

Bengaluru Suburban Rail Project: K-RIDE encashes Rs 57 crore bank guarantees after L&T dispute

L&T had inked two agreements with K-RIDE for the construction of Corridor-2 (Chikkabanawara to Bennigenahalli) and Corridor-4 (Heelalige-Rajanukunte) of the Bengaluru Suburban Rail Project.

Bangalore.(Agency) The Rail Infrastructure Development Company (Karnataka) Limited, or K-RIDE, has successfully encashed performance bank guarantees worth Rs 57 crore issued by Larsen & Toubro (L&T) through YES Bank, following an arbitration tribunal's rejection of L&T's plea to block the move.

against the encashment. L&T also invoked the arbitration clause, leading to the formation of a tribunal comprising retired Supreme Court and high court judges to review claims from both sides. The commercial court



two corridors since March last year: the 25-km Mallige Line (Bennigenahalli-Chikkabanawara) and the 46-km Kanaka Line (Heelalige-Rajanukunte). L&T had entered into two agreements with K-RIDE for Corridor-2 and Corridor-4 on August 26, 2022, and December 12, 2023, respectively, and the contract period was extended up to September 2026 and October 2026, respectively, upon request by the contractor.

Showcase legacy of native heroes like Maharaja Suheldev in theatre productions: Adityanath

announces three-day event based on the works of poet Ramdhari Singh Dinkar in Lucknow from April 24

Lucknow.(Agency) Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Sunday lamented the lack of literary and cultural representation of native heroes, particularly Maharaja Suheldev. He called for theatre productions to highlight the legacy of native heroes, bringing it into the mainstream, especially among youth in schools and colleges.



MVA strains surface as Uddhav Sena attacks Congress for fielding Baramati bypoll candidate

'Saamana' editorial calls Congress "self-serving", flags lack of consultation; party hits back, accusing Sena (UBT) of undermining alliance partners.

Mumbai.(Agency) The Shiv Sena (UBT) Monday strongly criticised the Congress, exposing tensions within the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) over the Baramati bypoll. The bypoll, necessitated after the death of former deputy chief minister Ajit Pawar, has become a point of contention within the alliance.



alliance, with Sena (UBT) leaders saying such decisions should have been taken after discussions among partners. MP Sanjay Raut said the issue concerns all parties in the alliance and

cannot be decided by one party alone. Raut indicated that contesting such a seat despite the alliance could send a wrong signal and that "not every issue needs to be turned into a contest".

Bihar Congress asks party's central leadership to revise district presidents' list, cites 'massive social imbalance'

List of 53 district presidents released by AICC general secy K C Venugopal is dominated by representatives from upper castes, the state unit has pointed out

Bihar.(Agency) Citing a "massive social imbalance" and specifically pointing to a dominance of upper-caste appointees, the Bihar Pradesh Congress Committee (BPCC) has asked the party's central leadership to reconsider the recently released list of 53 district presidents.

organisational districts based on population and geographical area. The BPCC is currently in the midst of an overhaul — its first since the last one 11



years ago under then-BPCC president Ashok Choudhary, who is now a JD(U) minister. The party is conducting a membership drive, which is expected to culminate in approximately a month, with the formal constitution of a fresh BPCC.

Jackal attack claim unravels into murder, husband, grandsons arrested in Bihar

The case took a dramatic turn when the FSL team recovered a sharp knife from near the crime scene. The recovery made it clear that the elderly woman had not died from an animal bite, but was fatally attacked with a sharp-edged weapon.

Bihar.(Agency)

In a chilling case from Bihar's Katihar district, police have uncovered how a 75-year-old man allegedly tried to pass off his wife's murder as a jackal attack. The incident dates back to April 2 in Azamgarh, where 70-year-old Ramni Devi was reported to have died after being allegedly attacked by a jackal while cutting grass in a maize field in the Alampur Diara area.

ED also probing Nashik godman case, harshest punishment to Kharat: CM

New Delhi.(Agency) While promising strictest action against self-styled godman Ashok Kharat, chief minister Devendra Fadnavis on Sunday said, "The Enforcement Directorate is also investigating the case." The state government had already set up a Special Investigation Team to investigate the case. At least eight cases of women exploitation have been registered against Kharat. Apart from that all aspects related to financial fraud, illegal land acquisition and others are being thoroughly probed. New details are emerging every day. As people are now confident and coming forward to provide information related to Kharat, Fadnavis said.

The chief minister was interacting with media at Nashik. He held a meeting with spiritual leaders and religious organisations to discuss the Kumbha Mela.

"Anybody, who in the name of faith does wrong, will be punished. There was no question of tolerating such a abuse by individuals. Kharat will get harshest punishment. There can be no two opinions on this, he asserted. "The case will be taken to its logical



Laughable claims: Assam CM's wife fires back at Gaurav Gogoi amid passport row

New Delhi.(Agency) Riniki Bhuyan Sharma, wife of Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, has directly hit back at Congress accusations claiming she owns multiple foreign passports and assets abroad. Posting on X, Riniki said, "Neither I, nor my children, nor my husband have any business interests or assets in Dubai or anywhere outside India. Today's claims are laughable." She challenged Congress leaders, asking whether Gaurav Gogoi's wife has ever held a bank account in Pakistan and urged him to disclose those details publicly. The controversy erupted after Congress

leaders Pawan Khera and Gaurav Gogoi alleged Riniki Sarma holds passports from the UAE, Egypt, and Antigua-Barbuda, owns properties in Dubai, and operates a company in Wyoming, USA. Khera further claimed that these assets were not declared in CM Sarma's election affidavit, raising questions about compliance with Indian law.

RINIKI'S REBUTTAL: DOCUMENTS FORGED Riniki and her husband dismissed the allegations as "politically motivated" and based on falsified documents. She explained that images and passports were morphed using information.



Indian, Nepal review bilateral ties in first meet after Balen Shah takes charge

Indian Foreign Minister S Jaishankar said that he is looking forward to working closely with his Nepalese counterpart as part of the discussion.

New Delhi.(Agency) Indian Ambassador Naveen Srivastava paid a courtesy call to Nepal's newly-appointed Foreign Minister Shishir Khanal on Monday and discussed various aspects of bilateral ties. Khanal assumed office at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on March 27.



During the meeting, Srivastava conveyed External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar's greetings on Khanal's appointment, according to a statement by the Foreign

Ministry. "Various matters relating to Nepal-India relations and cooperation were discussed on the occasion," said the statement.

Jaishankar had extended his greetings to Khanal on X, the day he assumed office. Jaishankar said he looks forward to working closely with his Nepalese counterpart to further strengthen the traditional partnership between India and Nepal.

News box

### Auto driver held hostage, assaulted over monetary dispute in South City-1

GURGAON.(Agency)

An auto driver was allegedly held hostage and assaulted by three financiers over a monetary dispute in the South City-1 area on Friday. The victim, Santosh, a resident of Bhondsi, sustained multiple injuries and is undergoing treatment at a hospital after managing to escape late at night. He later filed a complaint at the Sector 40 police station.

As per the complaint, Santosh had financial dealings with the men. The trio, Yogi, Sachin and Vikas, who work as financiers in South City-1, reached Santosh's workplace at Wazirabad and took him along on the pretext of settling accounts. Later, the accused allegedly confined him in a room and assaulted him and also subjected him to mental harassment. "Those people were trying to kill me. They were drunk at the time and assaulting me with sticks. After some time, I managed to sneak out and escape. I was successful, otherwise they all would have killed me," Santosh said. He managed to reach home in a severely injured state and his family members subsequently took him to a hospital.

An officer said, "We are trying to verify the details. We will take necessary action against the culprits."

Members of the Haryana auto union have extended support to the victim and demanded strict action against the accused.

### Greater Noida residents protest metro delay after DPR rejection

Noida.(Agency)

Residents of Greater Noida West staged a protest on Sunday near the final Metro pillar close to the Sector-71 intersection, voicing anger over the Centre's decision to once again reject the detailed project report (DPR) for the proposed Metro extension. Raising slogans such as, "Approval ka kaise khel, kab ayegi metro rail... Greno West ki janta karey pukar, kab ayegi metro rail," protesters symbolically used ropes to "pull" the Metro pillar towards their locality, highlighting their demand for urgent connectivity. Organised by the Noida Extension Flat Owners Welfare Association (NEFOWA), the protest saw participation from residents' welfare groups, village associations, and citizen bodies. Protesters said repeated cancellations of the DPR have deepened frustration among the region's population, now exceeding three lakh. Residents pointed to worsening daily traffic congestion and the absence of a reliable public transport system. They said that despite a decade of assurances, there has been no visible progress on the ground. Demonstrators appealed to both Central and State govts to prioritise the project, calling the Metro a necessity rather than a luxury. Alok Kumar of Active Citizens' Group said, "This region is developing rapidly, yet the lack of basic infrastructure remains a matter of grave concern. The absence of public transportation is adversely affecting people's daily lives. The government must now move beyond mere assurances and take concrete action." Ranjan Tomar, president of Noida Village Residents Association added, "The lack of public transport causes difficulties for both the urban population and residents of the villages. Therefore, our collective demand is that work on the Metro project must commence as soon as possible." NEFOWA president Abhishek Kumar said, "The residents of Greater Noida West are facing continuous injustice. The repeated cancellation of the DPR is extremely unfortunate. The daily hardships faced by hundreds of thousands of people are being completely ignored. We demand that the govt grant approval to the Metro project as soon as possible and initiate the construction work." He warned that protests would intensify if action is not taken, with plans for a mass demonstration at Jantar Mantar on April 26.

### Days after airport launch, YEIDA offers 1,000 housing plots

NOIDA.(Agency)

Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority (YEIDA) will on Monday roll out a residential scheme near Noida International Airport (NIA) offering 973 plots. Officials said 17.5% of plots will be reserved for farmers, whose land has been acquired for the planned development of the Yamuna area and NIA. There will also be 5% reservation for businessmen, who have functional industrial units in the Authority area. The land rate is priced at Rs 36,260 per sqm, and the allotment of plots — across sectors 15-C, 18 and 24 — shall be made through draw. The project — which comes days after the airport's inauguration on March 28 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi — has been approved by UP Rera. People will be able to register through the Authority's website, <https://yamunaexpresswayauthority.com/>, from Monday. Yamuna Authority CEO RK Singh said that this scheme aims to fulfil the growing demands of residential plots near Airport.

"We are planning to launch two more residential plot schemes in three-four months to meet the demands," Singh said. The allotment of plots shall be done on lease for a period of 90 years from the date of the lease deed. The last date to apply is May 6, while the draw of the scheme is scheduled on June 18. The residential plot scheme underscores the region's rapid urban expansion. With flight operations set to begin soon, the demand for housing is expected to rise among professionals, investors and businesses. The plots will be available in sizes of 162sqm (476 plots), 183sqm (four plots), 184sqm (four plots), 200 sqm (481 plots), 223sqm (six plots) and 290sqm (two plots). According to the Authority, the park-facing, green-belt location will draw an additional 5% of the premium, and the corner location charges will also be 5% of the premium. The applicant needs to submit 10% of the premium as registration fee. In the case of successful applicants, the registration money shall be adjusted against the payable premium of the plot. For others, the registration money shall be refunded. As per the scheme, 100% of the total premium shall be paid within 60 days from the date of issue of the allotment letter. However, in certain circumstances, the time for making payment can be extended for a maximum period of 30 days. The scheme reflects strategic planning to accommodate future population inflow and boost real estate activity.

# Gurgaon accounts for 70% of Yamuna pollution load in Haryana, shows data

GURGAON.(Agency)

Gurgaon alone accounts for nearly 70% of the pollution load entering the Yamuna from Haryana, but the river's collapse before Delhi is not the work of one district alone. Pollution board data shows a widening chain of sewage and industrial discharge from Sonapat, Jhajjar, Bhiwani and Faridabad as well, turning the river into a heavily contaminated flow long before it reaches the capital. Monitoring by Haryana State Pollution Control Board (HSPCB) between 2021 and 2025 has shown a sharply uneven but cumulative pattern. Gurgaon's Najafgarh drain legs I, II and III, along with Basai and Badshapur drains, have remained the biggest conduit of pollution. But parallel inflows from Sonapat's drain network and smaller yet chemically intense discharges from Jhajjar, Bhiwani and Faridabad have been preventing the river from recovering downstream.

By the middle of 2025, dissolved oxygen

had fallen to near zero in several stretches of Delhi, a level at which aquatic life cannot survive, the survey shows. In Gurgaon, the scale is stark. BOD, a key indicator of organic pollution, rose from 35-45 mg/L in 2021 to 170 mg/L in 2025 in major drains. That is nearly 50 times the safe river-water limit of 3 mg/L and far above the 6 mg/L level associated with gross sewage pollution. Total suspended solids touched 612 mg/L, while faecal coliform reached 4.7 lakh MPN per 100 ml, pointing to heavy discharge of untreated sewage.

An HSPCB official said the worsening numbers reflect pressure from rapid urbanisation and weak sewer connectivity. Interception and diversion works are underway, the official said, but some drains are still carrying untreated wastewater. Badshapur drain, for instance, captures the mixed nature of Gurgaon's pollution. Its BOD climbed to



120 mg/L, while conductivity touched 96,000 S/cm, suggesting a toxic blend of domestic sewage and industrial effluents. Sonapat, though less discussed, is emerging as a critical contributor because of where it sits in the basin. Data from drains such as Otmac and Sindhra shows BOD rising from 28-42 mg/L in 2021 to 110 mg/L in 2025. Unlike Gurgaon, where sewage is the dominant problem, Sonapat's load appears more mixed - untreated urban wastewater, agricultural runoff and partial discharge from sewage treatment plants. Suspended

solids crossing 300 mg/L indicate a heavy particulate load that further worsens water quality downstream. Jhajjar and Bhiwani discharge smaller volumes, but their chemical burden is severe. In Mungeshpur drain and drain No. 8, BOD rose to 72-145 mg/L by 2025, while hardness reached 4,450 mg/L, indicating industrial waste rich in dissolved salts. Faridabad's profile is more stable, but persistently polluted. BOD ranged from 40 to 72 mg/L, conductivity stayed above 2,000 S/cm, and faecal coliform rose to 24,000 MPN per 100 ml in 2025, showing continued sewage inflow. In Rohtak, too, the Jindal Vihar drain adds 7% of the pollution load into the river, the survey shows. Environmental activist Varun Gulati said the figures point to a systemic failure, not isolated lapses. "The Yamuna has been receiving untreated waste from multiple entry points.

## Less than 11% qualify for Haryana maths assistant professor test

Gurgaon.(Agency)

Haryana Public Service Commission (HPSC) has declared the result of the subject knowledge test for assistant professor (mathematics), with less than 11% of candidates qualifying. Only 17 candidates cleared the exam against 163 advertised posts, leaving 146 vacancies unfilled and underscoring the persistent faculty shortage in the state's higher education institutions.

The exam, conducted on Dec 7 last year, required candidates to secure a minimum of 35% marks to move to the next stage, which includes document verification and interview. The commission follows a three-stage selection process comprising a screening test, subject knowledge test and interview. HPSC released a provisional list of 17 roll numbers, stating that the result is "subject to eligibility verification" and the outcome of pending cases in the Punjab and Haryana High Court. The trend mirrors an earlier recruitment cycle for assistant professor (English), where less than 10% qualified, raising concerns over stringent selection criteria, exam difficulty and a shrinking pool of eligible candidates. Candidates

have raised concerns about the examination process. "In the screening test, two hours is not enough, especially when each question has multiple subparts and candidates must also fill an OMR sheet," said Sumit, a research scholar at IIT Guwahati, adding that scoring above 25 marks under such conditions was disproportionately difficult.

He also flagged the deletion of questions carrying 13 marks in an exam where the cutoff was around 26, calling it "a significant concern" given the narrow margin between qualifying and non-qualifying scores. Anjali, another research scholar at IIT Guwahati who appeared for the second round, said the subject knowledge test was more difficult than previous HPSC exams. "Several questions were directly taken from Berkeley Problems in Mathematics, which is based on PhD prelims-level problems and is highly advanced," she said. She added that such exams are usually conducted over longer durations with multiple attempts and choices. "Here, we had a single three-hour attempt with 15 questions, many of them extremely difficult and with little choice.

There is a clear mismatch between the level of questions and the exam structure," she said, arguing that the 35% qualifying criterion appeared "extremely harsh".

Vijay, a postdoctoral fellow in Brasov, Romania, also questioned the process. "Candidates are not opposing high standards, but an exam design that seems to prioritise elimination over meaningful evaluation of teaching competence and subject understanding," he said. All three candidates did not qualify for the interview. Candidates have suggested forming a committee of independent subject experts to review the paper design and time allocation, and to assess how many questions a well-prepared candidate can reasonably solve within the given time. Rohtak MP Deepender Singh Hooda termed the trend worrying. "Haryana's youth are excelling in national-level exams like UPSC, but struggling in state recruitment tests. In many cases, over 50% of posts remain vacant," he said, adding that the pattern raises concerns about opportunities for local candidates. Officials said the final outcome will depend on pending cases before the Punjab and

### Benefit of doubt: After a decade in jail, court acquits five of murder charges

Ghaziabad.(Agency)

Five persons who spent a decade in jail on charges of murder were freed on Saturday after a local court said police could not establish the identity of the perpetrators of the crime or how the murder was committed. The matter is linked to an FIR registered by a local resident, Palwinder, against unknown persons on June 5, 2016. He claimed his brother-in-law Balwinder was intercepted by the assailants on June 1 while he was on his way to Noida from Bulandshahr. The attackers looted around Rs 22,000 from his vehicle and shot him from close range. He died of the injuries sustained during the attack while being treated, Palwinder said. Police arrested the five accused based on their probe. However, the district and sessions court found gross lapses in the investigation as no Test Identification (TI) parade was conducted where a witness could confirm that the five accused were indeed the killers. In addition, the medical report also could not confirm that the death was due to a firearm injury — an allegation levelled by police. The court on Saturday ordered the immediate release of all five from jail, acquitting them of the charges of murder and criminal conspiracy levelled against them by the police. "Under these circumstances Shariq alias Goli, Sajid alias Mithun, and Mahfooz alias Munna charged for offence of murder u/s 302 IPC and Moin alias Titir and Taiyyab charged for offence of murder with common intent u/s 302/34 IPC and criminal conspiracy u/s 120B IPC deserve the benefit of doubt and acquittal from the charges levelled against them," the court ruled. Police said Palwinder had mentioned in the FIR that when his brother-in-law was shot dead, the cleaner of the vehicle, Vikki, was also present at the scene and had seen the assailants commit the crime. However, during cross-examination he admitted he did not mention the presence of Vikki. Analysing the statement of Rajesh Kumar, who conducted the post-mortem examination, the court observed the doctor said that when he received the body, the abdomen was torn.

## Two friends ram SUVs into each other in Gurgaon road rage

Noida.(Agency)

Two friends were involved in a road-rage incident in the Dhanwapur area of Gurgaon, where their argument escalated into a dangerous clash between two SUVs on a busy public road. The incident involved two black Mahindra Scorpios, whose drivers allegedly got into a heated altercation that quickly turned violent. Eyewitnesses reported that the two men hurled abuses at each other before chasing and repeatedly ramming their vehicles into one another at high speed.

A video of the incident has surfaced on social media, showing the SUVs swerving recklessly across the road and forcing other commuters to slow down or stop to avoid collisions. In one particularly alarming moment, a two-wheeler rider narrowly escaped being trapped between the two crashing



vehicles, while other passersby halted at a safe distance amid the chaos. Police eams

reached the spot after receiving information and later called both individuals — residents of Dhanwapur — for questioning at the Rajendra Park police station. According to officials, the two were friends who had initially argued over a personal matter at a shared location. As they left the scene in anger, the dispute escalated when one driver rammed into the other while taking a turn, triggering the road-rage episode. Both men were counselled at the police station, where they apologised for their behaviour and stated that the dispute had been resolved. Their families also intervened to settle the matter. Police said no formal complaint was filed, and further action will depend on the findings of the inquiry.

