

Calm, witty and razor-sharp - Priyanka Gandhi pulled no punches in Parliament

Without resorting to bitterness or name-calling, Priyanka Gandhi, while speaking on delimitation, delivered barbs with a smile -- drawing laughter from Home Minister Amit Shah, energising Opposition benches, and earning praise from Rahul Gandhi.

New Delhi.(Agency)

Barely 21 minutes in the Lok Sabha on Thursday were enough for Wayanad MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra to make a striking impression -- invoking the Nehru legacy, taking sharp jibes at the ruling dispensation, and showcasing her oratory skills while speaking on women's reservation and delimitation. Her speech, marked by a mix of composure and pointed criticism, stood out in a House often defined by sharp polarisation. Without resorting to bitterness or name-calling, she managed to deliver barbs with a smile--drawing laughter from Home Minister Amit Shah, energising Opposition benches, and earning praise from Rahul Gandhi.



House with bullet points marked on sheets of paper, using them primarily for factual accuracy while speaking largely from instinct. She opened her speech by taking a swipe at the treasury benches, which frequently invoke India's

give a little background on this topic. Because the Prime Minister mentioned a lot in his speech about who stopped it, how it was stopped, and how this decision was stalled for 30 years. My colleagues in the ruling party may not like this, but the historical background is that it was also initiated by a man named Nehru," she said, before adding with a touch of sarcasm, "But don't worry, this is not the Nehru you so shy away from."

She went on to note that it was Motilal Nehru who, in 1928, prepared a report listing 19 fundamental rights and presented it to the Congress Working Committee.

"In 1931, the Congress session was held in Karachi under the chairmanship of Sardar Patel. This resolution was passed at that Karachi session, marking the beginning of women's equal rights becoming a part of our country's politics. At the same time, the principle of 'One Vote, One Citizen, One Value' was also established in our politics," she said, adding that countries like the United States took far longer to secure such rights, making India's early steps unique.

PREPARATION MEETS PRESENTATION

Behind the confident delivery lay careful preparation. A senior Congress leader told India Today that Priyanka Gandhi had walked into the

first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru to highlight past "blunders."

Addressing this directly, she said she wanted to offer some historical context, even if it might not be well received by the ruling side. "I would like to

Women's Reservation Act operationalised late at night as Parliament debated it

New Delhi.(Agency)

The Women Reservation Act 2023, which gave a 33 per cent quota to women in legislatures, came into force on Thursday, according to a notification issued by the Union Law Ministry. It is, however, not immediately known why the 2023 act was notified with effect from April 16, in the midst of the debate in Parliament to amend the same law for its implementation in 2029.

An official cited "technicalities" for bringing the law into force without elaborating. Though the act has come into force, the reservation cannot be implemented in the current House, the official said.

Reservation for women can be implemented after carrying out a delimitation exercise on the basis of the next census, the official said.

The notification read:

"In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (2) of section 1 of the Constitution (One Hundred and Sixth Amendment) Act, 2023, the Central Government hereby appoints the 16th day of April, 2026 as the date on which the provisions of the said Act shall come into force."

In September 2023, Parliament passed the 'Nari Shakti Vandan Adhinyam', commonly known as the Women's Reservation Act, in a significant step towards enhancing women's representation in legislative bodies.



Short news

It's a war to protect rights: MK Stalin's stark warning to Centre on delimitation

Chennai.(Agency)

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin has launched another round of blistering attacks on the Centre over the proposed delimitation exercise, declaring that the state's opposition was "not merely a protest, but a war". He cautioned New Delhi against testing Tamil Nadu's fighting spirit by pushing ahead with the process.

"What we are carrying out against this constituency delimitation injustice is not just a protest, it is a war. Wars are nothing new to Tamil Nadu," Stalin said at a public rally.

Recalling past mass agitations in the state, the DMK chief said, "First came the struggle for social justice, when reservation was under threat. It was Tamil Nadu that first pushed for a constitutional amendment. Then came the language struggle. Tamil Nadu has a long history of resisting the imposition of Hindi, a movement in which people even sacrificed their lives for their mother tongue." Tamil Nadu, along with other southern states, has opposed delimitation move based on the 2011 Census, arguing that it would disadvantage states that have successfully implemented population control measures. They contend that such a move would disproportionately benefit states with higher population growth, potentially reducing the political representation of southern states, many of which are governed by opposition parties.

Harivansh re-elected Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman, PM Modi praises his leadership

NEW DELHI.(Agency)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday congratulated Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman Harivansh on his re-election, calling it a reflection of the House's deep trust in his leadership and working style.

"You have been re-elected for the third time in a row. This reflects the faith of the House in you and your efforts to take everyone along. It is a respect for your experience and your working style. We have seen the House's power getting strengthened during your tenure," the Prime Minister said.

PM Modi said that being elected for a third consecutive term as Deputy Chairman shows the deep trust of the House in Harivansh. He added that the House has endorsed his experience, inclusive approach, and simple working style, while noting that the effectiveness of the House has strengthened under his leadership.

Harivansh received five notices in his favour, while the Opposition did not submit any notice proposing its candidate.

The Office of the Deputy Chairman had fallen vacant after Harivansh's term ended on April 9. Chairman CP Radhakrishnan fixed Friday as the date for the election under Rule 7 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Council of States.

The last date and time for receiving notices of motions was 12 noon on Thursday. Sources said five notices were received supporting Harivansh, while none came from the Opposition. The Opposition has decided to boycott the election, protesting the Modi government's failure to appoint a Deputy Speaker in the Lok Sabha.

No seat-loss assurance: How TDP came on board for delimitation bill

New Delhi.(Agency)

The TDP came on board just 24 hours before the bill was tabled, following talks between Chandrababu Naidu and Union ministers.

The Telugu Desam Party (TDP) came on board for the delimitation exercise after receiving clear assurances from the Centre that southern states will not lose their share of Lok Sabha seats, sources said.

According to sources, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu tasked TDP MP Krishna Prasad Teneti to engage with key stakeholders in the Union government. Teneti met Union Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal on April 15, just 24 hours before the bill was introduced in Parliament, and raised concerns about the potential impact on southern states' seat share.

Meghwal responded positively and assured that the delimitation process would follow a pro-rata



basis and that no southern state would lose its share. Naidu also spoke to Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Meghwal over the phone the same day.

There were concerns that Andhra Pradesh's share could drop to 4.1%, but after the intervention,

clarity was given that the state would retain its 4.6% share. The TDP expressed satisfaction with Shah's assurance.

TDP MP Byreddy Shabari supported the bill, saying it would enable women-led development, while JD(U) MP Dileshwar Kamait reiterated the government's commitment to "nari shakti".

The Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill to modify the women's quota law was introduced in the Lok Sabha after a division of votes, with 251 members supporting it and 185 opposing. Two additional bills—the Delimitation Bill and the Union Territories Laws (Amendment) Bill—were also introduced to operationalise the proposed changes in Delhi, Puducherry, and Jammu and Kashmir.

CM Bhagwant Singh Mann-led Punjab Cabinet clears citizen-led desilting policy to boost flood preparedness ahead of monsoon

The Sikh Times

HANDIGARH; 17th April : Punjab Cabinet, led by CM Bhagwant Singh Mann, has cleared a citizen-focused policy allowing landowners to undertake desilting of rivers, choes and drains at their own cost, with the right to use excavated material free of charge, in a move aimed at strengthening flood preparedness ahead of the monsoon while improving river flow across critical stretches. Disclosing this, Chief Minister's Office stated: "A major citizen-centric decision has been taken by the Punjab Cabinet led by CM Bhagwant Singh Mann to approve allowing landowners to undertake desilting of rivers/choes/drains including River Sutlej, River Beas and River Sirwan. The decision was taken in a meeting of the Council of Ministers chaired by CM Bhagwant Singh Mann." The Cabinet has also given approval to a policy for permitting concerned landowners to undertake desilting of rivers /choes / drains including River Sutlej, River Beas and

River Sirwan at their own cost and to utilize the excavated material free of cost for their own use." The spokesperson further noted that the initiative will facilitate expeditious desilting of critical reaches, enhance the carrying capacity of rivers/choes and significantly reduce the risk of floods, thereby safeguarding public and private property. The Punjab Government has identified nine critical sites where desilting is required to ensure smooth flow of water in view of the upcoming monsoon season. Non-execution of desilting at these sites could lead to accumulation of silt, reduced carrying capacity of rivers/choes and increased flood risk during the ensuing monsoon, besides continued non-utilization of excavated material. To ensure timely desilting before the monsoon season 2026-27 and to address non-responsive sites, it has been decided to permit concerned landowners to undertake desilting at their own cost, with free utilization of excavated material for their own use. This will facilitate expeditious execution of desilting works while reduc-

ing potential flood risks and associated liabilities. *CM Bhagwant Singh Mann-led Cabinet Gives nod to amend Rule 6 of Punjab Reservation for office of Sarpanches of Gram Panchayat / Chairman / Vice Chairman of Zila Parishad & Panchayat Samiti* In another key decision, the Cabinet also approved an amendment to Rule 6 of the Punjab Reservation for the Offices of Sarpanches of Gram Panchayats and Chairmen and Vice Chairmen of Panchayat Samitis and Zila Parishads Rules, 1994, aimed at rationalizing representation across categories. The move is aimed to rationalize the representation to each category for reservation of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Castes Women, Women and General category. It stipulates that in case 10% or more of the total number of Zila Parishads in the State are affected, the roster for rotation of the Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Caste Women, Women and General Categories shall be prepared afresh.

Serious matter, no one will be shielded: Fadnavis on TCS Nashik sex abuse case

Devendra Fadnavis said the Nashik BPO case is very serious and assured strict action, stating no one will be shielded. He added that central agencies have been informed and will be involved in the probe, which suggests a larger module with wider reach that authorities plan to fully investigate.

New Delhi.(Agency)

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Friday finally broke his silence on the alleged forced religious conversion and sexual harassment cases at a TCS-linked BPO in Nashik, saying that no one will be spared and that he will involve central agencies, as the preliminary probe points to a large module.

Speaking at a press conference in Kolkata, Fadnavis said, "It is a very serious matter, and we are paying close attention to it. We will not shield anyone." "The TCS chief has also condemned it, and we have informed the central agencies and will take their help. It appears to be a large module; we will investigate how far its



reach extends," he added.

Police have registered nine cases in connection with the allegations. While seven men and a woman have been arrested, another accused, Nida Khan is in Mumbai and has applied for an anticipatory bail. Explaining the role of the two female accused, Nashik Police Commissioner Sandeep Karnik said on Wednesday that the operations and HR head of the unit had allegedly discouraged a victim from submitting a complaint, saying "these things happen" and sided with the accused. In a related development, the Nashik court on Wednesday remanded the female operations manager in judicial custody till April 28.

Responding to reports speculating involvement of any extremist organisation or funding from abroad for the accused, the police commissioner said a thorough investigation is underway, and the police have written to the SID, ATS and NIA.

Am I a criminal? Pawan Khera asks as SC pauses bail in case by Assam CM's wife

The Supreme Court paused Pawan Khera's interim bail in a defamation case, refused to extend his protection till Tuesday, and directed him to seek anticipatory bail before a competent Assam court.

New Delhi.(Agency)

The Supreme Court on Friday, for the second time, paused the interim bail granted to Congress leader Pawan Khera in a defamation case filed by the wife of Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, over Khera's allegations that she held multiple passports and foreign assets. Khera had sought an extension of his transit anticipatory bail granted by Telangana High Court till Tuesday, citing the closure of courts in Assam. The Supreme Court, however, declined the request and directed him to approach the appropriate court in Assam without delay.

As the court refused to grant relief, Senior Advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi, appearing for Khera, remarked, "Today is Friday, I am filing on Monday. Am I a hardened criminal so as to deny even this relief?"

The Supreme Court also flagged discrepancies in his bail plea filed before the Telangana High Court, which Attorney General Tushar Mehta, appearing for Assam, had earlier described as "forum shopping", pointing out that the front page of the Aadhaar card submitted was in Khera's name, while the reverse side reflected his wife's address, with differing Aadhaar numbers.

Responding to this, Khera said, "Your Lordships were misled. I made a small error by filing the wrong document," a claim the court questioned, asking, "How can you call it a small error?" Singhvi further argued that the Supreme Court's April 15 stay on the Telangana High Court's order stemmed from a misunderstanding regarding the documents submitted.

News box

13 LPG cylinders seized from illegal storage unit in Badshahpur

Gurgaon.(Agency)

A joint team of the Food and Supply Department and CM Flying seized 13 filled domestic LPG cylinders from a warehouse operating out of a tin shed near Shani Mandir, close to Kushalasad Mandir in Sector 66, Badshahpur.

During the raid, officials found Indane domestic cylinders stored under suspicious circumstances. Preliminary inquiry indicated illegal stockpiling and potential misuse. "The preliminary investigation also revealed that the cylinders were being illegally stockpiled, raising concerns about their misuse," said the official.

The individual present at the spot failed to produce valid documents related to the storage, use and legal ownership of the cylinders, prompting officials to initiate action. Officials said strict surveillance is being maintained to curb such illegal storage, adding that similar action will continue in the future. A complaint has been filed with the police and further investigation is under way. The department has carried out multiple raids in the past month to check black marketing and unauthorised storage of LPG cylinders.

The administration has also set up a control room at 0124-2868930 for reporting black marketing and other LPG-related issues. "Every complaint received at the control room is being resolved on a priority basis," said the

'We'll kill him': Family gets threat call from victim's phone; body found near Mahendragarh station

MAHENDRAGARH.(Agency)

A man was found murdered near Buchawas Railway Station on April 15, after his family received a chilling phone call from his mobile in which the callers said he had been assaulted and threatened to kill him.

The deceased, identified as Dinesh Kumar of village Gudha, was traced after his sister alerted police about the call. Acting on the input, police used technical surveillance to track the location of the phone, leading to the recovery of his body near the railway station.

Following a complaint by the family, a case was registered



under relevant sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita. Superintendent of Police Deepak Jewaria visited the spot and formed multiple teams, including CIA units, Cyber Cell, and local police, to investigate the case.

In a swift operation, police later arrested three accused — Kapil from Bawaniya, Rahul from Sisoth, and Arav from Mahendragarh — in connection with the murder. The accused are currently being interrogated to determine the motive and sequence of events leading to the crime.

Star Air to start Hindon to Mundra flights from April 29

NOIDA.(Agency)

After massive reduction of flight services, Star Air will operate flight services to Mundra in Gujarat.

Star Air — which reduced flight services from 21 to 12 and now eight — is currently operating on Adampur (Punjab) and Nanded (Maharashtra) routes. By the end of this month, it will introduce the new destination,



which will operate on all seven days, officials said. An official from Star Air said, "We planned to operate on Mundra route from April 25, but due to some work going on at Mundra, we had to postpone it till a further date. We are in talks with the Mundra airport officials."

"Star Air will operate operations from the Hindon civil terminal to Mundra in Gujarat from April 29," Hindon Civil Terminal director Chilkha Mahesh said, adding, "We have been informed that the Kishangarh route, on which the air carrier stopped operating, will commence operations by the end of this month."

This curtailment of flights from the terminal has brought down the footfalls from a peak of 6,000 per hour to just between 2,000 and 2,200 per hour.

On Nov 6, 2019, Star Air commenced operations from Hindon Civil Terminal to Hubli. On Nov 18, 2019, it introduced services to Kalburgi. But since Jan 2023, the services on both routes were suspended. But from March 31, 2024, Star Air commenced flights connecting Hindon to Nanded and Adampur, which is still continuing. Apart from Star Air, IndiGo is the only carrier that is operating from Hindon Civil Terminal. As of now, it is operating on Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Chennai, Navi Mumbai and Varanasi routes. Air India Express last year introduced operations on 10 routes — Kolkata, Goa, Jaipur, Chennai, Patna, Varanasi, Mumbai, Bhubaneswar, Jammu and Bengaluru routes. Between April and May, Air India Express commenced operations on these routes, and in a year, the carrier brought the operations to zero.

Short of teachers, short of space: Class 1, 2 and 3 in a room in govt primary schools in Gurgaon

Gurgaon.(Agency)

Classrooms in several govt primary schools in the city are turning multi-grade, where one room often hosts students from two or even three different classes at the same time. Due to a shortage of teachers and space constraints, children from Grade 1 and Grade 2 — and in some cases even Grades 1, 2 and 3 — are being taught together by a single teacher, juggling different lessons simultaneously.

The situation becomes more complex in some schools where two teachers share the same classroom, each handling a different subject — one teaching mathematics while the other conducts English lessons — for students of different grades sitting side by side. While this arrangement serves as a workaround for limited resources, teachers said it can affect foundational learning, as young students may struggle without dedicated attention tailored to their specific grade level.

At Govt Primary School, Jai Hind Ki

Dhani in Farrukhnagar, with only two sanctioned teaching posts catering to students from Bal Vatika to Class 5, teachers are compelled to merge multiple grades into a single classroom. One teacher, Rajesh Kumar, who has been serving at the school for nearly a decade, described the daily challenge: "We have six hours and three classes to manage at once. While I assign work to the first graders, I have to attend to the second and third graders. Covering the syllabus effectively under these conditions is nearly impossible." The challenge is both numerical and academic, as teachers simultaneously handle basic alphabet learning for younger students while teaching more advanced concepts such as ascending and descending order to older ones.

Beyond academics, the burden on both students and teachers continues to grow. Most children come from migrant families where parents are engaged in daily wage labour and are unable to support studies at home. Teachers, on the

other hand, are also handling administrative work, including maintaining online records for multiple subjects and classes, often amid poor internet connectivity in rural areas.



Adding to this, both teachers at the school have been assigned census duties from May 2026, which, despite being scheduled after school hours, effectively extends their workload. In another primary school in Farrukhnagar, teacher Ashok Kumar was seen managing two

classes simultaneously using separate boards in the same classroom. He assigns work to Bal Vatika students before shifting focus to Grade 1 students, constantly moving between groups to keep both engaged. In the next classroom, he teaches Grade 3 and Grade 4 together, further reflecting the strain on limited staff. Schools in the area are largely operating under a "combined classroom" model, where Grade 1 is paired with Bal Vatika, Grades 2 and 3 are taught together, and Grades 4 and 5 share the same learning space. To manage this, teachers often use a "split-board" strategy — writing different lessons for different classes on the same board while alternating their attention between groups. "I write the Grade 1 work on the board for them to copy, then move to the Bal Vatika children with activity-based tasks," one teacher said. Another added, "You have to explain a concept to one group while keeping the other occupied."

Senior town planning officer in Haryana fined 25k for delaying RTI reply

Gurgaon.(Agency)

In an order reinforcing accountability under the Right to Information (RTI) Act, Haryana State Information Commission has imposed a penalty of Rs 25,000 on a senior town planning officer for failing to provide information within the stipulated time and for ignoring multiple notices. The penalty has been imposed on RS Bath, the then state public information officer (SPIO)-cum-district town planner (enforcement), Gurgaon, who is now posted with GMDA. The order was passed by state information commissioner Kulbir Chhikara on March 12, 2026, following prolonged non-compliance in a complaint filed by Delhi-based applicant Nitin Garg.

On April 8, the commission sent the order to the director general of town and country planning, the drawing and disbursing officer of GMDA, and other officials, including Bath, directing immediate compliance. Referring to its earlier notice dated Feb 26, 2026, the commission

instructed all respondents to act on the order without delay and submit a compliance report. According to the commission's findings, the RTI application was filed on May 6, 2022, seeking specific information from the town and country planning department. Despite a clear directive from the first appellate authority on Dec 14, 2022, the information was not furnished within the prescribed timeframe. The commission noted that the officer neither complied with the order nor offered any reasonable explanation for the delay. The matter involved multiple hearings and notices over nearly two years. As recorded in the order, Bath failed to appear before the commission and did not respond to repeated show-cause notices issued on June 20, 2025, Nov 3, 2025, Jan 28, 2026, and Feb 26, 2026. The commission observed a "lack of diligence" and described the conduct as a clear violation of the RTI Act, 2005. Invoking Section 20(1) of the RTI Act, the commission held

that this was a fit case for penalty, observing that public officials are legally bound to provide information in a timely manner. The order also referred to a Punjab and Haryana High Court judgment in 2014, Chander Kanta vs state information commission and others, which mandates penalties in cases of unjustified delay or denial of information. Under the order, the Rs 25,000 penalty will be recovered from the officer's salary in two instalments or within 60 days. The amount is to be deposited under the designated govt head for RTI penalties. The commission has also directed the director general of town and country planning and the drawing and disbursing officer of GMDA to ensure compliance and submit a report.

The registrar of state information commission has been tasked with monitoring the recovery process to ensure timely execution of the order. A senior commission official underscored the urgency.

