

Delhi Government does not give advertisements to Sikh newspapers

This is a big attack on Sikhs

New Delhi Gurcharan Singh Babbar

New Delhi, 14 April : Serious allegations of discrimination and corruption have been raised against the Delhi Government's Directorate of Information and Publicity (DIP), with The Sikh Times, a national daily English newspaper, claiming that it has been deliberately denied since the formation of the BJP-led government in the capital. According to the management of The Sikh Times, despite having a well-established printing press, a large editorial team, and a wide readership across

Delhi, Punjab, Haryana, and the global Sikh diaspora, the newspaper has not received even a single advertisement from the Delhi Government. In contrast, the newspaper has cited examples of other publications, including Punjab Kesari, which allegedly received advertisements worth lakhs of rupees within a year. The disparity, it claims, points towards a pattern of selective allocation of government advertisements. The publication further stated that it continues to receive advertisements from multiple agencies such as CBC/DAVP (Suchna Bhavan), Northern Railways, Punjab Government, and various public and private sector organizations. However, Delhi Government advertisements remain completely absent.

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Short news

Mamata claims 'logical discrepancy' not recognised term under ECI, alleges it was used in Bengal to benefit BJP



New Delhi.(Agency)

West Bengal Chief Minister and TMC supremo Mamata Banerjee on Tuesday claimed that "logical discrepancy" is not an officially recognised term under the Election Commission framework. She alleged that it was exclusively applied in the state during the SIR exercise to benefit the BJP.

Addressing a poll rally at Pingla in Paschim Medinipur district, Mamata called on people to vote against the BJP, saying it is the only way to take revenge against the saffron party for "snatching away everything from you."The veteran politician stated that she has not seen a "dirty party" like the BJP. She alleged that the BJP is holding rallies at places that have direct railway connectivity with Uttar Pradesh and Bihar so that they can bring in people from those states to fill up the venues.

Rahul Gandhi says 'hate-filled thinking' of BJP-RSS destroying Constitution

NEW DELHI.(Agency)

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday claimed that the "hate-driven ideology" of the BJP and the RSS is destroying the Constitution, and alleged that the saffron party is engaging in vote theft. The Lok Sabha Leader of Opposition made



the remark while addressing an election rally in West Bengal's Uttar Dinajpur district. "Hate-filled thinking of the BJP and the RSS is destroying the Constitution," he said.

He further accused the RSS and the BJP of being "involved in vote theft" and "destroying democracy". Taking aim at the ruling Trinamool Congress, he claimed that the TMC in West Bengal has not provided jobs as promised to the people of the state, claiming that 84 lakh youths have applied for unemployment allowance. "Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee promised jobs to five lakh people. But 84 lakh youths have applied for unemployment allowance," he said.

1 Anne Marg to 7 Circular Road: Decoding Nitish Kumar's move to new Patna home

Bihar.(Agency)

1, Anne Marg in Patna, the official residence of the Bihar Chief Minister, became synonymous with Nitish Kumar, who has served as the administrative head of the state for more than 20 years. However, he will be moving to a new address after his resignation. This shift in address marks a significant political and administrative change in Bihar's political trajectory.

The relocation of Nitish Kumar from 1 Anne Marg to 7 Circular Road—though a distance of a mere 100 meters—is far from a routine move. Occurring as he assumes his role as a Rajya Sabha MP and prepares to vacate the Chief Minister's office, this transition carries profound political and administrative weight, signalling a definitive shift in Bihar's power dynamics.

In Bihar, 1 Anne Marg holds the significance of being the most powerful address as it is the official residence of the Chief Minister. It is considered that the state administration runs from this bungalow, with the Chief Minister being involved in



every decision-making. CHANGE IN POWER AND ROLE During his stay at 1 Anne Marg, for more than two decades, Kumar functioned as the head of the Bihar state, with all top Bihar

bureaucrats (IAS, IPS officers) reporting to him. From framing policies to taking major administrative actions, every decision involved his direct supervision.

Shifting to 7, Circular Road, after the resignation as the Bihar CM, will reduce Kumar's role to a national and legislative one rather than an executive one. He will participate in debates, the law-making procedure, and the quotidian affairs of national politics; however, he will not hold the authority to control the everyday administration of Bihar. This means that his direct administrative authority has been reduced significantly, even if his political importance remains the same.

All women above 18 years eligible; registration requires only Aadhaar, Voter ID and bank account: CM Mann

The Sikh Times

ADAMPUR (JALANDHAR), 14 April : Marking the birth anniversary of Babasaheb Ambedkar with a decisive welfare push, CM Bhagwant Singh Mann on Tuesday rolled out a near-universal women-centric scheme in Punjab, promising assured monthly financial support of ₹1000 to ₹1500 to women across the state. Calling it a true tribute to Babasaheb Ambedkar's vision of social justice and equality, the Chief Minister launched the registration process, making all women above 18 years eligible with a simple three-document requirement, while ensuring doorstep facilitation through a massive network of camps and support staff. The rollout begins in nine constituencies and will expand across the remaining 108 from May 15, with payments starting July and no deadline for registration, effectively guaranteeing

benefits to every eligible woman regardless of when she enrolls. With 26,000 registration centres and dedicated Mahila Satkar Sakhis



deployed in every village and ward, the scheme is designed for scale, access and certainty, positioning it among the most expansive direct financial support initiatives for women in the country. Accompanied by sen-

ior AAP leader and Punjab Prabhari Manish Sisodia, CM Bhagwant Singh Mann announced that the scheme has been rolled out as a pilot across nine locations including Adampur, Malout, Sri Anandpur Sahib, Dirba, Sunam, Moga, Kotkapura, Batala and Patiala Rural. "Registration for women in remaining 108 constituencies will start from May 15 onwards. Monthly payments of ₹1000 or ₹1500 will start from July 2026 onwards," he added. Reassuring women about accessibility, CM Bhagwant Singh Mann said, "There is no deadline for registration and the ladies need not worry as it doesn't matter when they register whether April 15 or May 15 or August 15." He further clarified that delayed registration would not affect benefits, adding, "They will get their full payment payable from July onwards, so even if they register at the end of September, they will get full payment for three months meaning July, August and September."Contd.....page-3

CM defends guarantees, says Karnataka finances are stronger than Centre's

Says guarantees are also a kind of development and his government achieved meaningful progress

CHIKKAMAGALURU.(Agency)

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah underlined that guarantees designed to advance the welfare of the people are, in themselves, a form of development.

Speaking at the inauguration programme of the Handur-NR Pura Bridge in the Bhadra backwaters, and during the distribution of benefits at NR Pura in Chikkamagaluru district on Monday, Siddaramaiah said that Karnataka's financial position is far healthier than that of the Centre, and asserted that his government has delivered real development in addition to the guarantees.

The CM pointed out that several development works have been launched today, including the bridge constructed at a cost of Rs 36 crore.

Aiming the opposition's criticism — claiming a "fund crunch" for development, that the treasury is "empty" owing to the guarantees, and that development has come to a standstill — he rejected the charge and maintained that his administration has achieved meaningful progress alongside the guarantees.

"Guarantees are also a kind of development," he said, invoking Dr BR Ambedkar, the architect of the Constitution. Dr Ambedkar, he reminded, had stressed that economic, social, and educational freedom are indispensable for the success of political freedom. The opposition, Siddaramaiah urged, should reflect on Dr Ambedkar's vision.

'Centre has betrayed state' During the reign of Narasimharaja Wadiyar, Eddehalli village was renamed Narasimharajapura. In keeping with the local MLA's request to ensure development in the region, the construction of the bridge was undertaken.

Arvind Kejriwal-judge exchange in liquor policy case goes viral. Who said what?

Arvind Kejriwal alleged that Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma attended Adhivakta Parishad events four times, adding he firmly opposes the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh-BJP ideology.

New Delhi.(Agency)

Former Delhi Chief Minister and AAP leader Arvind Kejriwal on Monday questioned judicial neutrality while seeking the recusal of Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma from a CBI matter related to the Delhi liquor policy case. Calling the issue politically sensitive, he cited a "reasonable apprehension of bias," pointing to the judge's reported participation in events organised by Adhivakta Parishad, a lawyer's body affiliated with the RSS. Kejriwal argued that such associations could influence perceptions of fairness, particularly given his opposition to the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh and the BJP.



He described the case as politically driven and stressed that justice must not only be delivered but also appear impartial. Referring to Supreme Court observations that perception is crucial in a democracy, he reiterated concerns about the independence of investigative agencies, invoking the "caged parrot" remark often associated with the CBI.

He maintained that his plea was rooted in genuine concerns over neutrality, warning that even perceived bias could erode trust in the judiciary, while the court noted his arguments on record.

WHO SAID WHAT?

Arvind Kejriwal: Your honour has been attending the programmes of a particular ideology. So, ek mere mann mein yeh bias paida hota hai (I feel a bias), there is a reasonable bias in the mind of this honourable court.

## Front news continue

## Delhi Government does not give advertisements to Sikh newspapers, this is a big attack on Sikhs.

Allegations have also been made against the officials of the DIP, accusing them of corruption and discriminatory practices. The newspaper claims that repeated visits by its representatives to the department have yielded no results, with officials allegedly deflecting responsibility. The matter, according to the publication, has been escalated through multiple written complaints addressed to top authorities including Narendra Modi, Amit Shah, Rekha Gupta, the Lieutenant Governor of Delhi, and the Chief Secretary.

The Sikh Times has described the situation as an "advertisement blackout" and has termed it a serious threat to the survival of independent media, especially minority-run publications. It further alleged that such actions could economically cripple newspapers, as advertisements are a crucial source of revenue for the print media industry.

Highlighting the issue on the occasion of the festival of Baisakhi, the publication expressed disappointment that even on such an important day, no government advertisements were released to them.

The newspaper has demanded a fair and transparent inquiry into the functioning of the DIP and has called upon the authorities to ensure equal treatment for all publications, regardless of language or community affiliation.

## June 15 deadline set for MCG to plan monsoon preparedness

GURGAON.(Agency)

Haryana's industries and commerce minister Rao Narbir Singh has directed MCG to finalise a monsoon preparedness plan before June 15.

During a meeting at the PWD rest house on Monday, the minister instructed departments to ensure proper water drainage arrangements, especially in the Najafgarh drain area, Narsingpur and areas around the National Highway, adding that a review meeting will be held again around June 15 to assess the progress of preparations. During the meeting, GMDA officials said work is being carried out at nine waterlogging hotspots in the city. Moreover, cleaning of approximately 160-kilometre-long surface drains is also underway. Officials also said that work is being done to lower central verges and green belt areas below road level so that water flow remains smooth. In Narsingpur, the temporary drain constructed last year to improve water drainage is now being upgraded into a permanent concrete structure. Drain connectivity is also being strengthened at IFFCO Chowk, Signature Tower Chowk, Rajiv Chowk and Hero Honda Chowk to ensure smooth and unobstructed water flow, officials said.

They said 40 waterlogging hotspots have already been identified, and work has been completed at most locations. The target is to complete work at the remaining locations before the monsoon arrives.

## Two years on, Noida's 'Kushti' village waits for roads, sports infra and drainage

NOIDA.(Agency)

Known for producing award-winning wrestlers and athletes, Sorkha village, near Sector 115, has been waiting for concrete roads, parks, improved sports facilities and a functional drainage system for over two years. A group of villagers met Noida Authority officials on Monday to press for the long-pending infrastructure work. Wrestlers from Sorkha rose to prominence between 2001 and 2014 when dozens from the village went on to play at the national-level championship. Over the years, however, its popularity dwindled due to a lack of opportunities and investments. A resident of the village, Indrajit Pehelwan, said, "Improvement of infrastructure is a right of the 20,000 people living here. We have been ignored for the past two decades."

The villagers are demanding that the main road and the internal lanes are paved with concrete. "We also need water and sewer lines. Due to a lack of proper drainage,



these roads get flooded during the monsoon," another resident, Ravi Yadav, said. The sports infrastructure in the village has also been crumbling. The Authority earmarked a 5-acre plot on the Hindon floodplain nearly a decade ago, but did not construct a boundary wall around it. Then the land mafia moved in. A barbed fence installed around it slowly vanished. Villagers now use the remnants of the fence to hang clothes and use the plot to dry cow dung cakes. Residents claim that the horticulture department has failed to provide a functional sports ground. Despite tenders being floated two years ago, the lack of progress on the issue has rendered the existing ground into a vacant plot, which is often overrun by stray animals.

## GMDA to crack down on illegal discharge into Leg-2 drain, desilting planned

NOIDA.(Agency)

GMDA is set to act against illegal discharge of wastewater into the Leg-2 master stormwater drain by identifying and disconnecting unauthorised outlets along a 4km stretch. An agency will be engaged to trace and plug illegal sewage connections between Signature Tower and Bhimgarh Kheri, where untreated waste is being released into the stormwater system, leading to pollution. Apart from disconnecting these outlets, the agency will also undertake desilting of the drain. Officials said accumulated silt and debris have reduced its carrying capacity, contributing to frequent waterlogging during heavy rainfall. A GMDA official said the exercise is aimed at restoring the drain's functionality ahead of the monsoon. "Illegal discharge into stormwater drains pollutes natural water channels. We have invited bids to help



identify such points and ensure their disconnection, along with improving flow through desilting," the official said. The project is estimated to cost Rs 1 crore and is expected to be completed within three months from the start of

work. Leg-2 is a key component of the city's drainage network. It originates in Sector 27 and drains into the Najafgarh drain, passing through sectors 29 and 41, NH-8, Atul Kataria Chowk, Sheela Mata Road, Ashok Vihar, railway culvert

No. 50, Dharampur village and Sector 107. In addition, GMDA is rebuilding a 1.4km stretch of the drain between Ashok Vihar and railway culvert No. 50 near Bhimgarh Kheri at a cost of Rs 17.6 crore. The project received financial clearance from the government last month. This portion has weakened over time, with sections partially collapsing and reducing flow capacity. While most stretches of the drain are covered, the Ashok Vihar segment remains an open brick-lined channel. It will be reconstructed as a covered reinforced concrete drain designed to handle higher flow. Built decades ago when the surrounding areas were less developed, the drain now faces pressure due to rapid urbanisation, with repeated waterlogging reported in areas such as Ashok Vihar, Atul Kataria Chowk and near Sheela Mata Mandir during monsoon.

## Haryana trade unions demand release of workers held after Manesar protest, call statewide strike on April 16

Gurgaon.(Agency)

Trade unions on Monday demanded that workers arrested after protests seeking a hike in minimum wages at IMT Manesar on April 9 be released immediately, and called a statewide protest on April 16.

In a memorandum submitted to the Haryana govt, the unions condemned the "unprovoked repression" of peaceful protesters. CITU state vice-president Satbir Singh said workers were struggling amid rising inflation, high rents and soaring essential commodity prices, while working 12-hour shifts without overtime or minimum wages.

District president Suresh Naurha said the administration used force instead of dialogue and later announced an "inadequate" wage hike under pressure.

While the state govt on April 9 issued a notification to increase the minimum wages by 35%, with effect from April 1, trade unions are demanding a minimum monthly wage of Rs 30,000 and an end to "harassment" of workers. Fifty-five

people, around 20 of them women, were arrested after two FIRs on charges of attempt to murder, rioting, unlawful assembly, obstruction of public servants and property damage were filed after hundreds of contractual workers working across multiple companies in IMT



Manesar vandalised and set fire to police vehicles and clashed with cops during the protest seeking higher wages.

Eleven people were arrested in one of the

FIRs filed on charges of attempt to murder on the complaint of Richa Global Exports Pvt Ltd and Modelama Exports Pvt Ltd at the Sector 7 IMT Manesar police station. Later, around seven to eight more people were arrested and charged with attempt to murder. "The repressive attitude of the BJP govt and the police towards workers, especially women, is highly condemnable," Singh said. "Labour laws are not being enforced, and minimum wages have not been revised for the past six years. The govt has shut its eyes to this reality," he said. Forty-four people were arrested last week in connection with the second FIR, filed on the complaint of Modelama Exports, which accused 300-400 workers of pelting stones, vandalising vehicles and property at the factory's Sector 4 unit.

On Monday, six more people were arrested in connection with the violence. According to sources, 55 were produced before a local court, which remanded 11 of them to 14 days' judicial custody.

## Haryana mandates 'drug screening' during college admissions

NOIDA.(Agency)

Haryana higher education department has directed all universities and colleges to implement stricter anti-drug measures. These include declaring a 500-metre radius around campuses as strictly monitored "drug-free zones" and introducing compulsory drug screening of students at the time of admission.

Separately, to encourage reporting of drug use, a reward system has been introduced, offering Rs 500 for the first verified tip-off, Rs 1,000 for the second and Rs 1,500 for the third. Penalties for students found under the influence will escalate from a warning to fines of Rs 2,000 and Rs 5,000 for repeat offences.

This follows recommendations made during meetings of the Narco Coordination Centre earlier this year and calls for a comprehensive approach combining enforcement with counselling

and rehabilitation. "The objective is not merely to punish but to ensure timely intervention and counselling for students



who may be at risk," the order stated. Institutions have been instructed to hold awareness camps and conduct voluntary medical check-ups, with a plan to make these mandatory over time. A key component of the initiative is the establishment of anti-drug awareness

cells in every institution, coordinated by the NSS in-charge and supported by faculty members and student volunteers. These cells will conduct awareness drives, promote peer monitoring and check for the sale of tobacco or illegal substances on campus. The cells will also conduct random testing and physical checks, address complaints within 15 days and impose penalties, while referring offenders to in-house counsellors or psychiatrists for mental health support. Screening will particularly focus on first- and third-year students as part of the state's vision of building "drug-free colleges." Additional measures include mandatory one-hour orientation sessions for new students and faculty, installation of anonymous complaint boxes and monthly parent-teacher meetings to sensitise families about drug-related issues, along with

## 6 held for 'instigating' Gurgaon labour protest violence

NOIDA.(Agency)

Six alleged conspirators behind the April 9 vandalism in IMT Manesar, which took place during protests by industrial workers demanding higher wages, were arrested on Monday, police said. With these arrests, the total number of people held in the case has risen to 70.

According to police, a larger conspiracy — allegedly involving plans to set factories on fire using petrol bombs — was uncovered through WhatsApp chats. Investigators said the accused not only participated in the violence but also instigated contractual workers to carry out arson, stone-pelting and assaults across multiple industrial units during the protest. Police added that most accused had no employment links with companies in Gurgaon and acted as "external conspirators". Those arrested have been identified as Aakash from Rohtak, Pintu Kumar Yadav from Bihar, Shyambeer from UP, Ajit Singh

from Haryana, and Raju Singh and Harish Chand from Uttarakhand. Police spokesperson Sandeep Turan said the accused repeatedly provoked workers to engage in vandalism, arson and attacks on police personnel and



company staff. In a screenshot of a chat, which a source shared with TOI, an accused said, "Kam se kam 10 bottle petrol company ki taraf pheko. (Throw at least 10 bottles of petrol towards the company)"

"Sab raat ka intezaar karo, jaise hi raat ho jaaye, company mein aag laga do (wait

till night, set company ablaze then)," another person said. On Monday, police appealed to workers to remain cautious and not fall prey to instigation by outsiders. "If any non-worker attempts to vitiate the atmosphere or provoke

unrest, the information should be shared with the police immediately," a police officer said, adding that further investigation is under way and more arrests are likely.

On April 9, 55 people, including around 20 women, were arrested and two FIRs were registered after contractual workers turned violent during protests seeking higher wages at multiple units in IMT Manesar. One of the FIRs, filed on a complaint by Richa Global Exports, invoked attempt to murder charges against 11 individuals, while another was registered based on a complaint by Modelama Exports. Later, around seven to eight more people were arrested and charged with attempt to

murder. Police said agitators vandalised vehicles, damaged factory property, set a police motorcycle on fire and clashed with personnel deployed at the site.