# Project 'unsafe', pay Rs 4cr to buyer: Haryana Rera to Chintels Paradiso

Gurgaon.(Agency)

Haryana Rera has ordered Chintels India to pay over Rs 4 crore to a homebuyer in Chintels Paradiso, holding the developer liable for grave construction defects that left the project unsafe to live in, reports Rao Jaswant Singh. The order follows successive audits after the Feb 10, 2022 collapse in Tower D that killed two residents and exposed severe structural failures across the complex.

The complaint was filed by Delhi resident Aruna Garg, who bought a 4BHK flat in Tower C and paid over Rs 1.8 crore, more than the agreed sale price. After taking possession in Oct 2019, Garg soon complained about cracked tiles, uneven flooring and damage in balconies and common areas. According to the order, these defects were repeatedly flagged to the developer, but were not adequately addressed. The case acquired far greater significance after the Tower D collapse.



District-level inquiries and structural audits, including by IIT-Delhi, found widespread corrosion in reinforcement steel in multiple towers. The damage was linked to chlorides embedded in the concrete during construction. Experts concluded that the deterioration was so advanced that repairs were neither technically sound nor economically viable. In its

March 30 order, Rera adjudicating officer Rajender Kumar said the allottee could not be faulted for the defects and that it was "the sole responsibility of the respondent to construct the project as per prescribed norms". Rera also noted that buyers had been promised construction of "international standards", but the project had effectively

become unfit for habitation. The authority also examined the two broad options discussed earlier for affected buyers - compensation or reconstruction. The developer was unwilling to reconstruct, while Garg opposed the Rs 7,500 per sqft benchmark suggested under committee recommendations, arguing that it did not reflect current market realities.

Rera accepted that property values in Sector 109 had risen sharply between 2022 and 2026 and recalculated compensation at Rs 13,000 per sqft. On that basis, it awarded Garg Rs 4 crore, inclusive of the amount already paid for the flat.

The authority also asked the developer to refund Rs 4.6 lakh paid as stamp duty, pay Rs 2 lakh for mental agony and harassment, and Rs 50,000 towards litigation costs. But Garg's claims for rental loss, EMI burden, delayed compensation and higher damages were rejected, with

Rera saying that market appreciation had already been built into the final award. The developer must also pay 10.8% annual interest from the date.

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The film 'Dhurandhar' is a bold cinematic effort." History of Khalistani movement in 'Dhurandhar', separatist activities are not limited to ideology only: Charanjev Malhotra

New Delhi. Prominent social worker, Gaumata Sevak, and Corona warrior Charanjev Malhotra stated that the recently released film "Dhurandhar" makes a bold effort by focusing on the serious and controversial subject of Khalistani activities. The film not only provides entertainment but also raises awareness among viewers about the threats to the country's internal security.

gence officer, is on a mission to uncover these conspiracies against the country. He not only risks his life but also faces situations where he must make difficult decisions between duty and personal feelings. This character emerges as a symbol of patriotism, courage, and sacrifice. "Dhurandhar" also closely examines the history and current nature of the Khalistani movement. The film attempts to illustrate how this movement, which once focused on the demand for a separate state, has now been transformed by some radical elements into violence and terrorism.

responsible manner. He has ensured that the story does not target any particular community or religion, highlighting only those elements that threaten the unity and integrity of the country. This is why the film has received praise from both audiences and many critics. Charanjev Malhotra further stated that the film's release has sparked debate about the role of security agencies and the government. Many experts believe that such films raise awareness among the public about threats they are generally unaware of. At the same time, some argue that films should be more responsible when portraying such topics. Overall, "Dhurandhar" is a film that doesn't merely entertain, but also raises a serious issue that forces the audience to reflect. The

film conveys the message that national security isn't



solely the responsibility of the government or security forces, but that it's also the duty of every citizen to remain vigilant and vigilant. BJP's respect for Sikhs: There was a time when the Sikh community used to distance itself from the BJP, but in the recent past, such works have been done by the

BJP for the Sikh community that now the Sikh com-

munity seems to be completely inclined towards the BJP. Giving respect to the Sikhs, first Hardeep Singh Puri and Raveet Singh Bittu were included in the Union Cabinet despite their losing the elections, and now Taranjit Singh Sandhu has been given the responsibility of the important post of

Lieutenant Governor in Delhi. Taranjit Singh Sandhu is also among those who lost the elections from Amritsar in Punjab, despite this he was given such an important post. Previously, a Sikh governor was appointed in Uttarakhand, but Delhi remains significant. It is the capital of the country, with embassies from all countries located there. Therefore, the appointment of a Lieutenant Governor of Delhi is a matter of pride for the Sikh community. Taranjit Singh Sandhu is a descendant of Sardar Teja Singh Samundri, a prominent figure in the nation's independence movement, whose name is engraved in golden letters on the pages of history. It's a different matter that this golden history remains unincorporated into school curriculums. Now,

Sardar Taranjit Singh Sandhu is leading the charge in Delhi, and he should keep this in mind, the history of Mr. Teja Singh Samundri should be included in the school curriculum. Similarly, after serving as Chairman of the Minority Commission for several years, Mr. Iqbal Singh Lalpura was appointed to the National Commission after the Modi government came to power, whose term has now ended. Air Chief Marshal Amarjeet Singh also belongs to the Sikh community. For 10 years, the Aam Aadmi Party government in Delhi did not include three Sikh MLAs in the cabinet, despite their election. However, the BJP gave Manjinder Singh Sirsa a ministerial position in its own government. Under the BJP governments in Uttarakhand

and Uttar Pradesh, Amanjit Singh Bakshi was appointed Chairman of the Steel Consumer Forum, thus providing many other important positions to the Sikh community. Prominent social activist Charanjev Malhotra said, "It can be said that 'Dhurandhar' has raised a difficult and sensitive topic and sparked an important debate. Whether the audience agrees or disagrees with it, the film leaves them indifferent. This is the greatest success of any impactful cinema."

PUBLIC NOTICE
All Concerned are hereby informed through this Public Notice that my client Mr. B.N. Singh S/O Lat. Sh. S.P. Singh R/O C-53, Jeevan Park, Uttam Nagar, New Delhi-110059 has disowned and debarred his son namely Vivek Singh & Daughter in law Ms. Preeti Singh W/o Vivek Singh, both residents of the above given address from all his moveable and immovable property and cancelled all his relations with them as the above said son & of my client used to harass, humiliate, quarrel and insult my client and are totally out of his control. My client shall not be held responsible for any of their acts, deed and things in whatsoever in any manner and if anyone deals with them shall be dea as per his/her own risk, cost and consequences.
VIJAI PAL SINGH ADVOCATE
CH. NO. 847, LAWYERS CHAMBER DWARKA DISTRICT COURT N.D.75.

Housing affordability improves as income growth outpaces property prices

The Sikh Times Gurugram: After years of sharp price escalation that stretched homebuyers' budgets, the Delhi-NCR residential market is entering a phase of relative stability in 2026, with incomes finally catching up to property prices, according to the latest CBRE India Residential Market Outlook 2026. The report signals a crucial turning point for the region—particularly for Gurugram, which had witnessed one of the steepest price surges in the country. Between 2019 and 2024, property rates in key micro-markets of the city rose by nearly 160 per cent, touching around Rs 19,500 per square foot in premium corridors. For the first time since the post-pandemic boom, household income

growth in Delhi-NCR is projected to outpace property price appreciation. This shift is expected to stabilize the EM-to-income ratio, easing financial pressure on buyers. In practical terms, this means improved accessibility across income segments: Buyers earning around Rs 40 lakh annually are finding better access to 2BHK homes in emerging areas such as New Gurugram and Sohna Road. Those in the Rs 75 lakh income bracket are seeing 3BHK homes becoming more attainable in growth corridors like Dwarka

Expressway and Southern Peripheral Road. High-income buyers (Rs 1 crore+) are experiencing a reduced EMI burden for premium properties in Golf Course Extension and DLF Phase 5. Market experts note a clear transition in Gurugram—from speculative investor-driven buying to a more structured, end-user-focused demand cycle. While prices are still expected to grow by 8-15 per cent in high-demand zones such as Dwarka Expressway, the pace is now more aligned with income growth rather than speculative spikes. Lower interest rates: Anticipated

monetary easing is helping reduce home loan costs. Rising incomes: Strong growth in NCR's corporate and tech workforce is improving purchasing power. Infrastructure boost: Projects like Dwarka Expressway and metro expansion are unlocking new housing supply in peripheral sectors. Despite improving affordability, the market remains polarized. Luxury housing—priced above Rs 2 crore—continues to

dominate sales, driven by NRIs and high-net-worth individuals. At the same time, the affordable housing segment (below Rs 45 lakh) continues to face supply constraints, prompting calls for policy intervention. Rishabh Periwal, Senior Vice President, Pioneer Urban Land & Infrastructure Ltd, said, "The findings from CBRE's Housing Affordability Index are encouraging and reaffirm the strong underlying fundamentals of

India's real estate sector. With household incomes expected to keep pace with, and in many cases outstrip, property price trends, overall affordability is likely to see a gradual improvement, further strengthening homebuyer confidence." "In a market like Gurugram, which continues to evolve as a preferred real estate destination, this trend is expected

to support sustained demand across both mid and premium segments.

NAME CHANGE
I, MANGAL is a real mother of No. 2810662K Rank SEP Name PATIL MADHUR BALKRISHNA presently residing VILL-KURNI, POST-MALAGE, TEH-KAGAL, DIST-KOLHAPUR (MAHARASHTRA). 416219, have changed my name from MANGAL TO MANGAL BALKRISHNA PATIL and date of birth from 16/03/1958 to 01/01/1951 for all future purposes. Vide affidavit dated 06/04/2026 before Public Notary Delhi.

NAME CHANGE
I, JIANNI D/O Anuj Bajaj, H. No. 1534, Outram Lines, Kingsway Camp, Delhi-110009 have changed my name to Jianna Bajaj for all future purposes.
NAME CHANGE
I, PATIL BALKRISHNA KERABA is a real father of No. 2810662K Rank SEP Name PATIL MADHUR BALKRISHNA presently residing VILL-KURNI, POST-MALAGE, TEH-KAGAL, DIST-KOLHAPUR (MAHARASHTRA). 416219, have changed my name from PATIL BALKRISHNA KERABA to BALKRISHNA KERABA PATIL and date of birth from 01/06/1953 to 01/01/1948 for all future purposes. Vide affidavit dated 06/04/2026 before Public Notary Delhi.

NAME CHANGE
I, No-14892311H Rank-SEP/MT Name-PUSHPENDRA KUMAR Presently residing at RAFATPUR, FATEHABAD URJ MANAKPUR, BIJUNOR RURAL, BUNOR UTTAR PRADESH-246701, have changed my father's name from BRUJIPAL SINGH to BRUJIPAL SINGH for all future purposes. Vide Affidavit dated 06/04/2026 before Notary Public, Delhi.
Lost & Found
I Gurcharan Singh Babbar S/O Late. Jaswant Singh R/O - N 31, 1st Floor, Dr. Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi - 110009 Have Lost My Original Property Allotment Letter & Possession Memo of Plot No. B - 594, Residential, Sector C 9, Tronica City, Tds City, Loni, Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh - 201103. If Any Found Contact 9971359517, An Fir Has been Logged Vide LR No. 2137772026 At Mukherjee Nagar Delhi.

NAME CHANGE
I, PANKAJ KUMAR S/O Om Parkash R/O House No-172, KH NO. 20/1, UPPER GROUND FLOOR, RZ-T BLOCK, EXTN FRONT, DWARKA DELHI- 110059 have changed my name to PANKAJ SINGLA S/O OM PRAKASH SINGLA for all future purposes.
NAME CHANGE
I, Saroj Nagar W/o Pratap Singh Nagar R/O E-101, Gali No.6, Khajoori Khas Extn., Karawal Nagar, Delhi-110094 have changed my name to Saroj.
NAME CHANGE
I Shivani Kumari W/o Deepak Soni R/O H. No. 41, Second Floor, Pocket-3, Sector-24, Near Delhi Public School, Rohini, North West Delhi-110085 have changed my name to Shivani Soni for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE
I, MD NAUSHAD S/O MEER BARKATULLAH R/O T-221, 24 QUARTER, BASTI HARPHOOL SINGH SADAR THANA SADAR BAZAR NORTH DELHI 110006, CHANGED MY NAME TO MOHD NOUSHAD.
NAME CHANGE
I, SARBAJI W/O MOHD NOUSHAD R/O T-221, 24 QUARTER, BASTI HARPHOOL SINGH SADAR THANA SADAR BAZAR NORTH DELHI 110006, CHANGED MY NAME TO LADALI.
NAME CHANGE
I, AMJAD S/O MOHD NOUSHAD R/O T-221, 24 QUARTER, BASTI HARPHOOL SINGH SADAR THANA SADAR BAZAR NORTH DELHI 110006, CHANGED MY NAME TO MOHD AMJAD.

NAME CHANGE
I, hitherto known as SANJAY KUMAR GUPTA alias SANJAY GUPTA S/O RAMESH CHAND GUPTA, R/O H - 3/86 3rd Floor, Sec - 18 Rohini, Sec - 11, North West Delhi, Delhi - 110085 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as SANJAY GUPTA.
NAME CHANGE
It is for general information that I, JASPAL S/O RATAN LAL R/O RZ - 443A, Gali No. 20, Sadh Nagar Palam Colony, South West Delhi, Delhi - 110045 declare that the name of mine has been wrongly written as JASHPAL in my minor son namely DEEPAK aged 15 years in his School Record. The actual name of my mine is JASPAL Which may be amended accordingly.
NAME CHANGE
I, hitherto known as NAVNEET KAUR W/O AMARPAL SINGH SETHI R/O A-1/18, 3RD FLOOR, SAFDARJUNG ENCLAVE, DELHI-110029 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as NAVNEET KAUR SETHI.
NAME CHANGE
I, hitherto known as AMARPAL SINGH S/O AVTAR SINGH SETHI R/O A-1/18, ZANDU SINGH MARG, SAFDARJUNG ENCLAVE, DISTT-SOUTH WEST DELHI, DELHI-110029 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as AMARPAL SINGH SETHI.

NAME CHANGE
I, hitherto known as SANJAY KUMAR GUPTA alias SANJAY GUPTA S/O RAMESH CHAND GUPTA, R/O H - 3/86 3rd Floor, Sec - 18 Rohini, Sec - 11, North West Delhi, Delhi - 110085 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as SANJAY GUPTA.
NAME CHANGE
I, hitherto known as NAVNEET KAUR W/O AMARPAL SINGH SETHI R/O A-1/18, 3RD FLOOR, SAFDARJUNG ENCLAVE, DELHI-110029 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as NAVNEET KAUR SETHI.
NAME CHANGE
I, hitherto known as AMARPAL SINGH S/O AVTAR SINGH SETHI R/O A-1/18, ZANDU SINGH MARG, SAFDARJUNG ENCLAVE, DISTT-SOUTH WEST DELHI, DELHI-110029 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as AMARPAL SINGH SETHI.

Public Notice
I, Naziya Bano D/O Sh. Asgar Ali, R/O H. No. 60, Sall No. 13, Block H, Sangam Vihar, Himgard Nagar, South East, Delhi 110062. I have changed my minor daughter's name Kumkum to Khushi Bano for all future purposes. In future she will be called and known by the name of Khushi Bano, for all purposes.
NAME CHANGE
I hitherto known as RAM DEVI W/O KISHAN LAL R/O S-198/27, J.J. Indra Camp-1, Srinivaspuri, South Delhi, Delhi-110065 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as RAMA DEVI.
NAME CHANGE
I hitherto known as Bhatt Sai Prakash S/O Surya Prakash Bhatt residing Second Floor, H - 20, Gupta Market, Bus Stand Ring Road, Lajpat Nagar -3, South Delhi- 110024 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Bhatt Sai Suryaprakash.

NAME CHANGE
I, KALE AMBADAS DADA is legally father of No.2818475A Rank SEP Name KALE NILESH AMBADAS presently residing VILL-KOTAMGAON, POST-KOTAMGAON, TEH-NIPHAD, DIST-NASHIK, (MAHARASHTRA).422306, have changed my date of birth from 02/06/1977 to 05/06/1971 for all future purposes. Vide affidavit dated 06/04/2026 before Public Notary Delhi.

NAME CHANGE
I, VAISHALI W/O No. 2804170P Rank- HAV Name-MALI DEEPAK SITARAM VILL- EKLAHARE POST -EKLAHARE TEH- AMALNER DIST- JALGAON MAHARASHTRA-425401 have changed my name from VAISHALI to VAISHALI DEEPAK MALI and date of birth from 02/10/1991 for all future purposes. Vide affidavit dated 06/04/2026 before Public Notary Delhi.

NAME CHANGE
I, HARISH CHANDRA S/O SHYAM LAL R/O R-114 1ST FLOOR, PAREWANA NIWAS BUDDH VIHAR PH-1 DELHI 110086 have changed my name to HARISH CHANDRA GUPTA Permanently for all future purpose

NAME CHANGE
I, BALU HAUSERAO CHAVAN legally father of Army No - 2824480F, Rank - Sep, Name - Chavan Akshay Balasahab, Presently Residing At - Arvi, Post-Arvi, Teh - Shrigonda, Dist - Ahmednagar, Pin - 414701, State- Maharashtra have changed my name From BALU HAUSERAO CHAVAN to BALASAHAB HAUSERAO CHAVAN for all future purposes. Vide affidavit dated 04/04/2026 before Public Notary Delhi.

NAME CHANGE
I, PUSHPABAI, is legally mother of Army No. 2803782A, Rank - Hav, Name - SHUJ R, presently residing at Vill - Perumkadavilla, Post - Perumkadavilla, Teh - Neyyattinkara, Dist - Trivandrum, State - Kerala, Pin - 695124, have changed my name from PUSH-PABAI to PUSHPA BAI D and date of birth from 16/12/1964 to 01/01/1965 for all future purposes. Vide affidavit dated 06/04/2026 before Public Notary Delhi.

