdown on public drinking in UP's Firozabad

According to the UP Police, the drive is part of a sustained campaign during which regular checks, surprise inspections, and intensified patrolling will continue to deter violations.

Firozabad.(Agency)

The Firozabad police in Uttar Pradesh carried out a district-wide special drive on Saturday against public drinking, detaining 559 people and initiating legal action against 424 of them. Officials said the large-scale operation took place simultaneously across multiple police station areas. Police teams were deployed at key locations, including markets, highways, bus stands, railway station areas and busy intersections, where incidents of public drinking and related disturbances are frequently reported. "People consuming alcohol in public places and creating disturbances were identified and proceeded against as per the law. The objective is to make public spaces safer and more orderly," a senior police officer said.

Out of the 559 people detained during the drive, 424 were issued challans under Police Act section 34 (offences on roads, etc) and

Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita section 292 (public nuisance). The police let off the others with strict warnings against repeating the offence.



The highest number of detentions in the city circle was recorded in the Dakshin police station area (75), followed by Uttar (30), Rasoolpur (22), and Ramgarh (22). In the Tundla circle, 52 people were detained in Tundla, while the Pachokhra and Sirsaganj rural areas each

reported 25 detentions. Narkhi saw 23 detentions, and Nagla Singh 20.

Similarly, in the Sirsaganj circle, 55 people were detained in Sirsaganj, 22 in Narkhi Khas, 15 in Jasrana, and 3 in Araon. The police said a significant proportion of these detainees were also booked under relevant legal provisions.

The police launched the crackdown following Senior Superintendent of Police Aditya Langeh's directions, with senior officers supervising the drive at both city and rural levels. According to the police, the drive is part of a sustained campaign. Regular checks, surprise inspections and intensified patrolling will continue, particularly in identified hotspots, to deter violations. The police also said that such visible enforcement is intended to send a clear message that drinking in public places and causing a nuisance will not be tolerated, and that strict action would follow in case of violations.

What is new in BJP's selection process for Gujarat civic body polls: AI summaries

Aspirants scramble to create their digital profile to submit before party's poll observers for staking claim for seats in April 26 polls

BENGALURU.(Agency)

Popularity on social media, number of viral reels for party, capability to start and carry forward digital narratives of the party especially in countering opposition voices as well as AI-generated overview of aspirants — these are a few of the performance indicators that aspiring BJP leaders must submit before party's poll observers in order to stake claim for party tickets in the April 26 civic polls in Gujarat.

In a bid to set aside dynasty selections and relative references, the BJP has adopted the strategy using artificial intelligence for the selection of candidates from a sea of applications received across the state, especially in the cities of Surat and Vadodara. That notwithstanding, the party has

received more than one proposal for a ticket from one family in the diamond city. The Indian Express has learnt. On an average, each ward got four times the



contenders for each seat. The party's insistence on social media activity has also upset some of its old timers. A senior BJP leader and former municipal corporator of Surat Municipal Corporation, who has worked with the party for the last two

decades, said, "I am not very accustomed to social media contacts and performance. I have been a ground-level party worker, and I have poured my sweat and blood for the party's growth. Everyone in my ward knows me by name because I have addressed all their issues and put the SMC officials to work on them. I have not uploaded such activities on social media, but the people on the ground know my work. If AI is used for candidate selection, I may face a great loss." In the SMC of the total 129 seats, BJP won 93 in the last elections in 2021 and Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) candidates won 27 seats, while Congress got no seats. Later, 14 AAP corporators shifted to the BJP, while one was suspended, leaving the current strength at 13 corporators.

68 villages in Gadchiroli declare themselves child marriage-free. Here's how they got there.

Nagpur.(Agency)

In the quiet village of Zari in Maharashtra's Gadchiroli district, Mamta Ramteke (37) begins each week with a simple but important decision: which nearby village to visit first. As soon as she arrives on her scooter, she informs the kotwal, who calls residents to gather under a large tree. Then she begins — speaking directly to women about the health risks of early marriage, how it affects a young girl's body, increases the risk of maternal and infant mortality, and compromises her overall well-being. "Our daughters must remain healthy," she tells them.

Mamta is a field staff with SPARSH, an NGO working across Gadchiroli's villages, and one of over 48 such workers whose efforts have added up to a milestone: 68 villages across four talukas have officially declared themselves

child marriage-free. The declaration is not symbolic. Each village must meet a clear set of criteria before it can pass such a resolution. As per a 2014 Government Resolution, every village must have a Village Child Protection Committee (VCPC)



comprising nine members, led by the Sarpanch or Gram Sevak, including anganwadi workers, three women from self-help groups, and two adolescents. The committee addresses child marriage, abuse, trafficking and child labour, and must meet every month.

'Judiciary must be inclusive & represent diversity of India': Supreme Court judge Ujjal Bhuyan

Speaking at the Gujarat National Law University (GNLU), Gandhinagar on the theme of Dr B R Ambedkar's Constitutional Vision and Legacy for the 'We the People' lecture series, Justice Bhuyan referred to the petition seeking a to-be-released film 'Ghuskhor Pandat' to be banned as it "castigated the Brahmin community."

Vadodara.(Agency)

Referring to recent incidents where a film's title appeared to cast aspersions on a community and a social media post where a Chief Minister was purportedly shown as targeting a particular community, Supreme Court judge Justice Ujjal Bhuyan said on Saturday that in the Indian constitutional context it was not open to any one, especially a public representative "to target any particular community".

Speaking at the Gujarat National Law University (GNLU), Gandhinagar on the theme of Dr B R Ambedkar's Constitutional Vision and Legacy for the 'We the People' lecture series, Justice Bhuyan referred to the petition seeking a to-be-released film 'Ghuskhor Pandat' to be banned as it "castigated the Brahmin community." Justice Bhuyan said that had he been the only judge, he would have "dismissed the petition straightaway".

Eventually the producers themselves filed an affidavit before the court saying they were willing to withdraw the title of the movie. "Somehow I was not happy. So I had written a concurring opinion, which some people say virtually amounts to a dissent in a decent language," said Justice Bhuyan referring to the order of February 19, 2026, in the case Atul Mishra vs Union of India.

"In the Indian constitutional context, fraternity assumes a dynamic and inclusive role aligning with the broader goals of social justice, equality and upliftment, thus cultivating a sense of brotherhood and respecting fellow citizens irrespective of caste, religion or language is a constitutional dharma of each citizen of India. And I also said that it is not open to anyone, more so a public representative, to target any particular community," said Justice Bhuyan.

He then went on to refer to petitions filed before the apex court seeking an FIR against Assam Chief minister Himanta



Biswa Sarma. "A writ petition was filed by certain well-meaning petitioners before the Supreme Court saying that the Assam CM had posted a meme on the social media where

he was targeting... shown shooting at some people wearing a particular dress with the caption, 'No mercy'. Of course, the

Supreme Court said you go to the High Court. In the High Court, all the three lawyers representing the petitioners referred to this judgment and the High Court had issued notice to the CM as well as to the state government as to why action should not be taken", said Justice Bhuyan. He was referring to a video posted from the Assam BJP unit's official X handle in February showing an image of Sarma purportedly aiming a gun at two men in skullcaps. The video led to a backlash from across the political spectrum and was deleted the next day. Justice Bhuyan questioned if the jurisprudence of fraternity be applied only for maintenance of the societal status quo.

15.20L already using PNG in Surat; 1,805 new commercial applications: GSPCL MD

Surat.(Agency)

Stating that the city had 15.20 lakh domestic piped natural gas (PNG) connections, Gujarat State Petroleum Corporation Ltd (GSPCL) Managing Director Avantika Singh stated that people applying for new connections by June 30 were eligible for a discount of Rs 500.

"There are 15.20 lakh domestic PNG (piped natural gas) connections in Surat city. The government is in constant coordination with oil and gas companies to ensure that they do not face any problems in obtaining a regular gas supply. In areas with gas lines, customers applying for new domestic PNG connection by June 30 will receive a Rs. 500 discounts. After the connection is installed, a Rs 500 credit will be applied to the bill," Singh said.

Singh on Saturday reviewed the supply of petrol, diesel, gas, and other essential commodities in Surat district. She also paid a visit to a textile semi-composite unit in Pandesara.

Sources quoted Singh as saying that, at present, there was sufficient supply of essential commodities such as gas, petrol, diesel, and fertiliser in the state.

"The central government has issued guidelines prioritising PNG connections, and new PNG connections should be provided immediately. The district has received as many as 1805 applications for commercial PNG connections; those of 39 hospitals and 16 railway canteens have been approved."

District Supply Officer Darshan Shah said the supply of five- and three-kilogram gas cylinders had begun, and that the waiting period for new PNG connection had been brought down from 45 days to seven days.

No strait out of maritime trade chokeholds

There is a structural reality about the modern global economy. The entire \$35-trillion architecture of international trade that underpins the living standards of eight billion people flows, with remarkable concentration, through a handful of narrow waterways that are geographically irreplaceable and strategically indefensible in a durable way. As the Strait of Hormuz remains mostly closed on account of the US-Israel war on Iran for over a month now, we are witnessing a controlled detonation of a most critical node in the global supply chain. As they always do, the shockwaves have begun rippling outwards instantaneously and indiscriminately.

Stretching approximately 167 km from the Persian Gulf to the Gulf of Oman and narrowing to a mere 33 km at its tightest point, Hormuz channels roughly 20 million barrels of crude oil and petroleum products every single day, nearly a fifth of global seaborne oil, alongside about 19 percent of the world's liquefied natural gas. For the Gulf States, there is no meaningful bypass. The pipelines that exist—the East-West Pipeline across Saudi Arabia and the Abu Dhabi Crude Oil Pipeline—carry a fraction of Hormuz's throughput and cannot substitute for a closure of the strait. The US-Israeli strikes, predicated on the delusion that military power can be projected with surgical precision and zero systemic consequence, have instead detonated a time bomb buried in the foundations of world trade. The utterly predictable crisis in Hormuz is a learning, in real time and at immense cost, that no nation, however powerful, can sever the Gordian knot of interdependence without the blade swinging back to wound its own hand. The deeper damage runs through supply chains. South Korea, which imports 97 percent of its energy, draws most of its oil and LNG directly from West Asia through Hormuz. South Korean giants Samsung and SK Hynix together control 67 percent of global dynamic random-access memory production and nearly 80 percent of high-bandwidth memory, a critical substrate of the global AI boom. Disrupting South Korea's energy supply is, in effect, disrupting the semiconductor supply chain for every AI data centre on the planet. There is Qatar. Its damaged LNG trains took about 12.8 million tonnes of annual capacity offline, at a potential revenue loss exceeding \$20 billion a year, with repairs estimated to take 3-5 years. Qatar also produces a third of the world's helium, an element irreplaceable in semiconductor fabrication; spot helium prices have already doubled. Supply chains are nested within supply chains, and Hormuz sits atop them all.

