

Forged letter to PM Modi in CM Yogi's name sees man convicted by Delhi court

The verdict was delivered by Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate Jyoti Maheshwari at the Rouse Avenue Courts. While delivering the verdict he underscored that fabricating documents in the name of public officials undermines institutional credibility.

Bangalore.(Agency) Delhi court has found a man guilty of forging an official letter purportedly written by Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath to Prime Minister Narendra Modi in an attempt to secure a BJP ticket for the 2019 Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections. The verdict was delivered by Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate Jyoti Maheshwari at the Rouse Avenue Courts. While delivering the verdict he underscored that fabricating documents in the name of public officials undermines institutional credibility. The court observed that while misuse of names of public figures is often trivialised, it becomes a serious threat to public trust when presented as an official act. Conviction for forgery

The accused, identified as Shivaji Yadav, was convicted under Sections 465 (forgery) and 471 (using a forged document as genuine) of the Indian Penal Code. The case stemmed from a letter dated June 10, 2019, which allegedly recommended that the accused be granted a BJP ticket from the Lucknow Cantt constituency. Suspicion over the document was first raised by the Prime Minister's Office, which flagged it as dubious and

prompted an investigation by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). The probe concluded that the letter was fabricated and had not been issued by the Chief Minister's Office. In its ruling, the court held that the accused had created the forged letter and knowingly sent it to the PMO as an authentic communication. It further noted that the prosecution had established the case beyond reasonable doubt, with the accused failing to provide any credible explanation for the evidence against him. The judge also remarked that the act reflected a deliberate attempt to give legitimacy to a false communication by invoking the authority of a constitutional office. Such actions, the court said, risk eroding the sanctity of official processes and communications, warranting strict legal consequences.



Trust deficit, reclaiming bastions: Congress plans to step out of MVA shadow

Congress, buoyed by gains in Vidarbha and Nandurbar, is asserting independence within the MVA. Frustration over seat-sharing, UBT Sena's BMC moves, and allies' perceived proximity to the BJP have deepened a trust deficit, prompting the party to recalibrate its strategy.

Mumbai.(Agency) The Baramati assembly by-election has evolved into more than just a local contest; it is now the epicentre of a shifting political paradigm in Maharashtra. By fielding Akash More, an MPCC Secretary and son of ex-MLC Vijay Rao More, against Deputy CM Sunetra Pawar, the Congress party has signalled a bold departure from the traditional "unopposed" courtesy often extended in such sensitive seats. More, who carries the legacy of his father and represents the influential Dhangar community, is not just a candidate; he is a symbol of Congress's resolve to reclaim its ground in a state where it was once the undisputed leader. This strategic move highlights a growing rift within the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA). While the Congress scored the highest in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, its subsequent "miserable" performance in the 2024 Assembly polls while tied to the MVA has triggered an internal rethink. Congress, buoyed by gains in Vidarbha and Nandurbar, is asserting independence within the MVA. Frustration over seat-sharing, UBT Sena's BMC moves, and allies' perceived proximity to the BJP have deepened a trust deficit, prompting the party to recalibrate its strategy. The drama in Baramati is mirrored in Rahuri, where the suspense ended with Govindrao Mokate filing his nomination as the MVA candidate from NCP (SP). This follows a high-stakes meeting where BJP State President Ravindra Chavan and Minister Radhakrishna Vikhe Patil attempted to convince former Minister of State Prajakt Tanpure from NCP (SP) to allow an unopposed election. Even CM Devendra Fadnis intervened via telephone, yet Tanpure, who recently lost in 2024 and was rumoured to be joining the BJP, remains non-committal, citing the need to consult his supporters. The internal friction within the MVA was most evident in the calculated absence of Maharashtra Congress President Harshvardhan Sapkal, who travelled to Kerala during the nomination process. Sources suggest Sapkal avoided Baramati for three key reasons: out of courtesy to Sunetra Pawar after a personal phone call, to signal "generosity" toward allies who preferred an unopposed seat, and to avoid a show of strength that might trigger a sympathy wave for Aji Pawar. Reactions from allies remain cryptic. Sanjay Raut noted that Sunetra Pawar had spoken to Uddhav Thackeray, but emphasised that Congress's decision was their own, stating, "There are many players in this; Baramati is the Pawar stronghold."



Mann says power theft at SAD rally, PSPCL team fails to find any

Meanwhile, Mann called on people to boycott SAD leaders, saying those responsible for "beadbi" (sacrilege) of a religious text and "atrocities" against people must be held accountable.

Chandigarh.(Agency) Punjab chief minister Bhagwant Mann on Monday alleged that electricity theft was carried out at a Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) rally held at Muktsar and said legal action will follow soon. However, the PSPCL authorities at Muktsar said that they were still doing inquiry. Addressing a public gathering at the Patiala Grain Market, Mann took potshots at SAD and its president, Sukhbir Singh Badal. "Their Punjab Bachao rally took place in Muktsar on Monday. It was found that they were taking the electricity supply for the rally directly from the transformer by theft. We will lodge an FIR for this violation, and action will be taken as per law,"



Mann said. Comparing arrangements at his own event with those at the SAD rally, Mann added, "Look at our rally...there are generators for power needed for

this rally...and look at those who believe in theft...In his speeches, also Sukhbir Badal says that people used to drive motorcycles without papers in his regime...this is what he thinks governance is. Such people who don't even know the basics are busy holding 'Punjab Bachao' rallies. We have already saved Punjab from them". Contacted, PSPCL officials said that based on a video "which we saw on social media, our teams went to the rally venue on Malaut Road along with police officers, but we didn't find any violation. However, we are doing an inquiry into the incident". Kanwarjit Singh Rozy Barkandi, former SAD MLA from Muktsar, while talking to The Indian Express, said, "CM has Badal phobia.

Mamata Banerjee Alleges Targeted Deletion of Voters, Sparks Major Political Row

Special report Senior Journalist Nasiruddin

"The Trinamool Congress will stand firmly with every individual whose name has been removed from the voter list,"

Kolkata, 7th April : In a strong political statement that has triggered fresh controversy, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Tuesday alleged that names of people belonging to the Matua community, Rajbanshis, and minority groups have been deliberately removed from voter lists following the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise in the state. Addressing a large public rally in Nadia district, Banerjee accused the Centre of adopting a discriminatory approach and targeting specific communities in the process of revising electoral rolls. She asserted that such actions strike at the very foundation of democracy and raised serious concerns over the fairness of the electoral system.



Banerjee declared, assuring affected citizens of political and legal support. The Chief Minister claimed that the deletions were not random but carried out in a selective and systematic manner. According to her, districts with

significant minority populations—such as Murshidabad, Malda, and Uttar Dinajpur—have witnessed large-scale removal of voter names. Banerjee alleged that people from Matua and Rajbanshi communities, along with minorities, were specifically targeted during the revision process. She questioned the intent behind such actions, asking, "Why this discrimination? Why are particular communities being singled out and removed from the voter rolls?" Her remarks have intensified political tensions, with the Trinamool Congress framing the issue as an attempt to disenfranchise vulnerable and marginalized sections of society. Highlighting legal developments, Banerjee stated that after intervention in the Supreme Court of India, a significant number of names were restored to the electoral rolls. Continued news page 2

Shaheed Udham Singh State Institute of Medical Sciences to be built in Hoshiarpur, to be completed in 2 years: CM Mann

The Sikh Times

HOSHIARPUR, 7 April: Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann on Tuesday rolled out a major healthcare and infrastructure push in Hoshiarpur, laying the foundation for a ₹268 crore medical college and 300-bed hospital while announcing the establishment of the Shaheed Udham Singh State Institute of Medical Sciences to be completed within two years. In a gathering in Sham Chaurasi, CM Bhagwant Singh Mann asserted that the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Punjab Government is firmly committed to delivering world-class healthcare at people's doorsteps, detailing a comprehensive ecosystem that will train 100 MBBS doctors annually and provide advanced facilities including MRI, CT scan, specialised surgeries and modern treatment. Strengthening last-mile healthcare delivery, he also laid the foundation stone of a ₹9.18 crore Community Health Centre to benefit over 40 villages, alongside seven additional Health and Wellness Centres in the constituency. Expanding the development push, CM Bhagwant Singh Mann further initiated the ₹99 crore Balachaur-Garhshankar-Hoshiarpur-Dasuya road project, a 105 km corridor set to enhance connectivity between Chandigarh, Pathankot and Jammu & Kashmir, reduce travel time between Jammu and Delhi, and facilitate smoother access for devotees travelling to Anandpur Sahib, Mata Naina Devi and Mata Jwala Ji. Addressing the gathering after laying the foundation stone of several key projects in the Sham Chaurasi assembly segment, CM Bhagwant Singh Mann said, "For more than 70 long years in the post-independence era the traditional opposition parties have mercilessly looted the state. Due to regressive and divisive policies of these parties the state has lagged behind in the pace of development due to which the people had suffered. However, in the last four years holistic development of the state has been ensured and for the first time the state government has fulfilled all the promises made with people in such a short span." The Chief Minister stated, "It is a matter of immense pride and satisfaction that development of the state has been put on the right track and

now the Punjab Government is enhancing its pace with every passing day. The state government has filled the gap of 70 years and now concerted efforts are being made to carve out a Rangla Punjab. The AAP government is the first one in the country to implement the People's Manifesto as all the genuine demands raised by the people are being translated into works." Highlighting major development initiatives, he added, "Today development works worth ₹385 crore have been launched



at Sham Chaurasi, which will give impetus to the progress and prosperity of the region." He added, "A Medical College and 300 bedded Hospital will come at Hoshiarpur at a cost of ₹268 crore, which will be a big bonanza for the general public. It will go a long way in imparting quality health services to the people besides emerging the state as a hub of medical education." Targeting opposition parties, CM Bhagwant Singh Mann asserted, "Opposition parties are hatching conspiracies to defame me as they are envious of the works being done by the state government for the well being of the masses. These leaders are hand in glove with each other and play the game of musical chairs to secure the interests of each other while in power. However, the AAP government has upset their applecart by ousting them from power thereby fulfilling the aspirations of the common people." CM Bhagwant Singh Mann pointed out, "Captain Amarinder Singh and Parkash Singh Badal never resided in the official residences meant for the Chief Ministers in Chandigarh during their tenure. Rather, these leaders lived in their own palatial houses that have been constructed in Chandigarh as they didn't feel comfortable in the government houses. Contd.....page-3

Rahul Gandhi questions Bahujan representation in public works contracts

The Congress leader said he questioned the government in Parliament about how much of the Rs 16,500 crore worth of public works contracts awarded last year went to businesses owned by Dalits, Adivasis, and Other Backward Classes.

New Delhi.(Agency) Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday accused the Modi government of fostering systemic exclusion, raising concerns over the lack of representation of 'Bahujan' entrepreneurs in major public sector contracts. The Congress leader said he questioned the government in Parliament about how much of the Rs 16,500 crore worth of public works contracts awarded last year went to

businesses owned by Dalits, Adivasis, and Other Backward Classes. "Their response was deeply concerning - the government does not maintain any data regarding this matter," he said in a post in Hindi on Facebook. "The policy mandates that, under the public procurement process, 25% of purchases must be made from MSMEs, of which 4% is earmarked for Dalit and Adivasi entrepreneurs.



CM Rekha Gupta meets L-G, discusses summer action plans

New Delhi.(Agency)

Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Monday met Lieutenant Governor Taranjit Singh Sandhu to discuss issues, including water supply, electricity management and health services, ahead of the summer. "During this meeting, there was an in-depth discussion on topics related to water supply, electricity management, health services, and disaster management," the chief minister said in a post on X. According to officials, Gupta and Sandhu further discussed matters related to strengthening heat wave preparedness and ensuring an adequate supply of drinking water. "Our goal is to ensure that Delhi residents face no inconvenience during the summer season.

Front continued news

Mamata Banerjee Alleges Targeted Deletion of Voters, Sparks Major Political Row

She claimed that out of nearly 60 lakh cases under consideration, around 32 lakh names have already been reinstated. However, she expressed concern that many individuals still remain excluded and continue to face uncertainty regarding their voting rights.

Banerjee urged those whose names are still missing to approach the appropriate tribunals and file applications to secure their inclusion in the voter lists.

The Chief Minister also targeted the Union Government over its stance on illegal immigration. She argued that safeguarding international borders is the responsibility of the Centre, yet the blame is being shifted onto the West Bengal government.

"Border security is under the jurisdiction of the Central Government. How can the state be held responsible for infiltration?" she questioned, accusing the Centre of politicizing the issue for electoral gains.

The controversy comes at a crucial time, as electoral preparations gather pace in West Bengal. Political analysts believe that the issue of voter list revisions could emerge as a major flashpoint in the run-up to future elections.

Opposition parties are expected to counter Banerjee's claims, while the ruling Trinamool Congress is likely to amplify the issue among grassroots voters, particularly in regions with significant Matua and minority populations.

The developments have once again highlighted the sensitive intersection of electoral processes, identity politics, and governance in one of India's most politically dynamic states.

At the heart of the controversy lies a larger question about voter rights and democratic participation. Allegations of exclusion from electoral rolls raise concerns about disenfranchisement and the integrity of the electoral process. As the debate unfolds, all eyes are now on the Election Commission and the judiciary to ensure transparency, fairness, and accountability in the preparation of voter lists.

Nigerian held in 2023 drug haul in Greater Noida home dies in jail

Noida

A Nigerian national, lodged as an undertrial prisoner in a jail, died during treatment at a Greater Noida hospital on Monday.

According to jail authorities, Solomon (66) was suffering from chronic health issues — including high blood pressure and severe kidney disease — for a long time. On Friday morning — around 10 am — Solomon suddenly experienced breathing difficulties inside the jail premises and suffered a cardiac arrest. Jail staff immediately shifted him to Govt Institute of Medical Sciences (GIMS) Hospital for emergency treatment. However, doctors declared him dead there. Police officials said the exact cause of death will be confirmed after "completion of mandatory legal formalities".

In judicial custody since May 31, 2023, under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, Solomon was lodged in Gautam Budh Nagar District Jail, located in Luksar village. Following the incident, GIMS Hospital authorities informed Ecotech-I police station about the death. Police officials said the deceased's family members and the intelligence department have been notified, and further legal procedures are being carried out as per protocol.

Driver dies after roadways bus crashes into his tractor on NH-9

Ghaziabad.(Agency)

A 30-year-old tractor driver was killed, and seven others — including the driver of a roadways bus — were injured when the bus rammed into the tractor from behind on NH-9 in Crossing Republik early Monday. According to Wave City ACP Priyashri Pal, the accident occurred around 4:30 am. The deceased was identified as Ajay Yadav, a resident of Lal Kuan.

Preliminary investigation revealed that the driver of the Pilibhit depot bus, identified as Vipin Kumar (30), allegedly dozed off near Rahul Vihar, leading to the crash. Kumar sustained critical injuries and is currently undergoing treatment at GTB Hospital. Police have seized both the bus and the tractor. Officials said the impact of the collision was severe. The tractor rammed into the divider, its front axle broke, and Yadav was thrown nearly 20 feet off NH-9 onto the service road below. The tractor was carrying iron rods, some of which penetrated the bus during the crash.

"Commuters alerted the police, and a team reached the spot



promptly. The injured were rushed to a nearby hospital, where Yadav was declared dead on arrival. Initial findings suggest the bus was headed towards Delhi, and most passengers were asleep at the time. The driver was also drowsy and crashed into the tractor," an officer said.

In the aftermath, some passengers, angered by the incident, reportedly pelted stones at the bus and damaged its windows. Police said no formal complaint was filed in this regard so far.

The injured passengers were identified as Ankit, 28, a resident of Gram Negpur Subhash Nagar Bareilly; Vikas, 18, a resident of Nawabganj Bareilly; Kamal, 25, of Gram Suchaiya Jhajhar Dewana Pithoragarh; Akhlaq Ahmad, 42, from Gram Duhai Tanda Bareilly; Ikram, 30, from Mayur Vihar Phase 3 Delhi; and Krishna Mandal, 35, from Bhura Colony Yora Husainpur Pilibhit.

Couple protests rash driving, thrashed by 2 drinking inside car in Gurgaon

GURGAON.(Agency)

A couple who run a startup were allegedly assaulted by two drunk men after objecting to reckless driving on their way home from Bawal on Saturday.

The two told police the confrontation escalated near Manesar Polytechnic, where the men not only beat the husband up, but tried to push him off a flyover. They then allegedly tried to mow the couple down before fleeing.

Puja Jain, who lives with her husband Sunil Raghav in The Palms in South City-2, said they were driving home when a Baleno — bearing the registration number UP14FB-5754 — nearly rammed their car. According to her complaint, the two men inside were drinking and using mobile phones behind the wheel.

Puja said she and her husband signalled the Baleno to stop. After both vehicles pulled over on a flyover a little distance away, the situation quickly turned hostile. Sunil stepped out first and entered into an

argument with the Baleno driver. Puja alleged that the two occupants — Ajay of Ghaziabad and Manoj Sharma from Delhi — then began assaulting him.

According to the complaint, the attackers tried to throw Raghav off the flyover where they had stopped. When Puja stepped in to protect her husband, she, too, was beaten up. She further alleged that as the two men tried to escape in their car, they attempted to run them over.

"After they tried to crush us under the car's wheels, we started screaming, raised an alarm and informed police in the end," Puja said in her complaint. Amid the chaos, Puja could not clearly identify her exact location, but remained on the call with the 1091 police helpline. An emergency response vehicle, ERV 259, tracked the couple and intercepted the Baleno as well. Police said they recovered an illegal pistol from the Baleno's



dashboard. Though the magazine was empty, the occupants could not produce a licence for the weapon.

At Manesar police station, a breathalyser test found Ajay heavily intoxicated, with an alcohol level of 52mg per 100 ml. Raghav, by contrast, tested negative for alcohol consumption. Based on Puja's complaint and the recovery of the firearm, an FIR was registered against the two under sections 281 (rash driving), 125 (at

endangering life or personal safety of others), section 115 (voluntarily causing hurt) of BNS Act and Section 25(1B)(A) of Arms Act (possession of an illegal firearm) besides Section 185 of MV Act (drunk driving). Ajay, police said, is a property dealer in Ghaziabad while Manoj works for a private company in Delhi. "They had gone to Rajasthan for some property-related work and were returning to Delhi when the incident occurred. Ajay had taken the pistol recovered from the dashboard from a relative," an officer said. Police said the accused were produced before a court and remanded in custody. A team led by ASI Mukesh and constable Hemant also visited the spot for forensic mapping. An officer said the couple had submitted their complaint, but were yet to reconnect with the cops for the next stage of the legal process.

Atul Kataria and Rezang La chowks set for revamp, to ease traffic in old Gurgaon

Gurgaon.(Agency)

Atul Kataria Chowk and Rezang La Chowk are set for a major redevelopment.

Haryana chief minister Nayab Singh on Monday directed GMDA and MCG to prepare a comprehensive plan for a redesign and beautification of these high-traffic junctions in old Gurgaon. No timeline has been set for the preparation of a detailed project report for the project.

The instructions were issued during the CM's visit to Gurgaon for a district grievance committee meeting. Saini took note of the sanitation conditions at Rezang La Chowk and laid stress on the "beautification and cleanliness" of the two junctions. "These places should not only remain clean but also enhance the city's aesthetics. Rezang La Memorial should undergo proper beautification, redesigning and overall upgradation to make it more attractive, dignified and impactful. Atul Kataria Chowk will undergo similar redevelopment and beautification," Saini said, adding that

green spaces should be developed at these locations and regular sanitation systems should be strengthened.