NAME CHANGE
I, ATUL KUMAR RAGHUWANSHI S/O VIRENDR SINGH RAGHUWANSHI R/O HOUSE NO-160-3RD FLOOR, BLOCK, SECTOR -56, GURGAON, HARYANA-122011, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO ATUL RAGHUWANSHI FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSES

NAME CHANGE
I, SHEETAL BAIRANG PRASAD JAGETIYA W/O BAIRANG PRASAD JAGETIYA R/O B-402, EXPERION THE HEARTSONG, SECTOR-108, GURGAON, HARYANA - 122006, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SHEETAL BAIRANG JAGETIYA FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSES

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to inform you that Mr. Rajat Yadav intends to purchase a property bearing No. 82, Khadra No. 66/52, adjoining 31 sq. yards, situated at Village Hastal, in the abadi known as Om Vihar, Phase V, Uttam Nagar, New Delhi, from Mrs. Birbati. The original owner of the entire property, as per revenue records, was Mr. K. K. Saroon. Thereafter, Mr. K. K. Saroon transferred the property to Mr. Kuldeep Singh through GPA, ATS & Will dated 20.06.1996. Subsequently, the property was transferred as under through GPA, ATS & Will: Mr. Kuldeep Singh to Mrs. Nisha Gupta, Mrs. Nisha Gupta to Mr. Ashok Kumar, Mr. Ashok Kumar to Mr. Sundeep Ahlawat, Mr. Sundeep Ahlawat to Mr. G. K. Gambhir, Mr. G. K. Gambhir to Mr. Rajinder Pal Ahuja (dated 30.12.2005), Mr. Rajinder Pal Ahuja to Mrs. Asha Devi (dated 01.04.2008), Mrs. Asha Devi to Mr. Neelam, Mrs. Neelam to Mr. N. C. Mittal (dated 29.02.2012), Mr. N. C. Mittal to Mrs. Shanti Devi (dated 25.05.2012), Mrs. Shanti Devi to Mr. Ramesh Kumar (dated 17.12.2012), Mr. Ramesh Kumar to Mr. Sunder Singh (dated 19.04.2013), Mr. Sunder Singh to Mrs. Durga Devi (dated 14.12.2017), Mrs. Durga Devi to Mrs. Maya, Mr. Rahul Sharma & Mr. Krishan (dated 22.12.2021), Mrs. Maya, Mr. Rahul Sharma & Mr. Krishan to Mrs. Birbati (dated 10.09.2025). Consequently, Mrs. Birbati is the absolute and lawful owner of the aforementioned property. The property is free from all kinds of litigation, encumbrances, liens, charges, or claims. Please note that the said property is proposed to be financed by Aditya Birla Housing Finance Limited, Barakamba, C.P. Branch, New Delhi. If any person(s) objection & regarding subject property, then kindly may submit his/her objection within 07 days from the date of the Notice in writing. The said objection may be kindly sent to the undersigned by way of the Registered Post on the address given below and by E-mail, failing which, the claim as per aforesaid shall be treated as null and void in respect of the subject property.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Information is hereby given to the general public that our client Mrs. Rakhi W/o Mr. Vinod Saini is the owner and in possession of a Freehold Residential Vacant Plot area measuring 50 Sq. Yds. i.e. 41.80 Sq. Mtrs. Being Part of Khadra No.175 Mi. Situated at Mohalla Ambedkar Nagar Godhapuri, Modi Nagar, Village Sikri Khurd, Pargana Jalalabad, Tehsil Modi Nagar, District Ghaziabad, U.P. Our client acquired the said property by virtue of a Sale Deed dated 20.02.2015. Vide Doc No.2311, Book No.1, Volume No.7636, on Page Nos.1-14, Registered on 20.02.2015, in S.R-Modi Nagar. In the chain of documents, the Death Certificate & SMC of Late Mr. Ajay Kumar is not available. Therefore, our client hereby declares that except him, no other person has any right, title, interest, claim or objection in respect of the above-mentioned property. And same property sold to be Mr. Kuldeep Malik, the said property is presently financed / mortgaged with AAVAS FINANCIERS LIMITED., Branch: Modi Nagar, U.P. If any person(s) have any objection(s) or claim(s) with respect to the 'right, title or interest in the Said Property then contact us within 07 days from the date of Publication of this notice and or the same to the undersigned if found by anyone. Thereafter no claim shall be entertained.
[NAVEEN KUMAR VERMA] Advocate
F-211, Sector-3, Vaishali, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201010 (Contact at 09958871432)

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to inform you that Mr. Ashwani Verma, alias Golu, is the owner of a two-story shop facing west, with a total area measuring 49.82 square yards (i.e., 41.65 square meters), bearing Old Khadra No. 871 and New Khadra No. 1986, situated at Railway Road, Kasba Dabri (between G.T. Road and Payal Cinema), Pargana and Tehsil Dabri, District Gautam Buddha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh. The original owner of the entire property was Mrs. Shanti Devi, who executed a Will dated 19.03.1986 in favour of Mr. Lokesh Kumar (alias Pappu) and Mr. Triokhand (alias Raju). Unfortunately, Mrs. Shanti Devi passed away thereafter. Subsequently, the names of Mr. Lokesh Kumar (alias Pappu) and Mr. Triokhand (alias Raju) were duly mutated in the revenue records. Thereafter, Mr. Lokesh Kumar (alias Pappu) gifted his share of the property to Mr. Ashwani Verma (alias Golu) through a Gift Deed dated 15.12.2022. Consequently, Mr. Ashwani Verma (alias Golu) became the absolute owner of the aforementioned property. The property is confirmed to be free from all kinds of litigation, encumbrances, liens, charges, or claims. Please also note that the said property is proposed to be financed by Vastu Housing Finance Corporation Ltd., Noida Branch, Uttar Pradesh. If any person(s) objection & regarding subject property, then kindly may submit his/her objection within 07 days from the date of the Notice in writing. The said objection may be kindly sent to the undersigned by way of the Registered Post on the address given below and by E-mail, failing which, the claim as per aforesaid shall be treated as null and void in respect of the subject property.

NAME CHANGE
I, BHAWNA JOSHI W/O MAHESH PRASAD R/O H.NO 220 BLOCK - 1 KHICHRIPUR PATPARGANJ DELHI- 110091 have changed my name to BHAWNA Permanently for all future purpose
NAME CHANGE
I, NIKHILESH KUMAR S/O JOGINDER SINGH R/O FLAT NO.122 D POKET-A NEAR POLICE STATION MAYUR VIHAR PHASE-2 DELHI - 110091 have changed my name to NIKHILESH Permanently for all future purpose
NAME CHANGE
I, SAJJATH AHMED THAYYAN S/O KHADER THAYYAN R/O B-3/UG-3 DILSHAD COLONY EAST DELHI 110095 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SAJJATH AHMED
NAME CHANGE
I, hitherto known as GIRIJA THRESSIA MATHEW D/O MATHEW PALLIVATHUKAL W/O SREENIVASAN PLACKIKKATTIL R/O R 3/2 Type 2 Police Station Qtrs Model Town 1 North West Delhi Delhi-110009 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as GIRIJA.
NAME CHANGE
It is for general information that I, SUNIL KUMAR S/O RAJENDR R/O Flat No-53 Pkt-2 Sec-23 Landmark Ner Pkt Rohini Po: Rohini Sector-7 Dist: North West Delhi Delhi-110085, declare that name of my minor son has been wrongly written as KAVYANSH in my minor son namely KAVYANSH DAHIYA aged 12 years in his school records. The actual name of my minor son is KAVYANSH DAHIYA which may be amended accordingly.

NAME CHANGE
I, KUSUM Legally Mother of Army no - JC-462889M, Rank - NBSUB, Name - SHINDE SHASHIKANT BHAGWAN Presently Residing At - RAHIMATPUR, Post - RAHIMATPUR, Teh - KOREGAON, Dist - SATARA, Pin - 415511, State - MAHARASHTRA have changed my name From KUSUM to KUSUM BHAGWAN SHINDE and date of birth from 13/07/1963 to 15/07/1961 for all future purposes. Vide affidavit dated 04/04/2026 before Notary Delhi.
NAME CHANGE
I, BHAGWAN Legally Father of Army no - JC-462889M, Rank - NBSUB, Name - SHINDE SHASHIKANT BHAGWAN Presently Residing At - RAHIMATPUR, Post - RAHIMATPUR, Teh - Niphad, Dist - Nashik, State - Maharashtra, Pin - 422305, have changed my name from SHAKUNTALA to SHAKUNTALA RAJENDRA VYAPARI and date of birth from 01/04/1972 to 01/01/1980 for all future purposes. Vide affidavit dated 06/04/2026 before Public Notary Delhi.
NAME CHANGE
I, SEEMA Legally wife of Army no - JC-462889M, Rank - NBSUB, Name - SHINDE SHASHIKANT BHAGWAN Presently Residing At - RAHIMATPUR, Post - RAHIMATPUR, Teh - KOREGAON, Dist - SATARA, Pin - 415511, State - MAHARASHTRA have changed my name From SEEMA to SEEMA SHASHIKANT SHINDE for all future purposes. Vide affidavit dated 04/04/2026 before Notary Delhi.

NAME CHANGE
I, SHAKUNTALA, is legally mother of Army No. 2816424A, Rank - Nk, Name - VYAPARI CHANDRANT RAJENDRA, presently residing at Vill - Wakad, Post - Wakad, Teh - Niphad, Dist - Nashik, State - Maharashtra, Pin - 422305, have changed my name from SHAKUNTALA to SHAKUNTALA RAJENDRA VYAPARI and date of birth from 01/04/1972 to 01/01/1980 for all future purposes. Vide affidavit dated 06/04/2026 before Public Notary Delhi.
NAME CHANGE
I, SOPAN, is legally father of JC.No. 462821L, Rank - Nk Sub, Name - VAWDHANE KAILAS SOPAN, presently residing at Vill - Manori Khurd, Post - Deshpande, Teh - Niphad, Dist - Nashik, State - Maharashtra - 423401, have changed my name from SOPAN to SOPAN THAMAJI VAWDHANE and my date of birth from 24/09/1955 to 01/01/1960 for all future purposes. Vide affidavit dated 6/04/2026 before Public Notary Delhi.

NAME CHANGE
I, KUMARI SANJANA W/o Abhishek Tandon R/O F-55, Gali Khumaran, Belur Purnani, Mandi, Jammu, Jammu & Kashmir - 180001, have change my name after marriage from KUMARI SANJANA to SANJANA TANDON permanently and HRISHABH RAJPUT is my son.
NAME CHANGE
I, Varma Priti Raju W/o Aman Verma R/O G - 2/46, Jai Vihar, Nangloi Road Phase 1 Najafgarh Delhi 110043 Changed my name to Priti Raju Verma

NAME CHANGE
I, ZEEHAN ZAMA KHAN S/O AHMAD ZAMA KHAN R/O 98-G JASOLA VIHAR SECTOR 7 OKLA NEW DELHI 110025 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO ZESHAN ZAMA KHAN FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSES
NAME CHANGE
I, SOURABH MALIK S/O SHAHSHER MALIK R/O FLAT NO-303, AK TOWER ANTRIKSH HEIGHTS, SECTOR-84, KHARKI DAULA, GURGAON, HARYANA-122004, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SORABH MALIK FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSES

NOTICE
Public at large is hereby informed that my client Mr. Anil Rangila is the owner of property no. 32, area measuring 350 sq. yds, situated at Sector-15, Urban State, Faridabad, Tehsil & Distt. Faridabad, Haryana. Initially, HUDA allotted the said Property to Darshan Lal Behal. Later, Deed of Conveyance dated 28.07.1987 executed by HUDA in favour of Darshan Lal Behal in respect of the said property. (Doc No. 5427). Later, Sale Deed dated 04.09.1987 executed by Darshan Lal Behal in favour of Dina Nath Rangila in respect of the said property. (Doc No. 7259). Later, Dina Nath Rangila died on 01.12.2023 and his wife Shanti Devi already died on 27.02.2012 Leaving behind Legal Heirs namely Anil Rangila, Sangeeta Arora, Sushma & Sunita Gandhi. Later, Affidavit cum NOC given by Sangeeta Arora in favour of Anil Rangila in respect of the said property. Later, Affidavit cum NOC given by Sushma in favour of Anil Rangila in respect of the said property. Later, Affidavit cum NOC given by Sunita Gandhi in favour of Anil Rangila in respect of the said property. Finally, Re-Allotment Letter dated 11.02.2025 issued by HUDA in favour of Anil Rangila in respect of the said property, who intends to mortgage the said immovable property for his bonafide requirements to Cholamandam Investment and Finance Company Ltd. Whosoever is having any objection to the said mortgage or anyone has claim or right or interest in the property shall contact the undersigned within 07 days failing which it shall be presumed that there stands no objections.
PRAGYA BHUSHAN ADVOCATE
Enr. No. D/721/02
Office: L-27, GF, Kailash Colony, New Delhi-48
Mob.: 9968006418

NEWS BOX

## US, Iran explore 45-day ceasefire proposal: Report

World. (Agency)

The United States and Iran are engaged in discussions over a proposed 45-day ceasefire framework that could potentially pave the way toward a longer-term resolution to ongoing hostilities, according to a report by Axios. Citing four sources familiar with the matter from the US, Israel, and the region, the report said the talks are being facilitated through intermediaries from Pakistan, Egypt, and Turkey. Communication between the two sides has also reportedly taken place via indirect messaging channels, including exchanges involving US envoy Steve Witkoff and Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi. Despite the diplomatic activity, sources described the likelihood of securing even a preliminary agreement within the next 48 hours as low. The report also noted that Iranian officials have conveyed concerns through mediators, emphasizing that they want to avoid a scenario similar to past ceasefire arrangements in Gaza and Lebanon, where temporary truces were followed by renewed military action.

## How Netanyahu's Brother Led A Hostage Rescue Mission And Never Returned

World. (Agency)

Nearly five decades ago, Yonatan (Yoni) Netanyahu, brother of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, led one of the most daring hostage rescue missions in modern history—the Entebbe Raid. At that time, Israel rescued 102 hostages. Back in 1976, an Air France flight from Tel Aviv was flying to Paris but it was hijacked by armed attackers and diverted to Uganda, which was at that time ruled by Idi Amin, who supported the hijackers. Around 250 passengers were taken hostage and kept at an old airport building in Entebbe, near Lake Victoria. The hijackers were Palestinian and German extremists. They demanded the release of 52 terrorists in jails across Israel, Kenya, West Germany and a few other nations. The hijackers let the non-Israeli passengers go but kept 103 people, mostly Israelis and the crew, as hostages in the airport building. After holding the hostages for about a week, Israel launched a rescue mission on July 4, 1976. Israeli planes flew at an altitude of less than 30 metres so they wouldn't be detected and reached Uganda by flying over Lake Victoria. When they landed, the soldiers used a clever trick. They drove out in a black Mercedes car that looked exactly like Idi Amin's car, along with two Land Rovers. They even wore Ugandan army uniforms. Because of this, Ugandan soldiers thought it was Amin arriving and allowed the cars to move closer to the airport building without stopping them. Once they got close, the commandos quickly got out and attacked. In less than an hour, they fought their way through the airport, killed seven hijackers, 45 Ugandans and rescued most of the hostages.

## US Military Blew Up Its \$100 Million Aircraft In Iran. Here's Why



Houston. (Agency)

The United States executed a high-stakes rescue operation to evacuate two of its airmen, who were stuck deep inside Iran after an F-15E Strike Eagle was brought down by Iranian forces. But the mission came at a cost of the US sacrificing at least one, possibly two, of its own high-tech aircraft. According to media reports, during the high-risk recovery efforts, the US military deployed several special operations transport aircraft at a makeshift desert airfield in Iran to retrieve the second downed American airman, a colonel. But the situation soon turned complicated, as at least one, maybe two, of these planes were rendered unusable after landing -- either due to a technical malfunction or because they became stuck in soft desert terrain. With Iran's forces closing in, the US military had to summon additional aircraft to complete the rescue. A regional intelligence official told the Associated Press that American troops blew up two transport planes that they were forced to leave behind because of the mishap. Why The US Destroyed Its Own Planes Aircrafts were destroyed to avoid the risk of sensitive equipment falling into Iranian hands—a standard protocol during high-risk missions in enemy territory. The US military followed a similar protocol in Abbottabad during the mission to kill Osama bin Laden. These planes are equipped with classified technology, including advanced communication, navigation, and special operations systems -- and protecting it takes precedence over the financial cost of losing equipment. Which Planes Were Blown Up On Sunday, the Iranian state media also shared photos and videos of charred remains of what appears to be a fixed-wing transport, splayed out on a flat desert pan in Isfahan province. The aircraft appear to be Lockheed Martin C-130 types -- likely the MC-130J Commando II variant, valued at over \$100 million -- often used to infiltrate and exfiltrate troops into enemy territories for special operations.

# Iran ramps up attack, warns 'more devastating' retaliation as Trump appears to extend deadline

**"If attacks on civilian targets are repeated, the next stages of our offensive and retaliatory operations will be much more devastating and widespread," Iranian military spokesperson said.**

World. (Agency)

Iran launched fresh attacks across the Middle East on Monday and threatened "devastating" retaliation, after US President Donald Trump's expletive-laced warning that Tehran must reopen the Strait of Hormuz. Israel, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates reported a barrage of missile and drone strikes early Monday. Israel also

reported a missile fired from Iran hit a residential building in the northern city of Haifa, wounding four people. The attacks came as Tehran ramped up rhetoric against Trump, with Tehran's central military command warning of "much more devastating" retaliation if its adversaries hit civilian targets. "If attacks on civilian targets are repeated, the next stages of our offensive and retaliatory operations will be much more devastating and widespread," a spokesman for the Khatam al-Anbiya Central Headquarters said in a statement posted by state broadcaster IRIB on Telegram. The warning came hours after Trump threatened to destroy Iran's civilian infrastructure, demanding Tehran bow to his demands for a deal to reopen the Gulf to shipping. In Iran, local media reported several attacks on residential areas over Tehran on Monday, while the state broadcaster said that gas outages hit parts of the capital after a strike on a

university. Israel's army said early Monday it had completed a wave of strikes against "regime targets" in Tehran. On another front,



Israel continued intensified attacks on Lebanon with UN peacekeepers warning that strikes near its positions "could potentially draw return fire." Iran has effectively blocked the Strait of Hormuz, a vital energy chokepoint, provoking Trump to demand Sunday: "Open the Fuckin' Strait, you crazy bastards, or you'll be living in Hell."

In a terse follow-up post, the president apparently set a new deadline for Iran to comply: "Tuesday, 8:00 PM" (0000 GMT Wednesday). As Christians marked Easter, Trump revived warnings of air strikes on Iranian power plants and bridges, after celebrating the rescue of a wounded airman whose fighter jet went down inside Iran. Pope Leo XIV used his first Easter blessing as pontiff to urge leaders to "choose peace." Iranian images showed wreckage of several aircraft, but Tehran did not deny US forces rescued the officer, who sheltered in a mountainous area while American special forces and Iranian troops raced to find him. Trump said in a Truth Social post announcing the airman's rescue that he would give a news conference on Monday. "Nothing like it!" The war, which erupted on February 28 with deadly US-Israeli strikes on Tehran, has engulfed the Middle East and strained the global economy.

## 'Whole region going to burn as you follow Netanyahu's commands': Iran slams Trump's threat

World. (Agency)

Hours after US President Donald Trump made an expletive-filled threat to destroy Iran's civilian infrastructure, Tehran hit back, warning that the US president was dragging his country into a 'living hell' and risking a wider crisis across the Middle East. "Your reckless moves are dragging the United States into a living HELL for every single family, and our whole region is going to burn because you insist on following Netanyahu's commands. Make no mistake: You won't gain anything through war crimes," Speaker of the Parliament of Iran Mohammad-Bagher Ghalibaf tweeted shortly after Trump's abusive-laden threat to Iran. He added that the only real solution is respecting the rights of the Iranian people and ending this dangerous game. Earlier, Trump in a profanity-laced social media post Sunday said, Tuesday will be "Power Plant Day, and Bridge Day, all wrapped up in one, in Iran. There will be nothing like it."

His direct message to Iran's leaders is, "Open the F----- Strait, you crazy b-----, or you'll be living in HELL -- JUST WATCH." He threatened to strike Iran if Tehran failed to meet his April 6 deadline to either reach a deal



or reopen the Strait of Hormuz. Trump later posted on social media, without mentioning Iran or any other details: "Tuesday, 8:00 P.M. Eastern Time!" Shortly after his abusive rant on Truth Social, Trump gave an interview to Fox News where he said, "If they don't make a deal, and fast, I'm considering blowing everything up and taking over the oil."

Iran Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baghaei led Tehran's charge against Donald Trump's threats, calling them "incitement for war crimes" and evidence of a "criminal mindset" amounting to crimes against humanity. In an interview with Reuters, he said targeting a country's critical infrastructure and energy sector would put the entire population at risk, adding that such actions "amount to war crimes and crimes against humanity." Iran's culture minister Sayed Reza Salih-Amiri, meanwhile, dismissed President Donald Trump's latest threats, calling the US leader an "unstable, delusional figure." Iran's ally Russia also condemned Trump's threat. Moscow said Washington should abandon "the language of ultimatums" and return to negotiations, according to a Russian readout of Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov's latest call with his Iranian counterpart.