Yet, to frame this crisis as a Hormuz problem alone is to fundamentally misread the nature of the vulnerability. The global trading system rests on four major maritime chokepoints—the Strait of Hormuz, Suez Canal and Bab el-Mandeb, the Strait of Malacca, and Panama Canal—apart from 20-odd passages. The failure of any one node generates immediate, disproportionate consequences across others, as rerouted traffic overwhelms the alternative passages, port hubs and logistics chains. Hormuz's closure has already re-energised the Houthis: their declared intention to resume attacks on commercial shipping around the Bab el-Mandeb threatens to sever the Asia-Europe maritime corridor through the Suez. Between 2023 and 2025, Houthi interdictions reduced Suez traffic from over 26,000 vessels a year to roughly 13,000. The tonnage of ships transiting the Gulf of Aden had fallen 76 percent compared to late 2023. Compounded by Hormuz's closure, Houthi attacks would force virtually all Asia-Europe trade to the Cape of Good Hope route—adding 10-14 days per voyage, with a typical cost premium approaching \$400,000 per large container vessel on the East Asia-Europe route under EU Emissions Trading System charges alone, and insurance premiums that are already reflecting war-risk recalculations in real time.

'Sikhya kranti' reality check

A genuine 'kranti' in education would ideally touch every level — from primary schools to universities.

WITH elections due in less than a year, the Punjab government has rolled out a publicity campaign --from streets to pages of newspapers. The scale of outreach ranges from drugs and corruption to governance, health and education. In the education sector, the flagship slogan 'Sikhya Kranti' stands out, projecting a claim of comprehensive transformation. It is worth examining how deep and comprehensive this change really is. The initiatives under the 'Sikhya Kranti' have largely focussed on school-level improvements - upgrading government schools, developing schools of eminence, enhancing infrastructure and strengthening teacher training, with limited reference to higher education. A genuine 'kranti' or revolution in education would ideally touch every level - from primary schools right up to universities. It should extend to learning outcomes, institutional capacity and continuity from schools to higher education. Progress at one stage becomes truly effective only when the next stage is ready to support and build upon it. Without this continuity, improvements risk remaining isolated rather than cumulative.

At the school level itself, a closer look at enrolment, teacher availability, infrastructure and retention suggests clear gaps in the claims of a 'sikhya kranti'. While government schools continue to educate a large number of children, enrolment in private schools remains higher. Despite the government's efforts, the preference for private schools shows little sign of decline. This pattern is not just about choice, but about perceived quality of education in government schools. When families with limited means still turn to private schools, it points to a lingering lack of confidence in the consistency of outcomes within the government system. Recent data also indicates a decline in government school enrolment, while the transition from elementary to secondary classes remains a concern. In terms of infrastructure and facilities, only a limited number of schools have reported adequate infrastructure and access to essential learning resources. Teacher availability illustrates the gap between policy claims and ground realities, with many schools continuing to operate with unfilled vacancies. On paper, overall ratios appear comfortable, but uneven deployment means that staffing shortages persist in many schools. In the college sector, the government has introduced new programmes and emphasised skill development. Yet, structural difficulties persist, with many colleges functioning with shortages of regular faculty and relying on temporary or guest teachers. Sanctioned posts remain unfilled, departments operate on ad hoc arrangements, and academic quality continues to be affected. In aided colleges alone, more than 2,000 of the roughly 3,600 sanctioned teaching posts remain



vacant. At the same time, the disbursement of grants remains irregular, often delayed and insufficient, due to which many colleges operate in dilapidated buildings with under-resourced libraries and laboratories. These are not merely administrative gaps; they shape the everyday learning environment and gradually affect the credibility of public higher education itself. Scholarship delays have particularly affected students from poorer families who depend on these funds to continue their studies. Universities across the state also continue to face considerable financial stress. Recruitment of new faculty has been limited for several years, and salaries or pensions have occasionally faced delays. While overall education spending has increased in nominal terms, a significant portion at universities goes toward meeting salary and pension obligations, leaving relatively less for research, infrastructure upgrades, and new academic initiatives. The combined grant-in-aid to the state's major public universities, including Punjabi University, Guru Nanak Dev University, Panjab University and Punjab Agricultural University, leaves limited room for upgrading laboratories, libraries and research activity.

The recently reported budget deficit of Rs 125 crore at Punjabi University highlights the financial pressures facing public universities in the state. Such constraints do not remain confined to finances alone; they affect research output, academic innovation and the ability of institutions to respond to emerging needs. In such a scenario, the government's claims of a 'kranti' in education appear overstated. These challenges, while being addressed gradually, continue to seriously impact the day-to-day functioning and perceived reliability of public education. They underscore that building a complete 'sikhya kranti' calls for coordinated progress across all levels- schools, colleges and universities. Strengthening human resources, institutional capacity and predictable funding remain essential if these improvements are to translate into durable academic outcomes. Upgrading schools, developing schools of eminence, enhancing infrastructure and strengthening teacher training alone are unlikely to deliver comprehensive transformation. It is in this balance and depth of reform that the idea of a 'sikhya kranti' can find fuller meaning.

Runway reality: Can Halwara finally get Punjab airborne?

The expanded UDAN Scheme was meant to democratise air travel. Instead, it has often produced airports without ecosystems

THE launch of four daily Air India flights from the upcoming Halwara Airport to Delhi marks an ambitious new chapter in Punjab's aviation story. Timed for seamless global connections, particularly to the West, the project taps into Ludhiana's industrial heft. On paper, it looks like a long-overdue correction. In practice, it risks becoming another addition to a growing list of underperforming airports. Punjab's recent aviation history offers cautionary lessons. The Adampur airport has struggled with closures and poor connectivity. The Bathinda airport runs skeletal services. Even the Chandigarh international airport, the state's busiest, falters in fog and lacks robust all-weather systems. The expanded UDAN Scheme was meant to democratise air travel. Instead, it has often produced airports without ecosystems. Routes without passengers and infrastructure without reliability are some common problems seen. A six-fold increase in funding cannot mask such structural



gaps as weak demand forecasting, poor last-mile

with promise.

connectivity and overdependence on Delhi as a hub. Halwara's viability hinges on whether it can break this pattern. Ludhiana's industry and diaspora do offer a stronger demand base than most tier-2 cities. The promise of same-day international connectivity is a genuine advantage. Yet, if passengers still find it easier to drive to Delhi, or if schedules falter, the initial enthusiasm may quickly dissipate. The larger question is whether Punjab is building airports or merely multiplying them. Without integrated planning, reliable operations and sustained airline commitment, Halwara risks joining the ranks of well-intentioned but underutilised infrastructure. For Punjab, credibility in aviation depends not on announcements, but on consistent execution and passenger trust. For now, the runway is ready. Whether Halwara can truly take off depends on whether policy finally catches up

Trump wants to reshape Iran

As US President threatens to bomb Iran into the Stone Age, Pezeshkian writes a letter

TWO contrasting messages were sent on April 1 by the principal protagonists of the ongoing war in West Asia. One was a much-anticipated speech by US President Donald Trump, while the other was a "Letter to American People" by Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian. In a made-for-television address, Trump eventually had nothing new to say as he reshaped his social media posts and media comments. There was no mention of unblocking the Strait of Hormuz, under the chokehold of Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps Navy (IRGC-N), nor of inserting US ground troops, massed in their thousands across the region, into Iran.

The strait, through which one-third of global energy flows, remains under the IRGC's control. Financial and commodity indices, monitored closely by Trump, are steadily trending upwards, while countries from Australia to Egypt are facing fuel shortages and shutdowns. The entire global economy is on edge, with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) predicting a recession. Till date, Trump has been cleverly manipulating markets, aligning his comments to shape them. No longer, it seems. Stock markets are now moving more in line with battlefield developments rather than Trump's comments. Pezeshkian's letter — penned in English, not Farsi — was circulated widely on social media. Given the country's official stance of hostility towards the US, this is an unusual, perhaps even brave, message. Both sides have previously exchanged letters at the highest levels, but such a public outreach by a sitting Iranian President has no historical precedent. After all, the two countries broke off diplomatic ties in 1979 following the kidnapping of US diplomats stationed in Tehran. Pezeshkian is now seeking to set the record straight on Iran-US relations, that these were "not originally hostile", and goes on to lay the blame for the current conflict entirely on the US

and Israel. Pezeshkian's plea is mature and subtly goes beyond a US audience. He addresses the world by saying that attacking Iran's vital infrastructure constitutes a war crime, that these "generate instability, increase human and economic costs, and perpetuate cycles of tension, planting seeds of resentment that will endure for years". Chronologically, it needs to be noted, Iran's strikes on infrastructure in the region, as opposed to military



targets, were usually reactive and not proactive. In his address, Trump doubled down on a globally unpopular war. He appeared reasonable while simultaneously renewing his trademark threats, declaring, "We are going to hit them (Iran) extremely hard over the next two to three weeks. We are going to bring them back to the stone ages where they belong. In the meantime, discussions are ongoing... We have all the cards; they have none." An unfazed Iran, confident that it currently holds the upper hand, taunted US troops to "come closer". One Iranian

analyst succinctly noted that an aerial assault from 36,000 feet is vastly different from "manly" combat at six feet. Trump's address is also replete with contradictions. He claims completion of "core strategic objectives", but elsewhere in the same address, he says that "we will continue until our core objectives are fully achieved". This contradiction is deliberate, not random. It is directed at a target audience of critical importance to him, electorally and financially. The former is an increasingly nervous MAGA base, which he has assuaged by saying "we are winning, bigly". The latter is a band-aid, a placebo, to the six Persian Gulf countries witnessing, in real time, the devastation of the entire foundations on which their economies were built.

The US President's coarse and insulting language towards Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and the Kuwaitis simplifies complex issues to a populist base unconcerned with niceties. Trump is essentially signalling a further escalation, which could last several more weeks. In recent days, the US and Israel have sharply expanded their bombing campaign, going beyond military targets to strike at the very heart of Iran's society and industrial base. They have bombed two of Iran's steel plants, a pharmaceutical factory, civilian installations, gymnasiums and residential areas. The Mobarakeh steel plant in Isfahan is, in fact, the largest in West Asia. As one analyst describes it, "Steel sits at the core of infrastructure, construction and industrial circulation. Damage it, and the effects cascade far beyond one sector". The US President is not merely wreaking havoc but is seeking to shape a post-war Iran, ensuring that its economic recovery and reconstruction will be long and painful. As such, his rhetoric needs to be taken with deadly

seriousness. Clearly, "regime change" is no longer on the US-Israel agenda, but wishing to send Iran back to the "Stone Age" is playing itself out before the entire world. This is an assault on a people who just two months ago were, quite ironically, assured by Trump that "help is on its way". Trump is also casually papering over a military quagmire into which he has drawn the entire US CENTCOM (Central Command), and, for us in India, the US PACOM (Pacific Command), a theatre of vital importance. US military assets are being relocated from East Asia to replenish the losses in West Asia. Till date, the Iranians have destroyed half a dozen THAAD radar systems, decapitated the US's most complex radar array at the Al-Udaiy base in Qatar and with pinpoint precision destroyed E3 Sentry surveillance aircraft, KC 135 air refuelling tankers and other surveillance aircraft. This is just a small inventory of what the Iranians have managed to destroy, apart from the devastating damage inflicted on US bases.