Noida's industry hub has a yearlong problem: Not protests, it's filth

Noida.(Agency)

Over the past few days, the industrial sector in Phase 2 has been through a lot. It has witnessed stone pelting and protests by workers from the many factories that operate from here, as well as heavy police presence and barricading. But amidst all this, drains clogged with garbage, plastic waste strewn along roadsides and construction and demolition waste have sat undisturbed. Shamolic civic conditions don't raise eyebrows here. It's part of the geography.

Home to more than 1,200 industries comprising hosiery, electronics, garments, pharmaceuticals, auto components and plastic moulding units, sectors 81, 83, 84 and 85 are a sanitation nightmare. Vacant plots in neighbouring Nayagaon, Yakubpur and Salarpur villages are littered with waste and stray cattle graze through trash, ingesting many harmful substances, including plastic.



On Thursday, Noida Authority penalised a sanitation contractor for shoddy work in the area, but drains remained blocked.

Arun Sharma, an industrialist who manufactures LED lights from his 800-square-metre unit at B 61, Sector 83, Phase 2, has blamed sanitation workers for this mess. He said they dump the waste on vacant plots and leave it there for days. "They are irregular; they often visit once a

week or sometimes once in two weeks. The waste keeps rotting," he said. Sharma claimed that, in the absence of a proper waste management system in nearby villages, residents dump garbage in vacant plots, outside the boundary walls of industrial units, and in surrounding drains. However, the majority of the industrial units in the area treat the waste within their compounds before getting rid of it.

Another industrialist from Sector 80, Mohan Singh, owns a plastic moulding unit where he manufactures coolers and washing machines. He echoed Sharma's statements and said, "Sanitation is a problem here as garbage is not picked up regularly. If you look at the waste dumped in these areas, you will find that it is mostly domestic waste like plastic wrappers, polybags, shopping bags, old clothes and bottles. Most problems revolve around villages," he said.

'Reckless' shortcuts? MCG says PNG rush hitting water & sewer networks

NOIDA.(Agency)

The rush to expand the piped natural gas network is colliding with basic safety norms in the city, corporation engineers have warned. Under pressure to move households from LPG to PNG amid energy supply constraints linked to the West Asia conflict, gas agencies are laying pipelines "recklessly" and in violation of standard procedures, damaging water and sewer lines in the process and disrupting civic services. The engineers have told TOI. According to them, trenchless digging methods mandated for such work are being bypassed and manual excavation is being done instead, sharply raising the risk of hitting existing underground utilities. The concern comes as govt pushes PNG adoption to ease pressure on LPG supplies. "Senior officials of gas agencies laying their networks in the city will be called for a meeting. In the rush to lay pipelines, they are damaging our infrastructure and not complying with norms at all. We will send them notices for the damage caused," MCG commissioner Pradeep Dahiya said. The corporation said it has already received at least three formal complaints about repeated damage to pipelines, including from Sector 15 and Palam Vihar. Executive engineer Sandeep



Sihag said the agencies were summoned on Monday and given three days to comply. "We have received three complaints where water and sewer lines were damaged. If they do not follow norms and execute the work properly, we will issue notices and take action," he added. In Palam Vihar, ward 4 councillor Pardeep Kumar Padam said the damage was repeated within hours. "The agency damaged a water pipeline while working in E Block on Tuesday. It affected water supply. I got it fixed, and when I went there, they damaged the second line again

that very night. I am still at the site with the MCG junior engineer getting the work done," he told TOI. A former councillor and Sector 15 resident also said the work was being carried out without accounting for utilities already laid underground. "I have raised the issue with MCG," he added. Engineers said one of the most serious lapses involves ground penetrating radar survey, or GPRS, which is meant to map underground infrastructure before digging starts. "In some cases, GPRS surveys are not being conducted at all. In others, even when

they are done, the findings are not followed. If a survey shows a water line at 3 feet and the gas pipeline is to be laid at 5 feet, but that is not adhered to.

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Full Support for Women's Reservation, but Centre indulging in theatrics: Gurmeet Singh Meet Hayer

Chandigarh/NW DELHI, April 17: Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) MP from Sangrur Gurmeet Singh Meet Hayer, speaking during the special session of Parliament on the Women's Reservation and Delimitation Bills, extended full support to women's reservation while questioning the intent and timing of the Union Government, calling the move a political exercise aimed at electoral gains. He also strongly opposed the Delimitation Bill, warning that it could disturb the federal balance and further weaken the representation of states like Punjab. Addressing a late-night debate in Parliament, AAP MP Gurmeet Singh Meet Hayer stated, "We fully support the Women's Reservation Bill, but the intent of the Union Government raises serious questions. The manner and timing in which this has been brought suggests it is being used as an election gimmick rather than a sincere step towards empowerment."

The AAP MP added, "If the Union Government had genuine intent, it would have passed this bill in 2023 itself. At that time, it was argued that implementation would follow the census. Today, the bill is being pushed even though the census process has not even begun, which exposes the inconsistency in their approach." Expressing firm opposition to the Delimitation Bill, Gurmeet Singh Meet Hayer said, "The Delimitation Bill can have a devastating impact on the political balance of states. Smaller states like Punjab will suffer further erosion in representation, while more populous states will gain disproportionately, deepening existing inequalities." He further highlighted longstanding issues concerning Punjab, stating, "Promises made to Punjab before and after independence remain unfulfilled. Instead of granting special status, funds meant for Punjab are being withheld, and its rights over BBMB are being steadily diluted. Punjab is already facing injustice due to lower representation, and delimitation will only worsen this situation."

Drawing international comparisons, he noted, "In countries like the United States and across Europe, all states are ensured equal rights. India must also move towards a framework where every state is treated with fairness and equity, irrespective of population size." Raising the concerns of the Punjabi diaspora, Gurmeet Singh Meet Hayer also advocated for policy reform, stating, "Non-Resident Punjabis have contributed immensely to the country and the state. It is time the Government seriously considers granting dual citizenship to recognise their role and strengthen their connection with India."

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NAME CHANGE
I, ARUNA is legally mother of No. 2821874P Rank-SEP Name-CHAUDHARI KIRTIKUMAR LILADHAR presently residing at VILL-BARBASPURA, POST-KACHEWANI, TEH-TIRORA, DIST-GONDIYA, STATE-MAHARASHTRA, PIN-441614, have changed my name from ARUNA to ARUNA LILADHAR CHAUDHARI and date of birth from 15/02/1977 to 15/12/1977 for all future purposes. Vide affidavit dated 17/04/2026 before Public Notary Delhi.

NAME CHANGE
I, LILADHAR CHAUDHARI F/O No. 2821874P Rank-SEP Name-CHAUDHARI KIRTIKUMAR LILADHAR presently residing at VILL-BARBASPURA, POST-KACHEWANI, TEH-TIRORA, DIST-GONDIYA, STATE-MAHARASHTRA, PIN-441614, have changed my name from LILADHAR CHAUDHARI to LILADHAR RUPCHAND CHAUDHARI And Date of birth from 30/03/1972 for all future purposes. Vide affidavit dated 17/04/2026 before Public Notary Delhi.

NAME CHANGE
I, SUNITA is Legally Mother of No. 2817611Y, RANK-NK, NAME-DESAVALE AKSHAY LAXMAN VILL-BHADURAWADI, POST-BHADURAWADI, TEH-WALWA, DIST-SANGLI, STATE-MAHARASHTRA, PIN-415411, HAVE CHANGE MY NAME FROM SUNITA TO SUNITA LAXMAN DESAVALA AND DATE OF BIRTH FROM 01/01/1978 ALL FUTURE PURPOSES. Vide AFFIDAVIT DATED 17/04/2026 BEFORE NOTARY PUBLIC DELHI

NAME CHANGE
I, SANTOSH KUMAR S/O RAM ABHILASH MISHRA R/O F-233 GALI NO 6 NEAR POLICE CHOKI GUJJAR CHOWK WAZIRABAD VILLAGE DELHI 110084, CHANGED MY NAME TO SANTOSH KUMAR MISHRA.

NAME CHANGE
I, PANKAJ KUMAR TEWARI S/O RAVINDRA NATH TIWARI R/O 461 GROUND FLOOR RAJESHWAR NAGAR PHASE 1 DEHRADUN UTTRAKHAND 248001, CHANGED MY NAME TO PANKAJ KUMAR TIWARI.

NAME CHANGE
I, RAVINDRA NATH TEWARI S/O RAM NITHUR TIWARI R/O 24D/3V NYAY MARG NEWADA ALHAHAD UTAR PRADESH 211001, CHANGED MY NAME TO RAVINDRA NATH TIWARI.

NAME CHANGE
I, NIRMALA RANI TEWARI W/O RAVINDRA NATH TIWARI R/O 24D/3V NYAY MARG NEWADA ALHAHAD UTAR PRADESH 211001, CHANGED MY NAME TO NIRMALA RANI TIWARI.

NAME CHANGE
I, REETA TEWARI W/O PANKAJ KUMAR TIWARI R/O 461 GROUND FLOOR RAJESHWAR NAGAR PHASE 1 DEHRADUN UTTRAKHAND 248001, CHANGED MY NAME TO REETA TIWARI.

NAME CHANGE
I, hitherto known as DARAO S/O GANGA RAM R/O C-591, LIG FLATS, EAST OF LONI ROAD, NAND NAGRI, SHAHDARA, DELHI-110093, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as DARIYAV SINGH. It is certified that I have complied with other legal requirements in this connection

NAME CHANGE
I hitherto known as MITHEESH W/O PRAKASH R/O W-43, Canal Colony, Jamia Nagar, Okhla, New Delhi, South Delhi, Delhi-110025 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as GAURA DEVI

NAME CHANGE
It is for general information that I, RADHA W/O MOHAN CHAND R/O H.No-102, S/F UP, Arjun Nagar, Safdarjung Enclave, South West Delhi, Delhi -110029 declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as RADHA SHARMA in my minor son RAKSHIT SHARMA aged 17 years in his 10th class educational documents. The actual name of mine is RADHA which may be amended accordingly

NAME CHANGE
I hitherto known as HEMLATA W/O PIYUSH KATARIA, R/O C-36, Swami Dayanand Colony, Sarai Rohilla, Malika Ganj, North Delhi, Delhi-110007 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as HEMLATA KATARIA

NAME CHANGE
I hitherto known as RUKMANI DEVI W/O MOHINDER GUPTA R/O F-42, Prashant Vihar, Sector-14, Rohini, Rohini Sector-7, North West Delhi, Delhi-110085 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as RUKMANI GUPTA

NAME CHANGE
I hitherto known as SHWETA BANSAL W/O KAMAL GARG R/O T-233, Indira Colony, Narela, Manoo Pur, Narela, North West Delhi, Delhi-110040 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as SHWETA GARG

NAME CHANGE
I hitherto known as ALOK KUMAR S/O MADAN MOHAN MISHRA R/O 120, Third floor, Gali No-3, Shakti Vihar, Meethapur, Badarpur, South Delhi, Delhi-110044 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as ALOK KUMAR MISHRA.

NAME CHANGE
I, NO-14865724H, Rank-SEP/MT, Name-BARANDA VINAYAK KUMAR R residing at VILL-JAYLA, PO-TAKATUKA, TEHSIL-BHILODA, DIST-ARVALLI, GUJARAT-383246, have changed my father's name from BARANDA RAJENDRA KUMAR to RAJENDRAKUMAR NANJIBHAI BARANDA for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 17/04/2026 before Notary Public Delhi.

NAME CHANGE
I, NO-14865724H, Rank-SEP/MT, Name-BARANDA VINAYAK KUMAR R residing at VILL-JAYLA, PO-TAKATUKA, TEHSIL-BHILODA, DIST-ARVALLI, GUJARAT-383246, have changed my mother's name from RAJENDRA PREMLA BEN to PREMLABEN RAJENDRAKUMAR BARANDA for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 17/04/2026 before Notary Public Delhi.

NAME CHANGE
I, NO-14847276Y, Rank-NK/MT, Name-ANARUL MONDAL residing at VILL-GOKHURAPOTA, PO-CHARATALA, TEHSIL-KRISHNAGAR, DIST-NADIA, WEST BENGAL-711123, have changed my wife's name from PARVINA KHATUN to PARVINA MONDAL for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 17/04/2026 before Notary Public Delhi.

NAME CHANGE
I, NO-14847276Y, Rank-NK/MT, Name-ANARUL MONDAL residing at VILL-GOKHURAPOTA, PO-CHARATALA, TEHSIL-KRISHNAGAR, DIST-NADIA, WEST BENGAL-711123, have changed my mother's name from ROMJANI BIBI to RAMJANI MONDAL for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 17/04/2026 before Notary Public Delhi.

NAME CHANGE
I, NO-14857534F Rank-HAV/MT Name-AJIT KUMAR MAURYA residing at VILL-RANITARA, POMOKARSHIM, TEHSIL-GHRWAL, DIST-SONBHADRA, UTTAR PRADESH-231216, have changed my wife's name from ARATI MAURYA to ARATI for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 17/04/2026 before Notary Public Delhi.

NAME CHANGE
I, NO-14829855Y, Rank-HAV/MT, Name-GOVIND KUMAR residing at VILL-KOTRA, PO-KHOTAKRANPUR, DIST-GHATAMPUR, DIST-KANPUR NAGAR, UTTAR PRADESH-209206, have changed my name from VIR SINGH to VEER SINGH for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 17/04/2026 before Notary Public Delhi.

PUBLIC NOTICE
NOTICE is hereby given to public at large that my client Mr. Anuj Kumar & Sh. Jaiveer Singh are the owner of the Plot No. 15, area measuring 25x25=50 sq. yds., out of khasra no. 821/2/1, situated in Gulab Vastha, village Bhatia Hajipur, Loni, Pargana and Tehsil Loni, Distt. Ghaziabad, U.P. vide Sale Deed dated 18.06.2020 which is registered as doc no. 4117, vol no. 1584, pages 53-72, SR-Loni & Gift Deed dated 25.03.2026 which is registered as doc no. 5545 vol no. 8176 pages 127-148 dated 25.03.2026 in SRO LONI and intend to mortgage the said property with Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited. If any person(s) has/have any objection(s) or claim(s) with respect to the right, title or interest in the said property may please contact us within 07 days from the date of this notice on the number & address mentioned herein below, failing which my client(s) shall not be held responsible in any manner whatsoever.

PUBLIC NOTICE
That my client Ishwari Dutt Son of Shri Bhawani Dutt resident of Block -A, Gali No.8, KH-404, I.P. Colony, Part -2, Radhe Krishna Mandir, Surani Delhi, Delhi-110008, have changed his name from Ishwari Dutt to Ishwari Dutt Pathak with his own free will. Now his said new name Ishwari Dutt Pathak shall be used for all purposes in future.

NAME CHANGE
I, Sudha W/o Chandra Prakash Rank - Hav Army No. 1053581K Resident of Village - Jatpura, PO - Pharijole, Teh - Bhogoon Dist - Mainpuri, State - Uttar Pradesh Pin- 206303 My husband posted at Bihar Regt Center Co -56 APO, Danapur, Pin-908765 Army Service book have changed my name from Kurnari Sudha to Sudha & Corrected DOB 24 August 1989 for all future purposes. My Aadhar bearing No. 464043623904. Vide Affidavit Dated 17 April 2026 before The Notary Public at Delhi in presence of Advocate Rajkumar.

NAME CHANGE
I, Chandra Prakash Rank - Hav Army No. 1053581K Resident of Village - Jatpura, PO - Pharijole, Teh - Bhogoon, Dist - Mainpuri, State - Uttar Pradesh Pin- 206303 posted at Bihar Regt Center Co -56 APO, Danapur, Pin-908765 Army Service book have changed my son name from Sivank Pal to Shivank Pal & my Son Corrected DOB 01 Jan 2012 for all future purposes. My son Aadhar bearing No. 731478288695. Vide Affidavit Dated 17 April 2026 before The Notary Public at Delhi in presence of Advocate Rajkumar.

NAME CHANGE
I, IRFAN KHAN S/O MOHD YASEEN residing at B-14/71, GALI NO-13, SUBHASH VIHAR, NORTH GHONDA, DELHI-110053. I am to purchasing these two properties 1st B-5/98, YAMUNA VIHAR, DELHI-110053 and 2nd B-5/279, GROUND FLOOR, YAMUNA VIHAR, DELHI-110053. If there any bank loan of these two properties so bank contacts me on my number 9212710936 /9899145173.

NAME CHANGE
It is hereby informed that due to an error in my military records, the Name of my mother has been incorrectly recorded as veera devi. The correct name of is Beera chauhani, 1. Rfn Ankit chauhani (Service No. 4105616Z), 83 B Garhwal Rifles, Address: W/5 5th T/Floor, Front Side, Gali No 15, F, Sadh Nagar 2 Palam Colony, Palam Village, PO: Palam Village, DIST: South West Delhi, Delhi-110045 New Delhi as per Affidavit No. IN-DL929000832451Y Date:-13-Apr-2026

NAME CHANGE
I, DEVADAS N P father of No. 2622038N Rank-NK Name-AJLDAS P residing at VILL-KOLLARI, PO- PORORA, TEH - THALASSERY, DIST- KANNUR, KERALA- 670702, have changed my name from DEVADAS N P to N P DEVADAS for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 17/04/2026 before Notary Public, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE
I, P ANITHA mother of No. 2622038N Rank-NK Name-AJLDAS P residing at VILL-KOLLARI, PO- PORORA, TEH - THALASSERY, DIST- KANNUR, KERALA- 670702, have changed my name from P ANITHA to ANITHA P for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 17/04/2026 before Notary Public, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE
I, B BHEEMAVVA Mother of No. 2616691M Rank-LNK Name-BODA RAJKUMAR residing at VPO-BEER-NANDI, PS & TEHSIL-KHANAPUR, DIST-NIRMALA, TELANGANA-504203, have changed my name from B BHEEMAVVA to BODA BHEEMAVVA for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 16/04/2026 before Notary Public, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE
I, D VANNURBEE Mother of No. 2616705A Rank-LNK Name-DEUDEKULA NAJEEER residing at H NO-1-110, VPO-VANKARAJUKALVA, PS-PAMIDI, TEHSIL-GOOTY, DIST-ANANTHAPURAM, ANDHRA PRADESH-515775, have changed my name from D VANNURBEE to D VANNUR BEE for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 16/04/2026 before Notary Public, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE
I, DUDEKULA FUKRUDDIN father of No. 2616705A Rank-LNK Name-DEUDEKULA NAJEEER residing at H NO-1-110, VPO-VANKARAJUKALVA, PS-PAMIDI, TEHSIL-GOOTY, DIST-ANANTHAPURAM, ANDHRA PRADESH-515775, have changed my name from DUDEKULA FUKRUDDIN to DUDEKULA PAKRUDDIN for all future purposes vide Affidavit Dated 16/04/2026 before Notary Public, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE
I, SANTOSH BAI mother of No. 17006604N Rank-NK Name-DHANASUKHA PATIDAR residing at WARD NO-05, VPO-BARKHEDA LOYA, TEHSIL-GAROTH, DIST-MANDSAUR, MADHYA PRADESH-458880, have changed my name from RADHESHYAM to RADHESHYAM PATIDAR for all future purposes, in my son's service record my date of birth wrongly mentioned as 06/08/1965 instead of my correct date of birth as 01/12/1962 Vide Affidavit dated 17/04/2026 before Executive Magistrate, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE
I, RADHESHYAM Father of No. 17006604N Rank-NK Name-DHANASUKHA PATIDAR residing at WARD NO-05, VPO-BARKHEDA LOYA, TEHSIL-GAROTH, DIST-MANDSAUR, MADHYA PRADESH-458880, have changed my name from SANTOSH BAI to SANTOSH BAI PATIDAR for all future purposes, in my son's service record my date of birth wrongly mentioned as 02/04/1969 instead of my correct date of birth as 01/01/1967 Vide Affidavit dated 17/04/2026 before Executive Magistrate, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE
I, SANTOSH BAI mother of No. 17006604N Rank-NK Name-DHANASUKHA PATIDAR residing at WARD NO-05, VPO-BARKHEDA LOYA, TEHSIL-GAROTH, DIST-MANDSAUR, MADHYA PRADESH-458880, have changed my name from SANTOSH BAI to SANTOSH BAI PATIDAR for all future purposes, in my son's service record my date of birth wrongly mentioned as 02/04/1969 instead of my correct date of birth as 01/01/1967 Vide Affidavit dated 17/04/2026 before Executive Magistrate, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE
I, ADITYA KUMAR S/o Nagesh Vishwakarma R/o Kh.No.100, H.No.293, Wazirabad, Gali No.12, Shiv Mandir Marg, Wazirabad Extn., Burari, Delhi/110084, have changed my name to ADITYA KUMAR VISHWAKARMA permanently.

PUBLIC NOTICE
I hitherto known as Raju S/O Dharam Chand R/o 10/42, Geeta Colony, Delhi-110031 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Raj Kumar. It is certified that I have complied with other legal requirements in this connection.