A total of 15 complaints were presented, out of which 11 were resolved on the spot by the chief minister, while directions were



issued to keep four cases pending for the next meeting. He instructed the concerned officials to present status reports on these pending cases at the next meeting.

Representatives of Sector 10 resident welfare association from informed the chief minister that sewage in the area

frequently overflows, causing severe inconvenience to residents. Taking note of the issue, the CM directed the officials to prepare a detailed proposal for a modern and efficient sewerage system for the sector at the earliest to ensure a permanent solution. Until a new system is implemented, interim arrangements — such as regular cleaning, pumping and effective drainage management — should be ensured to provide relief to residents and maintain cleanliness. Responding to concerns raised during the session, the CM said the city's waterlogging situation has improved in recent years, attributing recent flooding to unexpected heavy rainfall rather than systemic lapses.

Saini directed officials to work with sensitivity and promptness in resolving public grievances. "Wherever any issue comes to your (officers) notice or a citizen approaches directly with a complaint, it should be addressed on priority and resolved effectively at the earliest," the CM said and stressed that the objective of the administration should not merely be to take action, but to provide relief to people.

Only 10% of funds given, PM-Shri schools in Haryana end year without 'holistic' report cards

Noida.(Agency)

In Feb this year, the Haryana govt decided to get creative with the year-end report cards for PM-Shri school students — planning a colour booklet instead of the usual black-and-white single-sheet report card, detailing each student's extracurricular achievements as well as academic grades. Instead, the session ended with students receiving the old marksheets, not due to poor planning but because the education department did not budget adequately. The state education directorate mandated these cards for Classes VI to XII. However, only one-tenth of the required amount was allocated: Rs 15 per student, far below the estimated printing cost of Rs 150-180 per

copy. Moreover, the reduced fund, roughly Rs 23 lakh, was released only on March 27, just days before the March 31 academic session deadline. The mismatch between allocated funds and actual costs, coupled with the delayed release, left over 1.55 lakh students without the promised booklets. This initiative, part of the PM-Shri schools scheme, aimed to introduce "holistic progress cards" in line with NEP 2020. The shortfall made implementation impossible. About 250 school heads returned the funds before March 31, citing the financial gap. Satyanarayan Yadav, assistant project coordinator of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan in Gurgaon, said, "Even the inadequate funds arrived on March 27, when the session was nearly over. Since

the budget pertained to the previous session, it lapsed and had to be returned." Schools issued regular report cards instead. The incident highlights the gap between official estimates and market costs. Local printers noted that even a basic black-and-white A4 sheet costs around Rs 25, exceeding the per-student budget and falling far short of what is needed for a multi-page colour booklet. This created logistical challenges across the state. The total shortfall is estimated at nearly Rs 2 crore, prompting schools to return the Rs 23 lakh to the treasury. Gurgaon's eight PM-Shri schools, with 8,789 students, received Rs 1,31,835; Faridabad's six schools, with 4,443 students.

5kg LPG cylinders rolled out, but only 480 distributed in three days in Gurgaon

Gurgaon.(Agency)

To prevent migrant workers from returning home amid the ongoing LPG supply constraint, fuel companies have introduced 5kg cylinders that can be purchased even without a formal gas connection. Residents can access these smaller cylinders by presenting any government-approved identity document. However, distribution has been sluggish — only 480 cylinders have been issued across the district in the past three days. Separately, some workers pointed out that the system only allows the purchase and refill of a fixed 5kg quantity, unlike the informal market, which allowed buying or refilling based on what one could afford. Gas agencies said the pace will pick up as more people become aware of the option. People will need to visit the nearest gas agency for the first purchase, but subsequent refills can be booked online and delivered directly to their doorstep. Authorities hope the initiative will ease the crisis and ensure uninterrupted access to cooking fuel for vulnerable households.

At present, there is no clarity about the number of refills that can be provided to one person. LPG agencies said they will monitor the distribution of small



cylinders, which will be tagged to the identity document. "One small LPG cylinder can last around 20-25 days for a family, so one can get a maximum of one or two cylinders in a month," said an official of a fuel company. He clarified that there is capping, and the allotment of small LPG cylinders will be monitored.

Bharat Singh Yadav, president of the All Indian LPG Distributors Federation (Haryana), said the direction from govt came on April 1 and agencies started

placing orders from April 2. "The initial numbers are fewer, but they will increase in the coming days as more people become aware of it," said Yadav. Anyone without a formal LPG connection can walk into a nearby agency with a valid identity document and get a 5kg LPG cylinder after paying Rs 1,564. "From the next refill, they will have to pay Rs 584, including Rs 30 delivery charges," said Yadav, adding that refill requests could be placed online and cylinders will be delivered to their home. The 5kg

cylinders, known as Free Trade LPG (FTL), come under the commercial LPG category, and consumers will be charged commercial rates. Domestic LPG costs Rs 64.9 per kg, while commercial LPG costs Rs 110.26 per kg, and 5kg LPG will cost Rs 110.8 per kg.

THE SIKH TIMES

Edited, Printed, Published
Owned by Simmi Babbar
N - 31, Dr. Mukherjee Nagar
Delhi-110009

Printed at Qaumi Patrika Printing
Press, A-4/A-144, Tronica City
(Loni), Ghaziabad (Uttar Pradesh)
Corporate Office:

5, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg,
Press Area, ITO, New Delhi
Editor-in-Chief
Gurcharan Singh Babbar
Mob : 9654077232, 9971359517
Website : www.thesikhimes.in
Email : sikhimesindia@gmail.com

RNI No. DELENG/2008/25465

Shaheed Udham Singh State Institute of Medical Sciences to be built in Hoshiarpur, to be completed in 2 years: CM Mann

Contd...Front page
Alakhs got five opportunities to govern the state but instead of serving the people they mercifully plundered the people and state.

by them and bloomed during their long era of misrule. Coming down heavily on the Akali leadership, CM Bhagwant Singh Mann asserted, "These are opportunist leaders who change their colors and their stance, like a chameleon, as per their convenience and vested political interests.

out and the dubious characters of Badal's ancestors are etched on the pages of history. The hands of this family are drenched with the blood of the patriots and the role of these traitors in backstabbing the nationalists can never be forgotten.

the basic issues." He added, "Captain Amarinder Singh and his family has a dubious track record of deceiving Punjab by standing by every force inimical to the state whether they were Mughals, Britishers or now BJP.

people." Targeting Congress, CM Bhagwant Singh Mann said, "In Congress every leader is aspiring to become the head of the state. They have more CMs rather than ordinary workers to work in the polls.

that can pull people out of this vicious circle by raising their standard of living. Education is the light that illuminates the world by dispelling the darkness and the state government is laying special thrust on it.

launched under which health cards are being issued to all 65 lakh families in Punjab. Every family is entitled to free treatment up to 210 lakh and over 30 lakh beneficiaries have already received health cards.

Announcing further schemes, CM Bhagwant Singh Mann said, "Under Mawan Dheeyan Satkar Yojna every woman will be entitled for 21,000 per month and 21,500 per month for women belonging to Scheduled Castes.

Wife, 'lover' arrested for plotting husband's stabbing in Delhi
New Delhi: What began as a mysterious stabbing by unidentified assailants in a park in central Delhi turned into a chilling case of betrayal and conspiracy, as police arrested a 24-year-old woman and her alleged accomplice for orchestrating a brutal knife attack on her husband at their house in Patel Nagar, officials said on Friday.

It is for general information that I, ABUL IMTYAZ KHAN S/O ABUL RASHID KHAN R/O RZA 801B, Pul Pehlpadpur, South Delhi, Delhi-110044 declare that name of mine, my father and my mother have been wrongly written as IMTIYAZ KHAN, ABDUL RASHEED KHAN and FATIMA BIBI in my 10th and 12th Class educational documents.

NAME CHANGE
I, SHANTI DEVI W/o Krishan Kumar Jha R/O S-63, Vikas Nagar, Near Hanuman Mandir, Hasthasthal, Uttam Nagar, New Delhi-110059 have changed my name to MADHU permanently.

NAME CHANGE
I, Army No-JC-114928K Rank EX SUB Name- RAKSHAPAL SINGH, resident of VILL-SANTO TILLA, PO-NERHI NAURANGA, TEHSIL-AMB, DIST-UNA, HIMACHAL PRADESH-177210, have changed my daughter's name from ANJANA DEVI to ANJANA RAJPUT KHANNA for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 07/04/2026 before Executive Magistrate, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE
I, SIRAJ ANWAR S/O Abdul Hameed, R/O 24B, Pocket-3, Paschim Puri, Paschim Vihar, Delhi-110063, have changed my name to SERAJ ANWAR for all purposes.

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to inform you that Mr. Yogendra Saxena / Mrs. Renuka Saxena intend to purchase a house built on land measuring 200 sq. yds., pertaining to Kharsa No. 224K, situated in the area of Village Mamra, Pargana & Tehsil Dadri, District Gautam Budh Nagar (U.P.), from Mrs. Suresh Devi. The original owners of the entire property were Mr. Banwari and others, as per revenue records. Unfortunately, Mr. Banwari expired, leaving behind his legal heirs, namely Mr. Aman Singh, Mr. Chaman Singh, Mr. Pawan Singh, and Mr. Madan Singh. Thereafter, Mr. Aman Singh, Mr. Chaman Singh, and Mr. Pawan Singh provided their No Objection Certificates (NOCs) regarding the sale/gift/transfer of the share of Mr. Madan Singh. Subsequently, Mr. Madan Singh gifted the said property to his wife, Mrs. Suresh Devi, through a Gift Deed dated 24.12.2025. Consequently, Mrs. Suresh Devi 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 RBL Bank Ltd., Okhla Branch, New Delhi. If any person(s) objection & regarding subject(s), 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, BHANUDAS is a real Father of No. 2803148X Rank HAV Name GITTE RAMESH BHANUDAS presently residing VILL-SOMTHANA POST-KURULA TEH. KANDHAR DIST-NANDED (MAHARASHTRA)-431742 have changed my name from BHANUDAS to BHANUDAS PIRAJI GITTE and date of birth from 08/06/1952 for all future purposes. Vide affidavit dated 27.01.2026 before Public Notary Delhi India.

NAME CHANGE
I, S W NEENA is legally Wife of No. 2803782A Rank-HAV Name- SHU R presently residing at VILL-PERUMKADAVILA, POST-PERUMKADAVILA TEH-NEYAYATTINKARA DIST-TRIVANDRUM (KERALA)-695124, have changed my name from S W NEET??? to S W NEENA and date of birth to 10/05/1990 for all future purposes. Vide affidavit dated 20.03.2026 before Public Notary Delhi.

NAME CHANGE
I, RAMKOR is a real mother of No. 2824179L Rank-SEP Name CHAWAN SHAKSHAM BHIMRAO presently residing VILL-SAWARAGAON MUDHE POST-GANDHARI TEHLONAR DIST-BULDANA (MAHARASHTRA)-443302 have changed my name from RAMKOR to CHAWAN RAMKOR BHIMRAO and date of birth to 01/01/1987 for all future purposes. Vide affidavit dated 06.04.2026 before Public Notary Delhi India.

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is for general information that I, AVAN son of Shri IKRAMUDDIN, residing at L-21-191-A, Gali No.10/4, Sangam Vihar, Deoli, South Delhi, Delhi-110062, declare that name of my mother has been wrongly written as TABASSUM in my 10th Class Educational Documents. The actual name of my mother is NOORI, which may be amended accordingly.

PUBLIC NOTICE
I, Dayanand Kurekja S/O Tirath Das, R/O 1660, MULATANI MOHALLA, RANI BAGH, SHAKUR BASTI, North West Delhi, Delhi - 110034 have changed my name to Daya Nand for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE
I, Ajay Raghav S/O Harbeer Singh R/O Bhondsi (168), Sohna, Gurugram, Haryana - 122102 have changed my name to Ajay Kumar for all future purposes.

Public Notice
It is for general information that I, SUMAN W/O Narendar R/O C 1488, New yadav enclave, Kirari suleman nagar, Prem nagar 3, Kirari Suleman Nagar, PO: Sultanpuri C Block, DIST: North West Delhi, Delhi-110086, declare that name of my husband has been wrongly written as POORAN in my minor son namely DEENU aged 15 years and name of my husband has been wrongly written as Purn in my minor daughter namely Humay Kumari aged 11 years her school record. The actual name of my husband is NARENDER, which may be amended accordingly.

Public Notice
"BE IT KNOWN TO ALL CONCERNED that my clients Mr. DARBARA SINGH S/O Late S. Sampuran Singh and Mrs. HARJEET KAUR W/o S. Darbara Singh, both R/O WZ-G/12, Gali No.2, Sant Nagar Extension, Tilak Nagar, West Delhi, Delhi-110018, hereby declare that they have expelled, disowned and disinherited their son i.e. "AMRIT PAL SINGH" & Daughter-in-law i.e. "PARAMJEET KAUR alias NANCY" W/o Amrit Pal Singh & two grandsons i.e. (1) "GURKIRAT SINGH" (aged 18 years) and (2) "MURAJ SINGH" (aged 12 years) both S/O Amrit Pal Singh & Paramjeet Kaur alias Nancy from their all movable, immovable Properties whatsoever / wherever situated & Bank Deposits etc. They have also released all their relations with their above mentioned Son, Daughter-in-law & Grandsons for all intents and purposes, and my clients hereby declare that they shall not be responsible for any of acts and omissions of their above mentioned Son, Daughter-in-law & Grandsons from hereon. Anybody dealing with their above mentioned Son, Daughter-in-law & Grandsons shall do so at his/her their own peril."

NAME CHANGE
I, RAMKOR is a real mother of No. 2824179L Rank-SEP Name CHAWAN SHAKSHAM BHIMRAO presently residing VILL-SAWARAGAON MUDHE POST-GANDHARI TEHLONAR DIST-BULDANA (MAHARASHTRA)-443302 have changed my name from RAMKOR to CHAWAN RAMKOR BHIMRAO and date of birth to 01/01/1987 for all future purposes. Vide affidavit dated 06.04.2026 before Public Notary Delhi India.

NAME CHANGE
I, Rakesh Kumar S/O NARAYAN SINGH, R/O 143, Makimpur (27), Deepalpur, Sonapat Haryana-131021 have changed my name to Rakesh Anil for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE
I, SARKAT NISHA wife of Shri JAHID KHAN, residing at K. No. 156, Near M.C.D. School, Chandan Hula, Chatter Pur, PO: Fatehpur Beri, District: South Delhi, Delhi-110074, have changed the name of my minor daughter, GIRL aged 09 years and she shall hereafter be known as RIZWANA NISHA.

NAME CHANGE
I, Som Nath S/O Amar Nath Sachdeva R/O Flat No. 105, Ground Floor, Guru Kirpa Apartment, Geetanjali Enclave, Bhawani Road, Rottlak-124001, Haryana have changed my name to Som Nath Sachdeva for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE
I, RAJNI W/O Narendar Singh Gusaan R/O A-80 B, Block-A, Suraksha Vihar, Vikas Nagar, Uttam Nagar, Delhi-110059, have changed my name to RAJNI GUSAIN permanently.

NAME CHANGE
I, NARINDER S/O Jabar Singh Gusaan R/O A-80 B, Block-A, Suraksha Vihar, Vikas Nagar, Uttam Nagar, Delhi-110059, have changed my name to NARENDER SINGH GUSAIN permanently.

NAME CHANGE
I, Tushar S/O Anun Pandey R/O H.No. 1476/502, Gali no. 8, Mastanpuri, Near Shiv Mandir, Gurugram, have changed my name from Tushar to Tushar Pandey for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE
I, Rahul Pratap Singh S/O: Surendra Pal Singh, R/O village balka, Nalka, Bai Urf Balka, Bulandshahr, Bagla, Uttar Pradesh, 245409, have changed the name of my minor daughter Pri aged 10 years and she shall hereafter be known as Paridhi.

NAME CHANGE
I, JAY DEV S/O Hawa Singh R/O B-24, Gali No. 3, Extension-2 B Nangoli, Delhi - 110041, Delhi have changed my name from JAY DEV to JAYDEV for all intents and purposes.

NAME CHANGE
I, Dayanand Kurekja S/O Tirath Das, R/O 1660, MULATANI MOHALLA, RANI BAGH, SHAKUR BASTI, North West Delhi, Delhi - 110034 have changed my name to Daya Nand for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE
I, Ajay Raghav S/O Harbeer Singh R/O Bhondsi (168), Sohna, Gurugram, Haryana - 122102 have changed my name to Ajay Kumar for all future purposes.

Public Notice
This is to inform you that Mrs. Preeti, wife of Mr. Mahender Kumar Chaudhary, intends to purchase the entire built-up first floor of Property No. 72-A (Old No. 72), admeasuring 761 sq. yards (i.e., 63.95 sq. meters), situated at Ram Nagar, Krishna Nagar, in the area of Village Khureji Khas, Illaga Shadara, Delhi-110051, from Mr. Kewal Kishor Pant. The original owner of the entire property was Mr. Amar Sushil Kapoor, who sold the property to Mr. Krishna Nand Pant through a Sale Deed dated 31.07.1973. Unfortunately, Mr. Krishna Nand Pant (also known as K. N. Pant) passed away on 04.01.2017, leaving behind the following legal heirs: Mrs. Basanti Pant (Wife), Mr. Mahesh Chand Pant (Son), Mr. Parkesh Chand Pant (Son), Mr. Kewal Kishor Pant (Son), Mr. Parkesh Chand Pant (Son), and Mr. Mahesh Chand Pant (Son). Their respective shares in the said floor in favor of Mr. Kewal Kishor Pant through a Relinquishment Deed dated 19.04.2022. Consequently, Mr. Kewal Kishor Pant 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 RBL Bank Ltd., Gurgaon Branch, Haryana. If any person(s) objection & regarding subject(s) or 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, VISHNU BHADUR S/O BHAKTA BHADUR R/O G-39, Harkesh Nagar, Okhla Phase 2, Okhla Industrial Estate, South Delhi, Delhi-110020 do hereby by solemnly affirm and declare that I have embraced ISLAM and renounced HINDUISM with effect from 10-10-2025 vide Serial No. 146 and henceforth I have changed my name from VISHNU BHADUR to WASHIF AHMAD for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE
I, hitherto known as RAJNI SHARMA S/O YOGESH SHARMA R/O H No - 17, Gali No. 2, Ambey Enclave Chauhan Patti, Saba Pur Shadara, North East Delhi, Delhi - 110094 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as REKHA SHARMA.

NAME CHANGE
I, RAJAT KUMAR DUBEY S/O NAWAL KISHOR DUBEY, R/O H NO. 52/1A, 2ND FLOOR, MUNIRKA VILLAGE, PAHARI MUNIRKA, DELHI-110067, have changed the name of my minor son PRANAY DUBEY, aged 10 years and he shall hereafter be known as ATHARY DUBEY. It is certified that I have complied with other legal requirements in this connection.

NAME CHANGE
I, hitherto known as RAJNI SHARMA S/O YOGESH SHARMA R/O H No - 17, Gali No. 2, Ambey Enclave Chauhan Patti, Saba Pur Shadara, North East Delhi, Delhi - 110094 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as REKHA SHARMA.

