

PUBLISHED FROM Delhi, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Chandigarh, Himachal and Jammu

The Sikh Times National Daily

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Vol. 17 No. 339 RNI NO. DELENG/2008/25465 New Delhi, Friday, 24 April 2026 sikhtimesindia@gmail.com 9654077232 12 pages ₹ 3

India to seal biggest-ever defence deal with Germany within 3 months; what we know

This landmark agreement involves German firm TKMS collaborating with India's Mazagon Dock for local production, marking the first transfer of German submarine technology to a non-European country. The deal is set to enhance naval capabilities and deepen bilateral defense ties.

New Delhi.(Agency) \$8 billion submarine deal is likely to be finalised between India and Germany within the next three months, said German Defence Minister Boris Pistorius on Wednesday. He made this announcement after talks with Defence Minister Rajnath Singh in the northern port city of Kiel. Production of 6 submarines Pistorius pointed out that the project comprised the production of six submarines in India, with the Indian government currently coordinating the next steps to finalise the pact. Talking to reporters after both ministers visited a Thyssenkrupp Marine Systems GmbH (TKMS) facility, the German Defence Minister said: "I am very, very confident that we will be able to sign the agreement soon, especially today following the talks with His Excellency Singh and his delegation." Project is 'on track' The submarines will be manufactured with the

collaboration between TKMS and Indian state-owned Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd. Pistorius said Singh had suggested that the deal is "on track" and pointed out that "things will be done and



inked, so to speak" within the next three months. Estimated to be worth around \$8 billion, the contract would be India's biggest-ever defence deal. The agreement would also mark the first transfer of German submarine production

technology to a non-European country. During his visit to India earlier this year, German Chancellor Friedrich Merz had discussed the proposal with Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

During his three-day visit to Germany from April 21 to 23, Singh also visited the TKMS shipyard, where he boarded a Type 212 class submarine. The company officials told him about its capabilities.

Boosting defence ties India and Germany also signed and exchanged the Defence Industrial Cooperation Roadmap and an Implementing Arrangement for Cooperation in UN Peacekeeping Training. This is set to boost defence ties between the two countries.

India's Ministry of Defence said the agreements are likely to deepen institutional collaboration and create new opportunities in joint training, capacity building and defence capability development.

In Berlin, Singh and Pistorius held bilateral meetings and discussed security cooperation, co-development and co-production of defence equipment, with a focus on niche technologies.

Delhi CM Rekha Gupta inspects healthcare services, focuses on patient care and cleanliness

Keeping the summer season in view, CM Gupta has directed the hospital administration to accord the highest priority to the availability of medicines, drinking water, cleanliness, patient convenience and all essential arrangements.

New Delhi.(Agency)

Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta today conducted a surprise inspection of Aruna Asaf Ali Hospital and interacted with patients and their families to assess arrangements and the availability of doctors. She took feedback from doctors, staff and the hospital administration, and issued necessary directions to make healthcare services more modern, swift, compassionate and citizen-centric.

She said her government's commitment is to ensure that every citizen of Delhi experiences a healthcare system where treatment is timely, facilities are modern, surroundings are clean, and every patient is served with dignity.

Keeping the summer season in view, CM Gupta has directed the hospital administration to accord the highest priority to the availability of medicines, drinking water, cleanliness, patient convenience and all essential arrangements. On Tuesday, CM Rekha Gupta said under the government's flagship 'Pink Saheli Smart Card' scheme, more than 5 lakh women have been issued the card so far for free travel on DTC buses.

"Latest figures show that 5.3 lakh women have adopted the facility, with all cards currently in active use," she said, claiming it as an achievement that reflects not only the success of the scheme but also the growing confidence and participation of women in the capital's public transport system.

"Our government is committed to ensuring the safety, convenience, and self-reliance of every woman and girl in Delhi. The Pink Saheli Smart Card is not just a free travel pass; it offers women a secure digital identity and a dignified, seamless travel experience," she said.

"When public transport is safe and accessible, it naturally opens up greater opportunities in education, employment, and overall progress. This initiative is helping women become more independent, which is central to the vision of a developed Delhi," said the Chief Minister.

The card operates on a 'tap-and-go' system using the National Common Mobility Card (NCMC) framework, eliminating the need for paper tickets. Women can simply tap their cards at Electronic Ticketing Machines (ETMs) and board buses with ease. It enables free travel for women and transgender persons on buses, while also allowing paid use across the Metro and other modes of public transport, making it a truly integrated mobility solution. The scheme is available to all women and transgender residents of Delhi aged five and above.

The card can be conveniently recharged online, and users can track their travel history, ensuring transparency and efficiency. The digital system has also improved transport data management, enabling authorities to further enhance service delivery.



Kedarnath: Devotee dies of heart attack on first day of yatra, family alleges negligence in medical help

On the first day of Kedarnath Yatra 2026, a devotee from Gujarat died of a heart attack. His family alleged delays in medical help and transport, exposing serious flaws in the pilgrimage system despite administrative claims of preparedness and safety.

Rudraprayag.(Agency)

The opening of Kedarnath Dham's doors was marked by devotion and celebration, but tragedy struck on the very first day of the Char Dham Yatra 2026. A pilgrim from Gujarat, Dilip Bhai Manu Mali (69), died of a heart attack, and his family's ordeal has raised troubling questions about the arrangements at Kedarnath.

Family's struggle for help

According to his son, Hemant Mali, Dilip Bhai's health suddenly deteriorated during the pilgrimage. The family immediately called for help, but despite assurances that assistance would arrive within 10 minutes, no medical support reached them for over an hour. Forced by circumstances, Hemant carried his father on his



back to the hospital, where doctors declared him dead. The family alleged that the body remained on the helipad in the scorching sun for nearly two hours. They repeatedly requested helicopter transport for

the body, but arrangements were delayed. Hemant questioned why helicopters are available for VIPs but not for ordinary devotees in emergencies.

Transport issues and costs

The family further claimed that when they sought ambulance services to transport the body to Delhi, they were asked to pay Rs 16,000. This demand added to their grief, raising concerns about the lack of dignified arrangements for pilgrims who die during the yatra.

Official response

Local police confirmed that Dilip Bhai died at the Primary Health Center in Kedarnath. His body was scheduled to be transported to Rudraprayag for post-mortem. However, helicopter services were delayed due to inspections by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).

PM Modi campaigns in Bengal on polling day, jabs TMC over 'jhal muri', rakes up infiltration, CAA

Addressing a rally in Krishnanagar, Modi linked high turnout to BJP gains and said citizenship under the CAA would be expedited if the party forms the government in Bengal.

West Bengal.(Agency)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday campaigned in West Bengal as polling for the first phase of Assembly elections were under way, stepping up his attack on the ruling Trinamool Congress (TMC) over infiltration, governance and promising to expedite citizenship under CAA.

Addressing a rally in Krishnanagar, Modi congratulated voters for the turnout, calling it indicative of an "overwhelming mandate for change."

Taking a swipe at the TMC over the 'jhalhuri' episode, Modi said, "I had 'jhalhuri' in Bengal, but it seems that the TMC leaders are feeling the heat of the chillies." "You must wave the flag of the BJP-NDA's victory with full strength. On



May 4, the celebration of the BJP's victory will also take place in Bengal, sweets will also be distributed, and jhal muri will also be handed out. Jhalhuri has also given a thunderous shock to some people. I ate the jhal muri, but the jhal (spice) hit TMC," he added.

Modi sharpened his attack on the TMC over infiltration and governance, accusing it of supporting illegal entrants and fostering "jungleraj".

"Fifteen years ago, people were against the communists. Today, they are standing against the TMC's jungle raj. Oppressors and corrupt people will be held accountable. You know our mantra, 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas'. But the TMC believes in 'Ghuspaithiyon ka sath, Ghuspaithiyon ka vikas'.

'Why have an election?': Sibal slams EC on voter 'disenfranchisement' in West Bengal

Sibal earlier accused CEC Kumar of working in cahoots with BJP to make the party win in Bengal, terming him a "national shame" and stating it is his "vocation" to make sure it emerges victorious.

New Delhi.(Agency)

Former Union law minister and Rajya Sabha MP Kapil Sibal on Thursday launched a scathing attack on the Election Commission, accusing it of carrying out an "experiment in disenfranchisement" in West Bengal and asked "why have an election?".

He also took a swipe at Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, saying he must be awarded with a Padma Bhushan. In a post on X, Sibal said, "Election Commission: (West Bengal Election). Experiment in disenfranchisement. The CEC must be awarded with a Padam Bhushan!" "My question: Why have an election?" Sibal said. West Bengal is voting in the first

phase on Thursday amid an increasingly polarised battle in which issues such as corruption and jobs have ceded space to identity, citizenship and the controversy over deleted names from electoral rolls.

Sibal on Wednesday had accused Kumar of working in cahoots with the BJP to make the party win the West



Bengal elections, saying he is a "national shame" and it is his "vocation" to make sure that the BJP emerges victorious. The Independent Rajya Sabha MP had also come down heavily on the BJP-led Centre and the Election Commission (EC) over the massive deployment.

Finland collaboration begins showing impact as classrooms shift towards joyful, participatory learning in Punjab: CM Mann

The Sikh Times

CHANDIGARH, 23rd April: A collaboration between the Punjab Government, under the leadership of CM Bhagwant Singh Mann, and Finland's University of Turku is beginning to translate into visible changes in classrooms, with teaching practices becoming more interactive and early signs of improved student engagement emerging on the ground. As part of this initiative, teaching is steadily moving away from rote methods towards more joyful and participatory learning approaches. Anchored in Punjab's broader Sikhya Kranti, the programme focuses on adapting global expertise to local classroom contexts while building scale through a structured train-the-trainers model, with nearly 300 teachers will have been trained by May to strengthen foundational learning across the state. During his ongo-

ing official visit to Finland, CM Bhagwant Singh Mann visited the Kukulo-Moikoinen Early Childhood Education and Care Centre. "This initiative is already yielding results by aligning global pedagogical expertise with local classroom realities," said the Chief Minister. CM Bhagwant Singh Mann added, "The partnership, anchored through the State Council of Educational Research and Training under the Department of School Education, seeks to strengthen teacher development in early childhood and foundational education. It is designed not as a short-term intervention but as a long-term institutional effort to embed child-centred and play-based learning in the state's education



"The programme has focused on equipping teachers with research-driven methods while ensuring these approaches are adapted to

Punjab's socio-cultural context," he stated, adding, "Training sessions have been conducted both in Chandigarh and in the Finnish cities of Turku and Rauma, combining workshops, mentoring, and school visits to expose teachers to classroom innovations in practice. By May 2026, close to 300 teachers would have undergone training across four cohorts to benefit students from across Punjab." CM Bhagwant Singh Mann asserted, "The emphasis has been on making learning joyful and participatory, moving away from rote methods towards active engagement. Teachers have also been encouraged to design context-specific projects, supported by mentors, to implement these ideas within their own classrooms. Feedback from the field suggests improvements in student participation and motivation, along with more inclusive classroom environments."

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Toughest test yet for Mamata to crush challenge

This is the first election after the Election Commission of India's controversial Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of rolls resulted in 91 lakh deletions from the list.

KOLKATA.(Agency)

West Bengal is all prepped up for a pulsating contest between Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's Trinamool Congress and the BJP on Thursday when 152 of the total 294 constituencies in the state go to polls in the first of the two-phase elections amid unprecedented security cover.

This is the first election after the Election Commission of India's controversial Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of rolls resulted in 91 lakh deletions from the list.

How it would impact the outcome is anybody's guess. Appellate tribunals added just 139 of the 27 lakh — whose names did not figure in the supplementary rolls — to the list of eligible voters in the first phase.

Of the 152 seats in the first phase, 54 in north Bengal districts of Darjeeling, Kalimpong, Jalpaiguri, Alipurduar, Cooch Behar, North Dinajpur, South Dinajpur and Malda are seen as strongholds of the BJP. The remaining 98 seats in districts like Murshidabad, East Midnapore, West Midnapore, Jhargram, Purulia, Bankura, West Bardhaman and Birbhum, are part of the traditional citadel of the TMC.

The respective strengths of the CPM-led Left Front and the Congress will also be under test. Apart from SIR and anti-incumbency, the TMC faces serious charges like widespread corruption, poor law and order, infiltration and tribal discontent.

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News box

Truck rams into scooter in Gurgaon, teenager and youth die

Gurgaon.(Agency)

Two youths, including a 16-year-old boy and a 21-year-old man, were killed after a speeding container truck hit their scooter near the Pataudi bypass on Sunday evening.

Police said the accident took place around 7.30pm on April 20 when Ayan (16), a resident of Ward 12 and Mustafa (21), a resident of Ward 11 in Pataudi, were heading towards village Narhera on a scooter.

Complainant Dilshad told police that he, along with one of his friends, was riding behind them on a motorcycle. The group had met shortly before and set out together.

As they reached the Pataudi bypass, a container truck coming from the Safenagar side, allegedly being driven at high speed and in a rash manner, hit the scooter.

The impact threw both riders onto the road, causing fatal injuries. The truck driver fled the spot with the vehicle. The scooter was also damaged in the collision.