NAME CHANGE
I, SUNIL KUMAR S/O SUBHASH CHANDER R/O RZD/1/14 GROUND FLOOR GALI NO-6 MAHAVIR ENCLAVE PALAM VILLAGE DELHI-110045 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SUNIL KUMAR ARORA FOR ALL PURPOSE.

NAME CHANGE
I, MEENAKSHI D/O ANIL KUMAR R/O FLATNO-501 TOWER-1 PARKVIEW DELIGHT BESTECH CITY CENTER DHARUHERA REWARI-123106 HARYANA HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO MEENAKSHI GUPTA FOR ALL PURPOSE

NAME CHANGE
I, MANDEEP S/O HARBHAJAN SINGH R/O H No. 500/8, Salara Mohalla, Rohtak - 124001, Haryana have changed my name from MANDEEP TO MANDEEP AHUJA for all intents and purposes.

NAME CHANGE
I, MEENAKSHI DERAWAL W/O AMIT DERAWAL R/O House No. 1155/2, Ward No. 16, Quilla Road, Old Sabzi Mandi, Rohtak - 124001, Haryana have changed my name from MEENAKSHI DERAWAL to MEENAKSHI for all intents and purposes.

NAME CHANGE
I, TANUJA W/O Amar Singh R/o Flat No. C - 107, Lotus Homz, Near Puri Society, Sector - 111, Gurgaon - 122001 have changed my name to Tanuja to Tanuja Rani for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE
I, NANDA is legally mother of No. 2804586M Rank-HAV Name-SHAM-RAO PINGAT presently residing at VILL-GOUNDWAD, POST-B.K. KANGRALI, TEH-BELGAUM, DIST-BELGAUM, (KARNATAKA), PIN-590010, have changed my name from NANDA to NANDA NARAYAN PINGAT and date of birth from 22/03/1965 to 27/06/1970 for all future purposes. Vide affidavit dated 17.04.2026 before Public Notary Delhi.

NAME CHANGE
I, SURESH is Legally father of No. 2808864M Rank -HAV Name -KADAM AJINATH SURESH presently residing VILL-KHARAGWADI, POST-RAIMHOHA, TEH-SHIRUR, DIST-BEED, (MAHARASHTRA)-414205 have changed my name from SURESH TO SURESH ANNA KADAM date of birth from 01/02/1958 to 01/07/1967 for all future purposes. Vide affidavit dated 17/04/2026 before Public Notary Delhi India.

NAME CHANGE
I, MUKTABI is Legally Mother of No. 2808864M Rank -HAV Name -KADAM AJINATH SURESH presently residing VILL-KHARAGWADI, POST-RAIMHOHA, TEH-SHIRUR, DIST-BEED (MAHARASHTRA)-414205 have changed my name from MUKTABI TO MUKTABI SURESH KADAM date of birth from 02/01/1960 to 01/01/1968 for all future purposes. Vide affidavit dated. 17/04/2026 before Public Notary Delhi India.

NAME CHANGE
I, LAXMAN S/o JAGDISH CHAND R/O E-698, BLOCK-E, J.J. COLONY CAMP NO-22, NANGLOI, DELHI-110041 have changed my name to LAXMAN SINGH.

NAME CHANGE
It is for general information that I, BIMAL KJURJ R/O S/O JUSTIN KJURJ R/O H NO-24, Phase-4, Aya Nagar, Aya Nagar, South Delhi, Delhi-110047 declare that name of mine and my wife has been wrongly written as VIMAL KJURJ and MARIAM KJURJ in my minor daughter namely SARGAM KJURJ aged 11 years in her School Records. The actual name of mine and my wife are BIMAL KJURJ and MARIAM LAKRA respectively which may be amended accordingly.

NAME CHANGE
I, ASRI W/O HASAN ALI R/O E-18, 4th Floor, Haji Colony, Gaffar Mnazil Part-2, Jamia Nagar, Okhla, Delhi-110025, have changed my name to ASRI BEGUM permanently

NAME CHANGE
I, Abhishek S/o Sh. Om Prakash R/o 458, Village Parsa, Post Parsa, Distt. Ghazipur (U.P.), Pin-233301 declare that in my Graduation marks sheet & Degree certificate my mother name has been wrongly mentioned AARTI KHARWAR instead AARTI. That my mother correct name is AARTI. And my Father name has been wrongly mentioned OM PRAKASH KHARWAR instead OM PRAKASH. That my father correct Name is OM PRAKASH For all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE
I, PADMAKUMAR PLAKUNNATH PADMAVATHY S/o Sreedharan Nair R/o 702 C, JG-2, Vikas Puri, Delhi-110018, have changed my name to PADMAKUMAR P permanently.

NAME CHANGE
I, MEENA S/O PADMAKUMAR P R/O 702 C, JG-2, Vikas Puri, Delhi-110018, have changed my name to MEENA P KUMAR permanently

NAME CHANGE
I, ADITYA KUMAR S/o Nagesh Vishwakarma R/o Kh.No.100, H.No.293, Wazirabad, Gali No.12, Shiv Mandir Marg, Wazirabad Extn., Burari, Delhi/110084, have changed my name to ADITYA KUMAR VISHWAKARMA permanently.

NAME CHANGE
I, ADITYA KUMAR S/o Nagesh Vishwakarma R/o Kh.No.100, H.No.293, Wazirabad, Gali No.12, Shiv Mandir Marg, Wazirabad Extn., Burari, Delhi/110084, have changed my name to ADITYA KUMAR VISHWAKARMA permanently.

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NAME CHANGE
I, SUNIL KUMAR S/O SUBHASH CHANDER R/O RZD/1/14 GROUND FLOOR GALI NO-6 MAHAVIR ENCLAVE PALAM VILLAGE DELHI-110045 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SUNIL KUMAR ARORA FOR ALL PURPOSE.

NAME CHANGE
I, MEENAKSHI D/O ANIL KUMAR R/O FLATNO-501 TOWER-1 PARKVIEW DELIGHT BESTECH CITY CENTER DHARUHERA REWARI-123106 HARYANA HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO MEENAKSHI GUPTA FOR ALL PURPOSE

NAME CHANGE
I, MANDEEP S/O HARBHAJAN SINGH R/O H No. 500/8, Salara Mohalla, Rohtak - 124001, Haryana have changed my name from MANDEEP TO MANDEEP AHUJA for all intents and purposes.

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I, MEENAKSHI DERAWAL W/O AMIT DERAWAL R/O House No. 1155/2, Ward No. 16, Quilla Road, Old Sabzi Mandi, Rohtak - 124001, Haryana have changed my name from MEENAKSHI DERAWAL to MEENAKSHI for all intents and purposes.

NAME CHANGE
I, TANUJA W/O Amar Singh R/o Flat No. C - 107, Lotus Homz, Near Puri Society, Sector - 111, Gurgaon - 122001 have changed my name to Tanuja to Tanuja Rani for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE
I, NANDA is legally mother of No. 2804586M Rank-HAV Name-SHAM-RAO PINGAT presently residing at VILL-GOUNDWAD, POST-B.K. KANGRALI, TEH-BELGAUM, DIST-BELGAUM, (KARNATAKA), PIN-590010, have changed my name from NANDA to NANDA NARAYAN PINGAT and date of birth from 22/03/1965 to 27/06/1970 for all future purposes. Vide affidavit dated 17.04.2026 before Public Notary Delhi.

NAME CHANGE
I, SURESH is Legally father of No. 2808864M Rank -HAV Name -KADAM AJINATH SURESH presently residing VILL-KHARAGWADI, POST-RAIMHOHA, TEH-SHIRUR, DIST-BEED, (MAHARASHTRA)-414205 have changed my name from SURESH TO SURESH ANNA KADAM date of birth from 01/02/1958 to 01/07/1967 for all future purposes. Vide affidavit dated 17/04/2026 before Public Notary Delhi India.

NAME CHANGE
I, MUKTABI is Legally Mother of No. 2808864M Rank -HAV Name -KADAM AJINATH SURESH presently residing VILL-KHARAGWADI, POST-RAIMHOHA, TEH-SHIRUR, DIST-BEED (MAHARASHTRA)-414205 have changed my name from MUKTABI TO MUKTABI SURESH KADAM date of birth from 02/01/1960 to 01/01/1968 for all future purposes. Vide affidavit dated. 17/04/2026 before Public Notary Delhi India.

NAME CHANGE
I, LAXMAN S/o JAGDISH CHAND R/O E-698, BLOCK-E, J.J. COLONY CAMP NO-22, NANGLOI, DELHI-110041 have changed my name to LAXMAN SINGH.

NAME CHANGE
It is for general information that I, BIMAL KJURJ R/O S/O JUSTIN KJURJ R/O H NO-24, Phase-4, Aya Nagar, Aya Nagar, South Delhi, Delhi-110047 declare that name of mine and my wife has been wrongly written as VIMAL KJURJ and MARIAM KJURJ in my minor daughter namely SARGAM KJURJ aged 11 years in her School Records. The actual name of mine and my wife are BIMAL KJURJ and MARIAM LAKRA respectively which may be amended accordingly.

NAME CHANGE
I, ASRI W/O HASAN ALI R/O E-18, 4th Floor, Haji Colony, Gaffar Mnazil Part-2, Jamia Nagar, Okhla, Delhi-110025, have changed my name to ASRI BEGUM permanently

NAME CHANGE
I, Abhishek S/o Sh. Om Prakash R/o 458, Village Parsa, Post Parsa, Distt. Ghazipur (U.P.), Pin-233301 declare that in my Graduation marks sheet & Degree certificate my mother name has been wrongly mentioned AARTI KHARWAR instead AARTI. That my mother correct name is AARTI. And my Father name has been wrongly mentioned OM PRAKASH KHARWAR instead OM PRAKASH. That my father correct Name is OM PRAKASH For all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE
I, PADMAKUMAR PLAKUNNATH PADMAVATHY S/o Sreedharan Nair R/o 702 C, JG-2, Vikas Puri, Delhi-110018, have changed my name to PADMAKUMAR P permanently.

NAME CHANGE
I, MEENA S/O PADMAKUMAR P R/O 702 C, JG-2, Vikas Puri, Delhi-110018, have changed my name to MEENA P KUMAR permanently

NAME CHANGE
I, ADITYA KUMAR S/o Nagesh Vishwakarma R/o Kh.No.100, H.No.293, Wazirabad, Gali No.12, Shiv Mandir Marg, Wazirabad Extn., Burari, Delhi/110084, have changed my name to ADITYA KUMAR VISHWAKARMA permanently.

NAME CHANGE
I, ADITYA KUMAR S/o Nagesh Vishwakarma R/o Kh.No.100, H.No.293, Wazirabad, Gali No.12, Shiv Mandir Marg, Wazirabad Extn., Burari, Delhi/110084, have changed my name to ADITYA KUMAR VISHWAKARMA permanently.

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I, ADITYA KUMAR S/o Nagesh Vishwakarma R/o Kh.No.100, H.No.293, Wazirabad, Gali No.12, Shiv Mandir Marg, Wazirabad Extn., Burari, Delhi/110084, have changed my name to ADITYA KUMAR VISHWAKARMA permanently.

NAME CHANGE
I, ADITYA KUMAR S/o Nagesh Vishwakarma R/o Kh.No.100, H.No.293, Wazirabad, Gali No.12, Shiv Mandir Marg, Wazirabad Extn., Burari, Delhi/110084, have changed my name to ADITYA KUMAR VISHWAKARMA permanently.

PUBLIC NOTICE
I hitherto known as Raju S/O Dharam Chand R/o 10/42, Geeta Colony, Delhi-110031 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Raj Kumar. It is certified that I have complied with other legal requirements in this connection.

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to inform to the public at large that my Client Mrs. Babi W/O Dhampal R/o- B2/364 Jy Colony Madanpur Khadar New Delhi 110076. My client has severed all her family relations from her daughter's namely Geeta and Anil D/o Dhampal, R/o-B2/364 Jy Colony Madanpur Khadar New Delhi 110076, and disowned and debarred both from her all movable and immovable properties due to their bad, unfaithful, disrespectful behavior. Henceforth, My Client and his, that will be informed to the SHO, PS Kalindikunj.

NAME CHANGE
I, Rajender Khilani S/O Assumal Khilani R/O BHF 2BR Rtz -203 Omxare North Avenue Sector 15 Bahadurgarh Haryana have changed my name to

NEWS BOX

A 10-day ceasefire agreed on by Israel and Lebanon goes into effect

BEIRUT. (Agency)

A 10-day truce began in Lebanon on Friday that could pause fighting between Israel and the Hezbollah militant group and boost attempts to extend the ceasefire between Iran, the United States and Israel after weeks of devastating war.

US President Donald Trump announced the agreement as a ceasefire between Israel and Lebanon. However, Israel has not been fighting with Lebanon itself, but rather with the Iranian-backed Hezbollah militants inside the country, who were not formally part of the agreement. Barrages of gunshots rang out across Beirut as residents fired into the air just after midnight to celebrate the beginning of the truce.

Displaced families began moving toward southern Lebanon and Beirut's southern suburbs, despite warnings by officials not to attempt to return to their homes until it became clear whether the ceasefire would hold. Earlier, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said he agreed to the ceasefire "to advance" peace efforts with Lebanon, but said Israeli troops would not withdraw. Israeli forces have engaged in fierce battles with Hezbollah in the border area as they pushed into southern Lebanon to create what officials have called a "security zone." Netanyahu, in his video address, said it will extend 10 kilometers (6 miles) into Lebanon. That is where we are, and we are not leaving," he said.

Hezbollah said that "Israeli occupation on our land grants Lebanon and its people the right to resist it, and this matter will be determined based on how developments unfold" — a stance that could complicate the ceasefire.

Israel reserves right to defend itself

The U.S. State Department said that according to the agreement, Israel reserves the right to defend itself "at any time, against planned, imminent, or ongoing attacks." But otherwise, Israel "will not carry out any offensive military operations against Lebanese targets, including civilian, military, and other state targets."

Turkey hosts Pakistan, Saudi, Egypt ministers at Antalya forum amid West Asia war diplomacy push

ANTALYA. (Agency)

Turkey hosts a high-stakes forum Friday bringing together the foreign ministers of Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Egypt, as Islamabad pushes diplomatic efforts to end the Middle East war.

Pakistan's powerful army chief met senior negotiators in Tehran on Thursday as Washington and Iran considered a fresh round of talks to end the six-week war. President Recep Tayyip Erdogan will address the three-day Antalya Diplomacy Forum when it opens on Friday in the Mediterranean holiday resort of Antalya. The foreign ministers of Turkey, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Egypt are to meet on the sidelines of the forum, with the war and the blockade of the crucial Strait of Hormuz expected to dominate. The timing of the meeting has not yet been announced.

Pakistan has positioned itself as a key mediator in regional diplomacy having hosted rare talks between Iran and the United States last weekend, which ended inconclusively. "We are making the necessary efforts to reduce tensions, extend the ceasefire, and continue the negotiations," Erdogan said in an address to his ruling AKP party in parliament this week. Negotiations cannot take place with clenched fists. Weapons must not be allowed to speak again instead of words. The window of opportunity opened by the ceasefire must be fully utilised."

"Peace Possible, But Iran An Obstacle": Israel On Ceasefire With Lebanon

World. (Agency)

A day before Israel and Lebanon agreed to a 10-day ceasefire, Israel's Deputy Foreign Minister Sharron Haskel indicated that there's a possibility of long-term peace between the neighbouring nations, provided Iranian influence in the region is curtailed. Speaking in an exclusive interview with NDTV, Haskel framed the ongoing war as part of a broader regional confrontation involving Iran, while strongly rejecting allegations of Israeli territorial ambitions in Lebanon.

"Peace Is Possible, But Iran Is the Obstacle," Haskel said, asserting that Israel's ultimate objective remains stability. She also accused Iran of being the principal destabilising force in the Middle East.

According to the Israeli minister, Hezbollah, an Iranian proxy, has continued rocket attacks despite the Lebanese government's opposition, highlighting what she called Tehran's overriding control over militant groups in the region. She suggested that for the first time in decades, meaningful discussions on peace are underway.

"The result of weakening Iran's influence could actually be peace and stability," Haskel said, adding that negotiations aim to remove what she described as "fanatical regimes" from Israel's northern border.

Rejects Claims of Israeli Expansionism

Responding to allegations that Israel is attempting to create a buffer zone inside Lebanon, Haskel dismissed such claims as "propaganda" driven by Hezbollah and Iran. She cited historical precedents, including Israel's withdrawal from territories in exchange for peace, to argue that Israel is not expansionist. Instead, she emphasised that military actions are defensive responses to sustained attacks.

"If you seek to destroy us, we will defend ourselves," she said, framing Israel's operations as necessary for civilian protection.

Iran Talks and US Role: "Huge Gaps Remain"

On broader geopolitical developments, Haskel downplayed the relevance of reported negotiations involving Iran in Islamabad, stating they were unrelated to the Israel-Lebanon situation.

Macron and Starmer hold international summit on reopening the Strait of Hormuz

Dozens of countries expected, but US excluded, as European-led initiative aims to restore security and oil flow through key route after war-linked closure of strategic strait.

PARIS. (Agency)

The leaders of France and the U.K. will gather dozens of countries — but not the United States — on Friday to push forward plans to reopen the Strait of Hormuz, a key oil route choked off by the U.S.-Israeli war on Iran. The Paris meeting is part of attempts by sidelined nations to ease the impact of a conflict they didn't start and haven't joined, but that has sent the global economy reeling. After the war started on Feb. 28, Iran effectively shut the narrow strait though which a fifth of the world's oil usually passes. The U.S. is not part of the planning for what has been branded the

Strait of Hormuz Maritime Freedom of Navigation Initiative. In a post on X ahead of Friday's conference, French President Emmanuel Macron said the mission to provide security for shipping through the strait would be "strictly defensive," limited to non-belligerent countries and deployed "when security conditions allow." Macron and British Prime Minister Keir Starmer have spearheaded international efforts to increase diplomatic and economic pressure on Iran, which Starmer has accused of "holding the world's economy to ransom." U.S. President Donald Trump's announcement of a retaliatory American blockade of Iranian ports has raised the economic jeopardy even higher.

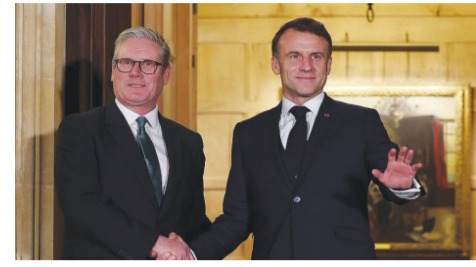
"The unconditional and immediate reopening of the Strait is a global responsibility, and we need to act to get global energy and trade flowing freely again," Starmer said before the meeting.

Military planning underway

France and Britain also have led military planning meetings, in an echo of the

"coalition of the willing" assembled to provide security for Ukraine in the event of a ceasefire in that war.

French military spokesman Col. Guillaume



Vernet said Thursday that the mission is still "in construction."

Macron's office said participants will contribute "each according to its capabilities," stressing options to ensure safe passage through the strait will depend on the security situation after a lasting ceasefire. "What matters is that ship operators have all the means at their disposal to be sure their vessels will not be

hit if they pass through the strait. That may require intelligence, mine-clearing capabilities, military escorts, communication procedures with coastal states, etc.," an official said, speaking on condition of anonymity in line with the French presidency's customary practices. Sidharth Kaushal, a research fellow in sea power at the Royal United Services Institute think tank, said mine-clearing and creating a warning system for maritime threats were more likely roles for the coalition than warships escorting commercial tankers through the strait.

"You need huge numbers of vessels for that sort of thing, which nobody has," he said.

Iran expert Ellie Geranmayeh, deputy head of the Middle East and North Africa program at the European Council on Foreign Relations think tank, said mine-clearing is an area where European countries and their partners could play a role. "They would be a better party to do this than the United States, because once you have U.S.

8 killed in helicopter crash in Indonesia, wreckage found in dense forest area

All eight people onboard the helicopter died when it crashed five minutes after taking off from a plantation area in Melawi.



Jakarta. (Agency)

All eight people on board a helicopter were killed when it crashed in Indonesia's West Kalimantan province, authorities said on Friday as search

teams tried to retrieve the bodies and wreckage. The Airbus H130 helicopter lost contact on Thursday morning five minutes after taking off from a plantation area in Melawi, Mohammad

Syafii, the head of Indonesia's rescue agency, said. "The location of the crash or loss of contact is in a densely forested area with steep hilly terrain," Syafii said, saying rescuers had found debris suspected to be the tail of the helicopter approximately 3 km (2 miles) west of where contact was lost. The cause of the crash remains unclear. A spokesperson from the local rescue agency said the six passengers and two crew members onboard had died in the crash. Escuers, including military and police personnel, were trying to reach the crash site via land routes on Friday. The plantation area was owned by an Indonesian palm oil company, Citra Mahkota, and the helicopter belonged to Matthew Air Nusantara, Syafii said.