NAME CHANGE
I, RAJAT KUMAR DUBEY S/O NAWAL KISHOR DUBEY, R/O H NO. 52/1A, 2ND FLOOR, MUNIRKA VILLAGE, PAHARI MUNIRKA, DELHI-110067, have changed the name of my minor son PRANAY DUBEY, aged 10 years and he shall hereafter be known as ATHARY DUBEY. It is certified that I have complied with other legal requirements in this connection.

NAME CHANGE
I, Meen Devi W/o Ramesh Chandra, 7-s, nikhil Estare, shastripuram, sikandra, Agra, Uttar Pradesh - 282007 have changed my name to Mina Devi for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE
I, SALIM AHMED SON OF ZEESHAN AHMAD R/O H NO.208, STREET NO-17, VIJAY PARK, MAULPUR, NORTH EAST, DELHI-110063 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME SALEEM AHMED FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSE.

NAME CHANGE
I, MANISHA D/O RAKESH KUMAR R/O F-33 A PLOT NO-9, KH NO- 653 GROUND FLOOR BLOCK-F, RAMESH NAGAR, Delhi-110015 have changed my name to MANISHA KUMARI.

NAME CHANGE
I, HARISH RAO S/O RAM NARAYAN R/O HIG-2, 3RD FLOOR, A-76 LAXMI APARTMENT, NEW CREATION SCHOOL, DILSHAD COLONY, Delhi-110095 have changed my name to HARISH KUMAR.

NAME CHANGE
I, RITU SAINI W/O BHAT SAINI R/O 136 3RD FLOOR, LAGITWAN NAGAR JEEWAN NAGAR OPPOSITE JEEWAN HOSPITAL GATE NO-5 Delhi-110014 have changed my name to RUCHIKA SAINI.

Public Notice
This is to inform you that Mrs. Preeti, wife of Mr. Mahender Kumar Chaudhary, intends to purchase the entire built-up first floor of Property No. 72-A (Old No. 72), admeasuring 761 sq. yards (i.e., 63.95 sq. meters), situated at Ram Nagar, Krishna Nagar, in the area of Village Khureji Khas, Illaga Shadara, Delhi-110051, from Mr. Kewal Kishor Pant. The original owner of the entire property was Mr. Amar Sushil Kapoor, who sold the property to Mr. Krishna Nand Pant through a Sale Deed dated 31.07.1973. Unfortunately, Mr. Krishna Nand Pant (also known as K. N. Pant) passed away on 04.01.2017, leaving behind the following legal heirs: Mrs. Basanti Pant (Wife), Mr. Mahesh Chand Pant (Son), Mr. Parkesh Chand Pant (Son), Mr. Kewal Kishor Pant (Son), Mr. Parkesh Chand Pant (Son), and Mr. Mahesh Chand Pant (Son). Their respective shares in the said floor in favor of Mr. Kewal Kishor Pant through a Relinquishment Deed dated 19.04.2022. Consequently, Mr. Kewal Kishor Pant 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 RBL Bank Ltd., Gurgaon Branch, Haryana. If any person(s) objection & regarding subject(s) or 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, GHOSH ANAND UTTAM S/O UTTAM GHOSH R/O T-185 T/F F/S BALJEET NAGAR PATEL NAGAR NEW DELHI-110008 have changed my name to ANAND GHOSH Permanently for all future purpose.

NAME CHANGE
I, SABITRI DEVI Wife of No-15202584L, Rank-HAV, Name-VINAY KUMAR SINGH Presently residing at VILL-BHAGWAAN PUR, PO & DISTT-VARANASI, UTTAR PRADESH-221005, have changed my name from SABITRI DEVI to SAVITRI DEVI for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 07/04/2026 before Executive Magistrate, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE
It is for general information that I, SHOUGRAKPAK TARUNKUMAR SINGH S/O SHOUGRAKPAK CHANBI SINGH, R/O Q NO-42-D, TYPE-2, GROUND FLOOR, BLOCK-42, VASANT VIHAR, DELHI-110057, declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as SH. TARUN KR SINGH in my Service Records. The actual name of mine is SHOUGRAKPAK TARUNKUMAR SINGH respectively, which may be amended accordingly. It is certified that I have complied with other legal requirements in this connection.

NAME CHANGE
I, DINESH KUMAR ANAND S/O Harish Anand R/O 110, L.I.G Flats, Pocket-3, Paschim Puri, Delhi-110063, have changed my name to DINESH ANAND permanently.

NAME CHANGE
I, hitherto known as MOHD FAROOQ SON OF MOHD SHAM-SUDDIN, residing at N-55, Abul Fazal Enclave, New Friends Colony, Defence Colony, South East, NCT of Delhi-110025, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as FAKHRUDDIN.

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is informed to all that I Sanjay Kumar Yadav, S/O Mr. Birendra Prasad Yadav, R/O House No. 303, Gali No. 01, Third Floor, Flat No. 16, Krishnapuri Mandawali Fazalpur, Government Dispensary Shakarpur, Delhi, Mandawali Fazalpur, Shakarpur, East Delhi, Delhi-110092, declare that my name in my educational certificate is Sanjay Kumar and in my Aadhaar and PAN cards is Sanjay Kumar Yadav. Both names are mine. Presently and in the future, the name listed in my Aadhaar and PAN cards as Sanjay Kumar Yadav S/O Shri Birendra Prasad Yadav will be considered valid in all documents.

PUBLIC NOTICE
I hitherto known as KASHMIR wife of Late Shri KAMAL SINGH residing at 224, G-Block Dakshinpur, Dr. Ambedkar Nagar, PO: Pushpa Bhawan, District: South Delhi, Delhi-110062, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as KASHMIRA DEVI.

Name Change
I hitherto known as MOHD FAROOQ SON OF MOHD SHAM-SUDDIN, residing at N-55, Abul Fazal Enclave, New Friends Colony, Defence Colony, South East, NCT of Delhi-110025, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as FAKHRUDDIN.

NAME CHANGE
I, CHANDRA PAL S/O BARPI LAL R/O C/184 LODHI COLONY LODHI ROAD DELHI 110003 have changed my name to CHANDER PAL Permanently for all future purpose.

NAME CHANGE
I, GHOSH ANAND UTTAM S/O UTTAM GHOSH R/O T-185 T/F F/S BALJEET NAGAR PATEL NAGAR NEW DELHI-110008 have changed my name to ANAND GHOSH Permanently for all future purpose.

NAME CHANGE
I, ASHA RANI W/O Satish Chauhan R/O RZF-710/4, Rajnagar-II, Street No.1, Palam Colony, Dharamshala Marg, Delhi-110077, have changed my name to ASHA CHAUHAN permanently.

NAME CHANGE
I, MOHAMMED ARSHAD QURESHI S/O Aslam Qureshi R/O 4928 A/25A, Gali No.4 East Old Seelampur, Delhi-110031, have changed my name to MD ARSHAD QURESHI permanently.

NAME CHANGE
I, Virender Sharma, S/O Manohar Lal Sharma, residence of 637, Gali No. 7, Guru Ramdass Nagar, Laxmi Nagar, Delhi 110092 have changed my name to Virender Kumar.

NAME CHANGE
It is for general information that I, SHOUGRAKPAK TARUNKUMAR SINGH S/O SHOUGRAKPAK CHANBI SINGH, R/O Q NO-42-D, TYPE-2, GROUND FLOOR, BLOCK-42, VASANT VIHAR, DELHI-110057, declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as SH. TARUN KR SINGH in my Service Records. The actual name of mine is SHOUGRAKPAK TARUNKUMAR SINGH respectively, which may be amended accordingly. It is certified that I have complied with other legal requirements in this connection.

NAME CHANGE
I, DINESH KUMAR ANAND S/O Harish Anand R/O 110, L.I.G Flats, Pocket-3, Paschim Puri, Delhi-110063, have changed my name to DINESH ANAND permanently.

NAME CHANGE
I, hitherto known as MOHD FAROOQ SON OF MOHD SHAM-SUDDIN, residing at N-55, Abul Fazal Enclave, New Friends Colony, Defence Colony, South East, NCT of Delhi-110025, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as FAKHRUDDIN.

NAME CHANGE
I, ZEB KHATUN W/O MOHD FARAZ R/O S100/10B, JOGA BAI EXTN. JAMIA NAGAR, NEW DELHI 110025, have changed my name to ZEB FARAZ for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE
I, RASHEEDA W/O HASINUDDIN R/O H.NO-G-356 GALI NO 13/2 BHAGIRATHI VIHAR GOKAL PUR NORTH EAST DELHI 110094, CHANGED MY NAME TO KHATOON BANO.

NAME CHANGE
I, MEHBOOB ALAM S/O AHMAD ALI R/O-2549, KATARA MEERA SHIKHOBABAD, FIROZABAD, UTTAR PRADESH 205135, have changed my name to MAHABUB for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE
I, No-2894329N Rank-HONY NB SUB NAME-SUBHASH CHANDRA S/O ANOKHE LAL Presently residing at RZ-535/16B, GALI NO-46, SADB NAGAR PART-2, PALAM VILLAGE, SOUTH WEST DELHI, DELHI-110045, have changed my daughter's name from CHAYA to CHHAYA for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 07/04/2026 before Notary Public, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE
I, HADAR ALI S/O SHAMIM AHMED R/O E-212/1, Abul Fazal Enclave Part-2, Shaheen Bagh Jamia nagar, Delhi-110025, have changed my name to HAIDER ALI permanently.

NAME CHANGE
I, SAMIM AHMAD S/O MOHD RASOOL R/O E-212/1, Abul Fazal Enclave Part-2, Shaheen Bagh Jamia nagar, Delhi-110025, have changed my name to SHAMIM AHMED permanently.

NAME CHANGE
I, NAZAMA BAGAM W/O SHAMIM AHMED R/O E-212/1, Abul Fazal Enclave Part-2, Shaheen Bagh Jamia nagar, Delhi-110025, have changed my name to NAZMA BEGUM permanently.

NAME CHANGE
I, ASHA RANI W/O Satish Chauhan R/O RZF-710/4, Rajnagar-II, Street No.1, Palam Colony, Dharamshala Marg, Delhi-110077, have changed my name to ASHA CHAUHAN permanently.

NAME CHANGE
I, MOHAMMED ARSHAD QURESHI S/O Aslam Qureshi R/O 4928 A/25A, Gali No.4 East Old Seelampur, Delhi-110031, have changed my name to MD ARSHAD QURESHI permanently.

NAME CHANGE
I, Virender Sharma, S/O Manohar Lal Sharma, residence of 637, Gali No. 7, Guru Ramdass Nagar, Laxmi Nagar, Delhi 110092 have changed my name to Virender Kumar.

NAME CHANGE
I, hitherto known as MOHD FAROOQ SON OF MOHD SHAM-SUDDIN, residing at N-55, Abul Fazal Enclave, New Friends Colony, Defence Colony, South East, NCT of Delhi-110025, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as FAKHRUDDIN.

NAME CHANGE
I, ZEB KHATUN W/O MOHD FARAZ R/O S100/10B, JOGA BAI EXTN. JAMIA NAGAR, NEW DELHI 110025, have changed my name to ZEB FARAZ for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE
I, RASHEEDA W/O HASINUDDIN R/O H.NO-G-356 GALI NO 13/2 BHAGIRATHI VIHAR GOKAL PUR NORTH EAST DELHI 110094, CHANGED MY NAME TO KHATOON BANO.

NAME CHANGE
I, MEHBOOB ALAM S/O AHMAD ALI R/O-2549, KATARA MEERA SHIKHOBABAD, FIROZABAD, UTTAR PRADESH 205135, have changed my name to MAHABUB for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE
I, VIRENDR KUMAR S/O NAMD RAM GOSWAMI R/O B-272 GD COLONY MAYUR VIHAR PHASE 3 EAST DELHI 110096, CHANGED MY NAME TO VIRENDR KUMAR.

NAME CHANGE
I, JAIPAL SINGH TANWAR S/O MOHAR SINGH TANWAR R/O H.NO-A-31 CHITR GUPTA ROAD NEAR RAMJAS SCHOOL NO 4 POLICE COLONY PAHAR GANJ DELHI 110055, CHANGED MY NAME TO JAIPAL SINGH.

NAME CHANGE
I hitherto known as ASGAR ALI S/O MOHD AMIN ANSARI R/O KI-18D/587, Block-K, Sangam Vihar, New Delhi-110080 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as MD ASGAR ALI.

NAME CHANGE
I, DESH BANDU S/O SHAMBHU DAYAL R/O B-1122 SHASTRI NAGAR, DELHI 110052, CHANGED MY NAME TO DESH BANDHU KHANDELWAL.

NAME CHANGE
I, Bhil Gokul Sonu Army No. 14855482X Rank - NK/MT Presently Posted at Unit 980 TPT Coy ASC Type B, Sujapur Cantt, Pathankot Cantt (Punjab) Ptn - 905980 & Permanent Resident at Post - Khede Tal. Tehsil - Dhule, P. S. - Dhule, Dist - Dhule, State - Maharashtra, Pin 424302 have changed my mother name from Sangita to Sangitabai Sonu Bil & Date of Birth from 20/03/1977 to 01/01/1976 for all future purposes. Vide Affidavit Dated 7th April 2026 before The Notary Public at Delhi in presence of Advocate Rajkumar.

NAME CHANGE
I BHARTI MANKAR W/O YOGESH SARANG MANKAR R/O HOUSE NO 199 FIRST FLOOR SECTOR 6 BAHADURGARH - H.R. 124507 HAVE CHANGED NY NAME TO BHARTI YOGESH MANKAR

NAME CHANGE
I, MANISH KUMAR S/O DALIP KUKAR R/O DEVIKA SKYFER FLAT NO-110 TOWER-3 RAJNAGAR EXTENSION GHAZIABAD U.P PIN 201017 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO MANISH ARORA

NAME CHANGE
I, hitherto known as DANISH N/O S/O NAYEEM UR RAHMAN R/O D1-59, GROUND FLOOR, SOHNA ROAD, SECTOR-49, SOUTH CITY-II, PO GURGAON SOUTH CITY-II, DIST GURGAON, HARYANA-122018, have changed my name to DINESH ARYA and I shall hereafter be known as DINESH ARYA.

Public Notice
It is for general information that I TANISH KUMAR S/O SUNIL R/O Mohalla-Heli Walley, Nizam pur Rashid pur, North West Delhi, Delhi-110081 declare that name of my father has been Wrongly written as SUNIL CHILLIAR in my 10th Class marksheet and certificate. The actual name of my father is SUNIL which may be amended accordingly.

NAME CHANGE
I, hitherto known as RAJESH PANIKAR S/O VIKRAM PANIKAR R/O S-126/615, KANAK DURGA COLONY, R.K. PURAM, SECTOR-12, NEW DELHI-110022 have changed my name to V. RAJESH PANICKER and I shall hereafter be known as V. RAJESH PANICKER

Public Notice
It is for general information that I, SHABANA BANO FAROOQUI W/O JAVED AHMAD, R/O New F-15, J.J.COLONY, Raghbir Nagar, Tagore Garden S.O, West Delhi-110027 declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as SHABANA BANO in my minor son's namely AARISH AHMAD, aged 13 years in her School Records. The actual name of mine is SHABANA BANO FAROOQUI which may be amended accordingly.

NAME CHANGE
I, hitherto known as DANISH N/O S/O NAYEEM UR RAHMAN R/O D1-59, GROUND FLOOR, SOHNA ROAD, SECTOR-49, SOUTH CITY-II, PO GURGAON SOUTH CITY-II, DIST GURGAON, HARYANA-122018, have voluntarily changed my religion from Islam (Muslim) to Hinduism out of my own free will and belief. I further declare that I will profess and practice the Hindu religion and its customs.

NAME CHANGE
I hitherto known as ARJUN SAHNI S/O PATI RAM R/O House No-28C Floor 2nd, Bulward Road, Near Children Home, Bhargav Lane, Civil Lines, North Delhi, Delhi-110054 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as ARJUN NATH.

NAME CHANGE
I hitherto known as BAIDEHI alias ANURADHA D/O ABINASH KUMAR SINHA W/O SHASHI BHUSHAN PRSAD, R/O S-649, School Block, Gali-110-6, Shakarpur, East Delhi, Delhi-110092, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as ANURADHA.

NAME CHANGE
I hitherto known as BAIDEHI alias ANURADHA D/O ABINASH KUMAR SINHA W/O SHASHI BHUSHAN PRSAD, R/O S-649, School Block, Gali-110-6, Shakarpur, East Delhi, Delhi-110092, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as ANURADHA.

NAME CHANGE
I hitherto known as BAIDEHI alias ANURADHA D/O ABINASH KUMAR SINHA W/O SHASHI BHUSHAN PRSAD, R/O S-649, School Block, Gali-110-6, Shakarpur, East Delhi, Delhi-110092, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as ANURADHA.

NAME CHANGE
I hitherto known as BAIDEHI alias ANURADHA D/O ABINASH KUMAR SINHA W/O SHASHI BHUSHAN PRSAD, R/O S-649, School Block, Gali-110-6, Shakarpur, East Delhi, Delhi-110092, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as ANURADHA.

NAME CHANGE
I hitherto known as SUNIL KUMAR S/O BHOOP SINGH R/O House No-17, Kharsa No-25, Vikas Vihar, Niloti Extension, Niloti, West Delhi, Delhi-110041 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as SUNIL.

NAME CHANGE
I hitherto known as BAIDEHI alias ANURADHA D/O ABINASH KUMAR SINHA W/O SHASHI BHUSHAN PRSAD, R/O S-649, School Block, Gali-110-6, Shakarpur, East Delhi, Delhi-110092, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as ANURADHA.

NEWS BOX

30 Indian fishermen repatriated from Sri Lanka

COLOMBO. (Agency)

At least 30 Indian fishermen were repatriated from Sri Lanka on Tuesday and are currently on their way back home, authorities said. "30 Indian fishermen were repatriated from Sri Lanka today and are on their way home," the Indian High Commission here said in a post on X. According to the Sri Lanka Navy, till April 2026, 15 trawlers and 102 Indian fishermen have been arrested by the Navy. In 2025, some 346 fishermen had been arrested in 44 trawlers while poaching in Sri Lankan waters, the Navy said. The Navy spokesman Commander Buddika Sampath told PTI he was not certain which batch of detentions the 30 fishermen were from. "It depends on the court



procedure," he added. The fishermen issue is a contentious one in the ties between India and Sri Lanka, with Lankan Navy personnel even firing at Indian fishermen in the Palk Strait and seizing their boats in several alleged incidents of illegally entering Sri Lankan territorial waters.

Two children among seven dead in fresh Ukraine, Russia strikes

World. (Agency)

Russian aerial attacks on Tuesday killed four people, including a child, in Ukraine as a drone strike by Kyiv hit a house in Russia, killing a child and his parents, according to reports from local officials on both sides. Russia's invasion of Ukraine, launched more than four years ago, has cost hundreds of thousands of lives and displaced millions in the bloodiest conflict in Europe since World War II. The two sides have stepped up deadly long-range drone and missile attacks in recent months, mainly targeting energy infrastructure, with Moscow aiming to dent Ukrainian resolve and Kyiv targeting Russian energy revenues. In Russia, a Ukrainian drone strike on a residential building killed a boy, born in 2014, and two adults in the Russian region of Vladimir, east of Moscow, Governor Alexander Avdeev said. The couple's five-year-old daughter was taken to hospital with burns. The region is more than 500 kilometres (300 miles) from the fighting in eastern Ukraine.