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Editor-in-Chief

Gurcharan Singh Babbar

Mob : 9654077232, 9971359517

Website : www.thesikhetimes.in

Email : sikhetimesindia@gmail.com

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# All women above 18 years eligible; registration requires only Aadhaar, Voter ID and bank account: CM Mann

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Detailing the documentation process, he said, "For registration only three documents are required including Aadhaar with Punjab address, Voter ID from Punjab and Bank passbook. In case of SC women SC certificate is also required." Addressing concerns of women lacking caste certificates, CM Bhagwant Singh Mann added, "I know many of my SC sisters and mothers don't have a certificate but they don't have to worry and just apply for their certificate." He further assured uninterrupted benefits, stating, "If that is taking time then don't have to worry as they too can register under the scheme without the certificate and start getting ₹1000 monthly. However, whenever their certificate comes, the state government will pay them a difference of ₹500 per month as well from July onwards. There is no need to worry on this front." To ensure last-mile coverage, the Chief Minister announced a grassroots outreach mechanism. "To ensure 100%

coverage of all women above 18 years and to handhold them through the registration process, the Punjab government will engage Mahila Satkar Sakhis in every village and every ward across Punjab," he said. Explaining their role, he added, "Mahila Satkar Sakhis will come to the home of beneficiaries and explain to them benefits of the Scheme, clarify their all doubts, and handover the registration form. They will explain the entire registration process to the beneficiaries along with what documents are needed and solve all their queries and problems." He further noted, "If the beneficiary is missing any document like voter ID or bank account, these Sakhis will help them in getting that made too. Mahila Satkar Sakhi will guide them at every step." On ease of access, CM Bhagwant Singh Mann said, "Once they have filled in their registration form and have all your documents ready, they can visit their nearest registration centre and submit it there." He added that the government has ensured

extensive infrastructure, stating, "To ensure that women face no hassle in traveling for registrations, the Punjab government will be allowing registration at more than 26,000 locations including all Anganwadi Centres, all Sewa Kendras and all Municipal Corporation/Committee offices in urban areas." Outlining the benefits, he said, "The scheme will ensure a cash benefit of ₹1000 per month to the women from other category and ₹1500 per month to women from Scheduled Castes (SCs)." Emphasising its impact, CM Bhagwant Singh Mann stated, "This scheme will have a monumental effect on the upliftment of women by making them independent and empowering them." Highlighting the broader socio-economic vision, he said, "It will give them choice and clubbed with financial literacy, it will promote savings, thrift and investment and will enable dignity in fulfilling their small desires." He acknowledged existing gaps, adding, "Punjab has already made consider-

able progress in social welfare and human development indicators; however, a large number of women across the state, particularly those belonging to economically vulnerable households, continue to lack independent financial security." Stressing the importance of economic autonomy, CM Bhagwant Singh Mann stated, "Strengthening women's financial autonomy is essential for improving household welfare, promoting gender equity, and enhancing women's participation in social and economic decision-making." He further underlined the scale of the initiative, saying, "This scheme adopts a near-universal eligibility framework, covering all women aged 18 years and above, subject only to limited exclusion criteria. The scheme is therefore expected to benefit more than 97% of the women, making it one of the most comprehensive women-centric social protection initiatives in the country." Calling it a transformative intervention, CM Bhagwant Singh Mann said, "The scheme represents a landmark step

towards ensuring direct economic support to women across the state and reflects the Government's vision that women's empowerment must translate into tangible financial independence." Clarifying eligibility, he added, "Every woman aged 18 years or above and registered as a voter in the state and possessing a valid Aadhar Card reflecting Punjab residency and having a valid Voter ID of Punjab issued by the Election Commission of India shall be eligible to be enrolled as a beneficiary under the Scheme." On financial commitment, CM Bhagwant Singh Mann stated, "A sum of ₹9300 crore has already been sanctioned in the Budget for Financial Year 2026-27 and given the scale and outreach of the scheme, it is expected to become one of the largest women-centric social welfare initiatives undertaken by the Government of Punjab." Reiterating the inspiration behind the initiative, he concluded, "This is a humble tribute to Baba Sahib BR Ambedkar who was an ardent votary of upliftment

of women by empowering them and making them an active partner in the socio-economic development of women." On the occasion, CM Bhagwant Singh Mann handed over registration certificates to three beneficiaries including Harbhans Kaur, Diksha and Simran. The beneficiaries welcomed the initiative and expressed that it would significantly strengthen their financial independence. "This path breaking initiative will go a long way in our development and for the first time any state government and the Chief Minister had thought about us," they said. Among those present were Cabinet Ministers Aman Arora, Harpal Singh Cheema, Dr. Baljeet Kaur, Harbhajan Singh ETO and Mohinder Bhagat, senior AAP leader Manish Sisodia, Lok Sabha MP Dr. Rajkumar Chabbewal, Chairman Punjab State Cooperative Agriculture Development Bank Pawan Kumar Tinu and others. The Mawan Dheeyan Satkar Yojna, launched on April 14, 2026 on the birth anniversary of Babasaheb Ambedkar, is a major

women-centric welfare initiative of the Punjab Government aimed at ensuring financial independence for women. Registration for beneficiaries will begin as a pilot from April 15 in nine constituencies including Adampur, Malout, Sri Anandpur Sahib, Dirba, Sunam, Moga, Kotkapura, Batala and Patiala Rural, while registration across the remaining 108 constituencies will commence from May 15 onwards. Under the scheme, women from the general category will receive ₹1000 per month, while women from Scheduled Castes will receive ₹1500 per month, with payments scheduled to begin from July 2026. Notably, there is no deadline for registration, and all eligible women will receive full payments from July onwards regardless of when they register, ensuring that even late applicants receive arrears. For registration, only three basic documents are required: Aadhaar card with Punjab address, Punjab voter ID, and bank passbook. Women from

Scheduled Castes are additionally required to submit an SC certificate; however, those who do not currently possess the certificate can still register and begin receiving ₹1000 per month, with the remaining ₹500 to be paid retrospectively once the certificate is submitted. To ensure universal coverage and ease of access, the Punjab Government will deploy Mahila Satkar Sakhis in every village and ward to provide door-to-door assistance, explain the scheme, and help beneficiaries complete documentation. Registration can be completed at more than 26,000 centres across Punjab, including Anganwadi Centres, Sewa Kendras, and municipal offices in urban areas, ensuring that women face no barriers in availing the benefits of the scheme.

**NAME CHANGE**  
It is for general information that I, SANDEEP RATHOUR S/O SH. BIJENDER SINGH R/O C 14 Hari Nagar Extn Badarpur, Delhi 110044 declare that the name of my father has been wrongly written as VIJENDER SINGH RATHOUR in my all Educational Documents and VIJENDER SINGH in my Aadhar No. 8237 1174 3688, and as in my PAN No. DQDPR7137D. The actual name of my father is BIJENDER SINGH which may be amended accordingly.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I, SEEMA PARVEEN, D/o of Mr. MOHD. NAKI, R/O HOUSE NO.313/101-0, 2ND FLOOR, TULSI NAGAR, INDERLOK DELHI-110035, declare that I am the biological mother of Master ABUZAR, aged 13 years. That I am a divorced woman. My marriage with MOHD SOHAIL was legally dissolved on dated 02-06-2013 by way of mutual divorce. Since the date of divorce, my child Master ABUZAR is living with me and is under my care and custody. I am the sole and legal guardian of my child and responsible for all decisions related to his upbringing, education, and welfare. The father of the child has no objection and is not involved in the upbringing and education of the child.

**NAME CHANGE**  
It is for general information that I, FAIZAN ABBASI S/O SALEEM ABBASI R/O 108, AZEEM DAIRY, JAMIA NAGAR, OKHLA, SOUTH DELHI, DELHI-110025, declare that the name of my father has been wrongly written as SALIM ABBASI in my 10th and 12th class certificate. The actual name of my father is SALEEM ABBASI which may be amended accordingly.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I, SUNIL KUMAR Son of Ch. HARVANSI SINGH presently residing at H No-1/34A, Sadar Bazar Delhi Cantt-110010, have changed my name from SUNIL KUMAR to SUNIL CHAUDHARY for all future purposes.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I, NO-3199796Y, Rank-HAV Name- BRAJMOHAN SINGH residing at VILL-BANA, PO-RAYA, TEHSIL-MAHAVAN, DIST-MATHURRA, UTTAR PRADESH-281204, have changed my mother's name from KAMAL DEVI to KAMALA for all future purposes and in my service records my mother's date of birth wrongly mentioned as 04/07/1953 instead of her correct date of birth as 01/01/1955 vide Affidavit dated 14/04/2026 before Notary Public, Delhi.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I, ILLA DEVI mother of No-14665292P, Rank-HAV Name- RAJVEER RANJAN residing at CHAKEVA (CHAK FAIZ), VAISHALI, BIHAR-845056, have changed my name from ILLA DEVI to ILLA DEVI for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 14/04/2026 before Executive Magistrate, Delhi.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I, JANBED SINGH YADAV Father of No-15215036M, Rank-SEP Name- RAJVEER SINGH YADAV Residing at VILL-JOSHI NAGAR, WARD No-35, DIST & TEH-BHIND, MADHYA PRADESH-477105, have changed my name from JANBED SINGH YADAV to JANVED SINGH YADAV for all future purposes, in my son's service record my date of birth wrongly mentioned as 01/07/1965 instead of my correct date of birth as 05/01/1968 vide Affidavit dated 14/04/2026 before Notary Public, Delhi.

**DATE OF BIRTH CHANGE**  
I, SUHAGA DEVI mother of No-15215038M, Rank-SEP Name- RAJVEER SINGH YADAV Residing at VILL-JOSHI NAGAR, WARD No-35, DIST & TEH-BHIND, MADHYA PRADESH-477105, in my son's service records my date of birth wrongly mentioned as 01/07/1967 instead of my correct date of birth as 01/01/1969 vide affidavit dated 14/04/2026 before Notary Public, Delhi.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I, RENU YADAV wife of No-15723931P, Rank-HAV, Name-SANJEEV YADAV Residing at VILL-JOSHI NAGAR ETAWAH ROAD, DIST & TEH-BHIND, MADHYA PRADESH-477105, have changed my name from RENU YADAV to RENU for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 14/04/2026 before Notary Public, Delhi.

## Haryana steps up Yamuna clean-up with strict timeline

**The Sikh Times**  
Gurugram: In a push to accelerate efforts under the Yamuna Action Plan, Haryana State Pollution Control Board (HSPCB) Member Secretary Yogesh Kumar chaired a high-level review meeting in Gurugram on Friday, directing officials to ensure time-bound execution of projects and visible on-ground results. The meeting, held at Vikas Sadan, focused on strengthening measures to curb pollution in drains flowing into the Yamuna and improving sewage

treatment infrastructure across the city. Reviewing the progress made by HSPCB and the Gurugram Metropolitan Development Authority (GMDA), Kumar stressed strict adherence to timelines and enhanced inter-departmental coordination. "All projects must be completed within the stipulated timeframe with measurable impact on the ground," he said. One of the key directives issued during the meeting was to conduct fresh joint sampling of Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) and submit

a detailed report within 15 days. Officials were also instructed to ensure the diversion of untreated wastewater from Leg-III to Leg-II within the same timeframe, enabling better treatment and reuse of water, particularly for irrigation purposes. To tackle pollution at the source, Kumar directed GMDA to prepare a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for cleaning stormwater drains and sewer lines. The SOP will also focus on identifying and removing illegal sewer connections, a major contributor to contamination in city drains. Further, officials were asked to complete the identification and mapping of all pollution hotspots in Leg-II within three months, a step aimed at creating a more targeted and data-driven

approach to pollution control. Highlighting solid waste management concerns, Kumar instructed departments to maintain a detailed record of waste extracted from drains and ensure its scientific disposal, enabling better monitoring and future planning. The Municipal Corporation of Gurugram (MCG) was also directed to submit a report on newly registered water tankers and take strict action against illegal tanker operations, including forming dedicated enforcement teams. Additionally, GMDA was asked to provide a status report on fencing along drains to prevent dumping and unauthorised access. Regular inspections of all

STPs were also mandated to ensure compliance with operational standards. Officials informed the meeting that ongoing initiatives such as drain tapping, installation of STPs and CETPs, improved waste management, and strengthened monitoring systems are already showing positive signs of improvement in Yamuna water quality. The review meeting was attended by senior officials from HSPCB, GMDA, MCG, irrigation departments, HSIDC and law enforcement agencies, reflecting a coordinated approach to tackling urban water pollution in Gurugram.

## To get ex-partner back, man kidnaps her 7-year-old son

New Delhi: A seven-year-old boy, kidnapped by his mother's former live-in partner to pressure her into returning to him in West Delhi, was rescued by the Delhi Police, they said on Friday. The prime accused, Ajay Verma from Hansi, Haryana, along with three associates, was arrested in this regard, they added. The boy's mother lodged a complaint at the Vikas Puri police station on September 28, stating that her son had not returned from school the previous day. In her complaint, the woman expressed suspicion that Verma had abducted him, citing his past violent and possessive behaviour during their relationship. Investigators later confirmed that Verma abducted the child, who is from the complainant's previous marriage, to force her into resuming their relationship. The police registered a case and initiated an investigation into the matter. They analysed CCTV footage from the area that showed two men taking the boy away on a motorcycle. Despite Verma switching off his phone repeatedly, the police tracked his movement using technical surveillance and social media monitoring, an official said.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I, MHD SADIQ S/O ABDUL GAFAR residing at A-13/98-B INDER LOK DELHI 110035 have changed my name to MOHD SADIQ for all future purposes.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I, hitherto known as Deekacha Singh W/O Ajay Pratap Singh, R/O 86 2ND FLOOR, POCKET-11, Near Virat Friend Hospital, SECTOR-22 ROHINI, VICT: Begumpur, PO: Begumpur, District: North West Delhi, State: Delhi, PIN Code: 110086 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Deeksha Singh.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I, hitherto known as Santosh Singh S/O Harishchandra Singh R/O Ground Floor, 22A, Block B/2, Paschim Apartment, Near Club Road Capital Mall, Paschim Vihar, West Delhi, Delhi - 110063, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Santosh Kumar Singh.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
It is for general information that I, SHABANA BANO FAROOQUI W/O JAVED AHMAD, R/O. New F-15, J.J. COLONY, Regubir, 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 name namely AARISH AHMAD, aged 13 years in his School Records. The actual name of mine is SHABANA BANO FAROOQUI which may be amended accordingly.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
Information is given to general public at large that our client Mrs. Sangeesha Pawar D/o Mr. Bharat Singh Pawar is the owner of Freehold Residential Built-Up First Floor, without roof rights, area measuring area measuring 80 Sq. Yds. i.e. 66.88 Sq. Mtrs. built on Property bearing No. D-113, Out of Kharsa No. 453, Situated at the abadi of D-Block, Shakarpur, in the area of Village Shakarpur, Illaga Shahrada, New Delhi-110092, by virtue of Sale Deed dated 29.09.2025 duly registered as Document No. 2025/511/873, in Book No. I, Volume No. 4759, on pages 61 to 82, on 29.09.2025, with the Sub-Registrar Office of East Preet Vihar, New Delhi, in now our client is declaring that any other person does not have any right over the said property, and same property sold to be Mr. Shubham Singh and same has been financed by Tata Capital Housing Finance Limited Branch: FF Sco-04, Sector-16 (Near HDFC Bank) Faridabad Haryana. If any person(s) have any objection(s) or claim(s) with respect to the right, title or interest in the said Property then contact us within 07 days from the date of Publication of this notice and or the same to the undersigned if found by anyone. Thereafter no claim shall be entertained.

**[NAVEEN KUMAR VERMA]** Advocate  
F-211, Sector-3, Vaishali, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201010 (Contact at 09958871432)

**NAME CHANGE**  
I, hitherto known as MONIKA alias SARFA DIO SHAUKAT ALI R/O B-11/3, 3RD FLOOR, OKHLA VIHAR, JAMIA NAGAR, OKHLA, NEW DELHI-110025, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as SARFA for all purpose in future.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I, Bhagwan Sharma S/O Lt. Sada Ram Sharma, R/O Kharsa No. - 42/94, Badli, Near Bank Of Baroda, Delhi, District: North West Delhi, Delhi-110042 have changed my name to Shri Bhagwan for all future purposes.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I, RUBIDA KHATOON W/O MOHAMMAD FAIZ residing at M-120 GALI NO-8 4TH FLOOR SHASTRI NAGAR DELHI 110052 have changed my name to RAUBADA KHATUN for all future purpose.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
It is hereby informed to the general public that our client, Mr. Anurag Kumar S/O Late Mr. Ravindra, is the lawful owner of Freehold Residential Flat No. F.F.-1, situated on the Fourth Floor, constructed on Plot No. 225, measuring 100 Sq. Yards (83.61 Sq. Mtrs.), forming part of Kharsa No. 402, located at Village Chipayana Buzurg (Across Railway Line), Pargana & Tehsil Dadr, District Gautam Budh Nagar, Uttar Pradesh. The ownership has been acquired by virtue of a Gift Deed dated 23.09.2025, duly registered as Document No. 4797/3, Volume No. 32584, Book No. 1, Pages 167-186, in the name of Sub-Registrar, Dadr. It is further stated that the original Sale Deed dated 25.06.2015, which was executed in favour of Mrs. Vidhya Devi W/O Mr. Jaidev Singh, bearing Document No. 13092, Volume No. 8444, Book No. 1, Pages 35-58, registered at Sub-Registrar, Dadr, has been lost/misplaced. In this regard, an online FIR has already been lodged vide LAR No. 2026000287633 dated 27.03.2026, at Police Computer Centre Technical Services HQ, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh. Our client hereby declares that no other person has any right, title, interest, or claim whatsoever in respect of the above-mentioned property. Any person having any claim or objection regarding the said property must inform the undersigned in writing within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which claims shall be deemed to have been waived. It is also stated that the said property is proposed to be financed by Roha Housing Finance Pvt. Ltd., Branch Office at 2nd Floor, A-45, Block A, Sector 4, Noida, Uttar Pradesh-201301.

**[ASHWANJEE KUMAR]** Advocate  
F-211, Sector-3, Vaishali, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201010 (Contact at 09958871432)

**[NAVEEN KUMAR VERMA]** Advocate  
F-211, Sector-3, Vaishali, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201010 (Contact at 09958871432)

**NAME CHANGE**  
I, KM DIVASA BHARDWAJ W/O NIKHIL MAHESHWARI R/O FLAT NO 807 TOWER 2 AURIC CITY HOMES SECTOR 82, FARIDABAD, HR-121002 have changed my name to DIVASHA MAHESHWARI for all future purpose.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I, NEELOFAR W/O MOHD YAQUB R/O C-156, GALI NO-1, BAJRANG BALI MOHALLA, MAJLUPUR, DELHI-110053, have changed my name to NILOFAR JAHAN for all future purpose.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I, Niyaz Mohd S/O Bundo Ali R/O D-382, Gali No. 1, Khadda Colony, Jaitpur Extn. Part-2, Badarpur, Delhi-110044 have changed my name to Niyaz Ali.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
Notice is hereby given by Mrs. Harpreet Kaur who is owner of House No. 2, Bairak No. 4, Ward No. 4, MPL No. 412/27 area measuring 33 sq. yds., situated in Gandhi Nagar Rohatk, under Municipal Corporation of Rohatk, Haryana (Property ID No. 136C865U969) vide Sale Deed dated 19.03.2021 in favour of Smt. Sarla Rani, in respect of land area measuring 33 sq. yds. as doc no. 11493, SR-Rohatk and will be taking financial assistance from Aditya Birla Capital Limited. That Original Sale Deed dated 10.08.1966 executed by Sh. Giridhari Lal in favour of Sh. Devi Dayal, as Vide Doc no. 1195 & Original Sale Deed dated 27/10/2003 executed by Smt. Suman Rani, Smt. Kusum Rani, Smt. Vijay Rani, Smt. Neelam Rani in favour of Smt. Sarla Rani, in respect of land area measuring 33 sq. yds. as doc no. 4676 & Original Sale Deed dated 30/01/2006 executed by Smt. Sarla Rani in favour of Sh. Shyam Bihari. In respect of land area measuring 33 sq. yds. as doc no. 12331 & Original Sale Deed dated 19/10/2006 executed by Sh. Shyam Bihari in favour of Sh. Sanjay, in respect of land area measuring 33 sq. yds. as doc no. 8258 & Original Sale Deed dated 22/01/2010 executed by Sh. Sanjay in favour of Smt. Kamlesh Kumari. In respect of land area measuring 33 sq. yds. regd. as doc no. 11608, SR-Rohatk & Original Sale Deed dated 15/11/2010 executed by Smt. Kamlesh Kumari in favour of Smt. Sunita Arora in respect of land area measuring 33 sq. yds. regd. as doc no. 10253, SR-Rohatk are lost/misplaced. Public is being warned not to deal with the said document. Any person dealing with the said document would do so at their own risk & responsibility. Owner shall not be liable in any manner whatsoever for any loss incurred by such person. If anybody found these document or notice any misuse of the above mentioned document, Concern person is required to communicate in writing to the undersigned at below address.