The injured were taken to the govt hospital in Pataudi, where doctors declared them dead. The bodies were shifted to the mortuary for autopsy and later handed over to the families. A case has been registered against an unidentified driver under sections 281 (rash driving) and 106 (causing death due to negligence) of BNS at Pataudi police station. Police said efforts are underway

Speeding car mows down man near Surajkund, one dead, friend critical

Noida.(Agency)

A 42-year-old daily wage labourer died after a speeding car hit him and his friend from behind near Intezaar Garden in the Surajkund area on Sunday evening, police said. The deceased, identified as Neeraj, had gone to work as a waiter at a wedding function at Lotus Garden along with his friend Gautam, a resident of Nangloi in Delhi. After finishing their shift, the two were walking towards Delhi while looking for transport when the accident occurred around 7pm. According to police, a car approached from the Anangpur Chowk side at high speed and rammed into the duo from behind. Both men sustained serious injuries and were rushed to BK Hospital in Faridabad, where Neeraj succumbed during treatment. "Gautam suffered multiple injuries, including a forehead wound and swelling in the ankle. He was referred to AIIMS Trauma Centre and later shifted to a private hospital in Faridabad. His condition remains serious, and he is currently unfit to give a statement," an investigating officer said. The incident came to light after Neeraj's family, concerned over his absence, traced his whereabouts and approached the police the following day. Based on a complaint filed by his brother, a resident of Nangloi, Surajkund police registered an FIR against an unidentified driver under Sections 106 (death by negligence), 125(a) (endangering life) and 281 (rash driving) of BNS. Police said efforts are underway to identify and apprehend the accused. The body has been kept in the mortuary for postmortem, and further investigation is in progress.

Scooter crashes into cab, 2 school friends without helmets die

Ghaziabad.(Agency)

Two boys died and two others were critically injured after the scooter they were riding — all four minors crammed onto it without helmets — crashed head-on into an Ertiga cab in Indirapuram on Sunday evening.

The collision occurred on Kanawani-Pusta road on Sunday evening when the four school friends were out for a casual ride. The boys were Satyam (13) and Shakib (10), who died during treatment, and Ansh (14) and Piyush alias Golu (11), who suffered grievous injuries. Shakib died late on Sunday night, while Satyam succumbed to his injuries on Monday afternoon. Police said the four boys, all former neighbours from Kanawani village, had gone out on a scooter ridden by Ansh. Though some of their families had later moved to Vasundhara, they continued to study in the same school. Abhishek Srivastava, ACP of Indirapuram, said the crash took place around 7pm on Sunday. "Ansh had left home on the scooter and later picked up his friends one by one. The accident occurred when he was dropping them back," he added. According to police, the scooter was at high speed when Ansh lost control and collided head-on with the cab. "A collision took place between the scooter and the car. It also emerged that the scooter was speeding and Ansh lost control before ramming into the vehicle," the ACP said. Police said the cab driver, Sahil (22), a resident of Loni who works with an online ride service, was returning to Indirapuram after dropping a passenger in Vasundhara.

Police probe how workers' bulk data reached Noida protesters

Noida.(Agency)

Police are looking at the possibility of people beyond the arrested members of workers' group Mazdoor Bigul Dasta being involved in inciting violence during the April 13 industrial labour protest in the city. According to officers involved in the probe, those involved in instigating the violence aimed to disrupt industrial production in Noida for several weeks, forcing companies to halt operations and create pressure on govt to hike wages.

A senior officer said there are several key questions that emerged during the probe, one of which is how so many members were added to the main WhatsApp groups used to mobilise the protests in such quick time. "How did the organisers manage to get so many phone numbers? There were around 800 members in each group. Another point of inquiry is why, despite workers agreeing to revised salary terms on April 10 and 11, certain individuals incited them again near metro stations. We have videos of the speeches," the officer said.

Long-billed dowitcher makes rare stop at Gurgaon wetland, first sighting after 13 years

Gurgaon.(Agency)

A rare migratory shorebird, the long-billed dowitcher, was sighted at Chandu Budhera wetland on Sunday during a routine bird walk. This is possibly the 13th documented occurrence of the species in India. The bird was spotted by a group of around 10 birdwatchers, including Kavi Nanda, Nikhil Devasar, Uday Kiran and Rohit Sharma, who were scanning a shallow water patch for waders. "We initially thought it could be a godwit because of structural similarity, but the completely straight, dark bill (beak) stood out," Nanda said.

He explained that, unlike the commonly seen black-tailed godwit, which has a slightly upturned, dual-coloured bill, this bird showed a straight, entirely dark bill, a key field marker for dowitchers. The identification was further confirmed by its greenish legs, distinguishing it from the Asian dowitcher. The bird was seen feeding alongside other waders, including ruffs, and only a single bird was spotted.



Birders said this is the first confirmed sighting in the city in over a decade. "The species was last recorded in Haryana in Sonapat in July 2020, and earlier at

Sultanpur National Park in March 2013," said Pankaj Gupta, adding that recent inputs also point to a sighting at Maguri Beel in Assam earlier this year.

Experts believe the bird is likely on reverse migration. "At this time, many birds are heading back to their breeding grounds in Siberia and Central Asia. This individual was probably stopping over to refuel," Nanda said. The long-billed dowitcher typically breeds in Siberia and winters in North America, making its presence in India unusual. Birders say such vagrancy (migratory birds straying from their usual routes and appearing in unexpected places) may occur when individuals mix with flocks of other migratory species.

The species was also reported earlier this year from Maguri Beel in Assam, where an individual was observed for nearly a month, indicating sporadic, rare appearances along migratory pathways.

Birdwatchers said the sighting underscores the ecological importance of wetlands like Chandu Budhera as critical stopover habitats, even as urban pressure continues to fragment such

Gurgaon at 41°C, Faridabad hottest at 42.9°C, heatwave to intensify

Gurgaon.(Agency)

The city recorded a maximum temperature of 41°C on Tuesday, a notch higher than Monday's 40°C, while Faridabad logged the state's highest reading at 42.9°C despite a 0.4°C dip in the state's average maximum temperature. The city's minimum temperature was 23.5°C on Tuesday, a slight rise from Monday's 22°C. IMD has forecast a 3-5°C rise in maximum temperatures over the next five to six days. At present, heatwave conditions are expected at isolated places in Haryana till April 24, along with warm night conditions in some areas. Bhiwani recorded a maximum temperature of 42.5°C and Narnaul 42°C, while Sirsa also touched 41°C. Hisar (39.6°C) and Karnal (39.5°C) remained just below 40°C, pointing to widespread heat stress. Overall, temperatures are around 1.8°C

above normal, IMD data shows. The Met department said dry weather is likely to persist over the next five days, with only isolated light rain expected later in the week. A fresh western disturbance may affect the western Himalayan region from April 23, but its impact over Haryana is expected to be limited. With both day and night temperatures rising, officials warned of increasing heat stress, particularly in urban centres like Gurgaon and Faridabad, where built-up areas tend to retain heat. A heatwave is declared when the maximum temperature crosses 40°C and is at least 4.5°C above normal. If the departure exceeds 6.4°C, it is classified as a severe heatwave. Doctors in Delhi-NCR are already seeing a surge in heat-related illnesses. According to Dr Shivanshu Raj Goyal, associate director and unit head, pulmonology, respiratory and sleep

medicine at Max Hospital, "Cases have risen by over 20% in the past week, driven by high temperatures, dry winds and lack of overnight relief. Patients are reporting dehydration, exhaustion, vomiting, dizziness, fainting, abdominal pain and, in severe cases, heatstroke. While many are treated on an outpatient basis, hospitalisations are rising among outdoor workers, the elderly and children."

Doctors advise residents to stay hydrated, avoid stepping out between 11 am and 4 pm, wear light cotton clothing and use protective gear like hats and sunglasses. Keeping indoor spaces cool and avoiding heavy or greasy food can also help. In case of symptoms such as dizziness, nausea or high body temperature, immediate cooling and hydration are critical, and medical help should be sought if the condition does not improve.

Rusted height barrier comes crashing down near Botanical Garden metro station

NOIDA.(Agency)

An old and rusted height restriction barrier outside the Botanical Garden metro station collapsed on Monday. Noida Authority has since placed it on the road parallel to the central verge.

This stretch is a vital link on Dabri-Surajpur-Chhalera Road, connecting Sector 37 and Bhangel to GIP Mall and sectors 16 and 18. It handles a dense flow of vehicles throughout the day, including cars, auto-rickshaws, bike taxis and delivery fleets. The collapse has once again stirred concerns over commuter safety on one of the city's busiest arterial stretches. Originally installed by Noida Authority in coordination with the traffic police a few years ago to restrict the entry of heavy vehicles on this stretch. Buses and trucks are required to divert left, pass through the Botanical Garden metro station's parking area, and rejoin the main road near the multilevel parking. Commuters allege that the structure has been in a state of disrepair

for months. Instead of replacing the barrier, the Authority has simply repaired it.

"The barrier had been deteriorating for a



long time. It was rusted and broken at multiple joints. It has collapsed at least two to three times. Each time, workers carry out shoddy repairs and reinstall it," a regular commuter on the route, Gaurav Kumar, said. "These fixes have failed to address the underlying structural weakness." Echoing similar concerns, a bike taxi driver operating near the metro

station stressed the urgency of permanent intervention. "If the Authority reinstalls that rusted barrier again and it recollapses onto a moving vehicle or a pedestrian, it would be a serious accident. It needs to be replaced now," he said.

The Authority CEO Krishna Karunesh has asked officials to inspect the site and take necessary measures at the earliest.

A TOI report published in June last year pointed out the dilapidated state of both the height barriers installed on DSC Road — one near the Botanical Garden metro station and another close to the GIP Mall. In March last year, a height barrier near DLF Mall of India's west gate was damaged after reportedly being hit by a heavy vehicle. Most of the height barriers across the city have corroded frames and jagged metal edges that pose a threat to two-wheelers and auto-rickshaws. The absence of reflectors or adequate lighting makes them nearly invisible at night, compounding the danger.

Gurgaon right-of-way cleanup: 'Illegal extensions squeezed roads so much even 2 cars couldn't pass'

Ghaziabad.(Agency)

In several colonies, roads meant for free movement had been squeezed by years of illegal lawns, ramps, grills, guard rooms and boundary extensions to the point that even two cars could not pass together on some stretches. The shrinking of public space and right of way — repeated across internal roads, green belts and footpaths — actually triggered a demolition drive that entered its fourth day on Tuesday, with the town and country planning department clearing fresh encroachments across eight licensed colonies. The crackdown, one of the city's biggest in recent years, follows a Punjab and Haryana high court stay on Haryana's stilt-plus-four-floor policy and a state order asking agencies to clear right-of-way violations by April 22. Officials said the exercise is aimed at reclaiming public land that had steadily disappeared under unchecked extensions. "A 11 encroachments within the right of way — from 9 metres to 24 metres — have to be cleared in a time-bound manner before April 22. In several places, residents had pushed grills and structures so far into the road that the carriageway was severely compromised. After the removals, roads have visibly opened up," district town planner (enforcement) Amit Madholia said. Three days of demolitions have also

begun to produce a second effect — voluntary compliance. In parts of Sushant Lok-1 and DLF Phase 2, residents started dismantling illegal extensions after appeals by RWAs and warnings from officials. In Sushant Lok-1's D Block, residents of nearly 250 houses began clearing projections, while in Maple Block, most households removed illegal structures by evening. In DLF Phase 2, around 350 houses shifted planters, removed grills and cleared extended portions before teams arrived. Officials said the "cooperation" reduced the need for coercive action, but warned that the campaign would continue across all licensed colonies. "This is not a one-off exercise. Residents were given time to remove violations voluntarily. But in places where there was no compliance, enforcement became necessary. There will be no relaxation for repeat violations," Madholia said. Residents expressed mixed reactions to the drive. While most agreed that encroachments had steadily narrowed internal roads and made movement difficult, some questioned the manner in which the demolition was carried out. "This has been completely arbitrary. We were given no proper time to respond, and suddenly bulldozers showed up and demolished structures that have existed for years. If

these were illegal, why did authorities allow them to come up in the first place? It feels selective and unfair. Residents are the ones bearing the loss," said Rohit Malhotra, a resident of DLF Phase 2. Others said the action was necessary but poorly executed. "Encroachments had become a real problem. Roads were getting too narrow and movement was difficult. But the way this has been carried out is harsh. Some notice and a phased approach would have helped. While the intent seems right, the execution has caused inconvenience and confusion for many families," said Neha Arora, a resident of South City 1. On Tuesday, the drive in DLF Phase 2 covered M Block, Akashneem Marg, parts of L and L Extension, Cassia Marg and Q Block, where around 800-900 houses were inspected. Officials said more than 250 illegal lawns and railings were removed, over 80 guard rooms demolished and hundreds of smaller violations cleared. In South City 1 and Greenwood City, teams cleared encroachments along a 13km stretch, removing around 70 shopfront ramps and extensions, 29 guard rooms, eight tin sheds and 12 temporary structures, besides demolishing ramps, grills and staircases outside 40 houses. At Palam Vihar, boundary walls and fencing were removed from nearly 150 houses in

Block A, along with 16 guard rooms. In Sushant Lok-2, teams cleared a 12km road network, removing ramps, guard rooms, DG sets placed on public land, boundary walls and encroachments on green areas.