ICE acting director Todd Lyons will resign at end of May, says DHS

Homeland Security Secretary Markwayne Mullin announced Lyons' departure, calling him a great leader of ICE who helped to make American communities safer.

WASHINGTON. (Agency)

US Immigration and Customs Enforcement acting director Todd Lyons, a key executor of President Donald Trump's mass deportations agenda, will resign at the end of May, federal officials announced Thursday.

Homeland Security Secretary Markwayne Mullin announced Lyons' departure, calling him a great leader of ICE who helped to make American communities safer. Mullin said Lyons' last day will be May 31. "We wish him luck on his next opportunity in the private sector," Mullin said in a statement. The Department of Homeland Security did not immediately respond to an email from

The Associated Press asking why he is resigning. Lyons, who was named acting director in March 2025, led the agency at the center of President Donald Trump's plans to reshape immigration to the U.S. Under his



leadership, the agency was granted a massive infusion of cash through Congress, which it used to expand hiring and detention capabilities. It also ramped up arrests to meet demand from the administration. ICE was also central to a series of high-profile immigration enforcement operations in American cities, including Chicago and Minneapolis, a deployment that

ended after backlash erupted over the deaths of two American protesters at the hands of federal immigration officers. White House spokesperson Abigail Jackson described Lyons in a post on X as "an American patriot who made our country safer." Stephen Miller, the president's deputy chief of staff and the main architect of his immigration policy, called Lyons "a phenomenal patriot and dedicated leader."

"His courageous work at ICE has saved countless thousands of American lives and helped deliver safety and tranquility to millions of Americans," Miller said in a statement.

It's not clear who might replace Lyons. But whoever does will take over an agency flush with cash while still a flashpoint for controversy. ICE is at the center of a battle in Congress, with Democratic lawmakers demanding restraints on immigration officers before agreeing to restore routine funding for DHS.

Shadow fleet, zombie IDs: How Iranian ships are dodging Trump's Hormuz blockade

Soon after the US blockade of the Strait of Hormuz was announced by Donald Trump, Iran-linked ships started slipping through the American build-up in the Persian Gulf. The Iranian ships are going dark, spoofing identities, and mimicking Russia's "shadow fleet" tactics to dodge the American naval blockade.

CAIRO. (Agency)

The American maritime blockade of Iranian ports in and around the Strait of Hormuz was meant to cut off oil and gas exports from Iran, and challenge Tehran's control of the world's most critical shipping lane. But, within just a day of the US blockade being enforced by over 10,000 American troops, Marines and airmen, holes are already visible in Trump's Hormuz closure efforts. That is because of the tricks Iran-linked ships are employing. While US President Donald Trump would have wanted the US blockade to restrict the movement of Iranian ships through the Strait, at least eight ships, including three Iran-linked tankers, have been crossing the waterway since the closure came into effect, news agency Reuters reported on Wednesday, citing shipping data. So, how are the Iran-linked ships dodging the American naval blockade? First a bit about the US blockade and why Trump imposed it. Trump imposed the naval blockade on the Strait of Hormuz

after US-Iran peace talks in Islamabad collapsed without a deal over the weekend of April 11-12. American Vice President JD Vance said the US was taking on Iran's "economic terrorism", adding that the Washington DC knew how to deal with it. The blockade over Iran's closure of the Strait of Hormuz was a way to pressure Tehran by halting its oil exports and removing its leverage over the vital shipping lane. Roughly 25% of global oil trade, and 90% of India's LPG imports, pass through the narrow strategic chokepoint in the Persian Gulf.

Trump announced the blockade on Sunday (April 12). The US Navy began its enforcement the following day, on Monday (April 13). The United States Central Command (CENTCOM), on Tuesday evening, claimed the US blockade was being executed by "more than 10,000 sailors, Marines, and airmen, along with over a dozen warships and dozens of aircraft." "During the first 24 hours, no



ships made it past the US blockade and six merchant vessels complied with directions from US forces to turn around to re-enter an Iranian port in the Gulf of Oman," added the CENTCOM handle on X. However, Iran-linked shipping vessels are employing several methods to evade being tracked in and around the Strait of Hormuz.

HOW IRAN SHIPS ARE DODGING TRUMP'S HORMUZ BLOCKADE

According to maritime intelligence experts, ships in and around the Strait of Hormuz "seemed to be adopting tactics to avoid detection," reported The New York Times.

A Comoros-flagged tanker, Elpis, which was under US sanctions, sailed from Iran's Bushehr port and crossed the Strait of Hormuz on Monday without interception by US forces, reported news agency AFP. A Madagascar-flagged tanker, Murlkishan, which was previously involved in transporting Russian and Iranian oil, sailed through the Strait of Hormuz.

Iran-linked ships are manipulating maritime tracking systems, disguising their identities, and exploiting gaps in enforcement of maritime shipping rules.

Most large vessels are required to carry Automatic Identification System (AIS) transponders that broadcast their identity, location, and route. However, ships linked to Iran are switching off these transponders and are going dark. This makes them temporarily invisible. Others engage in spoofing, where the ships deliberately transmit false data, like faking their coordinates and destinations. Some are impersonating another vessel altogether.

Short news

Phone Was Off: Tragic Death Of 2 Nagpur Law Students Who Couldn't Call For Help

Nagpur.(Agency)

Two students of the Maharashtra National Law University (MNLU) in Nagpur died after their bike skidded off the road and fell into a ditch near the varsity's campus.

The incident took place on Wednesday night when the two third-year students, Saksham Bansod (20) and Aryan Sontakke (20), went out to eat. While returning, their bike skidded on a rough road behind the university, and they fell straight into a ditch. The location was so deserted that no one noticed the accident.

While one of the victims left his phone at the hotel where they dined, the other's battery died - preventing them from contacting anyone for help.

When the students did not return to the university's hostel as per its timing (around 10:30 pm), the university informed their parents - prompting a search.

Later in the morning, a passerby spotted the bodies in the ditch and informed the police. A case of accidental death has been filed, and cops have begun an investigation. "The rider lost control of the speeding motorcycle, which fell into a pit."

Odisha Man Lures 5-Year-Old Girl With Biscuits At Home, Rapes Her, Arrested

Sundargarh.(Agency)

A 57-year-old man has been arrested for raping a five-year-old girl in Odisha's Sundargarh district. The accused, identified as Satyawar Singh, allegedly lured the child with biscuits. The incident took place on Wednesday. According to police, the girl was alone at home at the time as her parents had gone to the forest to collect Mahua flowers. The accused, who lives in the same village, was aware that the parents were not at home.

Police said Satyawar Singh went to the girl's house and offered her biscuits. He then lured her to his home, where the crime was committed. When the child cried, the accused panicked and fled.

After returning home, the parents found the child frightened. On being asked by her mother, the five-year-old narrated what had happened. The family informed village elders, ward members and the village head. A panchayat meeting was later held, and the accused was also called. The meeting went on for several hours but did not lead to any resolution.

The victim's mother then went to the police station and filed a written complaint. Police detained the accused soon after receiving the complaint and arrested him following questioning.

A case has been registered under relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act. He was produced before a court and remanded to judicial custody.

The girl was taken to the Sundargarh District Headquarters Hospital for medical examination. Doctors confirmed sexual assault. The District Child Protection Unit and the Child Welfare Committee have been informed, and the child is undergoing counselling.

At 6,012 MW, Kerala's peak power demand touches record high

KOCHI.(Agency)

As summer peaks and mercury crosses the 40-degree Celsius mark in several parts of the state, the KSEB is facing a tough situation, with peak-hour power consumption shattering previous records. On April 14, the daily power consumption reached 112.161 million units while the peak-hour demand touched 6,012 MW, the highest ever in the state.

While consumers in certain rural areas have complained of unscheduled load shedding, the state electricity board has clarified that there is no need to impose load shedding to manage peak demand this year. However, the board said certain load restrictions are imposed to handle transmission system constraints in some areas.

"These curbs are not meant to manage the peak load. There is no specific discrimination in rural or urban areas. The reason for such restrictions is transmission line limitations," said a top official.

Traditionally, the KSEB considers the hours between 6.30pm and 10.30pm as the peak hour period, when domestic consumption peaks. However, during summer, the peak hour period often extends until 2am due to the spike in use of air conditioners. This year, peak-time demand crossed 5,000 MW in the first week of March and has remained above 5,500 MW over the past three weeks.

Despite the unprecedented surge in demand, there have been no frequent outages, voltage fluctuations or incidents of transformers blowing up this time.

Amravati sex scandal: How a flat turned into a hub of abuse of 200 minors

Residents allege repeated warnings about suspicious late-night activity were ignored, allowing what they describe as a "den of vice" to operate unchecked. The flat is now a key site in a major scandal involving the exploitation and filming of numerous minors.

Mumbai.(Agency)

A nondescript flat in Maharashtra's Amravati has emerged as the chilling epicentre of a sprawling sex scandal involving nearly 200 minors, with neighbours now describing it as nothing short of a "den of vice." Located on the third floor of a residential building in the Katara Naka area, the flat was allegedly used by the accused, Ayan Ahmed Tanveer Ahmed, as a base to film and circulate obscene videos, triggering outrage and fear among locals.

Neighbours say the suspicious activity in the flat had been going on for months, if not longer, but their repeated concerns were ignored -- allowing what they claim was a hub of exploitation to function unchecked within a residential society.

LATE-NIGHT MOVEMENTS RAISE ALARM

Residents of the building recall a steady stream of young men and women visiting the flat at

odd hours. Shrikant Makkeshwar, who lives on the second floor of the building, said the pattern was impossible to ignore. "Young girls, often aged around 18-19, used to



come here and stay till late at night. We grew suspicious and informed the flat owner, but she ignored it," he told.

According to Makkeshwar, many of the visitors concealed their identities by wearing burqas or covering their faces with dupattas, making

it difficult for neighbours to recognise them. The secrecy, coupled with the frequency of visits, deepened suspicions that something illegal was taking place inside.

OWNER IGNORED WARNINGS

Despite multiple complaints from residents, no action was taken by the flat's owner, a point that has now become a major source of anger in the building.

Makkeshwar alleged that the owner's inaction may have enabled the accused to continue his activities. "Those involved in such acts must face stringent punishment. The flat owner should also be made an accused, as she took no action despite repeated complaints. It is possible she may also be involved," he said.

Residents say the incident has shattered their sense of safety and raised concerns about the impact such activities could have on children and families living in the society.

FIR against Vedanta chairman Anil Agarwal after Chhattisgarh boiler blast kills 20

Raipur.(Agency)

An FIR has been registered against Anil Agarwal, chairman of Vedanta Resources Limited, along with company manager Devendra Patel and other officials, in connection with the boiler blast at the Vedanta power plant in Chhattisgarh's Sakti district that killed 20 workers, police said. According to Sakti Superintendent of Police Prafull Thakur, the FIR was lodged at Dabhra police station under sections 106 (causing death by negligence), 289 (negligent conduct with respect to machinery), and 3(5) (common intention) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita. "Eight to ten individuals, including Vedanta Group chairman Anil Agarwal, have been named in the FIR. If more persons are found responsible during the investigation, their names will be added," Thakur said. The explosion occurred on April 14 at the plant in Singhitarai village when a steel tube carrying



high-pressure steam from the boiler to the turbine burst, leaving several workers with severe burn injuries. The incident claimed 20 lives and left 16 persons injured.

Police said a preliminary technical investigation found that excessive fuel accumulation inside the boiler furnace led to a pressure build-up, triggering the explosion. "According to an initial report submitted by the Chief Boiler

Inspector, the excessive fuel inside the furnace generated high pressure, causing a blast in the boiler. The pressure forced a lower pipe of the boiler out of its designated position, resulting in the severe accident," a police statement said.

A report by the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) in Sakti also confirmed that the accumulation of fuel and the resulting excessive pressure were the primary causes of the explosion.

During the probe, officials found that Vedanta and its contractor NGSL (NTPC GE Power Services Limited) failed to properly adhere to maintenance and operational standards for machinery and equipment. "Lapses in upkeep and negligent operation led to sudden fluctuations in boiler pressure, ultimately causing the accident. Based on the available evidence and technical findings, negligence has been established prima facie, following which an FIR was lodged," the statement said.

Why didn't they move after siren? MLA's son rams Thar into bike, blames riders

An MLA's son in Madhya Pradesh rammed his SUV into a two-wheeler and pedestrians, and then blamed them for not clearing the way despite his siren.

Shivpuri.(Agency)

An MLA's son in Madhya Pradesh has rammed his Mahindra Thar into a two-wheeler and pedestrians, injuring three individuals, and later blamed the victims for not giving way despite his horn and siren. The incident, seen as a brazen display of power and privilege, has sparked outrage among residents.

Dinesh Lodhi, son of BJP MLA from Pichhore, Pritam Lodhi, was driving the vehicle when it collided with a bike carrying three people, including a man and a woman, leaving all of them injured in Shivpuri district.

After being taken to the police station, Lodhi displayed a dismissive attitude,

blaming those injured. "I honked, why didn't they hear?" he said, a remark that has sparked sharp criticism.

In a video recorded after the accident, a

giving a siren and horn, why can't they move away? Three people were travelling on one bike and doing this."

Adding to the controversy, the Thar involved in the accident did not have a number plate and instead bore the words "BJP MLA," further fuelling outrage over the alleged misuse of political influence.

One of the injured women said, "We were walking to school when the vehicle suddenly hit us from behind."

Police have registered a case against Lodhi and said further action will be taken based on the findings of the investigation.

The injured were rushed to a nearby hospital and are currently undergoing treatment.

MLA Pritam Lodhi, meanwhile, said in a statement on social media that police should take impartial action and the victims should receive justice.



Global War, Local Collapse: Madhya Pradesh's Soy Economy Takes Direct Hit

Bhopal.(Agency)

Madhya Pradesh's soybean market, despite bumper production, is on the verge of collapse because of the Iran-US war, which has upended global supply chains. The state, where nearly half of India's soybeans are grown, is reeling under falling global demand for the Indian product. The ongoing conflict in West Asia has disrupted critical shipping routes, triggering a chain reaction that is now crippling India's soybean meal exports. The numbers are stark -- exports are expected to fall by nearly 50 per cent in March, dropping from 93,000 tonnes in February to just 40,000-50,000 tonnes. Exporters warn that April could be even worse.

Soymeal, a key high-protein ingredient used in poultry and livestock feed, is one of India's major export commodities -- which has markets in West Asia, Europe and East Africa.

At mandis across Madhya Pradesh, traders report falling demand and rising uncertainty. At Karond mandi in Bhopal, Devraj Gurjar from Imaliya, who supports a family of 12 on his six-acre farm, said: "I sold my soybeans for Rs 3,780 per quintal now, with the ongoing market struggle, they will likely purchase even for less. The fear among us is palpable...The cost of preparing just one acre of soybean field runs up to Rs 9,000-Rs 10,000."

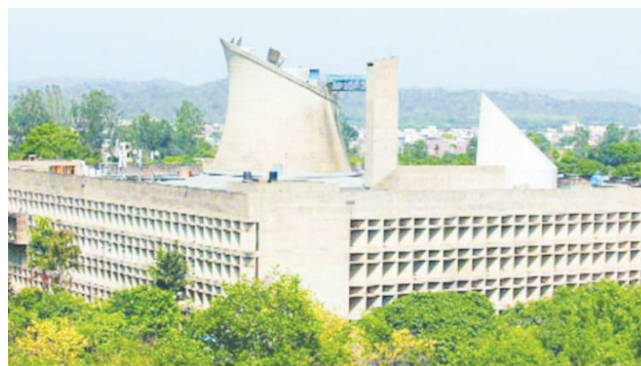
Beside him, Vikram Gurjar from Azmat Nagar said it is a foregone conclusion that Soy prices will fall. "What is there to fear? It is a foregone conclusion that soybean prices are going to fall," he said. In Sehore, Jagdish Gurjar, who cultivates just four acres to sustain a family of ten, fears a sharp collapse in profits.

Congress Suspends 5 MLAs Who Cross-Voted In Haryana Rajya Sabha Polls

Chandigarh.(Agency)

The Congress on Thursday suspended all five Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) who had cross-voted during the recent Rajya Sabha elections in Haryana. The state Congress chief, Rao Narendra Singh, issued the order against Shaili Chaudhary, Renu Bala, Sardar Jarnail Singh, Mohammad Ilyas, and Mohammad Israil, after finding them guilty of anti-party activities.

These MLAs cross-voted in the Rajya Sabha elections for two seats on March 16. The party's Disciplinary Committee had issued show-cause notices to the MLAs. Only two of the five MLAs appeared before the panel to submit their response. After considering their response, the party's high command decided to suspend them from the Congress's primary



membership, effective immediately.

Singh clarified that this action was taken based on the recommendations of the State Disciplinary Committee and with the subsequent approval of the All India Congress Committee (AICC) President, Mallikarjun Kharge.

He said the MLAs demonstrated grave

indiscipline by voting against the party's authorised candidate. He said discipline is paramount within the party. He further added that this decision serves as a clear message to all leaders and party workers that strict action will be taken against any activity that contravenes the party's collective decisions.

Reacting to the development, Leader of the Opposition Bhupinder Singh Hooda said that the party arrived at this decision after carefully considering all aspects of the situation. He, however, clarified that the anti-defection law would not be invoked against them unless they violated the party line.

Congress MLA Jarnail Singh called the action against him unilateral. He said he should have been summoned for a personal hearing after he submitted his explanation to the party panel.

The Law of Flow

THE modern world speaks the language of peace but operates through a machinery of disruption. Conflicts no longer remain confined to borders or trenches; they pulse through supply chains, vibrate across financial systems, and stall within digital networks and maritime routes. The arena of competition has expanded into every vessel of our survival, but our governing principles remain trapped in the static logic of 17th-century Westphalian sovereignty. History reveals a quieter truth: stability comes from the continuity of exchange, not the absence of rivalry. When routes remain open and movement is protected, the world prospers. When flow breaks, decline follows. Stability travels with flow. It is not a destination we reach, but a momentum we maintain.

Just as Newton recognised gravity rather than inventing it, the disruptions of our time reveal an underlying law: stability follows continuity of flow. The logic is not new. Physics settled it long ago. Flow is conserved, shaped by resistance, and driven by difference. Constrain it, and pressure builds elsewhere. Disrupt it, and turbulence follows. The global system behaves no differently. Missed precedent: The Islamabad moment

At a high-stakes table in Islamabad, an opportunity to set a precedent was missed.

Two sides met after weeks of escalation. Positions were defended, histories invoked, red lines drawn. They walked away empty-handed. What unfolded was not negotiation, it was a missed opportunity to set a precedent when the world was watching. Nothing that both sides needed to keep moving was placed on the table. The interlocutor remained confined to positions, not pathways. They met as adversaries. They could have left as custodians of flow. They did neither. When we negotiate over pride or land, we stall. When we negotiate over the shared arteries of survival, we move.

The new constant: A horizontal gravity

We are no longer governed by the mass of a throne or the distance of a frontier. The new constant is interdependence, the invisible pull that binds energy routes, data networks and financial systems into a single operating reality.

What gravity is to the vertical, flow is to the horizontal. It does not wait for consensus or yield to protocol; it compels. We do not choose interdependence; we are born into it. To deny flow is to deny the oxygen of the modern state.

The doctrine of flow: Nature's first principle

Flow is nature's first principle: continuity creates stability; disruption returns systems to chaos. To survive the next decade, responsibility must align with dependence.

What must flow must not fail.

From open routes to shared rules

The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea recognised that certain spaces, the high seas, must remain open. It preserved access; it did not secure continuity.

The Law of Flow is the necessary addendum. It converts access into obligation: in a networked world, routes must not only remain open, they must remain functional. Disruption of critical flow is not leverage; it is systemic risk.

Had this principle been placed on the table in Islamabad, the conversation would have shifted from positions to pathways, and a precedent would have been set — not for settlement, but for continuity. The expansion of the commons

The commons have migrated. They are no longer just oceans and atmosphere; they now include energy corridors, trade straits and the fibre-optic veins of the Internet. These are not assets to be owned; they are lifelines to be kept alive. They are not possessed; they are presided over. Their disruption travels globally because interdependence is design, not choice. What is required is not a surrender of sovereignty.

Giving bechirag villages hope on India-Pak border

Farmers will finally go to their own fields at their own convenience to manage their land if the govt's decision of shifting the barbed wire fencing on the Indo-Pak border gets implemented

THE recent decision of the Central government to conduct a social impact survey regarding the shifting of the barbed wire fencing on the Indo-Pak border in Punjab closer to the Zero Line will fulfil a long-pending demand of farmers in border areas who own land beyond the fence. It will bring major relief to more than 11,000 farmers in 279 villages who own about 17,000 acres of cultivable land across the fence. According to official records, the actual number of such villages is only 212 (not 279). Villages have effectively disappeared because of the many hardships in the area, earning the moniker bechirag (uninhabited) or ghost villages.