**[NAVEEN KUMAR VERMA]** Advocate  
F-211, Sector-3, Vaishali, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201010 (Contact at 09958871432)

**[NAVEEN KUMAR VERMA]** Advocate  
F-211, Sector-3, Vaishali, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201010 (Contact at 09958871432)

**[NAVEEN KUMAR VERMA]** Advocate  
F-211, Sector-3, Vaishali, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201010 (Contact at 09958871432)

**NAME CHANGE**  
I, VEENA DEVI W/O ABHAY KUMAR TIWARI R/O T-573 /1A GALI NO 02 BALJEET NAGAR PATEL NAGAR NEW DELHI-110008 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO BEENA DEVI

**NAME CHANGE**  
I, No-15424167H Rank-NK/WM Name-KHADE BALAJI SHANKAR residing at VILL-ROHANA, PO-ALAND, TEHSIL-DEULGAONRAJA, DISTT-BULDHANA, MAHARASHTRA-443206, have changed my minor son's name from PANKAJ to PANKAJ BALAJI KHADE for all future purposes vide affidavit dated 14/04/2026 Before Notary Public, Delhi.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I, No-15424167H Rank-NK/WM Name-KHADE BALAJI SHANKAR residing at VILL-ROHANA, PO-ALAND, TEHSIL-DEULGAONRAJA, DISTT-BULDHANA, MAHARASHTRA-443206, have changed my minor son's name from PANKAJ to PANKAJ BALAJI KHADE for all future purposes vide affidavit dated 14/04/2026 Before Notary Public, Delhi.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
Information is hereby given to the general public that our client Mr. Kasak tomar is the owner and in possession of a Freehold Residential Flat on First Floor without roof rights area 100 Sq. Yds, Kharsa No. 1577, colony Kailashpuram Village Raispur Pargana Dasna Tehsil & Distt. Ghaziabad U.P. Our client acquired the said property by virtue of a Gift deed dated 13.03.2026, Vide Doc no. 2999, book no. 1, Vol No. 23476, Pg No. 257-286 on 13.03.2026, SR II Ghaziabad. Therefore, our client hereby declares that except him, no other person has any right, title, interest, claim or objection in respect of the above-mentioned property. And same property sold to be Mr. Vishal & Mr. Manoj Kumar Saxena the said property is presently financed / mortgaged with Piramal Finance Ltd., Branch: Gurugram Haryana. If any person(s) have any objection(s) or claim(s) with respect to the right, title or interest in the Said Property then contact us within 07 days from the date of Publication of this notice and or the same to the undersigned if found by anyone. Thereafter no claim shall be entertained.

**[NAVEEN KUMAR VERMA]** Advocate  
F-211, Sector-3, Vaishali, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201010 (Contact at 09958871432)

**[NAVEEN KUMAR VERMA]** Advocate  
F-211, Sector-3, Vaishali, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201010 (Contact at 09958871432)

**[NAVEEN KUMAR VERMA]** Advocate  
F-211, Sector-3, Vaishali, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201010 (Contact at 09958871432)

**NAME CHANGE**  
I, No-15424167H Rank-NK/WM Name-KHADE BALAJI SHANKAR residing at VILL-ROHANA, PO-ALAND, TEHSIL-DEULGAONRAJA, DISTT-BULDHANA, MAHARASHTRA-443206, have changed my mother's name from SHOBHABAI to SHOBHA SHANKAR KHADE for all future purposes and in my service records my mother's date of birth wrongly mentioned as 01/07/1960 instead of her correct date of birth as 01/01/1948 vide Affidavit dated 14/04/2026 before Notary Public, Delhi.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I, No-15424167H Rank-NK/WM Name-KHADE BALAJI SHANKAR residing at VILL-ROHANA, PO-ALAND, TEHSIL-DEULGAONRAJA, DISTT-BULDHANA, MAHARASHTRA-443206 have changed my minor son's name from PANKAJ to PANKAJ BALAJI KHADE for all future purposes vide affidavit dated 14/04/2026 Before Notary Public, Delhi.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I, VEENA DEVI W/O ABHAY KUMAR TIWARI R/O T-573 /1A GALI NO 02 BALJEET NAGAR PATEL NAGAR NEW DELHI-110008 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO BEENA DEVI

**NAME CHANGE**  
I, No-15424167H Rank-NK/WM Name-KHADE BALAJI SHANKAR residing at VILL-ROHANA, PO-ALAND, TEHSIL-DEULGAONRAJA, DISTT-BULDHANA, MAHARASHTRA-443206, have changed my minor son's name from PANKAJ to PANKAJ BALAJI KHADE for all future purposes and in my service records my father's date of birth wrongly mentioned as 01/07/1955 instead of her correct date of birth as 01/01/1951 vide Affidavit dated 14/04/2026 before Notary Public, Delhi.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I, Niyaz Mohd S/O Bundo Ali R/O D-382, Gali No. 1, Khadda Colony, Jaitpur Extn. Part-2, Badarpur, Delhi-110044 have changed my name to Niyaz Ali.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
Information is hereby given to the general public that our client Mr. Kasak tomar is the owner and in possession of a Freehold Residential Flat on First Floor without roof rights area 100 Sq. Yds, Kharsa No. 1577, colony Kailashpuram Village Raispur Pargana Dasna Tehsil & Distt. Ghaziabad U.P. Our client acquired the said property by virtue of a Gift deed dated 13.03.2026, Vide Doc no. 2999, book no. 1, Vol No. 23476, Pg No. 257-286 on 13.03.2026, SR II Ghaziabad. Therefore, our client hereby declares that except him, no other person has any right, title, interest, claim or objection in respect of the above-mentioned property. And same property sold to be Mr. Vishal & Mr. Manoj Kumar Saxena the said property is presently financed / mortgaged with Piramal Finance Ltd., Branch: Gurugram Haryana. If any person(s) have any objection(s) or claim(s) with respect to the right, title or interest in the Said Property then contact us within 07 days from the date of Publication of this notice and or the same to the undersigned if found by anyone. Thereafter no claim shall be entertained.

**[NAVEEN KUMAR VERMA]** Advocate  
F-211, Sector-3, Vaishali, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201010 (Contact at 09958871432)

**[NAVEEN KUMAR VERMA]** Advocate  
F-211, Sector-3, Vaishali, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201010 (Contact at 09958871432)

**[NAVEEN KUMAR VERMA]** Advocate  
F-211, Sector-3, Vaishali, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201010 (Contact at 09958871432)

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
Notice is hereby given to the General Public that Mr. Neelash Ahmad S/o Mr. Sarf Ahmad is the Owners in respect of Ground Floor (RHS Flat), area measuring 55 Sq. Yards, built on Plot No. 218, out of Kharsa No. 5/2, situated at Navreet Vihar and in the area of Village Khoda, Tehsil & Distt., Ghaziabad, UP, by virtue of GPA dated 23/10/2024, ATS & Regd. Will Vide Doc No. 1185, executed by Mr. Madan Lal Vg S/o Mr. Baldev Raj Vg and Mr. Parshotam S/o Late Mahender Pratap Singh and said property to be sold to Mohd. Juber S/o Mr. Kalim and same to be finance by Shubham Housing Development Finance Company Ltd., General public hereby informed that if anybody has any charge/interest in the said property or any kind of dispute kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 07 days of the present.

**Rahul Raj, Advocate,**  
SG Associates (Law Firm)  
B-01, Plot No. 20, Kaushambi, Ghaziabad-201010, E-MAIL:sgassociatespl@gmail.com, Ph: 0120-4968888, 8130309204.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I, No- 16021743Y Rank-HAV Name- MAHENDER SINGH Presently residing at WARD NO-4, VILL- SARDAR PURA BASS BHOLA, PO-JOGIWALA, DIST-HANUMANGARH, RAJASTHAN-335503, have changed my mother's name from OMPATI DEVI to OMPATI for all future purposes and in my service records my mother's date of birth wrongly mentioned as 02/05/1972 instead of her correct date of birth as 01/01/1963 vide Affidavit dated 11/04/2026 before Notary Public, Delhi.

**NAME CHANGE**  
It is for general information that I, Abhay Uppal S/O Sanjeev Uppal R/O 120, Bhai Parmaranand Colony, Delhi 110009, declare that name of my wife has been wrongly written as Saloni in my Passport No. AH711290. The actual name of my wife is Saloni Uppal.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I, No-16021743Y Rank-HAV Name-MAHENDER SINGH Presently residing at WARD NO-4, VILL- SARDAR PURA BASS BHOLA, PO-JOGIWALA, DIST-HANUMANGARH, RAJASTHAN-335503, have changed my father's name from DAULAT RAM to DAULAT RAM for all future purposes and in my service records my father's date of birth wrongly mentioned as 10/05/1969 instead of my correct date of birth as 01/01/1965 vide Affidavit dated 11/04/2026 before Notary Public, Delhi.

**Public Notice**  
I, Sneha D/O Ravi Anand R/O House no. D99, Gali no.6, Bhikam colony, Ballabgarh, PO:Ballabgarh, DIST: Faridabad, Haryana - 121004 UNDER TAKE THAT I Sneha CHANGE MY NAME Chirag Prapatti AND GENDER AS MALE I Sneha HENCE FORTH BE KNOWN AS Chirag Prapatti S/O Ravi Anand. THE ABOVE STATEMENT MADE BY ME IS TRUE AND CORRECT TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE AND BELIEF IF ANY LEGAL ISSUE ARISES IN THIS REGARD AT ANY STAGE, I WILL BE PERSONALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SAME AND THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLICATION WILL NOT BE LIABLE AS FOR ANY CONSEQUENCES ARISING THEREFROM.

**NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE**  
Sr. Divisional Mechanical Engineer, Northern Railway, Trainset Deptt, Shakurbasti; for and on behalf of President of India, invites IREPS (www.ireps.gov.in) for the under noted work.

<b>Tender No.</b>	2581029TSDSSB
<b>Name of work</b>	Provision for Operation and Maintenance of Diesel Simulator at National Rail Museum for a period of one year.
<b>Approximate cost</b>	₹ 18,32,061.12 including GST
<b>Earnest money</b>	₹ 36,700.00
<b>Completion period of the work</b>	12 Months
<b>Date and time for opening of tender</b>	04.05.2026 at 15:00.
<b>Website particulars notice board location complete details of tender can be seen</b>	Above tender is available on IREPS site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in, w.e.f. 11.04.2026, 12:40 hrs.
<b>No.</b>	25.8.1029.TSD.SSB Date: 11.04.2026
<b>SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE</b>	1244/2026

## NEWS BOX

## US, Iran Weighing New Talks On Thursday, 2 Venues In Consideration: Report

Washington. (Agency)

After failed talks in Islamabad, a new round of negotiations between the US and Iran may be held later this week, before the two-week ceasefire between the two warring nations ends. According to US media reports, President Donald Trump has shown a willingness to resume in-person negotiations soon if he believes Tehran is ready to submit to his demands. Washington and Tehran are weighing new in-person negotiations in a bid to reach a deal aimed at ending their six-week war before the ceasefire expires on April 21, Associated Press reported, citing sources. Three sources told the American agency that discussions were still underway about a new round of talks, while a diplomat from one of the mediating countries went further to say Tehran and Washington have agreed to it. It's unclear if the same level of delegation would be expected to attend, the diplomat and US officials said. According to the report, Islamabad and Geneva are two of the possible locations being discussed for the new round of talks. A US official said that venue and timing had not been decided, but the talks could happen Thursday. This came after Trump told reporters earlier on Monday that "we've been called by the other side" and "they want to work a deal."

Islamabad Talks

The United States and Iran ended 21 hours of face-to-face talks in Islamabad on Sunday without reaching a deal, leaving the fate of the fragile, two-week ceasefire still unclear. The US delegation, led by Vance, and the Iranian delegation, led by parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf, had discussed how to advance a ceasefire already threatened by deep disagreements and Israel's continued attacks against the Iran-backed Hezbollah in Lebanon.

Among the slew of issues at stake was the Strait of Hormuz, a major transit point for global energy supplies that Iran has effectively blocked but the US has vowed to reopen, as well as Iran's nuclear programme and international sanctions on Tehran.

"There was a strong hope in the middle of the talks that there would be a breakthrough and the two sides would reach an agreement. However, things changed within no time," a Pakistani government source told Reuters.

## DNA Explained: From gold stacks to rare earth bans - China's wartime economy move

World. (Agency)

Most countries wait for a recession before they start preparing. China is not one of them. The world's second-largest economy has already started moving money, dumping US bonds, and stacking gold. That tells you something important about what is coming. The trigger is the Strait of Hormuz. Peace talks between the US and Iran collapsed in Pakistan. Now the blockade has entered a second phase. This time, it is America doing the blocking. Trump has started stopping ships going in and out of Iran. The real target is not Iran. It is China. China had a deal that worked. Iran kept selling its oil even after the Strait closed. China paid, and Iran used that money to fund the war. So America decided to break that supply chain. The blockade is designed to cut off China's oil access and squeeze its economy. China's central bank, the People's Bank of China (PBOC), has pulled over 1 trillion yuan out of its financial system. First came 890 billion yuan. Then another 250 billion. This means commercial banks have less money to lend. Borrowing becomes harder. That keeps inflation in check and saves firepower for when the crisis actually hits. China has also cut its US Treasury bond holdings to just 694 billion dollars. That is the lowest level in 20 years. In 2013, China held 1,317 billion dollars in US bonds. It has nearly halved that. At the same time, China now holds 2,313 tonnes of gold worth 343 billion dollars. It bought over 300 tonnes in just the last 17 months.

## Be careful: Influencer's husband warns US lawmaker Eric Swalwell amid sex scandal

World. (Agency)

Amid a massive controversy over multiple sexual assault allegations against Democratic Representative Eric Swalwell of California, the husband of one of the accusers has issued a strong warning, saying any attempt by Swalwell to "disparage" his wife would lead to further legal trouble. Adam Parkhomenko, husband of influencer Ally Sammarco, who accused Swalwell of sending explicit content and engaging in persistent, unwanted contact, said he wishes the congressman's family well and hopes he seeks help. "If Eric Swalwell or his attorney makes a single statement that disparages my wife, I will be filing a lawsuit against him," Parkhomenko said, adding, "I've already made clear that if he believes anything I've said is untrue, he should sue me immediately." He further warned Swalwell, who was a leading Democratic candidate for California governor, to "be very careful about what he chooses to say" and called on him to resign from Congress. Sammarco is among four women who came forward on Friday with allegations of sexual misconduct against Swalwell. She said she initially connected with him over a political discussion, but the conversation gradually took a personal turn.

According to her, Swalwell frequently messaged her late at night, often while drinking, complimented her appearance, and suggested meeting in person. She alleged that he sent selfies from bed or shirtless, which later escalated to unsolicited explicit images, including photos of his genitals, according to CNN.

# US Wanted 20-Year Freeze On Iran's Nuke Dreams, Tehran Was Ready For 5

DUBAI. (Agency)

A disagreement over Tehran's nuclear activities was the central sticking point in the weekend negotiations between Iran and the United States in Pakistan. Washington has proposed a 20-year freeze on Iran's uranium enrichment in its proposal, but Tehran said it could only agree to do it for five years, according to reports by The New York Times and the Wall Street Journal.

Per reports, the United States and Iran exchanged proposals on the suspension of Iranian nuclear activities during the Islamabad talks, but remain far apart on the length of any agreement. Tehran has proposed suspending uranium enrichment for up to five years -- an offer the Trump administration rejected, insisting on 20 years, the NYT reported, quoting two senior Iranian officials and one US official. The development marked a major shift from the Donald Trump administration's earlier demands that Tehran permanently end domestic enrichment amid concerns it could provide a pathway to nuclear weapons capability.

According to political scientist Ian Bremmer,

amid disagreement, the US and Iran may close the deal on a twelve-and-a-half-year suspension on uranium enrichment. The weekend meeting to resolve the conflict between the US and Iran was the first direct encounter between Washington and Tehran in more than a decade and the most senior engagement since Iran's 1979 Islamic Revolution. However, the impasse on Tehran's nuclear activities ended the Islamabad talks, but officials said the dialogue was still alive, and there may be a path to a peace deal, even as the US military began its blockade of Iranian ports on Monday, threatening a nearly week-old ceasefire. Officials told the WSJ that they were discussing a second round of face-to-face talks but provided no details.

What Happened In Islamabad

Apart from Tehran's uranium enrichment, the other major issues at stake were the opening of the Strait of Hormuz-- a major

transit point for global energy supplies that Iran has effectively blocked, but the US has vowed to reopen -- as well as international sanctions on Tehran, news agency Reuters reported, quoting sources. Per the agency,



inside Islamabad's luxury Serena Hotel, the talks unfolded across two separate wings and one common area -- one for the US side, one for the Iranians and one for trilateral meetings involving Pakistani mediators.

Phones were reportedly not allowed in the main room, forcing delegates, including US Vice President JD Vance and Iranian Parliamentary Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf, to step out during breaks to relay messages back home.

"There was a strong hope in the middle of the talks that there would be a breakthrough and the two sides would reach an agreement. However, things changed within no time," a Pakistani government source said. The talks reportedly stretched for more than 20 hours. When discussions turned to guarantees, both non-aggression assurances and sanctions relief, the tone of the normally mild-mannered Iranian foreign minister Abbas Araghchi grew sharper, the two Iranian sources told Reuters. The sources quoted him as saying, "How can we trust you when, in the last Geneva meeting, you said the U.S. would not attack while diplomacy was underway?" The US-Israeli attack on Iran began two days after the two sides held a previous round of talks in Geneva.

## Pakistan Weighs 'All Options' To Repay \$3 Billion UAE Loan

World. (Agency)

Pakistan is considering financing from both countries and banks as options to help maintain foreign-exchange reserve levels amid soaring oil prices, Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb said, after the United Arab Emirates asked for the full repayment of a \$3 billion loan. The South Asian country this month failed to reach an agreement with the UAE to roll over the debt for the first time in seven years, adding pressure on external buffers at a time when the economy is getting hit by the fallout from the conflict in the Middle East. "Whatever we need to cover will be a combination of many sources," including commercial options and bilateral lenders, Aurangzeb told Bloomberg in Washington on Monday. "We're looking at all options," he said, declining to provide further details.

The country's foreign-exchange reserves stood at \$16.4 billion as of March 27, enough to cover close to three months of imports. Before the

US-Israeli attack on Iran at the end of February, Pakistan had solid buffers both on the fiscal side and foreign exchanges, the finance minister said, expressing his confidence in the country's ability to pay back its



creditors. We're very committed to pay and ensure there are other resources available to keep our reserves at the right place," he said. Aurangzeb declined to comment on whether there are ongoing discussions with China and Saudi Arabia for financial support. Bloomberg News reported earlier that such talks were taking place, citing

people familiar with the matter.