## Nigeria army says killed 65 'bandits' in single operation

KANO. (Agency)

Nigeria's military has killed more than 60 members of criminal gangs known as bandits, blamed for most of the country's mass kidnappings, said a Sunday security report seen by AFP. The offensive was carried out in the northwestern Zamfara state where police on Saturday confirmed a mass kidnapping carried out earlier in the week. Police there confirmed there had been a "mass" abduction of villagers in raids by armed gangs on Thursday night, but gave no figures. Residents estimate that seven people had been killed and 150 abducted when large numbers of heavily armed men invaded six villages Bukkuyum local government area. Police said a hunt has been launched for the attackers. Sunday's security report said at "least 65 bandits" had been killed, in what it called a "major breakthrough." But the "massive seven-hour ground and air offensive" was in Tsafe, a district around 200 kilometres (125 miles) from where the recent kidnappings occurred. Zamfara is one of several states in northwest and central Nigeria plagued by the criminal gangs. Known locally as bandits, they carry out deadly raids on communities,



kidnap residents for ransom and burn homes after looting them. Bandit violence started more than decade ago as clashes between herders and farmers in conflict over limited water and land resources impacted by climate change. The internecine violence morphed into organised cattle rustling and kidnapping for ransom syndicates. Bandits motivated by financial gains are increasingly collaborating with jihadists from the northeast who have waged a 17-year-old armed insurrection for a Caliphate.

## US-Israeli strikes on Iranian cities kill at least 25 as Tehran rejects

World. (Agency)

Israel strikes on Lebanon kill at least 15 Israeli strikes on Lebanon killed at least 15 people Sunday and wounded 39, Lebanese officials said. One of Israel's strikes in Beirut on Sunday killed at least five people and wounded 52 in the Jnah neighbourhood, according to the Lebanese health ministry, while a strike targeting an apartment building in Ain Saadeh town east of Beirut killed three people and injured three others. A strike in the southern town of Kfar Hatta, far from the border with Israel, killed seven people, including a four-year-old girl, the ministry added. Iran strikes Israel, Arab countries Israeli firefighters were searching for two missing people in the rubble of a

residential building in the northern city of Haifa after it was struck by an Iranian missile that killed two others, authorities said Monday. The direct hit on a seven-storey building tore through sections of the structure, which has partially collapsed, the military and rescue services said. Israel's emergency service, Magen David Adom, said four people were wounded in the strike, including a 10-month-old baby who suffered a head injury. An 82-year-old man was also in a "serious condition", MDA said. A hospital later said he was stable. On Monday, the military detected fresh waves of missiles fired from Iran, and each time it said its "defensive systems are operating to intercept the threat." Kuwait and the UAE also reported

missile and drone attacks from Iran. Falling debris from an intercepted attack injured one person in an industrial area of Abu Dhabi, UAE authorities said on Monday. Abu Dhabi authorities have responded to an incident of falling debris on the Raneen Systems company in ICAD (Industrial City of Abu Dhabi) in the Musaffah area, following a successful interception by air defence systems, "the Abu Dhabi government's media office posted on X." The incident resulted in moderate injuries to a Ghanaian national. "The injury comes a day after authorities in the Emirati city of Sharjah said they were "dealing with an incident that targeted Khor Fakkan" after the key port was targeted in the Gulf of Oman.

## South Korea president says regrets 'reckless' drones sent to North

**Seoul initially denied any official role in the January drone incursion, with authorities suggesting it was the work of civilians, but President Lee said a probe had revealed government officials had been involved.**

SEOUL. (Agency)

South Korean President Lee Jae Myung expressed regret to Pyongyang Monday over drones sent into North Korea earlier this year, actions he called "irresponsible". Seoul initially denied any official role in the January drone incursion -- with authorities suggesting it was the work of civilians -- but Lee said a probe had revealed government officials had been involved. The North warned in February of a "terrible

response" if it detects more drones crossing the border from the South, prompting Seoul to investigate the claims. Pyongyang said it downed a drone carrying "surveillance equipment" in early January. Photos released by state media showed the wreckage of a winged craft scattered across the ground alongside grey and blue components that allegedly included cameras. "It has been confirmed that a National Intelligence Service official and an active-duty soldier were involved," Lee told a cabinet meeting. "We express regret to the North over the unnecessary military tensions caused by the irresponsible and reckless actions of some individuals." He added that South Korea's constitution bans private individuals from conducting acts that could "provoke the North". "Such actions, even when deemed necessary for national strategy, must be approached with extreme caution," he said. Lee has sought to repair ties with North Korea since taking office last year, criticising his predecessor for allegedly sending drones to scatter propaganda over Pyongyang. His repeated

overtures, however, have gone unanswered by the North. Former South Korean president Yoon Suk Yeol, is standing trial over charges that his



administration sent drones into the North to provoke a backlash and create a pretext for declaring military rule. Yoon was impeached and ousted from office in April last year and has been sentenced to life in

prison over his declaration of martial law. Most hostile state Lee's expression of regret follows North Korean leader Kim Jong Un labelling Seoul as the "most hostile state" in a policy address in March in which he vowed to "thoroughly reject and disregard it". Kim also reaffirmed his commitment to maintaining the country's nuclear arsenal, describing it as an "irreversible course". During Yoon's presidency, relations between Seoul and Pyongyang hit rock bottom, with the North sending balloons filled with garbage, including animal manure, in response to propaganda leaflets sent northward by South Korea-based activists, many of them North Korean defectors. The two Koreas technically remain at war, as the 1950-53 conflict ended in an armistice rather than a peace treaty, and both enforce mandatory military service for men.

NEWS BOX

**Belagavi man arrested for locking up wife, kids; victims rescued**

**BELAGAVI.(Agency)**  
In a commendable operation, Belagavi city police rescued a woman who was allegedly confined and subjected to physical and mental abuse by her husband at Tilakwadi in the city. The action was initiated after police received information through a phone call from Delhi stating that the woman had been locked inside a bedroom and was being harassed. Acting immediately, senior officials directed the Women Police Station to take necessary steps. The Akka Pade(squad), a special women's safety unit, was deployed to deal with the situation. Upon reaching the location, the team forced open the door and safely rescued the woman along with her two children. They were provided immediate medical care, protection, and temporary shelter. Based on the victim's complaint, a case was registered against her husband at the women police station, and he has been taken into custody for further investigation. To ensure her safety, the rescued woman and her children were later sent to her parents home in Delhi by flight. The operation was carried out by PSIA Rukmini, along with staff members RI Kadalagi, Swapna Gondali, Roopashree Yamakanamaradi, and Siddappa Sangli, whose efforts have been widely appreciated. Since its launch on February 17, 2026, the Akka Squad in Belagavi has been actively working towards women's safety. The team has conducted awareness programmes in over 70 schools, colleges, bus stands, railway stations, hostels, and other public places, reaching out through 91 awareness initiatives. These programmes covered laws related to women, child marriage prohibition, POCSO Act, cybercrime awareness, and personal safety.

**Shakti beneficiaries in Karnataka to get personalised smart cards**

**BENGALURU.(Agency)**  
Nearly three years after the launch of the Shakti scheme, allowing women free bus travel, beneficiaries are set to receive personalised smart cards, with the Karnataka government initiating steps to implement a National Common Mobility Card-based ticketing system across state-run bus corporations. Under the proposed system, any NCMC cardholder will be able to travel across buses operated by the four state-run transport corporations. Shakti scheme beneficiaries, meanwhile, will be issued a dedicated 'Shakti card' to avail free travel, a move that was planned alongside the launch of the scheme. Beneficiaries can obtain the Shakti card by submitting a formal application. Through e-KYC verification, their details will be digitally captured and linked to the card, enabling seamless validation during travel without manual ticketing. Once implemented, the system is expected to record usage by beneficiaries in real time, improving transparency, preventing misuse, and ensuring accurate identification. Officials said the move aligns with state government directions to strengthen data capture and streamline service delivery under welfare schemes.

**Indian Oil boosts auto LPG supply in Karnataka amid demand surge**

**BENGALURU.(Agency)**  
Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOCL) has increased Auto LPG supplies across Karnataka in response to a sharp rise in demand triggered by ongoing geopolitical disruptions, the company said on Sunday. According to the company, oil marketing companies (OMCs) operate 72 auto LPG dispensing stations (ALDS) in the state, of which Indian Oil runs 55 outlets. Though over 300 private ALDS exist, nearly 80% have become non-operational, leading to supply constraints. The company noted that limited infrastructure and dispensing capacity continue to affect availability. Price differences have also shifted demand, with PSU outlets selling Auto LPG at Rs 89.52 per litre in Bengaluru, compared to Rs 99 to Rs 105 at private stations, resulting in longer queues, it added. With nearly 70% of autorickshaws in the state equipped for dual fuel, Indian Oil has advised users to temporarily switch to petrol where necessary. Auto drivers plan a protest over financial distress. Autorickshaw associations in Bengaluru plan to protest against auto LPG supply crunch, alleging government neglect and severe financial distress affecting their livelihoods. M Manjunath, president, Adarsha Auto and Taxi Drivers' Union, said auto drivers are struggling because of declining incomes and irregular fuel availability. He alleged that concerns raised with the Transport Department and other authorities have not been adequately addressed. He said that many drivers are unable to pay EMIS, while also facing difficulties in paying house rent and children's school fees. The associations demanded that the state government give a minimum assured supply of six litres of LPG per auto daily. Bengaluru's daily Auto LPG demand is about 300 tonnes.

**Yamunanagar sugarcane farmer writes success story with wide row spacing technique, earns Rs 15 lakh annually**

**Chandigarh .(Agency)**  
In Haryana's Yamunanagar district, progressive farmer Nirmal Singh has reaped rich rewards by adopting the wide row spacing technique in sugarcane cultivation, earning nearly Rs 15 lakh annually by producing an average of 425 quintals of cane per acre in 30 acres. This technique also helps him conserve water, considering sugarcane is one of the most water-guzzling crops and requires massive amounts of water over a long growing season. Nirmal, 41, is a graduate who began helping his father with farming at Gillor Majri village at the age of 17 and later chose to become a full-time farmer. For the past 15 years, Nirmal has been using the wide row spacing technique—a method of sowing cane in rows four feet apart instead of the traditional 2.5 feet. And the result has been remarkable. Singh says he earns nearly Rs 15 lakh annually from his produce on 30 acres, with a profit of Rs 50,000 per acre, compared to an average of Rs 30,000 for traditional farmers. In Haryana, the state government has declared the current maximum State

Advised Price (SAP) for sugarcane at Rs 415 per quintal. Nirmal explains the wide spacing reduces the number of rows per acre from 90 to 50, but the crop grows healthier, stronger and more resilient than traditional farming. "There is no



need for labourers, almost all work, including harvesting, is done mechanically," Nirmal adds. The technique also slashes the input cost. Only 18-20 quintals of cane are needed for sowing per acre, compared to 35 quintals in the conventional method. Water use is cut nearly in half. According to Agriculture

Department officials, wide row sugarcane cultivation reduces water use by nearly half, requiring an estimated 9-10 lakh litres per acre compared to 18-20 lakh liters under the conventional method. "In wide row cultivation, an acre can be irrigated in just 50 minutes, compared to over two hours in traditional ways. Considering the sugarcane crops require about 20 irrigation cycles in a season, the water conservation is immense. If all sugarcane farmers adopt this method, it will help conserve water to a greater extent," Nirmal points out. Haryana Additional Cane Commissioner Mahavir Singh says, "The state government has increased the incentive to sugarcane farmers for adopting the wide row spacing technique from Rs 3,000 to Rs 5,000 per acre this year. The technique not only boosts profits and saves water, but also improves the quality of juice extracted from the cane, besides addressing the problem of chronic agricultural labour shortage." Yet, despite promising results and government announced incentive, the wide row spacing technique adoption is limited. Singh estimates only about 10 per cent of farmers use this method.

**Gujarat Hardlook: Menus shrink & footfall down, LPG crisis shakes Ahmedabad eateries**

**The impact of the war in West Asia was seen as far as Ahmedabad where university canteens and popular eating joints bore the brunt of the shortage of liquified petroleum gas (LPG) supplies to India following the closure of the Strait of Hormuz.**

**Ahmedabad. (Agency)**  
The central canteen of the Gujarat University in Ahmedabad caters to around 400-500 students daily. For the canteen, situated within the university campus near NRS Computer Hall, the strain of the LPG shortage is quite visible. Operated by Upadhyay Caterers for the past two years, the canteen almost ran out of LPG in the weekend when its supplier provided them with two cylinders with a promise that they will get more in the next three-four days. The canteen is being headed by Devrambhai Trivedi and operated by Suresh Chandra. Talking about the shortage and the manner in which they are dealing with it, Chandra said that they have removed several items such as aloo paratha, dabeli, sandwiches, bread pakoda and noodles from the menu. "Our clientele is down by nearly 40-50%," Chandra

said while adding that unlike other commercial eating joints they are not converting to coal-based alternatives of LPG in the kitchen. "We



cannot compromise on students' health," he reasoned, citing concerns over smoke and pollution. According to Chandra, as they have

received two cylinders by the weekend, they hope to get a few more in the next three-four days as promised by their supplier.

The Central University of Gujarat (CUG) almost saw a crisis coming when on April 1, the mess committee chairperson put out a notice to its students stating that the mess menu was being curtailed to "tide over the disruption". Citing the geopolitical situation that had led to the short supply of gas all over, the office bearer said in the notice that the university had made alternative arrangements to ensure the mess ran uninterrupted. The university is located in Kundhela village of Vadodara and has a student strength of over 1,225 with a hostel accommodation provision for 692 students. The Indian Express found that the crisis did not really affect the university.

**Meet Nayak: India's largest single shield hard rock TBM for Thane-Borivali Twin Tunnel project**

**Nayak TBM, India's largest hard rock tunnelling machine, will drive the Thane-Borivali twin tunnel project, boosting Mumbai connectivity and reducing travel time.**

**BENGALURU.(Agency)**  
Thane-Borivali twin tunnel project: The tunnelling work is set to commence on the Thane-Borivali Twin Tunnel project. Being implemented by the Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA), the 11.84-km-long project is expected to significantly enhance connectivity and reduce travel time from 1.5 hours to just 15 minutes. Thane-Borivali Twin Tunnel project TBM The project involves constructing twin tunnels under the Sanjay Gandhi National Park, along with access roads linking the Western Express Highway at Borivali and Ghodbunder Road at Thane. The two tunnels will be built using the most advanced TBM (Tunnel Boring Machine) technology to ensure safe, efficient and eco-friendly

construction with minimal ground disturbance. This most advanced TBM, named Nayak, is the country's largest single-shield hard rock tunnel boring machine. Another



TBM, Arjuna, is also set to be launched soon. Each TBM measures 86 metres in length and features a cutter head diameter of 13.34 metres. A total of four TBMs will

be deployed, two each from the Borivali and Thane ends. These machines operate with precision cutting at a speed of 4.5 rotations per minute and each TBM weighs around 2.5 metric tonnes.

According to MMRDA, the Nayak has been named after a 'Butterfly' (Moduza Procris) found in Sanjay Gandhi National Park. "The species is known for its strength, agility and precision. A reflection of the TBM's power, control and leadership underground," it said.

Thane-Borivali Twin Tunnel latest news According to MMRDA, each tunnel will feature three lanes, including a dedicated emergency lane, with cross-passages every 300 metres. These tunnels will be equipped with advanced ventilation systems, modern firefighting equipment, smoke detectors and illuminated LED signboards.

**West Asia conflict: Morbi tile makers want to switch to PNG, but higher prices remain a hurdle**

**The shutdown, which began on March 17, was triggered by a fuel supply crisis amid the war in Iran.**

**Ahmedabad. (Agency)**  
Ceramics manufacturers in Gujarat's Morbi have extended their industry shutdown till May 1 — two weeks beyond the earlier deadline of April 15 — after Gujarat Gas Limited announced new piped natural gas prices that tile makers say make restarting production financially unviable. The shutdown, which began on March 17, was triggered by a fuel supply crisis amid the war in Iran. Most of Morbi's tile-making units run on propane-LPG, all of which is imported from the Persian Gulf. The blockade of the Strait of Hormuz has disrupted this supply, pushing tile makers to seek piped natural gas (PNG) as an alternative. It is the new PNG prices quoted to these "returning" users that have now deepened the crisis. To be sure, the industry is bearing the brunt of the global energy shock — when The Indian Express visited Morbi on March 19, most tile units had shut down because their propane-LPG stocks were depleted. Skeleton crews were carrying out

maintenance work; the rest of the workers had been told there was no work for them, at least till April 15. These workers — mostly migrants from Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand and Odisha — were heading home, catching long-distance trains from Morbi, from Rajkot 66 km to the south, or from Ahmedabad 200 km to the east. More than four lakh workers are employed in the ceramics cluster, with another couple of lakh in allied industries. Paid roughly Rs 15,000-18,000 a month through job contractors who brought them to Gujarat, several said they were still owed months of back pay. Sanitaryware workers were spared this disruption. Their units, which run on PNG rather than propane-LPG, remained fully operational. But sanitaryware which runs more by manual labourers than the tile units which are largely mechanised, accounts for only 17% of factories in the Morbi cluster,

while the other 83% make wall, floor and vitrified tiles. **Different gas prices, same industry, and some discontent**



In a letter to industrial customers in Gujarat and the Union Territory of Dadra & Nagar Haveli on April 1, Gujarat Gas Limited quoted a price of Rs 23 per cubic metre higher for propane users switching to PNG than for its regular PNG customers. For

returning users, this works out to Rs 88 per cubic metre plus 6% GST — nearly twice what they were paying for propane-LPG.

"When we shut down the units, we were paying Rs 52 per cubic metre for propane-LPG. Now, they are asking us to pay Rs 93 for PNG, including GST, which is disproportionate to what regular users pay. We cannot operate at these rates," said a tile unit owner.

For regular PNG users, the April 2026 prices are tiered based on consumption over the six months from September 2025. Morbi accounts for 90% of India's Rs 75,000-crore ceramic industry. Of the roughly 800 units in the cluster — 650 major and 150 minor — around 500 are tile makers running on propane-LPG, consuming about 55 lakh cubic metres per day. The remaining 150-odd sanitaryware units use PNG, consuming about 25 lakh cubic metres per day.

**Mumbai's Elphinstone Bridge: 58 nights to bring down a 112-year-old landmark — and we were there for eight of them**

**Mumbai.(Agency)**  
After over five hours of constant action, broken only by stolen cups of chai and cigarettes, the waiting had become its own kind of weight. Eyes glazed with sleep, legs aching to sit. An occasional joke cut through the air, but the joy of finishing was still at bay. An unspoken restlessness had settled in with the dust — evident in the expectant looks, the shuffling of weary feet, the repeated glances at a sky slowly losing its dark.

Everyone was watching one solitary welder, perched on a ladder, severing the last inch of the 30,000-kilogram girder. The sides had been cut free, the crane's ropes were tied around it, holding its weight. But this last inch — thick, stubborn steel at the centre of the 37-metre girder, gluing it to the pillar — would not give. At 6am, the welder climbed down. Phones went up. Shouts of "rassa pakdo" rang out, asking workers to hold on to the ropes tied to the girder, which would control its direction when it hung midair. It needed one last push. At the east end, a worker rammmed a crowbar behind the girder and tipped it over. The 30,000-kg girder swung forward.

The sky — all traces of night gone — erupted in fireworks. A contractor had brought them, quietly, in anticipation of this moment. It had taken over three months to get here. And just like that, a 112-year-old relic had come down.

For over a century, the Elphinstone Bridge was less of a structure and more of a neighbourhood habit. It was the connector between the east and west of Mumbai, a city sheared along its length by railway lines. Shiny office buildings soared over it, drawn by its twin connectivity to Prabhadevi and Parel stations.