THE SIKH TIMES

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

Printed at Quami Patrika Printing
Press, A-4/A-144, Tronica City
(Loni), Ghaziabad (Uttar Pradesh)

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RNI No. DELENG/2008/25465

Gurugram-Noida style mega city in Hathras: YEIDA to acquire 4,000 hectares across 358 villages for 'New Hathras'

The Sikh Times

Gurugram: Gurugram and Noida-like cosmopolitan urban hub is set to take shape in Uttar Pradesh's Hathras, with the Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority (YEIDA) planning a massive high-tech city spanning up to 4,000 hectares and covering land from 358 villages across Sadar, Sadabad and Sarni tehsils has been earmarked for acquisition and planned development. The city will be developed in phases over the next 5 to 10 years, with a detailed master plan currently being prepared under YEIDA's broader Master Plan 2041 vision. The proposed urban node will not just be residential but a fully integrated economic hub.

Authorities plan to position Hathras as a major centre for dairy, textile and brass boost employment and attract industrial investment in western Uttar Pradesh.



industries, along with MSME clusters, logistics hubs and manufacturing units. The project is expected to significantly

Dedicated Freight Corridor (DFC), NH-93, SH-33 and key railway lines via Hathras Junction, ensuring seamless access to Noida, Agra and the wider NCR. Proposed integration with future infrastructure such as a bullet train corridor further strengthens its long-term potential. The master plan will include modern road networks, public transport systems, industrial zones, IT parks, educational institutions, green spaces and smart civic infrastructure including water, power and drainage systems. Officials say the project is designed to address existing gaps in Hathras—such as weak last-mile connectivity, limited healthcare and poor urban amenities—while creating a self-sustained smart city ecosystem. Once completed, "New Hathras" is expected to emerge as a key satellite city within the Yamuna Expressway growth corridor, mirroring the rapid urbanisation seen in Gurugram and Noida, and marking a new chapter in Uttar Pradesh's industrial and urban expansion.

Video of stray dog handling at Delhi Airport sparks outrage

New Delhi: Authorities at Indira Gandhi International Airport are facing backlash after a video from Terminal 1 allegedly showing cruelty towards a stray dog went viral on social media. The visuals show a dog with its paws tied while a staff member appears to pin its neck with a stick during removal from the airport premises. The incident triggered outrage online, with many users accusing airport staff of inhumane treatment. According to airport sources, the dog had bitten two flyers earlier this week, prompting action. Officials further claimed that 31 dog bite cases have been reported across all three terminals of IGIA since January 1,



raising concerns over passenger safety. In response, Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL) issued a statement defending its handling of community dogs at the airport. "Several community dogs live across the three terminals and are being regularly cared for and fed by our team, strictly following veterinary-prescribed guidelines to ensure their health and balanced behaviour," the statement said. DIAL clarified that the brown dog seen in the video had shown signs of aggression after biting two individuals. "The dog has been carefully handled, calmed, and gently returned to its familiar area. Our approach remains rooted in care, safety and responsible management," it added. The airport operator also urged flyers and visitors not to feed or engage with stray dogs in public areas, warning that such actions may unintentionally provoke them. Highlighting the rising number of bite cases, DIAL said ensuring safety for both people and animals required collective responsibility.

ED arrests Al Falah Group Chairman in 2nd PMLA case

New Delhi: The Faridabad-located university came under scrutiny during the probe into a 'white-collar' terror module linked to the November 10, 2025, Red Fort area blast. File The Enforcement Directorate on Friday said it has again arrested Al Falah Group Chairman Jawad Ahmad Siddiqui in a new money laundering case linked to "fraudulent" acquisition of a Rs 45 crore worth land in Delhi. The 61-year-old was first arrested by the federal probe agency in November 2025 in a different money laundering case linked to the alleged cheating of students of his educational institutions by misrepresenting the accreditation and recognition of his institutions. The Faridabad-located university (Haryana) came under scrutiny during the probe



into a 'white-collar' terror module linked to the November 10, 2025, Red Fort area blast in which 15 people were killed. One of the doctors at the varsity-cum-hospital, Dr Umar-un-Nabi, is alleged to be the suicide bomber in this case. He died when he was driving an explosive-laden car that day. Siddiqui was taken into custody on March 24 from the Tihar jail, where he is lodged in judicial cus-

today in the previous ED and Delhi Police case, officials said. Rs 1,000 fine for dog owner if pet found without leash on street under proposed DMC Act revision' He was produced before the special Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) located in Saket (south Delhi) the next day and he was sent to ED custody till April 4, the agency said in a statement. Probe found that "forged" documents

were prepared and used for fraudulent acquisition of land, and Siddiqui, director and majority shareholder of Tarbia Education Foundation, connived with some individuals and orchestrated the fabrication. The 1.14-acre land is located at 'Khasra No. 792' in Madanpur Khadar village of the national capital, and it is valued at Rs 45 crore,

as per the ED. The agency said the consideration amount (for the purchase of the land) in the documents was Rs 75 lakh. Efforts are on to trace the complete money trail and identify other beneficiaries and properties acquired

Autrickshaw driver killed during robbery in Delhi

New Delhi: An autorickshaw driver was stabbed to death and his vehicle stolen during a robbery near Minto Road in central Delhi, with police arresting three accused after a manhunt that tracked their movement across Delhi and Haryana, an official said on Thursday. The incident was reported at around 5:30 am on April 5, when a PCR called alerted police about an injured man lying near the Shivaji Park bus stand. A police team rushed to the spot and found an unidentified male lying unconscious in a pool of blood on the roadside, with multiple stab injuries on his neck and chest. The victim was shifted to the LNJP Hospital, where doctors declared him brought dead. A medical examination confirmed multiple stab wounds to the chest

and anterior neck region. A case was registered at the Kamla Market police station and a probe launched. A joint team relied on a combination of CCTV footage analysis, technical surveillance and local intelligence to identify and track the accused. "Extensive scrutiny of CCTV cameras revealed that five men had boarded the victim's autorickshaw near the Nizamuddin railway station on the intervening night of April 4 and 5. Their movement was traced through multiple locations across Delhi, Faridabad and Palwal," the officer said.

PUBLIC NOTICE
NOTICE is hereby given to public at large on behalf of my client. Mrs. Promita in respect of Built-Up Property No. C-29/1, area measuring 20 sq. yds. or 16.72 sq. mtrs., Out of Khasra no. 474, Khatori no. 16/19, Situated at Village Ghonda, Gujran Khadar, in the abadi of C-Block, Gali no. 1/2, Bhajanpura, Ilaqa Shahdara, Delhi-110053, claiming to have undisputed ownership. Now my client intends sell the property and in SMFG India Home Finance Company Limited will provide the financial assistance. 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 Seven 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.
Khaitan & Khaitan
Plot No. 100, 1st floor Okhla Phase III, New Delhi Ph. No: 011-49774545

NAME CHANGE
I, KANAHIYA LAL S/O DORI LAL R/O HOUSE NO-1404, 1ST FLOOR U/F OLD NO-C-482, WAZIR NAGAR, KOTLA MUBARAKPUR, SOUTH DELHI, DELHI-110003, HAD PREVIOUSLY MY NAME TO KANAHIYA LAL GUPTA S/O DORI LAL GUPTA FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSES

PUBLIC NOTICE
Be it known to all concerned that my client I, Rajni Verma W/o Late Ramesh Verma R/O House No. 58, A Block, Ram Datt Enclave, Uttam Nagar, New Delhi-110059. I have severed up all my relations with effect from 23.04.2026 with my son named Rahul Verma S/O Late Ramesh Verma and his wife namely Nisha Yadav in all respects. My client do hereby disown and disinherit my aforesaid son and his wife from all their moveable and immovable properties, Bank Locker and Pension. My client shall not be responsible for any act whatsoever done by them.

NAME CHANGE
I, SHIV CHARAN SHARMA son of MALIK SHARMA, residing at 2523/8, Second Floor, Flat No.202, Vijay Plaza Building, Beadon Pura, Karol Bagh, Central Delhi, Delhi-110005, have changed the name of my minor son MANJEET SHARMA, aged 7 years and he shall hereafter be known as ANKIT SHARMA.
NAME CHANGE
I hitherto known as ISHWAR SINGH alias ISHWAR SINGH SEHRAWAT S/O BEGRAJ R/O 307, Manohar Panna Kair, South West Delhi, Delhi-110043, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as ISHWAR SINGH SEHRAWAT.

NAME CHANGE
I hitherto known as MANISH W/O BHIKAM SINGH R/O H NOS53/153A, Block-S-53, Gandhi Camp, SNP, Srinivaspuri, Dist: South Delhi, Delhi-110065 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as MANISHA S/O BEGRAJ R/O 307, Manohar Panna Kair, South West Delhi, Delhi-110043, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as ISHWAR SINGH SEHRAWAT.

NAME CHANGE
I, Ashok Kumar Arora S/O Late Sh. Chandan Arora, (Aadhar No. 2749-9474-9143) R/O L-16, Gali No. 14, New Mahaveer Nagar, Tiak Nagar, West Delhi-110018, aged about 74 years, do hereby solemnly affirm and declare as under:
1. That I am a citizen of India and presently residing at the above-mentioned address.
2. That I am unmarried throughout my life and I have no legal heir.
3. That I am mentally and physically fit and competent to take my own decisions.
4. That I am residing with Sh. Dheeraj Sethi, S/O Sh. Dharamvir Sethi, R/O L-16, Gali No. 14, New Mahaveer Nagar, Tiak Nagar, West Delhi-110018, for the last 12 months out of my own free will, and neither Sh. Dheeraj Sethi nor his family has exercised any force, pressure, coercion or created any fear upon me. I am residing with them voluntarily and by my own choice.
5. That I have sold and transferred my property bearing No. F-25/1-A, also known as T/W-196, (Aadhar No. 3, Vinodler Nagar, Delhi-110018) measuring 100 Sq. Yds, to Sh. Dheeraj Sethi and his wife Smt. Meenu Sethi out of my own free will and consent, without any fear, pressure, coercion, undue influence or threat from any person.
6. That I have received the full and lawful sale consideration for the said property to my complete satisfaction.
7. That if any person, including any of my relatives, lodges any missing complaint or any other complaint regarding me in any police station or authority in India, the same shall be without my consent and knowledge, and I state that such complaint shall be treated as null and void.
8. That if any of my relatives or any other person raises any objection, claim or dispute in respect of the said property, the same shall be treated as null and void, and I have sold the said property voluntarily out of my own free will and consent.
9. That this declaration is being made voluntarily to confirm the above facts for legal purposes.

NAME CHANGE
I, hitherto known as DEEPAK S/O KISHAN KUMAR R/O 113A, Block-A, OM Vihar Phase-5 Uttam Nagar, PO: D.K Mohan Garden, DIST: West Delhi, Delhi-110059 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as DEEPAK KOLI.
NAME CHANGE
I, hitherto known as PANKAJ S/O KISHAN KUMAR R/O 113A, Block-A, OM Vihar Phase-5 Uttam Nagar, PO: D.K Mohan Garden, DIST: West Delhi, Delhi-110059 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as PANKAJ KOLI.

NAME CHANGE
I, KUSAM LATA W/O KAILASH CHANDER R/O E-2172A, GALI NO 4 SHASTRI NAGAR N.W DELHI 110052, CHANGED MY NAME TO KUSUM LATA.
NAME CHANGE
I, SUDHIR KUMAR VEDI S/O MANOHAR LAL VEDI R/O B-1/182, VISHNU GARDEN TILAKNAGAR DELHI 110018, CHANGED MY NAME TO SUDHIR KUMAR.
NAME CHANGE
I hitherto known as Upendra Pal S/O, Matadeen Pal, R/O 141, Gali No-7C Block, Vikas Kunj, Loni, PO: Loni, DIST: Ghazibaad, Uttar Pradesh - 201102, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Surendar Kumar.