Back to Global Markets

The finance minister is in Washington for the IMF and World Bank spring meetings this week, along with other economy chiefs and central bankers. Before the conflict in the Middle East, topics of discussions would have included global trade imbalances and artificial intelligence. Now the impact from the conflict, and the major oil and supply shock that resulted, will dominate the gathering.

Pakistan still plans to return to global bond markets this year by issuing eurobonds for the first time after a four-year gap, Aurangzeb said.

"It is going to be a combination of eurobonds, Islamic sukus and dollar-settled rupee-linked bonds," he said, adding that the country will go ahead with requests for proposals in the next few days to appoint lead managers for all three types of issuance.

"We think this is the right time to actually look into all of these options as we go forward," he said.

## US-Sanctioned Tanker Linked To China Tests Trump Blockade With Hormuz Transit

WASHINGTON. (Agency)

A US-sanctioned tanker linked to China is making its way through the Strait of Hormuz, testing President Donald Trump's naval blockade. Rich Starry, a medium-range tanker earlier known as Full Star, was blacklisted by Washington in 2023 for helping Tehran evade energy sanctions. It is not clear on this occasion whether it visited Iranian ports before its transit, or is carrying cargo. This exit from the Persian Gulf is a second attempt for the carrier in less than 24 hours. Just as the blockade came into effect, Rich Starry was making its way into the narrow waterway near Iran's Qeshm Island and turned back - only to restart its exit just hours later, broadcasting that it has a Chinese owner and crew. This is a safety mechanism frequently used by vessels, but will test US resolve to

challenge vessels tied to the world's largest oil importer. The global shipping community and energy traders have been on edge since Trump announced a naval blockade of Iran beginning on Monday at 10 a.m. New York time, leaving them scrambling to understand the fine print. Most of those reached by Bloomberg across the Middle East and Asia said they would pause moves until the detail of the US blockade - intended to restrict Iran's capacity to sell its oil - was clear. Another tanker, the Elpis, headed into the Gulf of Oman via the strait just as the blockade began. Ship-tracking platforms Kpler and Vortexa indicate that Elpis had docked at an Iranian port in the gulf before attempting to pass through Hormuz. No vessels with their transponders on have been seen sailing into the Persian Gulf since the

blockade came into effect. Trump's threats and the start of the blockade have sparked alarm among Asian nations that rely heavily on Middle Eastern energy and fuel exports. China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi has urged global stakeholders to push for peace talks between Tehran and Washington, according to a readout released by Beijing on Monday. The Rich Starry has indicated it is sailing under a Malawi flag, but the landlocked African nation has said it has no official registry for oceangoing ships. Rich Starry is owned by Full Star Shipping Ltd., which shares the same contact details as Shanghai Xuanrun Shpg. Co. Ltd., maritime database Equasis shows. A call made to Shanghai Xuanrun did not get through, while the company didn't immediately respond to an emailed.

# North Korea's Kim Jong Un oversees new missile tests from advanced warship

SEOUL. (Agency)

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un supervised more missile tests from his prized new warship over the weekend, state media said Tuesday, as he pledged to boost the navy's operational capabilities with his growing collection of nuclear-capable weapons. North Korea's official newspaper Rodong Sinmun said Kim on Sunday observed the launches of two strategic cruise missiles and three anti-ship missiles from his 5,000-ton-class destroyer, the Choe Hyon, first unveiled in April 2025. The cruise missiles flew for more than two hours and the anti-ship missiles for more than 30 minutes along pre-set trajectories over the country's western seas before accurately striking their targets, the newspaper said.

The Korean Central News Agency, another state outlet, published photos of Kim and other senior officials watching from a pier as a projectile trailed gray smoke while arcing away from the warship.

Kim had also supervised two rounds of missile tests from the Choe Hyon last month while vowing to accelerate the

nuclear armament of his navy. After Sunday's tests, he said his government remained focused on the "limitless expansion" of its nuclear forces and issued unspecified new tasks to sharpen the country's nuclear attack and rapid-response capabilities. He also reviewed plans for the weapons systems for his third and fourth destroyers currently being built, Rodong Sinmun said. Kim has hailed the development of the Choe Hyon as a major step toward expanding the operational reach and preemptive strike capabilities of his military. State media say the warship is designed to carry a range of systems, including anti-air and anti-ship weapons as well as nuclear-capable ballistic and cruise missiles. South Korean officials and experts say the vessel was likely built with Russian assistance amid deepening military ties, but some experts question whether it's ready for active service.

North Korea unveiled a second destroyer of the same class in May last year, but it was damaged during a botched launch at the northern port of Chongjin, prompting a furious response from Kim. The country

later said the ship, named Kang Kon, was relaunched in June after repairs, but outside experts have questioned whether it's fully operational. State media say a third destroyer under construction at the



Nampo shipyard on the country's western coast is expected to be completed by the ruling Workers' Party's founding anniversary in October. The latest launches from the Choe Hyon add to a recent run of weapons tests as North Korea pushes to expand its nuclear-capable forces targeting rival South Korea amid worsening ties and a prolonged freeze in diplomacy. North Korea conducted a series of tests last week

that state media said involved various new weapons systems, including ballistic missiles armed with cluster-bomb warheads, while its senior officials issued crude statements ridiculing South Korean hopes for warmer relations.

Kim has suspended meaningful dialogue with Washington and Seoul since the collapse of his diplomacy with U.S. President Donald Trump in 2019. He has since adopted a hard-line stance toward South Korea, now defining it as his "most hostile" adversary, and rejected U.S. offers to resume talks as Trump entered his second term, urging Washington to drop its demand for denuclearization as a precondition.

Russia has been a top foreign policy priority for Kim in recent years, with North Korea sending thousands of troops and large weapons shipments to support Moscow's invasion of Ukraine. He has also deepened ties with China, the North's traditional ally and economic lifeline, and voiced support for Beijing's push for a "multipolar world" during a meeting last week with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi.

## We are not bound by what they agree to': Hezbollah on Lebanon-Israel talks in US

World. (Agency)

The Lebanese militant group Hezbollah will not abide by any agreements that may result from the direct Lebanon-Israel talks in the United States, negotiations it firmly opposes, a senior Hezbollah official said Monday. Wafiq Safa, a high-ranking member of Hezbollah's political council, spoke on the eve of the talks expected in Washington between Lebanese and Israeli ambassadors to the US. It will be the first time in decades that envoys from Lebanon and Israel, which do not have diplomatic relations, meet face-to-face in direct talks. "As for the outcomes of this negotiation between Lebanon and the Israeli enemy, we are not interested in or concerned with them at all," Safa told The Associated Press. "We are not bound by what they agree to," he



added in a rare interview with international media. He spoke next to a cemetery as an Israeli drone buzzed overhead.

Historic negotiations at a sensitive time

Lebanese officials are looking to broker a ceasefire in the Israel-Hezbollah war in the US talks. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, meanwhile, has said the goal is Hezbollah's disarmament and a potential peace agreement between Lebanon and Israel. Shosh Bedrosian, a spokesperson for Netanyahu said Monday that there will be no ceasefire with Hezbollah. Separately, in U.S.-Iran peace talks held last weekend in Pakistan, Iran has sought to include Lebanon in any ceasefire deal of its own with the U.S. Israel and the U.S. have insisted Lebanon would not be a part of it. Hours after Tehran and Washington announced a truce last Wednesday, Israel launched more than 100 strikes across Lebanon, including in densely packed residential and commercial areas of central Beirut.

And though the US-Iran talks broke up without an agreement, Safa said Hezbollah has been informed that Iran "was able to obtain a cessation of attacks" in the entire administrative region of Beirut, Lebanon's capital, including Beirut's southern suburbs - a Hezbollah-strong area known as Dahiyeh.

# Undercover cops, a woman observing 'Ramzan fasts', conversion allegations: How a tip-off triggered seven arrests at TCS's Nashik unit

Covert probe inside BPO led to nine FIRs — from sexual abuse to religious influence — police say no larger conspiracy.

**Nashik. (Agency)**

In February this year, when a local political party worker in Nashik, located 180 km north of Mumbai, approached the Nashik City police alleging that a Hindu woman in her early 20s working at a BPO unit of TCS there was observing fasts during Ramzan, it would set off a series of events that would end with nine FIRs ranging from allegations of sexual abuse and religious conversion, seven employees being placed under arrest, and a pause in the unit's operations. On Monday, N Chandrasekaran, the Tata Sons chairman, said a thorough investigation is underway to ascertain what transpired.

According to the police, the local political party worker told them that the woman had been influenced to follow the teachings of Islam at her workplace, where "something amiss" was going on. Police did not

disclose which party the worker is affiliated with.

When the police contacted her family, the girl's parents said they had stopped her from going to work after she started observing fasts and living "in an Islamic manner", an officer, who was part of the team assigned to probe the matter, said on condition of anonymity. It was then that they decided to investigate what was happening at the 147-employee BPO.

"We got some of our constables hired there as housekeeping staff to keep an eye on what was happening," the officer said. "After two weeks of our people — both men and women — working there, we felt their probe had revealed enough to take action," the officer said.



"We registered the first FIR on charges of rape in the case of the woman who had observed fasts. She was in a relationship with a now-arrested accused, Danish Shaikh, who allegedly hid the fact that he was already married. In February, a month before the FIR, Danish's wife had messaged the woman and then told her on a call that he was married and had two

children," the officer said. "The rape case was registered since he had established sexual relations with the woman with the promise to marry her. Also, the section on hurting religious sentiments was added as he influenced her to follow his religion."

ACP (Crime) Sandeep Mitke, heading the Special Investigation Team (SIT) in the case, said that they first arrested Danish and his friend Tousif Attar for allegedly seeking sexual favours from the woman. When police checked Tousif's phone, they allegedly found a photograph of a Hindu colleague wearing Muslim attire.

"It was the questioning of this man (from the photo) that led to the second FIR and the names of more accused being added," Mitke said, adding that the man claimed the accused would argue with him about

his religious practises and promote Islamic teachings. The lawyers for the arrested accused, who have been suspended by the company in the wake of the allegations, claimed that things said in jest and people's voluntary choices have been criminalised to deflect attention from other issues plaguing Nashik.

Lawyer Baba Sayyad, who, along with Rahul Kasliwal, is representing four of the six accused, said, "These are flimsy allegations. During Eid, even my non-Muslim friends who visit home come dressed in sherwanis. That does not mean that they are being converted."

"The police say they (the accused) said wrong things about the religion of the victim. But one can have discussions about various things, including religion, and that does not mean that the intention is to influence the other person," he said.

## Short news

**Trek with friends turns fatal as man dies after stepping on unexploded ammo**



**Chennai. (Agency)**

A 21-year-old man was reportedly killed in a blast after he accidentally stepped on an unexploded ordnance in Tamil Nadu's Hanumanthapuram. He was on a trek with five of his friends when the incident took place. The young man who lost his life has been identified as Yamang Yadhav. His friends also sustained injuries in the incident. The group had climbed a hill that is reportedly used by defence forces for target practice exercises.

As they were walking down the hill, Yamang reportedly stepped on a live munition, causing an explosion that killed him on the spot.

Senior police officials reached the spot after getting information about the fatal incident. The police have initiated an investigation into the matter. Meanwhile, Yamang's friends are undergoing treatment at a government hospital.

**Uttarakhand Weather: Heatwave intensifies in plains, Dehradun records 33°C, Rain**

**Dehradun. (Agency)**

The weather in Uttarakhand has turned harsh, with the sun blazing across the plains. On Tuesday, April 14, the Meteorological Center reported dry conditions throughout the state. In Dehradun, the maximum temperature has already touched 33 degrees Celsius, making daily life difficult for people.

**Heatwave grips the plains**

For the past four to five days, temperatures have been rising steadily in Dehradun and other plain districts. Bright sunshine since morning has forced people indoors, as venturing out during the day has become uncomfortable. The dry weather is expected to continue today and tomorrow, which could push temperatures even higher.

**Gangotri trekking track update**

Meanwhile, in Uttarkashi, a team inspecting the trekking track in Gangotri National Park had to return due to heavy snow. Officials said that if no fresh snowfall occurs in the higher elevations this week, the trek may reopen for mountaineers. However, ordinary travelers will have to wait longer before visiting Gomukh.

**Weather change expected in mountains**

According to the Meteorological Center, while the plains will continue to face rising heat, the mood of the mountains may change from Thursday. Starting April 16, districts like Pithoragarh, Uttarkashi, Rudrapur, Chamoli, and Bageshwar are likely to experience moderate rain and thundershowers. This will bring relief to higher regions, though the plains will remain hot.

**Impact on daily life**

The rising heat has already begun troubling residents. In Dehradun, shopkeepers and office-goers are struggling with the harsh sun. Vehicle owners and laborers working outdoors are particularly affected.

## ED searches 11 premises in Kharat case; probe flags over 130 accounts, Solapur land buys

Agency scans Nashik, Pune, Shirdi locations

**Mumbai. (Agency)**

The Enforcement Directorate on Monday searched 11 premises in Maharashtra — five in Nashik, three in Pune and three in Shirdi — as part of its money laundering probe into self-styled godman Ashok Kharat, accused in multiple cases of sexual exploitation and financial irregularities.

The searches come as investigators examine a wide financial network of over 130 bank accounts and transactions exceeding Rs 60 crore, along with land purchases and assets linked to Kharat and his associates. The action follows registration of ECIR on April 6, based on an FIR filed on March 25 at Sarkarwada police station, Nashik, which includes allegations of extortion, religious manipulation and drug-facilitated assault. Kharat was arrested last



month in the case. According to the ED, preliminary findings suggest that Kharat opened multiple bank accounts in the names of third parties across cooperative credit societies in Nashik district, while remaining the nominee and using a common mobile number to control their operations. Investigators have identified

more than 130 such accounts.

These include over 100 accounts linked to Samata Cooperative Credit Society, with transactions of around Rs 60 crore. The agency also identified 30 accounts linked to Jagdamba Cooperative Credit Society, with transactions of about Rs 2.7 crore. Kharat was chairman on Jagadaba credit society till 2024. Officials said funds did not remain in a single account but appear to have moved across multiple accounts, a pattern being examined to trace how money was routed and redistributed. Officials said the recurrence of the same nominee and contact details across accounts is being examined to determine whether they functioned independently or as part of a coordinated financial network. Deposits were often made by individuals who had visited Kharat, they said.

## After years on the run, most wanted criminal arrested for murders in Andhra, Kerala

**An interstate serial killer, who used multiple aliases and forged identities, accused of murdering solitary women across South India, has been arrested.**

**Tirupati. (Agency)**

In a major breakthrough, Andhra Pradesh Police have arrested a most-wanted interstate criminal accused of targeting solitary women, murdering several of them, and fleeing with their jewellery across various South Indian states.

The accused, Viswanath, who also operated under the aliases Prashanth and Aziz, was involved in at least four murders in and around Tirupati in Andhra Pradesh alone, according to police. In each case, he allegedly targeted women who were alone, killed them, and escaped with their gold jewellery.

A native of the Karnataka-Kerala border region, Viswanath frequently changed

identities to evade arrest, using forged documents, including an Aadhaar card altered with a different name, according to

leads, police tracked him down and took him into custody.



District Superintendent of Police (SP) Subbarayudu.

His arrest came during the investigation into the recent murder of a woman in Andhra Pradesh's Konaseema district. Acting on

During the operation, police seized gold jewellery worth approximately Rs 20 lakh and an auto-rickshaw used in the crimes. A woman identified as Rajamma, who allegedly assisted the accused, was also arrested. Further inquiry revealed that Viswanath had previously been convicted in a 2018 murder case in Kerala. However, he had escaped from police custody and had been on the run since then.

SP Subbarayudu said the Kerala Police had announced a reward of Rs 2 lakh for information leading to his arrest.

Further investigation is underway to determine whether the accused was involved in additional crimes across states. Details regarding the timeline of the recent murders and his initial escape are yet to be established.

## Gujarat political twist: One house, two candidates, three parties give tickets

**A unique political situation unfolded in Gujarat's Amreli as a couple secured nominations from three major parties.**

**Amreli. (Agency)**

Political aspirants often spend years building their careers, wearing themselves out in the hope of securing a ticket from a major party. But for a couple in Gujarat's Amreli district, the wheel of political fortune turned in an unprecedented way, with both husband and wife receiving offers from all three parties — the BJP, Congress and the AAP — for the upcoming civic polls.

The unusual political development has emerged from the Savarkundla Municipality, where Papatbhai Jamod was offered tickets by both the BJP and the AAP for a ward. At the same time, his wife, Hansaben Jamod, has been fielded by the Congress from the very same ward. The case has sparked widespread curiosity,

as it is highly uncommon for members of the same family, let alone a couple, to receive simultaneous nominations from rival political parties.

So how did this unusual situation unfold?

Papatbhai Jamod, a known grassroots worker who was previously associated with the BJP, was initially named as the party's official candidate for the ward. However, discontent reportedly arose within the party after a ticket was denied to one of his close associates. Amid the fallout, Jamod shifted his political allegiance and facilitated his wife Hansaben's nomination from the Congress, a move that caught local political circles off guard. The situation took another twist when the



AAP released its candidate list, naming the husband as its nominee from the same ward, further intensifying the political drama.

The sequence of events has effectively placed the couple at the centre of a three-cornered contest involving the BJP,

Congress and AAP.

Clarifying his stand, Papatbhai Jamod said he is no longer with the BJP and has decided not to contest the election himself.

"I was earlier with the BJP, but have now joined the Congress after my associate was denied a ticket.

We received offers from all three parties. My wife is contesting on a Congress ticket, and I have informed both the BJP and AAP that I will not be in the fray," he said.

With Hansaben Jamod now officially in the race as the Congress candidate, all eyes are on Ward No. 6, where an extraordinary political twist has added a layer of intrigue to the local body elections.

## "Gravely Concerning": Tata Sons Chairman On TCS Nashik Harassment Claims

**Mumbai. (Agency)**

Tata Sons chairman N Chandrasekaran on Monday termed allegations at TCS Nashik as "gravely concerning and anguishing", and announced an investigation into the matter under a senior executive.

"The complaints and allegations emerging from the Nashik branch of Tata Consultancy Services have been gravely concerning and anguishing," Chandrasekaran said in a statement.

He also announced that a thorough investigation is underway under TCS' Chief Operating Officer Arathi Subramanian to establish the facts and identify individuals responsible for the situation.

There have been allegations of sexual harassment and forced religious conversion by eight female employees at the multinational company's office in Maharashtra's Nashik.

"This incident is being treated with utmost seriousness. Action has already been initiated against the accused employees, and the company is extending its full cooperation to the ongoing investigations," Chandrasekaran, who was leading TCS as its chief executive and managing director before his appointment as the group chairman, said.

He added that the salts-to-software group maintains a "zero-tolerance policy" towards any form of coercion or misconduct by its employees.

Appropriate and stringent action will be taken against those found guilty in the investigation, he said, adding that process improvements or other corrective measures will be promptly implemented and strictly enforced.

Last week, police formed a special investigation team (SIT) to probe the complaints lodged by eight employees, who claimed that senior colleagues mentally and sexually harassed them, and the human resources department turned a deaf ear to their complaints.

Police have since arrested seven people, including the company's female HR manager.

In its first comments, TCS had on Sunday affirmed its commitment on zero tolerance in cases of harassment and informed that staff members have been suspended. TCS has a long-standing zero-tolerance policy towards harassment and coercion of any form. We have always ensured the highest standards of safety and well-being of our employees at the workplace. As soon as we were made aware of the matter in Nashik, we took swift action," it had said.