Punjab has a 553-km frontier with Pakistan running through six districts of Pathankot, Gurdaspur, Amritsar, Tarn Taran, Ferozepur and Fazilka. It commences in the north where the west branch of the Ujh river enters Punjab's Gurdaspur district from J&K and ends in south-west Punjab, where the Sutlej river enters Pakistan in Fazilka district. Criss-crossed by the Ravi and Sutlej rivers, dozens of villages are located across these rivers in Gurdaspur and Ferozepur districts.

Emerging from the Radcliffe Award following the Partition, the border is marked by stones, pillars and fence, and is heavily guarded by the Border Security Force (BSF), involving an excessive security apparatus.

With the relations between the neighbouring countries hardly being cordial since the Partition, the border fencing was introduced in response to rising terrorist infiltration and the smuggling of weapons from across the border in Punjab during the 1978-93 period. It created severe livelihood problems for farmers in the border belt, especially for those whose agricultural land fell beyond the barbed-wire fencing. Though the fence helped curb terrorism in Punjab, it also disrupted crop patterns, cultivation schedules and farm operations, along with several restrictions imposed on the movement of farmers across the fence.

The decision to fence the border was taken by the Central government in 1986 when Surjit Singh Barnala was Punjab Chief Minister. He constituted a high-powered committee under then Chief Secretary SL Kapur and asked it to look into the problems likely to arise from the border fencing.

The deputy commissioners of the three border districts of Gurdaspur, Amritsar and Ferozepur and some other senior officials of the state government were a part of the committee. Many recommendations were made, one

among which was that the fencing should be just 50 to 100 yards from the international border so that a minimum number of farmers were affected, and that they receive full compensation for the land acquired by the government. However, these recommendations could not materialise for several reasons. The most important impediment was that the Pakistan government raised objections to this decision at various levels and started creating hurdles in the execution of the fencing plan. There was firing from the Pakistan side on workers assigned the fencing task, which began in early 1987, resulting in discontinuation of the fencing process.

The situation in the state was gradually deteriorating due to increased infiltration from across the border and soon, Punjab came under President's rule in May 1987.



However, the Central government was determined to go ahead with the project. It ordered the authorities concerned to complete the fencing, giving top priority to the safety of the workers. Ultimately, the fence was put up at some places 2-3 km away from the border. The length of the border is 553 km, but the fencing was done along 462 km only. As a result of the fencing, more than 17,000 acres of cultivable land fell across the fence which is manned by Border Security Force (BSF) in peacetime and the Army during wartime situations. The fencing left farmers insecure and helpless in their own country as agricultural operations across the fence are still regulated under the supervision of security forces. The most painful irritant has been the denial of free access to their own land. It has not only thrown their

lives out of gear but also deprived farmers, mostly marginalised, of their only means of subsistence.

Their working hours across the fields are limited and fixed at the convenience of the security forces. Due to structural problems, officially the farmers can work daily in their fields from 9 am to 4 pm, but the ground reality is different. Also, the timings of the access of farmers to their lands across the fence are subject to many other factors. The cultivation of land across the fence is allowed only by farm machinery. The majority of the affected farmers have small and marginal landholdings and do not own tractors. They are dependent upon other farmers who own farm machinery for executing their agricultural operations. Such machinery must be registered with the BSF with a condition that its owners must own land across the fence.

Farmers must undergo rigorous security checks at entry gates, which includes carrying identity cards and inspection of lunch boxes, fertilisers, seed bags and farm implements. Tool kits are not allowed with any farm machinery. No farmer is allowed to take along labourers who do not have valid identity cards. The farmers have to cover a long distance of more than 2 km on an average to reach their fields through the entry gate. There are 294 entry gates for the farmers, but only 273 are operational as per our own field study.

Another crippling restriction is that affected farmers are not allowed to grow (other than wheat and rice) crops that attain a height of more than three feet for security reasons. It deprives the farmers of the opportunity to optimise the production of crops and affects

the fertility of the soil in their landholdings. The other important issue is the market price and the rent of land across the fence, which is one-third of the normal price of non-fenced land. With no buyers for land across the fence and banks and cooperative societies not sanctioning loans, the farmers are forced to take loans from commission agents or other informal agencies at very high rates of interest. There are many other such issues that adversely affect the lives of these farmers and their families. Thus, if the Central government implements its decision to shift the fence closer to the border and acquire land beyond the fence, it will ease farmers' hardship and strengthen border security. If the survey yields the desired results, farmers will at last, finally, go to their own fields at their own convenience to manage their land.

Voting right at stake: Tribunals must expedite adjudication in Bengal

From the outset, the SIR of electoral rolls in Bengal has been marked by a bitter confrontation between the ruling TMC and the ECI

THE clock is ticking for lakhs of people whose appeals against the deletion of their names from West Bengal's electoral rolls are pending in appellate tribunals. The Supreme Court has refused to issue directions allowing aggrieved residents to vote, saying that their petition is "premature" and they must exhaust their remedies before the appellate authorities. The tribunals have their work cut out as two-phase polling will be held in the state on April 23 and 29. From the outset, the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in the state has been marked by a bitter confrontation between the ruling Trinamool Congress (TMC) and the Election Commission of India (ECI). The entire exercise has been under judicial scrutiny over the past few months amid allegations of "politically motivated" deletions of voters' names. The onus is on the tribunals to expedite the adjudication process. Even



though many claims have already been dealt with, the scale of omissions and the anxiety among affected

voters cannot be dismissed lightly. The right to vote, as the apex court noted, is not merely constitutional but deeply "sentimental" — a marker of belonging and citizenship. When individuals fear disenfranchisement or, worse, detention, the issue transcends procedural technicalities. Transparency in deletions and swift disposal of appeals are essential to ensure that no eligible voter is left out.

Making matters worse, the Centre-State conflict has not remained confined to the SIR row. The arrest of Vinesh Chandel, co-founder of the Indian Political Action Committee (I-PAC) — a consultancy firm working for the TMC — by the Enforcement Directorate in a money-laundering case has emerged as a new flashpoint. With political tensions mounting by the day, free and fair polls in Bengal hinge on the credibility of Central institutions and the cooperation of the state authorities.

Artemis II | The great PR gig in the sky

← Artemis II cost four days' worth of US spending on the Iran war. But what substantive thing did the first human moonflight in more than half a century achieve except expensive PR? The farside of the Moon isn't unknown and slingshot space travel isn't new

According to Nasa, the primary goal of the Artemis II moonshot was "a crewed test flight in lunar space". This says nothing that was not true of the earlier nine manned moonflights, six of which actually landed astronauts on the lunar surface. So, what makes Artemis II worth all the hype? First, demonstrate the ability of systems and teams to sustain the crew in the flight environment and through their return to Earth. Second, demonstrate the systems and operations essential to a crewed lunar campaign; this ranges from ground systems to space hardware, and operations spanning from development to launch, flight and recovery. Third, retrieve flight hardware and data to assess performance for future missions. Fourth, show emergency system capabilities and validate procedures such as to abort and rescue. Fifth, verify subsystems and validate data.

Each one of these was the deal in the manned Apollo moonflights—all of which happened in four short years between 1968 and 1972. Nothing manned moved lunarwards thereafter for 54 years. As Nasa struggled with establishment antiscentism, space monies were redirected to missile development in the Cold War. Nasa's funding plummeted 42 percent from 1966 to 1972, when the Apollo programme ended—and the public mood in the US turned on a dime from cosmic triumphalism after the first 1969 moonlanding to "space fatigue". The Apollo 17 crew was the last to be more than 640 km from Earth. Since then, astronauts have only

been in low Earth orbits, as a superswarm of communications satellites grew and the International Space Station was placed in orbit. For more than half a century, human spacefaring has stuck close to mater mundi, as if fearfully lashed to her so as not to fall overboard in the stormy cosmic seas. And all this despite having the tried-and-tested technology to get to Luna, hit



it running, cast around for moonrocks and moon dust, stick national ensigns in the regolith, and speed our way back. And splashdown using a methodology—re-entry thermal protection, parachute sequence, landing velocity, recovery operation—that has not changed a whit in decades. There has been much hoopla about the

distance from Earth that Artemis II covered—406,771 km. In 1970, Apollo 13—that legendary flight that survived an exploding oxygen tank and made its way back to Earth using the slingshot procedure—had covered 400,171 km. This means that Artemis II covered a mere 1.65 percent more distance than Apollo 13. For all the hoopla, Artemis II's closest approach to the Moon's surface was a distant 6,545 km, compared to the average of 110 km of the Apollo missions. Apollo 13 itself flew over the Moon's farside at 251 km.

"At their much higher altitude," Nasa's Scientific Visualization Studio wrote on April 6, explaining the distance Artemis II kept from the lunar surface, "the crew will be able to see the entire disk of the Moon throughout their flyby." So Artemis II's announced USP: a sweeping view, panoptic of the Moon's farside for all of 40 minutes—armed with, as Nasa says, "a fleet of cameras" and "a variety of digital handheld cameras." This has proved to be great for social media dissemination and chest-pounding. But the Nasa statement sounds bizarre in these times of superhigh resolution and AI enhancement: that "one of the most powerful scientific tools for observation are the four pairs of eyes observing lunar features with varying illumination and texture".

Nor is it the case that the farside of the Moon is unmapped. While about 18 percent of the side has been occasionally visible due to oscillation and libration, it was first seen in

its entirety in 1959 following the Soviet Luna 3 unmanned spacecraft's swingby. Less than a decade later, in 1968, Apollo 8's astronauts were the first humans to see the farside. Since then, it has been photographed in great detail by several Nasa missions, the motion-blurring and off-focus resolved by photographic stacking to eventually constitute a formidable repository of images. There is prima facie little that is unique to the Artemis II mission—no explorative uniqueness, arduousness or consequential magnitude. Its mission objectives number 21, flight test objectives 115, demonstration flight test objectives 31. The first are a mix of the usual design, constructional, physiological and methodological testing protocols that have formed the baseline of every manned moonflight, plus some modern-day safety, electronics and communications procedures. The second are purely machine-testing procedures, and the potential limits of their stressability and reliance. The third are routine tasks related to water, physiology, cabin pressure, etc. Most of these tests and exercises have been carried out routinely at the International Space Station for 28 years. Cost is not the issue here: each Artemis launch costs \$4.1 billion, with the total Artemis programme to cost more than \$125 billion until the planned Artemis IV moonlanding in 2025. Artemis II's cost works out to four days' worth of spending on the US's war on Iran. It isn't a puny spend, but it won't break the bank. Artemis II is an essential PR job dressed-up as prodigious science. It is a run-up to a Nasa moonbase project planned for 2029-32—with the cost to be borne largely by American taxpayers and supplemented by international and private-sector partners.

Border farmers in Punjab seek speedy survey as plan to shift fence brings hope

Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann recently said letters have been issued to deputy commissioners (DCs) of border districts -- Pathankot, Gurdaspur, Amritsar, Tarn Taran, Fazilka, and Ferozepur to conduct surveys and assess how close the fencing can be moved to the International Border.

Ferozepur. (Agency)

Farmers living along the India-Pakistan border in Punjab have welcomed the Centre's decision to conduct a survey aimed at shifting border fencing closer to the international boundary. If implemented, the move will bring major relief to farmers long forced to cultivate their crops across the fence under tight BSF restrictions including limited farming hours and repeated security checks.

Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann recently said letters have been issued to deputy commissioners (DCs) of border districts — Pathankot, Gurdaspur, Amritsar, Tarn Taran, Fazilka, and Ferozepur — to conduct surveys and assess how close the fencing can be

moved to the International Border (IB). Punjab shares a 532-km border with Pakistan, which is secured by a barbed wire fence. Considering the terrain and topography, the distance between the fence and the IB varies from a few feet at some places to nearly 2 km at others. As per an estimate, nearly 21,500 acres of land belonging to Punjab's farmers and another 10,000 acres of the government lies between the fence and the IB.

BSF mans the gates that allows farmers access to the land. The gates, however, open for limited hours on designated days of the week. As per the BSF protocol, two Kisan Guards must accompany each tractor crossing the fence. There are also restrictions on the number of people allowed beyond the fence. CM Mann said

sub-divisional magistrates have been asked to conduct surveys so that inform 300-metre area can be demarcated for installing the barbed wire fence. On the ground, however, farmers say they are yet to see any progress. "We are yet to see the officials on ground. However it will be a great relief for us if the fencing can be shifted closer to the international border," said Karj Singh, a farmer from Khilchey village in Ferozepur district.

He said farmers in his village and adjoining Nihalewala have nearly 1,000 acres of land that falls between fence and the IB.

Farmers are allowed to go beyond the fence for cultivation only at fixed hours decided



by the BSF. "They cannot go before 9 am, are frisked, and are accompanied by security forces. They cannot stay in the fields after 4 pm, and are again frisked while returning. A significant amount of

time of the security forces is also spent in checking our own citizens," Mann had said after meeting Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

Farmers say, if implemented, the move could significantly reduce daily hardships. Pargat Singh, a farmer from Mehdiipur village in Tarn Taran and president of BKU Rajewal (Tarn Taran), said, "It had been our long pending demand. In villages like Chhina Bhidichand, Khalra, Vaan, Dhal etc in Tarn Taran district, the fencing is nearly 1 kilometre inside the Indian territory. Farmers who go beyond the barbed wire to do farming are always seen with a suspicious eye".

Short news

38,000-page chargesheet filed in Codeine cough syrup smuggling case in Varanasi

Varanasi.(Agency)

In a major development in a high-profile illegal codeine-based cough syrup smuggling case, the Kotwali Police in Varanasi on Thursday filed a massive 38,000-page chargesheet against 18 accused, including the absconding kingpin, Shubham Jaiswal.

The chargesheet was submitted before a local court following an extensive investigation carried out under the crime control campaign of the Varanasi Police Commissionerate, officials said on Friday. The case is registered under FIR number 235/2025 at Kotwali Police Station.

According to police officials, the accused have been booked under multiple provisions, including Sections 8, 21, 29, and 27A of the NDPS Act, along with relevant sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) such as 61(2), 318(4), 336(3), 338, and 340(2).

Shubham Jaiswal, a resident of Prahlad Ghat area in Varanasi, has been declared absconding. Police teams are actively working to trace and extradite him back to the country. Among the other accused named in the chargesheet are Bhola Prasad (arrested), Prateek Mishra, Vishal Kumar Sonkar, Prateek Kumar, Dharmendra Kumar Agrawal, Aditya Jaiswal, Rahul Yadav, Himanshu Kasera, Akash Pathak, Vikas Singh, Ankit Kumar Srivastava, Swapnil Kesari, Dinesh Yadav, Ashish Yadav, Mahesh Khetan, Badal Arya, and Vishal Kumar Jaiswal. Police stated that the chargesheet is based on strong evidence collected during the investigation, which revealed a large-scale illegal trade of codeine-laced cough syrup. Authorities are continuing efforts to apprehend the absconding accused and proceed with further legal action in the case.

Kaithal police crack down on agents sending youth abroad on false promises of getting work

Kaithal.(Agency)

As per the instructions of SP Manpreet Singh Sudan, the Kaithal district police is tightening its grip on agents cheating common people with promises to send them abroad for work.

Police spokesperson said that while investigating a case of cheating of lakhs in the name of sending youths to Malaysia, the accused Amarjeet, resident of Dera Balram Patti Koth Manas Road Kaithal, was being interrogated by the team of ASI Rohtash under the leadership of Anti Immigration Cell in-charge PSI Shubhranshu.

Police spokesperson said that according to the complaint of Ramlal, resident of Manas Road, Kaithal, Amarjeet alias Gary, resident of Kaithal, had misled his two sons with promises of sending them to Malaysia on work permit. The accused illegally sent his son Varun to Malaysia on June 6, 2022 and his second son Arun on October 23, 2022. In return for this, Rs 4 lakh was also taken from him.

In Malaysia, the sons were neither given work permits nor employed in any work.

Due to living without visa, Malaysian police arrested both the sons and put them in jail.

A Pakistani youth living in Malaysia got both his sons released from jail. Even after this both were not given a work permit. The father put pressure on the accused through Panchayats to call back his sons, but the agent expressed his inability. The accused said that Arun will be sent to Germany from Malaysia itself.

Mega SVEEP Event at Darjeeling Railway Station Highlights Importance of Every Vote

The Sikh Times

Maligaon, 17th April: In a unique and collaborative effort to strengthen voter awareness and democratic participation, the Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR), through its heritage line Darjeeling Himalayan Railway (DHR), partnered with the Office of the District Election Officer, Darjeeling to organise a "Mega SVEEP" (Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation) programme on 17th April 2026. The initiative was aimed at encouraging informed and inclusive participation in the upcoming General Election to the West Bengal Legislative Assembly (WBLA) 2026. As part of the programme, a major phase of activities was hosted at the iconic Darjeeling Railway Station. The station premises witnessed enthusiastic participation from railway officials, district authorities and members of the public, all

united in promoting the importance of every vote in a vibrant democratic setup. The event

by a captivating cultural performance presented by a Sherpa cultural team, reflect-



began with the arrival of distinguished guests, followed by a traditional welcome ceremony including the offering of khada and lighting of the ceremonial lamp, symbolising awareness and enlightenment among voters. The programme was further enriched

ing the rich local heritage while reinforcing the spirit of civic responsibility. A signature campaign was also organised at the venue, drawing active participation from citizens and officials who pledged their commitment towards ethical and informed voting.

The highlight of the event was the flagging off of the special "Democracy Express" — a dedicated DHR train carrying the message of voter awareness. The train journey from Darjeeling to the iconic Batasia Loop symbolised the movement of democratic values across communities, effectively reaching both residents and tourists. By leveraging the heritage and popularity of the Darjeeling Himalayan Railway, this initiative successfully transformed a scenic journey into a powerful medium of public awareness. The collaboration between NFR and the District Election Authorities underscores a shared commitment to ensuring maximum voter participation and strengthening the democratic fabric of the nation. Northeast Frontier Railway remains dedicated to supporting national initiatives that promote public awareness, social responsibility and community engagement.

Punjab moves fresh plea to arrest Amritpal in Assam, retain him in Dibrugarh jail

Chandigarh. (Agency)

The Punjab government on Thursday moved an urgent plea before the Punjab and Haryana High Court, seeking permission to arrest Khadoor Sahib MP Amritpal Singh and continue with his incarceration at Dibrugarh jail in Assam after his detention under the National Security Act (NSA) comes to end on April 22. The fresh plea has been filed by the Amritsar Rural Senior Superintendent of Police and came on a day the high court, in a separate order, dismissed Amritpal's plea, challenging the third detention order under the NSA issued by the Punjab government in April last year.

A bench of Chief Justice Sheel Nagu and Justice Sanjiv Berry took up the fresh plea. Amritpal's counsel, Iman Singh Khara, said the high court will hear the Punjab government's plea on Friday.

In the latest petition, a counsel for the

Punjab government informed the bench that Amritpal's preventive detention was set to lapse on April 22 and it intended to execute a fresh arrest in Assam itself, citing intelligence inputs and security



considerations. The government submitted that it did not want Amritpal to be brought back to Punjab and proposed that he remain lodged in Dibrugarh. It further sought permission to conduct the entire judicial proceedings from the

beginning, including the production of accused after arrest, remand, presentation of chargesheet, through video conferencing.

"The grounds mentioned in the writ petition, which reveal the anti-national, nefarious activities of Amritpal Singh and his supporters, which may become a reason for threat to the interest of the security of the state, law and order situation, and cause prejudice to the public order of the state," read the plea. At the outset, the counsel for Punjab told the bench that Amritpal would be released from preventive detention on April 23 and sought the court's intervention to enable his immediate re-arrest to ensure continuity of custody. It added that the Assam government has issued a no-objection, as per the provisions of the Transfer of Prisoners Act, 1952, read with the Transfer of the Prisoners Act, 2025.

With camera traps, WII begins year-long study of wildlife movements along 12-km Delhi-Dehradun Expressway underpass

Dehradun. (Agency)

After the long-awaited inauguration of the 213 km Dehradun-Delhi Expressway by the Prime Minister, the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) will take up the important task of studying wildlife movements along the 12 km stretch of the highway underpass that is Asia's largest Wildlife Corridor in Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand.

According to the WII officials and wildlife experts, the project will be a year long study on the 12 kilometers underpass of the Dehradun-Delhi Expressway which was the main highway prior to inauguration of the expressway corridor.

As per WII experts, massive installation of cameras will be done to capture movements of wild animals under the 12 km wildlife corridor. It's significant that this stretch of wildlife corridor covers forests of Rajaji Tiger Reserve (RTR), Dehradun forest division and Uttar Pradesh forest area. Construction of the

Delhi-Dehradun Corridor has allowed the unchecked movement of wildlife along the underpass.