In Ukraine, a Russian drone attack on a passenger bus in the frontline city of Nikopol killed at least three people and wounded 12 others. The bus was "pulling up to the stop -- there were people both on board and at the stop," the head of the region's military administration Oleksandr Ganzha wrote on social media. He posted photos showing a yellow mini-bus ripped open in the attack and the bloodied remains of those killed strewn around the street in the aftermath. This was not a random strike. It was a deliberate act of terror against civilians," he added.

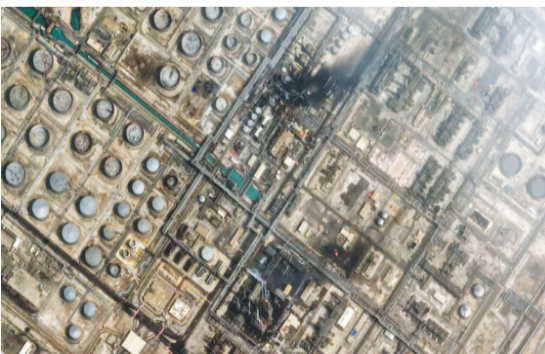
Nikopol, which had a pre-war population of around 100,000 people, lies on the banks of the Dnipro river that cuts through Ukraine and forms a de facto front line in the south of the country.

Saudi Petrochemical Complex Hit Hours After Iran Facilities Are Struck

Houston. (Agency)

Overnight attacks on Saudi Arabia hit a petrochemical complex in a sprawling industrial area in the eastern city of Jubail, a source on the ground told AFP on Tuesday, hours after similar installations in Iran were struck. "An attack caused a fire at the SABIC plants in Jubail. The sounds of explosions were very loud," the source told AFP, referring to the Saudi Basic Industries Corporation. Jubail in eastern Saudi Arabia is home to one of the world's largest industrial cities, where steel, gasoline, petrochemicals, lubricating oil and chemical fertilisers are produced.

On Monday, Israel's Defence Minister Israel Katz said his country conducted a "powerful strike" on Iran's largest petrochemical facility in Asaluyeh and Iranian media reported multiple explosions at the site. The attack on the industrial area came as Saudi



air defence forces engaged a barrage targeting the kingdom's eastern region, with seven ballistic missiles intercepted and destroyed, according to a defence ministry spokesperson. Parts of ballistic missile debris fell around power facilities; damage assessment is underway," the ministry said in a post on X. Early Tuesday, authorities also announced the temporary closure of the major bridge connecting Saudi Arabia and the island nation of Bahrain as a precaution following the issuance of security alerts in the area. "The movement of vehicles across King Fahd Bridge has been suspended as a precautionary measure," said the General Authority for King Fahd Causeway in a post online.

Taiwan opposition leader makes rare visit to China

The KMT supports closer relations with China, which claims Taiwan is part of its territory and has threatened to use force to seize it.

SHANGHAI. (Agency)

Taiwan's main opposition leader landed in China on Tuesday for a rare visit aimed at building cross-strait "peace", as the government warns Beijing will seek to stop US arms sales to the democratic island.

Kuomintang (KMT) chairwoman Cheng Li-wun, who is the party's first leader to visit China in a decade, has insisted on meeting Chinese President Xi Jinping before she visits the United States -- Taiwan's main security backer. The KMT supports closer relations with China, which claims Taiwan is part of its territory and has threatened to use force to seize it. But Cheng, whose unexpected rise to the top of the KMT drew a congratulatory message from Xi in October, has been accused by critics, including inside the party, of being too pro-

China. The KMT leader landed at an airport in Shanghai early Tuesday afternoon, state news agency Xinhua said. Live video from Taiwanese media showed her being presented with a bouquet of flowers as she descended from a Shanghai Airlines plane, before being driven away in a convoy that seemingly bypassed the airport terminal. Before her departure for Shanghai, Cheng told journalists that Taiwan "must do everything in our power to prevent war from breaking out". "To preserve peace is to preserve Taiwan," Cheng told a news conference at KMT headquarters in Taipei. "Goodwill must be built up and mutual trust needs to be expanded, step by step, by both sides." Ahead of the trip, Taiwan's top China policy body warned Beijing would attempt to "cut off Taiwan's military purchases from the US and cooperation with other countries", which the KMT denies. "This trip is entirely for cross-strait peace and stability, so it has nothing to do with arms procurement or other issues," Cheng said last week.

Taiwanese lawmakers have been at loggerheads over the government's plan to spend NT\$1.25 trillion (\$39 billion) on

defence, which has been stalled for months in the opposition-controlled parliament. Cheng will be in China for six days, visiting Shanghai, Nanjing and Beijing where she hopes to meet Xi. While KMT party



members regularly fly to China for exchanges with officials, its last leader to visit was Hung Hsiu-chu in 2016. US pressure China severed high-level contact with Taiwan that year after Tsai Ing-wen of the Democratic Progressive Party won the presidency and rejected Beijing's claims to the island. Cross-strait relations have worsened since then as China ramped up military pressure with near daily deployments of fighter jets and warships

As Trump orders UFO data released, a question hangs: If aliens exist, what would they think of us?

World. (Agency)

For generations, human beings have wondered: What would alien life from another planet be like? But we rarely ask the opposite: What would they think of us? It's a question that can produce some, well, uncomfortable answers if you happen to be an earthling. "If I were looking at Earth from a distance, I would be pretty disappointed," theoretical physicist Avi Loeb says. "Most of our investing is dealing with conflicts to prevent other people from killing us or us killing others. Look at the Ukraine war over a little bit of territory. That is not a sign of intelligence." The debate on whether little green men or UFOs are among us escalated in February when former President Barack Obama, responding to a podcaster's question, said aliens are "real," but he "hasn't seen them" and "they're not being kept at Area 51." President Donald Trump later announced on social media that

he was directing release of government files because of "tremendous interest." Stepped-up interest in UFOs also is swirling as the United States heads back toward the moon with Wednesday's launch of NASA's Artemis II mission. The four astronauts aboard will do a fly-around of the moon before returning to Earth.

In a world riven by war, civil unrest, climate change and divisiveness, it's easy to wonder what newcomers to Planet Earth might make of us and our struggles. Whatever the case, well over a majority of Americans echo the sentiment of the slogan from "The X-Files": "The truth is out there."

A 2021 survey conducted by the Pew Research Center showed about two-thirds of Americans said their best guess is that intelligent life exists on other planets. About half of U.S. adults said UFOs reported by people in the military are "definitely" or "probably" evidence of intelligent life outside

Earth. "We don't want to think this is the only place in this extraordinarily and incomprehensibly large universe where life and intelligence and even technology have emerged," says Bill Diamond, president and chief executive of the SETI Institute in Mountain View, California. Something is up there. But what? Americans have been fascinated by the thought of life outside this planet following the recovery of debris in 1947 near Roswell, New Mexico. The military initially said the material was from a flying disc, only to reverse course and tell the public it was from a weather balloon. Hollywood ran with it. Flying saucers, little green men and eventually humanoid gray aliens became part of popular culture. April 5 even is celebrated annually throughout the iconic "Star Trek" franchise as "First Contact Day" to mark the date in 2063 when humankind, in "Trek" canon, first made contact with Vulcans.

Vietnam parliament elects party chief To Lam as president

Lam is the first person to secure the top two jobs through the party's normal leadership selection processes, rather than stepping in following the death of an officeholder.

HANOI. (Agency)

Vietnam Communist Party boss To Lam was elected president by the National Assembly on Tuesday, capping his bid to centralise authority in a nation where senior cadres have traditionally governed collectively.

After securing another term as the party's general secretary in January, Lam will now take over the number two position in Vietnamese politics -- unifying leadership of the party and state as

President Xi Jinping did in neighbouring China. "For me, taking the responsibility of the general secretary and the president is a very huge honor... a responsibility, and a



sacred and noble duty," Lam said in a speech after being sworn in. Tran Thanh Man, chairman of the National Assembly, said 100 percent of deputies who were present approved the resolution electing Lam president for

the 2026-2031 term. Lam is the first person to secure the top two jobs through the party's normal leadership selection processes, rather than stepping in following the death of an officeholder. In less than two years as party chief, he has swept aside rivals and transformed the country through an aggressive reform drive -- literally redrawing the map as he combined provinces and slashed bureaucracy.

Lam has set an ambitious target of 10 percent annual growth for the Southeast Asian manufacturing hub and muscled the party behind his vision for development-oriented reform. Vietnam is both a repressive one-party state and a regional economic bright spot, where the Communist Party has sought to deliver rapid growth to bolster its legitimacy.

Iran urges human chains to guard power plants as tensions escalate; Saudi Arabia closes bridge to Bahrain

TEHRAN. (Agency)

In a striking act of cultural defiance, Iranian musician Ali Ghamsari performed a traditional tar recital outside the Damavand power plant, responding to recent threats from US President Donald Trump to target Iran's energy infrastructure. Captured on video, Ghamsari is seen seated on a traditional mat, playing the tar, a long-necked instrument central to Persian classical music. A prominent musician and composer, Ghamsari specialises in the tar and Persian classical traditions. "Hello my dear friends. I am currently at the Damavand Power Plant. I wish you were here with me, as this is a site that has been threatened with attack, which I hope will not happen. I hope the sound of my tar can inspire peace and help keep the lights in people's homes on," Ghamsari said in the video.

The recital appears to be a direct response to Trump's ultimatum, in which he threatened a large-scale bombing campaign against Iran's civilian infrastructure if the Strait of Hormuz was not reopened by Tuesday evening (US time). Trump warned that failure to comply would result in attacks on "each and every" electric generating plant and key bridges in Iran. Speaking on Monday, Trump stated that the facilities would be left "burning, exploding, and never to be used again" within a four-hour window. He added during a White House briefing, "The entire country could be taken out in one night, and that night might be tomorrow night." Trump set a deadline of Tuesday, 8:00 PM ET for Iran to reach an agreement, warning that there would be "no bridges, no power plants" after that. He described the situation as a "critical period," asserting that Washington had given Tehran sufficient time to negotiate. In response, Iran's Deputy Sports Minister, Alireza Rahimi, encouraged citizens, including artists and athletes, to form "human chains" around power plants to protect them. Rahimi said, "These are our wealth and belongings," inviting people to gather at key facilities. He condemned the threats as a war crime and emphasised, "We will stand hand in hand to show civilian lives are not targets." Iranian representatives at the United Nations have similarly expressed concern, calling the threats a violation of international law safeguarding civilian infrastructure. International agencies have also voiced alarm. Rafael Grossi, head of the International Atomic Energy Agency, expressed "deep concern" after recent projectile strikes landed near the Bushehr nuclear power plant, stressing that energy facilities must not be targeted.

Artemis II completes record-breaking trip around moon

Artemis II surpassed Apollo 13's distance record of 248,655 miles (400,171 kilometers) set in April 1970, right before the fly-around and intense lunar observations got started.

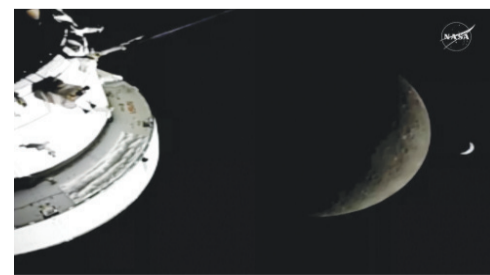
HOUSTON. (Agency)

Emerging from behind the moon, the Artemis II astronauts pointed their capsule toward home Monday night after beholding views of the lunar far side never before witnessed and setting a new distance record for humanity. The seven-hour flyby was the highlight of NASA's first return to the moon since the Apollo era with three Americans and one Canadian -- a step toward landing boot prints near the moon's south pole in just two years.

First came a prize -- and bragging rights --

for Artemis II. Artemis II surpassed Apollo 13's distance record of 248,655 miles (400,171 kilometers) set in April 1970, right before the fly-around and intense lunar observations got started. "It is blowing my mind what you can see with the naked eye from the moon right now. It is just unbelievable," Canadian astronaut Jeremy Hansen radioed ahead of the flyby. He challenged "this generation and the next to make sure this record is not long-lived." Moments after breaking Apollo 13's record, the astronauts asked permission to name two fresh lunar craters already observed. They proposed Integrity, their capsule's name, and Carroll in honor of commander Reid Wiseman's wife who died of cancer in 2020. Wiseman wept as Hansen put in the request to Mission Control, and all four astronauts embraced in tears. "Such a majestic view out here," Wiseman radioed once he regained his composure and started picture-taking. The astronauts called down that they managed to capture the moon and Earth in the same

shot, and provided a running commentary to scientists back in Houston on what they were seeing. Some peaks were so bright, pilot Victor Glover noted, that they looked



as though they were covered in snow. Besides photographing the scenes with high-powered Nikon cameras, the astronauts also pulled out their iPhones for some impromptu shots. Astronauts get an Apollo wake-up message. Wiseman, Glover, Hansen and Christina Koch started the momentous day with the voice of Apollo 13 commander Jim Lovell, who

recorded a wake-up message just two months before his death last August. "Welcome to my old neighborhood," said Lovell, who also flew on Apollo 8, humanity's first lunar visit. "It's a historic day and I know how busy you'll be, but don't forget to enjoy the view." They took up with them the Apollo 8 silk patch that accompanied Lovell to the moon, and showed it off as the crucial flyby approached. "It's just a real honor to have that on board with us," said Wiseman. "Let's go have a great day." Artemis II is using the same maneuver that Apollo 13 did after its "Houston, we've had a problem" oxygen tank explosion wiped out any hope of a moon landing. Known as a free-return lunar trajectory, this no-stopping-to-land route takes advantage of Earth and the moon's gravity, reducing the need for fuel. It's a celestial figure-eight that put the astronauts on course for home, once they emerged from behind the moon Monday evening.

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 Upadhay 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.

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.

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.

Kings and rulers: When the crown goes to the head

America was born in revolt against a mad king who forced a tax on tea. The exit of King George III and the formation of the US of A is a chapter of history that aged well. Or that's what we thought till the world found itself in a familiar place again. The 47th US President has, effectively, imposed a tariff on Americans today. The yo-yo of words and events is dizzying. On Wednesday, Donald J Trump declared victory in Operation Epic Fury. On Friday, he said the war would take two more weeks, as Iran shot down an F15-E and an A10 fighter jet. Not every American marched to "No kings" chants at the recent protests, but most are caught between the split-screen of Trump's Truth posts and truths. A world turned asunder is wondering and global leaders are asking if the madman act is a reality! History offers some clues. Roman Emperor Caligula, aka Gaius Caesar Augustus Germanicus, led an invasion of Britain in 40 CE. He took his army to the English Channel, went into the sea in his trireme, turned back and asked his soldiers to collect seashells in their helmets and tunics as spoils of the ocean. In 1812, Napoleon invaded Russia, aiming for a swift victory. The Russians decimated his Grande Armée, triggering the end of Napoleon's empire. Cut to the present era of grand illusions. Trump maintains that his tariffs are a \$600-billion success story. Fact check: the US Supreme Court ruled against it and a trade court ordered refunds. The US-Israel attacks were aimed at 'obliterating' Iranian nuclear and missile sites that were claimed to have been 'obliterated' in June 2025, too. This week, Trump declared Iran must reopen the Strait of Hormuz or the US would 'obliterate' its power plants. Is the war about restoring order as it was before the war itself, which started with the US's strikes on February 28? The fog of war clouds reason. The US, with its track record in Vietnam, Iraq and Afghanistan, should know this better than others. Trump expressed surprise that Iran attacked other Gulf nations and choked Hormuz. His surprise is incredulous as both his Intelligence Director Tulsi Gabbard and CIA Director John Ratcliffe testified before Congress that Trump had been warned about the fallout. Joe Kent, a MAGA loyalist and chief of counterterrorism, quit urging the president to reverse course as Iran posed "no imminent threat" to the US. Kent said the war was the result of "pressure from Israel and its powerful American lobby". The question is whether the ruler hears or listens. German Emperor Kaiser Wilhelm II sacked Otto von Bismarck in 1890 as he desired global expansion and Bismarck didn't agree. He let the treaty with Russia lapse, allowing France, Russia and Britain to come together in World War I. The reasons for Hitler's invasion of the Soviet Union in 1941 ranged between delusion and economic desperation. A practitioner of segmented lies, Hitler gave his generals a set of reasons and the German people something else.

Leaders with unprecedented victories or fortuitous rise to power often suffer from hubris—a list that includes Margaret Thatcher, George W Bush and Tony Blair in the modern era. In essence, they come to believe their own myths. That produces a domination delusion, which breeds arrogance, contempt for criticism and a sense of impunity. A crisis in such a circumstance triggers 'bystander behaviour'. In 1968, psychologists John Darley and Bibb Latané found a simple rule: the more people witness something going wrong, the less likely that anyone would intervene. The fiction survives as long as it serves convenience. There is a thin line separating narcissism from out-of-body delusions. Trump loves awards—even those given to others. He likes to be praised regularly, like King Lear, by his cabinet. He insists on his signature on American currency and his name on iconic places. His scatter-shots of distraction include rants about sharpie pens, about Bruce Springsteen looking like a dried prune, about his YouTube clips from 1980 to 2024, and a cryptic post that said 'Kangaroo court' with three exclamation marks but no explanation.

Gas what, the chullah may just see a comeback

Way down on the scale of lies, pointless deaths and destruction is our fear of running out of cooking gas

AS a species, we humans have been on our planet for only a flash in its long history and yet, somewhere in our heads, we think we are going to be around for a while. We even plan for this. Even though we seem to have a mental geometric progression in seeing how much damage and destruction we can cause in the least amount of time. Just take a look around. The conflict in West Asia has impacted just about everything. Across the world, the pinch has been felt in numerous ways. Way down on the scale of lies, pointless deaths, destruction, misery and discomfort, is our fear of running out of cooking gas cylinders. The way toilet rolls were gathered and hoarded in the western world at the start of the Covid pandemic, a similar status may be accorded to LPG cylinders in India. Even if the toilet roll is easier to handle (or hoard). Even if it has a nastier purpose. Short of giving the standard blessing, "May you live long", to the cylinder every morning, one has done just about everything to be as miserly and respectful as possible with its use. Hot water is taken from the electric geyser and only then used over a cooking gas flame. Like several others across the country — who I'm sure are also doing this — the evening ends by building both muscle and stress by manipulating the gas cylinder to and fro. This is not to pretend that the cylinder or I are yoga masters or chiropractors, but this is to try and gauge how long it shall continue to grace us with its benign presence. The solitary electric plate can hardly suffice for a family and a dog whose appetite belies its small size. It has been mentioned that we may have to move to another city and a PNG connection.