## Protecting personality, or insuring my legs?

I've been feeling a bit low these last few months, enveloped in a feeling of missing out on something, what the acronym generation would term FOMO — Fear of Missing Out. Somewhat like Sanju Samson being left out of the team for the first few matches of the T20 World Cup. Let me explain. The author and blogger Manu Joseph is someone I admire; he has an innovative mind, an imagination that soars like a hypersonic missile. In a recent blog, he explained how hard it now is for the "uber wealthy" to maintain their distinct social status above the humbler "very wealthy". Till now, this was done by buying status symbols like designer and bespoke cars, flats in Dubai, annual trips to Biarritz, bouncers in black T-shirts, luxury yachts and arm candy from Italy. Economists call these Veblen goods, where the higher the price the higher is the demand for them. They confer status. Not anymore.

With ordinary millionaires now mushrooming like bhakts at a Modi rally in Houston, the uber rich billionaires have lost their exclusivity or uniqueness. Anyone from Karol Bagh who does not pay his GST (which includes everyone in KB) can now buy what was once the exclusive preserve of the billionaires. Let me pursue Manu Joseph's idea. The bar for the uber rich is getting higher with every turn of the cronyism cycle. Therefore, to maintain their social distance and snobbery, they are resorting to outlandish stratagems, indulging in extreme ventures. Like paying \$55 million for a trip to space on SpaceX or Virgin Galactic, or \$5 million for diving down to the Titanic in a submersible, or buying a plot of land on the dark side of the Moon (which Trump will probably acquire once he has had his Jolene moment with Cuba). So strong is the pressure to be "different" that it does not seem to matter that they may not survive these ventures! But — and here's the interesting part — the uber wealthy celebrities in Hollywood and other red-carpet bastions of showbiz want no part of risking life and limb to be different. In fact, they go to the other extreme: they insure their limbs instead, for mind-boggling sums! Julia Roberts' smile is insured for \$30 million, Ronaldo and Beckham have insured their legs for \$117 and \$70 million, respectively, Taylor Swift for \$40 million (quite under-priced, in my view). But this pales into spindly insignificance in front of Mariah Carey's legs, which command \$1 billion. Really, are those legs or ATMs? Bringing up the rear, however, is this piece of resistance: Kim Kardashian's buttocks are insured for \$21 million, but even this is not within touching distance of Jennifer Lopez's derriere, insured for \$300 million. Even the Karol Bagh Junejas would find it difficult to match these status symbols, what? In India, however, our crorepati showbiz celebrities are more pragmatic and stingy. They have started acquiring their exclusive status by a less expensive method — by claiming "personality rights", which no one else can usurp. All it requires is a 10-rupee stamp paper and an unemployed lawyer. No wonder these days there is a virtual flood of these petitions in courts. Personality Rights (PR) protect an individual's public persona and identity — voice, image, likeness, mannerisms — from unauthorised commercial exploitation. This list of protectees now threatens to exceed the protectees under the Z category of the Home Ministry, and includes Abhishek Bachchan, Aishwarya Rai, Anil Kapoor, Karan Johar, Shah Rukh Khan and Daler Mehndi. So now you can't sing like Asha Bhosle, build biceps like Salman Khan, smirk like Karan Johar, bat your eyelids like Aishwarya Rai or say "Khamosh" like Shatrughan Sinha (I'm not joking — a court has just ordered that he has the rights over that expression). Very soon, you'll not be able to hug like Mr Modi or Rahul Gandhi, cough like Kejriwal, employ MS Dhoni's "helicopter shot", or expose your six-packs like King Khan while spreading your arms in the Titanic pose.

The message going out is simple and clear — if you've not had your PR protected by a court, you don't count.

## Touchstones: Bill for women and the will

There are just a few women who have had the gumption to step into political life on their own

Let's take a break from the noise of the Trump-induced hysteria that has overwhelmed the rest of the world. Let's also take a deep breath and put aside the highly charged state elections that are going on: screeching reporters, biased reports and exit polls that raise some serious concerns about their authenticity. So what do we have left? The Women's Reservation Bill (now to be presented in Parliament as a mind-boggling Sanskritised moniker that is impossible to remember). Forgive me if I am a bit sceptic about its outcome and effect in politics. As the SIR and Census work gets going, there are already many questions about inclusions and exclusions. Successive governments have deftly twisted the noble intentions behind the proposed Bill to suit their own petty interests. So my fear is that our women will also be disappointed in the way it may be implemented across parties. For one, given our deep devotion to dynastic and family-oriented party structures, wives, daughters and even daughters-in-law will be shoved in as fronts for men to manipulate. Look closely at the women in Parliament now and what do you see? This is also what women's reservation in local bodies led to: men running the panchayats from behind. Remember Raghuvir Yadav and Neena Gupta in the popular serial "Panchayat"?

How often we are reminded by our worthy politicians that India was among the first democracies that granted universal voting rights to all adults, regardless of gender, caste and religion. And yet, scores of genuinely deserving candidates are denied tickets in favour of the families that control political parties. Today, unless you are part of the clan that holds the power to grant tickets at election time, be prepared to grovel or bribe. Staggering amounts of money exchange hands as tickets are distributed and while this is widely acknowledged, how seriously have we tackled this charge? The recent selection of Rajya Sabha MPs is a case in point. There is a special place for industrialists who contribute generously to the party they represent, lawyers who save them in the courts and journalists who act as their PR agents. Intellectuals and academics rarely make the list. Is it any surprise then that the debate and discussions in both Houses of Parliament have reached the level of mohalla politics? Let us look back on the first few decades of our Independence and examine how women's social and political rights were treated then. With our strong bias towards people who were proficient in English (a hangover from the Raj no doubt), women who had a privileged background and were fluent in English were held a cut above those who belonged to desi homes. This social snobbery extended to clothes and the way they dressed. Unlike the men who were



acceptable in Indian clothes, women were judged by their choice of sarees, the cut of their blouses and hairstyles. Who remembers who the wives of our first President, Vice President or the Cabinet ministers were? They had pretty dismal lives from what I can gather from accounts I've heard. So while they had the task of running the open houses that their husbands ran, taking care of the relatives and hangers-on who parked themselves for months on end, they had little say in the choices made by their husbands regarding the education their children received, or when it came to participation in their social occasions. This became a kind of tradition: women were neither meant to be seen nor heard. I'm not talking here of the elite Nehru kind of families but those who came from less sophisticated backgrounds. The wisdom of these neglected women, in so many cases, went to the grave with them. The story of Harilal, Gandhiji's maverick son, was made into a moving film and even assuming that a lot of it may have been overdramatised, a lot of it was also true. Slowly, some women were included but the first choice was still the wife, daughter or daughter-in-law, groomed by the patriarch as a successor. There are just a few women who have had

the gumption to step into political life on their own and Mamata Banerjee deserves our respect for being one. Whatever her faults, she had the courage to take on male power on her own. In this she is a step ahead of Jayalalitha and Mayawati, who had powerful mentors. Sadly, these strong women were unable to build a second rung so that today all three parties are floundering in the absence of a credible successor to take their work further. They never trusted any man outside their control sphere with the result that, despite their loyal following, many party workers are quietly leaving their 'mother' parties to find 'jobs' elsewhere. Don't laugh, but this is the classic reworking of the traditional saas-bahu syndrome. No daughter-in-law is considered good enough by the matriarch and their mutual suspicion arises from a fierce desire to control the man they have in common. In this case, political power and the party. This is why I am sceptical of the outcome of the Women's Reservation Bill. Both the BJP and the INC (our two main national parties) are less than fair to strong women. The RSS celibate system had no place for them anyway and who does not know how power devolves in the INC?

## Cautious RBI: Minimising impact of West Asia crisis is the key

The banking regulator's policy stance hints at pragmatism even as it acknowledges the risk factors

THE decision of the Monetary Policy Committee of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to keep interest rates unchanged does not come as a surprise. The cautious, wait-and-watch outlook is on expected lines as India braces for the long-term ramifications of the conflict in West Asia on its economy. Higher oil prices, shortages of key inputs like cooking gas and the rupee falling to record lows pose tough challenges. The RBI's policy stance hints at pragmatism even as it acknowledges the risk factors. Despite India's strong macroeconomic fundamentals, the delayed and inadequate restoration of supply chains is bound to impact both growth and inflation figures. Minimising the unsettling of the broader economy in the face of rising global uncertainties is the real test. An undeniable metric for gauging the state of the economy is the sight of migrant workers choosing to return home as several sectors struggle to stay afloat owing to disruption of



supplies and lower demand. The crisis comes amidst election season in key states, when hard decisions related to the economy are consciously avoided and the entire focus, rather, is on freebies and more subsidies. A reality check is often ignored, and that only adds to the mismatch with the situation on the ground. An undesirable result of such an approach is that governments take their eyes off critical livelihood issues, and people are not prepared or equipped enough to absorb the economic shocks.

The Prime Minister, in an interaction with the Chief Ministers, spoke of a collaborative effort to tide over the crisis just like during the pandemic. There is little to disagree with, except that the handling of the Covid-19 threat left a lot to be desired. Relief for those hit hardest must be the centrepiece of decision-making.

## Universe: Starting from PU, a life in science

From a shy student in Punjab to a Nobel Prize-winning scientist, Har Gobind Khorana traces a journey shaped by chance, resilience, and scientific curiosity

I have met people who believed they knew at a very young age what they wanted to do in their lives. I envied them, but my own life was not like that. At age 18, when I sought admission to the Punjab University in Lahore, I applied to two departments, English Literature and the honours course in Chemistry. Admission into the latter was restricted and required an interview. My shyness kept me from the interview, but they saved a place for me anyway, and thus I became a chemist. At the end of World War II, I was awarded a studentship by the Government of India to study insecticides and fungicides in England. However, the Indian High Commissioner's office in London could only get me admitted into the Chemistry Department at Liverpool University, and I began to study organic chemistry. After I received my PhD in 1948, I was eager to spend some time in a German-speaking part of Europe, and I managed to do this at the Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule in Zurich, Switzerland. I worked with Vladimir Prelog. He was inspiring and so was the institute, with its long tradition of excellence in

organic chemistry. I spent a great deal of time studying the German chemical literature. It was then that I came across Fritz Zetzsche's work on carbodiimides. Serendipitously, carbodiimides became important in my synthetic work later. After a year in Switzerland, I returned to India. However, in the aftermath of partition of my province, Punjab, I could not find a job. In fact, many of my old friends and teachers were now refugees in Delhi without jobs. Fortunately, a postdoctoral fellowship in Alexander Todd's laboratory in Cambridge (England) turned up, for work on peptides related to the newly discovered adrenocorticotropic hormone. Cambridge was a uniquely exciting place at that time. Todd's own work was at the climactic point of

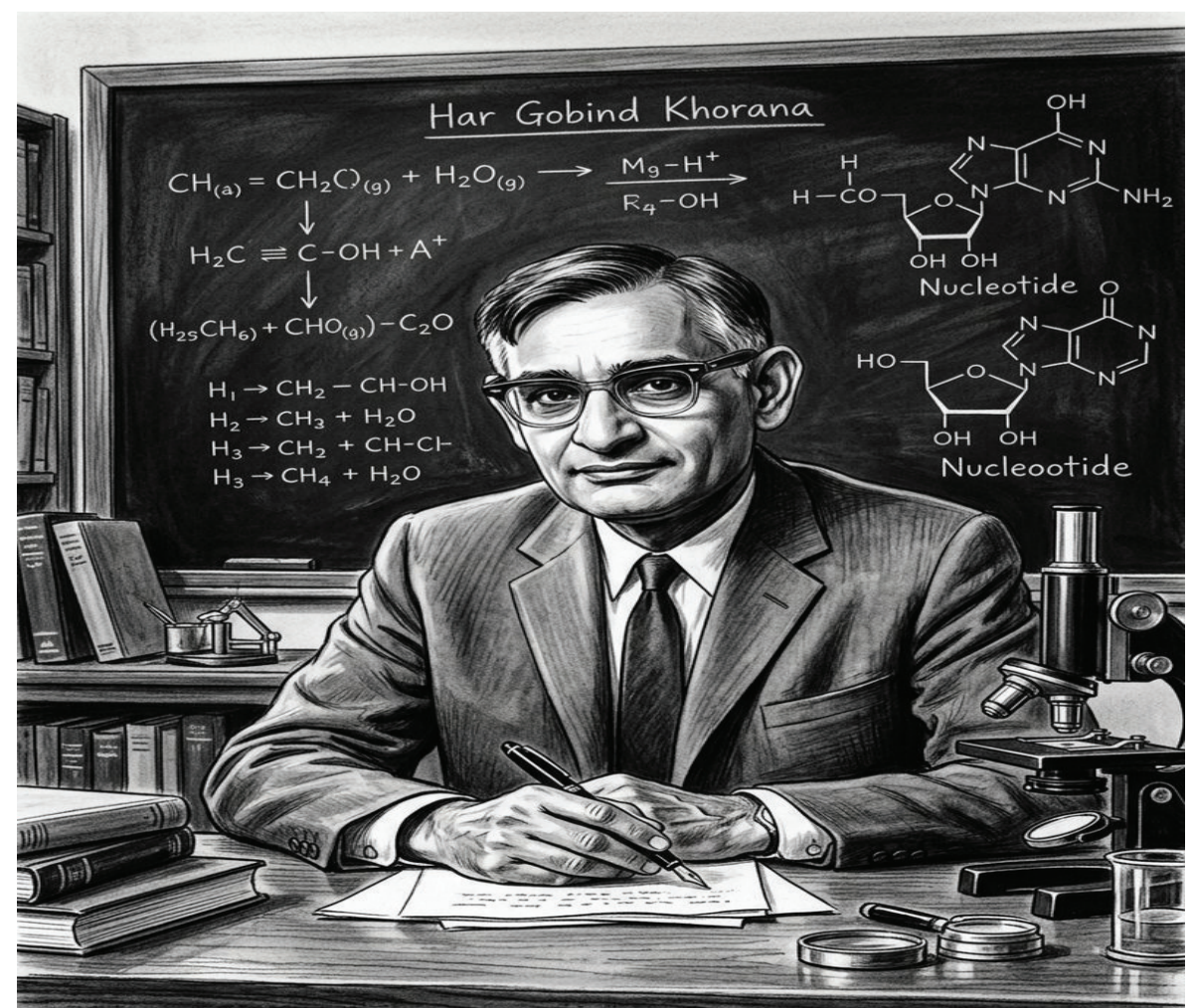
defining the chemical structures of the nucleic acids. Frederick Sanger was sequencing insulin, the first protein to be so tackled. At the Cavendish laboratory, Max Perutz and John Kendrew were embarked on the first X-ray structures of myoglobin and haemoglobin, and soon the Watson-Crick structure for DNA was to emerge from the same laboratory. Molecular biology was in the making. At the end of 1952, the offer of a non-academic research job took me to Vancouver, British Columbia. Biochemistry was experiencing its golden age in elucidating metabolic pathways and the biosynthesis of macromolecules.

In retrospect, my success in applying carbodiimides to the synthesis of nucleotides of interest to biochemists came astonishingly rapidly. The methods I developed attracted attention, and a number of established biochemists began to visit my small emerging group.

The 1960s were the golden age of molecular biology. Scientists from a variety of disciplines came together and gave a unique momentum to the new field. However, many of my friends felt that after the elucidation of the genetic code and the chemical basis of heredity, an era had ended. The new frontier had to be the brain. An exodus of scientists to neurobiology began.

In my own work, I pursued the challenge I had posed in the late 1950s, namely, the total synthesis of genes. In the late 1960s, the necessity to amplify synthetic genes became clear and principles for their amplification, later rediscovered and named PCR, were worked out.

Making a radical switch in the mid-1970s, I became interested in biological membranes and in bacteriorhodopsin, the light-driven proton pump. This in turn led to interest in light transduction in the mammalian photoreceptor, rhodopsin, and in the photoreceptor cells in the retina.



# Undercover cops, a woman observing 'Ramzan fasts', conversion allegations: How a tip-off triggered seven arrests at TCS's Nashik unit

Covert probe inside BPO led to nine FIRs — from sexual abuse to religious influence — police say no larger conspiracy.

**Nashik. (Agency)**

In February this year, when a local political party worker in Nashik, located 180 km north of Mumbai, approached the Nashik City police alleging that a Hindu woman in her early 20s working at a BPO unit of TCS there was observing fasts during Ramzan, it would set off a series of events that would end with nine FIRs ranging from allegations of sexual abuse and religious conversion, seven employees being placed under arrest, and a pause in the unit's operations. On Monday, N Chandrasekaran, the Tata Sons chairman, said a thorough investigation is underway to ascertain what transpired.

According to the police, the local political party worker told them that the woman had been influenced to follow the teachings of Islam at her workplace, where "something amiss" was going on. Police did not

disclose which party the worker is affiliated with.

When the police contacted her family, the girl's parents said they had stopped her from going to work after she started observing fasts and living "in an Islamic manner", an officer, who was part of the team assigned to probe the matter, said on condition of anonymity. It was then that they decided to investigate what was happening at the 147-employee BPO.

"We got some of our constables hired there as housekeeping staff to keep an eye on what was happening," the officer said. "After two weeks of our people — both men and women — working there, we felt their probe had revealed enough to take action," the officer said.



"We registered the first FIR on charges of rape in the case of the woman who had observed fasts. She was in a relationship with a now-arrested accused, Danish Shaikh, who allegedly hid the fact that he was already married. In February, a month before the FIR, Danish's wife had messaged the woman and then told her on a call that he was married and had two

children," the officer said. "The rape case was registered since he had established sexual relations with the woman with the promise to marry her. Also, the section on hurting religious sentiments was added as he influenced her to follow his religion."

ACP (Crime) Sandeep Mitke, heading the Special Investigation Team (SIT) in the case, said that they first arrested Danish and his friend Tousif Attar for allegedly seeking sexual favours from the woman. When police checked Tousif's phone, they allegedly found a photograph of a Hindu colleague wearing Muslim attire.

"It was the questioning of this man (from the photo) that led to the second FIR and the names of more accused being added," Mitke said, adding that the man claimed the accused would argue with him about

his religious practises and promote Islamic teachings. The lawyers for the arrested accused, who have been suspended by the company in the wake of the allegations, claimed that things said in jest and people's voluntary choices have been criminalised to deflect attention from other issues plaguing Nashik.

Lawyer Baba Sayyad, who, along with Rahul Kasliwal, is representing four of the six accused, said, "These are flimsy allegations. During Eid, even my non-Muslim friends who visit home come dressed in sherwanis. That does not mean that they are being converted."

"The police say they (the accused) said wrong things about the religion of the victim. But one can have discussions about various things, including religion, and that does not mean that the intention is to influence the other person," he said.

## Short news

**Trek with friends turns fatal as man dies after stepping on unexploded ammo**



**Chennai. (Agency)**

A 21-year-old man was reportedly killed in a blast after he accidentally stepped on an unexploded ordnance in Tamil Nadu's Hanumanthapuram. He was on a trek with five of his friends when the incident took place. The young man who lost his life has been identified as Yamang Yadhav. His friends also sustained injuries in the incident. The group had climbed a hill that is reportedly used by defence forces for target practice exercises.

As they were walking down the hill, Yamang reportedly stepped on a live munition, causing an explosion that killed him on the spot.

Senior police officials reached the spot after getting information about the fatal incident. The police have initiated an investigation into the matter. Meanwhile, Yamang's friends are undergoing treatment at a government hospital.

**Uttarakhand Weather: Heatwave intensifies in plains, Dehradun records 33°C, Rain**

**Dehradun. (Agency)**

The weather in Uttarakhand has turned harsh, with the sun blazing across the plains. On Tuesday, April 14, the Meteorological Center reported dry conditions throughout the state. In Dehradun, the maximum temperature has already touched 33 degrees Celsius, making daily life difficult for people.

**Heatwave grips the plains**

For the past four to five days, temperatures have been rising steadily in Dehradun and other plain districts. Bright sunshine since morning has forced people indoors, as venturing out during the day has become uncomfortable. The dry weather is expected to continue today and tomorrow, which could push temperatures even higher.