**17 months on, Bengaluru city outskirts still await Cauvery water**

**BENGALURU.(Agency)**  
Even 17 months after the commissioning of the Cauvery fifth stage to supply drinking water to 110 villages on the periphery of Bengaluru, many villages are still waiting for Cauvery. While the government claims that the water is supplied to 100 out of the 110 villages, residents say otherwise and worry that they have to go without Cauvery water this summer too. When a question was raised by MLA Suresh Kumar on the status of water supply to all these villages during the Assembly session, which got over recently, Deputy Chief Minister and Bengaluru Development Minister DK Shivakumar said that water supply is delayed in only 10 villages. In the Mahadevapura zone, these are Varthur, Balagere, Sorahunase, Gunjur, and Panathur. In the Byatarayanapura zone, they are Kattigenahalli, Srinivasapura, Bellahalli, Thirumenahalli, and Chokkanahalli. Speaking to , civic activist and co-founder of Varthur Rising, Jagadisha Reddy said, "Government's claim that the works of supplying Cauvery water in 100 out of 110 villages are completed is far from the truth. Water pipe laying, testing, and laying of underground sewer are not completed in many villages." Residents said that they are relying on borewells and private tankers, which charge anything above Rs 1,500 for a 6,000-litre tanker. In areas where there is 'Sanchari Cauvery', residents are booking it and getting water at Rs 1,300 for 12,000 litres.

## Why faith drives India's donation pattern

A RECENT survey on 'How India Gives' has revealed that nationally, donations in cash and kind amount to \$6 billion (Rs 540 million) a year, of which, strikingly, nearly half go to religious organisations. We may ask why this is the case. Why do people give more to religious organisations than to other bodies? The most obvious answer is that all religions instil in their believers the virtue of giving — Muslim zakat, Hindu daan, Christian caritas, Sikh seva.

Recent qualitative research among citizens across class, caste and community in Delhi reveals more. One explanation for why religious organisations receive the lion's share of donations is because their charitable activities are visible.

The example of Sikhs serving cool drinks to all on a hot summer afternoon or holding langars even during the Covid lockdown comes up more than once. So, they give to gurdwaras because they know that their donation will be utilised well, and they could see the results for themselves.

Sikhs also learn to give not just money, but also their time and labour in doing seva. Children are raised to clean spaces, mind shoes or prepare rotis in gurdwaras. This discipline continues into adulthood, with kar seva becoming a part of their weekly routine. The sentiment of giving without ever expecting to recover is contained in the Punjabi expression neki kar, khu vich pa (give, but give like you are throwing into a well). This stance informs how people give not just their time and labour but also their money. Thus, even a financial loan to someone is treated in the same way.

This sentiment also comes up in a conversation with a young Muslim barber in his twenties. He had loaned money to a friend, but did not expect it back. Not because he thought his friend would not repay it, but because he believed that one should only give what one can write off. Only this feeling ensures that a loan does not come in the way of friendship. When pressed to tell me the amount, he just smiled and said, "That is between me and Allah." Religious institutions are also ubiquitous and accessible, another factor that explains the high rate of donations to them. The proliferation and expansion of temples in Delhi in the last decade has meant that one barely has to pause during one's commute to drop money in the donation box (daan patra).

A member of a temple committee clarifies that such collections go directly to the priest, inevitably a Brahmin man, a daan to whom is seen by many Hindus as virtuous giving.

But having served on the temple committee for many years, he adds that Hindus have become more performatively religious in recent years. He has noticed a rise in footfall in the temple. When asked to explain why, he suggested that people have begun to believe what they hear on television about Hindus being an endangered group (Hindu khatrey mein hain) and perhaps saw giving to temples as a way of saving their religion. Their gradual expansion across pavements and roads was the visible proof of reassurance to them.

A schoolteacher confirms that Hindu students 'wear' their religiosity more visibly now than before. Sacred threads (kalavas) on wrists never come off and some come to school with tilak on their forehead. The adaptability of Hinduism that allowed Hindus to eat a Christmas cake or Eid sevai has now significantly declined. A middle-aged woman remembers her grandmother saying: "Vaar sey tyohar bada" (festivals are more important than the day of the week), that sharing festive food with friends is more important than strictly observing one's weekly fast. But this outlook is now giving way to a more inflexible religious identity. As a Muslim shopowner wryly remarked to me, "Earlier, I used to bring boxes of sevai to send to all shops in the market, but now on Eid, everyone seems to develop diabetes." Religion is also cool fashion for some. Rap performances of Hanuman Chalisa or stadium-scale events of bhajans, disseminated in slick reels on social media, have made performing one's religion trendy, especially for the youth.

## What ails Punjab: Drugs, dunki & deliverance

he gap between the expectations of the youth and the bleak realities of scarce job opportunities is large

PUNJAB is at a critical juncture of losing its two most precious resources: soil and youth. The beautiful golden wheat fields tell a great success story of the past, but that story has hit a systemic wall, causing an ecological crisis. The youth are dealing with a triple threat: drug problem, treacherous "dunki" flights for better futures and religious conversions, promising deliverance. Problems related to human capital, specifically unemployment, hang over the state like the sword of Damocles. The agricultural engine has come to a standstill. The gap between the expectations of the youth and the bleak realities of scarce job opportunities is large. The unfolding crisis can destroy the social fabric of the state.

Punjab is at an inflexion point. Imagine a debt-ridden farmer in Moga forced to sell his ancestral land to pay for his son's illegal migration or an elderly mother in Tarn Taran watching her unemployed hepatitis C-infected son injecting himself heroin for a synthetic high. These images represent the reality of 2026. Youth unemployment rates, as per the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) for the period ending December 2025, are at 19.3% (15-29 years), which is far higher than the national average of 14.3%. The absence of meaningful employment options has led to the drug epidemic; the exodus of talent via illegal migration routes; and it put the poor at the risk of religious conversion for material necessity. The addiction epidemic in Punjab is a symptom of an entrenched socio-economic condition. In 2025, research identified that there is a direct relationship between unemployment and drug abuse. Studies show that approximately 79% of the people who were addicted and under treatment were either unemployed or working on a part-time schedule.

Drug abuse for many young Punjabis is not a recreational activity but a maladaptive coping strategy used to deal with the extreme socio-economic pressures of limited opportunities for upward mobility. The sheer numbers are overwhelming: 6.6 million residents of the state use drugs including tobacco and alcohol and as of April 25, 2025, agencies have confirmed that at least 782 people have died due to overdose since January 1, 2024. Punjab tops the list of state police heroin seizures, with nearly 45% of the national seizures, while it houses less than 2% of India's population. The state is after Mizoram in drug use. As a result of this, it has the highest Hepatitis C prevalence rate. This severely impacts the productivity of the youth and their contribution to nation-building.

An estimated 72% of agrarian families are burdened with debt. They are selling ancestral land to recruit agents at exorbitant prices so that they can fund their youth for illegal migration. The result is the diversion of rural

capital into human trafficking rings as opposed to being diverted into local entrepreneurial ventures. The human cost of "dunki" flights is equally devastating. In 2025, approximately 38% of all Indian nationals deported from the US were from Punjab, many of whom returned home in handcuffs. Plus, socio-economic fragility at large levels has provided an environment for religion-based conversions, especially among the impoverished and marginalised communities. Several missionary organisations are employing a 'mixed method' approach to exploit their socio-economic vulnerabilities. These include providing healthcare, presenting the gospel as a means of achieving wealth and offering migration opportunities to individuals who convert. The Christian population in Tarn Taran district has risen by 102% over



the past two years. How do we stop this downward spiral? Traditional vocational training systems in Punjab have failed to close the chasm between academia and industry. Graduates remain unemployed due to a lack of synchronisation between the skills they learned in institutions like the ITI and the high-tech industrial standards that today's recruiters look for.

We need a thoughtful transformation of the education system. We should incorporate vocational training, short-term courses, rural skill-based programmes and apprenticeships into the system in schools. Moreover, Punjab needs to recalibrate its agricultural trajectory. Only through such integration will we begin to restore the social dignity and economic power for a generation drifting in a sea of underemployment.

The emergence of the "Knowledge Economy" necessitates a workforce with proficiency in rapidly developing technologies. Therefore, universities must play the role of lead catalysts for this transformation and begin issuing

"micro-credentials" - industry-recognised certifications earned in three to six months. The Central University of Punjab is shortly launching six such certification programmes. A wealth of knowledge can be derived from models that have been successfully implemented in other regions. To successfully implement this university-driven model, Punjab will need to aggressively target growth-oriented sectors relevant in 2026 and beyond.

To bring about this economic transformation, Indian universities must become incubators for rapid adaptation. The Union government recently earmarked Rs 4,500 crore for SCL, Mohali. This power move can be leveraged by institutions by connecting to Mohali's growing technology sector. They can offer targeted micro-credentials for training thousands of youth as clean-room

technicians, PCB assemblers and IT data analysts. The critical point is that we must take these new technologies and graft them onto our native land. By training a first line of 'RE Commandos' to convert polluting crop stubble into clean energy and by using AI-powered kisan drones to deliver precision agriculture, we are creating a circular, self-reliant economy. Connecting high-end IT and robotics with agrotech, crop diversification and crop-residue start-ups will not only provide the youth with the skills required to succeed in the emerging 2026 knowledge economy, but it will also build an anti-fragile network of livelihoods that will empower them to develop their own businesses and succeed natively. To reach the youth most vulnerable to substance abuse and/or migration and conversion, Punjab must develop a "friction-free" funding model for such courses completely free of cost. At present, the cost to complete a six-month vocational course ranges from Rs 10,000 to Rs 50,000. Fully subsidising courses would be a massive investment in human capital, creating an attractive alternative to the over Rs 40 lakh "dunki route" or the prohibitively expensive monthly cost of private de-addiction therapy.

The narrative about Punjab -- the sacred land of Gurus, in 2026 and beyond, cannot continue to be defined by the themes of "Udta Punjab", brain drain of "dunki route" and "deliverance", but as a success story of technological prowess and economic resurgence for "Sarbat da Bhala". By preparing the youth with rural, vocational, digital and technical skills, Punjab can begin to dismantle the structures of despair. The institutions in the state must be positioned as the bridge connecting the rich heritage of the sacred land of the five rivers with its future potential, ensuring every youngster has the chance to learn, work and thrive in fresh air on his home soil.

## HC freezes floors: A timely brake on reckless urban growth

Cities cannot grow floor by floor, without growing pipe by pipe, road by road and system by system

THE decision of the Punjab and Haryana High Court to stay Haryana's stilt-plus-four (S+4) policy is a welcome stand. In halting a model of unchecked vertical expansion, the court has restored a principle that urban governance routinely neglects: that growth must follow capacity, not precede it. The S+4 policy, marketed as a solution to housing demand, quickly turned residential plots into dense, multi-storeyed units without a commensurate upgrade in infrastructure. The result was predictable.

Choked roads, erratic water supply, overburdened sewerage and rising safety risks were commonly seen. Cities like Gurugram became laboratories of unplanned densification. What makes the court's intervention significant is not merely the stay, but also the reasoning behind it. By foregrounding public safety and infrastructure, the Bench has called out the deeper malaise of the tendency of governments to privilege revenue



over resilience. Even as permissions were granted and floors were added, pipes, roads and emergency systems remained frozen in an earlier era. This pause must now lead to a decisive and final course correction. The state government should resist the temptation to revive the policy in its current form. Instead, the approach should be one that links building permissions to demonstrable upgrades in infrastructure.

Urban expansion cannot be negotiated plot by plot; it requires citywide planning, zoning discipline and investment in basic services. The high court has done what urban planners often fail to enforce. It has paused growth until systems can support it. The final verdict should carry this logic to its conclusion. The lesson is simple and urgent. Cities cannot grow floor by floor, without growing pipe by pipe, road by road and system by system.

## Let's reassure the migrants

HE GREAT GAME: Shrinkage in availability of small LPG cylinders is pushing them back to their villages

AS India copes with the oil shock from the war in West Asia, the first trickle of migrants returning home has begun. From Punjab to Maharashtra, states with large migrant populations, the shrinkage in the availability of small, 5-kg LPG cylinders is pushing migrant labour to buy the return ticket to villages in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. The situation is nowhere near what it was when the Covid pandemic hit the country in March 2020 and a lockdown was declared overnight. This week, The Tribune's reporters, Deepkamal Kaur, Neeraj Bagga and Shivani Bhakoo, found that while Baisakhi has always been a magnet for this return journey that migrant labour undertake annually — the Rabi crop has been harvested, wages have been paid and owners are flush with the joy of an impending new year — dark clouds are, once again, looming on the horizon. At home, the Modi government is keeping a tight leash on the falling rupee — it was 90/dollar a month ago, before the crisis began with the assassination of Ali Khamenei on February 28, and last week breached the psychological barrier of 95/dollar, before being nudged back. The price of oil is still being protected — India imports at least 80 per cent of the oil it consumes — but the price of fertiliser is already beginning to tremble. Like oil, a fifth of which passes through the Strait of Hormuz, 25-30 per cent of globally traded ammonia and urea — key ingredients in the manufacture of fertiliser — travels through this slender Strait, along with 20 per cent of the natural gas used to make it. Iran is the fourth largest producer of urea (a commonly used nitrogen fertiliser); Qatar has closed its gas plants since the Iranian strikes — it supplies 14 per cent of the world's urea. India is the second largest consumer of fertiliser in the world. You get the picture. If the Iran war continues and the supply of fertiliser ingredients are disturbed — about half of global food production depends on synthetic nitrogen fertiliser —

the poor will return to the crosshairs. Meanwhile, as Europe tires of Trump — the French, the Spanish and the Germans are publicly demonstrating frustration at the US President's bipolar comments about both pausing the war and warning that US forces could target Iran's civilian infrastructure like bridges, power lines, etc, so as to bring the ancient Persian civilisation to its knees — the first signs in a shifting balance of power may be taking place. The tolls at Hormuz had some days ago already begun to charge passage in yuan. On Friday afternoon, a ship carrying oil meant for India changed course and is now travelling to China. The sense of unease which infiltrates business as usual is not unusual — there is a war going on, after all, and India is not immune — despite the frenzy that has taken over the states going in for elections this month. As a result, the federal map of India may or may not shift colour with this round or the next that takes place over the next year or so — certainly, there's no danger to the ruling BJP. The PM is travelling across the country with his usual gusto, picking tea-leaves with Assam's tea garden workers, the women dressed in matching white and red-bordered saris — the days before and after he has addressed rallies in Puducherry, Tamil Nadu and Kerala.

Perhaps the unease of war is exacerbated by a report last month by the Washington DC-based think tank, Peterson Institute for International Economics, led by Arvind Subramanian, a former chief economic advisor to the

Modi government in its first term. The working paper offers new evidence for "India's 20 years of GDP misestimation". The burden of the economist's argument is that in the "boom years," between 2005 and 2011 — India may have underestimated its growth by 1-1.5 percentage points, while it overestimated its growth between 2012-2023, also by 1-1.5 percentage points.



Interestingly, the underestimated half-decade coincides with the Manmohan Singh years, when the former PM sought to unleash the "animal spirits" and create an aspirational India. While the latter overestimated decade of growth coincides with the Narendra Modi years, marked by demonetisation, the introduction of GST and the Covid pandemic — certainly, the last not his fault.

According to Subramanian, one reason for GDP overestimation is that India changed its data sources and methodology for measuring GDP from 2011-12. That official estimates from 2011-12 to 2016-17 put average GDP growth at about 6.5-7 per cent, but it may have actually been 4.5 per cent.

That the 2005-2011 period, when GDP was an estimated 7 per cent, it was really 8-8.5 per cent. Subramanian goes on to add that the overestimation is partly related to a methodological change, when the economy's small formal sector was used as a proxy for its vast informal sector — some say, as large as 94 per cent. He says this new evidence has implications for the economy today, both in terms of GDP and consumption patterns.

Still, the perception of political stability is a funny thing. Long years ago, back in 1991, when Manmohan Singh as Finance Minister presented his first Budget, at a time of grave dissonance, he quoted Victor Hugo to say, "no power on earth can stop an idea whose time has come." In 2014, despite the astounding economic growth that he had spawned, when PM Manmohan Singh's party lost power to Modi's BJP — it was a time defined by harshness and cacophony and hope that the Modi government would restore some stability to the nation.

Once again, that time is now. If Subramanian is to be believed — and no one has denied his working paper so far — then the government's current growth figures are problematic. Add to this mix, then, the current instability that defines the world precipitated by the war in West Asia — and how India can be affected by it, not least by oil and fertiliser prices, if the war goes on.

## UP BJP President Pankaj Chaudhary reiterates Nation First pledge on party's 47th Foundation Day

Lucknow. (Agency)

On the occasion of the 47th Foundation Day, Uttar Pradesh BJP President and union Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary, has called on the party leaders and workers to adopt the core mantra of "Nation First" and asked them to be committed to service, dedication, and national interest.

On this occasion, party leaders shared their thoughts and recalled the organisation's journey, struggles, and achievements.

In his message, senior leader Pankaj Chaudhary said that his political journey, which began as a simple worker, has always been aimed at serving the nation. He said that years of struggle and dedication taught him that the party's fundamental foundation is to put the nation first. Recalling the thoughts of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, he said that his words remain a source of inspiration for party workers even today. Furthermore, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the party is continuously moving forward, fulfilling its core resolve.

He said that the Central Government has prioritised service, good governance, and the welfare of the poor with the spirit of "Nation First." Transparency in schemes, reach to the last person, and the goal of a self-reliant India are the results of this thinking.

## Prayagraj: Two more arrested in fake UP Board website and degree racket

Prayagraj. (Agency)

In a major crackdown on an organized cyber fraud network, Prayagraj police have arrested two more youths allegedly involved in creating a fake website of the Uttar Pradesh Madhyamik Shiksha Parishad (UP Board) and selling forged academic documents, officials confirmed on Monday.

According to officials, the accused were part of a larger gang engaged in producing and distributing fake degrees, mark sheets, and migration certificates. A significant number of forged documents along with electronic devices were recovered from their possession. The two arrested individuals are reportedly from western Uttar Pradesh and are believed to have links with certain education centers.

The case dates back to last year when the UP Board lodged a complaint at the Cyber Crime Police Station, expressing concerns over a fraudulent website being used to deceive students and parents. Acting on the complaint, police initially arrested Azamgarh-based call center operator Shashi Prakash Rai and his relative Manish Rai, exposing the racket.

Further investigation led to the arrest of Ghaziabad resident Satyendra Barnwal, who allegedly created the fake website, along with his associate Monu Gupta from Lucknow.

Later, another accused, Mangesh, who ran a pharmacy center in Azamgarh, was also taken into custody. Police said the gang operated in a coordinated manner, and as the investigation progresses, more names are emerging. The two recently arrested suspects were reportedly working closely with the kingpin Shashi Prakash Rai.

## UP: Two killed, five injured in bus-tractor collision in Badaun

Badaun. (Agency)

A tragic road accident occurred in the Mujariya police station area on the Delhi Highway, near RK Public School, where a bus carrying wedding guests collided with a tractor. The incident claimed the lives of two people, including a 12-year-old boy, and left five others seriously injured, police said on Monday.

According to police, the bus was carrying a wedding procession from Usahait to the village of Kaulhai. The groom, Sohail, son of Virasat and a resident of Ward No. 7 in Usahait, was getting married on Sunday. Family members and relatives were traveling together to the bride's village when the accident happened.

As the bus reached the Mujariya area, a tractor attached with a thresher rammed into it from behind, severely damaging the rear portion of the bus. Panic broke out among the passengers following the collision.

Two individuals—25-year-old Shahid, son of Tahir, and 12-year-old Farhan, son of Ishaat—died on the spot. The injured, identified as Akram, Ars, Owais, Mumtaz, and Tausif, were immediately rushed to the medical college by the police.

Doctors at the hospital confirmed the deaths of the two victims. Their bodies have been sent for post-mortem examination. The accident briefly disrupted traffic on the highway, but normal movement was restored after police cleared the vehicles from the road.

The incident turned wedding celebrations into mourning, leaving families devastated. Police have taken both vehicles into custody and initiated an investigation. Mujariya Inspector Videsh Sharma confirmed the fatalities and stated that further inquiry into the incident is underway.

# High alert in Chandigarh after schools, mayor's office and UT secretariat get bomb threats

**According to the police, the threat email, which urged people to 'save your children', mentioned specific timings for bomb blasts at various places in Chandigarh.**

Chandigarh. (Agency)

Panic gripped Chandigarh on Monday morning after multiple schools, including St Stephen's School, Shivalik Public School, and Ryan International School, along with the mayor's office and the Union Territory secretariat, received emails warning of bomb blasts.