At the same time, yet again, for no fault of theirs, my friends in the tourism-hospitality industry are looking worriedly at the months ahead. Summarising what all of them sense, one said: "We are always the first to suffer and the last to recover." For cooking, many have been compelled to shift to electricity and even kerosene. Rows of induction stoves stand parked like a reserve force that is all ready to sally out when summoned. Those who are in rural areas, in some measure, have reverted to wood. To state the obvious, here, the earnings of summer are expected to act as a buffer for the lean months in the tourism-dependent economies of Kashmir, Himachal and Uttarakhand — and several other places. While the severe impact of the Covid years is still rattling around, on wings of cretins, this 'summer buffer' seems to be flying out of the window. It's not without reason that the industry has minimal faith in government support where utterances of help have turned out to be just promises in the wind. The shrapnel of this blast will go far and wide. From hoteliers and transporters to porters to dhaba-wallahs, everyone will be impacted. Even the



government won't get its chunk of luxury tax. While we are at it, a splinter or two is likely to find its way to 'Yours truly'. Before our family had a gas connection, which was a prized item in the late 1960s and early 1970s, we had a massive coal-burning chullah and electric hotplates in the kitchen. Through the good offices of a family friend, a cooking gas connection and stove arrived. That set of gas burners held a measure of trepidation as, in those early days of something that is indispensable today, apprehensions flew thick and fast about its safety. In our neighbourhood, we were pioneers of sorts and were to be held responsible should any mishap take place. Quickly, that old coal-burning stove wound its way out of our kitchen and lives. But while it lived and burned, this was a thing to behold. For one, it took over a good chunk of kitchen space. The coal used in the grates was not the 'steam coal' which went into the fireplaces, but was something called 'coke'. This had

nothing to do with the drink or drug, but was something like processed coal that yielded greater heat and lesser smoke. This monumental chullah was made of brick and cement with mud plastered over — and the plastering took place on a regular basis. It had five burners on top, one in the centre which was flanked by a pair on either side. Just below the centre one was an iron-encased oven and from what may sound like a primitive device emerged some wonderful bakes. At night, coal dust, keri, was poured over the centre burner and a small hole pierced in the centre. A large cooking pot full of water was placed over the smouldering fire, which would be resuscitated in the morning. There was nothing romantic and lovable about that chullah. It just happened to be there in the absence of other cooking methods. As far as I'm concerned, there is very little lovable about piles of ash, soot-blackened walls and smoke-filled rooms. Well, for all you know, we may end up going back to them.

AAP infighting: Chadha episode should be an eye-opener

Having lost Delhi last year, AAP cannot afford to let infighting weaken its desperate bid to retain Punjab.

ALL is not well within the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP). The rift between Rajya Sabha MP Raghav Chadha and the Arvind Kejriwal-led top brass bodes ill for the party, especially in Punjab, which goes to the polls in less than 12 months. The high command has removed Chadha from the post of AAP deputy leader in the Upper House, presumably because of its perception that he deviated from the party line in Parliament. The decision has prompted him to hit back with the defiant remark that he has been "silenced, not defeated". Senior AAP leaders such as Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, former Delhi CM Atishi and Delhi unit president Saurabh Bharadwaj have trained their guns on Chadha, accusing him of remaining silent on the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls and other key matters concerning the party and the Opposition. Ironically, Chadha has been quite vocal both inside and outside Parliament, raising issues such as surge pricing by airlines, the plight



of gig workers and anomalies in mobile data recharge plans. However, his apparent reluctance to confront the Modi government and take part in Opposition walkouts has not gone down well with the AAP leadership. A telltale sign was evident when Chadha kept mum on the discharge of Kejriwal, Manish Sisodia and other AAP leaders by a Delhi court in the excise policy case over a month ago. He was also conspicuous by his absence from a rally addressed by Kejriwal at Jantar Mantar on March 1.

Having lost Delhi last year, AAP cannot afford to let infighting weaken its desperate bid to retain Punjab. The anti-incumbency factor and the presence of multiple rivals — the Congress, BJP, Shiromani Akali Dal, Akali Dal (Waris Punjab De) — are making things tougher for the ruling party. The onus is on AAP to reach out to disgruntled leaders and keep its flock together — before it's too late.

50 years of the bitten Apple

What Apple perfected over five decades isn't just products, but a psychology — turning simplicity into status and loyalty into lock-in

Brands are built on a single foundational contract: you believe what the company promises, and in return, give them considerably more money than the product is strictly worth. What makes Apple interesting at 50 is how completely it has made consumers forget they signed that contract. Apple choreographs longing. That the company was founded on April 1, 1976 — April Fool's Day — tells you something about the nature of the trick. To understand how the brand got its character, you have to go somewhere no connecting flight takes you: a small ashram in the Kumaon hills called Kainchi Dham, two years before bitten apples bit the world.

It's 1974. Steve Jobs is 19, broke, signing letters to friends with one word — shanti. He travels to Uttarakhand, finds Neem Karoli Baba had passed away the previous year, and stays anyway — for seven months. He wore khadi, sat in silence, and watched people who owned almost nothing carry themselves with a dignity he hadn't encountered in any American living room.

The experience of obsessive emptying-out translated, back in California, into a brand conviction: the best product removes rather than adds. Restraint, practised consistently and expensively enough, reads as authority. Simplicity is the most expensive thing a brand can sell. I've seen this across decades of image creation and brand-building. Most companies, given the chance, add. Apple built an entire identity on not doing so, then charged a premium for the absence.

When Apple wanted to enter India, I was roped into a trip to Hong Kong to explore one of their major distribution partners — a demonstration of how retail should be managed at scale. The argument was seductive: standardise every touchpoint globally and premium positioning protects itself. What that model (as also IKEA, which I helped navigate for its India entry) consistently misses is that channel uniformity and brand

consistency are different things entirely. One is operational. The other is cultural. The Indian market has a way of battering these assumptions softly but thoroughly. One size does not fit desis. As brand exercises go, each adaptation, I'd suggested then, was a battleground of navigation into nativist territory.

Apple's genius lies in engineering captivity alongside aspiration. The phone, watch, the laptop — the ecosystem works seamlessly until you try to leave. Then everything feels slightly off. Switching becomes emotional, a feeling of loss rather than a technical inconvenience. That is brand architecture working exactly as intended. In 2016, it removed the headphone jack and explained it to the world with one word: courage. It then collected 4-5 dollars in licensing fees for wireless accessory that rushed in to fill the hole it had just made. Billions in aggregate. Courage was also a line item. Even controversy feeds the machine: when Batterygate broke in 2017 — Apple admitting it had slowed older devices. The outrage was genuine, but it also reinforced the logic of the upgrade cycle. Brand power is when the scandal quietly becomes the pitch. We've seen this work, only for brands that have the chutzpah to ride past controversy, whilst hearing the cash registers ring melodiously. The iMessage colour system works on identical logic. Blue for iPhone, green for everyone else — a chromatic caste system across a billion screens, social architecture dressed as interface design. Privacy is where it gets clever: Apple's App

Tracking Transparency positioned the company as the guardian of user data while systematically disadvantaging ad-driven competitors. Privacy became a premium proposition.

In a data-hungry world, Apple sells the promise of control



— at a price. As Scott Galloway puts it: Apple doesn't sell you a phone, it sells you a velvet rope. And nobody wants to be on the wrong side of it. The core of this neuro-biome of brand architecture is difficult to get right. Yet, Apple has mastered it and then manufactured it with margins that make many competitors weep. The game is that you pay through your nose to enter a walled garden where the flowers wilt at will, and yet you're so captivated that you can't spot

any moat. The iPhone arrived in India the way all aspirational objects did — through someone's Maamu returning from abroad. Import duties made it cost twice what it did in America, which had the entirely predictable effect of making it more desirable. Scarcity, engineered or accidental, is among the oldest instruments in the branding toolkit.

Today, Tata Electronics assembles iPhones in Hosur, Tamil Nadu. India has forced some recalibration — local manufacturing, EMI schemes, festive offers, a tacit acceptance that Indian consumers will compare, bargain, and occasionally defect. The aspiration, though, holds firm. If Maruti democratised mobility, Apple has democratised aspiration — on EMI.

One instructive Indian parallel is Royal Enfield. Born British in 1901, substantively Indian since the 1950s, Bullet rhymes closely with Apple: both sell identity more than product, both survived near-extinction by returning to brand clarity rather than broadening their proposition in a panic. Forty per cent of Royal Enfield's apparel buyers don't own a motorcycle. Apple's logo appears on bags belonging to people who've never written a line of code. The product is proof of membership. The brand is the membership itself.

Fifty years on, Apple's real product is neither the iPhone nor the Mac. It is a belief — carefully engineered, tightly controlled, and relentlessly monetised. And like all belief systems, it demands devotion. Preferably with a credit card.

Himachal: State-level Baisakhi Fair 2026 preparations reviewed at Pragpur

Pragpur. (Agency)
A review meeting to ensure the smooth and successful celebration of the State-level Baisakhi Fair-2026 was held at the Block Development Office auditorium in Pragpur today. The meeting of the Shri Kaleshwar Mahadev Temple Trust was chaired by SDM and Fair Officer Kulwant Singh Potan, with participation from officials of various departments. The chair directed all departments to work in coordination and within timelines to provide better facilities to devotees. Emphasis was laid on construction of a temporary road along the river, repair of routes, and smooth traffic movement. Instructions were issued for installing signboards at key locations such as medical camps, donation counters, police help centres and parking areas. The police were asked to ensure adequate parking, prevent congestion, and implement an effective traffic plan, along with deploying sufficient force and maintaining strict vigil at sensitive spots. Directions were also given to keep disaster response teams ready. The Health department was instructed to set up medical camps, ambulances, first-aid centers, and ensure availability of essential medicines. Stress was also laid on providing clean drinking water, uninterrupted power supply, adequate lighting, and installation and maintenance of temporary toilets. The SDM informed that the fair will be held from April 13 to 15, 2026.

Two students drown in railway dam, two rescued

Jhansi.(Agency)
In a tragic incident in Jhansi, two Class 11 students drowned in a railway dam located in Gadhya locality on Sunday evening, while two others were rescued by a local shepherd, police sources said on Monday. According to the sources, four friends—Shravan Tiwari (19), Shaurya (18), Vedansh Yadav (18), and Atif Mansoori (19), all students of Mount Litera Ji School—had left their homes on the pretext of attending tuition classes. Instead, they rode a bike to a secluded railway dam near Gadhya village. Eyewitnesses reported that the boys found a boat at the dam and ventured into the water. While allegedly standing on the boat and making social media reels, the boat lost balance and capsized, throwing all four into deep water. Hearing their cries, a nearby shepherd, Kallu Kevat, rushed to the spot with his boat. He managed to rescue Shravan and Shaurya, who had basic swimming skills. However, Vedansh and Atif were swept into deeper waters and could not be saved.

Police officials, including Circle Officers Ramveer Singh and Laxmikant Gautam, arrived at the scene along with fire brigade teams. Despite extensive search efforts until late evening, the missing students could not be located. An SDRF team from Jalaun has been called in and rescue operations resumed on Monday. Sources said that the body of Atif was fished out but Vedansh is still missing. Family members of the victims reached the site and were seen grieving inconsolably.

Kin of Maur accident victims say no arrests made even after 2 weeks

Chandigarh.(Agency)
Families of four inmates of a Haryana-based drug de-addiction centre, who died in an accident on March 21, have alleged inaction in the case. They said that even after more than 2 weeks of the incident the accused are yet to be arrested. The accident, which occurred around 10.30 pm near Sandhoa village in Maur constituency of Bathinda, claimed the lives of four inmates, all from Mansa district of Punjab. According to family members, the four were sent by a de-addiction centre based in Rori village in Sirsa district, to pick up another addict from Maur Kalan village in Bathinda district, nearly 50 km away, without the consent of their parents. On the complaint a family member, Maur police had registered an FIR on March 22 under Section 105 of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita for culpable homicide not amounting to murder against de-addiction centre owner Ranjeet Singh, his associate Arun Kumar and an unidentified person. However, no arrests have been made so far. He added, "Even after 16 days of the accident, an arrest is yet to be made. They just tell us that they are conducting raids. The car in which they were travelling belonged to one of the deceased and the family had to tow it themselves on April 4 from accident location to Maur police station. Police didn't even bother to get that vehicle picked from the accident site." Another family member said that they are going to meet deputy superintendent of police, Maur, to seek action in the case. "On Saturday, we went to get the car picked and found that air conditioner compressor, battery and tyres of car were missing.

NFR develops innovative technological tools to Enhance Safety and Maintenance of Vande Bharat Sleeper Express
Vibration Monitoring system for real time rolling stock condition monitoring
Air Spring Monitoring system for suspension safety

The Sikh Times

Maligaon, 07th April: Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) has achieved a major milestone by introducing a suite of advanced, in-house developed technological tools for the maintenance and safety of next-generation Vande Bharat Sleeper trains at Kamakhya Coaching Depot. Developed using cutting-edge technology and aligned with advanced global benchmarks, these systems include a smart Air Spring Monitoring System, a Portable Vibration Monitoring System for real-time diagnostics and an indigenously engineered External Pit Power Supply and Pre-cooling System. It is pertinent to mention that India's first Vande Bharat Sleeper Express has been operational between Kamakhya and Howrah since January this year, ushering in a new era of world-class and comfortable rail travel. Building on this, Northeast Frontier Railway has introduced advanced, in-house developed maintenance systems using cutting-edge and cost-effective technologies.

NFR's growing capability in adopting innovative and sustainable practices marks a significant step towards modernizing maintenance for high-speed and premium train services. Together, these state-of-the-art systems enhance safety, improve maintenance efficiency and ensure reliable, high-performance operation of Vande Bharat sleeper coaches. In a significant technological advancement, the Air Spring Monitoring System has been introduced to enable intelligent, condition-based monitoring of coaches. The system ensures continuous tracking of critical parameters, early detection of anomalies and precise validation through advanced acoustic imaging techniques. This predictive, data-driven approach enhances operational reliability, strengthens safety standards and ensures a smooth, comfortable and superior travel experience for passengers. Further strengthening its technological capability, NFR has introduced, for the first time, a

ensuring a seamless journey experience. In another pioneering initiative, an External Pit Power Supply and Pre-cooling System has been indigenously designed and implemented, setting new benchmarks in safe and efficient maintenance practices. This system enables safe maintenance of Vande Bharat sleeper coaches during OHE shutdown by supplying power to essential onboard systems such as HVAC, lighting and diagnostics. It also eliminates the risk of electrocution for maintenance staff and significantly reduces rake turnaround time, ensuring better availability of high-quality, well-maintained coaches for passengers. These initiatives reaffirm Northeast Frontier Railway's commitment to adopting cutting-edge technology, strengthening safety frameworks and delivering a superior, comfortable and high-quality travel experience to passengers in line with advanced global benchmarks.

Portable Vibration Monitoring System for real-time condition monitoring of rolling stock. Currently deployed for Vande Bharat sleeper rakes at Kamakhya depot, the system enables early identification of potential issues and facilitates timely corrective action, thereby minimizing failures and



Bhavnagar drama: Former BJP corporator joins Congress citing 'safety concerns', returns to saffron-fold hours later

The elections in 15 municipal corporations, 84 municipalities, 34 zilla panchayats and 260 taluka panchayats in Gujarat are scheduled on April 26 and the results will be declared on April 28.

Ahmedabad.(Agency)
Amid intense political activity ahead of the April 26 local body elections in Gujarat, Bhavnagar witnessed an interesting turn of events on Monday with a former BJP corporator joining the Congress and returning to the saffron-fold hours later. While joining the Congress, former BJP corporator Sejal Gohel, 30, alleged that she was not feeling safe in the BJP despite being a corporator. Speaking to media persons, she also raised the menace of bootleggers in the city. Sejal, belonging to the Scheduled Caste community, was a BJP corporator from Ward No 3 of the Bhavnagar Municipal Corporation between 2021 and 2026.

After returning to the BJP hours later, Sejal said she was beguiled by some Congress leaders, a charge denied by the party. Speaking to , Sejal who is Class XII passout,

her own volition. She was in our contact for the past 3-4 months. We never called her. She came to me yesterday along with two of our ward leaders. I told her that she could join Congress, but we would not be able to give



leaders who allegedly beguiled her, Sejal claimed that she does not know the names. President of Bhavnagar City Congress Manoharsinh Gohil rejected Sejal's allegations. "She (Sejal) had come to us on

her any commitment (including that of giving her a party ticket)," Manoharsinh Gohil told. "She herself admitted that the reason behind joining Congress was her own safety concerns. We have never tried to tell her what to speak to the media. We did not even try to call her even afterwards. Whatever pressure she might have faced, only she would know," Gohil said. The elections in 15 municipal corporations, 84 municipalities, 34 zilla panchayats and 260 taluka panchayats in Gujarat are scheduled on April 26, and the results will be declared on April 28.

Ferrying bricks, cement on boats: Singapore organisation rebuilds homes in flood-hit village at Indo-Pak border

Forced to rebuild their lives after every Indo-Pak war and floods, the challenge for this village's residents again was massive with nothing but dunes of sand visible as far as one could see.

Ludhiana.(Agency)
Raging waters of river Sutlej on three sides and Indo-Pak border fence on the fourth, the residents of Kaluwar, a remote village in Punjab's border district Ferozepur, are finally seeing hope — months after floods left them devastated and homeless. Forced to rebuild their lives after every Indo-Pak war and floods, the challenge for this village's residents again was massive with nothing but dunes of sand visible as far as one could see. The devastating floods last year, one of the worst that Punjab witnessed in recent times, consumed their everything — from homes, fields to fertile land. With the only mode of transportation to access the village being the rickety — a manual wooden boat called behri in local language) — rebuilding the village after recent floods was all the more a herculean task. However, this time, the hope and help for Kaluwar, has arrived from Singapore. Singapore-based humanitarian organisation, Mercy Relief (MR), has taken upon itself the task to reconstruct the

homes in flood-hit Kaluwar. Ferrying bricks, cement bags and other raw materials by deploying huge boats in Sutlej river, the organisation has started the work on ground zero to help the villagers.



Describing the village as "cursed" while talking to The Indian Express, Bohar Singh, sarpanch of Kaluwar said that people here suffer "major jolts" every few years, either due to India-Pakistan tension or floods or other natural calamities. "They are forced to rebuild their lives. Almost the entire village was wiped out in

the floods last year. The population of Kaluwar was around 300 but many have left the village and shifted to other places. However, 28-30 homes are still there. These families have no money or land to shift. Their homes were completely damaged in floods which are now being rebuilt by Mercy Relief organisation from Singapore. We are extremely grateful to them for helping those who actually needed it the most," he said. Malkeet Singh, a villager whose home was reduced to debris during floods, said that it was now being rebuilt by the organisation. "They are bearing the entire cost of ferrying bricks, cement, labor and other logistics via huge boats. My father's entire 3-acre land in the village was consumed by flood waters and our home was reduced to debris. The organisation has also promised that once the house is rebuilt, they will also get basic furnishing done and provide some furniture," Malkreet added.