Meanwhile, ongoing mediation talks, being brokered by Pakistan, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Turkey, don't appear to be making much headway. So also is the Pakistan-China "5-point initiative". The latter is heavy on optics and light on substance, a classic diplomatic feint, which will please none and achieve nothing. The reality is that the US and Iran are locked in maximalist positions. Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi made this abundantly clear, saying that Iran has neither been consulted nor is it in any way engaged in the mediation. Araghchi also says these are not negotiations but merely an exchange of messages. He rejected any claims of a ceasefire, saying that Iran seeks a complete and perpetual cessation of all hostilities and compensation for damages. The danger, as always with the Iranians, is their tendency to overplay their hand and not know when to fold their cards.

Himachal: Mock drill strengthens earthquake preparedness at Palampur Agriversity

Palampur.(Agency)

A comprehensive earthquake mock drill was conducted at Chaudhary Sarwan Kumar Himachal Pradesh Krishi Vishwavidyalaya to enhance disaster preparedness and response among students and staff. Organised under the aegis of the Students' Welfare Organisation and guided by Students' Welfare Officer Dr. Desh Raj Chaudhary, the exercise saw participation from over 200 students across four constituent colleges.

The drill simulated an earthquake striking during an examination at the College of Agriculture, with 123 students and five teachers assumed to be present. Emergency protocols were activated immediately, with faculty, NSS volunteers and NCC cadets forming Search and Rescue, First Aid and Quick Response teams to manage evacuation, provide medical assistance and coordinate operations.

Communication officers ensured timely updates, while safety teams managed crowd control and safe assembly. The head of the institution also demonstrated prompt administrative response by alerting authorities through the emergency helpline.

Addressing participants, he stressed that preparedness, awareness and coordinated action are vital to minimising losses during natural disasters, and lauded the active involvement of students and staff.

The drill concluded with a debriefing session reviewing the performance of key functionaries and response teams, with suggestions shared to further strengthen the university's disaster management system.

Himachal: Pathania lays foundation for Rs 3.29-Cr water treatment plant

Dharamshala.(Agency)

Himachal Pradesh Assembly Deputy Chief Whip and MLA, Kewal Singh Pathania, today said the state government is committed to providing clean and safe drinking water to every household, stressing that access to pure water is key to improving public health.

Addressing a gathering at Batbala in Shahpur constituency after performing the bhoomipujan of a water treatment plant to be constructed at an estimated cost of Rs 3.29 crore under the Jal Shakti Department's Manei-Pargod Lift Drinking Water Scheme, Pathania said the project will include the construction of four water storage tanks at different locations.

He also inspected the ongoing Manei-Pargod Lift Drinking Water Scheme, being executed at a cost of about Rs 17 crore with ADB funding, which envisages the construction of 20 storage tanks across the region.

Pathania said that upon completion, the projects will ensure the supply of clean drinking water to several panchayats, significantly benefiting residents. He directed officials to ensure timely completion of the works while maintaining high quality standards.

Highlighting the government's focus on rural development, he said that tap water connections have been provided to all households in the state, leading to an improved standard of living. He added that water testing laboratories have also been set up across the state to regularly monitor water quality.

My mission is to restore peace in Manipur : CM Y Khemchand

Jiribam (Manipur).(Agency)

Manipur Chief Minister Y Khemchand on Sunday said that his priority was to establish lasting peace in the State. CM Khemchand who is in Jiribam district since Saturday met community leaders, displaced persons from different sections of society, government officials and inspected health and other facilities.

"Every community wants peace and we need to remove the trust deficit. My objective is to restore peace," the CM said. He also expressed his government's resolve to develop Jiribam into a model district. The Chief Minister was speaking to media persons at the proposed site for Inter-State Truck Terminus at Jiribam district.

Talking about the significance of Jiribam in building trust among different communities, Khemchand said that it was in Jiribam that people representing all communities gathered and had lunch together, after the unprecedented crisis that had occurred following the May 3, 2023 incident.

He informed that he would look into the possibilities of incorporating tourism projects at the Inter-State Truck Terminus site in consultation with the Town Planning Department, as the area earmarked is large enough for multiple projects.

Khemchand stated that this is his second visit to the district after becoming the Chief Minister of the State. He said that his Government's objective was to strengthen the bonding among different communities and restore peace in the State.

The Chief Minister also led a tree plantation drive at the site which was organised by Jiribam Forest Division. MLAs and senior officials of the state government also participated in the drive.

NFR strengthens connectivity by extending and operating special train services

The Sikh Times

Maligaon, 5th April: To clear the additional rush of passengers, the services of weekly special train no. 06571/06572 (Yesvantpur Jn. - Katihar - Yesvantpur Jn.) has been extended to operate for another 15 (Fifteen) additional trips each in both directions. The extension of this train will help clear additional passenger rush and strengthen connectivity between Southern and Eastern parts of the country, benefiting passengers from Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, West Bengal and Bihar, along with improved access for travellers from the Northeast. Additionally, it has been decided to operate a special train no. 08047/08048 (Santragachi - Naharlagun - Santragachi) for 12 (Twelve) trips. Operations of this special train will help passengers in travelling towards their destination for different purposes like summer holidays, exams, medical etc. Also, waiting listed passengers of other trains in these routes can avail the facility. Train No. 06571 (Yesvantpur Jn. -

Katihar) weekly special has been extended to run on every Tuesday from 07th of April 2026 to 14th of July 2026. In return

extended to run on every Friday from 10th of April 2026 to 17th of July 2026. This train will operate with the existing



direction, train no. 06572 (Katihar - Yesvantpur Jn.) weekly special has been extended to run on every Friday from 10th of April 2026 to 17th of July 2026. This train will operate with the existing schedule of service, timings, composition and stoppages. Special train no. 08047

(Santragachi - Naharlagun), will depart from Santragachi on every Friday at 18:00 hours from 10th of April 2026 to 26th of June 2026 to reach Naharlagun at 20:50 hours on the next day. Similarly, Special train no. 08048 (Naharlagun - Santragachi), will depart from Naharlagun on every Saturday at 23:55 hours from 11th of April 2026 to 27th of June 2026 to reach Santragachi at 04:15 hours of Monday. Enroute, it will halt at important stations including Bardhaman, Malda Town, Siliguri Jn., Kokrajhar, Rangiya and Rangapara North, among other stoppages. The train will run with a composition of AC 2-tier, AC 3-tier and Sleeper Class coaches for the convenience of passengers. The operation and extension of these special train services will significantly benefit passengers by providing additional travel options and easing congestion on busy routes. The details of stoppages and timings of these trains are available at IRCTC website and social media platforms of N. F. Railway. Passengers are requested to verify the details before undertaking their journey.

Blast outside BJP office: Five arrested, were backed by Pak's ISI and have handlers in Germany, Portugal, say police

Those arrested accused have been identified as Balwinder Lal alias Shami, Jasvir Singh alias Jassi, Charanjit Singh alias Channi (all from SBS Nagar), Rubal Chauhan (Shimla) and Mandeep alias Abhijot Sharma (Sangrur).

Chandigarh.(Agency)

Five persons, part of a module backed by Pakistan's ISI and operating under the directions of handlers located in Portugal and Germany, have been arrested in connection with the blast outside the BJP headquarters in Chandigarh, Punjab Director General of Police (DGP) Gaurav Yadav on Saturday said. Yadav said the counter-intelligence wing of Punjab Police, in a joint operation with Chandigarh Police, solved the grenade attack case in three days. Two key perpetrators involved in the attack have also been identified, and efforts are on to arrest them, he added. Police also recovered one hand grenade and a .30 bore Zigana pistol and 10 cartridges from their possession.

Those arrested accused have been identified as Balwinder Lal alias Shami, Jasvir Singh alias Jassi, Charanjit Singh alias Channi (all from SBS Nagar), Rubal Chauhan (Shimla) and Mandeep alias Abhijot Sharma (Sangrur). Two key perpetrators, Gurtej Singh and Amanpreet Singh, remain on the run, with

multiple teams conducting raids to apprehend them.

According to preliminary investigations, the accused were part of a well-structured network involving several layers of operatives, including cutouts and sub-



modules, designed to execute and conceal the attack. The entire operation was allegedly directed by foreign-based handlers, including Portugal-based Baljot Singh alias Jot, with links traced to Germany as well. Sharing further details, Assistant Inspector General, State Special Operations Cell

(SSOC), SAS Nagar, Deepak Pareek said the investigation revealed that the accused had transported a consignment containing hand grenades, arms and live cartridges. This consignment was circulated through multiple operatives before reaching the final perpetrators. Acting on the instructions of a handler based in Portugal, the accused coordinated the delivery and execution of the attack, the AIG said.

Police officers said the recovery was a crucial breakthrough in establishing the operational capabilities of the module. An FIR has been registered under relevant Sections of the Arms Act and the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) at Police Station SSOC SAS Nagar.

The blast occurred around 5 pm outside the BJP office in Sector 37, damaging vehicles parked nearby. No casualties were reported. The incident triggered a high-level investigation, with a team from the National Investigation Agency (NIA) also roped in.

When life gave them lemons, they chose reverse migration

Punjab couple quits cushy job in Australia to return home, make a fortune farming lemons

Mohali.(Agency)

They were living the dream that many in Punjab would give an arm or leg to live. But it wasn't clearly enough. After four years of steady but a demanding life abroad, Harbir Singh Jhaji and Navjot Kaur made a choice that youngsters in Punjab wouldn't even consider: they returned home. The couple, both in their mid-30s, left behind careers in Australia to pursue what they describe as a more meaningful and independent life rooted in farming.

Their journey had a modest beginning in 2017. Harbir, then still living in Australia, decided to experiment with lemon cultivation on three bighas of family land in Ludhiana district's village Umedpur. He took the risk buoyed by the support offered through a government subsidy that covered plants, labour, and maintenance for two years. The risk, he says, was minimal but the results were good.

"The initial results were very encouraging. It planted the idea at the back of our minds that we could build something sustainable

back home," says Harbir. At the time, however, the couple's life in Australia was financially secure. Navjot, who holds a masters degree in Biotechnology, had went to Australia to pursue masters in Public Health. Harbir, a pharmacy



graduate, who had reached Australia on dependent visa, worked alongside her. Yet, despite an obvious financial stability, the pace of life was turning out to be exhausting.

"There was no respite. It was all about long working hours with no rest, even if you were sick or unwell. Life was all about mortgage repayments," says Harbir. "We realised we would keep working like

machines for years just to pay off the loans." During visits back home, Harbir began taking interest in farming on their 4.5-acre land in Umedpur, which had been given on lease. The family also owned another 10-acre parcel in Chamkaur Sahib (Ropar district), which too was leased out.

Navjot, however, had reservations about returning to Punjab, given a promising career trajectory.

"I was hesitant in the beginning, but we realised that if we put the same amount of hard work on our farm, we could not only earn more but also live closer to our family. It also means a better upbringing for our children with their grandparents," she says.

They returned in 2019, even before their visas expired, and began reclaiming family land that had long been leased out. Building on earlier success, they expanded lemon cultivation, choosing the Mexican Lime variety for its consistent demand and quality. Today, lemon orchards form the backbone of their 22-acre integrated farming enterprise.