NAME CHANGE
I, Sharmistha W/O Swapn Kundu, H.NO-30/D, South Delhi, Delhi, 110017 L-BLOCK, SAKET, Malviya Nagar S.O, South Delhi - 110017 have changed my name Sarmita Kundu for all future purposes.
NAME CHANGE
I, Komal W/o Vipin Bhardwaj R/O H. No. R-761, Gali No.-2, A, Swatantra Nagar, Narela, PO: Narela, DIST: North West Delhi, Delhi-110040 have changed my name Komal Sharma for all future purposes.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Be it known to all that my client Neph Neph S/O Netralpal R/O H.No.1192, Gautampuri, PH-1, Delhi-110044 had disowned/debarred to his both sons and their wife namely Vivek and his wife Seema and Vikrant and his wife Rakhi via news paper publication i.e. The Financial Express & Janasatta on dated 11.03.2026. My client now revoke the disownment to both sons and their wife namely Vivek and his wife Seema and Vikrant and his wife Rakhi restore & rights in all their moveable-immovable properties and assets with them.
[ASHWANI KUMAR]
Advocate
Chamber No. 122, Tehsil Compound, Ghazibaad, U.P.
kumar2021asthwan@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given by Mrs. Puspaa who is owner of PID - 1CDD9NK2, Khasra no 1171/1, Gali no 3, waka siwana mauja, Gurgaon gaon, Hall colony, Baldev nagar, Tehsil & district Gurgaon, Haryana vide Sale Deed dated 04.08.2025 which is registered as Vide regd. doc. no. 5487, book no. 1, vol. no. 130/3246, pages 13/75/82-86, dated 04.08.2025, SR-Gurgaon and will be taking financial assistance from Truhome Finance Limited. That the Original Sale Deed dated 14.02.2008 executed by Mrs. Savita Devi in favour of Mr. Uday Singh in respect of said property as Vide Doc No. 26296, Book No. 1, Vol No. 9753/832, Pages No. 14/15-64, dated 14.02.2008, SRO- Gurgaon. & Original Sale Deed dated 24.05.2010 executed by Mr. Uday Singh in favour of Mrs. Babita in respect of said property as Vide Doc No. 4867, Book No. 1, Vol No. 9753/832, Pages No. 140/52-53, dated 24.05.2010, SRO- Gurgaon. & Original Sale Deed dated 02.02.2011 executed by Mrs. Babita in favour of Mrs. Shama Kumari in respect of said property as Vide Doc No. 30614, Book No. 1, Pages No. 140/52-53, dated 02.02.2011, SRO- Gurgaon & Original Sale Deed dated 25.05.2011 executed by Mrs. Shama Kumari in respect of said property as Vide Doc No. 4823, Book No. 1, Vol No. 1307, Pages No. 5/1-4, dated 25.05.2011, SRO- Gurgaon & Original Sale Deed dated 23.07.2013 executed by Mrs. Renu in favour of Mrs. Reeta Rani Gaba in respect of said property as Vide Doc No. 9887, Book No. 1, Vol No. 13046/3036, Pages No. 67/21-22, dated 23.07.2013, SRO- Gurgaon are lost/Misplaced. Public is being warned not to deal with the said documents in writing or to sign the said document without do so at their own risk & responsibility. Owner shall not be liable in any manner whatsoever for any loss incurred by this document or notice any misuse of the above mentioned document. Concern person is required to communicate in writing to the undersigned at below address.
Khaitan & Khaitan
Plot No. 100, 1st floor Okhla Phase III, New Delhi Ph. No: 011-49774545

NAME CHANGE
I, Sanjay Afaria S/O Karan Singh R/O Flat No. 411, Sardogha Apartment Plot No 13, Sector -7, Dwarka, Dwarka Sec-6, Dwarka Sec-6, Delhi Cantonment, South West Delhi, Delhi -110075, have changed the name of my minor Son Samrat Rao aged 15 years and he shall hereafter be known as Sammrat Afaria

NAME CHANGE
I, YOGESH KUMAR S/O SHEETAL PRASAD VERMA R/O 245/30, G1, SCHOOL BLOCK, MANDAWALI, DELHI-110092 have changed my name to YOGESH KUMAR VERMA for all future purpose.
NAME CHANGE
I, SHEETAL PRASAD S/O BAIGNATH VERMA R/O 245/30, G1, SCHOOL BLOCK, MANDAWALI, DELHI-110092 have changed my name to SHEETAL PRASAD VERMA for all future purpose.
NAME CHANGE
I, PRAVEEN VERMA S/O MAHAVER PARSAD VERMA residing at HOUSE NO-50, PHASE-2, VASUNDHRA RESIDENCY, NEAR MG WORLD VISION SCHOOL, MUZAFFARNAGAR, UTTAR PRADESH-251001 Have changed my name to PRAVEEN KUMAR VERMA for all future purposes.
NAME CHANGE
I, GAURA BAI, is legally mother of Army No. 2810279L, Rank - Hav, Name - SANTOSH NARAYAN VADDEBALKAR, presently residing at Vill - Garlunji, Post - Garlunji, Teh - Khanapur, Dist - Belgaum, State - Karnataka, Pin - 591302, have changed my name from GAURA BAI to GOURABAI NARAYAN VADDEBALKAR and date of birth from 15/07/1965 to 01/01/1958 for all future purposes. Vide affidavit dated 08/04/2026 before Public Notary Delhi.

NAME CHANGE
I, Divya Chawla W/o Puneet Kumar R/O House no. 7/3, Indra Vikas Colony, Dr. Mukherjee Nagar, North West Delhi, Delhi - 110009 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Divya Purnyanti
NAME CHANGE
I, PRADEEP KUMAR S/O MANOHAR LAL MAGGON R/O H.No.1157, Sector-2, Rohtak, Haryana-124001, have changed my name to PRADEEP KUMAR MAGGON permanently.
NAME CHANGE
I, REKHA w/o Amrsh Kumar R/o 11/3, First Floor, Subhash Nagar, New Delhi-110027, have changed my name to REKHA VAID permanently
NAME CHANGE
It is for general information that I, Afshan Siddiqui W/o Ajiaz Khan and M/o Mohd Azaan R/O H.NO. P-233, 3RD FLOOR, Gali No.-2, Sailing Club Road, Batta House, Jamia Nagar, Okhla, New Delhi-110025, declare that my name was wrongly mentioned Afshan Khan in my son's 10th and 12th class certificate, where as my correct name is Afshan Siddiqui used for all purposes.

NAME CHANGE
I, PAWAN KUMAR S/o Pappu Asawar R/o M/Q-399, CWS Colony, India Market, Jayant Gopad Banas, Sindh, Sangrauli, Madya Pradesh-486090, have changed my name to PAWAN KUMAR ASAWAR permanently
NAME CHANGE
I, S M ABU KAISH S/O S M FAIZ Residing at H NO-F-137, F-Block, New SEELAMPUR, NORTH EAST DELHI 110053 have changed my name to SYED MOHAMMAD ABU KAISH for all future purpose.
NAME CHANGE
I REHANA W/O MOHD AKRAM Residing at H.no.12A/8D, A-block, vijay mohalla, maujpur, north east delhi -110053 Have changed my name to REHANA PARVEEN for all future purpose
NAME CHANGE
I, MOHAMMAD TAUSEF W/O AKRIM ANSARI S/O ABDUL HAKIM Hno.12A/8D A-block, vijay mohalla, maujpur, north east delhi -110053 Have changed my name to MOHD AKRAM for all future purpose.
NAME CHANGE
I, MOHAMMAD WASEEM R/O SINGHI KALAN, ARRAR, BHOJPUR, BIHAR-802301, have changed my name to MD TAUSEF WASI.

NAME CHANGE
I, KANAIYA LAL S/O DORI LAL R/O HOUSE NO-1404, 1ST FLOOR U/F OLD NO-C-482, WAZIR NAGAR, KOTLA MUBARAKPUR, SOUTH DELHI, DELHI-110003, HAD PREVIOUSLY MY NAME TO KANAHIYA LAL GUPTA S/O DORI LAL GUPTA FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSES

NAME CHANGE
I, KANAIYA LAL S/O DORI LAL R/O HOUSE NO-1404, 1ST FLOOR U/F OLD NO-C-482, WAZIR NAGAR, KOTLA MUBARAKPUR, SOUTH DELHI, DELHI-110003, HAD PREVIOUSLY MY NAME TO KANAHIYA LAL GUPTA S/O DORI LAL GUPTA FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSES

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NAME CHANGE
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NAME CHANGE
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NAME CHANGE
I, KANAIYA LAL S/O DORI LAL R/O HOUSE NO-1404, 1ST FLOOR U/F OLD NO-C-482, WAZIR NAGAR, KOTLA MUBARAKPUR, SOUTH DELHI, DELHI-110003, HAD PREVIOUSLY MY NAME TO KANAHIYA LAL GUPTA S/O DORI LAL GUPTA FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSES

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NAME CHANGE
I, Pinki Devi W/O: Veer Singh, R/O chiplyana khurd, tigr, Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh - 201301, have changed the name of my minor son Rishank aged 9 years and he shall hereafter be known as Ishang.

NAME CHANGE
I hitherto known as TUSHAR KAUNDIYA alias NARAYAN TUSHAR KAUNDIYA S/O SURENDRA PAL SHARMA residing at USB -288, Chander Vihar, Mandawali, East Delhi, Delhi 110092 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as NARAYAN TUSHAR KAUNDIYA.

NAME CHANGE
It is for general information that I, ARUN KUMAR SHARMA S/O INDERJEET SHARMA, Residing at 1/4628, Gali No.-13, Balbir Nagar Extension, Delhi - 110032 declare that the name of my wife has been wrongly written as RITU SHARMA alias REKHA SHARMA in my Service Record. The actual name of my wife is RITU SHARMA, which may be amended accordingly.

NAME CHANGE
I, hitherto known as MUKESH DEVI W/O KULDEEP R/O H-20, 5th FLOOR, H-BLOCK, POKHETA-4, DWARKA, SECTOR-16B, POKHAKOLA, DIST-SOUTH WEST DELHI, DELHI-110078, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as MUKESH KUMARI.

NAME CHANGE
It is for general information that I, RAJENDER PRASAD VIJARANIA S/O BALWANT SINGH, R/O C-347, SARASWATI VIHAR, PITAMPURA, NORTH WEST DELHI, DELHI-110034, declare that name of my mine and my wife has been wrongly written as RAJENDER PRASAD and KRISHNA in my PPO NO-684471001575. The actual name of my mine and my wife are RAJENDER PRASAD VIJARANIA and KRISHNA VIJARANIA, which may be amended accordingly.

NAME CHANGE
I, hitherto known as PANKAJ S/O UTTAM CHAND R/O H-1055, GALI HEERA NAND, MALIWARA, CHANDNI CHOWK, NORTH DELHI, DELHI-110006 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as PANKAJ JAIN.

NAME CHANGE
I, K KOTESWARAMMA mother of No-2615866W, Rank-NK, Name-KANDULA V S NAGESWARA RAO Residing at VPO-APPAPURAM, TEH-NADENDLA, DIST-GUNTUR, ANDHRA PRADESH-522611, have changed my name from K KOTESWARAMMA to KANDULA KOTESWARAMMA for all future purposes, in my son's service record my date of birth wrongly mentioned as 01/01/1971 instead of my correct date of birth as 01/01/1968 vide Affidavit dated 23/04/2026 before Notary Public, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE
I, KANDULA VENKATESWARLU father of No-2615866W Rank-NK Name-KANDULA V S NAGESWARA RAO, Residing at VPO-APPAPURAM, TEH-NADENDLA, DIST-GUNTUR, ANDHRA PRADESH-522611, in my son's service records my date of birth wrongly mentioned as 01/01/1962 instead of my correct date of birth as 01/01/1959 vide affidavit dated 23/04/2026 before Notary Public, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE
It is for general information that I, KAJAL ARORA D/O VIJAY KUMAR ARORA R/O 9/3463, Gali No-3, Dharm Pura, Gandhi Nagar, East Delhi, Delhi-110031 declare that name of mine, my father and my mother has been wrongly written as KAJAL, VIJAY ARORA and ASHA in my 10th class educational documents. The actual name of mine, my father and my mother are KAJAL, VIJAY KUMAR ARORA and ASHA RANI ARORA respectively which may be amended accordingly.

NAME CHANGE
I, hitherto known as RAMOD S/O BALAJI R/O N-207/759 Jailer Wala Bagh, Ashok Vihar, North West Delhi, Delhi-110052 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as AVADHU.

NAME CHANGE
I, Sushila Devi W/o Sh. Raushan Kumar R/o Ranipur Tola, Vishunapur, Ranipur Po Ranipur, Dist. Nalanda Bihar-801301 inform that Minor son IRFAN Actual Name Abhay Kumar in Aadhar card name wrongly written as IRFAN instead of Abhay Kumar and IRFAN. both are one and same person.

NAME CHANGE
I, hitherto known as DEEPAK S/O KISHAN KUMAR R/O 113A, Block-A, OM Vihar Phase-5 Uttam Nagar, PO: D.K Mohan Garden, DIST: West Delhi, Delhi-110059 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as DEEPAK KOLI.

NAME CHANGE
I, hitherto known as PANKAJ S/O KISHAN KUMAR R/O 113A, Block-A, OM Vihar Phase-5 Uttam Nagar, PO: D.K Mohan Garden, DIST: West Delhi, Delhi-110059 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as PANKAJ KOLI.

NORTHERN RAILWAY CORRIGENDUM
Ref: Tender Notice No. 76/2025-2026 dated 02.01.2026
(i). Tender No. 15255237 due on 05.05.2026
(ii). In reference to above tender, the due date has been extended from 21.04.2026 to 05.05.2026. All other terms and conditions remain unchanged.
(iii). In reference to above tender, Four new documents has been added
The corrigendum has been published on website www.ireps.gov.in.
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 1336/26

FORTH COMING E-AUCTION SCHEDULE FOR SALE OF SCRAP LOT
The E-Auction schedule for sale of scrap Lot through e-auction under the jurisdiction of Rangiya Division depot for the month of May/2026 has been fixed as per following details:-

SN	Month/year	Auction Schedule No	Auction Start Date/Time
1	May/2026	NFRFRY30N202604	08-05-2026/11:00:00
2	May/2026	NFRFRY30N202605	20-05-2026/11:00:00
3	May/2026	NFRFRY30N202606	29-05-2026/11:00:00

Interested bidders are advised to bid through IREPS website www.ireps.gov.in for registration, training, participation in e-auction.
Dy. Chief Material Manager/Pandu

NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
The Principal Chief Mechanical Engineer, Northern Railway, Baroda House for and on behalf of President of India invites sealed tender on "Two Packet System" for following work from experienced and capable tenders.