Navjot Kaur Sidhu launches own party, husband still with Congress

Chandigarh. (Agency)
Dr Navjot Kaur Sidhu Monday announced the formation of a new political outfit, the Bharatiya Rashtravadi Party, the move coming just two months after Congress "expelled" her for anti-party activities. Her husband and former minister Navjot Singh Sidhu continues to be part of the Congress party even though he has mostly remained politically inactive in the recent past. Navjot Kaur's move to form a party comes months ahead of the Punjab Assembly elections, due early next year. Sidhu, who holds MBBS and MD (Gynaecology and Obstetrics) degrees and had served as Chief Parliamentary Secretary (Health), positioned the launch as a "much-awaited" national-level alternative born out of "divine intervention". The cancer survivor, who had won the Amritsar East seat on the BJP ticket in 2012 before joining the Congress along

with her husband ahead of the 2017 state polls, had launched a no-holds-barred attack against Congress last year. She had alleged that "one who gives a suitcase of Rs 500 crore" becomes the Congress's chief minister face, adding that her husband would only return to active politics if he is offered the CM's post. In a post on X late Monday evening, Navjot Kaur said like-minded individuals had come together through a "higher consciousness" to dedicate their lives to public service. The statement emphasised providing justice, peace, love, liberty and freedom; restoring Punjab's "long-lost glory" as a "Golden State"; and ensuring governance rooted in selfless service, spiritual growth and "the energy of higher consciousness". It also spoke of healing "wounded souls" with guidance from spiritual masters who follow the path of "truth and love: the

language of Waheguru Ji", and promised a government "of the people, for the people, and by the people of Punjab", free from outside interference. The post was accompanied by a photograph



of Navjot Kaur seated alongside a male leader in front of party banner. The logo features a map of India with the Ashoka Chakra at its centre, set against green and

Who is responsible when a private ambulance driver mishandles a patient? No one



Chandigarh. (Agency)
An 83-year-old patient with a fractured foot fell off a stretcher after being mishandled by an ambulance driver on the way to Government Medical College and Hospital, Sector 32 (GMCH-32), but the UT Administration has distanced itself from the incident, maintaining that the driver was from a private ambulance service. The March 28 incident, captured on CCTV, has exposed a gap in accountability when it comes to private emergency transport, with no authority taking responsibility for oversight or action.

The patient was being transported from Mohali after his condition worsened. According to the family's complaint, the driver held the stretcher with one hand while shifting him, causing it to tip over. This led the elderly man to fall unconscious. Despite the ambulance being arranged after the family approached GMCH-32 for help, the UT health department has maintained that it has no jurisdiction over the driver. The Chandigarh Administration's Director (Health Services) Suman Singh said, "I did see the complaint. In fact, the driver, I am told, is a private ambulance driver. He isn't our government driver." She said Chandigarh has 16 ambulances, including two advanced life-support vehicles, while the rest are basic ambulances staffed with a driver, an emergency worker and a helper. On training, she said drivers are provided sessions in first aid, CPR and patient handling every three months. However, when asked about action against the driver seen in the CCTV footage, she reiterated that he was not part of the government fleet. The response has raised questions about who regulates private ambulances that are often accessed through public hospitals in emergencies. The complaint was submitted to the Deputy Commissioner who sent it to the Director of Health Services. It states that the family first tried emergency numbers 112 and 108, but received no response. They then approached GMCH-32 staff, who connected them with the ambulance driver.

saffron tones, with "Bharatiya Rashtravadi Party" inscribed in Hindi and English, along with the abbreviation BRP in Hindi. The backdrop mirrors the Indian tricolour. Navjot Kaur had recently posted content with strong spiritual undertones, frequently invoking "Waheguru Ji" and referring to her past work in the Amritsar East constituency, including facilitating a PNG gas pipeline project in 2016 despite local resistance. Her departure from Congress follows an earlier suspension amid apparent internal differences. While Punjab politics has often seen references to Sikh gurus and spiritual values, Navjot Kaur's announcement stands out for explicitly framing governance as aligned with "what Waheguru Ji desires", alongside a broader national vision with a focus on Punjab's revival.

Delhi Police bust ISI-linked arms racket, key aides of Shahbaz Ansari arrested

Police said the duo played a critical role in receiving arms consignments routed through Nepal, transporting them into India, reassembling dismantled weapons, and delivering them across the network. Their primary responsibility involved logistics, safe transport, and final supply of illegal weapons allegedly meant to fuel terror activities and create unrest.

New Delhi.(Agency)

In a major breakthrough against an alleged ISI-backed international arms smuggling and terror network, the Delhi Police Crime Branch has arrested two more key operatives, taking the total number of accused held in the case to 12. The two accused, identified as Imran, 37, and Mohammad Kamran, 27, were detained at IGI Airport on April 2 on the basis of a lookout circular and were later formally arrested after sustained questioning. Investigators said both were closely linked to absconding mastermind Shahbaz Ansari and had been actively working for the module for nearly a year. Police said the duo played a critical role in receiving arms

consignments routed through Nepal, transporting them into India, reassembling dismantled weapons, and delivering them across the network. Their primary responsibility involved logistics, safe transport, and final supply of illegal weapons allegedly meant to fuel terror activities and create unrest. The probe has revealed a sophisticated international smuggling route, with weapons allegedly sourced from Pakistan, routed through Thailand, and sent onward to Nepal to hide any direct India connection. From Nepal, the consignments were broken into parts and smuggled into India through illegal channels before being reassembled and stored at secret locations.

Investigators also uncovered professionally designed hidden cavities inside vehicles used for transportation. Police said the concealed compartments were built so expertly that they were nearly impossible to detect during routine checks. Similar cavities were found in a seized Maruti Swift allegedly used in the smuggling operation. Based on disclosures made by the accused, the Crime Branch recovered a .30 bore Chinese pistol, a .32 bore revolver, and 11 cartridges. Earlier, police had already seized 23 sophisticated foreign-made weapons, 211 cartridges, and a sub-machine gun. Given the seriousness



of the case, the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, or UAPA, has been invoked against all the accused. The biggest revelation in the investigation so far is the alleged direct link to Pakistan's

intelligence agency ISI. Officials said absconding kingpin Shahbaz Ansari was allegedly in touch with handlers based in Pakistan and Nepal, who instructed him to channel foreign weapons into India through his network of operatives. Investigators now believe Shahbaz Ansari is currently hiding in Bangladesh. Police said interrogation of the 10 accused arrested earlier revealed that a major consignment seized on March 25, including weapons made in Brazil, Germany, and Turkey, had been sent by Ansari from Bangladesh. Ansari, a resident of Bulandshahr in Uttar Pradesh, is considered one of India's most wanted arms traffickers.

Relief for migrant workers, Centre doubles allocation of 5-kg LPG cylinders in all states

New Delhi.(Agency)

In what could bring much-needed relief to migrant workers facing hardships due to the Liquid Petroleum Gas (LPG) crisis amid the West Asia conflict, the Centre has doubled the allocation of 5-kg free trade cylinders for them in all states and Union territories to mitigate their problem. In an order issued late on Monday, the Petroleum Ministry said that the daily quantity of 5 kg free trade LPG cylinders available in each state for distribution to migrant labourers is being doubled. The 5kg Free Trade LPG cylinder, also known as Chhotu, was launched especially for migrant workers in urban and semi-urban areas. The doubling of quantum would be premised on average daily supply, that is, the number of cylinders being disbursed on a day-by-day basis, between March 2 and March 3, and would extend beyond the 20 per cent limit as was mandated in an earlier order. "It is conveyed that the daily quantity of 5kg FTL cylinder in each State available for disbursement to migrant labourers is being doubled based on average daily supply (that is, number of cylinders) to migrant labourers during March 2-3 beyond limit of 20% mentioned [in the March 21 order]," read the communication from the Secretary at the Union Petroleum Ministry to States. The official order further stated the cylinders would be at the disposal of State governments and their food and/or civil supplies, and are to be used exclusively for supplying to migrant labourers in their states.

If House isn't safe, how will public be safe, says AAP after security breach

New Delhi.(Agency)

Moments after a major security breach at Delhi Assembly, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) raised the matter of security arrangements. The party, in a statement, said that breaking through the gate and entering a high-security place like the Legislative Assembly is a serious lapse. "On one hand, elected opposition MLAs are stopped at the gate, and on the other, some vehicles drive straight inside! Continuous bomb threats, an attack on the chief minister, and now this incident—Is this what the capital's security system amounts to? Delhi Police comes under the Ministry of Home Affairs. So who will take responsibility? If the Legislative Assembly isn't safe, how will the common public be safe?" the AAP said. Calling it a major security lapse, the AAP attacked the BJP and questioned Delhi's overall safety apparatus. AAP MLA and Chief Whip Sanjeev Jha said that if even the Assembly is not secure under BJP rule, it raises serious concerns about the safety of ordinary citizens. On Monday, Jha shared a photograph of the broken Assembly gate on the social media platform X and targeted the BJP government. "A serious question has once again been raised over Delhi's security arrangements. A car breaking the gate and entering a high-security site like the Assembly is a grave lapse," he said. Jha further said, "On one hand, the BJP government stops elected opposition MLAs at the gate, while on the other, a vehicle manages to enter directly. Delhi has been receiving repeated bomb threats; Chief Minister Rekha Gupta has already been attacked, and now this incident of a car breaking the Assembly gate and entering has occurred." He further said, "Since Delhi Police comes under the Union Home Ministry, who will take responsibility? If the Assembly itself is not safe, how can ordinary citizens be safe?" Sanjeev Jha concluded by questioning.

How India brought a urea crisis on itself and why it urgently needs a reset

New Delhi.(Agency)

The supply of India's key fertiliser for farming, the nitrogen-based urea, is at risk due to the ongoing war in the Middle East. The conflict between the US, Israel, and Iran has spiked crude oil prices and has also led to an LPG crunch. The disruption in oil and gas supply is hitting diverse sectors that depend on petrochemical byproducts, including agriculture. Experts are suggesting that the disruption in Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) supply could impact India's urea production. However, the crisis is of its own making, as farmers didn't stick to the advised nitrogen or urea ratio in the NPK fertiliser mix, making the country dependent on imports. According to scientific standards, an ideal fertiliser mix should

be four parts nitrogen (N), two parts phosphorus (P), and one part of potash (P). Nitrogen is the urea component, and a higher quantity of which shows instant results in terms of productivity,



but weakens roots and damages long-term soil fertility. Urea is 46% of nitrogen by weight. In India, a blind pursuit for higher yields has seen farmers using a dangerously high level of urea (nitrogen) in the

fertiliser mix. While the ideal NPK ratio is 4:2:1, the average in India is over 9:3:1, according to data from the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers. This means farmers in India are using more than 9 kg of nitrogen for every 1 kg of potash in the urea mix. The data from certain states is deeply troublesome. In Nagaland, farmers are using 101 kg of nitrogen for every kilo of potash, according to government data. "To get higher yields, Indian farmers have accustomed their fields to only nitrogen (urea), marginalising life-giving elements like phosphorus and potash," says Om Prakash, agricultural expert at Kisan Tak, India Today Digital's sister portal. He says that the ruthless use of nitrogen has degraded soil fertility, due to which more and more nitrogen.

God's word vs law: How the Sabarimala case could redefine religious freedom

India's Supreme Court begins hearing arguments today in a case that could finally decide whether religious custom or constitutional rights govern who may enter a house of worship.

New Delhi.(Agency)

Starting today, April 7, 2026, a nine-judge Supreme Court bench led by CJI Surya Kant begins final hearings on the Sabarimala review. The court will address seven constitutional questions to determine if constitutional morality and the right to equality can override ancient religious customs and essential religious practices. Here is what is at stake, and why. **THE OMINOUS SIGNS** In the summer of 2006, the Travancore Devaswom Board, the statutory body that administers the Lord Ayyappa temple, had a problem. There had been a fire mishap in 2003. During a ritualistic procession in 2004, the temple elephant had rejected the thidampu, a replica of the Lord's idol. The conduct of temple affairs had not been smooth. The Board suspected Lord Ayyappa was unhappy. To find out, they did what the tradition prescribed. They appointed a ten-member team of experts, led by a



renowned astrologer, to conduct an Ashtamangala Devaprasnam, an astrological procedure, held once every twelve years, to ascertain the Lord's opinion of the temple's affairs. The astrologer read the betel leaves. And, when the Lord spoke through him, a chill ran down the Board's spine. Or, so it said. **THE CHILD OF HARIHARAN** The Sabarimala Sastha Temple in Pathanamthitta district of Kerala is a world-renowned pilgrimage centre. Perched at an altitude of 914 metres above sea level in the Western Ghats, the temple is dedicated to Lord Ayyappan, who according to Hindu mythology is the son of Lord Shiva and the mythical Mohini, one of the forms taken by Lord Vishnu to slay a demon. (Vishnu is Hari, Shiva is Haran). The name Sabarimala literally derives from the legend of Sabari, a tribal devotee of Rama mentioned in the Ramayana. It means "the hill of Sabari." While the exact date of its construction is debated, the Sabarimala temple is believed to have been founded between the 10th and 12th centuries.

"He's Mentally Unstable": Family Of Man Who Breached Delhi Assembly

New Delhi.(Agency)

After a man breached the Delhi Assembly premises today with his car, the sequence of events that led to the said breach is taking shape. According to preliminary investigations, the accused, identified as Sarabjit Singh, left his home in Pilibhit on April 1. Family members say he remained in contact for only one night after his departure. By April 2, he had travelled to Bareilly. From there, he continued onward, eventually reaching Delhi on the day the breach took place. According to police, Sarabjit did not inform his family about his destination or purpose. His relatives have told authorities that such behaviour was not entirely unexpected. They described periods during which his conduct becomes difficult to control, adding that during episodes of illness, he does not listen to anyone in the family and often isolates himself. "He is mentally unstable. He has been missing from home for five days. We ourselves do not know where he is," she said. "He left from here, stayed one night, then went to Bareilly. From there, I don't know. He came to Delhi today. When you go from here, you should at least tell us for what work you are going. He didn't tell us anything." **How The Breach Unfolded** According to initial reports, Sarabjit entered the Vidhan Sabha premises alone through Gate No. 2 at approximately 2:05 pm. He did so by breaking through the gate at high speed using a vehicle that has since been confirmed to belong to him. Once inside, his actions appeared deliberate but unexplained. He approached the official car of Speaker Vijender Gupta. The vehicle was unlocked at the time, as the driver had briefly gone to the Speaker's room to deposit belongings. Sarabjit placed a bouquet and a garland inside the car and, according to sources, briefly sat inside the vehicle. He then exited the car, walked towards the Speaker's office, placed another bouquet outside, and left the premises through the same Gate No. 2 using the same vehicle he had driven in. Police intercepted him shortly afterwards near a picket at A Nala in the Roopnagar area. He was taken into custody, and the vehicle used in the breach was recovered.

Tejas back in the skies. Did HAL waste years and crores to deliver a dud?

LCA Tejas fleets are set to return to the skies after a two-month pause following a rude landing in February. But with decades of delays, cost overruns and repeated setbacks for the LCA Tejas, has Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) spent years and thousands of crores on a dud?

New Delhi.(Agency)

Nearly two months ago, in February, a Tejas Light Combat Aircraft had a rude landing at a frontline IAF base after a routine training sortie. The pilot had to eject. But the fighter jet sustained heavy damage and was reportedly written-off. It was the third such incident involving an LCA Tejas in under two years, coming after a 2024 crash linked to engine fuel feed problems, and a November 2025 crash at the Dubai Air Show, which killed Wing Commander Namansh Syal. Within weeks of the third incident in February, the entire fleet of around 34 LCAs was grounded. Now, after a two-

month wait, the Tejas jet would again to the skies on April 8. HAL chairman DK Sunil announced the issue had been resolved. "All the Tejas jets are set to fly again from next Wednesday," he said, reported news agency PTI. The repeated Tejas crashes, however, revived an old accusation. After more than four decades since the programme was conceived under PM Indira Gandhi in the early 1980s, has its maker HAL wasted years and thousands of crores on a dud? It's a sigh of relief that the LCA Tejas fleet is cleared to return to the skies. Wars are



raging from Europe to the Middle East. And in times of conflicts and with neighbours like Pakistan and China, there is a need for constant preparedness for India. With the IAF's fighter squadrons already

stretched thin after the MiG-21's retirement, the absence of a combat platform like Tejas made defence analysts and experts very uncomfortable. As of today, the IAF's fighter squadrons have dipped to roughly 30-32 against a sanctioned 42. The IAF now holds only a slender numerical edge over its Pakistani counterpart, by around four to six squadrons, while staring down a two-front threat from both Islamabad and Beijing. The question the HAL wasted time and money on the LCA project is blunt, but not unfair.

NEWS BOX

'Lost My Career Because Of IPL': Ex-England Skipper Kevin Pietersen Drops Major Bombshell

New Delhi. (Agency)

Former England captain Kevin Pietersen made an explosive allegation that his international career came to a premature end due to a dispute with authorities over his participation in the Indian Premier League (IPL). In an interview with YouTuber Ranveer Allahbadia, Pietersen alleged that the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) used the media to launch a "witch-hunt" against him during the early years of the IPL. The ECB barred centrally contracted players from participating in the inaugural edition of the tournament in 2008; Dimitri Mascarenhas was the only English player to feature that year. In 2009, England allowed players to participate within a limited three-week window. Pietersen joined Royal Challengers Bangalore (now Bengaluru) in 2009, and his decision to prioritize the league allegedly resulted in severe tensions with the ECB. "I made big sacrifices. I lost my career. That's the reason why everybody in that establishment went against me," he said. "I was 33 when my England career finished, after 104 Test matches. I should have played 150-160 Tests and scored 12,000-13,000 runs. That's what I should have achieved."



"The ECB used The Telegraph to go after me... I don't want to go too deep into it. It was well-publicized, and I live a very happy, peaceful life now," Pietersen added.

Pietersen finished his Test career with 8,181 runs, including 23 centuries and 35 half-centuries. While the former cricketer's career was allegedly impacted by his stance, Pietersen believes it helped future generations of England players gain the freedom to take part in franchise cricket.

"I interviewed Jos Buttler a few days ago, and he also said 'thank you.' Because of the sacrifices I made, these guys can enjoy the fruits now," he noted.

Pietersen went on to play for Delhi Daredevils and Sunrisers Hyderabad in the IPL. He was also appointed mentor of Delhi Capitals in 2025.

Dump ODIs, stick to T20s and IPL: Lalit Modi's bold suggestion to BCCI sparks buzz

New Delhi. (Agency)

Lalit Modi has reignited the debate around cricket's future with a bold call to scrap ODI cricket altogether, arguing that the format has lost its relevance in the modern game. The former IPL founder believes the sport should move forward with a clearer identity, built around Test cricket's legacy and T20's explosive appeal. With the cricket calendar evolving rapidly and attention already shifting towards the 2027 ODI World Cup, Modi's remarks land at a time when the format is increasingly being questioned. Speaking to Sportstar, he made it clear that while Tests must remain untouched, ODIs no longer fit into the sport's future. Test cricket should always stay; we should dump the ODIs and keep the T20s. Kerry Packer did a great job in reviving the one-dayers, and I salute him, but the time is over for



ODIs. Test cricket should move to the day-night format. But I see absolutely no threat to the IPL from any other leagues," Modi said. IS ODI CRICKET DYING?

The sentiment is not entirely new. Ravichandran Ashwin had earlier questioned whether ODI cricket can survive beyond the 2027 World Cup, pointing to changing audience behaviour and the rise of franchise leagues.

The numbers tell their own story. In the lead-up to the T20 World Cup 2026, India played 22 T20Is in just five months, underlining where the priority lies. In contrast, the team is currently scheduled to play only 18 ODIs in the entire build-up to the 2027 ODI World Cup, highlighting how squeezed the format has become. There was a time when ODI cricket was the heartbeat of the sport. It brought colour, innovation and a new audience. Today, it feels caught in between, not quite traditional like Tests, not quite electric like T20s. The modern fan has changed.

KKR woes deepen: Pathirana still awaiting IPL clearance from Sri Lanka

IPL 2026: KKR's bowling woes continue as Matheesha Pathirana awaits IPL clearance. The Sri Lankan pacer could join the squad only by mid-April.

New Delhi. (Agency)

Kolkata Knight Riders' bowling concerns in the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026 continue to mount, with Matheesha Pathirana still awaiting clearance from Sri Lanka Cricket due to pending fitness tests. The Sri Lankan pacer remains unavailable at a time when KKR are already struggling with multiple injuries in their pace attack.