Triple death in UP turns out to be pre-planned murder, sister among accused

Meerut.(Agency)

What was initially believed to be a tragic case of spurious liquor poisoning has taken a shocking turn, with police investigations revealing a premeditated murder conspiracy behind the deaths of three men in Daurala, Meerut, officials said on Sunday. According to police, the case began to unravel due to inconsistent statements by Alka, the sister of one of the deceased, Ankit alias Daulat. During questioning, her behaviour raised suspicion as she repeatedly

changed her version of events. Initially, she claimed complete ignorance and tried to portray the incident as an accident, even breaking down emotionally to deflect scrutiny. However, sustained interrogation and technical evidence exposed contradictions in her statements, eventually leading to her alleged confession. Police have taken Alka and her alleged lover, Pawan alias Poli, into custody. Both have reportedly confessed to orchestrating the crime. Investigators said Alka had been

in a long-standing relationship with Pawan, which her brother Ankit strongly opposed. This conflict, coupled with her alleged interest in acquiring Ankit's share of family land, is believed to be the motive behind the crime. The couple allegedly planned to eliminate Ankit so they could marry and later sell the property. To execute the plan, the duo allegedly laced liquor at home with poison, knowing Ankit's drinking habits. However, fearing suspicion if only Ankit died, they attempted to make it appear as a

case of accidental poisoning. Unaware of the plot, Ankit reportedly took the poisoned liquor to a local workshop, where he consumed it along with two others — Baburam Prajapati and Jitendra Kashyap. All three men died shortly after consuming the toxic alcohol. The incident initially triggered panic among authorities, as the liquor was suspected to have come from a licensed government shop. Senior district and police officials rushed to the scene. However, subsequent

investigations confirmed that the liquor from the government outlet was not contaminated.

The focus then shifted to the household, ultimately exposing the alleged murder plot.

Police are now working to trace the source of the poison and gather further evidence. The case has sent shockwaves through the region, particularly as Alka had earlier appeared to be publicly grieving her brother's death.

Authorities said a detailed official statement will be issued as the investigation progresses.

Overloaded tipper scatters gravel on road; little girls sweep it up, averting risk of accidents in Hamirpur

Hamirpur(HP).(Agency)

Noble acts are always recognised and responsibility and civic awareness are not bound by age. Two young girls from the Hamirpur district have proven this to be true. On Friday morning, near the Taunidevi police post on National Highway-03, these girls performed an act that compelled every passerby to bow their heads in respect. Using brooms, the girls spent nearly 45 minutes clearing gravel that had spilled onto the road due to the negligence of an overloaded vehicle, thereby ensuring that no two-wheeler or other vehicle would fall victim to an accident.

According to reports, around 9 AM on Friday, an overloaded tipper truck carrying gravel from a crusher was travelling toward the town of Tounidevi, passing by the Tounidevi police post. Being loaded beyond its carrying capacity, the tipper was continuously shedding gravel onto the road—a hazard that could have easily caused two-wheelers to skid and crash.

At that very moment, two young girls—Nabhi and Sanchita Chauhan—who were playing on the roof of a house near the police post, noticed the gravel falling onto the road. With remarkable presence of mind, the girls realised that the scattered gravel could pose a serious danger to motorists. Without informing their parents, the siblings immediately grabbed brooms from their home, rushed to the road, and set about clearing the gravel from the National Highway.

Drivers of both small and large vehicles passing by were astonished to see these young girls, with their tiny hands, sweeping the road for nearly 45 minutes.

Many people stopped their vehicles to lavishly praise the girls' spirit and their exemplary sense of civic duty. While this incident highlights the girls' excellent upbringing and their thoughtful attitude toward society, it also raises a silent question regarding the unchecked movement of overloaded vehicles passing fearlessly right under the very nose of the police post.

Local people are praising the noble act of the girls and want the district administration and local PRI functionaries to honour such girls for their work that has made all to smile.

Iranian cafe offers taste of a besieged nation

Irani Mehfil blends authenticity and culture even as it faces tough times due to the war in West Asia.

New Delhi.(Agency)

Soft strains of Persian music float through the air as sunlight filters through wide glass windows, gently falling on shelves lined with books on mysticism, poetry, and Iranian history, along with beautiful handicrafts. The aroma of caramelised Iranian dates lingers, blending with the delicate fragrance of saffron and dried rose buds steeping in tea.

Tucked along Supreme Court Road, between the Iran Culture House and the Delhi College of Art, Irani Mehfil Cafe feels less like a commercial space and more like a cultural passage—an invitation into Iran in the heart of Delhi.

The cafe, which opened last year, stands on what was once an old library housing volumes on Iranian culture and history. Its transformation was not accidental but intentional. The President of the Iran Culture House envisioned a space that would take Iranian culture beyond

institutional walls and introduce it to a wider Indian audience. “He didn’t want to confine Iranian culture within the house. He wanted it to reach different strata of Indian society,” said the founder of the cafe, Mehdi Shirmohammadi.

Shirmohammadi, an Iranian entrepreneur who runs a company in Chandigarh, imports saffron and dry fruits directly from Iran. At the cafe, authenticity is key. The menu, though still evolving, centres around traditional offerings like saffron tea, orange blossom tea, and Persian aromatic black tea—distinctly different from the milk-based brews common in India. The cafe also offers Indian tea, albeit with a slightly creamy texture.

Explaining the name ‘Mehfil’, Shirmohammadi said, “The name ‘Mehfil’ itself reflects a cultural bridge. While rooted in Persian linguistic traditions, it is a word deeply familiar to Indians, evoking a sense of gathering, warmth, and shared



experience.

We wanted something people here would instantly connect with. Also, the best part is

that we offer people a place to come, sit and work from our café...”

Beyond tea, the cafe doubles as a living

cultural exhibit. Iranian handicrafts adorn the space, while books ranging from contemporary fiction to classical poetry, children’s literature, and translations of the Quran invite visitors to linger. Plans are underway to expand into an open garden seating area within the Culture House premises, further blurring the lines between a cafe and a cultural hub.

Interestingly, Delhi’s small but evolving Iranian cafe scene is not without contrasts. In Daryaganj, a cafe called Irani Dum Chai claims to serve “original” Iranian tea alongside bun malai maska—a combination more rooted in Indian café culture. Mohammadi, however, pointed out that traditional Iranian chai does not include milk, highlighting how authenticity often gets reinterpreted across borders. The Daryaganj cafe also experiments with fusion offerings like Ajwa khajoor ice cream, blending Middle Eastern ingredients with local tastes.

40-year-old man's body found outside factory in Delhi, identity unknown

New Delhi.(Agency)

A decomposed body of an unidentified 40-year-old man was found stuffed inside a plastic bag outside a factory in Delhi on Friday. The bag was discovered by a security guard at the factory when he returned to his post at around 7:30 am on April 4.

He had spent the previous night elsewhere due to mosquitoes and noticed a white plastic bag lying



outside the factory gate upon his return. The plastic bag, tied with a rope, was emitting a foul smell, prompting the security guard to alert the police.

Following his call, a team arrived at the spot to find an unidentified body in a decomposed state. The unidentified man, approximately 40 years old, was wearing blue jeans and a peach-coloured full-sleeve shirt, and had a light beard. No external injuries were visible on the body.

The Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) team also reached the spot and carried out a detailed inspection and photography alongside the police team. The body was subsequently shifted to DDU Hospital mortuary.

Bar body's stir over Saturday sittings disrupts Delhi HC work

New Delhi.(Agency)

The Delhi High Court Bar Association’s (DHCBA) call to abstain from work on the first and third Saturdays of every month impacted court proceedings on Saturday, as most cases were adjourned due to the non-appearance of lawyers.

The DHCBA has called for abstaining from work in protest against the high court’s decision to designate the first and third Saturdays as regular court sitting days. The boycott began on Saturday. The high court had uploaded a 141-page cause list (matters to be heard), while notifying the sitting of at least two dozen benches.

However, as the day began, many benches, including the one led by Chief Justice Devendra Kumar



Upadhyaya, did not assemble. Judges who held court granted adjournments in most matters after proxy counsel appeared and sought deferment. The Executive Committee of the DHCBA had taken the decision to abstain from work “unanimously” at a meeting held on March 27.

The Bar Association said the Committee considered concerns raised by members regarding the practical challenges posed by Saturday sittings.

“Members had expressed that the present arrangement would cause significant disruption to their professional schedules,” it said. It added that multiple representations were made seeking reconsideration; “however, no reconsideration had taken place.”

Delhi government's slum rehab policy with shopping complex soon

Facilities under consideration include schools, Jan Suvidha Kendras, and dedicated sanitation arrangements for women, according to the government's proposed policy plan.



New Delhi.(Agency)

The Delhi government is set to provide slum dwellers modern amenities like shopping complexes, parking spaces and e-rickshaw charging points as part of a new rehabilitation and resettlement policy being prepared, a source said on Saturday. Facilities under consideration include schools, Jan Suvidha Kendras, and dedicated sanitation arrangements for women, according to the government’s proposed policy plan. The policy may be finalised this month. The government also plans to extend the eligibility cut-off date under the



existing policy by 10 years from January 1, 2015, to January 1, 2025, making many slum dwellers eligible for permanent housing. There are 750 slum clusters in Delhi.

Nearly half are located on land owned by

Central government agencies such as the railways, the Land and Development Office and the Delhi Development Authority, which acts as the nodal agency for their rehab.

The remaining slums are situated on land owned by the government, where rehabilitation is overseen by the Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board under the urban development department.

Currently, slum rehabilitation is governed by the Delhi Slum and Jhuggi Jhopri Rehabilitation and Relocation Policy, 2015, which provides alternative accommodation at the same site or within a 5-km radius.

Sales value up 379% in a year: Why Golf Course Extension Road is emerging as NCR's key micro market

The weighted average property prices in the area also saw a sharp increase — rising from Rs 24,855 per sq ft to Rs 37,899 per sq ft, the report released in March highlights.



New Delhi.(Agency)

A 379% jump in overall sales between 2024 and 2025, sharp spike in weighted average property prices and a surge in high-end constructions: the Golf Course Extension Road in Gurgaon has lately emerged as one of the most active growth micro markets in the National Capital Region (NCR), analysts say.

As per a joint report by India luxury real estate transaction advisory firm, Sotheby’s International Realty, and CRE Matrix, a real estate analysis platform, the area recorded a 379% year-on-year increase in transaction value — jumping from Rs 693 crore to Rs 3,319 crore between 2024 and 2025. The weighted average property prices in the area also saw a sharp increase — rising from Rs 24,855 per sq ft to Rs 37,899 per sq ft, the report released in March highlights.

A closer look at the data highlights a broader trend of steep price appreciation in the area over the last five years. Property consultant Anarock’s data from earlier this year

revealed that the average price of an apartment on Golf Course Extension Road stands at Rs 22,000 per sq ft this year, surpassing the Dwarka Expressway micro market, which averages Rs 18,000 per sq ft. “The real estate market in Golf Course Road has saturated and now there is movement in the Golf Course Extension Road. Big players like M3M, Oberoi and Godrej have bought substantial land. Once the conflict in West Asia eases, more branded projects are expected to be announced,” said Abhishek Bhardwaj, founder of Kalpvriksha Realty.