Sl	Name of work : Supply, Installation and Commissioning (on turnkey basis) of CNC Under floor Wheel Lathe at Coaching Depot/Ayodhya Cantt and Coaching Depot/Prayagraj Sangam of LKO Division, CNC Portal Wheel Lathe at ROH Depot/Ambala and ROH Depot/Khanalampura of Ambala Division, CNC Surface Wheel Lathe at Mechanical Workshop/Amritsar and Wagon Care Centre/Tughlakabad
2	Work Place : Northern Railway
3	Period of Work : 12 months
4	Approximate cost of work : Rs. 60,58,03,408.02/- (inclusive GST@18%)
5	Earnest money in favour of FA&CAO, Northern Railway, New Delhi : Rs. 1,21,16,100/-
6	Cost of the tender form : Nil
7	Availability of tender documents : Website www.ireps.gov.in
8	Date and time of availability of tender documents : From 17.04.2026 to 08.05.2026
9	Date and time of tender closing : 08.05.2026 at 15:00 Hrs.
10	Date and time of tender opening : 08.05.2026 at 15:00 Hrs. If the date of opening happens to be a holiday the tender shall be opened on the next working day.
11	Place for opening of tender : Northern Railway Headquarter Office, Baroda House, New Delhi.

No. 582-M/155/NR-2026-WT-CNC Wheel Lathes Date: 20.04.2026 1348/2026
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

NEWS BOX

At least 10 killed in Pakistan mining project attack

QUETTA. (Agency)

A group of militants killed at least 10 people at a copper and gold mining project in Pakistan's southwestern Balochistan province, officials said on Thursday, the latest violence in a region facing an armed separatist movement. About 40 militants on motorcycles and other vehicles stormed the mining project site of Pakistani company National Resources Private Limited (NRL) in the Darigwan area of Chagai district on Wednesday. "The attack left ten people dead, including seven workers and three security personnel," a local administration official told AFP on condition of anonymity as he was not authorised to speak to the media. "There are unconfirmed reports that militants also took some employees hostage," he added. A local police official, also speaking on condition of anonymity, confirmed the details of the attack to AFP. The company acknowledged the attack late Wednesday, saying security forces responded "promptly and have secured the area." No group claimed responsibility, but local ethnic separatist groups have intensified their attacks in the region in recent years, including on mining projects.

Pakistan's poorest province and largest by landmass, Balochistan lags behind the rest of the country in almost every index, including education, employment and economic development. Baloch separatists accuse Pakistan's government of exploiting the province's natural gas and abundant mineral resources without benefiting the local population. The Baloch Liberation Army (BLA), the province's most active armed separatist group, in February launched a string of coordinated attacks across the region that killed more than 190 people.

Separatists have in the past killed workers based on their ethnicity, targeting ethnic Punjabis and Sindhis and accusing them of being outsiders to the province.

A look at China's behind-the-scenes role in Iran war diplomacy

BANGKOK. (Agency)

China's role as an unofficial mediator in the latest war in West Asia is drawing attention across the world as it seeks to project the image of being a responsible global power, while US actions are straining its long-standing alliances. China's profile in international diplomacy has risen in recent years, thanks to active efforts from its diplomats. Long reluctant to get involved in conflicts far from its borders, it has nevertheless emerged as a major player with attempts to mediate conflicts from Southeast Asia to Europe. With the Iran war, Beijing is not an official mediator, but all parties — including Washington and Tehran — say it has played an important role in trying to de-escalate the conflict.

Experts say Beijing's strategies for diplomacy in multiple conflicts have looked similar and have had mixed success in influencing negotiations, but the efforts come at an opportune time, as US actions under President Donald Trump have increased tensions with traditional diplomatic allies.

In the Iran war, experts say, China's close economic and political ties to Tehran put it in a unique position of influence as the conflict hurts the global energy supply, especially in Asia. Trump says China encouraged Iran to negotiate ceasefire.

Trump has said he believes China helped encourage Iran to negotiate the fragile ceasefire that he has now extended. Diplomats told The Associated Press that Beijing, the biggest purchaser of sanctioned Iranian oil, used its leverage to urge the Iranians back to the negotiating table for historic face-to-face talks in Pakistan earlier this month. Beijing has not confirmed that account, likely because it does not want to be seen as part of a US-led security framework, said Yaqi Li, a researcher at the S.

Pentagon assessment says clearing Hormuz Strait mines could take six months

WASHINGTON. (Agency)

A Pentagon assessment said it could take six months to completely clear the Strait of Hormuz of Iranian-laid mines, which could keep oil prices high, the Washington Post reported on Wednesday.

Iran has all but blocked the vital waterway since the start of a war with the United States and Israel, sharply driving up oil and gas prices and disrupting the global economy. The strait — through which one-fifth of the world's oil and gas passes in peacetime — has remained largely closed during a shaky ceasefire, with the US imposing its own blockade.

Even if hostilities end and the blockade lifts, it could take months to clear the waterway of mines, according to a Pentagon assessment, the Washington Post reported, citing officials close to the discussion.

The assessment added that it was unlikely such an operation would begin before the end of the war.

The six-month estimate was shared with members of the House Armed Services Committee during a classified briefing, the Post reported. Lawmakers were told that Iran may have placed 20 or more mines in and around the strait, some floated remotely using GPS technology which makes them harder to detect, according to the report. AFP has contacted the Department of Defense for comment. Pentagon spokesman Sean Parnell told the Washington Post that its information was "inaccurate." Iran's Revolutionary Guards have warned of a "danger zone" covering 1,400 square kilometres — 14 times the size of Paris — where mines may be present.

Iran's parliament speaker said the Islamic republic would not reopen the strait as long as the US naval blockade remained. A spokesman for German transportation giant Hapag-Lloyd cautioned last week that shippers needed details on viable routes as they remain fearful of mines. When the Hormuz strait briefly reopened at the start of the ceasefire this month, only a few ships trickled through amid fears of attacks or mines. Earlier in April, the US Navy said its ships transited the waterway to begin removing the mines, but that claim was denied by Iran's Revolutionary Guard, which threatened any military vessels attempting to cross the channel.

Lebanese journalist killed as Israeli strike hits house where she sought cover

Amal Khalil was covering renewed Israel-Hezbollah fighting that began in early March amid a wider regional war, and had taken shelter in a house in al-Tiri after an earlier Israeli strike hit near her vehicle.

Beirut. (Agency)

A Lebanese journalist was killed Wednesday in an Israeli airstrike on a house in southern Lebanon where she had taken cover while reporting on the Israel-Hezbollah war. Her body was only retrieved from the rubble hours later, rescue workers said. The daily Al-Akhbar newspaper says its reporter Amal Khalil was killed in the southern village of al-Tiri. Khalil had been covering

the conflict in Lebanon between Israel and the Lebanese Hezbollah militant group that resumed in early March, in the shadow of the US-Israeli war in Iran. She took cover in the house in al-Tiri after an earlier Israeli airstrike hit near the car she was traveling in with another colleague. The Lebanese health ministry said the first strike killed two people. A second Israeli strike then hit the house in al-Tiri where Khalil and her colleague Zeinab Faraj had taken cover. At first, rescue workers were able to get to Faraj, who was seriously wounded, and retrieve the bodies of two killed in the first airstrike. But they were fired on by Israeli forces so they were forced to halt attempts to reach Khalil, the ministry said. Khalil remained under the rubble for hours before the Lebanese army, civil defense and the Lebanese Red Cross were able to get to the scene hours later. Khalil's body was retrieved shortly before midnight, at least six hours after the

strike. Israel's military said individuals in the village had violated the ceasefire, endangering its troops. Israel denied that it targets journalists or that it prevented

between Israeli and Lebanese officials in Washington on extending the ceasefire that went into effect last Friday. Khalil, who was from southern Lebanon, had been covering the area since 2006 for al-Akhbar. Her latest reporting was about Israeli demolitions of Lebanese homes in villages where Israeli troops are now positioned inside Lebanon. Her death brings to nine the number of journalists killed in Lebanon so far this year.

At least 2,300 people have been killed in Israeli strikes and more than 1 million displaced since the latest Israel-Hezbollah war erupted on March 2. Earlier on Wednesday, Reporters Without Borders called for international pressure on the Israeli army to allow Khalil's rescue. Committee to Protect Journalists expressed its "outrage" at the apparent targeting of the two journalists and warned the obstruction of rescue efforts "may amount to a war crime."



rescue teams from reaching the area. It said the incident was under review. "Killing of journalists is a crime and a flagrant violation of international and humanitarian law," said Lebanon's Information Minister Paul Morcos. Khalil's death comes on the eve of the second round of direct talks

Iran says won't reopen Hormuz as long as US blockade remains

Under orders from Trump, the US Navy is attempting to block vessels heading to or from Iranian ports, seeking to ramp up pressure on the Iranian economy even without all-out war.

BEIRUT. (Agency)

Iran vowed Wednesday not to reopen the Strait of Hormuz so long as a US naval blockade remained in place despite a ceasefire extension, as it announced the seizure of two ships trying to cross the strategic waterway. As the clock ticked for a return to the war that has engulfed the region, US President Donald Trump had said Tuesday he would maintain the truce to allow more time for Pakistani-brokered peace talks. Iran said it welcomed the efforts by Pakistan but made no other comment on Trump's announcement.

"A complete ceasefire only has meaning if it is not violated through a naval blockade," said Iranian parliament speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf, who led Tehran's delegation in the first round of talks in Islamabad.

"Reopening the Strait of Hormuz is not



possible amid a blatant violation of the ceasefire." Oil prices, which have soared since Israel and the United States attacked Iran on February 28, kept inching up from the uncertainty on whether war will resume, although US stock prices gained ground. Trump had said he wanted to give time for Iran's "fractured" leadership to come up with a proposal, in what many

observers saw as a face-saving way to avoid renewed war. Trump told the New York Post that talks could resume in Pakistan within two to three days, even though Iran has not confirmed participation and Vice President JD Vance put on hold his travel to Islamabad on Tuesday. Trump also claimed that Iran at his request had halted alleged plans to execute eight women arrested over massive anti-government protests in the weeks before the attack. But Iran's judiciary described his remarks as "false news", saying the women had never faced the death penalty. Iran's elite Revolutionary Guards said they forced two ships to the Iranian shore from the Strait of Hormuz, the narrow gateway for one-fifth of the world's oil. "The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps naval force this morning identified and stopped in the Strait of Hormuz two violating ships," the Guards said in a statement. They identified the vessels as the Panama-flagged container ship MSC Francesca and the Liberia-flagged Epaminondas.

Missing for 3 days, Bangladesh temple caretaker's body found hanging from tree

A temple caretaker in Bangladesh, missing for three days after being called out by unidentified individuals, was found hanging from a tree in a remote hilly area of Cox's Bazar.

JERUSALEM. (Agency)

A temple caretaker who had been missing for three days was found dead in a hilly area in Bangladesh's Sadar Upazila on Wednesday, Daily Sun reported citing police. The victim, identified as Nayan Das, 35, was from Satkania and worked at the Pulishshora Ghona Naag Panchami Temple in Khurushkhul Union.

This is the first reported incident of a Hindu killing in Bangladesh after general elections were held earlier this year. The country has witnessed several killings of Hindus since the ousting of former Prime Minister

Sheikh Hasina. According to police and local sources, a group of unidentified individuals allegedly called Nayan out of his residence in



the Khurushkhul area around 9 pm on Sunday. He went missing soon after. Family members filed a general diary (internal police record of daily station events) with Cox's Bazar Sadar Model Police Station on Monday night after failing to locate him. Locals and Nayan's colleagues began searching for him in the surrounding areas the

following day. On Wednesday afternoon, a group of 30 to 35 people found his body hanging from a tree in a remote hilly area east of the temple and informed police. Police recovered the body, which had a scarf wrapped around the neck, and sent it to Cox's Bazar General Hospital morgue for an autopsy. Officer-in-Charge Mohammad Samiuddin of Cox's Bazar Sadar Model Police Station said the postmortem report would determine whether the death was a murder or suicide. "Police are working to uncover the mystery behind the incident," he said. However, a temple associate, requesting anonymity, alleged that Nayan might have been killed and later hanged, claiming there were injury marks on his neck. Jony Dhar, general secretary of the Cox's Bazar Pujya Udjapan Parishad, said, citing the family, that Nayan had left home on April 19 after being called by unidentified individuals and never returned.

Iran rejects Trump's claim of 'fractured' leadership, calls remarks propaganda

DALLAS. (Agency)

Iran on Wednesday dismissed US President Donald Trump's claim that its leadership is "seriously fractured", accusing him of spreading falsehoods and engaging in propaganda amid ongoing tensions over a ceasefire and negotiations. Responding to the claim, Seyyed Mehdi Tabatabaei, Deputy of Communications and Information Dissemination in the office of the President of Iran, said that assertions of division among Iran's leadership are part of an "enemy's unplayed political and propaganda game." In a post on X, Tabatabaei emphasised unity within the country, stating, "The line of discord and division among the country's highest officials is the enemy's unplayed political and propaganda game against Iran. The unity and consensus among the field, the street, and diplomacy these days is unprecedented and exemplary." He further criticised the US, in a veiled reference, saying, "Instead of weaving lies, they should cease their breaches of promise, bullying, and deceit; the door to negotiation based on fairness, dignity, and rationality remains open."