Uttarakhand Forest Minister Subodh Uniyal stated that the 12-kilometre underpass below the expressway has come as a big relief for the wildlife in the dense forest areas. "WII has already captured the movement of several wild animals along the underpass below the expressway. Photographs of large number of wildlife animals, captured by more than 200 WII cameras, are available with state forest department. The variety of camera captured photographs is bound to rise manifold once the camera installations are increased as per the plan of WII," said Uniyal.

Currently 245 camera traps have been installed along the wildlife corridor underpass to gather data regarding movements of the wildlife. WII's year-long study on the 12 kilometers underpass aims

at collection of comprehensive data on wildlife movement patterns. This includes on camera sighting of wildlife species



varying according to the seasons.

It's notable that a 40-day preliminary study done by WII prior to inauguration of the Delhi-Dehradun Expressway confirmed the movement of various animals, including leopards and elephants.

The photographs provided insights as to the timing patterns of the animals. According to the minister, the year-long study will also lead to deep insights into their behavioral patterns as well.

The camera traps will also monitor wildlife activity as to the extent the underpass will serve the local ecosystem. Senior WII scientist Bilal Habib stated that the year-long study of wildlife movements has already begun along the underpass.

He said although 245 camera traps are functional at present but the plan is afoot to equip every pillar with camera traps that can be more than 500. According to Habib "The study aims to determine how wildlife movement patterns change across different seasons and identify their peak activity times. So far movements of 18 different wildlife species has been taken into record. It is expected that more species will be documented over the course of the year-long study."

SDM Nadauti and two staffers caught in bribery case

Jaipur. (Agency)

The Sub Divisional Officer-cum Magistrate (SDM) of Nadauti - Karauli, Kajal Meena, was on Thursday trapped along with her two staffers by the Anti Corruption Bureau (ACB) while accepting bribe of Rs 60,000.

According to an ACB Spokesman Meena, a state administration service (RAS) cadre officer, her Reader Dinesh and Clerk (UDC) Praveen were caught red handed while taking bribe of Rs 60,000 for approval in a case of land mutation (partition). Since a young RAS officer (of 2021 batch) was involved in the case, it was a carefully planned action coordinated by Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Dr Rameshwar Singh under the supervision of the Director General (DG-ACB) Govind Gupta and the Additional Director General (ADG) Smitha Srivastava.

The ACB team has also seized unaccounted collection of around Rs 4 lakh, allegedly being extorted by the trapped trio, the spokesman said. Later, the ACB sleuths carried searches at the residences of the accused, he added.

Gujarat police inspector turns live-in partners' quarrel into a 'love jihad' threat, booked

Ahmedabad. (Agency)

The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Thursday booked a police inspector and arrested his "aide" for demanding and receiving a bribe of Rs 2 lakh from a man after threatening to book him in a fake "love jihad" case under the provisions of the Gujarat Freedom of Religion Act.

The accused have been identified as police inspector V A Charan, posted at Padra police station in Vadodara Rural, and Sajid Ali Gulamrasul Syed, his aide.

The case stems from the altercation the man had with his live-in partner at their residence in rural Vadodara. The woman called the 112 helpline and both, in their 30s, were taken to Padra police station. On the basis of a complaint filed by the woman, the police placed the man under preventive detention for 24 hours. ACB Inspector Ankur Prajapati told The Indian Express that after the man's detention, the woman told the police that they had reached a compromise and she wanted to take the man back home.

India urges restoration of safe shipping in Hormuz, slams threats to tankers

India raised concerns at the UN over attacks on commercial shipping in the Strait of Hormuz, calling such targeting unacceptable and stressing its impact on maritime security and global trade.

New Delhi.(Agency) India has raised serious concerns over threats to commercial shipping in the Strait of Hormuz, urging immediate restoration of safe navigation while calling for restraint and de-escalation amid ongoing tensions in the Middle East. India's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Parvathaneni Harish, delivered the country's statement at the UN General Assembly debate under the Veto Initiative on "The Situation in the Middle East" on Thursday. Harish said maritime security remains critical for India's energy and economic interests and stressed that commercial shipping has been targeted during the ongoing conflict.

"India has deplored the fact that commercial shipping was made a target of military attacks in this conflict," he said.



Highlighting the human cost, he noted that Indian nationals have been among the victims. "The precious lives of Indian

seafarers aboard ships have been lost during the course of the conflict," he added.

India strongly condemned attacks on civilian maritime activity and reiterated its position on freedom of navigation. "We reiterate that the targeting of commercial shipping and endangering innocent civilian crew members or otherwise impeding the freedom of navigation and commerce in the Strait of Hormuz are unacceptable," Harish said. He called for strict adherence to international law and urged the restoration of normal maritime operations. "International law in this regard must be fully respected. We strongly urge that safe and unimpeded freedom of navigation and global commerce through the Strait of Hormuz be restored at the earliest," he said.

Referring to the broader conflict in Iran and the Gulf region since February 28, 2026, Harish said India has consistently expressed deep concern and called for restraint. "India had expressed deep concern and urged all states to exercise restraint, avoid escalation, and prioritize safety of civilians," he said. He added that India has pushed for dialogue and diplomacy to reduce tensions. "We have urged all states to promote dialogue and diplomacy and de-escalation of tensions and to purposefully address underlying issues," he said. Reaffirming India's stance, Harish said the country supports respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity of all states. India's intervention comes amid heightened geopolitical tensions and growing concerns over disruptions to global energy supply routes through the Strait of Hormuz, a key maritime corridor for international trade.

Census houselisting phase kicks off in NDMC, cantonment areas of city

New Delhi.(Agency)

The houselisting and housing enumeration phase of Census 2027 kicked off in NDMC and cantonment areas of the Capital on Thursday, with door-to-door listing and verification work progressing, a census officer said. "Around 200 entries from areas such as Chanakyapuri and New Moti Bagh have been received and enumerated so far," he said. Officials said some residents questioned enumerators when they knocked at their doors, confusing the houselisting exercise with special intensive revision (SIR) related to electoral rolls. "However, we have already instructed the enumerators for caution in such situation and allay any fears expressed by people during houselisting," the official said. According to officials privy to the matter, at least 571 enumerators were deployed on Thursday, the first day of the houselisting and housing census. Each enumerator has been allocated 180-200 houses—comprising one houselisting block—for physical verification to ensure that the details residents filed during the self-enumeration exercise are correct, an NDMC official said. **IDs to be used for tallying with info** Under verification exercise, those who completed self-enumeration between April 1-15, have to provide self-enumeration IDs, to be used by enumerators to tally with the information already furnished by them.

L-G Taranjit Singh Sandhu visits Swabhiman Apartments, hears residents' concerns

New Delhi.(Agency)

Delhi Lieutenant-Governor Taranjit Singh Sandhu on Thursday inspected the Swabhiman Apartments developed by the Delhi Development Authority DDA in the Ashok Vihar area and directed authorities to address the concerns of residents. Last year, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated 1,675 newly constructed flats by the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) for the dwellers of Jhuggi Jhopri



clusters and handed over keys at the residential apartments.

"In the spirit of citizen-centric governance, I interacted with residents who expressed their gratitude to the Prime Minister for these homes. They also highlighted concerns such as seepage, garbage mismanagement, irregular lift functioning in some towers, and issues caused by miscreants," L-G Sandhu said in a post on X.

Maintaining the integrity of such projects is essential to our mission of building a Viksit Dilli and Viksit Bharat. While this project is a model of transformative infrastructure, it must not be allowed to deteriorate due to poor maintenance, Sandhu added.

"Taking immediate cognisance of these issues, he issued clear directions to DDA, the district administration, and the Delhi Police to address the concerns on priority and ensure that the residents receive a safe and clean living environment," the DDA said.

Capital heats up as mercury crosses 40°C, CAQM imposes GRAP 1 curbs

New Delhi.(Agency)

The temperature in the national capital is expected to touch 42 degrees Celsius on Friday, the IMD said, adding that heatwave conditions are unlikely over the next seven days. The maximum temperature on Thursday was recorded at 40.3 degrees Celsius. Meanwhile, the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) on Thursday imposed Stage I measures in Delhi-NCR under the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) as air quality slipped into the 'poor' category. According to IMD data, Wednesday was the hottest day of the year in the NCR region, with the maximum temperature touching 39.2 degrees Celsius. On Thursday, the city recorded a minimum temperature of 20.3 degrees Celsius, 1.3 degrees below the season's average. The weather department has predicted a partly

cloudy sky during the day, with thundery development likely in the evening hours. The maximum and minimum temperatures over Delhi are expected to remain in the range of



40°C to 42°C and 22°C to 24°C, respectively.

At 40.7 degrees Celsius, North Delhi's Ridge station was the hottest on Wednesday, the IMD said. The mercury settled at 39 degrees Celsius at Lodhi Road and Ayanagar, while it was 38.3 degrees Celsius at Palam. Meanwhile, the city's base station, Safdarjung, recorded a maximum

temperature of 39.2 degrees Celsius, which is 3.1 degrees above normal.

The weather department said that from Thursday, temperatures are expected to reach 40 degrees Celsius across more stations, including Safdarjung.

The AQI on Thursday was recorded at 226, in the 'poor' category, as per the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).

According to CAQM, "The AQI of Delhi has been showing an increasing trend owing to unfavourable meteorological conditions and was recorded at 226 ('Poor' category) today. Further, the forecast by IMD and IITM has also predicted AQI to remain in the 'poor' category over the next two days."

"The sub-committee of CAQM, accordingly, decided to invoke all actions under Stage I ('poor' air quality) of the extant GRAP in the entire NCR, with immediate effect," the commission added.

PM Modi to unveil Ganga Expressway on April 29; what are its key features

New Delhi.(Agency)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is likely to inaugurate Ganga Expressway on April 29 in Hardoi. The 594-km stretch is India's longest expressway to be constructed and inaugurated in a single phase. The mega project is set to transform travel across Uttar Pradesh. The inauguration of the Ganga Expressway will be held in Salempur village under Mallawan police station area in Bilgram tehsil of Hardoi. The district administration has started preparations for the programme related to the Prime Minister. Details of the event venue are being sent to the Prime Minister's Office.

Main features of Ganga Expressway

The expressway, built at an estimated cost of around Rs

36,000 crore, stretches 594 km from Meerut to Prayagraj, making it the longest expressway in India. The expressway will cut Meerut-Prayagraj travel time to 6-7 hours from 12-13 hours. The expressway will pass through 12 Uttar Pradesh districts, including Hapur, Bulandshahr, Amroha, Sambhal, Badaun, Shahjahanpur, Hardoi, Unnao, Raebareilly, Pratapgarh, and Prayagraj. Deemed as a game-changer for Uttar Pradesh, the project will boost regional connectivity, economy and infrastructure. Trade and tourism will witness massive growth due to the project.



Six-lane highway

The long stretch is being developed as a six-lane highway, with provision for future expansion to eight lanes to accommodate growing traffic demand.

ED raids Punjab minister Sanjeev Arora, 2nd action against AAP leaders in a week

The ED raided Punjab minister Sanjeev Arora's residence and linked premises over alleged land violations, money laundering, and betting-related fund flows, also searching his associates and son.

New Delhi.(Agency)

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Friday conducted searches at the residence of Punjab Cabinet Minister Sanjeev Arora in Ludhiana. An ED team reached his house early in the morning, while central police forces were deployed outside the premises.

The agency also carried out searches at the residences and business premises of Arora's associates, including his business partner Hemanth Sood in Ludhiana and Chandrasekhar Aggarwal in Jalandhar. Arora's son, Kavya Arora, who is currently the managing director of M/s Hampton Sky Realty Ltd (formerly M/s Ritesh Properties and Industries Ltd), is also being searched.

This is the second ED action against an Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader within a week. A



few days back, the federal probe agency conducted FEMA searches at the premises of AAP Rajya Sabha MP Ashok Kumar Mittal and his educational institutions in Punjab and Haryana. Reacting to the raids, AAP leader Arvind Kejriwal said in a post on X, "This is the second ED raid on an AAP leader in three days. Will the Prime Minister tell how much

black money has been recovered in all these raids conducted so far? Has even a single rupee been found? The whole country is watching how low politics is being done just for power."

According to the ED, Arora is the promoter of Hampton Sky Realty Ltd, a company involved in large-scale real estate and infrastructure projects in Punjab. The agency said that the company is under scrutiny for multiple alleged irregularities, including illegal change of land use, booking fraudulent and inflated sales to boost share prices, insider trading, round-tripping of funds, and routing illegal betting money from the UAE to India. The ED said that during its investigation, it found that Hampton Sky Limited (erstwhile Ritesh Properties Industries Limited) and Royal Industries Limited were allotted industrial land in Punjab with certain conditions.

Government schools beat national average

The results mark a notable improvement of 2.59 percentage points from last year's 94.64%, underlining steady gains in learning outcomes across the capital's government schools.

New Delhi.(Agency)

The Delhi government on Thursday hailed the strong performance of its schools in the CBSE Class X Results 2026, with government institutions recording an impressive 97.23% pass percentage, significantly higher than the national average of 93.70%.

The results mark a notable improvement of 2.59 percentage points from last year's 94.64%, underlining steady gains in learning outcomes across the capital's government schools.

Officials highlighted that 457 schools achieved a 100% pass rate, a sharp increase from 300 last year, while 924 schools recorded over 90% results, compared to 529 in 2025, reflecting a broad-based academic improvement.

A total of 1,88,460 students appeared for the examination this year, of whom 1,83,246 successfully passed. Among top performers, 26 students scored 95% and above, while 540 students secured between 90% and 95%, and 5,202 students scored in the 80%-90% range, indicating a consistent rise in high scorers across schools.

Delhi Education Minister Ashish Sood congratulated students, teachers, and parents, noting that girls outperformed boys with a pass percentage of 97.37%, compared to 97.09% for boys. He reiterated the government's focus on ensuring that no girl's education is hindered by distance or access, announcing a Rs 90 crore allocation to provide free bicycles to nearly 1.3 lakh Class 9 girl students.

Highlighting infrastructure expansion, Sood said the government has established 9,000 smart classrooms this year, moving towards a target of 21,000. In addition, 175 modern computer labs and 125 digitised libraries have been set up to ensure students have access to contemporary learning tools and digital resources.

He also pointed to the 75 CM SHRI Schools, which are introducing AI-powered language and career labs, aimed at preparing students for future challenges beyond conventional academics and examinations.

Backed by an education budget of Rs 19,148 crore, the Delhi government aims to strengthen a holistic education ecosystem focused on confidence, capability, and character-building.

NEWS BOX

Kolkata disaster: Is Ajinkya Rahane only one to be blamed for KKR's IPL 2026 flopshow

New Delhi. (Agency)

On April 14, 2024, Kolkata Knight Riders were one of the in-form sides in the IPL. They were sitting comfortably towards the top end of the table with three wins from four matches and were slowly building towards what turned out to be a title-winning campaign.

Fast forward to 2026, and on the same date, KKR remained rooted to the bottom of the IPL table with just one point from five games. The performance in the loss against Chennai Super Kings at Chepauk encapsulated what their season has been so far. While the bowling delivered, the batting once again struggled to live up to its big-name firepower, and they failed to chase down a below-par target. Looking at what has happened this season, there can be a bit of sympathy towards the three-time IPL champions. They lost Mustafizur Rahman before the season even started for reasons out of their control and then saw Harshit Rana and Akash Deep ruled out for the season with injuries.



Matheesha Pathirana, bought for Rs. 18 crores, is yet to play for the team. Despite all this, once the season begins, teams are expected to find the right combination by the time five matches are done and dusted. Yet, KKR are still scurrying to find the right one.

Finn Allen has failed to live up to the hype, Cameron Green doesn't look like a Rs. 25.2 crore buy, and the middle order doesn't look scary enough since Andre Russell's retirement. The poor form of Rinku Singh has only compounded the issue. The bowling can be forgiven for being inexperienced, but veterans like Varun Chakravarthy are yet to step up. So, who do we blame this debacle on? Is it the owners who invested close to Rs. 64 crores during the mega auction, or the think tank that has failed to inspire the players?

The easiest option is to target the captain, Ajinkya Rahane—but is he the only one to blame?

ALL THE BLAME ON RAHANE?

The Mumbai batter is one cricketer who carries a big reputation. A dependable middle-order batter in Tests and a successful skipper in the red-ball format for India, the IPL is one place where Rahane has remained an enigma.

Virat Kohli likes another Instagram influencer's photo, fans flood comments section

NEW DELHI. (Agency)

Virat Kohli found himself trending for reasons off the field yet again after a social media interaction sparked a wave of reactions online. A 'like' on a post featuring photos of the German-South African influencer quickly snowballed into a full-blown meme fest, with fans bringing back his famous "algorithm" explanation.

The incident, which involved Kohli liking an old post featuring influencer LizLaz and photographer Advait Vaidya, caught attention as he does not follow the influencer. Within minutes, screenshots began circulating, turning a small action into a viral moment.

Kohli liked this post on Instagram. Another paragraph loading on algorithm," one fan joked online. It is just an algorithm glitch guys & it happens with everyone.



Sometime, I see posts in my Insta that I never like," another user wrote, echoing Kohli's past explanation. The reactions quickly flooded social media, with fans turning the moment into humour rather than controversy. The phrase "algorithm registered another interaction" became the running joke, as users revisited Kohli's earlier clarification from a similar incident. Despite the off-field buzz, Kohli continues to stay in form for Royal Challengers Bengaluru in IPL 2026.

He scored 49 off 34 balls against Lucknow Super Giants, helping RCB secure a five-wicket win. The knock also saw him climb to the top of the run charts this season, while surpassing KL Rahul to become the Indian opener with the most sixes in IPL history. **KOHLI MAKES ANOTHER ALGORITHM MISTAKE?** This is not the first time Kohli's social media activity has grabbed headlines.

Wealth of knowledge: How Matthew Hayden is guiding GT's Glenn Phillips in IPL 2026

Glenn Phillips is picking the brain of legendary coach Matthew Hayden to master the mental game and find his process zone ahead of the Gujarat Titans' high-stakes IPL 2026 clash against KKR.

Ahmedabad. (Agency)

As the Gujarat Titans (GT) gear up for their high-stakes clash against the Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) at the Narendra Modi Stadium, the spotlight has shifted from the pitch to the dugout. The recent appointment of former Australian legend Matthew Hayden as batting coach has sent ripples through the franchise, with players already reaping the rewards of his "incredible wealth of knowledge." Speaking ahead of the Friday night encounter, GT's versatile middle-order spark Glenn Phillips opened up about the transformative impact Hayden is having on the squad's mental approach.



The Hayden Factor: Process over Outcome For Phillips, the opportunity to work with a man of Hayden's stature is less about technical adjustments and more about mastering the "mental skills" required to survive the IPL's pressure cooker. Matthew is an incredible wealth of knowledge," Phillips remarked. "He was a very process-driven player back in his heyday. For me, being able to pick his brain has been mainly about the process and mindset piece he used to go out



there with." Phillips emphasized that while the era of cricket has changed, the psychological demands remain identical. Hayden's primary focus has been helping players find their "process zone"—that elusive mental state where performance becomes instinctive. "In a tournament like the IPL, where momentum and confidence is key, trying to find a way to stay level and confident the whole way through is vital. He's been phenomenal for that," Phillips

added.

Role Clarity over Personal Glory

While the arrival of a batting coach often brings pressure to produce "big scores," Phillips was quick to defend his role within the GT setup. Often utilized as a finisher or a situational floater, the New Zealander explained that his personal success is measured by team impact rather than individual milestones. Addressing questions about converting cameos into hundreds, Phillips pointed to the tactical reality of his position. "I've been in completely different situations... coming in with six balls to go. It's pretty hard to score big in those environments," he noted. For Phillips, the "Hayden mindset" is about selfless contribution. "If it means I need to go in with four balls to face, hopefully, I can hit a boundary. If we have a tough pitch where I need to knuckle down, hopefully, we can kick on. It's about being as consistent as possible in whatever role I'm given." With GT hunting for their third consecutive win on Friday, April 17, the synergy between Hayden's legendary experience and Phillips' explosive adaptability could be the edge they need against KKR's formidable spin attack.

Fatigue post-T20 World Cup? Ashwin flags major concern for Mumbai Indians' IPL season

R Ashwin warns that T20 World Cup fatigue is hitting Mumbai Indians' stars after a 4th IPL 2026 loss. Hardik Pandya hints at "tough calls" as MI struggles to find answers with the ball.