The emails arrived around 9.21 am, triggering immediate evacuations and a massive security response across key locations. According to sources, the email contained explicit references to explosions at schools, mentioning a specific timing of "1.11" for the blasts.

It also referred to possible attacks at the mayor's office at "2.11" and the secretariat at "3.11". Additionally, the sender warned

of a grenade attack at Gandhi Bhawan on a university campus at night. A police official said the email's content is highly provocative and appeared designed to spread panic. The email urged people to "save your children".

As soon as the police received information about the threat, multiple security units, including bomb disposal squads, dog squads, quick reaction teams, and local police personnel, rushed to the affected locations. School premises were evacuated, while government buildings were secured and access was restricted. Extensive search and sanitisation operations were carried out across all sites mentioned in the email.

A senior police officer said all standard

operating procedures were being followed. "Every location flagged in the email is



being thoroughly checked. We are not taking any chances," the officer said.

No suspicious objects had been found at any of the locations till the time of filing this report. However, security has been

significantly tightened across Chandigarh, especially at educational institutions and key government establishments.

Cybercrime teams have been pressed into service to trace the origin of the email. The police are analysing technical details, including email headers and internet protocol logs, to identify the sender. Police officials said that while it could be a hoax, they were treating the nature of the threat with utmost seriousness.

In the past, several schools and government institutions in Chandigarh, including the High Court complex and the District Court complex, had received similar bomb threat emails. However, thorough searches conducted in those cases did not yield any explosives.

## Punjab dossier shows Canada as 'proxy base' for terror networks

**The 65-page document, accessed by The Indian Express, details sophisticated transnational networks using Canadian soil as a central hub to coordinate threats and violence, with links to Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) and proscribed terrorist groups.**

Chandigarh. (Agency)

A confidential dossier prepared by Punjab Police has exposed how criminal elements from various countries are increasingly exploiting Canada as a "proxy operational base" and "communication control room" for orchestrating extortion rackets, targeted killings, and terrorism aimed at Punjab.

The 65-page document, accessed by The Indian Express, details sophisticated transnational networks using Canadian soil as a central hub to coordinate threats and violence, with links to Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) and proscribed terrorist groups.

The report highlights that Canada-based operatives, including Prabhdeep Singh (alias Prabh Dasuwal), Balwinder Singh (alias Doni), Nishan Singh Jourian, and Adesh Jamarai, function as facilitators for extortion calls, intimidation campaigns, and threat messaging. Operating through associates in Canada, they direct activities that extend beyond India, including

firing incidents and targeted attempts within Canada itself, underscoring the growing transnational threat. While Punjab and Canada maintain strong historical, social, and cultural ties through the Punjabi



diaspora, the dossier warns that these bonds have been "systematically exploited" by organised crime syndicates. These groups have evolved from conventional criminality into hardcore operations with terror linkages, using Canada not just as a safe haven but as an active command center.

Indian citizens, particularly small traders,

shopkeepers, businessmen, and entertainers, face coordinated extortion demands via anonymous calls, VoIP, and encrypted platforms originating from Canada. Threats include shootings, grenade attacks, and assassinations, often carried out if demands are unmet. Examples cited include the murder of a businessman in Abohar, a chemist in Gurdaspur over a Rs 50 lakh demand, and the killing of Rana Balachauria.

The extortion wave has spilled into Canada, with cities like Surrey declaring an emergency in January 2026 after 44 cases in 2024 (including 27 shootings) and over 35 more by mid-January. Edmonton reported at least 18 incidents since October 2023, often targeting Punjabi diaspora members with Indian

ties, mirroring tactics used against victims in India. Prominent Canada-based figures identified include Lakhbir Singh Sandhu, Arsh Dala and Zeeshan Akhtar. They are designated terrorists under India's Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA).

## Two main perpetrators arrested aboard train in Haryana' Rewari: Punjab DGP

**Says both accused, residents of Ratangarh village in Punjab's Rupnagar district, were working as bike operators for Rapido; total seven held in the case**

Chandigarh. (Agency)

The Counter Intelligence Wing of the Punjab Police has arrested two main perpetrators aboard a train near Rewari in Haryana in connection with the blast outside the BJP headquarters in Chandigarh, taking the total number of arrests in the case to seven, Punjab Director General of Police (DGP) Gaurav Yadav said on Sunday.

Divulging details about the latest arrests at a press conference here, DGP Yadav said the latest arrests were made on Saturday night in a joint operation with the Haryana Police's Special Task Force (STF).

The DGP identified the two arrested accused persons as Gurtej Singh and Amanpreet Singh. "Both are residents of Ratangarh village in Punjab's Rupnagar district. They were working as bike operators for ride-hailing service provider Rapido," the DGP said. Accompanied by ADGP (Counter

Intelligence) Amit Prasad, ADGP (Internal Security) SK Verma, IGP (Intelligence) Dr Sukhchain Singh Gill, AIG (SSOC) SAS Nagar Deepak Pareek, Yadav said, "With the latest arrests, all seven accused involved in the case are now in the police custody."



The duo was arrested a day after five persons — identified as Balwinder Lal, alias Shami, Jasvir Singh, alias Jassi, Charanjit Singh, alias Channi, Rubal Chauhan and Mandeep, alias Abhijot Sharma — were arrested in this connection, police said,

adding one hand grenade and one .30 bore Zigana pistol were seized from their possession.

Both the accused had been on the run since the blast, and Punjab Police teams were tracking their movement. They were traced aboard a train near Rewari in Haryana and arrested, the DGP said.

Accused Amanpreet Singh has a prior criminal record, with FIRs for theft and snatching registered against him in SAS Nagar and Bilaspur in Himachal Pradesh, respectively, the DGP said.

The DGP said, "The arrested accused were motivated and directed by ISI-backed foreign-based handlers Baljot Singh, alias Jot, in Portugal and Harjeet Singh Laadi in Germany, and were promised a monetary reward of Rs 2 lakh for carrying out the attack." "Acting on their foreign handlers' directions, the accused persons coordinated the delivery and execution of the attack," the DGP said, adding the accused used multiple cutouts and sub-modules to execute the attack.

## Police in Kulgam book 14 drug peddlers in 10 NDPS cases in 3 weeks

Srinagar. (Agency)

Police in Kulgam have registered 10 cases under the NDPS Act over the past three weeks and arrested 14 drug peddlers in a sustained crackdown on narcotics trafficking in the district.

Police said the cases include nine FIRs registered at Police Station Qazigund and one at Police Station Devsar. During the operations, police recovered 415.61 grams of heroin, 1,348 grams of charas, 1.5 kilograms of bhhang patri and Rs 1,37,990 in cash.

Investigations led to the establishment of multiple backward and forward linkages, resulting in further arrests and exposing a wider organised narcotics network, police said. In one major case, police recovered 278 grams of heroin and Rs 17,100 from two accused in Kurigam. Further investigation led to a

backward linkage in Jammu, where a search resulted in the recovery of 262 grams of heroin and exposure of an inter-district drug syndicate. Other recoveries across various FIRs included charas powder, heroin and cannabis substances from multiple accused at different locations during naka checking and raids. Senior Superintendent of Police Kulgam, Anayat Ali Choudhary, said police have adopted a zero-tolerance policy against drug trafficking and will continue strict action against those involved in narcotics trade.

He also appealed to the public to share information related to drug peddling, assuring confidentiality of informants. Police said the anti-drug operations will continue to dismantle narcotics networks in the district.

## Punjab's mental health crisis: policies exist, but care remains out of reach for most families

Chandigarh. (Agency)

Punjab has no government-run homes for people with mental illness, leaving families as the primary caregivers in a system where institutional support remains largely absent. The gap is stark despite legal mandates for community-based facilities such as group homes under the Mental Healthcare Act, 2017, and persists even as the state grapples with a significant burden of untreated mental illness. Even as Punjab moves to count drug users through a dedicated enumeration exercise, the absence of a parallel push to identify and treat mental illness exposes a critical gap in its public health response. A 40-year-old carpenter in Rajpura who spends most of his earnings on alcohol, and a 23-year-old accountant in Moga battling obsessive-compulsive behaviours, are among the cases flagged in the last National Mental Health Survey for Punjab (2016-17),

underscoring a wider crisis of limited access, weak infrastructure and delayed policy implementation. The survey, conducted by Government Medical College and Hospital, Chandigarh, in coordination with the National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS), flagged a widespread prevalence of mental health conditions and gaps in access, awareness and care. As per estimates presented in the Punjab and Haryana High Court last year, there were 12.83 lakh adults living with mental illnesses in the state in 2016.

The 2016 survey was conducted across 60 clusters in four districts — Faridkot, Ludhiana, Moga and Patiala — and 2,895 respondents aged 18 or older from 719 households were interviewed. The prevalence of lifetime and current mental morbidity was 17.94 per cent and 13.42 per cent, respectively.

# With April 23 nearing, is Bengal racing against time to hold Assembly polls?

**Uncertainty clouds Bengal's poll timeline as massive voter deletions, ongoing adjudication, and a not-yet-fully functional appellate system collide with tightening deadlines. With rolls set to freeze today and legal processes unfinished, the Supreme Court's next move will be crucial in deciding whether elections proceed as scheduled or face disruption.**

**New Delhi.(Agency)**

With barely three weeks left for the West Bengal Assembly elections, attention has shifted to the Supreme Court's SIR hearing scheduled for later today, which coincides with the deadline for judicial officers to submit the revised voter list. The 294-seat Assembly goes to polls in two phases on April 23 and April 29. But beneath the surface, an unusual development is unfolding -- one that could have far-reaching implications. On February 20, the Supreme Court stepped in, invoking its extraordinary powers under Article 142 to address what it called a "trust deficit" between the state government and the Election Commission of India (ECI).

The aim: to get the derailed SIR process back on track, ensure no valid voter is struck off, and deliver "complete justice" under Article 142. Yet, more than a month after the court's extraordinary intervention, and several orders later, there is little clarity. Around 33 lakh names are likely to be restored to the voter rolls during adjudication, out of the 60 lakh deleted in the final SIR list -- still leaving nearly 27 lakh out. The estimate is based on a 45% exclusion rate across nearly 55 lakh cases disposed of so far, indicating the scale of potential disenfranchisement. Amid concerns over the process and an apparent lack of coordination between the Election

Commission and the Mamata Banerjee government, the Supreme Court stepped in. In its February 20 order, it directed the Calcutta High Court to constitute a team of 530 judicial officers. The number was later increased to 700, with 200 additional officers brought in from neighbouring Odisha and Jharkhand to expedite the adjudication process. These officers have been tasked with taking over the role of Electoral Registration Officers (EROs) to adjudicate pending claims and objections arising from "logical discrepancies" in the voter list. **THE UNRESOLVED NEXT STEP** Complicating matters further is an elaborate



appellate tribunal process, which will follow the adjudication stage. How soon this happens is something we'll cover later in this article. With deadlines tightening and little clarity on the functioning of the 19 appellate tribunals, concerns are rising over whether

objections from the adjudication process can be resolved before the polls -- raising the spectre of a constitutional crisis. Last week, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee warned of President's Rule, accusing the BJP of attempting to delay the elections. Her remarks came shortly after seven judicial officers involved in the adjudication phase were held hostage for over nine hours by a mob in Malda on Thursday. But is Mamata Banerjee's attack on the Centre just fearmongering, or are last-minute twists and turns in store as the state heads to the polls later this month? To understand this, we take a deep dive into the situation as it stands.

## AAP alleges Chadha deleted past posts targeting PM Modi amid widening rift

**New Delhi.(Agency)**

Amid a war of words between sidelined MP Raghav Chadha and party colleagues following his removal as Deputy Leader, the Aam Aadmi Party has claimed he deleted posts criticising Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the BJP. Senior AAP leader Saurabh Bharadwaj made the allegation on X, sharing screenshots of deleted posts to support his claim that content critical of the Centre had been removed. "Raghav Chadha, once a sharp critic of Modi and the BJP, has erased his old image and presented a new, polished version," he said. He further claimed only two posts mentioning Modi remain on Chadha's timeline, both praising the Prime Minister. Calling it a "complete, surgical erasure" of his digital history, Bharadwaj suggested a deliberate shift in stance. Earlier, party leaders questioned Chadha's silence on key issues, alleging he avoided speaking against the BJP and the Modi government. They also accused him of acting against the party line, citing his refusal to sign the impeachment motion against the Chief Election Commissioner and his absence during discussions on the LPG crisis. **Rajya Sabha MP counters allegations with video** Raghav Chadha shared a video of his RS speeches to counter AAP allegations that he ignored Punjab issues. He cited raising MSP, Nankana Sahib corridor and Bhagat Singh honour, amid a growing rift with party leadership.

## Delhi allocates 21% of budget to green push, Yamuna clean-up gets top share

**New Delhi.(Agency)**

The Green Budget for 2026-27, presented by CM Rekha Gupta, outlines a comprehensive plan to improve air quality and ensure a cleaner, pollution-free future. Of the total state outlay of Rs 1,03,700 crore, Rs 22,236 crore—around 21.44%—has been earmarked for green initiatives, signalling the government's environmental priorities. The responsibility for implementation has been distributed across 17 departments with phased allocations to ensure coordinated action. The Chief Minister said all departmental spending will now be mapped against green objectives to align expenditure with environmental outcomes. The largest share—Rs 6,485 crore—has been allocated to the Delhi Jal Board for the Yamuna clean-up and expansion of water treatment infrastructure. The Transport Department has been allotted Rs 4,758 crore to scale up electric buses and strengthen clean public transport. The Public Works Department (PWD) will receive Rs 3,350 crore to tackle dust pollution and build green infrastructure. The Planning Department has been allocated Rs 2,350 crore to design and streamline green projects, while the Urban Development Department and DUSIB together will receive Rs 2,273 crore for targeted interventions. The Power Department has been earmarked Rs 1,410 crore to promote solar energy and other renewable sources. Under the dedicated Green Fund, the Environment Department will receive 558 crore for pollution control programmes, the Irrigation and Flood Control Department Rs 305 crore for water conservation, and the Development Department Rs 258 crore to promote green growth in rural areas. The Forest Department has been allocated Rs 181 crore for afforestation and wildlife conservation. The Tourism Department will receive Rs 102 crore for eco-friendly tourism, while Rs 100 crore has been set aside for green initiatives in schools. Additionally, Rs 42 crore has been allocated to the Industries Department to curb industrial pollution, Rs 31 crore to the Health Department for environmental improvements in hospitals, and Rs 23 crore to the Revenue Department for disaster management and surveys.

## BSF considers snakes, crocodiles to curb infiltration along Bangladesh border

**New Delhi.(Agency)**

BSF sources have indicated that an internal discussion has taken place on the possibility of using snakes and crocodiles as a natural deterrent to prevent infiltration in riverine and marshy border areas along the India-Bangladesh border, though no official order has been issued so far. According to the sources, the idea is being considered for vulnerable stretches of the India-Bangladesh border where conventional fencing is not feasible. The 4,096-km-long border includes nearly 175 km of riverine and swampy terrain, making it difficult to curb infiltration, smuggling, and other illegal activities through physical barriers alone.



As part of a deterrence-first approach to border security, officials have reportedly been asked to identify river stretches that may be suitable for such a plan. However, the proposal remains at the discussion stage, and it is still uncertain whether it will be implemented in the future. At the same time, the BSF is strengthening border

surveillance with advanced technology, including drones, sensors, cameras, and other modern security measures. The move comes amid continued concerns over smuggling and infiltration along the eastern border. In January this year, in a major crackdown, BSF troops of the 32nd Battalion under the South Bengal Frontier intercepted a gold smuggler along the India-Bangladesh border in West Bengal's Nadia district and seized gold biscuits worth around Rs 1 crore. Acting on specific intelligence, troops had cordoned off a sensitive stretch before spotting a suspicious individual near the international boundary fence. The suspect attempted to flee but was chased down and detained.

## Odisha man ties cow's leg to truck, drags it for metres; arrested

**According to eyewitness accounts, the cow's hind legs were tied with a rope and fastened to the rear of the truck. The animal was then dragged along the asphalt, resulting in catastrophic injuries.**

**New Delhi.(Agency)**

An alleged instance of animal cruelty has sparked intense public outrage in Odisha's Mayurbhanj district after a truck driver was caught on camera dragging a cow behind his vehicle for several meters. The incident occurred on National Highway-49, resulting in the driver's immediate detention and the seizure of the heavy vehicle. According to eyewitness accounts, the cow's hind legs were tied with a rope and fastened to the rear of the truck. The animal was then dragged along the asphalt, resulting in catastrophic injuries. A video of the ordeal, which quickly went viral across social media platforms, showed the cow in a critical state with one of its legs missing and the body severely mutilated from the friction of the road. Preliminary statements from the police suggest a complex sequence of events leading up to the cruelty. Authorities noted that the cow had initially been involved



in a collision with the truck after wandering onto the highway, an accident that reportedly resulted in the animal's death. Following the collision, locals allegedly instructed the driver to clear the carcass from the flow of traffic. However, instead of moving the body through proper disposal services, the driver chose to hitch the animal to his truck and drag it away from the scene. The local community has expressed concerns over the lack of humanity displayed in the act, with many residents gathering to demand the strictest possible legal action against the accused. While the driver remains in custody for questioning, the local police have launched a formal investigation to determine the full extent of the violations committed. Officials have assured the public that they are treating the case with the utmost seriousness and that justice will be served in accordance with animal.

## SC orders CBI to probe Arunachal CM's family over Rs 1,270-crore govt contracts

**The Supreme Court bench ordered CBI to initiate a preliminary inquiry into Arunachal Pradesh public works contracts, including those linked to Chief Minister Pema Khandu's wife, mother and nephew.**

**New Delhi.(Agency)**

The Supreme Court has directed the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to conduct a preliminary inquiry into allegations that government contracts in Arunachal Pradesh were awarded to firms linked to Chief Minister Pema Khandu's family members. Acting on a public interest litigation filed by the Save Mon Region Federation, the court asked the CBI to register a preliminary inquiry and examine the award and execution of public works contracts between November 2015 and 2025. The probe will specifically scrutinise contracts allegedly granted to entities associated with the respondents named

in the petition, including firms linked to the Chief Minister's relatives, including his wife, mother and nephew. A bench comprising Justice Vikram Nath, Justice Sandeep Mehta, and Justice NV Anjaria said that the CBI would look into the award of tenders, execution of projects, and the flow of payments. It clarified that the agency is not restricted to the specified time frame and may examine transactions outside this period if required. The CBI has been given 16 weeks to submit a status report indicating whether a full-fledged independent investigation is warranted. The Supreme Court clarified that its



observations at this stage are limited to assessing the need for a deeper probe and do not amount to any finding on the merits of the allegations. The petitioners have alleged that contracts worth around Rs 1,270 crore were illegally awarded to firms linked to the

Chief Minister's family members. Senior advocate Prashant Bhushan, appearing for the petitioners, argued that tenders were granted out of turn and at inflated rates. According to the plea, a construction firm owned by Khandu's spouse, M/s Brand Eagles, was among those that benefited from the alleged irregularities. It also named his nephew, Tsering Tashi, an MLA from Tawang district, who owns M/s Alliance Trading Co., claiming that his firm received contracts without due process. The petition, filed in 2024, sought an investigation by the CBI or a Special Investigation Team (SIT) into what it described.