The remarks came after Trump, in a post on Truth Social, claimed that divisions within Iran's leadership had prompted a request to delay potential military action against the country. On Tuesday, Trump announced the extension of the ceasefire with Iran, citing the need to allow Tehran's leadership more time to formulate a unified proposal for negotiations. Trump, in his post, stated that the decision followed concerns over internal divisions within Iran's government and appeals from international stakeholders. Based on the fact that the Government of Iran is seriously fractured, not unexpectedly so and, upon the request of Field Marshal Asim Munir, and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, of Pakistan, we have been asked to hold our Attack on the Country of Iran until their leaders and representatives can come up with a unified proposal," the post read. Trump further said he had directed the US military to continue a blockade while extending the ceasefire, adding that forces would "remain ready and able" until Iran presents a unified proposal and discussions are concluded. "I have therefore directed our Military to continue the Blockade and, in all other respects, remain ready and able, and will therefore extend the Ceasefire until such time as their proposal is submitted, and discussions are concluded, one way or the other," the post added. However, diplomatic signals from Iran indicate conditions for restarting negotiations. Iranian Ambassador to the United Nations Amir Saeid Iravani said that Tehran is willing to resume talks only after the United States ends its naval blockade of Iranian ports, which Iran considers a violation of the ceasefire deal.

Russian oil to Slovakia resumes flowing through pipeline that crosses Ukraine

BRATISLAVA. (Agency)

The flow of Russian oil to Slovakia through the Druzhba pipeline that crosses Ukraine has resumed, Slovak Economy Minister Denisa Saková said Thursday, a breakthrough in an issue that has caused a major diplomatic spat in Europe. The development is expected to unblock a large financial assistance package for war-ravaged Ukraine. Populist Slovak Prime Minister Robert Fico welcomed the development, calling it "good news."

"Let's hope a serious relation between Ukraine and the European Union has been established," Fico said. He thanked all those involved in solving the issue, including the European Commission and Hungary. Hungary and Slovakia were locked in a feud with Ukraine since Russian oil deliveries to Hungary and Slovakia through the pipeline were halted in January after the pipeline was damaged. Ukrainian officials blamed the damage on Russian drone attacks. Hungary's nationalist Prime Minister Viktor Orbán, who was recently defeated in an election, accused Ukraine of

deliberately delaying repairs — an allegation that Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy denied. Fico said Thursday he still didn't believe the pipeline was damaged at all and alleged that the pipeline and oil "were used in the current geopolitical battle." Ukraine and most of its European backers oppose imports of Russian oil which have helped to fund Russian President Vladimir Putin's war against Ukraine, now in its fifth year. But unlike the rest of the European Union, Hungary and Slovakia still depend on Russia for their energy needs.

For two months, the two countries have accused Ukraine of failing to repair the damaged pipeline. Citing the issue, Hungary blocked a massive EU loan to Ukraine while Slovakia refused to endorse new sanctions against Russia until the supplies resumed. The flow resumed after three months at 2 a.m. Thursday, the Slovak economy ministry said, lifting a major obstacle to approving

the EU funds for Ukraine later Thursday, just as EU leaders gather for a summit in Cyprus. Ukraine desperately needs the 90 billion euro (\$106 billion) loan package,



originally agreed in December, to prop up its war-ravaged economy and help keep Russian forces at bay for the next two years. Delayed deals

The 27-nation EU had originally intended to use frozen Russian assets as collateral for the loan. But that option was blocked by Belgium, where the bulk of the frozen assets are held. In December, the Czech Republic, Hungary and Slovakia agreed not to stop their EU partners from borrowing the money on international markets as long as the three countries did not have to take part in the scheme.

But Orbán, who has repeatedly blocked EU aid to Ukraine, angered the other 24 countries by later reneging on that deal over the pipeline dispute and as campaigning heated up ahead of the April 12 election that he lost in a landslide.

The EU has also been trying since February to push through a new raft of sanctions against Russia, which Hungary and Slovakia have blocked due to the oil feud.

Short news

In Finland, Mann urges diaspora to be a catalyst in further propelling economic development of Punjab

Chandigarh.(Agency)

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann on Wednesday urged the Punjabi diaspora in Finland to play an active role in the socio-economic development of the state. The chief minister, who is on a visit to Finland, along with a Punjab government delegation, on investment promotion outreach, said Punjab is making rapid development under the incumbent regime, and every Punjabi should be a part of this historic move.

Mann urged the diaspora to act as a catalyst in further propelling the economic development of the state through their expertise.

Mann also advocated for a deeper and mutual collaboration with Finland in the area of the White Revolution, particularly in dairy systems, animal science and value-added food processing to benefit the farmers of the state.

Highlighting that Punjab has a good partnership with Finland as teachers from the state are sent here for training on existing ties, the chief minister expressed his keenness to further strengthen this mutually beneficial partnership to boost the progress of Punjab and the prosperity of its people. "Finland's economy is robust and progressive, with key areas of manufacturing, including electronics, engineering and forest products driving exports, along with dairy and other sectors," Mann said.

Mann also held a detailed meeting with Indian Ambassador to Finland Hemant H Kotalwar and discussed avenues for boosting bilateral trade and strengthening cooperation between Punjab and Finland.

Lifting trash from one point only to dump it in close proximity: Residents of Daumajra wake up to new reality

Chandigarh. (Agency)

Residents of Dadumajra on Wednesday woke up to a brazen civic apathy, something which they videographed too — trucks lifting trash from one point of the dump only to transfer it to the other point hardly 100 feet away.

While Municipal Corporation (MC) Commissioner Amit Kumar refused to comment on the issue when asked, Chandigarh Mayor Saurabh Joshi said that the matter, if it occurred, will not be taken "lightly". "I will ask the authorities concerned as to why this is happening. If this has happened, it will not be taken lightly. Dump is a serious issue for all of us. Strict action shall be taken for this," Joshi said.

He added that today itself the Sub Divisional Officer told him that CCTVs have been installed.

Dyal Krishan, a local resident while speaking to The Indian Express, said that the authorities are just pretending that the waste is being cleared and place levelled. "However, when we tracked the movement of trucks, they were dumping the lifted waste at a point nearby. This does not solve the solution. It is just like spreading the waste," he said.

"People are just being fooled. We have shot the video of the entire sequence from point A to point B. This is not the way things are done. Only a few days ago the Mayor came here to inspect and say that the waste should be cleared as soon as possible. But this is how they are clearing the present trash."

Customs begins disposing of 16 tonnes of trafficked cigarettes worth Rs 17 crore seized from Kerala

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM.(Agency)

In one of the biggest purges it has undertaken, the customs department has begun disposing of around 16 tonnes of cigarettes that were brought into the country without paying taxes.

The contraband, whose market value has been pegged at Rs 17.43 crore, is being destroyed at a high-temperature cement kiln. Customs sources said the consignments dispatched for disposal comprised 1.07 crore cigarette sticks that were seized from the Malabar region in the past two years. The disposal is being done in an undisclosed cement factory in central Kerala and the whole exercise is expected to take up to 30 days, said a customs source.

"Up to 500kg cigarettes are disposed of each day. The contraband was seized from Malappuram, Thrissur and Kozhikode districts. We occasionally dispose of smaller quantities of cigarettes like 500 to 1,000 kg. However, this time the volume of contraband to be destroyed is huge," the source said.

The seized contraband include those smuggled via countries such as Nepal and Bangladesh or counterfeits made here.

"There is a practice of buying cigarettes that have crossed expiry date from other states and then repackaging them as foreign brands. Since the owners do not show records to reflect they are genuinely imported goods, we treat them as smuggled," said a source.

Gadoli encounter: Court cites self-defence, procedural lapses for acquittal of 5 cops

Haryana cops were cleared in 2016 encounter by court on March 27

Mumbai.(Agency)

IN THE detailed judgment acquitting five Haryana policemen for the alleged fake encounter of gangster Sandeep Gadoli, the sessions court said that the policemen had fired in self-defence.

The court noted that Gadoli was a convict who had been sentenced to life imprisonment and was out on bail, hence there was a reasonable apprehension "enough to put the right of self defence into operation".

The accused policemen had claimed that they had fired at Gadoli in a hotel room in Andheri on February 7, 2016, in self-defence after he shot at them first.

"...analyzing and scrutinising the material with the plea of self-defence raised by accused police personnel, it is established in all probability that the police personnel who were on duty for apprehending a person with heavy criminal antecedents i.e. a life convict on bail have duly made out circumstances to



recognise the right of private defence within certain reasonable limits while apprehending Sandip Gadoli.... One police person was having grievous injury on his forehead due to firearm. These bodily injuries caused to the police persons is certainly reasonable apprehension enough to put the right of self defence into operation," the court said in the order, which was made available on Wednesday.

On March 27, the court had acquitted the five

men along with two others from the case. The court said that two of the policemen had sustained injuries including on a vital part, that is his forehead.

"...the accused police personnel have brought on record probabilities and on weighing the same they are acceptable, natural, reasonable, and consistent with human experience. Hence, in view of the above discussion and the probable eventualities brought by accused persons on record by way of cross-examination, I accept the plea of accused police personnel that they acted in their self-defence in the given set of circumstances," the court said. It also said that there was no sanction to prosecute the men, although they were public servants, who were discharging their official duty. "...even if it is assumed that the accused persons acted in excess of their official duty, then also they are entitled to claim protection of section 197 of the Criminal Procedure Code," the court said.

Nod for Metro 5 & 5A linking Thane, Bhiwandi, Kalyan and Ulhasnagar

The decisions were taken at a meeting of the state's infrastructure development committee chaired by Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis.

Mumbai. (Agency)

The State government on Wednesday approved the Rs 18,130.55 crore Mumbai Metro Line 5 and 5A project, cleared a proposal to raise loans for land acquisition for three expressways in Vidarbha, and sanctioned Rs 1,063 crore for works related to the Nashik-Trimbakeshwar Kumbh Mela in 2027. The decisions were taken at a meeting of the state's infrastructure development committee chaired by Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis.

Changes to Metro 5

Earlier a 24.9-km line with 17 stations at the cost of Rs 8,416.51 crore, a list of changes to the Metro line 5 between Kapurbawdi, Thane to Bhiwandi to Kalyan were approved. The first phase of the Line 5, from Thane to Bhiwandi,



was left largely unchanged as it nears completion. This portion with six elevated stations over 11.9 km has a price tag of Rs 6,741.34 crore.

In the remaining portion, between Bhiwandi to Kalyan, however, one station between

Dhamankar Naka and Temghar city was made underground. With a length of 10.475 km, the phase 2 has over 6 stations has a cost of Rs 7,326.13 crore. The one station was made underground due to the presence of a flyover on the route in Bhiwandi, where the construction of an elevated metro would require its demolition, exponentially adding to traffic. Additionally, a double decker integrated metro and flyover will be constructed between Ranjanoli Junction and Durgadi Chowk.

The Kalyan APMC station has also been removed from the line's alignment, as it is now a part of the Line 12. The government also approved the Line's extension, Line 5A, which will extend 11.83 km with seven stations, at a cost of Rs 4,063.08 crore.

APCRDA intensifies second phase of land pooling

VIJAYAWADA.(Agency)

The Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority (APCRDA) is pressing ahead with the second phase of the Land Pooling Scheme (LPS 2.0) for Amaravati.

On Wednesday, APCRDA Additional Commissioner A Bhargava Teja, inspected the ongoing enjoyment survey in Vaddamanu, Karlapudi, and Endrayi villages, issuing directions to officials and survey staff. Farmers interacting with him expressed satisfaction over government assurances of annual lease payments, loan waivers, and yearly lease hikes. APCRDA officials confirmed that lease benefits under LPS 2.0 will begin from May 2026.

The inspection was attended by BL Chennakeshwar Rao (Director, Lands-Capital Region), G Panduranga Ramakrishnan (Deputy Director, Survey), N Yesuratnam (Deputy Collector) and survey teams.

In a separate development, Kollabattula Karthik formally assumed charge as Additional Commissioner of APCRDA at the headquarters in Rayapudi on Wednesday. After performing puja rituals in his chamber on the third floor, he was welcomed by Joint Director (Communications) G Ramaraju.



APCRDA Commissioner V Vijayarama Raju, A Bhargava Teja, Office Management Director Vallabhaneni Srinivas Rao, HR Director B Mallikarjuna Reddy, and others.

Grievance Day for Amaravati farmers every Monday

For the resolution of issues faced by farmers and agricultural labourers of the People's Capital Amaravati, a 'Grievance Day' is being conducted every Monday at the APCRDA Head Office in Rayapudi. The Grievance Day, previously held on Saturdays, will

be now held on Mondays. From 10.00 am to 1.00 pm every Monday, the Commissioner and Additional Commissioner, along with senior officials from various departments, will receive petitions at the APCRDA office. Residents of the capital region are requested to take note of this change.

Additionally, for the convenience of farmers and local residents, petitions are received on working days during office hours at the Citizen Grievance Centre located at the APCRDA Head Office in Rayapudi.

Andhra HC issues notice to govt on PG medical students' 'workload'

VIJAYAWADA.(Agency)

The Andhra Pradesh High Court on Wednesday took cognisance of a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) alleging that postgraduate (PG) medical students in government medical colleges and teaching hospitals are being made to work beyond prescribed duty hours.

The court directed both the Centre and the State government to file detailed counter-affidavits in the matter. A division bench comprising Chief Justice Dhiraj Singh Thakur and Justice Challa Gunaranjan issued notices to the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare Secretary, the National Medical Commission (NMC), the State Chief Secretary, the Director of Medical Education, and Dr NTR University of Health Sciences.

The matter has been posted for further hearing on June 17. The PIL was filed by Guntur-based senior doctor Dr A Venkateswarlu, who contended that PG medical students are being subjected to excessive workloads, often working up to 24 hours or more continuously.