Launch prices across the 6-km corridor — connecting the southern tip of Golf Course Road to Vatika Chowk — have more than doubled from around Rs 8,800 per sq ft in 2019 to over Rs 20,000 per sq ft in 2024, according to reports by property consultants Savills India and Cushman & Wakefield. In Sector 66, a 112% growth has been recorded over the last five years with average plot values floating around Rs 18,400 per sq ft, as per Aurum PropTech Price Trends Report (2025).



Man who sent hoax bomb threats to Delhi HC sent similar emails to Supreme Court seven times, probe reveals

The cyber cell of the New Delhi district police was assigned the investigation, which eventually led to Luis' arrest from his house in Mysuru.

New Delhi.(Agency)

Shrinivas Luis, the 47-year-old man arrested on March 27 by the Delhi Police from his Mysuru home for allegedly sending hoax bomb threat emails to courts and other institutions in the Capital, had sent seven similar threats to the Supreme Court as well, The IndianAccording to Delhi Police, during the analysis of Luis’ 1,500 bomb threat emails — sent to high courts and state police chiefs over the past year — it came to light that seven of the emails were sent to the Supreme Court and 50 to the Delhi High Court, while tagging the Delhi Police Commissioner’s office. “The analysis of his emails have revealed that the content was almost identical. He

had not sent the emails to any other institutions such as schools, colleges, or other government buildings. His main targets were the high courts, but he sent at least seven emails to the Supreme Court as well,” an officer said.

The Delhi Police have said that Luis, who once pursued law and allegedly harbours a deep resentment against the judicial system, primarily targeted courts. He would seek to disrupt court proceedings by sending emails claiming bombs were placed in the court premises, with a copy marked to the police to ensure the threat did not go unnoticed, they have added.

Luis, who was sent to six days of police



custody by a court on March 30, was taken to his hometown for further probe by a Delhi Police team. “The statements of his mother, brother, and other relatives have been recorded. It has come to light that he was suffering from depression due to personal reasons,” an officer said.

Police said they have recovered one more laptop used to send the emails. So far, two laptops and three mobile phones have been seized from him, they added.

Luis has allegedly sent threat emails to several high courts, including in Delhi, Mumbai, Khatniggarh, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Gujarat and Chandigarh. He also sent similar emails to courts abroad, police said.

“On some days, the Delhi High Court reportedly received such emails twice a day. In Delhi alone, he allegedly sent more than 50 fake emails to the High Court over months, tagging the Delhi Police Commissioner’s office,” said the officer.

NEWS BOX

Rishabh Pant should open for LSG, management hiding something: Ashwin

New Delhi. (Agency)

Ravichandran Ashwin has questioned Lucknow Super Giants' handling of Rishabh Pant, suggesting there may be more going on behind the scenes regarding his batting role. The former India spinner believes Pant should be given a consistent run as an opener instead of uncertainty around his position.

Pant opened alongside Mitchell Marsh against Delhi Capitals but was run out for 7 in unfortunate fashion after a deflection off Mukesh Kumar's hand hit the stumps at the non-striker's end. Despite the early dismissal, Pant hinted at continuing in the top order, prompting Ashwin to weigh in on the situation on his YouTube channel. "All of these statements will not confuse anyone, but himself. The reason why Rishabh gave such a statement is because there is some secret. It means that the team management is discussing this with him. There is no point of doubt in my mind. If I were there, Rishabh would open the innings for the entire season. But now, what is happening, there should be no inconsistency in what you are saying. I



know he made a 100 at No.3, but opening suits him, so you should have some patience," Ashwin said. Pant's promotion to the top comes with statistical backing. Across 23 T20 innings as an opener, he has struck at 159, including a century and five fifties, numbers that underline his effectiveness in the role. However, LSG's experiment did not pay off in their opener. The side was bowled out for 141, with Abdul Samad (36) and Mitchell Marsh (35) offering resistance, before Delhi chased it down comfortably through Sameer Rizvi and Tristan Stubbs.

WILL RISHABH PANT OPEN FOR LSG?

After the DC clash, Pant himself hinted at a continued role at the top despite the early setback, adding further intrigue to LSG's plans. During the post-match presentation, Pant dropped a cryptic comment that only fuelled speculation around his position. "I think it's a 50-50 call, but we'll see. But you will definitely see me in the top order," he said.

IPL 2026: Hardik Pandya set to return in Mumbai Indians' clash against RR after illness

New Delhi. (Agency)

Mumbai Indians (MI) captain Hardik Pandya is reportedly set to return to action in his side's upcoming clash against Rajasthan Royals (RR) at the Barsapara Stadium in Guwahati on Tuesday, April 07. Hardik missed MI's last game against Delhi Capitals on Saturday due to illness.

The star Indian all-rounder missed the game due to viral fever. In his absence, Suryakumar Yadav led the five-time champions against DC. Mumbai Indians lost the game by six wickets to suffer their first defeat of the season. However, they have now been handed a timely boost ahead of their next game as Hardik is reportedly ready to make his comeback. As per a report in the Times of India, Hardik has travelled to Guwahati with the rest of the MI squad and will resume training with the rest of the team



after missing out on action in the last few days due to his illness. Speaking at the toss ahead of his side's clash against DC on Saturday, Suryakumar spoke about Hardik's absence in the playing XI.

"He (Pandya) isn't well, does not look good, so he wasn't fit for today's game. So, just getting into his shoes today," Suryakumar Yadav had said at the toss in Delhi. As per the report, the Mumbai Indians team management rested Hardik from the game as a precautionary measure after the all-rounder missed two training sessions leading up to the game due to his illness.

Mumbai Indians suffer first defeat in IPL 2026 The star all-rounder's absence was felt dearly as MI slipped to their first defeat of the season. Mumbai Indians managed 162 runs on the board, batting first at the Arun Jaitley Stadium in New Delhi and failed to defend the target as DC rode on Sameer Rizvi's brilliant 90-run knock to chase down the target with 11 balls to spare.

IPL 2026: RCB scent blood in Bengaluru as CSK crisis risks becoming catastrophe

IPL 2026, RCB vs CSK preview:

The balance of power has rarely tilted this far as RCB host CSK in Bengaluru, with the defending champions in control and a faltering Super Kings side already under pressure to arrest an alarming early-season slide.

Bengaluru. (Agency)

The M Chinnaswamy Stadium has long been the IPL's pressure cooker, and on Sunday night, Chennai Super Kings are firmly in the line of fire. For over a decade, the Yellow Army marched into Bengaluru with the smug swagger of a team that owned the lease. But the 2026 season has delivered a rather brutal eviction notice. Heading into this southern derby on the back of two spirit-crushing defeats, CSK are searching not just

for points, but for a pulse. A 0-3 record in their last three meetings against the defending champions only deepens the unease, as does a bowling unit that currently leaks more than a cheap tap in the monsoon. The lion's den, it seems, has shifted north. RCB are favourites, yes. But more than that, they have the opportunity to turn a crisis into a full-blown early-season catastrophe for a Chennai side that resembles less a dynasty and more a group of lost tourists without their MS Dhoni-shaped GPS. After years of playing second fiddle in this rivalry, RCB will be licking their lips on Sunday.

TV GUIDE AND LIVE STREAMING

Royal Challengers Bengaluru vs Chennai Super Kings will get underway at 7:30 pm IST on Sunday, April 5. Live streaming will be available on JioHotstar, with television coverage on the Star Sports Network.

RCB vs CSK: HEAD-TO-HEAD

Few rivalries in the IPL carry as much emotional weight. Historically, Chennai Super Kings have held the upper hand in this fixture, consistently outmanoeuvring RCB across phases and conditions.

In 36 matches, RCB have managed just 13 wins, losing 22 to the Super Kings. Even at their home venue, the margin is closer, with RCB winning six and losing five. However,



recent meetings suggest a shift. Bengaluru have claimed the last three encounters between the sides, hinting at a changing dynamic and a growing belief within their ranks that the long-standing balance of power may be tilting.

TALKING POINTS: CSK UNDER PRESSURE

Chennai Super Kings are a side lacking both personnel and confidence. In the absence of

Dewald Brevis, who is out with a nigggle, and MS Dhoni, the Super Kings have relied heavily on their top order for runs. After managing just 121 against Rajasthan Royals in their season opener, CSK produced an improved batting display against Punjab Kings, posting 209 on the board—but it proved inadequate. Young Ayush Mhatre lit up Chepauk with a 43-ball 73 against Punjab, but CSK need their senior players to step up, particularly given the inexperience in the middle order. Samson, acquired in that blockbuster trade that saw Ravindra Jadeja move to the Rajasthan Royals, has yet to find his Pink City rhythm in yellow. Captain Ruturaj has also appeared tentative, with CSK's untested middle order feeling the pressure. The bowling has wilted too, showing signs of panic early in the season.

Chennai Super Kings' bowling group enters the Chinnaswamy under immense psychological and tactical pressure.

Sameer Rizvi's DC success a salute to Indian domestic cricket: Ex-India star

BARCELONA. (Agency)

Former India batter Mohammed Kaif has hailed Sameer Rizvi's rise in IPL 2026 as a testament to the strength of India's domestic cricket system, following the youngster's match-winning knock against Mumbai Indians. Kaif credited Rizvi's success to the grind of domestic cricket, highlighting how consistent exposure at that level builds confidence for the big stage. Rizvi once again delivered under pressure for Delhi Capitals, producing a stunning 90 off 51 balls to guide his side to a six-wicket win. Coming in as an Impact Substitute, the youngster turned the game on its head after DC found themselves in early trouble during the chase of 163. "Sameer Rizvi's IPL success - 58, 70 and now 90 against MI - is a salute to India's domestic cricket. Rizvi, and his UP teammate Prashant Veer, were constantly on the road playing Mushtaq Ali T20 and U23 games. One day in Kolkata,

Manjappada calls for boycott of all Kerala Blasters matches, cites poor management

KOCHI. (Agency)

The rift between the Indian Super League club Kerala Blasters FC and their biggest fan group Manjappada has widened with the latter calling for a boycott of all further KBFC matches, throwing open the possibility of the massive Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium losing the charm of iconic celebrations during ISL matches in Kochi.

On Friday, the fan group posted the boycott call across their social media handles, raising serious allegations against the club for poor performances and management. In their statement, Manjappada said the team has no clear motive or identity, pointing to the repeated failures this season. The Blasters are 13th in the standings with no win and just a draw to show for in six matches. Since the departure of the club's fairly successfully coach Ivan

Vukomanovic in 2024, the team -- which had been occupying the top positions -- suddenly



dropped down the points table, failing to make it into the play-offs. Since then, the club appointed Mikael Stahre, T G Purushothaman and David Catala as head coaches, but all ended up being sacked mid-

season due to a lack of results. Manjappada alleged "poor player management, questionable signings with no clear plan, and complete disconnect between the management and the fans" as the primary reasons for stepping back from supporting activities. Manjappada currently has 1.22 lakh followers on X, 3.34 lakh on Facebook, and 7.67 lakh on Instagram and is often dubbed as the biggest football fan group in Asia. The season, which began late, had already witnessed a huge drop in football at the JLN Stadium, the home ground of KBFC, unlike the packed galleries in the past.

At the same time, the fan group played a huge part in conducting social media campaigns to popularise the recent India-Hong Kong Asian Cup Qualifiers match at the venue.