Mumbai. (Agency)

The Mumbai Indians (MI) find themselves in unfamiliar territory, languishing in ninth place in the IPL 2026 standings after a string of morale-shattering defeats. Following their latest seven-wicket drubbing at the hands of the table-topping Punjab Kings on Friday, April 17, veteran spinner Ravichandran Ashwin has offered a compelling theory for the powerhouse franchise's sudden decline: a massive post-T20 World Cup hangover. Speaking on his YouTube channel, Ash ki Baat, Ashwin suggested that the mental and physical toll of India's recent T20 World Cup victory is catching up with MI's star-studded core. With the franchise having lost four of their first five matches, the "big-name fatigue" factor is becoming impossible to ignore.

Ashwin warns of World Cup burnout for MI stars

Mumbai Indians' current squad relies heavily

on the same Indian core that recently tasted ultimate glory on the world stage. Ashwin reckons that the transition from the high-



intensity environment of a World Cup to the relentless grind of the IPL has left players like Hardik Pandya, Jasprit Bumrah, Tilak Varma, and Suryakumar Yadav running on empty. "I am now feeling that the fatigue after the T20 World Cup... might be taking a toll for Mumbai Indians," Ashwin noted. "Previously they used to get outplayed, but now it looks like they have no answers with

the ball." While the legendary Rohit Sharma remains a pillar of the batting lineup after his T20I retirement, his veteran presence hasn't been enough to mask the struggles of a bowling unit that Ashwin describes as looking lost for answers.

Hardik Pandya hints at 'tough calls'

The tactical vacuum was on full display at the Wankhede Stadium. Despite a spectacular, unbeaten 112 off 60 balls from Quinton de Kock that propelled Mumbai to a competitive 195/6, the defense was non-existent. Punjab Kings, led by an unbeaten 80 from Prabhsimran Singh and a blistering 66 from Shreyas Iyer, ruthlessly chased the target in just 16.3 overs.

A dejected Hardik Pandya admitted after the match that the team is at a breaking point. "To be very honest, I don't have much to say right now," Pandya stated. "We need to see, do we need to make some difficult calls or do we need to keep continuing and hope that we'll turn things around."

Grinning ear to ear: Preity Zinta relishing PBKS's dominant win over MI

NEW DELHI. (Agency)

Bollywood icon and Punjab Kings co-owner Preity Zinta was all smiles after her side continued their dominant run in Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026 with a convincing win over Mumbai Indians on April 16. Even though she was not present at the Wankhede, Zinta made sure to celebrate the victory in style on social media. Zinta took to X shortly after the match, sharing her excitement and praising the team's performance, especially highlighting the contributions of key players. "Yes Yes Yesssss!!!! Congratulations @PunjabKingsIPL for this win... So much maturity from @prabhsimran01 & wow @arshdeepsinghh Happy to see you shine," she wrote. "Amazing team work under the capable leadership of Sadda Sarpanch @ShreyasIyer15 & @RickyPonting ??



That was an awesome catch Shreyas! Best I've ever seen... I'm grinning ear to ear," she added. Punjab Kings are now the only unbeaten side in IPL 2026, with the win over Mumbai stretching the streak to five straight games. The result has taken them to the top of the points table with 9 points from a possible 10, continuing the momentum they built last season under Shreyas Iyer. After falling just short in the IPL 2025 final

against Royal Challengers Bengaluru, PBKS have resumed their title push this season with the same consistency and intent.

HOW PBKS THRASHED MI AT WANKHEDE

Punjab Kings delivered a clinical chase to outplay Mumbai Indians at the Wankhede Stadium. After MI posted 195, riding on a brilliant century from Quinton de Kock and a supporting knock from Naman Dhir, PBKS responded with authority. Prabhsimran Singh led the charge with an unbeaten 80 off 39 balls, while captain Shreyas Iyer scored a fluent 66 off 35. The duo stitched together a 139-run partnership that took the game away from MI. Earlier, Arshdeep Singh's three-wicket haul helped keep Mumbai in check, ensuring the target remained within reach.



Unsold in the first call, Rahane found himself bought at the base price of Rs 1.5 crore by KKR in the second round of the auction. For some inexplicable reason, KKR ended up handing the captaincy to a player they thought was not the right fit for them in the first round of the players being sold. And then, a full season of failure later, here we are. Kolkata Knight Riders are at the bottom of the points table, searching for solutions to their problems in the Indian Premier League. But how many problems can they solve at a given time?

KKR need to fix their batting line-up. KKR need to find a strong hitter in the middle order.

The franchise needs to better their death bowling to capitalise on their spin block.

With issues aplenty, KKR will be facing an in-form bowling attack of Gujarat Titans, who wreaked havoc in their previous match against Lucknow Super Giants. Prasadh Krishna already has 10 wickets from four games, while Rashid Khan's spell helped GT beat Delhi Capitals in a thriller earlier in the season.

How Arshdeep Singh snapped back to form vs MI: Ponting reveals chat behind the scenes

IPL 2026: Arshdeep Singh's return to form came down to clarity, not just skill. A timely chat with Ricky Ponting helped him reset and deliver when PBKS needed him most.

Mumbai. (Agency)

Arshdeep Singh snapped back to form against Mumbai Indians after a quiet start to IPL 2026, with a key behind-the-scenes chat playing a crucial role. Ricky Ponting revealed how simplifying the pacer's approach helped unlock his best at the Wankhede. Arshdeep had struggled to find rhythm early in the season despite Punjab

Kings' strong run. Speaking to JioHotstar after the match, Ponting revealed how a timely conversation helped the left-arm pacer reset mentally and tactically. "He's almost an over-trainer. He probably trains too much, and sometimes ends up building bad habits into his game. But yesterday, he came down on his own and did 30-40 minutes of spot bowling to refine a few things and improve his release," Ponting said. "If you've watched him closely, he just wasn't getting that shape with the new ball that we're used to seeing. He worked hard on it yesterday and then executed an almost perfect first over today," he added.

"I had a chat with him before he went out to bowl. I asked him what exact ball he wanted to bowl to Ryan Rickelton and Quinton de Kock first up. He said he wanted to hit the fourth line and swing it away," Ponting said.

"I told him to stand at the top of his mark,

visualise the ball, and then execute it. And he did exactly that. If he can bowl like he did tonight and take early wickets, then we're off and running," he added. Arshdeep, who had



been putting in extra work in training to rediscover his rhythm, also acknowledged that the clarity from Ponting helped him stay focused and trust his process again. Punjab Kings continued their unbeaten run with a

dominant win, chasing down a competitive total set by Mumbai Indians with ease after early breakthroughs with the ball set the tone. **HOW ARSHDEEP BROKE MI'S BACK**

Arshdeep delivered a clinical spell to put Mumbai Indians under early pressure.

He dismissed Ryan Rickelton early before removing Suryakumar Yadav for a golden duck, breaking the backbone of MI's batting in the powerplay. He later returned to dismiss the in-form Sherfane Rutherford, finishing with figures of 3 for 22.

Despite a century from Quinton de Kock, Arshdeep's early breakthroughs ensured MI never fully ran away with the game. Punjab Kings chased down 196 comfortably, with Prabhsimran Singh and Shreyas Iyer leading the way, sealing a seven-wicket win and extending their unbeaten run in IPL 2026.

Indian digital ad market likely to double to USD 22 bn by 2030: Report

New Delhi, (Agency)

The digital advertisement market in India is likely to double in the next five years, reaching up to USD 22 billion by 2030, market research firm Redseer Consulting said on Friday.

According to the latest report released by Redseer, digital advertising spend growth is outpacing the broader economy with the segment accounting for 70-75 per cent of total global ad spend in 2025 and is growing at 3-5 times the pace of global real GDP in 2025. "Indian digital ad market is currently at USD 11 billion in 2025. It is projected to grow at 10-15 per cent compound annual growth rate in the range of USD 19 billion to USD 22 billion by 2030," Redseer Consulting senior consultant Madhav Gulati told PTI. Geographically, the United States holds the largest share at around 46 per cent of global digital ad spend in 2025, followed by China at around 24 per cent share.

The share of India is around 1 per cent at present, according to the report. Global digital advertising market to cross USD 1.2 trillion by 2030.

According to the report, mobile dominates within digital, commanding over 65 per cent share.

"Mobile accounts for 65-70 per cent of all digital ad spends, and within mobile, in-app advertising commands 80-85 per cent share in the US and is growing faster than the broader mobile category," the report said. The report said that tech giants Alphabet, Meta, Amazon, Apple, ByteDance, and a few others operate walled garden ecosystems that account for approximately 70-80 per cent of the programmatic digital advertising spends globally.

The open ecosystem which includes firms like Inmobi, unity Ads, OpenX, where brands transact programmatically with the broader universe of publishers via ad platform intermediaries, accounts for the remaining 20-30 per cent of digital ad spends, the report said.

The report projects that the next phase of advertising will be shaped by --privacy-driven targeting, AI-native campaign execution, and a growing divide between fast adopters and laggards.

Renault lines up 7 new models in India; bets on EVs, hybrids

New Delhi, (Agency)

French carmaker Renault is planning a strong comeback in India, unveiling on Thursday a seven-product line-up for launch by 2030. The company is also set to introduce the Renault Group Entry Platform (RGE) as it prepares to roll out vehicles in the sub-Rs 10 lakh segment. Under its 'futuREady India' strategy, Renault aims to make India one of its top three global markets by 2030 and is targeting annual revenue of €2 billion from exports, R&D, and components over the next five years. "By 2030, we will offer a seven-model portfolio in India, spanning key segments from compact cars to larger SUVs, and featuring a full spectrum of electrified powertrains—from strong hybrids to fully electric vehicles," said Stéphane Deblaise, CEO, Renault India. The seven vehicles will be based on two complementary platforms—RGE and the Renault Group Modular Platform (RGMP)—both of which will be deployed first in India. Designed with a multi-energy approach, these platforms will support internal combustion engines, hybrid systems, and electric powertrains, depending on market needs. Speaking to media in Chennai, François Provost, CEO, Renault Group, said the company's R&D centre, with 6,000 engineers, will increasingly focus on developing technologies tailored for Indian consumers. "Earlier, our R&D facility functioned more like a GCC. Now, we want a team that matches the pace of India. This is a market where there is demand for technology, value for money, and a strong appetite for performance," he said.

SEZs seek higher duty concessions to counter FTA, China imports

New Delhi, (Agency)

Special Economic Zone (SEZ) units have written to the government seeking higher concessions—or even zero-duty treatment—for supplies to the domestic tariff area (DTA), aligning them with concessional import duties available under free trade agreements (FTAs). They argued that competing with imports, particularly from China and FTA partner countries, has become increasingly challenging.

According to an official, SEZ units have told the government that their primary competition is not domestic manufacturers in the DTA but imports by traders from FTA countries such as ASEAN, as well as low-cost, high-quality Chinese goods. They have sought higher concessions for specific HSN categories where such imports dominate, to enable SEZ units to effectively substitute these goods.

SEZ units have also demanded that goods supplied from SEZs to the DTA be allowed at concessional duty rates equivalent to those applicable on imports from China or FTA partner countries.

Industry representatives have earlier flagged that the government's proposed conditional concessional customs duty regime for DTA sales would offer limited or no benefit to most manufacturers. As a one-time measure, the government has allowed SEZ units to undertake DTA sales at concessional customs duty for FY27, subject to 20% value addition and a 30% export-linked cap. According to estimates by the Export Promotion Council for EOUs and SEZs, 62% of operational SEZ units account for 96.5% of total manufactured goods sold in the DTA. Nearly 93% of these goods fall within the top 200 product categories. Sources said most of these units are unlikely to see meaningful benefits under the current framework. SEZ units have urged the government to disclose the methodology for calculating duty foregone and any equalisation duty applied in arriving at the concessional rates.

Gurugram circle rates increase by up to 75%: How much will home prices rise?

New Delhi, (Agency)

If you thought property prices in Gurugram were already high, buying a home in the city may now become even more expensive. Circle rates have been increased by up to 75% from April 1, 2026, pushing up the base value at which properties are registered. The revision comes at a time when Gurugram continues to see strong demand due to its proximity to the airport and the presence of major offices and industries. Experts say the new predictive collector rate changes signal a move towards aligning official rates with actual market prices, which could raise both property prices and transaction costs for buyers.

WHAT ARE CIRCLE RATES?

Circle rates are the minimum value at which a property can be registered. Buyers pay stamp duty on these rates or the deal value, whichever is higher. With this increase, property transactions in

Gurugram may become costlier, especially in areas where the gap between circle rates and market prices was earlier wide.

SECTOR-WISE PRICE HIKE ACROSS GURUGRAM

The increase varies across sectors, with emerging corridors seeing the sharpest jump. Dwarka Expressway is among the biggest gainers. Commercial rates are expected to rise 75% to around Rs 2,04,750 per sq yard. Residential sectors between 104 and 115 may see a 30% increase to about Rs 2,24,796 per sq yard. Southern Peripheral Road is also seeing strong growth. Residential rates in sectors 63, 63A, 64 and 67 may rise 45% to Rs 84,825 per sq yard. Nearby sectors such as 62, 65, 66 and 69 to 72 may see a 30% increase to Rs 91,000 per sq yard. Golf Course Extension Road areas may see a 30% rise, taking rates to around Rs 91,000 per sq yard. Premium areas are

also seeing steep hikes. DLF Phase 5 may record a 75% increase to about Rs 1,85,000 per sq yard, while Sector 25 commercial rates may jump 75% to Rs 2,43,941 per sq yard. Sector 15



residential rates may rise 45% to Rs 1,24,700 per sq yard. In emerging zones, New Gurgaon sectors may see a 30% increase to Rs 2,24,796 per sq yard. Sohna group housing areas may rise around 10% to Rs 63,000 per sq yard. Manesar continues to remain a key growth area. Industrial rates in IMT Manesar

may increase by around 30%, while some residential sectors could see sharper hikes due to better connectivity and industrial activity.

WHAT DOES THE HIKE MEAN FOR BUYERS?

Kartikya Sharma, Associate Principal Partner at Square Yards, said the revision shows a shift in how property is being valued in the city. "The 2026 revision reflects a clear shift toward market-aligned pricing, with circle rate increases ranging from 15% to 75% across Gurugram," he said. "Key growth corridors such as Dwarka Expressway and Southern Peripheral Road are witnessing hikes of up to 75%, while emerging residential sectors are seeing 30-45% appreciation." "In contrast, established locations like Sector 29 are recording relatively moderate increases of around 15%, highlighting a maturing and stabilising market."

2% to 4% DA hike likely: Here's how much your monthly pay may rise

New Delhi, (Agency)

If you're a government employee keeping an eye on your salary slip, the next Dearness Allowance (DA) revision is probably on your mind. While it may not bring a big jump, it is still expected to add a little extra to your monthly income—quietly but surely.

A SMALL RISE, BUT MEANINGFUL OVER TIME

Current estimates suggest that the upcoming DA hike could be in the range of 2% to 4%. This means the overall DA may move slightly higher, continuing its steady upward trend seen over the years. The increase may look modest at first glance, but when added month after month, it becomes a reliable income boost. **WHY THE HIKE IS EXPECTED TO STAY MODERATE**

The DA is not decided randomly. It is linked to inflation and follows a set formula based on the 12-month average of the CPI-IW (Consumer Price Index

for Industrial Workers). Since inflation has been stable but slightly persistent, the hike is expected to remain within a limited range. Adhil Shetty, CEO, Bankbazaar, explains it simply, "DA



revisions are formula-driven and linked to the 12-month average of the CPI-IW, and current trends continue to support a modest increase of around 2% to 3%, which would take the overall DA level closer to 60% or slightly above. The trajectory itself remains consistent. DA has moved steadily from 2% in 2016 to nearly 60% today, reflecting cumulative inflation over the past

decade."

WHAT THIS MEANS FOR YOUR SALARY

Even a small percentage hike in DA can lead to a noticeable increase in your monthly income. Shetty explains this with examples. For instance, at a basic pay of Rs 18,000, the rise could add around Rs 360 to Rs 540 per month, while someone earning Rs 29,200 may see a gain of roughly Rs 584 to Rs 876, he says. Further, at higher pay levels such as Rs 56,100, the increase can cross Rs 1,100 monthly. For senior employees with a basic pay of Rs 2.5 lakh, the benefit could be in the range of Rs 5,000 to Rs 7,500 every month. Over the course of a year, this steady addition works as a built-in income boost without any change in role or performance, adds Shetty. **INFLATION TREND HOLDS THE KEY**

Experts say the final number will depend on how inflation behaves in the coming months. For now, the trend suggests a controlled but consistent rise.

Rs 8 lakh crore stuck: How delayed payments are hurting India's MSMEs

New Delhi, (Agency)

An estimated Rs 8.1 lakh crore is locked in unpaid dues to micro, small and medium enterprises, according to industry estimates and government assessments. The dues are invoiced but not settled within expected timelines, often stretching to 60 to 90 days or longer. For MSMEs, this creates immediate cash flow pressure. A large share of working capital remains tied up in receivables, in some cases as high as 70 to 80%, limiting their ability to fund operations. Businesses respond by delaying vendor payments, cutting orders or relying on short-term borrowing.

For many, that borrowing comes at a steep cost.

HOW PAYMENT DELAYS HURT MSMEs

When payments are delayed by 60 to 90 days, businesses often turn to informal credit markets where interest rates can reach 3 to 5% a month, effectively wiping out margins, Arun Poojari, CEO and Co-Founder of Cashinvoice, told IndiaToday.in. Long payment cycles are standard practice in large supply chains.

For bigger companies, extending payments helps manage working capital and reduces borrowing needs. For smaller suppliers, it creates a mismatch between cash inflows and outflows. "Large companies effectively use MSME suppliers as a source of interest-free working capital," Poojari said.

This shifts liquidity pressure down the supply chain, with smaller firms absorbing the impact. In many cases, these terms are not negotiated. "For MSMEs, it is take it or leave it," Poojari said, pointing to limited bargaining power and dependence on large buyers.

The issue is widespread.

A report by the Global Alliance for Mass Entrepreneurship describes delayed payments as pervasive across sectors, affecting cash flows and production cycles. The impact does not stop with one firm. Suppliers facing delays often default on their own vendor payments, creating a chain reaction across the supply chain, Poojari said. **1-2% IMPACT ON GDP GROWTH**

The Economic Survey has flagged working capital constraints as a key challenge for MSMEs, linking them to limited capacity for expansion and investment. Some estimates suggest delayed payments could be shaving off 1-2% of GDP growth by restricting liquidity at the base of the economy.

Gautam Adani overtakes Mukesh Ambani to become Asia's richest person, ranks 19th globally

New Delhi, (Agency)

Gautam Adani has overtaken Mukesh Ambani to become Asia's richest person, according to the latest data from the Bloomberg Billionaires Index.

As per the rankings released on Friday, Gautam Adani, Founder and Chairman of the Adani Group, now ranks 19th globally with a net worth of USD 92.6 billion. In comparison, Mukesh Ambani, Chairman of Reliance Industries, stands at the 20th position with a net worth of USD 90.8 billion.

The development comes as Adani's net worth witnessed a surge, helping him move ahead of Ambani in the global wealth rankings.

Globally, Elon Musk continues to lead the richest person list, holding the top position with a net worth of USD 656 billion. He is followed by Larry Page (Co-founder and board member, Alphabet) at USD 286 billion and Jeff Bezos (Amazon) at USD 269 billion.

Other prominent names in the global

rankings include Mark Zuckerberg (Meta) and Larry Ellison (Co-founder of software giant Oracle), reflecting the continued dominance of technology



entrepreneurs among the world's richest individuals. Adani Group, led by Gautam Adani, is India's largest integrated infrastructure group and has been expanding its footprint across multiple sectors. Traditionally focused on B2B segments, the group is increasingly entering B2C businesses. The group's diversified portfolio includes

transport logistics, integrated energy infrastructure spanning generation, transmission and distribution, natural resources, airports, defence and aerospace, data centres, cement, media, roads, rail, metro, real estate, urban redevelopment, food FMCG, digital platforms and business incubation. According to the Adani Group, Gautam Adani is India's first founder and first-generation entrepreneur to lead a business group to a market capitalisation of over USD 200 billion. He is contributing USD 7 billion to help upgrade healthcare, education, and skill development in rural India. He has also committed USD 70 billion to facilitate India's green energy transition. With a combined current market cap of over USD 150 billion, the Adani Group is a portfolio of twelve publicly traded companies that follow the synergetic philosophies of Nation Building and Growth with Goodness

Markets open flat as geopolitical tensions ease, but caution remains

The BSE Sensex was trading at 78,030.99, up 42.31 points or 0.05% at around 9:43 am.

The Nifty 50, however, slipped marginally by 6.85 points or 0.03% to 24,189.90.