## Weather Office Forecasts Rain, Thunderstorms In Delhi-NCR On April 7 And 8

**New Delhi.(Agency)**

The weather in the National Capital Region (NCR) is once again set to change, with the India Meteorological Department (IMD) forecasting strong winds, cloudy skies, rain, and isolated thunderstorms on April 7 (Tuesday) and 8 (Wednesday). Prior to this, weather conditions on April 6 will remain largely normal. In the morning hours, the minimum temperature was recorded at 21 degrees Celsius, while the maximum reached 33 degrees Celsius. According to the IMD, the minimum temperature on April 7 is expected to hover around 20 degrees Celsius, with the maximum likely to be around 31 degrees Celsius. On April 8, temperatures may dip further, with the minimum falling to 18 degrees Celsius and the maximum remaining close to 31 degrees Celsius. The IMD has also indicated the possibility of one or two spells of rain or thunderstorms over these two days. Partly cloudy skies are expected to continue on April 9. Thereafter, the weather is likely to clear on April 10 and 11, with temperatures gradually rising and the maximum expected to reach between 33 and 34 degrees Celsius. This anticipated change in weather is being attributed to an active western disturbance, which is expected to bring increased wind speeds and a noticeable drop in temperatures across the NCR and adjoining areas. The minimum temperature may decrease by 2 to 3 degrees Celsius, leading to slightly cooler conditions, especially during the early morning and late evening hours. Meanwhile, the air quality situation across the NCR has shown partial improvement. According to data released by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), over 90 per cent of monitoring stations currently fall under the "Yellow Zone," classified as the 'Moderate' category, offering some relief to residents. In Noida, an AQI of 217 was recorded in Sector-125, placing it in the 'Poor' category. Other areas reported relatively better levels, including 120 in Sector-62, 134 in Sector-1, and 152 in Sector-116. Across Delhi, air quality largely remained in the moderate category. Anand Vihar recorded an AQI of 212, Ashok Vihar 118, Bawana 143, Chandni Chowk 110, and RK Puram/CRRI Mathura Road 134. In Ghaziabad, AQI levels stood at 149 in Indirapuram, 167 in Sanjay Nagar, and 158 in Vasundhara.

NEWS BOX

# Monaco Sink Marseille For Seventh Ligue 1 Win In A Row

New Delhi. (Agency)

Monaco earned their seventh successive win in Ligue 1 on Sunday by beating Marseille 2-1 to surge to within one point of the automatic Champions League places. Aleksandr Golovin stabbed in a cross from Jordan Teze on the hour at the Stade Louis II before Folarin Balogun struck for the sixth match running with a sublime chip. Amine Gouiri reduced the deficit late on, but Monaco stretched their unbeaten league run to 10 matches to continue a remarkable revival that began in January. "It's a fantastic streak we're on and I hope we can keep it going," Monaco goalkeeper Lukas Hradecky told broadcaster Ligue 1. "We have the team, slowly we have no more injuries, and you start to see how much quality there is in the team."

The principal side moved level on points with fourth-placed Marseille and just one behind Lille. The top three teams in France qualify directly for next season's Champions League. Monaco's prospects of European football looked remote at the start of the year after a run of seven losses in eight games left coach



Sebastien Pocognoli at risk of losing his job. They also climbed above Lyon, who dropped to sixth and are winless in six matches following a 0-0 draw at Angers earlier on Sunday. Lorient and Paris FC drew 1-1, while Le Havre and Auxerre also shared the points. Metz are closer to relegation after only managing a 0-0 draw at home to second-bottom Nantes, who played with 10 men for more than half the match. Paris Saint-Germain are on course for a 12th title in 14 years following their 3-1 win over Toulouse on Friday.

Closest rivals Lens lost 3-0 at Lille on Saturday and are four points adrift of European champions PSG, who also have a game in hand.

# Leeds Beat West Ham In Shoot-Out To Reach FA Cup Semis For First Time In 39 Years

United Kingdom. (Agency)

Leeds reached the FA Cup semi-finals for the first time in 39 years as they survived a dramatic penalty shoot-out after squandering a two-goal lead in a thrilling clash with West Ham on Sunday. Daniel Farke's side were moments away from victory at the London Stadium after Ao Tanaka's first-half goal and Dominic



Calvert-Lewin's second-half penalty put them in control. But West Ham staged a stoppage-time rally as Mateus Fernandes reduced the deficit before Axel Disasi's equaliser forced extra time. With the score still level at 2-2 after the additional period, Leeds keeper Lucas Perri emerged as their shoot-out hero. Joel Piroe missed Leeds' first penalty but Calvert-Lewin, Brenden Aaronson, Wilfried Gnonto and Pascal Struijk all converted their kicks. Perri saved Jarrod Bowen's opening effort for West Ham and also denied Pablo as Leeds won 4-2 on penalties. It was their second shoot-out victory in the competition this season following their fourth-round success at Birmingham. Leeds will face Chelsea in the semi-finals at Wembley later in April.

"We always do it the tough way, never the easy way. We could have made our lives easier," Farke said. "We had a late sucker punch when the whole stadium was buzzing. To keep the nerves and win the penalty shoot-out shows great mentality and character."

"A chapter of Leeds history. It will be a big night for us at Wembley. It's a great step for this club and a great reward for everyone."

The Yorkshire club are in the semi-finals for the first time since 1987, when they lost to eventual winners Coventry at Hillsborough. Leeds have lost on their past three trips to Wembley, in the 2024 Championship play-off final, the 2008 League One play-off final and the 1996 League Cup final.

# MS Dhoni never approved it: Rayudu calls out CSK's bizarre death over plan vs RCB

**IPL 2026, RCB vs CSK: Chennai Super Kings continued to struggle in IPL 2026, with death bowling issues against Royal Challengers Bengaluru on Sunday. Former cricketer Ambati Rayudu revealed that CSK had been trying this bizarre tactics in training for years, but were not able to implement it due to the presence of MS Dhoni.**

Bengaluru. (Agency)

Former India batter and ex-Chennai Super Kings player Ambati Rayudu criticised CSK's death-over tactics following their third consecutive defeat in IPL 2026. On Sunday, April 5, CSK lost by 43 runs to Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium, extending their struggles in the tournament. In RCB's penultimate over, Jamie Overton leaked 30 runs as Tim David went on the attack. Overton bowled around the wicket, but

David consistently got under the ball to find the boundary. Rayudu noted that the team had tried certain angles in practice, but MS Dhoni never approved them in matches. He added that batters found these deliveries easy to counter and advised CSK to focus on conventional strategies, good yorkers, well-pitched slower balls, and keeping it simple. "They've tried that in practice sessions over the years, but it never translated into games because MS didn't approve of using that kind of angle in the depth. Even as batters, we found it easy to counter those deliveries - if you stand just half a foot outside the crease, the angle is completely nullified," Rayudu told ESPNcricinfo.

"I think that's an area they need to review. Sometimes, it's better to stick to conventional strategies: good yorkers, well-pitched slower balls, keep it simple and basic," Rayudu added. Death overs remained a major issue for CSK, as they conceded 78 runs in the final four overs, allowing RCB to post a massive 250 for three. Although the Super Kings crossed the 200-run mark in

their chase, they fell well short of RCB's total. **CSK'S BOWLING STRUGGLE CONTINUES** CSK's death bowling has taken a hit,



especially after Nathan Ellis was ruled out with a hamstring injury. Spencer Johnson, brought in as Ellis' replacement, has yet to

join the squad. In Ellis' absence, Jamie Overton has struggled to fill the gap. Bowling around the wicket is unfamiliar to him; before the RCB clash, he had bowled fewer than two overs that way in his entire career. In recent years, Super Kings franchises worldwide, including the Joburg Super Kings in SA20 and Texas Super Kings in the MLC, have adopted the strategy of bowling around the wicket, often relying on specialists for the role.

In their first three games, CSK's bowling has been a major concern, leaking runs at an economy rate of 11.57. Legendary batter Sunil Gavaskar earlier noted that the team's biggest challenge for the rest of the tournament will be their bowling, with batters often under pressure to post scores around 225-230. With the defeat to RCB, CSK remained at the bottom of the table, holding a net run rate of -2.517. The Super Kings will look to bounce back when they take on Delhi Capitals on Saturday, April 11, at the MA Chidambaram Stadium in Chennai.

# Mumbai Indians Seek Reset Against Rampaging Rajasthan Royals, Hardik Pandya Fitness In Focus

New Delhi. (Agency)

Mumbai Indians will hope that skipper Hardik Pandya regains full fitness when they square off against a confident Rajasthan Royals unit, which will be keen to extend its early-season momentum in their IPL clash in Guwahati on Tuesday. Pandya, a key figure in the side, missed MI's previous outing due to illness, and his absence proved crucial in their six-wicket defeat to Delhi Capitals on Saturday. While India T20I skipper Suryakumar Yadav stepped in to lead and ensured continuity, MI missed Pandya's all-round abilities on a tacky surface. His absence also forced a rejig in the combination. Deepak Chahar, drafted in for the game, delivered a tidy spell, but the decision to bring in pace all-rounder Corbin Bosch in place of seasoned left-arm pacer Trent Boult backfired, with the South African leaking runs.

Pandya has since travelled with the squad and returned to the nets, offering hope of a comeback as MI look to recalibrate their

approach after the loss. Shardul Thakur, who starred with the ball in their opening game, was expensive in the last outing, while the ever-reliable Jasprit Bumrah has been economical but is yet to open his account this



season. In the spin department, Mitchell Santner justified his selection ahead of Afghan mystery spinner Allah Ghazanfar and is likely to retain his place. The MI bowlers, however, will need to raise their game against a Rajasthan top order that has

been in excellent form so far. Openers Yashasvi Jaiswal and teenage sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi have provided explosive starts, with Dhruv Jurel then building on the momentum. New skipper Riyan Parag is yet to make a significant contribution with the bat but will take confidence from his leadership, particularly his tactical decisions at the death that guided the Royals to a thrilling win over Gujarat Titans. Among the bowlers, Tushar Deshpande and Ravi Bishnoi have been impressive. Bishnoi has emerged as the joint leading wicket-taker with five scalps from two matches, marking a strong turnaround after a challenging 2025 season following which he

worked on multiple aspects of his game. Deshpande, meanwhile, showcased his death-bowling skills by successfully defending 10 runs in the final over against the Titans, conceding just four with a series of pinpoint yorkers.

# Captain Ruturaj Gaikwad under pressure: CSK's heir apparent or apparent error?

BARCELONA. (Agency)

Ruturaj Gaikwad is currently performing the most precarious tightrope walk in the IPL, and the wire is beginning to fray.

To lead the Chennai Super Kings has never been solely about tactics on a board. More accurately, it is about the stewardship of a shared emotion. For Gaikwad, that responsibility has become a constant struggle to inhabit a pair of shoes so vast they were perhaps never meant to be filled. He is not merely fighting the opposition. He is contending with the lingering presence of Thala, a ghost that renders every bowling change questionable unless it yields a wicket. Following a bruising start to the 2026



season, a run of three defeats punctuated by a 43-run loss to Royal Challengers Bengaluru, Gaikwad finds himself caught in a difficult duality. He is the official face of the franchise, yet operates within a shadow that refuses to recede, tasked with defending a legacy that remains unforgiving. The scrutiny has moved well beyond the polite confines of the pavilion into the harsher, data-driven court of public opinion. Gaikwad's predicament is unusual. He is fronting a new-age CSK that has seemingly traded its Dad's Army identity for a Rs 30 crore youth-driven experiment, yet he continues to be judged by the exacting standards of a dynasty built on experience. It is, in effect, a psychological pincer. On one side sits the silent, injured MS Dhoni, the man who chose him, but whose aura ensures any successor appears temporary. On the other stands Sanju Samson, a T20 World Cup winner, a proven leader in the Indian Premier League, whose arrival has quietly established a ready-made alternative before the season has properly settled. For Gaikwad, the captaincy has shifted from honour to scrutiny, a lens that magnifies hesitation.

# Real Madrid Hoping Champions League Magic Halts Bayern Munich Juggernaut

New Delhi. (Agency)

Vincent Kompany's Bayern Munich visit Real Madrid on Tuesday in the Champions League quarter-finals high on confidence and looking like Europe's most complete side, bolstered by the likely return of superstar striker Harry Kane. Record 15-time winners Madrid have endured a difficult season, plagued by inconsistency, but have made a habit of pulling off the unexpected in this competition. Just as it seemed their well of Champions League magic was running dry, Madrid produced their best performance of the season to crush Pep Guardiola's Manchester City in the last 16. Despite Madrid's prestige and troupe of attacking stars -- Kylian Mbappe, Vinicius Junior, and Jude Bellingham included, as well as City hat-trick hero Federico Valverde -- Bayern are arguably favourites to lift the trophy. "It would be presumptuous to assume that we'll definitely advance," said honorary Bayern president Uli Hoeness. "But we haven't had such great chances in terms of the playing quality as we have this year in a long time."

Kane, who has scored 48 goals in 40 appearances across all competitions this season, missed Bayern's battling 3-2 Bundesliga win at Freiburg on Saturday with an ankle issue. "He'd play in a



wheelchair," said Bayern midfielder Joshua Kimmich, while Kompany added that he had "a feeling" that the England striker would be ready.

With Michael Olise and Luis Diaz joining Kane in attack, Kompany's side play an aggressive, high-pressing style which helped them demolish Atalanta in the last

16, 10-2 on aggregate. Bayern came from two goals down to beat Freiburg and match-winner Lennart Karl said that fighting spirit was crucial heading into the Madrid clash. It gives us a lot of confidence. It was very important -- we actually feel unbeatable at the moment," he said, with Bayern's last defeat coming in January, 14 matches ago.

In that same period Madrid have lost four times, with coach Alvaro Arbeloa struggling to find the right balance when all his superstars are fit, just like Xabi Alonso and Carlo Ancelotti before him.

"They're not playing the best football, but they're outstanding in terms of experience," noted Hoeness. Bernabeu factor Madrid fell to a disappointing defeat at Mallorca in La Liga on Saturday, leaving them seven points behind rivals Barcelona in the Spanish title race.

Arbeloa brushed off the loss and said it would have no bearing on his team's performance against Bayern, in the club's favoured competition.

# "Mentally Disturbing, Painful": R Ashwin Drops IPL Retirement Bomb, Says "Could've Played"

New Delhi. (Agency)

Chennai Super Kings (CSK) are off to a horrific start to the new Indian Premier League (IPL) season, losing three matches on the trot, with the latest defeat coming at the hands of Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) on Sunday. As the Super Kings struggle to even put together a fighting XI, Ravichandran Ashwin reflected on his last season with CSK, post which he announced his retirement from the T20 league. Ashwin, after seeing CSK get hammered by RCB, said that he could've continued playing for the franchise this year, but was mentally exhausted. Any suggestions for sad songs? I am watching the match from a neutral point of view, but remember that I recently spent a disappointing season with CSK, it was a disappointing season for me personally as well. Honestly, in my mind, I could have played more, because emotionally, I just did not have the bandwidth to play," R Ashwin said on his YouTube channel.



about what happened last year, Ashwin said: "I don't want to go there, it's mentally disturbing. It was very painful for me. I don't want to go there. I discussed a little then I said, I started in Chennai, I am finishing in my hometown, it's fine. I decided to retire myself as it would not have created a

headache for them (the management) over whether to retain me or release. They would also save Rs 10 crore if I go. I am still disappointed. I had expectations, I had hope," a visibly frustrated Ashwin said. "I had expectations from today. I know, I picked RCB to win, because they have

strength. But, I banked on the improvement that CSK showed in the last game. I had a little faith on the fact that RCB were coming into this match after a break. The way RCB played, they warned everyone," he added. CSK Bank On Youth, But Results Disappointing

Before the start of this season, CSK made plenty of changes in the roster, banking on youngsters to deliver the goods, having traditionally banked more upon experienced players to produce desirable results. Ashwin, however, isn't happy with how the management is using these players.

"These young boys, you have to give them good practice, you have to give them intensity, you have to give them atmosphere from here on. How are they going to do this?" he said. The former India spinner also questioned why CSK are making bowlers do things on the pitch that aren't their strengths. He questioned the decision to push Anshul Kamboj and Jamie Overton bowl wide yorkers from around the stumps.

## Sensex, Nifty slip after mild start on geopolitical tensions

Mumbai.(Agency)

Domestic equity markets opened on a mildly positive note on Monday, even as caution over a possible escalation in the Iran war capped gains after US President Donald Trump warned of "hell" if Tehran fails to meet his Tuesday deadline to reopen the Strait of Hormuz. However, early gains were short-lived. The 30-share Sensex declined by 150 points or 0.21 per cent to 73,168. Similarly, Nifty was trading at 22,670, down 42 points or 0.19 per cent in early trade, amid selling pressure in stocks such as IndiGo, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Tata Steel, Sun Pharma, Eternal, Bajaj Finance, M&M, JSW Steel and Dr Reddy's, which fell up to 2 per cent. Earlier, Nifty had opened at 22,780, rising 67 points or 0.30 per cent, while Sensex gained 158 points or 0.22 per cent to 73,477.53. Sectoral indices were largely trading in the green in the opening trade, led by banking and auto stocks. The Nifty PSU Bank index gained 0.51 per cent, while the Nifty Private Bank index rose 0.30 per cent. Nifty Auto, Financial Services and IT indices were also in the positive zone. Among broader markets, the Nifty 100, Nifty 200 and Nifty 500 indices advanced up to 0.31 per cent. Midcap and smallcap indices also traded higher with modest gains. On the downside, the Nifty Metal index declined 0.22 per cent, while Pharma and Realty indices were marginally in the red. Meanwhile, volatility remained elevated, with India VIX rising over 2 per cent, signalling continued caution among investors amid geopolitical uncertainties. Analysts said markets remain cautious amid escalating Iran-Israel-US tensions, with no breakthrough in ceasefire talks so far. While US markets ended last week higher on strong jobs data, sentiment remains fragile due to rising crude prices and geopolitical risks.

## Insurance claim rejection over hospital lapse ruled unfair by consumer forum: Report

New Delhi.(Agency)

A consumer forum in Vadodra has ruled in favour of a policyholder, stating that a patient cannot be penalised for a hospital's failure to meet registration rules, reported Times of India.

The forum directed the insurance company to settle the mediclaim along with compensation and legal costs. The order was passed by the Vadodra District Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission on a complaint filed by Indradutt Pandya, 63. He had purchased a health insurance policy from The New India Assurance Company Ltd in 2003.

Pandya underwent cataract surgery in 2022 and later filed a claim of Rs 44,700. The claim was rejected by Paramount Health Services and Insurance TPA Pvt Ltd, which was acting on behalf of the insurer.

Following the rejection, Pandya approached the consumer commission in May 2023. He sought the claim amount along with 18% interest, Rs 25,000 for mental harassment and Rs 15,000 towards legal expenses.

**INSURER CITED HOSPITAL NON-COMPLIANCE**

The insurance company argued that the claim could not be processed as the policyholder had not provided certain details about the hospital.

It also said that the hospital was not registered under the Vadodra Municipal Corporation rules. Further, the insurer pointed out that the hospital did not meet the requirement of being a 10-bed facility, as mentioned in VMC circulars issued in 2016-17 and 2020-21.

## Indian Railways in 2025-26: Vande Bharat Sleeper, record freight, Kavach expansion

New Delhi.(Agency)

Indian Railways is the backbone of India's public transport system. In this article, we inform you about the achievements and the initiatives taken by the Railways in 2025-26 to give comfort and ensure safety to the crores of passengers and also ensuring freight movement moves ahead without any disruption. The main features of Railways' performance in the previous financial year include - record freight, expansion of Vande Bharat services and launch of Vande Bharat Sleeper train, reduced accidents and enhanced systems, and strengthened infrastructure.

**Indian Railways' 2025-26 progress**

Railways operated approximately 25,000 trains daily. The national public transporter introduced special train services during peak demand periods such as Diwali, Holi, Chhath Puja and other occasions. Freight transportation was a record peak, with 1,670 million tonnes of loading achieved during 2025-26. In a big boost 'Made in India' campaign, Indian Railways produced 1,674 locomotives. Around 6,677 LHB coaches were manufactured, which contributed to safer and more comfortable travel.

**Vande Bharat: Elevating Indian Rail Travel Experience** In a significant step passenger services were elevated to the next level as Vande Bharat Sleeper trains were rolled out. Additionally, the existing fleet of Vande Bharat and Amrit Bharat trains were expanded, offering faster, modern and passenger-friendly travel options.