Simeone slams VAR calls in Barcelona's controversial win vs Atletico Madrid

CHENNAI. (Agency)

Atletico Madrid head coach Diego Simeone launched a scathing attack on refereeing standards after a VAR-dominated clash between Atletico Madrid and FC Barcelona, where multiple contentious decisions shaped the outcome. The Atletico boss questioned the consistency of officiating after a red card, a rescinded dismissal, and several key calls went against his side in a controversial 2-1 defeat.

The result saw Barcelona move seven points clear of Real Madrid at the top of La Liga following Madrid's earlier loss to RCD Mallorca. However, Simeone vented frustrations over inconsistency when it comes to referees using VAR, and how that affected Atletico's clash against the Blaugrana. "We played very well in the first half, with chances at both ends, pressing well and creating opportunities, but then we had the sending-off, which was justified. We clung to a possible offside call, and in that situation VAR can't intervene for a second yellow card," Simeone cited another LaLiga game between Real Betis and Rayo Vallecano,

where a similar incident was adjudged in a completely opposite way.

"In the Betis-Rayo match, they said the same challenge was a red card when the ball went over the foot and stepped on it. So did they see it or not? They saw it," he added. The Atletico coach's remarks come amid



growing scrutiny over VAR interventions in Spain, with several clubs questioning the application of rules and the lack of uniformity in key decisions across matches, issues that have repeatedly influenced high-stakes fixtures in the title race.

MATCH TURNS AMID VAR DRAMA AND

LATETWIST

Barcelona capitalised on the chaos to secure a crucial victory at the Wanda Metropolitano. Atletico had started brightly, with Antoine Griezmann going close before Giuliano Simeone put the hosts ahead in the 39th minute after latching onto a long ball from Clment Lenglet and finishing past Joan Garcia. Barcelona responded just before half-time through Marcus Rashford, who drove past defenders and slotted home to equalise. The game's defining moment came when Nicols Gonzalez was sent off after his second yellow card was upgraded to a straight red for a challenge on Lamine Yamal. Atletico's frustrations deepened when Gerard Martn had his red card overturned following a VAR review, a decision that further angered the home side. Despite their numerical disadvantage, Atletico continued to push forward, but Barcelona found a fortunate winner in the 87th minute when Joo Cancelo's shot was parried by Juan Musso straight onto Robert Lewandowski, with the ball ricocheting into the net.



the next day in Mumbai and again back to Kolkata. "More domestic cricket translates into confidence and runs at the top level. Hard work always pays and Rizvi is a perfect example of that," Kaif wrote on X.

Rizvi's performances this season have underlined a growing maturity in his game. After a breakout 70 in Lucknow earlier, he backed it up with another decisive knock, showing composure in tricky conditions at the Kotla, where the pitch offered little ease for batters. That confidence has been built on a strong domestic foundation. Representing Uttar Pradesh in the Vijay Hazare Trophy 2025-26, Rizvi emerged as a high-impact middle-order batter, scoring 238 runs at an average of 59.50 and playing a key role in their run to the quarter-finals. His campaign included a blistering 80 off 45 balls against Jammu & Kashmir and an unbeaten 88 in the knockout stage, underlining his ability to deliver under pressure.

In the corridor of control: Mukesh Kumar follows Hazlewood's map for T20 success

New Delhi. (Agency)

On a surface that demanded patience more than power at the Arun Jaitley Stadium, Delhi Capitals outclassed Mumbai Indians to make it two out of two in IPL 2026. While Sameer Rizvi's fluent 90 grabbed the headlines in DC's six-wicket win over MI, the groundwork had been laid earlier in the evening by Mukesh Kumar, who once again showed the value of discipline with the new ball and imposed a method that is beginning to define his T20 bowling. There is a tendency in the format to chase novelty, to rely on variations that can outfox batters conditioned to attack. What Mukesh is building instead is a far older craft, one that rests on control of length and the discipline to repeat it.

THE HAZLEWOOD T20 IMPRINT

In that sense, the reference point is clear. Josh Hazlewood has built a career on denying batters room rather than surprising them, and his IPL 2025 season was an extension of that philosophy. With 22 wickets in 12 matches at

an economy rate of 8.77, he drove Royal Challengers Bengaluru to their first title, doing so through relentless accuracy rather than fancy variations. Mukesh, for his part, is beginning to operate in a similar mould, leaning into those principles and making them central to his own method. Last year, we observed how Hazlewood bowled; he consistently hit test lengths. Our coach advised me to focus on my strengths and target that area. It's a difficult length to score off, especially if the ball is moving," Mukesh said after DC's win over MI in Delhi.

The phrase "Test length" in a T20 context can feel counterintuitive, but its value lies in the doubt it creates. It sits in that awkward zone, neither full enough to drive nor short enough to pull with authority and, on a surface offering even a hint of assistance, it draws mistakes rather than inviting strokes. Mukesh has returned to that area with growing conviction. When the season began, Mukesh Kumar was not seen

as an automatic pick. The competition was hard to ignore, especially with Jammu and Kashmir quick Auqib Nabi pushing his case after a standout domestic season. Mukesh



then explained how he earned the Delhi Capitals management's trust to secure a place in the playing XI for the season opener. "There are practice matches before an IPL

season. If you do well there, the management backs you. I did well in the practice match. So, the team has backed me. The performances are showing." And in Delhi Capitals' first two matches, the Bihar seamer has quietly shown why he stays ahead in the pecking order, leaning on the experience of having already worn India colours across formats. In Lucknow, during Delhi's opening game of the season, that intent was evident right through the powerplay. He sent down three overs with the new ball for less than a run a ball, not through exaggerated movement but through control. There was just enough swing to bring the batter forward and just enough seam to keep the edge in play. More telling, though, was his refusal to ease the squeeze. There was little width on offer, and he rarely erred in length, especially against Mitchell Marsh, who was repeatedly forced to play in front of square.

Investors bracing for another eventful week; RBI policy, US-Iran tensions, oil spike to weigh in sentiments

Mumbai.(Agency)

Indian stock markets ended their sixth consecutive week lower, with benchmark indices slipping nearly 0.5 per cent amid heightened volatility triggered by a mix of global uncertainties and domestic concerns. Investors are now bracing for another eventful week, where the Reserve Bank of India's policy decision, escalating geopolitical tensions, and surging crude oil prices are expected to dictate market direction. The holiday-shortened week began on a weak footing, as rising tensions between the United States and Iran, coupled with a sharp spike in crude oil prices, dented investor sentiment and led to broad-based selling. However, markets staged a midweek recovery as fears of an immediate escalation eased and oil prices showed some signs of cooling. Despite the rebound, volatility remained elevated due to inconsistent global cues, persistent foreign institutional investor outflows, concerns over inflation, and a weakening rupee.

By the end of the week, the Nifty settled at 22,713.10, while the Sensex closed at 73,319.55.

Commenting on Nifty technical outlook, experts said that from a technical standpoint, the 22,150-21,900 zone is likely to act as a key support area.

"On the upside, resistance is seen in the 23,000-23,500 range. The Relative Strength Index (RSI) on the weekly timeframe stands at 27.88," an analyst stated. Looking ahead, all eyes will be on the upcoming monetary policy decision by the Reserve Bank of India. The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) is scheduled to meet from April 6 to April 8 for its first session of FY27. Geopolitical developments will also remain a key overhang. The ongoing conflict between the United States and Iran appears to be intensifying, with reports of military escalation and strong warnings issued by Donald Trump. Any further deterioration in the situation could significantly impact global risk sentiment and trigger fresh volatility in equities.

Crude oil prices, already on a sharp upward trajectory, will be another crucial factor. Brent crude has surged to around \$109 per barrel following disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz, a vital artery for global energy supplies.

Silver prices have crashed by 42% in 8 weeks; know the latest rates in your city

Kolkata.(Agency)

Only a few weeks earlier, silver prices zoomed to an incredible Rs 4 lakh a kg. Then the crash came and now the prices have crashed by a huge Rs 1.70 lakh per kg. Experts have pointed out that the price of silver is more tied to the global economy than gold. "More than half of all silver's demand comes from heavy industry and high technology, including smartphones, tablets, automobile electrical systems, solar-panel cells and many other products and applications, according to the World Silver Survey. As a result, silver tends to be more responsive to economic changes compared to gold. When economies take off, demand tends to grow for silver," writes Morgan Stanley in a note. Therefore, analysts have also pointed out that the long-term outlook on silver remains bullish.

Silver prices have remained unchanged for a couple of days now. Investors now feel a bit relieved with the prices of the white metal coming down. Last week on a single day, the price of silver declined by as much as Rs 10,000. Let's have a look at the price of silver in your city. The volatility in silver prices can be two to three times greater than that of gold on a given day. While some traders see this as an opportunity, such volatility can be challenging when managing portfolio risk," Morgan Stanley reiterates.

Silver price in your city

According to data of bullion.in, the price of pure silver (999 Fine Silver) was Rs 233 per gram on April 5. The price of 1 kilogram has reached Rs 233,340. It is a huge climb down from the level of Rs 401,860 per kg on Jan 29.

As the equity market wobbles, check corporate FD rates in April

Kolkata.(Agency)

As the equity markets plummet due to the impact of the energy crisis thrust on the world by the West Asia conflict, debt instruments are gradually attracting attention of a large number of investors. Corporate fixed deposits (FD) are one of the fixed-return instruments that have been popular with a large number of investors. Let's have a look at the rates some of the better corporates are now offering.

A scrutiny of the FD market reveals that NBFCs and HFCs (housing finance companies) offer relatively higher interest rates on corporate fixed deposits compared to the major banks, both public sector ones and private sector ones. "One of the key advantages is the higher interest rates that corporate FDs give compared to traditional bank FDs, often 1-2% more, depending on the company's credit rating and the duration of the deposit," Adhil Shetty, CEO of BankBazaar.com has been quoted as saying. Let's have a look at a few prominent Fds.

Check the ratings assigned

Ratings which are assigned to these instruments by credit rating agencies are a useful guide for investors. These ratings signal a lot of critical variables for the financial condition of the company issuing the debt paper. If the rating is stronger, it indicates dependable payout of interest and principal and a lower chance of default. Ratings such as CRISIL, ICRA and CARE assign these ratings. The ratings range from AAA, which indicate highest safety, to D which indicates default.

Petrol, diesel, LPG supply remain adequate across the country, no need to panic: IOCL

New Delhi.(Agency)

State-run oil marketing company (OMC) Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOCL) on Saturday assured that supplies of petrol, diesel and LPG remain adequate across the country, even as the Centre steps up efforts to minimise any disruption to fuel supply chains amid global uncertainties.

The PSU firm said it is closely monitoring its nationwide distribution network and taking necessary steps to prevent hoarding and black marketing of LPG cylinders. In a public advisory shared on X, the company urged consumers not to resort to panic buying or place unnecessary LPG bookings, stressing that supply lines remain stable despite concerns arising from tensions in West Asia and disruptions around key shipping routes such as the Strait of Hormuz. At IndianOil, we are ensuring adequate availability of petrol, diesel and LPG across the country. Necessary actions are being taken to prevent hoarding and black marketing of LPG cylinders, with



continuous monitoring across the supply network," the company said in the post.