New Delhi, (Agency)

Benchmark stock market indices opened on a muted note on Thursday, tracking mixed global cues, even as easing geopolitical tensions offered some support. Benchmark indices hovered near the flatline in early trade. The BSE Sensex was trading at 78,030.99, up 42.31 points or 0.05% at around 9:43 am. The Nifty 50, however, slipped marginally by 6.85 points or 0.03% to 24,189.90. Investor sentiment remained cautious despite some positive global developments. A 10-day ceasefire between Lebanon and Israel came into effect on Thursday, while US President Donald Trump indicated that

the next round of talks with Iran could take place over the weekend. These developments lent some support to global markets. Dr. VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Investments Limited, said that the

resilience of the mother market US and positive news relating to ceasefire between Israel and Lebanon bode well for the market. "However, President Trump's bravado has to be taken lightly, going by his track record of total inconsistency. Investors should be guided by actions rather than words. A significant and distinct trend in the market is the strength of the mid and smallcaps relative to the large caps. Fear of FIIs again turning sellers on rallies is weighing on large caps," he added.

MIDCAPS, SMALLCAPS SHOW RESILIENCE

The broader market continued to outperform frontline indices. Nifty Midcap 100 rose 0.15% while Nifty Smallcap 100 gained 0.54%, indicating sustained retail and domestic flows into

these segments. Among sectoral indices, Nifty FMCG, Media and Oil & Gas traded in the green, while IT, Metal and Pharma stocks saw mild selling pressure.

SENSEX GAINERS AND LOSERS

On the Sensex pack, Maruti Suzuki led the



gains, rising 1.89%, followed by Adani Ports which was up 0.99%. ITC gained 0.97% while Hindustan Unilever and Kotak Mahindra Bank also traded higher. HCLTech emerged as the top laggard, falling 1.03%. Tata Steel declined 0.64%, while Bajaj Finance, TCS and Bharti Airtel also traded in the red. Crude oil

prices slipped in early trade, offering some relief on the inflation front. WTI crude was down 1.27% at \$93.49 per barrel, while Brent crude declined 1.25% to \$98.15 per barrel. **OUTLOOK FOR COMING SESSIONS**

"In the near-term, therefore, the broader market may do better aided by the fund flows and retail buying in the segment," said Vijaykumar. "However, the prospects of large caps are better in the medium to long-term. Investors should monitor Q4 results and management commentary to pick stocks in this results season," he added. Going ahead, market participants

are expected to remain focused on Q4 earnings announcements and management commentary, which could drive stock-specific action. While near-term volatility may persist, especially in large caps, broader markets may continue to see traction supported by domestic inflows.

Daisy Shah

Recalls 'Uncomfortable' Casting Meeting With South Filmmaker: 'I Was Touched Badly'

Daisy Shah has opened up about a disturbing experience from the early days of her career, recalling how an audition meeting left her deeply uncomfortable. In a recent interview, the actor spoke candidly about feeling harassed during a casting interaction with a filmmaker from the South film industry.

'He Touched Me... I Felt Uncomfortable'

Recounting the incident, Daisy revealed that it took place in Mumbai when a filmmaker had come to the city to conduct auditions. Several aspiring actresses had gathered for the opportunity, and she was among those who met him.

"I was touched badly by one of the filmmakers in South. He had come to Mumbai for casting. We were 6-7 girls who went to meet him. He was meeting everyone of us individually. But I didn't like because he touched me and he was holding my hand," she told Free Press Journal. The interaction, she explained, immediately made her uneasy, especially given her personal discomfort with physical contact.

'I Never Went Back'

Daisy shared that she has always been apprehensive about being touched, even in routine situations, and the incident only reinforced that boundary. "I've always been apprehensive about people touching me. The reason why I don't get massage done is because I don't like being touched, even by a woman... by a man is a different story altogether. So that just put me off. I told him 'I will get back to you' but I never got back to him."

Her decision to walk away from the opportunity became, in hindsight, an important assertion of personal boundaries.

A Lesson In Safety

Reflecting on the experience, Daisy said it left a lasting impression on her and shaped how she approached such situations moving forward. "The incident taught me that you are not supposed to meet anyone alone," she added, underlining the importance of personal safety, especially for newcomers navigating the industry.

On Being Reduced To 'Salman Khan's Backing'

In the same conversation, Daisy also addressed the long-standing perception that her career has been defined by her association with Salman Khan. "People think that if a woman is doing something substantial in terms of work, there's definitely someone who's backing her, someone who's helping her out.



Kareena Kapoor's 'Cappuccino Corner' Is Winning Hearts As She Shares FIL Mansoor Ali Khan Pataudi's Pic



Kareena Kapoor has often shared glimpses of her personal life, and fans loved it. And this time, she shared the coffee corner. However, what stood out was a framed photograph of her late father-in-law, Mansoor Ali Khan Pataudi, from his younger days. The rare throwback picture added a personal touch to the setting, making the corner more than just a stylish spot. Taking to her Instagram Stories, Kareena Kapoor shared a photo of her delicious coffee and wrote, 'Cappuccino Corner'. But what stole attention was the photo of her father-in-law, Mansoor Ali Khan Pataudi, younger days. In no time, it went viral, and fans were seen reacting to it. Mansoor Ali Khan Pataudi was an iconic figure in Indian cricket and continues to be fondly remembered by his family.

Kareena Kapoor Loses Cool Amid Crowd

Recently, the actor was seen at the iconic Wankhede Stadium, where she attended the IPL clash between Mumbai Indians and Royal Challengers Bengaluru. She was accompanied by her husband Saif Ali Khan, their sons Taimur Ali Khan and Jeh Ali Khan, along with Saif's son Ibrahim Ali Khan. Videos from the evening have been widely shared online, showing the family dressed in Mumbai Indians jerseys as they watched the match from the stands. While most clips capture a relaxed and cheerful vibe, one particular video has stood out for a different reason.

The clip shows the family waiting near a lift inside the stadium when a large crowd gathers around them, with fans attempting to click photos. In the middle of the commotion, Kareena appears visibly uncomfortable. She is seen in what looks like a tense exchange with someone nearby, although it is not clear who the person is or what triggered the moment. At one point, she turns to Saif and is heard saying, "What is happening?" The situation settles shortly after, and the family is seen entering the lift.

Jubin Nautiyal Is Now Married, Singer Ties The Knot With 'Childhood Sweetheart': Report



Singer Jubin Nautiyal is now married. If a latest report is to be believed, the singer recently tied the knot with his 'childhood sweetheart' in his hometown in Uttarakhand. Reportedly, it was an intimate wedding ceremony with only family members and close friends in attendance. "Jubin opted for a simple, traditional ceremony instead of a large public celebration. He has always been very private when it comes to his personal life. They did not want a large-scale wedding and were happy to celebrate their big day with just their dear ones," a source cited by ETimes claimed on Thursday.

However, it should be noted that the identity of Jubin's ladylove has not been revealed. Moreover, the singer has also not issued any official statement either confirming or denying his wedding reports. When the same entertainment portal reached out to him, he remained unavailable for a comment.

Who Is Jubin Nautiyal?

Jubin Nautiyal is a popular playback singer who has over 200 songs to his credit. Hailing from Dehradun in Uttarakhand, Jubin first gained everyone's attention after he participated in the reality show X Factor India in 2011. He made his Bollywood debut with the song 'Ek Mulaqat' from Sonali Cable (2014), followed by 'Meherbani' from The Shaukeens.

However, his breakthrough came with songs like 'Zindagi Kuch Toh Bata' from Salman Khan's hit movie Bajrangi Bhaijaan and Kaabil Hoon from Hrithik Roshan's Kaabil. Some of his other popular tracks include 'Tum Hi Aana', 'Lut Gaye', 'Humnava Mere', 'Taaron Ke Shehar' and 'Meri Zindagi Hai Tu'.

Jubin also sang the popular track, 'Raataan Lambiyan' from Shershaah. Featuring Sidharth Malhotra and Kiara Advani, the song beautifully captures the longing and yearning of two lovers separated by distance and circumstances. The song conveys the emotions of love, loss, and sacrifice through its poignant lyrics and soothing melody.

Rashmika Mandanna

Shahid, Kriti Had Mad Fun During Jab Talak Shoot in Italy; Watch BTS Clip

Shahid Kapoor, Rashmika Mandanna, and Kriti Sanon have teamed up for the much-awaited film Cocktail 2, marking a fresh and exciting collaboration that has already created strong buzz among fans and the industry alike. The Homi Adajania directorial is expected to bring a contemporary twist to the beloved franchise, blending romance, drama, and entertainment on a grand scale. Ahead of the big release, Rashmika, on April 16, shared a BTS video from the Cocktail 2 set.

A while ago, Rashmika Mandanna posted a fun video from Sicily, Italy, where she shot the song Jab Talak with Shahid Kapoor and Kriti Sanon. She offered a glimpse of their candid and hilarious moments while shooting for the peppy track. In the film, she will be seen essaying the role of Diya.



Along with the video, she penned a heartfelt note from Diya's perspective. She wrote, "A page from Diya's diary- We shot for Jab Talak in Sicily, Italy and it was all random dancing between takes, loving dancing and just vibing, laughing at literally everything... and somehow still pulling it off

with swag." Rashmika further added, "Diya was living her best life and you'll know why when you watch the film... and this was a lot of chaos and a lot more of dance."

She also spoke about Shahid and Kriti's characters, calling them "partners in dance and crime." The actress wrote, "and Ally & Kunzee?? partners in dance and crime for real... I don't think Diya, Kunal and Ally had a single serious moment even when they had to be serious!! you guys are mad and you are my madness and I love you for it! #Cocktail2 releasing in cinemas worldwide on 19th June! Fans were happy to see Rashmika enjoying herself on set. One fan commented, "My rushiee enjoying her shoots." Another fan wrote, "Rashmika is forever cute and beautiful."

Cocktail 2 will mark Rashmika's first film after her wedding to Vijay Deverakonda. The actress tied the knot in February 2026. Later in March, the couple hosted a grand reception in Hyderabad, and Kriti, along with Karan Johar and Homi Adajania, graced the event.



Though it is still an offbeat destination, there are several tourist places in Chhattisgarh. The well-developed capital Raipur has some of the most advanced infrastructure, as well as the most hospitable and polite people you can meet anywhere in the country. Chhattisgarh stands apart in its practices, social rituals and its diverse tribal culture and lifestyle. Sirpur, only 84 km from Raipur, is a hidden town from the past. This fascinating town has a deep archaeological significance as well as a connection to Buddhism. Residing quietly by the Mahanadi River, Sirpur has archaeological ruins from the fifth to the eighth centuries. There is evidence of the Chinese traveller, Hiuen Tsang exploring this town, and more recently in 2013, it was graciously visited by His Holiness the Dalai Lama.

A guide to Sirpur

panchayatana style of temple architecture, with the main temple in the centre and four temples in the corner. The main temple has five sanctums, four of which had four different types of Shiva lingas for worship, respectively coloured white, red, yellow and black. The remaining sanctum contains a Ganesh idol. The 32-pillared mandapa holds these five sanctums. The complex area has three tantric temples in a platform, dedicated to Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva. The entry gate was believed to be located near the river flowing adjacent to the temple. This was a practice that was started in the temples of Sirpur, and thereafter, spread to other parts of the country.

Laxman Temple

Dating back to 625-650 AD, the Laxman Temple in Sirpur is one of the most famous structures in the city. It is believed to be one of the best examples of brick temples in India and is dedicated to Lord Vishnu. The intricate carvings on the exterior of the temple make it special. These designs include Lord Vishnu, Krishna Leela symbols, Vaishnava Dwarpal, and pictures bearing resemblance to the famous erotic work as in the Khajuraho Temple. The mandapa which originally bore stone pillars is now in ruins.

Budh Vihar

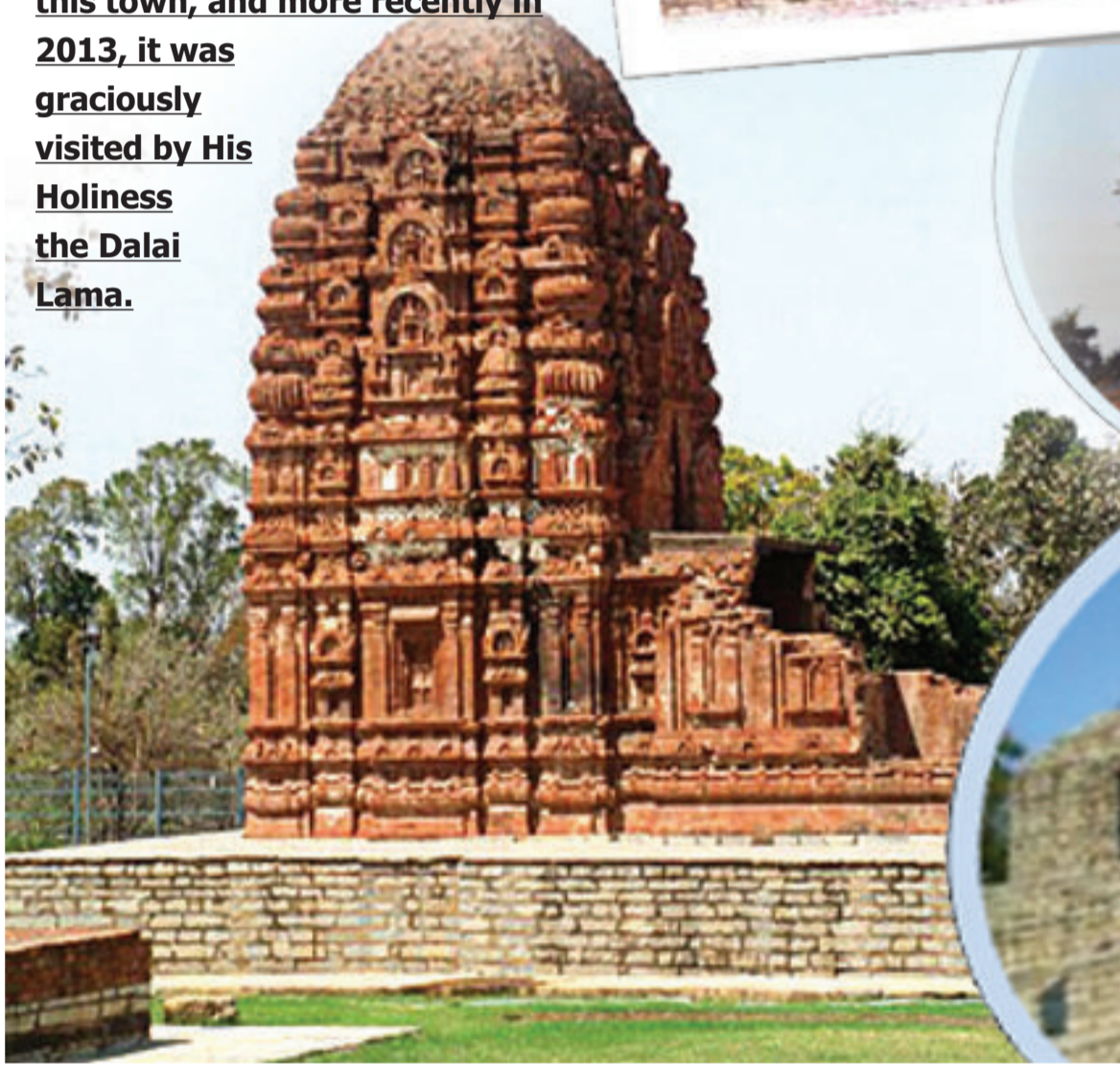
The Budh Vihar was unearthed in 2003 and houses a statue of Buddha, with Padmapani on either side. It is believed to have been constructed during the time of Somanvansi king, Teevardeo and continued to stay in use until the rule of his grandson Mahashivgupta Balarjun in 7th to 8th century AD. Perhaps the most interesting aspect of this ruin is the entry gate to the temple. The beautiful carvings here depict plenty of scenes from Buddha's life, including love, matrimony, friendship and other ties. This emphasis confirms the influence of Buddhism in Sirpur. The northern and southern arms of this space were used as dwelling chambers.

Ancient marketplace

The ancient marketplace is an impressive set of ruins that are spread over an area of 250 sq m along the river Mahanadi. This place was believed to be the centre of all commercial and trading life of the era. The excavations have revealed that some shops have connecting underground channels, which may imply that the shop owners had more than one shop. There are places which suggest that goods were kept covered in these depressions to guard against natural weathering. The main artefacts unearthed from here indicate that this market was used mainly by coppersmiths, goldsmiths, ironsmiths and potters.

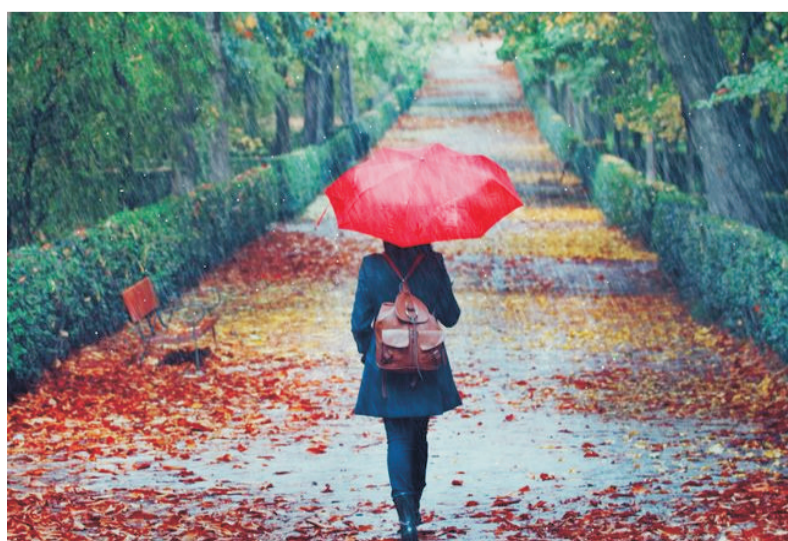
Street food

Street food is busy but organised in Chhattisgarh. Even though the samosas are believed to be mouth-wateringly delicious here, the bhajiyas or the pakoras definitely deserve more of the attention. With the traditional cup of chai, the breakfast here usually comprises kachoris, mirchi bhajis, dal ka wada and onion bhajiyas. To satisfy your sweet tooth, pick a warm jalebi and you will not regret it. Sirpur is essentially dominated by a straight road with major sights located on either side. The city's main street food hub is on the junction of the road that turns towards Budh Vihar and Laxman Temple.



Don't let rains ruin your Vacation

That moment is finally here. You've checked the weather forecast, carefully planned your travel stops and even packed three different pairs of swimwear. You get up in the morning, ready for another day at the beach, and it's raining. All your travel plans seem ridiculous as threatening black clouds cover the sky. Take heart, all is not lost. Here are a few tips to salvage your rain-ruined vacation.



Accept the rains

A rainy day might be a far cry from the sandy, sun-kissed vacation you were hoping for, but wet weather can be truly beautiful. Local waterfalls will be at their best, and a few

things can be as exhilarating as a muddy, barefoot hike through the jungle. Find a great vantage point where you can sit back, coffee in hand, and just watch the rain come thundering down. The stormier the weather, the more spectacular it is.

Storm out impurities

A trip to the spa might be one of the only things on your to-do list that doesn't require a rain-check. A lot of countries have traditional cures and treatments that are not only soothing but also a lot cheaper than what you'll find back home. Sign up for a day-long retreat at your favourite spa and chase away your rainy day blues with a facial and a mineral scrub. If possible, book a massage in a covered outdoor cabana. You'll reach new levels of Zen during a hot stone massage while listening to the pitter-patter of rain around you. Consider unique experiences like Iceland's geothermal spas, where it's nice and toasty even if the weather is awful.

Credit: ThinkStock Photos

Chase the sun

Check the weather conditions, pull out your trusty map and find the closest area with less intense rain. Pack your bags and drive off into the sunset—this is your chance to be a true explorer, travelling with the excitement of having no expectations. You may discover a small beach with just enough sunshine for a picnic, or a small town that's perfect for

a daytime stroll away from the rains.

A day of museum-hopping

A rainy day is actually a message from the universe, urging you to tick off all your indoor activities. A soggy and drenched message, but a message nonetheless. Head to the museums that have made your list for an afternoon of learning. In countries like Italy, many of the best art is found in churches rather than museums. These give you a fascinating insight into the local religion and culture.

Credit: ThinkStock Photos

Do as the locals do

For the locals, life almost always goes on even when things get wet. Take this opportunity to ditch the tourist traps and find out where the city's residents hang out during rainy days. This would set you up for lots of fun and insightful interactions in pubs and local restaurants. Even if you only have a tenuous grasp of the local language, you'll be surprised how friendly and accommodating people can be. You might just end up discovering an under-the-radar concert or a hole-in-the-wall eatery that no tourist's ever heard of.

Go to the beach anyway!

Throw caution—and raincoats—to the wind and head to the beach you were planning to go to, regardless of the rain. As long as the water is a manageable temperature and the conditions okay to swim, being on the beach in the rain is actually quite fun. Splash along with the raindrops and take a walk on wet sand—there is no reason a little bit of rain should put a damper on your beach fun.