**Kavach and RailOne App**

Kavach Automatic Train Protection System has been commissioned in over 3,100 route kilometres. Work is being carried out to implement Kavach on an additional 24,400 kilometres. This system has turned out to be very effective as it is aimed at preventing collisions and enhancing operational safety.

Railways has focussed on digitisation. It launched the RailOne App in July 2025, which provides passengers a single platform for ticket booking, train enquiries and grievance redressal.

# Crude oil prices near 52-week high amid geopolitical tensions



**Brent crude futures rose as much as 2.01 per cent or \$2.2, to \$111.23 per barrel, hovering near a 52-week high. Similarly, US West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude gained 3.53 per cent or about \$4 to \$115.48 by 10.20 am.**

New Delhi.(Agency)

International crude oil prices traded higher on Monday as persistent fears of supply disruptions in West Asia kept markets on edge, with the ongoing US-Israel-Iran conflict weighing on sentiment. Brent crude futures rose as much as 2.01 per cent or \$2.2, to \$111.23 per barrel,

hovering near a 52-week high. Similarly, US West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude gained 3.53 per cent or about \$4 to \$115.48 by 10.20 am. On the domestic front, crude oil futures on the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX) (May 18 contract) were trading at Rs 9,276, up 0.9 per cent or Rs 83. The contract touched an intraday high of Rs 9,335, rising 1.54 per cent or Rs 142. The surge follows a sharp

rally in the previous session, when WTI surged over 11 per cent and Brent climbed nearly 8 per cent — their biggest single-day gains since 2020 — amid escalating geopolitical tensions. Analysts said crude oil continues to remain a key driver for markets, with prices holding firm amid ongoing supply concerns. Globally, US crude is trading near the \$110-\$112 range, close to a key

resistance zone. According to them, a breakout above \$115 could trigger a rally towards \$118-\$120 levels. "On the downside, a fall below \$109 may lead to a correction towards \$106, with strong support placed around \$100-\$102. The overall trend remains bullish as long as these support levels hold," they added.

Tensions intensified after US President Donald Trump warned of severe consequences if Iran fails to reopen the Strait of Hormuz by his Tuesday deadline, raising concerns over potential disruptions to global oil supplies. OPEC+ has agreed to increase output by 206,000 barrels per day in May. However, the move is unlikely to significantly ease supply concerns in the near term. Meanwhile, domestic equity markets traded in the red, with the Sensex falling 529 points or 0.72 per cent to 72,790, hitting an intraday low, and Nifty declining 150 points or 0.66 per cent to 22,561, logging an intraday low in early trade.

## Senco Gold shares jump over 13%: What's driving the sharp rally

New Delhi.(Agency)

Shares of Senco Gold Ltd rallied sharply on Monday after the jewellery retailer indicated a strong end to the financial year, supported by healthy demand during the peak wedding season.

The stock rose over 13% to around Rs 328 in intraday trade, as investors responded positively to the company's March quarter business update. The trigger was the March quarter update, where the jewellery retailer flagged strong traction during the wedding season, a period that typically drives a bulk of annual sales. WHY IS Senco GOLD STOCK RISING TODAY?

But this rally is less about one good quarter and more about what it signals underneath. At a time when

consumption has been patchy across sectors, jewellery demand is proving relatively resilient. Weddings are non-negotiable spends in India, and that is



cushioning the impact of high gold prices. For organised players like Senco Gold, that resilience is starting to translate into more predictable

growth visibility. The company's ongoing store expansion is adding to that story. A wider retail footprint is not just boosting sales, it is helping Senco capture a larger share of demand that is steadily shifting from unorganised to organised players. That combination seems to have flipped sentiment. The stock has seen bouts of volatility, but the latest update gives investors a clearer signal that demand is not cracking yet, prompting a sharp re-rating in trade. Still, the market is making a forward bet here. Gold prices remain a swing factor for both demand and margins, and the real test will come once the wedding season tailwind fades. If demand sustains beyond that, the current optimism has legs. If not, this could turn into a short-lived spike.

## YEIDA opens bookings for 973 plots near Noida airport: All you need to know

New Delhi.(Agency)

Just days after the inauguration of the Noida International Airport, the Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority (YEIDA) has announced a new residential plot scheme. The move is expected to attract homebuyers looking to invest in the fast-developing region.

**PLOTS ACROSS KEY SECTORS**

The scheme offers 973 residential plots in sectors 15C, 18 and 24A of size 162, 183, 184, 200, 223 and 290 square meters along the Yamuna Expressway. The project has been approved by UP RERA and the land is already in possession of the Authority. Plots are priced at Rs 36,260 per square metre. Allotment will be done through a draw of lots. The plots will be given on a 90-year lease from the date of the lease deed. Registrations have opened on the YEIDA website and the last date to apply is May 6. The draw is scheduled for June 18.

**RESERVATION ACROSS CATEGORIES**

YEIDA has set aside 17.5% of the plots for farmers whose land was acquired for the development of the Yamuna area and the airport. Another 5% is reserved for businessmen with functional

industrial units in the Authority area.

Within these categories, 21% and 2% plots are reserved for SC and ST applicants respectively. Applicants must submit valid certificates to claim this benefit. There is also a 5% horizontal reservation for persons with disabilities across all categories, including general. Out of this, 1% is reserved for visually impaired



applicants. If reserved plots remain unfilled, they will be moved to the general category during the draw.

**LOCATION CHARGES EXPLAINED**

Extra charges will apply for plots with special locations. Park-facing or green belt plots will attract 5% additional cost. Corner plots will also carry a 5% charge. Similarly, plots on roads 18

metres or wider will have a 5% charge.

However, the total location charge for any plot will not exceed 15% of the premium.

**PAYMENT RULES AND PRICE REVISION**

All payments must be made online through the Authority's website. No offline payments will be accepted.

Buyers will have to pay 100% of the total premium, along with applicable GST, within 60 days of the allotment letter. If the Authority revises land rates before issuing the allotment letter, the new rate will apply.

Any increase in land acquisition cost due to court or government decisions will also have to be borne by the allottee.

**ALLOTMENT AND REFUND PROCESS**

Plots will be allotted through a draw, conducted separately for each category.

For successful applicants, the registration amount will be adjusted in the total cost. Unsuccessful applicants will get a refund without interest if the money was held for less than a year. If it exceeds one year, interest at SBI savings account rate will be paid for the extra period.

# Business idea: Invest Rs 1 lakh in this tree farming biz, earn Rs 3 crore in return

**Business idea: Often called the king of timber, mahogany trees offer a high return on investment. Check how much investment, waiting period can yield a good income for you.**

New Delhi.(Agency)

Agriculture has always been seen as a means of sustenance in India. Tree farming is fast becoming a lucrative source of wealth for farmers and even first time investors. Farmers look beyond traditional crops in search of more profitable, in-demand and low maintenance options. One highly yielding alternative that is gaining attention is mahogany tree farming. The interest in mahogany trees is growing due to rising demand for quality timber. Often called the king of timber, mahogany trees offer a high return on investment. The mahogany trees take years to mature and can be incredibly valuable. The value of this tree



can exceed one lakh or more in just 14 to 15 years. Farmers and landowners could have a future asset worth Rs 1 lakh or more with just Rs 200 for a sapling. The timber is considered premium grade and typically sells for Rs 1,500 to Rs 2,500 per cubic foot. Mahogany farming is becoming a wise investment option with global demand on the rise. The trees grow slowly and steadily, building wealth over time. For farmers looking for financial security, these trees are being seen not just as agricultural assets but as self-sustaining investments that mature over a

decade. Business idea: Value of mahogany trees What makes this deep redwood truly remarkable is its versatility. The mahogany trees are highly desirable in the international market. The wood of the trees is used in the construction of ships, interior detailing in branded cars, rifle butts, bar decorations, woodwork in bungalows, guitars, tablas and harmoniums. Mahogany trees are also in demand for medicinal and industrial uses. Various parts of the trees are used to prepare traditional remedies to treat different diseases like malaria, diabetes

and diarrhea. The leaves are used to prepare mosquito repellents, soaps and herbal tonics. Business idea: Plantation of mahogany trees The saplings cost between Rs 200 and Rs 300. The trees need very little maintenance once planted. They thrive with minimal watering and are naturally resistant to pests and diseases. When the trees reach maturity, they typically reach a height of 50-60 feet. It takes approximately 12 years for these plants to mature into a full tree. Business idea: Income from mahogany tree

Mahogany trees are one of the highest earning trees a farmer can grow. Mahogany timber can sell for between Rs 1,500 and Rs 2,500 per cubic foot. If timber is sold for Rs 1,500 per cubic foot then a mahogany tree can be sold for around Rs 60,000 on average. Farmers who plant 500 of these trees for over 12 years will see a substantial revenue of Rs 3 crore. Now assuming a sapling costing Rs 200, your cost of 500 these saplings will be Rs 1 lakh. And once you are ready to sell timber from these trees, you can see an earning of Rs 3 crore.



# Janhvi Kapoor

## Recalls Public Scrutiny After Sridevi's Death: 'They Said I Wasn't Sad Enough'

Janhvi Kapoor has often spoken about the profound impact of losing her mother, Sridevi, whose sudden passing in February 2018 left a void that reshaped her life in ways she was not prepared for. In a recent conversation, the actor revisited that phase, reflecting on grief, public scrutiny and the process of finding her own footing.

### 'I Didn't Know How To Function On My Own'

Speaking about the immediate aftermath of her mother's death, Janhvi admitted that the loss felt overwhelming, not just emotionally but practically.

"I was completely dependent. I never used to make decisions. I relied on her for everything... what should I wear, what should I do, what is right, what is wrong," she shared. Having always leaned on Sridevi for guidance, even in the smallest aspects of daily life, Janhvi found herself suddenly navigating the world alone. The transition forced her to grow up quickly and develop independence she hadn't needed before.

### Grief Under The Public Lens

Janhvi also opened up about how public perception made an already difficult time even harder. "In such a time, when the world is trying to divide you into pieces... people would say, 'She is smiling too much,' or 'She is not sad enough,'" she said.

She explained that every reaction, whether she smiled or stayed quiet, was dissected, leaving little room for private grief. The constant judgment pushed her to form her own sense of self, rather than being shaped by external opinions.

### Remembering Sridevi

For Janhvi, Sridevi remains an irreplaceable presence and a lifelong source of inspiration. She described her mother as the emotional anchor of the family, someone whose positivity held everything together. "In our best days, we were a very happy, strong, positive family, and the big reason for that was her," she said.

Janhvi also noted how deeply the loss affected her father, Boney Kapoor, and the family dynamic as a whole.

### When Grief Became Public Conversation

In an earlier interview, Janhvi had revealed that she never got the chance to mourn privately. Media attention followed her through public appearances and promotions, turning even her pain into a subject of discussion.



## Kiara Advani Rejects Solo Photos Without Sidharth Malhotra, Wins Hearts As Video Goes Viral



Kiara Advani is winning hearts on the internet after a recent red carpet moment with husband Sidharth Malhotra went viral. The actress refused to pose solo after paparazzi requested Sidharth to step aside, and fans can't stop praising her gesture. Kiara Advani and Sidharth Malhotra, who tied the knot in a grand ceremony in 2023, have often been admired for their chemistry. In the viral video, shared by Filmgyan, we can see paps asking for solo photo of Kiara Advani. Sidharth Malhotra also asked her to go ahead but she straight away said no and moved with Sidharth. The actress gesture won everyone. Fans have been praising her. One of the fans wrote on Reddit, "I feel they are genuinely the cutest couple the bond and love between them feels pure and cute."

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Sidharth and Kiara were seen making a stunning appearance at the NMACC event. The gorgeous duo arrived hand-in-hand and posed for the paparazzi. She opted for a baby pink-hued, embellished saree with a shimmery blouse. She completed her look with a statement pearl choker, a chic handbag, and her million-dollar smile. On the other hand, Sidharth looked handsome in a white kurta pyjama paired with a printed jacket.

## Sunanda Sharma Urges Forgiveness After Ghaziabad Concert Incide



Punjabi singer Sunanda Sharma has responded to the chaotic incident during her recent performance at Raj Kumar Goel Institute of Technology (RKGIT) in Ghaziabad, offering clarity on what unfolded and appealing for compassion towards the student involved.

### 'Main Bhi Dar Gayi': Singer Recalls The Moment

Taking to social media, Sunanda addressed the incident through a video message, revealing that the situation caught everyone off guard.

"Kal RKGIT, Ghaziabad college mein thoda sa mishapening ho gayi," she said, explaining that a student suddenly rushed onto the stage while she was performing, leaving both the audience and the team startled.

"Sab dar gaye, main bhi dar gayi. Mera reaction bhi bhot loud tha," she added, recalling her immediate response to the unexpected intrusion.

Due to security concerns, the singer had to exit the stage abruptly, noting that the team was not prepared to handle such a situation.

### Appeals To College Management For Leniency

While confirming that the college authorities have taken action against the student, Sunanda urged the management to reconsider strict measures. "Kayi baar kisi ke pyar jatane ka tareeka galat ho jata hai," she said, emphasising that she does not believe the fan had any harmful intent.

"I don't think unki intention galat thi," she reiterated, adding that she has already forgiven the student.

### A Message To The Fan

Addressing the student directly, Sunanda encouraged them to reflect on the incident and understand that expressing admiration should be done in a respectful and appropriate manner.

She also thanked her fans for their continued love and support, saying, "Thank you very much for being so kind always."

### What Happened At The Concert

The incident occurred during Sunanda Sharma's performance at RKGIT, where a student suddenly jumped onto the stage, causing panic. The singer quickly exited for safety, while the individual was immediately removed by security personnel.

What could have escalated further has now taken a more conciliatory turn, with the singer choosing empathy over outrage, while also underlining the importance of maintaining boundaries at public events.



# Kangana Ranaut's

## Queen Sequel Gets New Title And It's Not Queen 2? Here's What We Know

Kangana Ranaut's Queen sequel news has been gaining attention. And the latest report suggests that the much-awaited sequel has finally found its title—but it may not be what fans were expecting. The film is unlikely to be called Queen 2. Instead, makers are reportedly leaning towards a fresh and more fitting title: Queen Forever. Bollywood Hungama reported that Kangana Ranaut's Queen sequel will not be known as Queen 2. "The makers had several options for the film's title, and the one that really caught their eye is 'Queen Forever.' If all goes well, this will be what the film will be called. The makers feel Queen Forever is the apt title and that it suits the film's subject," the portal mentioned.

### Kangana Ranaut set to start shooting for Queen 2

According to Mid-Day, the sequel will not directly continue the 2014 hit's storyline, but is expected to build on its core themes of self-discovery and independence.

Kangana's character will be seen as a city girl in Queen 2. A source told the portal, "In Queen 2, Kangana's Rani will be a city girl unlike the small-town girl in the original. She will be smart, strong, and quirky, but a plot point will send her on the road of self-discovery. It will show how she conquers life through her individuality, self-realisation, and courage. While the first one saw her travelling to Paris and Amsterdam alone, this journey will take her across cities in India."

The report also suggests that no actors from the original cast are expected to return apart from Kangana Ranaut. Director Vikas Bahl has reportedly chosen a fresh lineup, with several theatre artists being considered for key supporting roles in the second instalment. The source further added, "The unit will kick off the project in a Mumbai studio, where a set reflecting a North Indian city and another depicting the protagonist's home will be built. After the Mumbai leg, they will move to other metro cities. The film will be completed in a start-to-finish schedule of three months."



• Personal

Interview is the foremost tool to judge the abilities of a person.

• In the face-to-face contact between the interviewer & interviewee, it is possible to record more than only verbal responses; which are often superficial.



# Tips for a Personal Interview

Personal Interview is the foremost tool to judge the abilities of a person. In the face-to-face contact between the interviewer & interviewee, it is possible to record more than only verbal responses; which are often superficial. When human beings communicate directly with each other, much more information is communicated. The nature of words used, facial expressions & body language- together contribute in judging a person. According to Meha Bhargava, an Image Management professional, you must keep the following in mind while going for an interview.

**Do the Research**

Extensively research not just about the profile you are interviewed for, but the company profile, their achievements, their story of success, their products&services, their targetmarket etc.. All this will make you confident enough to answer every question diligently.

**Look sharp**

Being smartly and elegantly dressed not only makes you feel good but also has a strong impact on the interviewer. Like the mantra 'The way you dress, defines the way you think, act and how other's react'

**Listen carefully**

Giving full attention to not only what is said but also to what is not said will make you know about what they have in store

for you. Sometimes important things are left unsaid between the lines, make sure you catch up to every bit.

**Show enthusiasm with body language**

A firm handshake, smile, eye contact and positive responses ensure that the interviewer feels confident in you and your abilities to be hired. What you feel reflects by your body language. Even if you are nervous, don't let it show. Sit in a correct, firm and comfortable posture avoid fidgeting with your legs, or hands. This distracts the interviewer and gives an

impression of a feeble personality.

**Answer only what is asked**

Do listen carefully what you are being asked, if you don't understand confirm it again and while answering do not deviate from one thing to another. Straightforward and to the point answers are only what they love to hear.

**Ask questions**

Don't be blank at the end of the interview, ask questions, be it on your profile, about the company, pay working hours etc. No questions give an impression of disinterest in the company and the job. But make sure your questions are appropriate.

## Skill vs degree



be greater synergy between prospective employers and the skills training centre so that students are well-placed with salaries that can attract other youngsters. Also, often, employers ask for a degree irrespective of how adequately trained such a candidate may be. Therefore, students prefer to pursue a degree without a job in sight, rather than skill themselves through training that can better provide a job. The solution is to analyse what a student is made for - a degree or a skill-based programme -and which one would work best for him/her. Usha Albuquerque, Career Counsellor, Delhi

**College prepares you**

When students decide on a career path, it is essential for them to understand the importance of a degree and how it contributes to their future. A degree programme makes a student's 'generalised' approach more focused. At the college level, applicants pick a stream and then study a specific field such as engineering, medicine, commerce, science, humanities, law, architecture, etc. The student learns about things ranging from the finer points of a particular discipline to communication and people skills.

Students must opt for a degree course since it trains them to understand -through guest lectures, industry visits, etc -how industry functions. They, thus, know what employers expect. They develop a world view of the field they would work in, explore it in-depth and be ready to face challenges in their professional lives.

**What works for you?**

In India, we place too much emphasis on what is often just a piece of paper, instead of the knowledge or skills one should acquire to earn it. If a student is looking for higher education, a degree is the normal study route. There are numerous careers and fields of work that require advanced knowledge and skills training.

However, all students may not and sometimes cannot take advanced courses and prefer to develop skills that do not necessarily require the rigour of a degree curriculum. In other words, every person with skills may not receive a degree. Similarly, there are many graduates who have theoretical knowledge but no practical experience. A number of jobs and

careers require various skills -for example, in the computer and IT sector. So, without worrying if it is a degree or not, many students can study a course that would help them find work. The government's skill development programme is attempting to change students' attitude towards skills that can earn them jobs. However, there needs to



## Why you need a 'disconnected' break

Taking your laptop along on your upcoming holiday? Do a rethink, for you might be committing a huge mistake, which might actually add more stress that you imagines. Experts warn how one should not cart along work and stay rooted to any social networking sites and microblogs, while on a getaway. The 'digital detox break' is being considered as the ideal 'me time'. The idea has taken root so much so that packages are being tailor-made to force stressed folk to wean away from all their gadgets. Here's how it benefits you:

"What we're doing here is providing evidence that how people relate to God matters for their commitment and satisfaction at work," Kent noted.

**You see the world differently**

You might throw fleeting glances to what's going around you if you're stuck to your smartphone screen. But being away from it allows you to view the world minus distraction.

**It builds better interpersonal relations**

How many people actually remember a good old-fashioned conversation? With no gadget around you can communicate face-to-face better.

**You become less aggressive**

Being answerable to someone on the opposite end means that you are having to answer to a demand all the time, which causes a sense of hostility and repressed anger in you. Take away such feeling by simply unplugging.