Pathirana is among 15 centrally contracted Sri Lankan players yet to complete mandatory fitness tests, with only 24 out of 45 having cleared them so far. The delay, attributed to injuries and logistical challenges, has directly impacted IPL franchises, with Pathirana's absence particularly hurting KKR's plans. According to ESPNcricinfo,



sources close to the player remain optimistic about his arrival in India by mid-April, although no official timeline has been confirmed. The pacer, who was bought for Rs 18 crore at the IPL 2026 auction after being released by Chennai Super Kings, is currently building up his workload after

recovering from a calf strain sustained during the T20 World Cup.

WHEN WILL PATHIRANA ARRIVE FOR KKR?

While there is no confirmed date for his clearance, Pathirana is expected to undergo his fitness test within the next week. If he

clears it, he could link up with the KKR squad by mid-April. The Sri Lankan board has tightened its fitness protocols, making clearance mandatory before issuing No Objection Certificates (NOCs) for overseas leagues. Players must meet strict benchmarks, including sprint tests, agility drills and endurance metrics, before being deemed fit. Pathirana has reportedly resumed bowling in the nets, a positive sign for KKR, who are eagerly awaiting his return. However, until he clears the test, his participation in IPL 2026 remains uncertain.

In contrast, Wanindu Hasaranga's situation appears more complicated. The all-rounder, signed by Lucknow Super Giants, is yet to request an NOC and is still recovering from a hamstring injury, making his return timeline unclear.

KKR'S BOWLING WOES IN IPL 2026

KKR's struggles with the ball have been evident in their opening matches, largely due to the absence of key pacers. Injuries to Harshit Rana and Akash Deep, along with Pathirana's unavailability and Mustafizur Rahman's withdrawal, have left the team short on quality options.

Vaishnavi Adkar crowned India's new tennis No.1 with sensational run in 2026

CHENNAI. (Agency)

Vaishnavi Adkar has continued her stunning rise in 2026, emerging as India's new women's singles No.1 after a breakthrough run on the ITF circuit. The 21-year-old from Pune has been one of the biggest success stories in Indian tennis this season, climbing rapidly up the rankings on the back of a string of standout performances.

Vaishnavi started the year ranked No. 643, but has now climbed to World No.383 after rising eight places in the latest WTA rankings. In the process, she overtook Sahaja Yamalapalli, who is currently ranked No. 384, to become India's top-ranked women's singles player. Vaidehi Chaudhari and Shrivalli Bhamidipathy are third and fourth among the Indians respectively. Vaishnavi is currently representing India in the Billie Jean King Cup 2026 Asia/Oceania Group I campaign in New Delhi. Fresh off a sensational rise on the ITF circuit, she earned a maiden call-up and headed into the prestigious team event as India's top-

ranked women's singles player. The hosts are expected to rely heavily on Vaishnavi and Sahaja Yamalapalli in the singles, while the experienced duo of Ankita Raina and Rutuja Bhosale could take charge of the doubles duties. India's squad for the tournament

VAISHNAVI ADKAR'S DOMINATING RUN

Vaishnavi Adkar's stunning rise in 2026 has been driven by back-to-back standout performances in Bengaluru and Kalaburagi. The 21-year-old became the first Indian woman since Sania Mirza in 2009 to reach a W100 final when she finished runner-up in Bengaluru, underlining her growing stature on the ITF circuit. She then went one better in Kalaburagi, clinching the singles title and pocketing USD 4,860 in prize money. Seeded third, Vaishnavi beat Ankita Raina 7-6(3), 6-4 in an all-Indian final on March 8 to seal the crown after a composed display.

Earlier, she stunned top seed Jasmijn Gimbrere, ranked No. 399 in the world, 6-3, 6-2 in the semifinals. Vaishnavi also completed a memorable double in Kalaburagi, partnering Ankita to win the doubles title with a dominant 6-2, 6-2 victory over Soha Sadiq and Akanksha Nitture.



comprises Vaishnavi Adkar, Sahaja Yamalapalli, Ankita Raina, Rutuja Bhosale and Zeel Desai, with Zeel coming in after injuries to Shrivalli Bhamidipaty and Vaidehee Chaudhari.

Shreyas Iyer's sister not holding back, trolls KKR after washout in Kolkata: Watch

New Delhi. (Agency)

Shreyas Iyer's sister, Shresta, trolled Kolkata Knight Riders after their match against Punjab Kings at Eden Gardens was washed out by rain, with her cheeky post quickly going viral on social media. The IPL 2026 fixture on Monday saw only 22 balls being bowled, forcing both teams to share a point each, a result that gave KKR their first point of the season while PBKS moved to the top of the table. Soon after the washout, Shresta posted an Instagram reel that fans instantly latched on to. In the viral clip, she could be heard joking in Punjabi: "Saade Punjabiyian da dil vadda hunda hai, lo de ditte ek point," which roughly translates to Punjab having a big heart and giving away one point. The dig was widely seen as a cheeky troll aimed at KKR, especially given the history between the franchise and Shreyas, who led them to the IPL title in 2024 before moving on. **FIRST WASHOUT OF IPL**

2026 KKR and PBKS were forced to settle for a point each after their IPL 2026 clash in the City of Joy was abandoned due to rain and a



wet outfield. The weather played spoilsport after just 3.4 overs, with KKR struggling at 25 for two when the players were taken off. Persistent rain meant the match could not resume, resulting in the first washout of the season. Punjab Kings made the brighter start

with the ball after KKR captain Ajinkya Rahane won the toss and opted to bat first. Xavier Bartlett struck twice in the second over, removing Finn Allen for 6 and Cameron Green for 4, leaving KKR under early pressure. Rahane was unbeaten on 8, while Angkrish Raghuvanshi was batting on 7 when rain interrupted play.

The washout helped KKR finally open their account after back-to-back defeats, although they are still searching for their first win of the season. PBKS, meanwhile, moved to the top of the points table with five points from three matches, having registered two wins and one no-result so far. Kolkata Knight Riders will next face Lucknow Super Giants on April 9, while Punjab Kings will take on Sunrisers Hyderabad on April 11 in Mullanpur.



David hit it out of Chinnaswamy yesterday. pic.twitter.com/F9bdVpPIeN— Aditya Saha (@Adityakrsaha) April 6, 2026 **TIM DAVID ASSAULT ROCKS CSK**

David remained unbeaten on a sensational 70 off just 25 balls, smashing three fours and eight sixes at a staggering strike rate of 280. It was a knock that came at exactly the right time for RCB, who were well-placed but not yet out of sight before the Australian took complete control in the death overs.

When David walked in after Devdutt Padikkal's half-century, RCB were 151/3 in 14.1 overs. From there, he joined captain Rajat Patidar, who remained unbeaten on 48, as the duo tore CSK apart in the closing stages. Their unbroken stand was worth 99 runs off just 35 balls, a partnership that firmly put RCB in command.

Vaibhav Sooryavanshi's first dance with Jasprit Bumrah takes spotlight in Guwahati

New Delhi. (Agency)

For most 15-year-olds, the biggest test is the Class 10 board exams. For Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, it is a far tougher challenge, facing Jasprit Bumrah under lights as Rajasthan Royals take on Mumbai Indians in their IPL 2026 clash at the Barsapara Stadium in Guwahati on Tuesday, April 7, in what shapes as a defining first meeting between prodigy and master.

Moments like these have shaped great careers before. Sachin Tendulkar, as a teenager, was thrust into battles against some of the most feared fast bowlers of his time, including Wasim Akram, Waqar Younis, Curtly Ambrose and Courtney Walsh. Those early examinations did more than test technique; they forged the temperament that would define one of the greatest careers the game has seen. Sooryavanshi has already had a brief taste of that level. In Jaipur, he had an opportunity to face Bumrah but did not last long, dismissed for a two-ball duck by Deepak Chahar. That experience could well

shape the contest this time around, both in terms of the Mumbai Indians' plans and the youngster's response. "It's a great opportunity to test yourself against the best. And he is going to be up against the best tomorrow night. Bumrah is just bowling on a different level to everybody else in world cricket. As a youngster, it's a golden opportunity. At 15 years old, he gets to play the best. He is not just holding his own. He is doing way better than anybody would have thought. Kudos to the youngster," Kevin Pietersen said on Star Sports. Do Mumbai go back to that template and unleash Bumrah early, especially with Rajasthan's opening pair being a key strength? Or does Sooryavanshi arrive better prepared, ready to script a different outcome?

WILL HARDIK PANDYA RETURN?

There is good news for the Mumbai Indians on the personnel front, with Hardik Pandya set to return for the clash against the Rajasthan Royals in Guwahati on Tuesday, April 7. The MI skipper had missed their previous game

against Delhi Capitals at the Arun Jaitley Stadium due to illness, with Suryakumar Yadav stepping in to lead the side.



Pandya's return could be a key factor in how MI approach this contest, especially with the all-rounder's balance offering both bowling flexibility and batting depth. In the lead-up to the game, he was back in the nets, bowling and batting with intensity, a positive sign for the team. Bowling coach Paras Mhambrey confirmed his availability, saying, "To

answer your first question, he will be available. We had a good couple of hours of net session yesterday, so he is fit and fine." His absence in the previous match had forced MI to tweak their combination, bringing in Corbin Bosch in place of Trent Boult to maintain balance. With Pandya back, MI regain not just their captain, but a crucial piece in both departments.

GUWAHATI: PITCH, WEATHER CONDITIONS AND MORE

One of the defining factors in the Rajasthan Royals' opening game in Guwahati was their read of the conditions. Local boy Riyan Parag brought valuable insight, not just in assessing the surface but also in understanding how external elements like rain could influence play.

Ahead of that match, intermittent showers meant the pitch remained under covers for extended periods. Parag anticipated that this would lead to moisture retention, creating favourable conditions for the fast bowlers, and his reading proved spot on.

The Rs 8,370 crore bet that could end India's energy problem forever

Mumbai.(Agency)

India has 1.4 billion people and a massive energy problem. Coal is dirty. Solar and wind are inconsistent. And conventional nuclear? India only has 1–2 percent of the world's uranium — nowhere near enough to power a nation this size.

But India has something most countries don't: 25 percent of the entire world's thorium reserves. Enough, theoretically, to power India for over 700 years. The catch? You can't just burn thorium. It's like having a mountain of wood but no matches. You need a very specific kind of fire to get it started — and keeping that fire going is what India's entire nuclear strategy is built around. Back in the 1950s, a brilliant physicist named Homi Bhabha laid out a three-stage nuclear roadmap. India has been executing it ever since — with extreme patience.

Stage 1 — "Make the matches"
What happens: India runs conventional nuclear reactors (called PHWRs — heavy water reactors) on natural uranium.

Natural uranium is mostly U-238, which can't sustain a chain reaction on its own. But a small fraction — U-235 — can. When U-235 splits to produce energy, the leftover U-238 absorbs neutrons and quietly transforms into something valuable: Plutonium-239. Think of it like this: you're burning logs, and the ash turns out to be gold.

Output: Electricity and a stockpile of plutonium.

India's reactors doing this: Rajasthan, Kakrapar, Narora, and others. What happens: India feeds that plutonium into a new kind of reactor — a Fast Breeder Reactor — where the physics gets interesting. Fast breeder reactors don't slow neutrons down. They let them fly fast. When Plutonium-239 splits, it releases high-speed neutrons that slam into a blanket of surrounding material — a mix of uranium-238 and thorium-232. Here's what happens to each:

Non-veg thali turns cheaper; Cost of veg thali stays stable in March

New Delhi.(Agency)

The cost of a home-cooked vegetarian (veg) thali remained stable in March this year, compared to the same month last year, while that of a non-vegetarian (non-veg) thali fell 1 per cent as chicken prices declined during the month, according to a report released by Crisil Intelligence on Monday.

The cost of cooking a vegetarian thali at home remained flat in March as lower prices of onions, potatoes and pulses offset the increase in tomato, edible oil, and fuel costs. The cost of a non-veg thali fell due to an estimated 2 per cent on-year decline in broiler prices, which accounted for around 50 per cent of the cost, on a high base, the report states. Tomato prices rose due to delayed transplanting in key regions, while onion prices fell because of a supply surplus, and weak demand weighed on potato prices, the report stated. Tomato prices rose 33 per cent on-year to Rs 28 per kg in March 2026 (from Rs 21 per kg in March 2025), driven by delayed transplantation in key producing regions, such as Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh, which have adversely impacted crop development, yield, and timely arrivals. Onion prices fell 25 per cent on-year due to excess supply from overlapping late kharif arrivals and rabi harvest, coupled with weak exports, leading to distress sales given the limited shelf life of late kharif onions. Pulse prices declined 6 per cent on-year on account of higher opening stocks in the current fiscal, relieving the pressure on prices. Vegetable oil prices rose 6 per cent on-year due to the ongoing global supply disruption. The price of liquefied petroleum gas cylinders rose 14 per cent on-year amid global supply disruption, limiting the decline in the overall cost of thalis, the report further states.

Fraudsters took 5 loans worth Rs 22L using a person's PAN — Here's how to spot misuse and stop it

New Delhi.(Agency)

Amidst several cases of loan frauds and identity thefts, a particular modus operandi to watch out for is PAN card misuse. Since your PAN is directly linked to your credit history, any loan whether you applied for it or not will show up in your credit report and could hurt your credit score. Tax filing and compliance platform TaxBuddy in a series of tweets has explained how fraudsters took 5 loans worth Rs 22L using individual's PAN card. His credit score fell to 480. The tax filing platform has cautioned that this scam can happen to anyone and people must check PAN misuse before it's too late. Regularly check your credit report. TaxBuddy said that people should regularly check their credit report via CIBIL, Experian, Equifax, CRIF and use their PAN + mobile no. to get the report for free annually. It added that all bureaus offer one free check annually, and one should keep checking their credit status. What to watch for?

- Loans you never applied for
- Lenders you don't know
- "Hard inquiries" you didn't approve
- Act immediately if fraud occurs
- Raise a dispute with the credit bureau; most allow disputes online.
- Provide supporting identity proof + a signed affidavit.
- Inform the lender involved.
- File a complaint with your local cybercrime/police unit
- Safeguard your PAN
- Never share it on shady sites or WhatsApp forwards
- If lost, reapply and monitor your credit more closely for months after
- Secure linked accounts with strong passwords + alerts (SMS/email). Fraudulent loans can hurt your credit score and financial reputation. If you keep a close eye on your credit report and act quickly, you can stop a mishap from occurring.

Gold, silver prices to stay volatile. Should you buy or avoid?

Gold is expected to trade between Rs 144,000 and Rs 154,000 per 10 gm, while silver could move in the Rs 215,000 to Rs 243,000 per kg range before a breakout or breakdown.

New Delhi.(Agency)

Gold and silver prices are expected to remain volatile in the near term as geopolitical tensions and macroeconomic uncertainty keep markets on edge, even as the broader trend suggests a gradual upside. On the domestic front, bullion continues to trade within a defined range on the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), reflecting a balance between safe-haven demand and macro headwinds. According to a report prepared by Dr Renisha Chainani,

Head of Research at Augmont, gold is expected to trade between Rs 144,000 and Rs 154,000 per 10 gm, while silver could move in the Rs 215,000 to Rs 243,000 per kg range before a breakout or breakdown. GOLD PRICES SEE GRADUAL RISE

Escalating tensions in West Asia, particularly around Iran and the Strait of Hormuz, have revived safe-haven demand for gold while raising concerns about supply disruptions and energy-driven inflation, the report noted.

At the same time, markets are weighing whether central banks may need to stay hawkish if inflation resurges due to higher energy prices. Ross Maxwell, Global Strategy Operations Lead at VT Markets, said volatility is likely to persist through the year. "I expect gold and silver prices to remain volatile through the rest of the year, with a modest upward bias as long as macro conditions stay supportive," he said. "Gold may continue



to benefit from its safe-haven appeal, especially if geopolitical tensions persist or economic growth slows.

WHY SILVER MAY LAG GOLD

Silver's outlook remains more mixed due to its industrial exposure. "Silver could see more mixed performance given its role as an industrial metal if high energy prices persist and have a negative impact on global growth," Maxwell said.

This makes silver more sensitive to economic cycles, even as investment demand provides some support.

WHAT SHOULD INVESTORS

TRACK?

Investors will need to track multiple moving parts, including interest rates, inflation expectations, central bank policy, US dollar strength and geopolitical developments. "The key drivers for investors to look out for will be interest rates, inflation expectations, central bank policies, USD strength and geopolitical uncertainty," Maxwell said. "If we start to see further interest rate cuts, then this is likely to support precious metals by reducing the opportunity cost of holding non-yielding assets." "A stronger USD could cap gains due to it being more expensive for foreign buyers." For Indian investors, MCX prices are also shaped by the rupee-dollar exchange rate and import dynamics. A weaker rupee tends to push domestic bullion prices higher, even if international prices remain stable. Seasonal demand and any changes in import duties can further amplify price movements.

Air India hikes domestic fares. Here's how much extra passengers will have to pay

New Delhi.(Agency)

Air India has increased fuel surcharges on both domestic and international routes, as global jet fuel prices have surged sharply, adding to the cost pressure already faced by airlines.

The increase in fuel surcharges comes amid the West Asia war that has led to an energy crisis pushing oil prices higher. Increase in ticket fares comes as Air India Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Managing Director (MD) Campbell Wilson has resigned from his position. The move reflects how rising fuel costs are starting to directly impact ticket pricing, even as carriers try to absorb part of the increase.

DOMESTIC FARES SEE STRUCTURAL CHANGE

Air India has revised its domestic fuel surcharge by introducing a distance-based structure, replacing the earlier flat charge. This means the extra amount a passenger pays will now depend on how far they are flying.

For short-haul flights of up to 500 km, passengers will pay an additional Rs 299. For routes between 501 km and 1,000 km, the surcharge has been set at

Rs 399. Flights covering 1,001 km to 1,500 km will attract a surcharge of Rs 549. For longer domestic routes between 1,501 km and 2,000 km, passengers will pay Rs 749. For flights above 2,000 km, the surcharge goes up



to Rs 899, which is the highest among domestic categories. These revised charges will come into effect from 9:01 am IST on April 8.

WHAT "PER SECTOR" MEANS FOR PASSENGERS

The surcharge is applied "per passenger, per sector", which is important for understanding the final ticket cost.

A sector simply means one leg of a journey. For example, a direct flight from Delhi to Mumbai is one sector.

If a passenger books a connecting journey, such as Delhi to Bengaluru via Mumbai, it will be counted as two sectors. In this case, the fuel surcharge will be charged separately for each leg of the trip. This means passengers on connecting flights may end up paying a higher total surcharge compared to those on direct flights, even if the overall distance is similar. The change in structure allows airlines to link pricing more closely with distance and fuel use, but it also means ticket costs can vary more depending on route and itinerary.

INTERNATIONAL ROUTES SEE SHARPER HIKE

Air India has increased fuel surcharges on international routes, with a higher impact on long-haul flights. The revised charges vary by region and reflect the rise in global jet fuel prices.

For nearby regions such as SAARC (excluding Bangladesh), passengers will now pay USD 24, which is about Rs 2,232 per passenger per sector.

Flights to West Asia and the Middle East will see a surcharge of USD 50, or roughly Rs 4,650.