**Gangotri trekking track update**

Meanwhile, in Uttarkashi, a team inspecting the trekking track in Gangotri National Park had to return due to heavy snow. Officials said that if no fresh snowfall occurs in the higher elevations this week, the trek may reopen for mountaineers. However, ordinary travelers will have to wait longer before visiting Gomukh.

**Weather change expected in mountains**

According to the Meteorological Center, while the plains will continue to face rising heat, the mood of the mountains may change from Thursday. Starting April 16, districts like Pithoragarh, Uttarkashi, Rudrapur, Chamoli, and Bageshwar are likely to experience moderate rain and thundershowers. This will bring relief to higher regions, though the plains will remain hot.

**Impact on daily life**

The rising heat has already begun troubling residents. In Dehradun, shopkeepers and office-goers are struggling with the harsh sun. Vehicle owners and laborers working outdoors are particularly affected.

## ED searches 11 premises in Kharat case; probe flags over 130 accounts, Solapur land buys

Agency scans Nashik, Pune, Shirdi locations

**Mumbai. (Agency)**

The Enforcement Directorate on Monday searched 11 premises in Maharashtra — five in Nashik, three in Pune and three in Shirdi — as part of its money laundering probe into self-styled godman Ashok Kharat, accused in multiple cases of sexual exploitation and financial irregularities.

The searches come as investigators examine a wide financial network of over 130 bank accounts and transactions exceeding Rs 60 crore, along with land purchases and assets linked to Kharat and his associates. The action follows registration of ECIR on April 6, based on an FIR filed on March 25 at Sarkarwada police station, Nashik, which includes allegations of extortion, religious manipulation and drug-facilitated assault. Kharat was arrested last



month in the case. According to the ED, preliminary findings suggest that Kharat opened multiple bank accounts in the names of third parties across cooperative credit societies in Nashik district, while remaining the nominee and using a common mobile number to control their operations. Investigators have identified

more than 130 such accounts.

These include over 100 accounts linked to Samata Cooperative Credit Society, with transactions of around Rs 60 crore. The agency also identified 30 accounts linked to Jagdamba Cooperative Credit Society, with transactions of about Rs 2.7 crore. Kharat was chairman of Jagadamba credit society till 2024. Officials said funds did not remain in a single account but appear to have moved across multiple accounts, a pattern being examined to trace how money was routed and redistributed. Officials said the recurrence of the same nominee and contact details across accounts is being examined to determine whether they functioned independently or as part of a coordinated financial network. Deposits were often made by individuals who had visited Kharat, they said.

## After years on the run, most wanted criminal arrested for murders in Andhra, Kerala

An interstate serial killer, who used multiple aliases and forged identities, accused of murdering solitary women across South India, has been arrested.

**Tirupati. (Agency)**

In a major breakthrough, Andhra Pradesh Police have arrested a most-wanted interstate criminal accused of targeting solitary women, murdering several of them, and fleeing with their jewellery across various South Indian states.

The accused, Viswanath, who also operated under the aliases Prashanth and Aziz, was involved in at least four murders in and around Tirupati in Andhra Pradesh alone, according to police. In each case, he allegedly targeted women who were alone, killed them, and escaped with their gold jewellery.

A native of the Karnataka-Kerala border region, Viswanath frequently changed

identities to evade arrest, using forged documents, including an Aadhaar card altered with a different name, according to

leads, police tracked him down and took him into custody.



District Superintendent of Police (SP) Subbarayudu.

His arrest came during the investigation into the recent murder of a woman in Andhra Pradesh's Konaseema district. Acting on

During the operation, police seized gold jewellery worth approximately Rs 20 lakh and an auto-rickshaw used in the crimes. A woman identified as Rajamma, who allegedly assisted the accused, was also arrested. Further inquiry revealed that Viswanath had previously been convicted in a 2018 murder case in Kerala. However, he had escaped from police custody and had been on the run since then.

SP Subbarayudu said the Kerala Police had announced a reward of Rs 2 lakh for information leading to his arrest.

Further investigation is underway to determine whether the accused was involved in additional crimes across states. Details regarding the timeline of the recent murders and his initial escape are yet to be established.

## Gujarat political twist: One house, two candidates, three parties give tickets

A unique political situation unfolded in Gujarat's Amreli as a couple secured nominations from three major parties.

**Amreli. (Agency)**

Political aspirants often spend years building their careers, wearing themselves out in the hope of securing a ticket from a major party. But for a couple in Gujarat's Amreli district, the wheel of political fortune turned in an unprecedented way, with both husband and wife receiving offers from all three parties — the BJP, Congress and the AAP — for the upcoming civic polls.

The unusual political development has emerged from the Savarkundla Municipality, where Popatbhai Jamod was offered tickets by both the BJP and the AAP for a ward. At the same time, his wife, Hansaben Jamod, has been fielded by the Congress from the very same ward. The case has sparked widespread curiosity,

as it is highly uncommon for members of the same family, let alone a couple, to receive simultaneous nominations from rival political parties.

So how did this unusual situation unfold?

Popatbhai Jamod, a known grassroots worker who was previously associated with the BJP, was initially named as the party's official candidate for the ward. However, discontent reportedly arose within the party after a ticket was denied to one of his close associates. Amid the fallout, Jamod shifted his political allegiance and facilitated his wife Hansaben's nomination from the Congress, a move that caught local political circles off guard. The situation took another twist when the



AAP released its candidate list, naming the husband as its nominee from the same ward, further intensifying the political drama.

The sequence of events has effectively placed the couple at the centre of a three-cornered contest involving the BJP,

Congress and AAP.

Clarifying his stand, Popatbhai Jamod said he is no longer with the BJP and has decided not to contest the election himself.

"I was earlier with the BJP, but have now joined the Congress after my associate was denied a ticket.

We received offers from all three parties. My wife is contesting on a Congress ticket, and I have informed both the BJP and AAP that I will not be in the fray," he said.

With Hansaben Jamod now officially in the race as the Congress candidate, all eyes are on Ward No. 6, where an extraordinary political twist has added a layer of intrigue to the local body elections.

## "Gravely Concerning": Tata Sons Chairman On TCS Nashik Harassment Claims

**Mumbai. (Agency)**

Tata Sons chairman N Chandrasekaran on Monday termed allegations at TCS Nashik as "gravely concerning and anguishing", and announced an investigation into the matter under a senior executive.

"The complaints and allegations emerging from the Nashik branch of Tata Consultancy Services have been gravely concerning and anguishing," Chandrasekaran said in a statement.

He also announced that a thorough investigation is underway under TCS' Chief Operating Officer Arathi Subramanian to establish the facts and identify individuals responsible for the situation.

There have been allegations of sexual harassment and forced religious conversion by eight female employees at the multinational company's office in Maharashtra's Nashik.

"This incident is being treated with utmost seriousness. Action has already been initiated against the accused employees, and the company is extending its full cooperation to the ongoing investigations," Chandrasekaran, who was leading TCS as its chief executive and managing director before his appointment as the group chairman, said.

He added that the salts-to-software group maintains a "zero-tolerance policy" towards any form of coercion or misconduct by its employees.

Appropriate and stringent action will be taken against those found guilty in the investigation, he said, adding that process improvements or other corrective measures will be promptly implemented and strictly enforced.

Last week, police formed a special investigation team (SIT) to probe the complaints lodged by eight employees, who claimed that senior colleagues mentally and sexually harassed them, and the human resources department turned a deaf ear to their complaints.

Police have since arrested seven people, including the company's female HR manager.

In its first comments, TCS had on Sunday affirmed its commitment on zero tolerance in cases of harassment and informed that staff members have been suspended. TCS has a long-standing zero-tolerance policy towards harassment and coercion of any form. We have always ensured the highest standards of safety and well-being of our employees at the workplace. As soon as we were made aware of the matter in Nashik, we took swift action," it had said.

# Delhi-Dehradun Expressway: Property Prices To Rise 15-25%, These Towns Benefit The Most

New Delhi.(Agency)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 210-km Delhi-Dehradun Expressway on Tuesday. Built at an estimated cost of around Rs 12,000 crore, the road will cut travel time between Delhi and Dehradun by 3.5 hours -- from 6 hours earlier to 2.5 hours now. In real estate, this means one thing: a connectivity premium.

Industry voices expect prices along the corridor to appreciate by 15-25 per cent in established belts and 10-20 per cent in emerging stretches over the next 18-24 months. The logic is familiar -- when roads improve, demand follows. And when demand follows, prices adjust.

As Vishal Raheja, Founder & Managing Director, InvestoXpert Advisors, puts it, the corridor is "set to drive a significant surge in property values" across Delhi-NCR and



deeper into Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand, with early buyers positioned for stronger long-term returns.

**Delhi-NCR: Villas & Builder Floors**

On the Delhi-NCR end, the early action is expected in land and plotted developments. Micro-markets such as Narela, Bawana, Tronica City, the Sahibabad belt, and parts of Shahdara and Seemapuri are being watched

closely.

Raheja notes strong appetite for plots priced around Rs 12,000-20,000 per square yard. Builder floors in the Rs 35-60 lakh range and villas between Rs 80 lakh and Rs 1.5 crore are also seeing enquiries. The sequence is typical: investors buy land first, end-users follow with housing demand.

**UP Corridor: The 'Quiet Land Story'**

Beyond NCR, towns like Baghpat, Baraut, Shamli, outskirts of Muzaffarnagar, Saharanpur, Chhutmalpur and Mohand sit on what brokers call the "quiet land story".

These are not core urban markets. But they sit on improved access. Raheja points to 20-30 per cent price growth already visible in parts of this belt in 2024, driven largely by early land buyers and farmhouse-style demand.

**Uttarakhand: Hybrid Work To Trigger Demand**

Closer to Dehradun, the narrative changes from investment to lifestyle. Doiwala, the Rishikesh bypass, Rajpur Road and the Mussoorie foothills are drawing interest for farmhouses, homestays and holiday homes priced between Rs 30-70 lakh. Studio apartments in the Rs 20-35 lakh bracket are also in play.

Harvinder Singh Sikka, Chairman of Sikka Group, frames this as a cultural shift. Infrastructure, he says, matures "slowly, then all at once". With hybrid work now normal, families are rethinking what home means. When quality of life becomes a weekday reality, "property values don't just appreciate; they reprice entirely."

**Why 15-25% Appreciation**

The expectation of a 15-25 per cent uplift is not pulled from thin air. It follows a pattern seen around major corridors. Ashish Narain Agarwal, Founder and MD, PropertyPistol, calls it a "connectivity premium".

**Over time, retail formats, healthcare, hospitality, office spaces, and even IT-led ecosystems are likely to emerge along the Delhi-Dehradun stretch.**

## Borders at standstill, police on high alert

New Delhi.(Agency)

A massive traffic snarl was reported in Noida and parts of Delhi's borders on Monday after protests by industrial workers over a wage hike turned violent, leaving people stranded on roads for hours. The Chilla border and Noida Sector 62 were the most affected areas.

What should have been a routine 45-minute commute turned into a frustrating ordeal. Faraz Ahmad, a resident of Mayur Vihar, remained stuck in traffic for over two and a half hours on his way to office in Noida, eventually forcing him to return home.

"I left home at 9 am, expecting to reach my Noida office by 9:45am as usual, but got stuck in traffic for over two and a half hours. It was frustrating to be completely immobile for so long. Eventually, I had to give up and return home to Mayur Vihar, taking a temporary U-turn made by commuters. The entire experience was exhausting and deeply inconvenient," said Faraz.

Another commuter, Papia Dey, said that the entire road of Sector 62 and 63 was congested. "I didn't risk taking that route to Delhi from Noida today crossing that area, as the commute time was showing around two hours for the congestion. I had a meeting near that area in the morning, but no app cab providers were willing to take the ride. Later, I somehow managed to reach Delhi via DNA," Dey said.

Several people took to social media platforms stating that they were stuck for four hours on the road. Delhi Traffic Police also took to X to inform commuters about the blockade. Meanwhile, the Delhi Police have been put on high alert following the violent protests by industrial workers in neighbouring Noida over demands for a wage hike. According to the officials, security arrangements have been significantly tightened, particularly along the Delhi-Noida and Delhi-Ghaziabad border areas, to prevent any spillover of unrest into the capital.

## Why 30-year age limit for NSD?: Delhi High Court

New Delhi.(Agency)

The Delhi High Court has stayed the admission criteria of the National School of Drama (NSD) that barred applicants above the age of 30 from applying to its flagship diploma course in dramatic arts, observing that acting is an art that can be developed at any age.

Justice Jasmeet Singh said that fixing an upper age limit was prima facie "arbitrary" and "unreasonable", and violative of Articles 14 (equality before law), 19(1)(g) (right to practise any profession), and 21 (right to life) of the Constitution.

"I am of the view that fixing of the upper age limit for a diploma has no reasonable nexus with the objective it seeks to achieve. Acting is an art that can be developed and refined at any stage of life; it is not bound by any such criteria," the judge said in an order dated April 7.

The court added, "For the said reasons, the effect and operation of the condition prescribing an upper age limit of 30 years in the admission notification dated March 17, 2026, issued by respondent No. 1 shall remain stayed. Needless to add that the petitioners will be entitled to apply for the diploma notwithstanding their age."

The court was hearing two petitions filed by freelance theatre practitioners Mayank and Vishal Gohar, challenging the March 17 notification that prescribed an upper age limit of 30 years for admission to the diploma course for the 2026-27 academic session. In its order, the court noted that the petitioners had earlier written to the NSD regarding the issue but had received no response.

The petitioners, aged 34 and 42, argued that they were unfairly excluded from applying due to the age restriction. They stated that while the notification prescribes an age limit of 18 to 30 years as of July 1, 2026, both candidates meet all other eligibility criteria and are barred solely on account of age. The plea contended that the restriction was arbitrary and violated fundamental rights under Articles 14, 19(1)(g), and 21 of the Constitution.

It was further argued that theatre and dramatic arts are talent-driven disciplines where ability is not inherently age-dependent, making the upper age cap unreasonable and disproportionate.

## Delhi pilgrimage scheme under scrutiny over missing data, falling numbers

New Delhi.(Agency)

Even as Delhi's free pilgrimage scheme has been projected as a key welfare initiative, a Right to Information (RTI) response accessed by India Today points to fluctuating participation and gaps in available data.

Launched in 2018 by then Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, the Mukhyamantri Teerth Yatra Yojana allows 1,100 senior citizens from each of Delhi's 70 constituencies to undertake free pilgrimages. Residents above 60 years can travel with their spouse, while those above 70

can also take an attendant, with all costs borne by the government.

Data provided by the Delhi Tourism and Transport Development Corporation (DTTDC) shows that 35,759 beneficiaries availed the

scheme in 2019-20. The number dropped to zero in 2020-21 due to the Covid-19 pandemic, before rising again to 15,988 in 2021-22 and 18,980 in 2022-23. It declined slightly to 16,200 in 2023-24.



The RTI response also states that the government does not maintain religion-wise data of beneficiaries or expenditure. Among the most visited destinations were Rameswaram (27,409 pilgrims) and Dwarkadhish (26,388), followed by Jagannath Puri

(7,819) and Tirupati (6,763).

The scheme, launched by the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government in 2018 with five destinations, was later expanded to cover more than a dozen pilgrimage sites, including

Rameswaram, Shirdi, Haridwar, Rishikesh, Mathura, Vrindavan and Ayodhya. However, the RTI response suggests that participation may have declined in the later years of the AAP government, while the current status of the scheme remains unclear. Crucially, the reply dated March 10, 2026 does not include data for 2024-25 or 2025-26, leaving a gap in assessing

the scheme's present performance. This assumes significance as Rekha Gupta took oath on February 20, 2025. In the absence of updated figures, it is not possible to evaluate how the scheme is functioning.

## Delhi braces for heatwave as temperatures to touch 41 degrees C this week

New Delhi.(Agency)

The national capital will witness clear skies and rising temperatures today (April 14, 2026), as per the latest weather update of India Meteorological Department (IMD).

**Delhi weather today**

The maximum temperature in the city is expected to hover between 37 degrees C and 39 degrees C, while the minimum may range from 18 degrees C to 20 degrees C. Winds will blow from the west at 10-15 kmph during the morning (0530-1130 IST), shifting to northwest at 15-20 kmph in the afternoon (1130-1730 IST), and turning northerly at 10-15 kmph in the evening (1730-2330 IST). Overall, the weather is likely to remain mainly clear throughout the day.



According to the broader forecast, temperatures across northwest India are expected to rise gradually by 4-6 degrees C over the next seven days, indicating a steady warming trend in the region.

**Delhi AQI today**

Air quality in Delhi remained in the moderate category, with the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) recording an AQI of 156 at 7 am. The Central Pollution Control Board classifies AQI into six categories: Good (0-50) with minimal impact, Satisfactory (51-100) with minor discomfort, Moderate (101-200) affecting sensitive groups, Poor (201-300) causing breathing issues, Very Poor (301-400) leading to respiratory illness, and Severe (401-500), which impacts even healthy individuals.

## Wife, her two lovers among five held for 25-year-old man's murder in Odisha

New Delhi.(Agency)

**Odisha man murder:**

**The arrested accused**

**have been identified as**

**deceased's wife**

**Shubhashree Samal**

**(24), Tapas Kumar**

**Khilar (27), the prime**

**accused, his sister Priti**

**Prabha Priyadarshini**

**(24), Ankit Thakuar**

**(35) and Suraj Singh**

**(36).**

A woman, her lover, and three others have been arrested in connection with the murder of her husband in Odisha's Jajpur. The deceased, identified Somya Sagar Samal, was shot dead while returning home from his shop on the night of April 6 near Kalimegha under Jajpur Town police station area in the district.

The arrested accused have been identified as deceased's wife Shubhashree Samal (24), Tapas Kumar Khilar (27), the prime accused, his sister Priti Prabha Priyadarshini (24), Ankit Thakuar (35) and Suraj Singh (36).

**Woman involved in extra-marital affair**

According to a PTI report, citing police, the woman was allegedly involved in an extra-marital affair and was also in a same-sex relationship.



Subhashree came in contact with co-accused Priti while working at a beauty parlour in 2020. She also fell in love with Priti's brother Tapas. She continued her extra-marital affair with Tapas even after marrying Somya in July 2024. Notably, it was a love marriage.

When her husband came to know about this, he rebuked both Priti and Tapas and threatened

them to stay off such unethical activity.

An enraged Tapas then planned to eliminate the 25-year-old man. He purchased a country-made gun from Rourkela, where he was working as a driver, and returned to Jajpur on March 31.

**How the murder plan was hatched**

"Tapas has availed a loan for Rs 50,000 to purchase the weapon. While Rs 49,000 was paid to the gun traders through his sister's UPI account, the remaining amount was paid to the gun traders at the time of delivery.

Deceased's wife, Tapas, and his sister are all involved in executing the murder plan," the PTI report quoted Prasant Kumar Majhi, Jajpur Town SDPO, as saying.

The police action came on a complaint by the victim's brother-in-law. Police then formed multiple teams to investigate the matter and arrested the accused. They also seized the mobile of the victim's wife.

## ED arrests I-PAC co-founder in Bengal coal scam probe ahead of assembly polls

**The case stems from a CBI FIR on illegal mining and alleged hawala transactions, and comes amid heightened political activity ahead of the state Assembly elections.**

New Delhi.(Agency)

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Monday arrested Vinesh Chandel, director and co-founder of political consultancy firm Indian Political Action Committee, in connection with a money-laundering case linked to an alleged coal scam in West Bengal, weeks ahead of the Assembly elections.

Chandel was taken into custody under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) in New Delhi late in the evening and is expected to be produced before a special court, where the agency will seek his custodial remand for further questioning.

Earlier, the ED conducted searches on April 2 at Chandel's Delhi residence, the Bengaluru premises of I-PAC co-founder Rishi Raj Singh, and the Mumbai residence of former AAP communications in-charge Vijay Nair as part of the probe.