During the hearing, counsel V. Lakshmi Harish, appearing for the petitioner, informed the court that in some instances, PG doctors were working up to 36 hours without a break. He argued that the guidelines of the National Medical Commission, which stipulate a maximum of 12 working hours except in emergencies, are not being implemented. Even in cases where doctors work extended hours during emergencies, they are entitled to compensatory rest the following day, he added.

Gujarat High Court permits high-tension lines on agri land in Morbi

Court says projects of 'national importance' can't be stalled by objections of private landowners

Vadodara . (Agency)

Emphasising that projects of "national importance", such as the laying of electricity transmission lines, cannot be stalled by objections of private landowners, the Gujarat High Court recently dismissed petitions of farmers from Morbi district who had challenged an order from the administration, and permitted a transmission company to lay high-voltage lines on their agricultural land.

Justice HM Prachchhak dismissed the petitions, citing the accepted legal position that transmission projects aimed at evacuating large-scale renewable energy are matters of larger public interest. The Court agreed with the respondent company's submission, which stated that "private interests must yield to the larger public good".

The petitioners, who are landowners from

Rapar in Morbi district, had sought directions against the state authorities, including the district magistrate and collector of Morbi, who passed an order in July 2025, allowing Halvad Transmission Ltd. to lay an overhead transmission line under the transmission system for evacuation of additional 7GW of RE power from Khawda RE Park.

The petitioners' advocate VB Mehta submitted that no consent had been sought by the authorities from the landowners and that the notice issued in the newspapers, as part of the process, did not specify the lands through which the transmission lines would pass. The counsel also submitted apprehensions raised by the petitioners about the "psychological terror" of having high-

voltage transmission lines over fertile fields, stating that it "creates a continuous actionable hazard as agricultural

community."

The HC cited the principles laid down by the Supreme Court in the case of Power Grid Corporation of India that "for laying down any electricity supply-line by the licensee, there is no prior consent required by the licensee under the Indian Electricity Act, 2003..." The HC considered the submissions of senior advocate Percy Kavina on behalf of the transmission company that the petitioners' obstruction, "based on a purely pecuniary claim for compensation, cannot be allowed to halt a project of national importance" and cited the judgments of various high courts that have held that projects of public interest cannot be obstructed by landowners as the "the balance of convenience lies overwhelmingly with [the company]."



operations require presence from dawn to dusk, these lines pose a life-threatening risk to farmers, laborers, and livestock for the projected 25-year lifespan of the project... and diminish the mental well-being and labour productivity of the rural

Gulf chokepoint and shifting energy order

Financial markets staged a cautious relief rally as oil prices retreated from recent highs. Perception and reality alternate to reflect the temperament amid high volatility. The shuttering at the Strait of Hormuz was always plausible as Iran's defensive salvo and was forecast to precipitate a deeper crisis than that of the 1970s. An incessant global energy insecurity, resting on a shaky and contentious opening of the passage, could set the stage for stagflation. A flashback to December 17, 2010 in Tunisia, a North African nation, a short distance across the Mediterranean from Europe. Police harassment and humiliation of a street vendor outside the governor's office in the town of Sidi Bouzid led him to self-immolate. His death in January 2011 was the beginning of the Arab Spring. The initial pro-democracy protests in Tunisia reverberated through Egypt, Syria, Morocco, Algeria and other parts of North Africa. Social violence and civil wars erupted in Libya and Yemen, eventually deposing the rulers of the two oil-rich nations and resulting in major production outages. The oil price flare cast a shadow of uncertainty and financial insecurity over global economies for the next three years.

At a formal meeting of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries members in June 2011, Iran, under sanctions on its oil, dissented from increasing the group's production. Saudi Arabia, at the time, unilaterally decided to increase its output by 1 million barrels per day to make up for the loss of Libyan light crude and stabilise the market, as the UAE also released more oil to ease prices. Oil lingered above \$100 for the next three years, as Brent averaged around \$108 in 2013. Global supplies flowed unhindered, and by the end of 2014, prices declined almost 50 percent, touching \$62, as US Shale production surged. In sharp contrast, restraints at the strait, impeding the Gulf's oil and gas transit, shall permanently reset global energy and politico-economic equations.

Conveniently interpreting the recent protests in the Islamic Republic as a replay of the mood of the populace at the time of the Arab Spring, the US-Israel duo saw enough ground to defend "freedom for the people" of Iran. Resting on the rhetoric of regime change, they sought to primarily derail Tehran's nuclear ambitions. Unfortunately, the military action may have succeeded in isolating the West from the Iranian masses, who are confounded by Donald Trump's "help is on its way" call, followed by death and devastation inflicted by the US-Israel bombing in the midst of negotiations.

The Islamic Republic derives around 60 percent of its budget revenue from oil and gas. Though employment in the oil sector, direct and indirect, is estimated at around 4 percent of the working force, the industrial and mining sectors provide jobs to 35 percent, as per 2023 World Bank estimates.

The war has resulted in extensive damage to Iran's energy, industrial and civilian infrastructure. Hits at the South Pars and Mahshahr petrochemical hubs damaged facilities responsible for 85 percent of the Republic's petrochemical exports. A prolonged conflict shall dent trade relations with its neighbours and constrict long-term business opportunities for the ailing economy. A vast portion of its population lives in dire financial hardship and an estimated 55 percent of retirees do not receive any pension. As the senselessly inflicted war scales down subsidised State welfare, it shall whip up emotions of retribution for the West. The image of misplaced trust shall thus flip the 'survival' card and resurrect populist support for the nuclear programme. Shadow fleets are reported to have conveyed around 1.1 to 1.5 million bpd of Iranian oil through the strait in March, mostly destined for China. Though resting on a fragile and obscure system, it has thus far prevented a sharp supply shock and substantially filled Iran's coffers. Partially compensating for its sea-bound supply loss at the strait, Saudi Aramco's East-West Pipeline (built during the 1980s Iran-Iraq war).

Hormuz hurdle impedes peace push

Pakistan remains at the forefront of mediation as Iran-US ceasefire nears its end

FIELD Marshal Syed Asim Munir, the Pakistani Army Chief and principal power-broker in his country, led a delegation to Tehran last week as part of mediation efforts to resolve the US-Iran conflict. The first round of talks (April 11-12) in Islamabad, held after the announcement of a fragile ceasefire for a two-week period, had collapsed. The ceasefire is set to expire on April 22. Pakistan's role as a facilitator of direct talks between the US and Iran has received considerable global praise. Munir — US President Donald Trump's "favourite" Field Marshal — has emerged as the unlikely but much acclaimed negotiator, even though his close links with top leaders of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) have been noted with some disquiet in US intelligence circles.

However, the Tehran talks, which concluded on April 17, have not reduced tensions around the Strait of Hormuz. Conflicting statements have been made by Iranian and US leaders. On April 17, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi announced that the Strait was "completely open" to commercial vessels for the remainder of the ceasefire period. He also indicated that this was linked to the Israel-Lebanon truce. Tehran presented this opening as a goodwill gesture following Pakistani mediation and the broader de-escalation efforts. The impact on the oil market was immediate — Brent crude fell by 10 percent to below \$100 per barrel. President Trump initially welcomed the Iranian statement enthusiastically, adding that the Strait was "fully open and ready for business", but with a caveat. He reiterated that the US naval blockade of Iranian ships and ports would remain in full force until a comprehensive deal — including the contentious nuclear issue — was reached.

Predictably, Iran reversed its position. On April 18, the IRGC declared that the control of Hormuz had "returned to its previous state." This meant a return to the restricted passage monitored by the IRGC due to the continuing US blockade, which Tehran called a "breach of trust."

Regrettably, there have been reports of IRGC gunboats firing on merchant vessels, including two Indian-flagged tankers attempting to transit the Strait, without full Iranian coordination or approval. These ships were forced to turn back. Hormuz remains tense, with a US

naval blockade of Iranian ports in place and the IRGC seeking to impose its own regulations for transit. No ships transited the Strait on April 19. The Iranian position is firm — the Strait "will not remain open" while the US blockade continues. This impasse will adversely impact energy security for major oil importers dependent on Hormuz. This includes all major economies, barring the US and Russia.

The EU, China, Japan and India are among those most affected. At a meeting in Paris (April 17), convened by France and the UK — India attended it as an observer — a consensus was reached regarding the Strait and the need to ensure unhindered "transit passage", as envisioned by international law and customary maritime practice. The joint statement issued by French President

dilemma is that while the right of transit passage through international straits (such as Hormuz) without restrictions or tolls is the bedrock of international trade, who can and will ensure compliance amid the ongoing war? Invoking the sanctity of international law to censure Tehran is an indefensible position when the US and Israel have torn the law book to shreds while embarking upon their unprovoked war against Iran on February 28. Pushed to the wall and having been subjected to intense aerial bombing and relentless destruction of infrastructure — death toll in excess of 3,000, including schoolchildren, and the threat of erasure as a 'civilisation' — the Iranian government has used its only significant lever: control of Hormuz.

The current tactical challenge is to remove the mines that have been laid by Iran to thwart a ground invasion by US troops. Over the past few weeks, many of these mines, reportedly laid in a haphazard manner, have shifted. This makes the mine-clearance efforts all the more complicated. In the interim, Trump has announced that a substantive deal with Iran is on the anvil and that he may visit Islamabad to reach closure with characteristic fanfare — and strengthen his claim to the Nobel Peace Prize? While such an outcome would be welcome and mark an end to a war that was unleashed more to advance Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu's personal interests, it is unlikely that Iran will agree to the draconian US demands related to the nuclear issue.

In an unusual move, Trump has rebuked Israel for its continued offensive against Lebanon, where the death toll has reached almost 2,300. In a social media post, the US President asserted: "Israel will not be bombing Lebanon any longer. They are PROHIBITED from doing so by the USA. Enough is enough." Will Netanyahu come to heel?

Trump has announced that if Tehran does not reopen the Strait of Hormuz, the bombs will drop again. His warning regarding the ceasefire: "Maybe I won't extend it, but the blockade is going to remain. So you have a blockade, and unfortunately we'll have to start dropping bombs again." If Munir can convincingly square this prickly circle, he might well be in the running for a peace prize, competing with his current mentor!



Emmanuel Macron and UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer underlined "the determination of the international community to support freedom of navigation, to stand up for international law, and to protect global economic stability and energy security." The statement welcomed the Iranian announcement to reopen the Strait, but subsequent events have upended this optimistic note. How the global community responds to the Iranian stance remains indeterminate at this stage. The central

Humanity first: Heed Pope's warning on AI misuse

India, which will host the 2030 Commonwealth Games and has set its sights on the 2036 Olympics, must go all out to improve its image

POPE Leo XIV's recent warning that artificial intelligence can fuel "polarisation, conflict, fear and violence" deserves global attention. At a time when AI is celebrated for speed, convenience and innovation, the Pope has reminded the world that technology without ethics can become dangerous. AI is not inherently evil, but neither is it neutral. Its impact depends on how humans choose to design, deploy and regulate it. Recent events validate his concerns. Across elections worldwide, AI-generated deepfakes and cloned voices have been used to spread falsehoods, confuse voters and weaken trust in democratic institutions. Fraudsters have also used voice-cloning tools to impersonate family members or officials, tricking victims into handing over money. What once required skill and resources can now be done cheaply and at scale. The anxiety is no longer confined to



misinformation. Warnings surrounding Anthropic's advanced AI model Mythos show that the next frontier may involve threats to financial systems and

cybersecurity. If powerful AI can identify vulnerabilities, automate attacks or enable fraud on banking networks, the consequences could extend far beyond the digital world. Financial panic, disrupted payments and shaken public confidence can destabilise societies as surely as political propaganda can. There is also an environmental price. AI's rapid expansion depends on vast data centres and minerals such as cobalt and lithium, often extracted at heavy ecological and human cost. Yet rejecting AI is neither possible nor wise. Used responsibly, it can revolutionise medicine, education, disaster response and productivity. The real challenge is governance. Governments must create robust laws, companies must embed transparency and safety into their systems and citizens must build digital literacy. International cooperation is equally essential. The defining question of this age is not whether machines can think, but whether humans can act responsibly.

How to save senior citizens from cyber scams

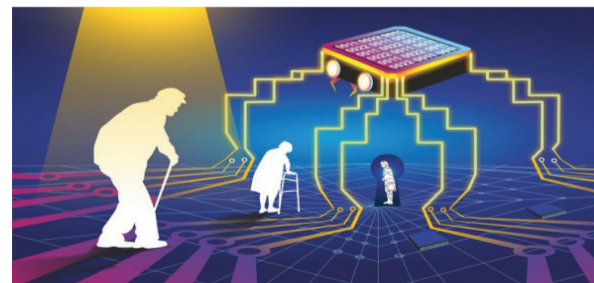
Where traditional politicians trade in credibility (fragile or fluctuating), Trump deals in defiance. He pre-bunks every critique, pre-labels every attack, and also pre-loads every scandal into a persecution playlist

CONSIDER a person who dedicates decades to working and serving the nation and family, saving every rupee carefully, retiring with pride, owning a modest home, only to have his hard-earned lifelong savings wiped out by a single phone call. This is a lived reality across India for thousands of senior citizens who are targeted by cyber criminals, exploiting technology for financial theft. Recognising these threats, the Supreme Court has summoned the Reserve Bank of India and major banks, labelling the crime as "absolute robbery." The Prime Minister also highlighted the issue in one of his episodes of Mann Ki Baat. The financial and human toll of the crime is staggering. The scale of the issue is significant. Digital arrest fraud, where scammers pose as law enforcement officers on video calls to extort money, has spread nationwide. No law or recognised authority allows individuals to be "arrested" via a video call. In 2024, as many as 1,23,000 digital arrest fraud cases were officially reported, resulting in financial losses of Rs 1,935 crore — almost triple the losses suffered in 2022. Across all types of digital fraud, more than Rs 54,000 crore was reported lost from April 2021 to November 2025. As DGP of the Haryana Police, I reviewed the issue with all stakeholders. We concluded that halting immediate fund transfers was essential.