The reassurance comes amid concerns over global oil supply disruptions due to escalating geopolitical tensions in the Middle East. Officials said Indian refiners have proactively secured crude oil supplies for the coming months, ensuring continuity in domestic fuel availability. Refiners also have the

flexibility to source crude from multiple geographies based on commercial considerations, helping cushion the impact of global volatility, officials added. The oil ministry said India has recently imported a consignment of LPG from Iran, which has reached the western port of Mangaluru and is being discharged. Authorities maintained that domestic fuel availability remains stable,

with coordinated efforts underway to ensure seamless distribution and prevent any artificial shortages. Moreover, 21 states and Union Territories are conducting press briefings to counter misinformation and reassure citizens regarding adequate availability and smooth distribution of LPG. The government has asked Chief Secretaries of all states and UTs to intensify proactive public communication, including daily press briefings at senior levels, along with timely dissemination of accurate information through social and electronic media. OMCs also offer 5-kg LPG cylinders at distributors and petrol pumps on showing valid ID, without requiring address proof. "The 5-kg FTL cylinders are available at nearby LPG distributorships and can be purchased by showing any valid ID proof. No address proof is required," the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas said. Since March 23, around 5.7 lakh such cylinders have been sold.

RBI policy, US-Iran tensions and oil spike likely to drive stock market next week

New Delhi.(Agency)

Indian stock markets ended their sixth consecutive week lower, with benchmark indices slipping nearly 0.5 per cent amid heightened volatility triggered by a mix of global uncertainties and domestic concerns.

Investors are now bracing for another eventful week, where the Reserve Bank of India's policy decision, escalating geopolitical tensions, and surging crude oil prices are expected to dictate market direction. The holiday-shortened week began on a weak footing, as rising tensions between the United States and Iran, coupled with a sharp spike in crude oil prices, dented investor sentiment and led to broad-based selling. However, markets staged a midweek recovery as fears of an immediate escalation eased and oil prices showed some signs of cooling.

Despite the rebound, volatility remained elevated due to inconsistent global cues, persistent foreign institutional

investor outflows, concerns over inflation, and a weakening rupee.

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upcoming monetary policy decision by the Reserve Bank of India.

The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) is scheduled to meet from April 6 to April 8 for its first session of FY27.

Geopolitical developments will also remain a key overhang. The ongoing conflict between the United States and Iran appears to be intensifying, with reports of military escalation and strong warnings issued by Donald Trump.

Any further deterioration in the situation could significantly impact global risk sentiment and trigger fresh volatility in equities.

Crude oil prices, already on a sharp upward trajectory, will be another crucial factor. Brent crude has surged to around \$109 per barrel following disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz, a vital artery for global energy supplies.

The spike, which marks a more than 50 per cent increase since late February, has raised concerns about inflationary pressures and input costs for Indian companies.

Unseasonal rains & West Asia crisis: The impact on AC industry

SYDNEY.(Agency)

Unseasonal rains in large parts of the country have raised concerns amongst air-conditioner and cooler manufacturers. The cooling down of temperatures has disrupted early summer demand, which typically drives sales. Sanjeev Kumar Gupta, Chairman, Summercool Home Appliances, spoke to Biplab Ghosal of News9 and discussed at length about the impact of the development and the steps that can be taken by the market players to minimise the impact. Unseasonal Rains Hit AC & Cooler Sales. Replying to a query on whether unusual rainfall has disrupted early summer demand and what has been the impact on sales, Gupta said, while March is typically the start of a strong cooling demand, this year's unseasonal rainfall has only temporarily delayed buying decisions rather than reducing demand. "At

Summercool, we see this as a shift in timing, with consumers waiting for consistent heat conditions. The overall outlook remains positive, as demand is expected to pick up strongly in the coming weeks, ensuring a healthy season ahead," he said. West Asia crisis: Navigating rising raw material costs

When asked whether prices of electronic products such as AC and washing machines would rise as the West Asia crisis has led to a hike in prices of raw materials, such as plastics, and disruption in LPG gas supply has impacted production, Gupta said that global developments have created some pressure on input costs. However, Summercool remains focused on efficient operations and smart sourcing strategies to minimise the impact, he added. There may be selective price adjustments across the industry, but the priority continues to be delivering value, quality, and affordability to

customers without major disruption, he added. What should the RAC industry do if unseasonal rains continue and the Middle East conflict prolongs and costs of raw materials remain on the higher side? To this the chairman of Summercool Home Appliances replied that the RAC industry, including his company, is well-equipped to navigate such challenges through agility and innovation. Gupta listed down some key actions which the sector can take: Adapting production to demand patterns, strengthening and diversifying supply chains, focusing on cost efficiencies, enhancing customer engagement and awareness. These steps will help the industry stay resilient and continue delivering strong performance, even in uncertain conditions. Repetition below and wrong year. How do you analyse the year 2025 for the RAC industry as unseasonal rain and other factors impacted sales.

Gujarat State Petroleum Corporation (GSPC) has announced that the discount will be available in areas with existing gas pipeline infrastructure, and the amount will be credited to the consumer's bill after the connection is installed.

New Delhi.(Agency)

Customers applying for new domestic piped natural gas (PNG) connections by June 30 will receive a discount of Rs 500, Gujarat State Petroleum Corporation (GSPC) Managing Director Avantika Singh Aulakh said during a review meeting in Surat on Saturday. The discount will be available in areas with existing gas pipeline infrastructure, and the amount will be credited to the consumer's bill after the connection is installed. Aulakh

said the measure is aimed at encouraging wider adoption of PNG connections and ensuring easier access to a regular gas supply. The announcement was made at a meeting held at the District Seva Sadan, where officials reviewed the availability and distribution of petrol, diesel, gas, fertiliser and other essential commodities in Surat district.

The meeting was attended by district and municipal officials, as well as representatives of oil and gas distribution companies. Aulakh said there are currently 15.20 lakh domestic PNG connections in Surat city and added that "the government is in continuous coordination with oil and gas companies to ensure that consumers do not face any difficulty in receiving regular gas supply." She further maintained, "Sufficient stock of essential commodities including gas, petrol, diesel and fertiliser is currently available across

the state, and arrangements have been made to maintain adequate supplies in the future." Referring to the international situation, Aulakh said, "Considering the prevailing war situation in the Middle East, the district administration and



municipal officials are working with coordination and teamwork to ensure that essential commodities are supplied smoothly to the public," adding that distribution in Surat district is continuing without disruption. She also appreciated the coordinated efforts of the authorities. Aulakh noted that the Central

Government has issued guidelines prioritising PNG connections and emphasised the need for their swift implementation in the state. "Priority is being given to residential users as well as educational institutions and hospitals,"

she said. Officials informed that in Surat district, a total of 1,805 applications for commercial PNG connections have been approved, including those from 39 hospitals and 16 railway canteens. Gas supply arrangements are also being made for industrial units and their canteens or mess facilities, as required, while priority is being given to community kitchens, Samras hostels, and hospitals. District Supply Officer Darshan Shah said that all dealers of HPCL, BPCL, and IOCL have started supplying 5 kg and 3 kg gas cylinders. He added that the process for PNG pipeline connections has been simplified, reducing the installation time from 45 days to seven days.



Parineeti Chopra

Supports Raghav Chadha After AAP Demotion, Shares His 'Silenced, Not Defeated' Video

Parineeti Chopra has come out in support of her husband, Raghav Chadha, days after the latter's replacement as the deputy leader of the Aam Aadmi Party in the Rajya Sabha. Recently, the Bollywood actress took to her Instagram stories and re-shared the video statement that Raghav had shared after his demotion from AAP. Even though Parineeti did not write anything in the caption, she expressed her support for her husband by re-sharing the clip.

The video was titled 'Silenced, Not Defeated' by Raghav. He was heard saying, "Whenever I get a chance to speak in the Parliament, I raise public issues. And perhaps I raise topics that are not usually raised in the Parliament. But is raising public issues a crime? Have I committed a crime? Have I made a mistake? Have I done something wrong?"

Parineeti Chopra often pens appreciation notes for her husband, Raghav, on social media. Recently, when the politician talked about paternity leave in the Rajya Sabha, the actress shared his video on Instagram and wrote, "My dearest husband, You spoke today not just as an MP but as the dad, I see every single day. We have discussed this so many times. How our baby deserves both parents to be present – to the best of their ability. So when you spoke today, it wasn't just policy. It was built from the way you parent our child the way you show up without being asked, the way you understand that PARENTING IS SHARED, not assigned."

Meanwhile, Parineeti's close friend and Bigg Boss 15 fame Rajiv Adatia has also come out in support of politician Raghav Chadha. "Raghav Chadda is one of the finest politicians India has seen! One of the only politicians to talk about the common man and whose voice is making a change and bringing awareness! Popularity comes with connecting with people! He's connected with whole Nation! full support to you! Not only for the Man you are but the kindness and understanding you show to the Nation and the common man!" he wrote on Instagram.



Divya Dutta Recalls How She 'Held And Whacked' A Boy Who Tried To Harass Her Sister



Divya Dutta has shared a horrifying evening experience her sister faced and revealed how her mother's lessons helped her protect her. The actress shared that someone was about to pinch her sister, but she showed courage and stopped him. In an interview with Zoom, Divya Dutta said, "He was about to pinch my sister's butt, and I just held him. Now, where did that confidence come from? Because I was psyched. It came from my mother. I just held him and whacked his wits. Everyone turned around, and then everyone came to help. That boy just ran away. This is passing it on, this confidence and standing up for someone you love." She stated that her mother played a significant role in shaping her courage to speak up. The actress also shared another incident from her childhood, when a boy teased her while she was returning from coaching. When Divya informed her mother about this incident, she made sure that she took a stand, spoke up, and confronted the boy, ensuring the harassment stopped. Divya also spoke about her early days in the industry and how she found her voice and avoided uncomfortable situations. She said, "Your choices speak. I have taken the longer route. I have waited for things when I want to do things my way. And I think it's a very small industry. People know. When you say a lot of no's, then afterwards your yeses also come. That takes time. You've got to learn how to say no; the way shouldn't be ruffling feathers, but you've got to say no."

About Divya Dutta's recent work
Divya Dutta is currently seen in Chiraiya, directed by Shashant Shah and produced by SVF Entertainment. The film features an ensemble cast including Sanjay Mishra, Siddharth Shaw, Prasanna Bisht, Faisal Rashid, Tinnu Anand and Sarita Joshi, among others. The official synopsis elaborates on the theme: "Behind all this celebration lies a truth no one wants to name. Chiraiya raises a difficult but necessary question to society: If a husband forces himself on a woman after marriage, does it stop being a crime just because they are married? Yeh sawaal hai samaaj se. Because marriage is not a license, and silence is not consent," it states.

Ranveer Singh Dances His Heart Out To Gallan Goodiyan At NMACC Event, Fans Can't Stop Gushing



The man of the moment, Ranveer Singh, is currently on cloud nine as he is basking in the massive success and overwhelming appreciation for his recent release, Dhurandhar: The Revenge, winning hearts across all quarters. On April 3, the actor made his first appearance since Dhurandhar 2's release on March 19. He was seen making a chic entry at the 3rd anniversary celebration of NMACC (Nita Mukesh Ambani Cultural Centre) in Mumbai. Now, inside visuals from the event have surfaced on social media, and fans can't stop gushing over him.