On January 8, the agency had also searched the I-PAC office and the Kolkata residence of its founder Pratik Jain, triggering a controversy after Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee reached the spot with state officials and took away documents.

The ED alleged its searches were obstructed and that relevant documents and devices were removed, while the All India Trinamool Congress rejected the charge, accusing the agency of targeting election strategy material ahead of the polls. The elections in West Bengal are scheduled in two phases on April 23 and April 29. I-PAC has been providing political consultancy services to the Trinamool and the state government since 2021.

The ED has moved the Supreme Court of India seeking a CBI probe into the alleged obstruction, and the matter is currently under hearing.

The case stems from a November 2020 FIR registered by the Central Bureau of Investigation, alleging a multi-crore coal pilferage racket linked to mines operated by Eastern Coalfields Limited in the Kunustoria and Kajora areas near Asansol. According to the ED, a hawala operator linked to the alleged coal-smuggling network routed transactions worth tens of crores of rupees to Indian PAC Consulting Private Limited, the registered entity of I-PAC.

## NEWS BOX

## SRH vs RR: Riyan Parag explains not using Ravindra Jadeja to bowl at Hyderabad

New Delhi. (Agency)

Riyan Parag admitted that his decision to not use Ravindra Jadeja with the ball was a "split second" call as Rajasthan Royals went down to Sunrisers Hyderabad in Hyderabad.

The call became a major talking point after Rajasthan allowed SRH to post 216 for 6, with Jadeja not bowling a single over despite conditions offering some assistance to slower bowlers later in the innings. Explaining the decision, Parag pointed to the match situation and the impact of Ishan Kishan, who was in dominant touch during the middle overs.

"Jaddu bhai, I don't know, it was just a split second decision. Ishan was batting really well, so I didn't want to take that chance," Parag said, adding that he chose to persist with other options instead.

In hindsight, the move raised questions, especially as SRH capitalised on the lack of spin variation to build a strong total. Kishan's 91 anchored the innings after early wickets, allowing the hosts to recover and accelerate.

Parag, however, felt the surface itself played a role in shaping his decisions. He noted that the pitch had some assistance early on with the new ball before easing out, which made the timing of bowling changes tricky.



While Jadeja did not get an opportunity with the ball, he made a strong contribution with the bat, scoring 45 and stitching together a 118 run stand with Donovan Ferreira to steady the innings after Rajasthan's early collapse. Despite that recovery, Rajasthan's biggest setback came with the bat. Chasing 217, they slumped to 9 for 5 inside the first three overs, effectively taking the game out of their reach. The Royals did manage a partial fightback through the middle order, but the early damage proved too steep to overturn. The collapse also highlighted the impact of SRH's young bowlers, who capitalised on the pressure from the outset.

## Ishan Kishan considers ditching gloves to focus on his captaincy for SRH in IPL 2026

NEW DELHI. (Agency)

Ishan Kishan hinted at a significant tactical shift following Sunrisers Hyderabad's dominant 57 run win over Rajasthan Royals, suggesting he could continue to give up wicketkeeping duties to focus more on captaincy in IPL 2026. Kishan led from the front with a blistering 91 off 44 balls, helping SRH post a commanding 216 for 6 after early setbacks. With Abhishek Sharma dismissed for a duck and Travis Head falling for 18, the responsibility fell on the captain to steady the innings. Kishan responded with a measured start before accelerating, striking eight fours and six sixes to take the game away from Rajasthan. "We have been scoring 200 plus consistently, so the belief was there," Kishan said after the match.



"The idea was to take the game deep and allow players like Abhishek to play freely because if he gets going, he can take the total to 260 or more."

**BACKING YOUTH DELIVERS RESULTS**  
The match also marked a turning point in SRH's bowling approach, with Kishan backing debutants Praful Hinge and Sakib Hussain ahead of experienced options. The move paid immediate dividends as Rajasthan collapsed to 9 for 5 in the first three overs while chasing 217.

"You have to look at how hungry your young bowlers are," Kishan said. "They have been working throughout the season with our coaches and learning from experienced players. They were ready, and we felt it was the right time to give them a chance, especially at home."

The young pacers justified that faith, sharing eight wickets between them as SRH bundled out Rajasthan for 159 in 19 overs despite a late fightback.

## IPL 2026 Play Of The Day: Hinge swipes left on RR after baiting them into temptations

**IPL 2026: Praful Hinge turned his debut into a viral moment with a record-breaking spell. The SRH pacer's four-wicket burst not only dismantled RR but also saw his Instagram following explode from 4K to 185K overnight.**

Hyderabad. (Agency)

Sunrisers Hyderabad's decision to pick Praful Hinge at the IPL 2026 auction barely caused a stir. If anything, the loudest reaction was reserved for his surname, the same as the dating app Hinge, which quickly became easy material for a few jokes in IPL circles at Hyderabad's expense.

**Turns out, the jokes did not last very long.**

Now, if you are someone who has been active on dating apps and been through the motions, you will know how it works. The culture of swiping left and right decides if you're good enough or not. Add to this the whole angle of ghosting, baiting, among many other terms

in Gen-Z lingo, and you can conclude that the dating scene is complicated. But on Monday, April 13, SRH found themselves being swiped right by a new hero, while RR got ghosted at Uppal by a bowler who just seemed to be ahead of the curve from the get-go. The 24-year-old pacer came in like a house on fire and was on the money.

He started with the wicket of Vaibhav Sooryavanshi and followed it by cleaning up Dhruv Jurel and getting the better of Lhuan-dre Pretorius. Hinge came back and then dismissed Riyan Parag to leave RR at nine for five in three overs. Four wickets in his first two overs in the IPL. Not a bad start at all. Hinge spoke about manifesting the perfect debut and planning for the scalp of Sooryavanshi. But there was an element of baiting the batters involved in it.

And this brings us to the latest edition of India Today's Play Of The Day, as we take a closer look at how Hinge was able to rock the RR batting order and cause them to collapse.

**HINGE LEAVES THE BREADCRUMBS**

If you're someone not used to Gen-Z lingo when it comes to dating, there is a term known as breadcrumbing. According to the

meaning on the internet, it is a manipulative dating tactic where a person sends sporadic, flirty messages or "crumbs" of attention to keep someone interested without any intention of commitment or making concrete plans. And when you look at what happened



during the first two overs from Hinge, it was exactly that. Let's start with the delivery to Sooryavanshi. It was almost a given that the RR starboy would attack from ball one against the SRH bowling lineup. He did the same against Bumrah and Hazlewood.

Even Hinge expected this and followed it up with a ball that Sooryavanshi would deposit

into the stands on any given day. The only difference was a bit of extra pace and bounce. "I had already told a couple of people that I would get him out on the very first ball, either with a bouncer or in some way. I just wanted his wicket on the first ball. That was the plan," said Hinge. The wicket of Jurel was another fine setup. The first ball to the RR wicketkeeper tried to make him drive outside off. Then he delivered a similar ball, but this time it forced the error from Jurel and made him play an angled shot. The off stump got uprooted.

The third wicket in the over, of Pretorius, was another example of Hinge breadcrumbing a RR batter. It was not a wicket-taking delivery by any stretch of the imagination.

He landed the ball full on the pads, and the South African batter just flicked it effortlessly. That would have been a six or a boundary on any other day, but luck was with the SRH pacer as a fielder was in place to take the catch. In his second over, Riyan was negating the effect of Hinge to a good extent. He was getting behind the ball and ensuring there was no danger.

## PCB bans Blessing Muzarabani for ditching Pak league and playing IPL

New Delhi. (Agency)

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has handed Kolkata Knight Riders pacer Blessing Muzarabani a two-year ban from the Pakistan Super League after the Zimbabwe star made a last-minute switch to play in the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026. In a statement, the PCB made it clear that the Zimbabwe pacer disregarded his obligations despite unequivocally accepting the essential terms to play in the league. Muzarabani, prior to joining KKR, had agreed to terms with Islamabad United for PSL 2026. Citing a fundamental failure to honour agreed-upon commitments, the PCB believes the right-arm fast bowler disregarded his obligations in favour of a conflicting arrangement. "Following a thorough disciplinary review, the PCB has announced that Zimbabwean cricketer Blessing Muzarabani is declared ineligible to participate in the next two (2) editions of the HBL PSL, effective immediately," the PCB said in a statement. "The attempt to move away from such commitments without valid cause is a violation of



contractual obligations and the principles of good faith that govern global professional sports."

**BAN FOLLOWS LAST-MINUTE IPL SWITCH**

Muzarabani, who was initially unsold in the PSL auction held on February 11, later reached an agreement with Islamabad

United to replace West Indian fast bowler Shamar Joseph. However, despite agreeing to the essential terms—including remuneration and structure—Blessing chose to join the IPL with KKR as a replacement for Bangladesh fast bowler Mustafizur Rahman.

The Zimbabwe pacer has already featured in two games for the Knight Riders in the ongoing IPL, with best figures of 4/41 in his second outing against Sunrisers Hyderabad.

The PCB, however, believes the sanction was necessary to safeguard the professional environment of the PSL. While the PSL acknowledges the complexities of modern cricket schedules, it will not compromise on the ethical framework that ensures fairness to the franchisees and the integrity of the league's recruitment processes. The two-year ban reflects the gravity of the breach," it added in the statement.

Spencer Johnson and Dasun Shanaka are two other players who withdrew from their PSL deals to be part of the IPL this season. While not confirmed at this stage, they are likely to face similar sanctions.

## India eyes F1 return in '27, FIA contradicts

NEW DELHI. (Agency)

India has renewed its push to bring Formula One racing back to the country after a 13-year hiatus, with sports minister Mansukh Mandaviya expressing confidence on Monday that the premier motorsport event could return as early as 2027.

"There will be an F1 race in India in 2027 at the Buddh International Circuit (BIC). The govt will help in getting tax relaxation. Given the global situation due to the ongoing war, India is being seen as a safe and viable venue for sporting events, including F1. We plan to have a Moto GP event before F1 returns. It will take another six months to work out the modalities," Mandaviya said.

However, the optimism is not entirely aligned with the current stance of the sport's global governing body FIA, which oversees regulations, safety, and technical rules of races. In a brief statement, the FIA noted, "While India is a valuable market, we won't be racing there in 2027." FIA's statement pointed to the complexities

involved in organising races. F1 is jointly managed by the FIA and Liberty Media, which handles commercial rights and promotion. Any return would require alignment between both entities and local stakeholders. Despite the FIA's current



reluctance, a potential opening exists. The provisional 2027 F1 calendar lists 23 races – one short of the traditional 24 – leaving a slot that could be filled if geopolitical or logistical disruptions affect other venues.

Vicky Chandhok, a council member of the

Federation of Motor Sports Clubs of India (FMSCI), said that realistically it will take a few years for India to host an F1 race given the need for track upgrades and negotiations. According to Chandhok, wherever these races take place, it comes

down to the rights fee paid by the host country. "Monaco may be paying only \$10 million. Britain pays \$28 million. Saudi may be paying \$80 million. India may have to pay \$40 million."

Back channel discussions are ongoing and while 2027 remains uncertain, insiders suggest 2028 or 2029 may be more realistic targets for F1's long-awaited return to India. At the centre of the proposed revival is the BIC in Greater

Noida, which previously hosted the Indian Grand Prix (GP) from 2011-2013. The event was discontinued due to tax disputes and bureaucratic challenges after authorities classified it as "entertainment," leading to heavy financial burdens.

## Vaibhav Sooryavanshi's India debut loading? 15-year-old in talks for Ireland series

**IPL 2026: Vaibhav Sooryavanshi's IPL rise could soon fast-track him into India colours. With selectors watching closely, the 15-year-old now reportedly stands on the brink of a historic international debut.**

NEW DELHI. (Agency)

Vaibhav Sooryavanshi's rapid rise in the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026 could soon translate into an India call-up, with the 15-year-old now in contention for the upcoming T20I series against Ireland.

According to an Indian Express report, the teenage sensation has been shortlisted by selectors, who are closely monitoring his performances ahead of the June tour, which

is expected to feature a relatively young squad. "He is in contention for the Ireland tour and the selectors have shortlisted his name along with those of many other players," a BCCI source told The Indian Express. The report suggests that the selectors are keen to fast-track Sooryavanshi into international cricket, especially with his fearless approach against some of the world's best bowlers in the IPL.

Still only 15, the left-hander has already built a reputation for taking on big names without hesitation, showcasing both power and composure well beyond his age.

If selected, Sooryavanshi could rewrite history. Sachin Tendulkar remains the youngest male to debut for India at 16 years and 205 days, while Shafali Verma holds the overall record at 15 years, seven months and 27 days. Sooryavanshi could potentially break that mark and become India's youngest-ever international cricketer.

For now, it remains a possibility. But given the

way he has started IPL 2026, it is a possibility that is quickly gathering momentum.

**WHY BCCI CAN'T IGNORE**



**SOORYAVANSHI ANY MORE**

Sooryavanshi's numbers this season have been impossible to overlook.

He has already produced a series of explosive knocks, including a 26-ball 78 against Royal Challengers Bengaluru, a 17-ball 52 against Chennai Super Kings, and a quickfire 39 off 14 against Mumbai Indians.

What stands out is not just the runs, but the

trying to be adapted to what conditions suit us and try and make it as hard as we can for the batters. I think we have a plan of trying to reduce the amount of boundaries in the middle part," revealed Overton. "I think bowling, that's my natural sort of stuff to do is try and hit the wicket hard. I think in the past I've been a little bit short at times and I've just sort of realised it's all worked out, what sort of lengths work in India. I'm trying to bowl out a little bit fuller to bring the batsmen forward. The wickets are so good nowadays, people are using the pace and hitting the mark square and stuff, so I'm trying to make the guys hit it down the ground a bit more. I'm just trying to stick with that process really," Overton added. KKR, on the other hand, are desperate for success. The three-time IPL champions are yet to get their combination right. They have been plagued by injuries and dip in form of key players. Varun Chakravarthy who injured his left-hand is recovering.



**WHEN IS THE IRELAND VS INDIA SERIES?**

India are scheduled to play a short T20I series in Ireland towards the end of June, with matches expected to take place on June 26 and 28. The series will come shortly after the IPL, and is likely to feature a second-string squad, giving opportunities to emerging players before a full-strength side returns for the white-ball tour of England starting in July.

## Vessels with Iran crude reach India for first time in seven years

MORBI.(Agency)

As global oil supplies tighten due to the ongoing conflict in West Asia, which has disrupted cargo movement through the Strait of Hormuz, India has begun purchasing Iranian crude to meet its demand. In the past few days, the country has received two Iranian crude cargoes carried by Very Large Crude Carriers (VLCCs)—Felicity and Jaya—which have arrived at Indian ports. A VLCC typically carries around 2 million barrels of oil. The Iran-flagged Felicity has reached Sikka Port, while the Curaçao-flagged Jaya has arrived at Odisha's Paradip Port.

According to ship-tracking firm Kpler, the Felicity, carrying approximately 2 million barrels of Iranian crude, is currently anchored near Sikka based on its latest AIS signal. Meanwhile, Jaya, also carrying Iranian crude, was spotted off Paradip on April 9. This marks the first time in nearly seven years—since 2019—that India has received crude oil from Iran.

The ongoing crisis has significantly impacted cargo movement through the Strait of Hormuz, a critical chokepoint that handles around 20% of the world's crude oil and 25% of global gas supply.

In response to the situation, the United States issued a 30-day sanctions waiver for Iranian oil already at sea. According to the Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC), the waiver applies to oil loaded on vessels on or before March 20 and discharged by April 19. Following this, the US has allowed the purchase of previously sanctioned Russian as well as Iranian crude to ease supply constraints caused by disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz. India, in turn, has increased its procurement of both Russian and Iranian crude amid the crisis. Iran was once a major oil supplier to India, but imports were halted after US sanctions were imposed. Currently, nearly 90 per cent of Iran's oil exports are directed to China. The government, in a statement, said there are no payment hurdles for Iranian crude imports and confirmed that India has resumed such imports.

## West Asia war: Iran offers 5-yr enrichment halt; talks likely on Apr 16

New Delhi:.(Agency)

The US and Iran are considering a second round of talks on Thursday, April 16, after peace negotiations in Islamabad failed last weekend, according to a report by the Associated Press.

During the peace talks in Islamabad, Washington asked Tehran to halt uranium enrichment for 20 years, but Iran announced on Monday that it would agree to only a five-year pause. The New York Times reported. Here are the key developments as of 10 am on Tuesday:

US developments

- President Donald Trump said on Monday that the US military has started a blockade of Iranian ports and coastal areas. Iran responded with warnings targeting ports in the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman.
- Trump said Iran had reached out to Washington for another round of talks, even as the US moved ahead with the naval blockade.
- He claimed that Iran's navy had been "completely obliterated", alleging that 158 ships were destroyed and now lie "at the bottom of the sea". He added that smaller "fast attack ships" were not targeted. A United States official said the US Navy has deployed at least 15 ships in the region, including the aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln and multiple destroyers, which could enforce the blockade.
- The US has warned it will "vigorously prosecute" anyone involved in buying or selling sanctioned Iranian oil. Iran's latest moves
- Iran has responded to a US demand to halt uranium enrichment for 20 years by offering to limit it to five years, according to The New York Times.
- President Masoud Pezeshkian said the country's "national resistance" has prevented foreign efforts to weaken Iran.
- He added that attempts by "enemies" to destabilise the country had failed, praising the people's "resistance and perseverance" during the ongoing tensions.

## NCLT orders insolvency proceedings against Dhoot

New Delhi.(Agency)

The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) has directed initiation of insolvency proceedings against Videocon's former chairman and MD Venugopal Dhoot for defaulting on loans of Rs 6,158 crore, as a personal guarantor of two group companies.

Admitting a plea from State Bank of India (SBI), NCLT said Venugopal Dhoot has "committed defaults in repayment of loan amount" granted by the financial creditor. "Venugopal Nandlal Dhoot, personal guarantor to Videocon Industries Ltd and Videocon Telecommunications Ltd has also committed default in repayment of the loan facility demanded by the financial creditor after invocation of the personal guarantee," said an order passed by NCLT on April 8. The Mumbai bench of the insolvency tribunal has also appointed Asish Narayan as a resolution professional and directed him to issue a public notice within seven days of passing this order on the website of the NCLT.

"The Resolution Professional shall submit the repayment plan along with his report on the plan to this authority within a period of 21 days from the last date of submission of claims, as provided under Section 106," said NCLT. Under Section 95 of the Insolvency & Bankruptcy Code (IBC), insolvency proceedings are initiated against a person, after being "satisfied that Corporate Debtor (Videocon) has committed default in repayment of loan amount granted by the financial creditor and personal guarantors have committed default in repayment of the loan facility". Two other Dhoot brothers - Rajkumar Nandlal Dhoot and Pradeep Nandlal Dhoot - are already facing insolvency proceedings. Agencies

# Unclaimed assets: How to recover your money from banks, shares, EPF and insurance

**Unclaimed money is not lost, but recovering it requires awareness, documentation and persistence, making early action crucial before delays and low returns quietly erode its real value over time.**

New Delhi:.(Agency)

A large pool of unclaimed assets continues to build up across India's financial system, spanning bank deposits, shares, insurance and provident funds. While the numbers are significant, the bigger problem is that many people simply do not know where to start or how to get their money back. The good news is that the money is not lost. It remains claimable, but recovery depends on following the right process for each

category and having the necessary documents in place.

**HOW TO START THE PROCESS**

The first step is to identify where your money is lying.

There is no single platform that covers all types of unclaimed assets, so you need to check across multiple databases. Start with bank deposits, then move to shares and dividends, followed by EPF and insurance. For bank deposits, the Reserve Bank of India's UDGM portal allows you to search for unclaimed money across multiple banks using basic details such as name, PAN or date of birth.