Govt doubles quantity of 5 Kg FTL cylinders for migrant labourers

New Delhi.(Agency)

Government has decided to double the daily allocation of 5-kg free trade LPG (FTL) cylinders available for distribution to migrant labourers across states, Petroleum Ministry announced in a notification. This will be based on the average daily number of cylinders supplied during March 2-3. The Petroleum Ministry said that the enhanced allocation will be based on the average daily supply of cylinders provided to migrant workers. The revised allocation goes beyond the earlier cap of 20 percent specified in March announcement. The government also said that the additional 5-kg FTL cylinders will be placed at the disposal of state governments and their Food and Civil Supplies Departments for distribution exclusively to migrant labourers with

the assistance of oil marketing companies (OMCs). The 5 Kg FTL cylinders are available at nearby LPG Distributorships and can be purchased by showing any valid ID proofs. No



address proof is required.

Official reports showed, since 23 March 2026, about 6.75 lakh 5-kg Free Trade LPG cylinders have been sold.

PSU OMCs have organised around 550

awareness camps for 5 Kg FTL Cylinders in Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chandigarh, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Puducherry, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, West Bengal.

More than 6,700 - 5Kg FTL cylinders were also sold in these camps.

A three-member committee of Executive Directors from IOCL, HPCL and BPCL is coordinating with State authorities and industry bodies to plan commercial LPG distribution.

About 79,909 MT of commercial LPG (equivalent to over 42 lakh 19-kg cylinders) has been sold since 14 March 2026.

What every Indian must understand before buying a life insurance policy

Life Insurance is not merely a financial product; it is a safeguard for the people who depend on you. Understanding its purpose, structure and role in financial planning can make the difference between simply owning a policy and truly protecting your family.

New Delhi.(Agency)

There is a strange contradiction in the way we Indians approach money. We enthusiastically track portfolio returns daily, compare real estate cycles, debate on mutual fund performance, buy gold on dips etc. In short, we understand the upside of financial assets very well, but we don't understand downside equally — the risk that can derail all these plans. The most important financial asset in household is not portfolios or property;

it's the ability to earn. And we rarely pause to protect our earnings engine. Every investment, EMI, school fee, home loan, medical expense, or any other long-term goal ultimately rests on income. If that engine suddenly stops, your financial obligations won't pause in tandem. That is precisely where life insurance plays a critical role. It protects the economic value of human life — the very foundation on which a family's financial stability rests. Yet despite its importance, Life Insurance remains one of the most misunderstood financial products in India. Decisions are often made casually, based on advice from relatives, rushed purchases before tax deadlines, or recommendations that are not fully understood. As a result, many policies are bought without understanding, clarity on coverage, type of policy, purpose, or long-term suitability. This lack of understanding creates one of the biggest blind spots in household financial planning. Where household liabilities are rising, near to no social security —

misunderstanding insurance is no longer a small oversight.

Here are a few fundamentals that every individual must be clear about before buying a policy. At its core, life insurance is a future income replacement: If you are the primary earner, your income sustains

financial protection plan. A commonly used benchmark is getting a term plan 10-15 X your annual income.

Life insurance is not a one-time purchase — it must evolve with your life: One of the most common mistakes people make is buying a policy once and never reviewing it again. But financial responsibilities evolve. Marriage, childbirth, a home loan, career progression or starting a business all increase financial exposure.

A 28-year-old with no dependents requires a very different coverage compared to a 38-year-old nurturing 2 children and servicing a large home loan. Hence, it should be reviewed at every major life milestone as coverage that felt adequate 5 years ago may no longer be sufficient today. First, understand the purpose of buying insurance: A major source of confusion around life insurance arises because people often start by looking at the product rather than asking a simple question — what problem am I trying to solve? Not all life insurance policies serve the same purpose.



the household — from everyday expenses to long-term family goals. The real question while buying pure term insurance should not be "what will I get in return?" but rather "if my income stops tomorrow, how long can my family sustain itself?" This is why term life insurance should form the foundation of a



Karishma Tanna

Announces Pregnancy With Husband Varun Bangera, Bigg Boss 8 And Scoop Star Shares Baby Bump Pics

Actress Karishma Tanna has announced that she is expecting her first child with husband Varun Bangera. The actor shared a series of heartwarming photos, revealing the big news and instantly drawing congratulations from fans and celebrities. Karishma took to Instagram with Varun to share the news through a set of intimate, well-styled pictures. In one of the photos, the couple is seen wearing matching caps that read "MOM" and "DAD", smiling at each other while holding their pet dogs. Another picture shows them holding tiny baby socks. In a different frame, the two are seen holding hands, with the tiny socks between them and in another, there's a warm hug captured between the couple. Along with the post, they wrote, "A little Miracle, Our greatest gift — August 2026." Khushi Kapoor, Amrita Arora, Bipasha Basu and Kritika Kamra were one of the first ones to



congratulate her in the comments. Check out the post: Karishma Tanna has been a familiar face in Indian television for over two decades. She started her career with Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi in 2001 and went on to become a popular name on TV. She later gained massive visibility as a contestant on Bigg Boss 8, where she emerged as the first runner-up, further boosting her popularity.

Over the years, she has appeared in several shows including Naagin 3 and Qayamat Ki Raat, along with films like Grand Masti and Sanju.

In recent years, she successfully transitioned to OTT, earning critical acclaim for her performance in Hansal Mehta's Scoop (2023), where she played journalist Jagruti Pathak.

Karishma married Mumbai-based businessman Varun Bangera on February 5, 2022, in an intimate ceremony in Mumbai. The couple had reportedly met through mutual friends in 2021 and quickly formed a strong bond before tying the knot. Karishma's husband Varun Bangera is the director at VB Corp, a real estate company, and largely stays away from the entertainment industry. Unlike Karishma, Varun maintains a low public profile and is rarely seen in the media, except through the couple's social media posts.

Diljit Dosanjh

Reunites With AR Rahman, Imtiaz Ali For 'Kya Kamaal Hai' In Main Vaapas Aaunga

One of the most exciting musical collaborations of the year is taking shape as Main Vaapas Aaunga brings together Diljit Dosanjh, A.R. Rahman and lyricist Irshad Kamil for the much-anticipated track Kya Kamaal Hai. The buzz around the song intensified after behind-the-scenes glimpses from a special recording session surfaced online, offering fans a rare, intimate look into the making of this high-profile collaboration.

BTS Glimpse Builds Anticipation

The newly shared BTS moments capture the trio in a creative zone, hinting at the scale and emotional depth the track is expected to deliver. The visuals have already sparked excitement among fans, who are eagerly awaiting the final release of the song.

This marks a reunion of Diljit Dosanjh with both A.R. Rahman and Imtiaz Ali, a combination that has consistently delivered memorable music in the past.

A Powerful Creative Line-Up

With Imtiaz Ali at the helm and Rahman composing the music, Kya

Kamaal Hai is expected to carry the filmmaker's signature emotional texture, elevated by Rahman's layered soundscape and Irshad Kamil's evocative lyrics.

Diljit Dosanjh, known for seamlessly balancing mainstream appeal with artistic depth, adds another dimension to the collaboration.

Main Vaapas Aaunga features a strong ensemble cast including Naseeruddin Shah, Sharvari and Vedang Raina alongside Diljit Dosanjh. The film is produced by Sameer Nair and Deepak Segal under Applause Entertainment, along with Mohit Choudhary and Shibasish Sarkar of Window Seat Films.



Janhvi Kapoor Reveals She Was 'Depressed After Dhadak', Says 'People Hate Me'



Janhvi Kapoor is often seen smiling through interviews and public appearances, but behind that calm exterior, her early days in Bollywood came with their own set of emotional challenges. In a recent conversation, the actor revisited a phase of her life that she says wasn't as celebratory as many believed. Speaking on Raj Shamani's podcast, Janhvi looked back at her debut film Dhadak, which released in 2018. While the film marked her entry into the industry alongside Ishaan Khatter, her personal experience during that time was far from what the audience may have assumed.

Sharing her recollection of that period, Janhvi said, "You know, every time anyone talks to me about my first film, Dhadak, they are like, 'she was so good in it' or that 'we loved Dhadak' and 'you earned a lot of money'... But my memory of Dhadak was very different. I was depressed after Dhadak. I thought ho gaya and that packup hogaya (I am done). People hate me."

She went on to explain how deeply personal loss influenced her emotional state at the time. Having lost her mother, Sridevi, just months before the film's release, Janhvi said she found herself seeking validation elsewhere. "I got all of my validation in my life from my mom. She went away. So I was like, okay, I'm going to shift that to the audience. And I was expecting some across-the-board acceptance, which I didn't know does not exist. I was only concentrating on the negative. I didn't concentrate or even acknowledge the fact that it was a very... I think it was the most commercially successful film with newcomers up until Saiyaara. It didn't even click to me that it was a hit. I just knew that I sucked and people hated me... Because I only looked at the negative, and that became my reality." In an earlier appearance on the podcast B4U Hear It Here, the actor had also spoken about the criticism she faced during the initial phase of her career. Reflecting on how she internalised those remarks, she said, "During Dhadak and Gunjan Saxena, I have been made to feel that I got everything on a platter, and I got things I don't deserve, which means that I am technically worthless, and I am getting opportunities because of the work my parents have done. At the same time, I also felt an overwhelming respect and love for my parents, and I am being given love and work because of that."

Arshad Warsi's Daughter Zene Trends Online, Fans Say 'Shraddha Kapoor Ki Copy'



Sometimes, it's not the stars but their plus-ones who quietly steal the spotlight and that's exactly what seemed to happen at a recent awards night. Actor Arshad Warsi attended the event on Sunday with his daughter, Zene Zoe Warsi, and it didn't take long for her to become one of the most talked-about personalities from the evening. As videos from the red carpet began circulating online, viewers were quick to notice her presence, with many praising her appearance and natural charm.

Clips of Zene interacting with photographers and walking the red carpet soon went viral. Several users flooded the comments section with admiration, focusing on her looks and screen presence.

One user wrote, "Handsome Papa ki Beautiful Beti...❤️❤️❤️God bless you Always (sic)." Another commented, "Kitne khoobsurat hai masallah (sic)." A third user appeared curious about her future, asking, "Kab Debu karne wali Ha ?? Ekadam hot ha ❤️ (sic)." A fan wrote, "Shraddha Kapoor ki copy mil gai ab."

Zene, who is Arshad Warsi's daughter, has largely stayed away from the limelight so far. The actor, known for maintaining a relatively private personal life, shares two children – Zene Zoe Warsi and his son, Zeke Warsi.

With the sudden surge of attention following her public appearance, many on social media are now speculating whether Zene might consider stepping into the film industry. While there has been no official confirmation regarding any acting plans, the online buzz suggests there is already considerable curiosity around her potential debut.

Meanwhile, Arshad Warsi continues to remain active in the industry, with a career spanning over three decades.

He has been part of several successful films, including the Munna Bhai series, Golmaal franchise, Jolly LLB, Dhamaal, and Ishqiya.

The actor also has a busy slate ahead. His upcoming projects include Dhamaal 4, Welcome To The Jungle, King, and Golmaal 5. Among these, Welcome To The Jungle is scheduled for release on June 26, followed by Dhamaal 4 on July 3. King, featuring Shah Rukh Khan in the lead, is expected to arrive in theatres on December 24, 2026, while Golmaal 5 is planned for a 2027 release.

Healthy weekend drink: Cucumber Caiprioska

Unwind with a glass of chilled cucumber caiprioska. Generally, cocktails like Bloody Mary, Mojitos, Sex on the Beach or Tequila Sunrise can be fattening.



Even the most popular alcoholic beverage, beer is fattening. Chef Ashis Rout, Executive Chef at the Courtyard by Marriott, Gurgaon shares a recipe with us, which is not only tasty, but also low in calories.

Ingredients:

- 2 large cucumbers cut into chunks
- 60 ml vodka
- 15 ml of lemon juice
- 6 pieces of lemon chunks

Method: - A glassfull of crushed ice, topped with lemonade.
- Add the cucumber, lemon chunks and mash them together. Then, add the vodka, lemon juice and fill it up with crushed ice, top it with lemonade.

What your coffee says about you

Merlo Coffee baristas has revealed that are able to figure out a customer's personality type just by the cup of coffee they order.



The company said that people who drink Cafe Latte tend to be a bit softer and can be more romantic than others and are probably still friends with their first crush, News.com.au reported.

People, who drink Flat White, are straight-up types and could lack imagination.

The Cappuccino lover doesn't really indulge in their coffee as much as they should; they are still a child at heart who love chocolate sprinkle on top.

People drinking Macchiato are coffee-savvy young professional. They work and play fast.

People whose choice of drink is Vienna are the one who like the finer things in life; they have high expectations, are demanding and a touch clingy.

Hot Mocha ordering people are often drifters and find it hard to settle down. Hot Chocolate drinking people can be complete faux coffee-drinkers, posing as latte sippers.

Tea drinkers are real, wholesome and deep-thinkers. They are usually early morning people and read books.



Nagpur early risers say yes to healthy Breakfast

City is witnessing a renaissance of sorts with health enthusiasts avoiding the calorie-laden samosas and wadas and making a beeline for the small-time breakfast joints and juice centres, serving healthy breakfast near the gardens, joggers' streets and lake-side trails of Nagpur.

Fruity flavours There are many morning walkers, who prefer to stay away from the snacks early in the morning, so they go in for refreshing fruit shakes and juices. Dr Veena Talavia, who goes for a walk to the VNIT campus, is happy that there are quite a few options available there when it comes to fruit juices. "It has become a routine of sorts for my friends and I, post our morning walk. The number of juice centres has increased manifold in the past one year due to rise in the number of fitness enthusiasts these days.

People of all age groups enjoy shakes and juices of their choice. There are many cane juice centres too, which are crowded early in the morning," she said.

Vote for Veggies One can also relish a variety of vegetable juices near different jogging lanes. A kiosk at Dattatray Nagar, which serves aloe vera, bitter melon and spinach juice, is crowded since six in the morning. Also, the wheat grass juice centres attract many fitness freaks, taking a walk around the Japanese Garden. Entrepreneur Bharat Goenka confessed that the vegetable juices are the biggest motivation for him to get up early. He said, "The juicewala outside the garden knows my vegetable juice combination, so the moment he sees me coming back from my rounds, he keeps the juice ready. Now I look forward to wake up early and come here for a walk."

Medicinal Neera Neera is a popular beverage, which has become an integral part of many fitness freaks' lives. Makeshift neera centres opposite G S College, at Zero Mile and the Gandhi Sagar Lake are favoured by many. This healthy drink has to be consumed before the sun rises lest it



becomes alcoholic. A marketing professional, Anil Dhurve, confessed, "I feel fitter and healthier as I take neera every day; so it has become a habit now. After this traditional drink, I relish the idlis and upma at the roadside South Indian eateries at Sadar and Dharampeth."

Egg it on For those who swear by the health benefits of eggs, have become the regular patrons of the road-side kiosks specialising in eggy delights. Owner of one such food truck joint at Bajaj Nagar, Nahush Badge, said, "We have set up this joint specially for

the people who come for early morning walk in this area. Exotic dishes like egg tham jham and egg flip corn are favoured by the health conscious people." City businessman Atul Bangre, who religiously eats eggs post his running stint every day, said, "I get so tired after my exercise that I want to have something instant as well as healthy. So, I eat egg salad along with cheese chilla almost every alternate day. There's another joint at Abhyankar Nagar bus stand, which serves egg sandwiches in the morning hours, which are to die for; so I go there too on a regular basis."

Summer coolers with a Twist

We all love our lemonades and ice creams on a hot summer day. As the mercury soars, Amdavadis are giving cool twists to your summer staples.

Fancy a chilled soup or an ice cream sandwich? In this heat, as your appetite goes for a toss, why not try some summer special meals that will not only ensure you stay cool but also fill you up and have you feeling light and happy.

Say cool:

Be it some breezy rose sherbet, rejuvenating fresh juices, tall glasses of iced falooda or the humble nimbu pani — walk into one of our local cafes and enjoy a volley of unique cool mixes. So you find flavoured drinks like kiwi, strawberry and even plum lemonades and fruity buttermilk concoctions to chilled and wholesome pumpkin, cucumber and bell pepper soups and watermelon gazpachos. Says Reena Kakkar, owner of a cafe, "Lot of chilled fruit and vegetable soups are nutritious meals and perfect for summers." Play with your imagination and see the cool twist.

'Hot' ice:

The long lines at the street side gola walas laari are no joke! You really have to wait for your turn if you want to savour some tart kala khatta and kachi keri or that deliciously seasonal falsa and dadam golo. And this time, you can enjoy your golas with an amazing twist too! Some city youngsters have come up with unique gola flavours like gajar ka halwa, rosgulla and mango barfi too! Says Payal Vora, owner of a stall selling golas, "Amdavadis are not just foodies but adventurous with their tastes." For a city obsessed with chocolate, these gola walas have some choco-licious varieties too! Says Ekta Soni, another stall owner,



"Youngsters love stuff like chocolate cake gola, chocolate mousse and even chocolate pudding golas."

I scream ice cream:

It's the kind of weather when you feel like making a meal out of ice cream and that's probably what pioneered some Amdavadis to fuse your favourite ice cream flavours with your favourite snacks. The regulars at the Manek Chowk khau galli, would know of the

popular ice cream sandwich! A luscious chunk of ice cream sandwiched between two slices of white bread that is slathered with some delectable fruit jam! And when talking of snacky fare, we even have dosa ice cream! Dosa rolled into a cone and served with a scoop of your favourite ice cream! Says Smith Raval, a regular icecream snacker, "You just need to have an open mind to try combos! I love the idea of a crisp dosa with black currant ice cream! Even the ice cream bhajiyas you get during winters are delicious! I also love eating my French fries dipped in a vanilla softy! It tastes awesome!"

Go bananas with so many options

Banana prices have hit a 10 year-low and it's time to satiate your cravings for this fruit, which not only tastes yummy, but is packed with the goodness of vitamin B6, vitamin C, potassium, dietary fibre, potassium, biotin and copper.

The best thing about this fruit is it can be eaten straight off the rack, or be used in scrumptious smoothies, desserts, halwa, fudge, fritters, cutlets, bonda, am, payasa, curry and what not. So what are you waiting for? Go grab a few dozens while the prices are in control. Bangalore Times lists some popular varieties available in the city and what you can do with them...

Variety name: YELAKKI

Can be used for: HALWA FUDGE

1 Kg Rs 35

Recipe for halwa: Take three fully ripe bananas and mash them till they are smooth.

Fry some dry

fruits in ghee and keep aside. In a pan, add bananas and water and keep stirring on a low flame. Add sugar and cook till the paste is thick. Now add ghee, cardamom powder and fried dried fruits. Once the mixture is lumpy, transfer it into a bowl and let it cool.

Variety name: ROBUSTA

Can be used for: BURFI FRITTERS SHAKE BONDA CUTLET

1 Kg Rs 24

Recipe for bonda: Mash three bananas with a fork. Mix the mash, one cup flour, approximately half cup sugar and two pinches of soda powder. Now, heat oil in a wok on medium flame. Drop in the banana mixture spoon by spoon, without overcrowding the vessel. Fry it till brown. Serve when hot.

Variety name: RED

Can be used for: SMOOTHIES, DESSERT, CHIPS, CHICKEN

1 Kg Rs 75

Recipe for smoothie: Mix one cup of almond milk, one red banana and half cup of cooked oats in a blender. Your smoothie is ready! Garnish with almond pieces.