Ranveer Singh set the NMACC event on fire with his energy

In one of the viral videos, Ranveer can be seen joining singers Shreya Ghoshal and Shankar Mahadevan on stage for a lively performance of Gallan Goodiyan. In a surprise moment during the performance, Ranveer jumped onto the stage mid-song, leaving the audience thrilled. He matched the rhythm with his high-energy moves as Shreya Ghoshal and Shankar Mahadevan delivered a captivating live performance under dazzling stage lights. Ranveer's high-power aura added extra charm to the overall performance. The entire auditorium was seen grooving and cheering along, completely immersed in the electrifying atmosphere.

Fans were delighted to see him enjoy himself at the event amid the Dhurandhar 2 success. One fan wrote, "Just watching him entertain the crowd brings a smile on my face. He respects everybody's presence on the stage, vibes like it's his concert and this is the kind of zero hesitation I'll always cherish!" Another fan wrote, "Just mesmerising and awesome, king of Energy... my God! It's always a great energy boosting experience to see Ranveer's performance." Others were seen dropping red heart and fire emojis.



Sunny Leone

'Excited' About Joining The Cast Of US-Based Series The Giant, Shoot to Begin Soon

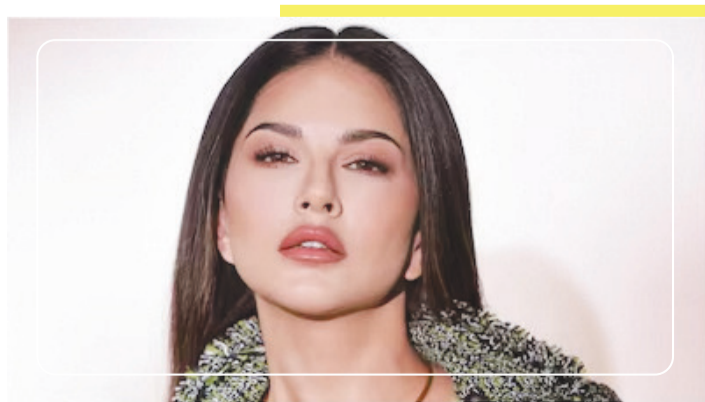
After receiving positive reviews for her performance in Anurag Kashyap's Kennedy, Sunny Leone is now all set to take on an exciting new Hollywood project. The actress has joined the cast of the US-based series The Giant, created and written by Kevin B Plath. She will soon begin shooting for the same. The series is backed by ARTIMIS Theatrical Productions LLC, a vetted veteran-run production company. In the show, Sunny takes on the role of Reservation Sheriff Quannah Deerleaf, adding another intriguing character to her growing and diverse body of work. Speaking about her new project, she expressed her excitement. She said that the series is "very different" from what she has done earlier.

Sunny shared in a statement, "This is something very different from what I've done before, and that's what really excited me about it. Exploring a new character and stepping into a completely new space is always a thrilling experience for me. I'm looking forward to this journey and

giving it my all. I hope my fans enjoy watching it as much as I am enjoying being a part of it, and I truly hope they're as excited as I am for what's coming next."

According to the reports, the series is expected to feature half-hour episodes, with each season comprising six episodes. The ensemble cast reflects strong diversity, bringing together Latin American, African American, and Asian-origin actors, with Sunny's addition further enriching the lineup. The Giant is anticipated to be picked up by networks once filming wraps up.

Known for constantly evolving and experimenting with her choices, Sunny Leone continues to reinvent herself with every project she takes on. Whether it's films, digital content, or international collaborations, she brings a fresh perspective each time, keeping her audience engaged and curious.



Give a Green look to the Home



Gardening is a creative hobby. Apart from helping to beautify the interior and exterior of one's house, attending to plants gives one tremendous satisfaction. You may try the fanciest of lighting arrangements to brighten up your home, or may get the most expensive and classy sofa sets to decorate your living room, but nothing can match the cool, green effect of indoor plants. The modern urban dwellers might consider this hobby a privilege of the rich who have sprawling courtyards and bungalows, servants. In cramped city flats, where there is not even enough space for human beings where can one accommodate pots and plants, one might ask. But the question itself provides the logic for keeping plants. A tinge of greenery not only adds welcome colour to the drab city abode, but is an essential factor in today's polluted atmosphere.

But despite the shortage of space, some of us who have a feel for the good things in life can cultivate plants and enjoy their beauty even while staying in cramped flats. For those of you who don't have the privilege of a garden, you can satisfy your yearning for greenery by growing plants on your terrace.

Think of it like this. Would you sit in the sun on the balcony, for hours? Or would you find a nice shady spot? All you need is common sense to approach to growing a fine leafy friend at home. The modern trend is to bring nature inside house, be it

in a significant place as your living room. House plants brighten up your home or office. Caring for house plants make for a great hobby too. Apart from the clean air they provide, plants also brighten up the room providing a cheerful atmosphere and sight for those dry and summer days. The variety of house plants is varied and broad. There are flowering types or non-flowering types. You can grow cacti, small shrubs and flower bulbs. However, most of these plants require more sunlight which might be difficult indoors.

CHECK OUT

Check out carefully how healthy the plant you want to buy is. It should look fresh with abundance of healthy leaves. If it's a flowering plant does it have more than one bud? Buy a plant which has a number of buds.

FIRST CHOOSE A POT

Clay pots with their capacity to retain moisture are the best containers for house plants. See that the pots are well baked so that they provide for all season plants. But each pot must have a hole which is plugged loosely so that if there is any excess water in the pot, it does not break easily. You could also go in for cement pots. To make the pots look attractive, mask them in baskets, brass containers. Another attractive trend today is an art called 'pot painting'. Ordinary earthen pots are



plants. Even if you start off with just one leaf, the plant can grow full and fresh. But when the beautiful green suddenly has brown leaflets, some glamour is definitely lost. This means the pot is too small for the plant, simple repotting can revive it.

If you are staying on the ground floor and have some space in the backyard of the house, you have wide options. You can cultivate a kitchen garden in your balcony. A couple of tomatoes for your salad or a bunch of coriander leaves for your raita from your very own garden is indeed delicious and safe from harmful pesticides. Lady fingers, methi, curry leaves or other small plants which could be of use in your kitchen and which require little space are all choices for you to select from. While spinach requires a little attention and does well at your washing place where adequate water is ensured, lady fingers need only 4 to 5 weeks to produce a crop. Seeds could be either had from professional sellers or selected from kitchen shelf.

If you live in a multi-storey and have access to the roof, a terrace garden is best for you. The plants you could consider are rubber and a wide range of vines.

But if you are stuck in a sandwich flat, your option is to attempt an indoor or balcony garden. You can choose from a wide variety of cacti, ferns, which can give a garden look to the corners of the flat.

We commonly think of only a limited house plants. These plants will keep your garden green through all seasons.

There are a lot of varieties. For instance, there are basil and parsley which can survive in the limited light conditions of your home.

IN A NUT SHELL

For a plant to grow well, you just need to remember four things; light, air, temperature and humidity.

These affect plants nearly the same way as they affect us.

WHY THE PLANT IS WILTING

If a plant is being deprived of water, leaves and stem first become dry and brittle and crisp. Too much water causes the leaves to go limp.

As per watering is concerned, over watering is as bad as under watering and should be avoided. In summers, more water is needed as it evaporates faster and, for the same reason, plants kept in shades require less water.

Are you following the right desk etiquettes?



You spend majority of your time at your work desk, thus making it an extension of your persona. A messy desk leaves a bad impression and reflects badly on you, which is something you can't afford, especially

in a professional environment. Sheena Agarwal, Image Consultant, Urbanista Image Consultancy explains, "A messy desk is not a system. It is a manifestation of gross neglect. Hence, it is necessary that it reflects you as an

individual and helps in perception management." So what should you ideally keep on your desk?

"The list is endless but to begin with, what you keep on your desk should be keeping in mind the nature of your work and industry. In an investment bank, it is frowned upon if the space is cluttered and full of personal pictures and notes. Same rules apply for the wallpaper on your desktop. People trusting you with their money must see you as someone credible. Hence, keep it simple. A few appropriate pictures and necessary stationery is as far as you should go," adds Sheena.

But the rules are different if you were in the creative line of work. Then you can have fun, literally. Sheena explains, "Express, emot but don't go overboard. Keep the creativity energy fresh and not mucky. But do not go as far as plants are concerned. You have a place called home for that."

Either ways do not clutter your desk with a lot of paperwork and files. If there is additional space provided, store the unnecessary there.

Women should bar from making their workstations a pink/red overload. In a corporate world, putting your feminism on the forefront might put your career on a backseat. If you like keeping extra pair of shoes, clothing etc. for time of need, keep it discreet.

Unless absolutely necessary, refrain from eating at your desk. Clear out empty cups of tea/coffee, beverage cans and food wrappers time to time.

How much is too much?

It is important that your workstation reflects who you are. Having said that, workstation adornment should not be a necessary conversation starter. Sheena adds, "No one likes being known as the person who has too many flowers or paperwork at their stations. Keep it simple. Place a few pictures if need be, maybe copy of some appreciation mail addressed to you would be acceptable as well. But do not overdo it. You should not be seen as someone trying too hard to make a point. Even if you are the youngest member in the team, do not put up pictures of a wild night with friends on your workstation. A family picture, graduation pictures, parents and close family is as far as you should go."

If you have a pin board next to your



station, pin up necessary information like phone numbers or instructions to it.

Treat your workstation as you would treat your personal space. Keep it clean and simple. Let it not be your identity in its entirety. Let it be a reflection of who you are by keeping it clean and sophisticated.



Here's how to let your Garden blossom

After the heavy showers in the last few days, the city is sizzling hot again, making it tougher for plants, thereby giving your garden a weary look. Just like us, plants and lawns also need enough care in this sweltering heat.

Here are some easy tips and tricks for keeping your garden in a good and fresh shape.

WATER

Make sure that you water plants, deeply, everyday. "Do not just spray water on plants and lawns, make sure that you make a layer of three inches of water, so that it seeps down till the roots," says Sanjay Alok, owner of a nursery. Remember, your hanging baskets would dry quickly, so help them retain soil moisture by adding moisture retaining gel or crystals. The best time to water is early morning or early evening.

GARDEN BEDS AND CONTAINER

Remove dead plants and clear the rough space for fresh colourful annuals. Choose plants in larger pots to fill in empty spots more quickly. Also, pick plants that are heat-friendly and are favourable to this weather. Clearing dead patches in your garden would help promote more flowers, and keep the garden fresh.

MULCH

An exclusive organic layer of decayed leaves, bark or composite, applying two inch of mulch on top of soil around the plants saves them from the heat. "Mulching is important to garden health, it protects plants from the heat and helps control weeds," says Aarti Mukhani, a botanist.

WEEDS

During summers, tiny weed seedlings become huge monsters. Pull out all the junk flora as soon as they are spotted as they take up all the nutrients and water from the plants' soil and keeps them away from utilising it. Weeds also encourage the spread of pests.