If a match is found, note the bank and branch details. For shares and dividends, check the Investor Education and Protection Fund (IEPF) website, where companies upload details of unclaimed amounts that have been transferred after a period of inactivity. For provident fund balances, log in to the EPFO portal using your Universal Account Number (UAN).



Even inactive accounts can be accessed and claimed online. For insurance, visit the insurer's website or use the centralised search facility provided by the regulator to check for unclaimed policies.

**WHAT YOU NEED TO DO NEXT**

Once you locate the asset, the next step is to initiate the claim with the concerned institution. In the case of bank deposits, you must approach the bank branch

linked to the account. You will need to submit a claim form along with identity proof, address proof and account-related details. If the account holder has passed away, legal heir documents such as a death certificate or succession proof will be required. For shares, the process is more structured. You need to file Form IEPF-5 online, print it, and submit it along with supporting documents to the company's designated officer for verification before the claim is processed. EPF claims can be filed directly online through the EPFO portal after completing KYC requirements. In most cases, Aadhaar, PAN and bank details must be linked for the claim to be processed. Insurance claims require policy details, identity proof and nominee or legal heir verification, depending on the case. WHERE MOST PEOPLE GET STUCK

The biggest hurdle is not the process itself, but the paperwork.

## Adani Power hits all-time high: What's driving the surge?

New Delhi.(Agency)

Shares of Adani Power have hit an all-time high, standing out in a weak market where benchmark indices and heavyweight stocks have been struggling to find momentum.

The stock ended at Rs 181.40 on the Bombay Stock Exchange in the previous trading session and touched a record high of Rs 184.40 during the day. This highlights strong buying interest even as broader sentiment remains cautious. More importantly, this is not a one-day spike. The stock has gained 17.72% over the past month and nearly 11% in the last five trading sessions. In the previous session alone, it rose 3.24%, pointing to sustained momentum. WHY ADANI POWER SHARES ARE IN DEMAND

At the core of the rally is a favourable demand outlook. As temperatures rise, electricity consumption typically increases, improving utilisation levels



for power generation companies. This seasonal trend tends to support revenue visibility and has brought the power sector back into focus. At the same time, relatively stable coal supply and improving operational performance have added to investor confidence. There is also a broader market shift underway. In uncertain conditions, investors often move towards sectors with more predictable demand and cash flows.

Power has emerged as one such pocket,

especially as global risks and higher oil prices weigh on sentiment elsewhere.

**MOMENTUM BUILDS, BUT RISKS REMAIN**

The rally has also been supported by technical factors.

A steady uptrend over the past few weeks pushed the stock to new highs, triggering fresh buying interest. Momentum-driven trades often accelerate once a stock breaks past previous peaks, which appears to be playing out here. However, sharp rallies can invite profit booking. While the near-term outlook remains supported by demand trends, the pace of gains will be closely watched. For now, Adani Power's performance stands out in a falling market, reflecting a mix of strong demand visibility, defensive positioning and sustained momentum.

## LIC bonus shares: PSU insurer announces bonanza; know how many shares will one get

SYDNEY.(Agency)

LIC Bonus Issue: PSU insurance giant Life Insurance Corporation of India, or LIC in short has announced a bonus issue of shares. What's more, the company has said that the board of directors has approved a bonus issue of shares in a 1:1 ratio. This is nothing short of a major reward for its shareholders, who were a bit disappointed by the discounted listing price of the behemoth in the summer of 2022. The record date for the issue of bonus shares hasn't yet been announced. In simpler words, it means that if a shareholder has 10 shares, he/she will get another 10 shares of LIC free of cost. Let's see how the shareholders will benefit.

**Bonus share ratio**

"In its meeting held today (Monday), the Board considered and approved the issuance of bonus equity shares in a ratio of 1:1. This means that for every one fully paid-up equity share of ₹10

held by LIC shareholders as of the record date, one fully paid-up equity share of ₹10 will be issued," LIC mentioned in a regulatory filing. The bonus shares will be issued by



capitalising a sum of money as much as Rs 6,325 crore from the company's reserves and surplus as at the end of Q3FY26. The issue of shares will be completed within two months from the date of the approval by the LIC board. In other words, by June 12.

**What is bonus share issue?**

Nothing gladdens the heart of an investor

quite like a bonus share issue. The reason is simple — a bonus share issue comes for free. The board of the issuing company decides the bonus issue ratio ie, how many new shares will be issued for every investor. For LIC, every shareholder will get one share for every shares held by him/her. Companies usually announce bonus issues to increase liquidity in the market, make shares a bit more affordable and even to signal a statement in the market — that they are confident of growth in the future.

**LIC share movement**

LIC shares ended the trading session on Monday at Rs 809, gaining 1.33%. However, thanks to the sluggish and volatile market conditions, the share has been under pressure in recent times. In 2026 so far, the share has gone down by about 5%. It gained about 3% in the past 12 months. LIC has a market cap of Rs 5.09 lakh crore.

## AI becomes the new proxy: How tech workers are using tools to crack virtual interviews

**Recruiters and hiring managers across the IT services and product ecosystem say candidates are now relying on real-time AI assistants during online interviews to generate polished responses, solve coding problems and even answer behavioural questions on the spot**

New Delhi.(Agency)

As India's technology hiring market slowly regains momentum, a new form of interview fraud is quietly spreading across the sector, where candidates are increasingly using artificial intelligence tools to clear virtual interviews.

Recruiters and hiring managers across the IT services and product ecosystem say candidates are now relying on real-time AI assistants during online interviews to

generate polished responses, solve coding problems and even answer behavioural questions on the spot. Some candidates keep a second screen or mobile phone just below the webcam frame, where tools such as ChatGPT, Gemini or specialised interview copilot software listen to the interviewer's question and instantly suggest answers.

Others use browser extensions and hidden desktop overlays that remain invisible during screen sharing but display live prompts. For coding interviews, the misuse is even more direct. Candidates paste problem statements into generative AI tools or use code assistants to generate full solutions in seconds. "It has become the new-age proxy interview," said a senior software engineer at Infosys, who recently appeared for roles in Bengaluru's product start-up ecosystem and requested anonymity. "For one round, I had ChatGPT open on my phone and Copilot on my laptop. The HR round was easy. The AI gave me structured answers for leadership and conflict questions almost instantly." A cloud architect working at Wipro said the pressure to keep up in a

difficult market is pushing many candidates towards such shortcuts. "People are not doing it because they are lazy. The competition is brutal. If everyone believes others are using AI, it



becomes a survival hack," the employee said. "In technical rounds, some people are literally feeding the question into an AI tool while pretending to think."

He also said that the candidates often rehearse with AI-generated mock interviews before the actual call and then keep the same tool open during the live round. "The interviewer asks a system design question, and within ten seconds,

the AI gives you a framework of scalability, fault tolerance, caching, and database choice. You just speak around it," he said. In response, companies across the technology sector are now changing the way they hire in order to reduce the misuse of artificial intelligence during interviews. Several firms have started moving away from fully virtual hiring rounds and are bringing candidates back for in-person discussions, especially for final technical and managerial interviews.

A recent report by The Wall Street Journal said more companies are returning to face-to-face meetings as AI tools make it easier for candidates to receive live assistance during remote rounds. Others are redesigning the interview itself. Instead of asking standard questions that can be easily answered by AI tools, recruiters are increasingly using live work simulations, timed coding exercises and practical problem-solving tasks that mirror real workplace situations. Companies such as Foxglove and BlueAlpha have begun using multi-day work trials to test how candidates actually perform on the job.

# Sonam Bajwa

Recalls Shocking Moment Woman Blamed Her For Breaking Her Engagement

It's not every day that celebrities hear stories about their own public image shaping someone else's personal life. But actor Sonam Bajwa recently shared one such unexpected encounter, one that left her both surprised and speechless during a casual interaction. The conversation came up during her appearance on the Amazon MX Player series *Famously Fit* with Sophie, hosted by Sophie Choudry, where guests often open up about personal experiences beyond films and fitness.



Recalling the incident, Bajwa spoke about meeting a woman who directly linked her to a major turning point in her life. According to the actor, the woman approached her, confirmed her identity, and then revealed something she had been carrying for a while. "There was this girl who walked towards me and she asked, 'Are you Sonam Bajwa?' I said yes, and she said, 'I have to tell you something.' She goes that because of me, her engagement broke. I said, 'I don't know if I should say I am so sorry to hear that,' but I was so stunned! Then she goes, 'But I am very happy now and I am engaged to somebody else.'"

The unexpected confession didn't end there. Bajwa went on to explain the reason the woman gave for calling off her earlier engagement. She recalled, "So she said, 'I am super happy. I called off the engagement with that guy because he was obsessed with you and he wanted me to look like you. He wanted me to have a body like you. It was just a lot for me so I called off that engagement. But ab main jinke saath hoon woh mujhse bohot pyaar karte hain (Now I am with someone who really loves me a lot).'" Bajwa added that she responded positively and told the woman she was happy for her.

While the anecdote offered a lighter moment from the show, Bajwa's professional journey continues to reflect a steady rise in Indian cinema. She began her career as a model before stepping into films, gaining early recognition after participating in *Femina Miss India 2012*.

Her film debut came the same year with the Punjabi film *Best of Luck*, followed by her breakthrough performance in *Punjab 1984* (2014), which helped establish her as a strong screen presence in the industry.

Over time, she became one of Punjabi cinema's most recognisable names, with popular titles including *Nikka Zaildar*, *Sardar Ji*, and *Carry On Jatta 3* contributing to her growing fan base.

Expanding beyond regional cinema, Bajwa also stepped into Hindi, Tamil, and Telugu projects. Her Bollywood appearances include *Street Dancer 3D* and *Karam Yuddh*, while her more recent screen outings include *Housefull 5* and *Ek Deewane Ki Deewaniyat*.



'Brahmin Ghar Ki Beti': Poonam Pandey Recalls Father Slapped Her After 2011 World Cup Controversy



A viral statement, a cricket World Cup victory, and an unexpected storm back at home, this is one of those early-2010s Bollywood-adjacent internet moments that still gets talked about today. Model-actor Poonam Pandey has once again revisited the controversy that catapulted her into national headlines during the 2011 ICC World Cup, shedding light on what unfolded both publicly and privately after her remark went viral. In a recent conversation with *Telly Talk India/Zoom*, Pandey reflected on how the incident became a defining and deeply complicated moment in her early career.

The controversy dates back to 2011, when Pandey, then a relatively unknown face in the industry, made a bold public promise on social media that she would strip naked if the Indian cricket team, led by MS Dhoni, won the World Cup. When India lifted the trophy, the statement resurfaced instantly and exploded across media platforms, turning her into an overnight talking point.

According to Pandey, the idea came during a phase when she was actively trying to find visibility in a competitive industry. She recalled struggling to break through despite participating in modelling platforms such as *Gladrags* and *Kingfisher*, and said she was still learning how the entertainment world operated, especially the importance of networking and connections.

During the interview, she admitted, "Ab mujhe pata nahi ki is industry mein ghuste kaise hain na. There are a lot of things people do here which I am still learning by the way."

She further explained that the now-infamous statement was made spontaneously on her birthday while she was with friends. What she initially thought of as a "kiddish thought" quickly spiralled into something far larger than she had anticipated. In her words, "I came up with this amazing concept in my own head."

When Asha Bhosle Recreated Vicky Kaushal's 'Tauba Tauba' Hook Step, Performed The Song During Her Concert



Legendary playback singer Asha Bhosle passed away in Mumbai on Sunday, at the age of 92. Dr Pratit Samdani at Breach Candy Hospital confirmed the demise of the legendary singer, and stated that she succumbed to multi-organ failure on April 12. With a career spanning decades, she remained a beloved figure not just for her timeless songs but also for her lively spirit and ability to connect with newer generations. In recent years, she had delighted fans by embracing viral trends, most memorably when she recreated Vicky Kaushal's 'Tauba Tauba' hook step during her concert.

When Asha Bhosle Broke The Internet With Tauba Tauba Hookstep

In December 2024, Asha Bhosle left fans surprised and delighted when she performed Karan Aujla's hit song *Tauba Tauba* at one of her concerts. Not only did she sing the track with her signature charm, but she also grooved to it, recreating Vicky Kaushal's viral hook step, sending the audience into a frenzy. The moment quickly went viral on social media, with fans celebrating how effortlessly the legendary singer embraced the new song.

Karan Aujla And Vicky Kaushal's Reaction

Following the viral clip, Karan Aujla had expressed his admiration on Instagram Stories, calling Asha ji the "living Goddess of music." He wrote that seeing her perform his song was an unforgettable and emotional moment, adding that it inspired him deeply as an artist. In another story, he humbly remarked, "I wrote it at 27. She sang it at 91 better than me."

Asha Bhosle's rendition also drew a heartfelt reaction from Vicky Kaushal, who called her an "absolute legend" and shared his admiration with folded hands and heart emojis. As fans mourn Asha Bhosle's passing, the video has resurfaced online, once again going viral and bringing smiles to many.

Akshay Kumar Leaves

# Wamiqa Gabbi

Shocked With Prank At Bhooth Bangla Set

Akshay Kumar is gearing up for his next *Bhooth Bangla* release. The horror comedy is releasing on April 17. Ahead of it, a fun behind-the-scenes moment from the sets has taken social media by storm. In a viral video from a song shoot, Akshay Kumar is seen pulling a light-hearted prank on his co-star Wamiqa Gabbi, leaving her visibly shocked.

A video from the set has surfaced. It shows Wamiqa is secured with a harness, and Akshay Kumar pulls her on the table. Just as she begins a dance step, Akshay suddenly pushes her away, leaving her shocked. The moment quickly turned into laughter on set. Recently, another video of Akshay Kumar getting injured also went viral. He suffered an injury while performing a high-octane stunt for the film. The makers shared a BTS video of *Bhooth Bangla* featuring Akshay, popularly known for performing his own stunts, who was seen performing a high-octane sequence, executing a dramatic jump kick mid-air. However, while landing, he loses balance and falls, hurting himself in the process.

The trailer:

The trailer of *Bhooth Bangla* begins with a narrator warning that *Vadhusur* has not disappeared but

grown more powerful, suggesting that someone is trying to bring it back. It shows Akshay Kumar entering a grand palace, telling Asrani that he won't leave such a huge place. The trailer introduces Rajpal Yadav as *Sundar*, while *Paresh Rawal* describes the mansion as a strange house where spooky events occur. Akshay Kumar is seen stating that the wedding will take place in the palace, while



Asrani's character warns him that no one gets married in *Mangalpur*, hinting at a sinister history. He states that *Vadhusur* will rise and kill anyone in its path, and that the palace is inhabited only by ghosts. *Bhooth Bangla* features late actor Asrani in a posthumous appearance, making it one of his final screen performances.



# Age-proof your Hands

A good hand cream is important for softer and younger looking skin. Here's what to keep in mind when buying one

When it comes to skincare, one often indulges in products that take care of the facial skin and hair. However, your hands are also susceptible to ageing and to prevent the appearance of fine lines and wrinkles, invest in a good hand cream. Here are a few basic rules to follow.

**Pick one according to your skin type**

The first and foremost rule is to choose a hand cream that suits your skin type. This will ensure that your skin does not experience any sort of irritation. For example, if you have sensitive skin, investing in a cream that contains vitamin A is advised. Vitamin A ensures that your skin does not have an allergic reaction.

**Look for moisturising properties**

The second general rule of a hand cream is to check for its moisturising properties. A hand cream is generally used to keep your hands nourished for a long duration of time. No matter what season it is, the more

moisturisation it offers, the better it is.

**Opt for a product with SPF**

Most hand creams these days contain sun protection factor. If you are looking for one that can be used during the day, this is your best bet. Not only will it keep your hands moisturised through the day, it will also protect them from the harmful UV rays of the sun.

**One for the night**

Apart from a day hand cream, one should also invest in

one that can be used during the night. A hand cream for this time of the day should contain retinoid and Vitamin E, that will keep your hands soft and supple. Retinoid protects your hands from ageing and Vitamin E eases out fine lines and wrinkles.

**Should have anti-inflammatory properties**

Your sore hands can be treated with a hand cream that contains anti-inflammatory properties. Choose creams that do not contain parabens.

**Choose one that does not contain fragrance**

A hand cream should be selected on the basis of its benefits and not smell. The ones that have fragrance in it are not advised because they contain ingredients that may have damaging effects on your skin.



## Here are office Makeup looks for the season



**Corporate lunch**

A hint of peachy blush will add freshness to a dull afternoon. Outline your lips with a lip pencil in a corresponding shade and fill it in with a creamy matte lipstick in the same shade. You can choose from colours like light pink, peach, nude or even a lighter shade of brown. Thinly outline the eyes. Don't go too high on your eye makeup.

**Dinner party**

An office party or post-work drinks allow one to bring a little drama to your look. Do a winged cat-eye and keep the liner thick on the lower inner rims as well. Use a pink lip gloss to finish off.

**Boardroom presentation**

Highlight one of your features, either the lips or eyes. For instance, your lips bright and let your eyes have the bare minimum of colour. If red is too bright for you, pick lip colours like plum or burgundy.

**Dos and don'ts**

- Stick to neutral colours for a corporate office environment
- Don't overdo the colours and compact
- Opt for blushers in colours like rose and apricot. For Indian women, indigo blue, browns and grey are great in eye shadows and liners.
- Don't wear yellow-tinged colours like coral and fuchsia, since they could make your teeth appear yellow
- Keep the foundation to a minimum
- For an alert look, don't forget the mascara and curl your lashes with an eyelash curler before stepping out
- Air-conditioned environments are dehydrating on the skin. So, always keep lip balm and hand lotion handy in your bag

# Homemade Face packs for tan Removal

**1. Cucumber, Rose Water and Lemon Juice:**

While lemon acts as natural bleach, cucumber and rose water acts as cooling agents. In a small bowl take a table spoon each of cucumber juice, lemon juice and rose water and mix in well. Apply the mix with cotton on tanned areas and keep it for about 10 minutes. Then wash it off with cold water. Apply this pack every day after you get back home from the sun.

**2. Gram flour and turmeric mix:**

Mix two tablespoons of gram flour with a pinch of turmeric, a tablespoon of milk and a table spoon of crushed orange peel in a bowl with cold rose water. Apply the mix on clean face and let it dry for about 15-20 minutes. Once the pack dries, slowly remove the pack by scrubbing gently in clockwise and anti-clockwise direction; the exfoliation effect will help in removing the tan.

**3. Oat Meal and Butter Milk:**



While butter milk is an excellent source for soothing skin and healing blisters and oatmeal is a great natural scrub. In a bowl mix two tablespoon of oatmeal with three-four tablespoons of butter milk and apply on tanned areas. Gently massage in circular motion; let it stay for 15-20 minutes and cleanse with water.

**4. Milk and strawberry:**

Not only is this combination a healthy one, it also helps in improving skin complexion and reduction of dark spots, freckles and even pigmentation. Take four-five crushed strawberries and mix it with two tablespoons of milk cream and apply it on face. Let it stay for about 20-30 minutes. Rinse it with fresh water.

## How to make natural lavender mask



To make your own soothing mask at home, here's what you need.

A lavender face mask is a great way to reduce stress and feel relaxed when you are worked up. It always soothes you especially if you've been going through a troubled phase. However, getting hold of something from the market is pretty tedious, since you may not know whether it is available easily or not. Here's how you can make one at home and store it for a long duration of time.

**What you need** - ¼ tbsp organic honey  
4 drops of essential lavender oil  
1 tbsp yogurt

½ tsp olive oil (optional)

**How to make it**

- Mix all the ingredients together in a bowl and keep it overnight in a refrigerator. Before applying the pack, wash your face well with normal tap water, pat it dry.

Make sure that the pack is not too watery and not too thick. Apply it evenly on your face and neck. Keep it on for 20 minutes and wash it off with normal water. You can also take a few drops of lavender oil and massage it on your face and leave it overnight.