These scams are highly organised, led by international criminal networks. Victims receive calls from people impersonating authorities from the TRAI, CBI, ED, FedEx, Customs or the police. The caller usually claims that the victim's Aadhaar card has been misused, that a suspicious parcel bears their name, or that a linked bank account has received illegal funds. An arrest warrant, they warn, has been issued — but the matter can be

"resolved quietly" if the victim cooperates and, if secrecy is maintained. The word 'confidential' is weaponised with surgical intent. Isolating the victim from the family is the very cornerstone of the scheme. A frightened older adult, alone and too ashamed to reach out to his or her children, can be held captive in front of a screen for days. In one Gurugram case, a victim was kept on a video call for 10 consecutive days and Rs 79 lakh was transferred across 40 mule accounts — money that vanished within minutes through a "dark room" overseas mafia operated remotely out of Taiwan. Investigations have also traced these networks to Cambodia, Myanmar, Pakistan, Vietnam, and China. Covert operations by the Haryana Police's cyber wing have uncovered startling findings: last year, 4,500 people from Haryana alone travelled to Thailand under suspicious circumstances, with evidence pointing to forged passports, donkey routes and organised scam centres where young Indians are trafficked and coerced into cyber slavery.

Haryana is not merely a passive victim. Several regions within the state have become active nodes in a nationwide cybercrime network. Areas such as Nuh, Bhiwani, Palwal, Hatangaon, Manota and Hasanpur have emerged as significant centres of cybercrime. Gurugram, due to its extensive financial infrastructure, serves as both a primary target for high-value fraud and a base for organised criminal operations. A 24-year-old woman from Gujarat was recently apprehended at the Delhi airport for operating from Cambodia for a Chinese-run syndicate, which maintains a direct connection to the digital arrest racket. To counter this, the Haryana Police have mounted a multi-faceted response: nine recruiters channelling youth into Southeast Asian



scams have been arrested, 35 FIRs filed in deportation-linked cases, many SIMs blocked and devices tracked, and mule accounts dismantled. Active operations against overseas networks continue.

The damage from these crimes underscores the need for stronger solutions. In the first quarter of 2026 alone, digital arrest scams in Haryana resulted in losses of Rs 10.78 crore — with HDFC Bank customers losing Rs 3.63 crore, Bank of Baroda customers Rs 2.13 crore and SBI customers losing Rs 1.71 crore. Records show that most victims are senior citizens. Their trust in authority — not naivety — makes them vulnerable. Having grown up respecting institutions, they view the uniform as a symbol of safety. Their accumulated savings and isolation when contacted make them prime targets for fraudsters. A review of hundreds of cases shows that isolation is the common thread behind these scams' success. If any trusted contact intervenes, the scam usually fails — criminals are thwarted when secrecy or fear is broken. This understanding has led to India's first dual-OTP authentication for senior citizens. It is an effort by the Haryana Police in collaboration with HDFC Bank. Similar collaborations with more banks are likely

to follow. It's a simple, transformative solution that immediately stalls large money transfers.

For transfers of Rs 1 lakh or more by senior citizens, a second OTP is sent to both the account holder and a trusted family member. Funds are transferred only after both codes are entered, preventing fraudsters from bypassing family alerts: "Your father/mother is attempting to transfer Rs 3 lakh. Currently, seniors aged 60 and above can enrol voluntarily. Making it mandatory for those aged 75 and above is under consideration. Haryana is the first state with this model, and its results may shape national policy.

Dual-OTP authentication is a part of a broader, multi-layered strategy. Each police official keeps a list of at least 60 senior citizens in his/her respective beat and directly educates them about current scam techniques. Bank staff — often the last line of defence — are being trained to spot and report large withdrawals by elder customers. The national cybercrime helpline, 1930, is available for reporting incidents and authorities state that prompt action has led to significant recoveries. Looking ahead, AI-powered alerts for unusual transactions may offer greater protection, but human vigilance remains crucial. Family members must stay connected regularly with their elderly parents, beyond festivals and birthdays. Be aware of their banking activities, protect their passwords and remind them that no government agency ever arrests or demands money over video calls. Vigilance by police officials and bankers can protect senior citizens from major losses. Fraudsters thrive on secrecy. Families and law enforcement are now forming a united defence. Only collective action can help prevent cybercrime.

Zombie drug 'Pregabalin' sold without prescription despite legal restrictions

Carried out a sting operation to find out if the Schedule H drug – Pregabalin – can be obtained over-the-counter in Mumbai. This is what our reporter found.

Mumbai. (Agency)
Recently, a video went viral showing a man in an extremely disoriented state on a road in Maharashtra's Thane. Rumours said he was under the influence of a so-called 'zombie drug'. However, police later clarified that the man overdosed on Pregabalin, a medicine used to treat nerve pain. The medicine is a Schedule H drug, which means it can only be sold with a prescription from a registered doctor and breaching it is illegal. India Today conducted a sting operation in Mumbai's Mira Road-Bhayandar area to see whether this prescription-only drug was being sold over-the-counter. Our reporter went to as many as four medical stores, and each one was openly selling the Schedule H drug without following the

rules. They were being shown the name of the medicine on a mobile phone, and that was good enough to obtain it. At the first medical store, our reporter asked for Pregabalin by simply displaying the name 'Pregabalin 300 mg' on his mobile phone. The chemist said the 300 mg version was unavailable but offered 75 mg tablets and was ready to sell them without asking for a prescription. Another medical store had the 300 mg tablets. Therefore, our reporter not only purchased them but even prepared a bill before he left the store. Here too, the medicine was available without any prescription. The third medical store also did not have 300 mg tablets but offered 75 mg ones. The shopkeeper acknowledged that the medicine is used to treat nerve pain but still

agreed to sell it without asking for a prescription. At the fourth medical store, Pregabalin 75 mg tablets were offered without a prescription. The shopkeeper even suggested taking four 75 mg tablets as an alternative to a 300 mg dose and advised buying 150 mg tablets instead, indicating how easily such medicines can be accessed. The reporter spoke to neurosurgeon Dr Adil Chagla, who explained the grave impacts of Pregabalin, without medical supervision. He said that the medicine affects sensations in the nervous system and is typically prescribed for seizures. "These drugs affect sensations in the nervous system. They were originally developed for



seizures but are also prescribed to reduce nerve pain. Without proper medical supervision, misuse can be dangerous," he told, cautioning that selling such drugs without a prescription is illegal. He also called for ethical responsibility from chemists, stressing that a person's life is associated with the tablet.

In the Thane case, wherein the viral video was recorded earlier last week, the man – identified as Sameer Rajendra Rawal, 22 – told police that he had been addicted to Pregabalin tablets for the past two years. A labourer from Nepal's Achham district, he came to Mumbai a month ago in search of work and currently lives on a footpath outside Borivali railway station in Mumbai. He said that he typically buys a strip of 10 tablets for Rs 100 and consumes them to get intoxicated. Police have submitted a report to the Thane FDA seeking action against the medical shop owner for illegally selling scheduled medicines without a valid prescription. The chemist has reportedly shut the shop and is currently on the run.

Short news

Severe hot winds likely in 95 mandals over two days in Andhra

VIJAYAWADA. (Agency)
The Andhra Pradesh State Disaster Management Authority has warned of severe heatwave conditions across the State over the next two days. Managing Director Prakhar Jain said that on Thursday (April 23), 95 mandals are likely to face severe hot winds, while another 101 mandals may experience heatwave impact. On Friday (April 24), forecasts indicate 50 mandals under severe heatwave and 52 mandals under hot wind conditions. On Wednesday, Kadapa recorded the highest temperature at 44.4°C, while 202 mandals reported maximum temperatures above 41°C. District-wise severe heatwave alerts for April 23 include Srikakulam (19), Vizianagaram (24), Manyam (3), Alluri (5), Polavaram (8), Visakhapatnam (1), Anakapalle (13), Kakinada (10), East Godavari (6), Eluru (3), and NTR (3).

APSDMA urged people to avoid exposure to hot winds, protect eyes with quality sunglasses, and prevent hot air entering the ears. Vulnerable groups such as those with heart problems, diabetes, and hypertension should avoid venturing out in the heat. Hydration with lemon water, buttermilk, coconut water, and safe drinking water is recommended. Farmers and livestock keepers were cautioned not to take shelter under trees during sudden thunderstorms accompanied by lightning. For heatwave-related information and assistance, APSDMA control room numbers are available: 112, 1070, 1800 425 0101. Officials emphasised preventive measures are critical to reducing health risks during this severe heatwave spell.

60 bonded labourers of Odisha rescued in Tirupati



TIRUPATI. (Agency)
Tirupati District Collector S Venkateswar led a special operation on Wednesday to rescue 60 bonded labourers in Tirupati rural areas. Revenue, Police and Labour departments officials carried out the operation and rescued migrant workers from Odisha who had been working for the past five months at a brick kiln in Pudipatla village. Authorities said the management paid each family an advance of Rs 45,000 but only Rs 1,000 per week thereafter. When the management attempted to relocate the workers, the Collector deployed teams from the Labour departments along with the DSP, RPF and local police. Teams traced the workers and brought them to Collectorate. Officials identified and rescued all remaining workers, including women and children, and provided food, shelter and security. Authorities issued release certificates on Wednesday, making them eligible for rehabilitation, and sent them to Odisha by train. The Collector ordered an inquiry under the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976, and directed officials to register an FIR against brick kiln owners and their associates. Officials said efforts are on to rescue others.

Stray dog goes on biting spree at UP wedding venue, guests flee in panic

Eyewitnesses said the sudden attack led to a stampede-like situation, with women and children screaming and running for safety, some even falling and getting injured in the rush.

Uttar Pradesh. (Agency)
More than 60 people, including guests and family members, were injured after a stray dog went on a biting spree during a bride's farewell at a banquet hall in Budaun, triggering panic and chaos, officials said on Wednesday. The incident occurred on Monday at the Abhinandan banquet hall on Bilsa Road under the Bisauli police station limits, when the dog entered the premises and began attacking people indiscriminately. Eyewitnesses said the sudden attack led to a stampede-like situation, with women and children screaming and running for safety, some even falling and getting injured in the rush. The dog later moved onto the road and attacked passersby and shopkeepers before fleeing towards a nearby village,



and Chandravati (40), among others. The injured were taken to the community health centre (CHC) in Bisauli, where they

were administered anti-rabies shots before being discharged. Some of the victims also sought treatment at private hospitals. The medical officer at the CHC, Arvind Verma, said 109 people were registered for anti-rabies treatment on Monday, of which around 60 were linked to the banquet hall incident. The incident triggered anger and fear in the locality, with residents alleging negligence by the municipal authorities. The locals claimed that despite spending funds on stray dog management, no immediate response was seen on the ground, as the dog was still roaming freely. Additional District Magistrate Arun Kumar said instructions have been issued to the executive officer of the Bisauli municipal body to take necessary action and address the issue at the earliest.

Stared at my chest, asked me to visit cleric after miscarriage: TCS Nashik team lead

Nashik. (Agency)
In a fresh development in the ongoing sexual harassment and alleged forced religious conversion case involving a TCS-linked BPO in Nashik, a sixth survivor, a senior employee, has accused top management of failing to act on complaints and alleged that one of the accused made deeply insensitive remarks about her miscarriage, while another repeatedly stared at her inappropriately during meetings. Recalling the incident, the survivor, who has been with the organisation for the past 11 years, said that in February 2026, accused Tausif Attar approached her and asked about her health. When she informed him that she was unwell following a recent miscarriage, he allegedly made offensive and intrusive remarks, including suggesting that she visit a cleric in Ajmer for blessings related to childbirth. "During a lunch break in February 2026, Tausif Attar, who works in the Dialer Team at our office, approached me and asked about my health. I told him I was unwell as I had

Northeast Frontier Railway Revises Timings to Enhance Speed and Punctuality

The Sikh Times
Maligaon, 23rd April: Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) has undertaken a comprehensive revision of the timings of several Mail/Express and passenger trains across its network with the objective of improving punctuality, enhancing operational efficiency and ensuring faster services for passengers. The revised timings will be implemented from 27th April 2026 for most services, while certain trains will adopt the new schedule from 24th April and 28th April 2026. The revision covers major divisions including Katihar, Alipurduar, Rangiya, Lumding and Tinsukia, and includes a wide range of important train services. Several trains such as Farakka Express, Teesta Torsa Express, Kulik Express, Garib Nawaz Express, Paharia Express, Intercity Express and DEMU passenger services have undergone changes in their arrival and departure timings at multiple stations. These adjustments have been undertaken to enhance operational efficiency, improve punctuality and strengthen connectivity across different sections. Among the major trains affected by the revision are 15743/15744 (Balurghat-Batinda -

Balurghat) and 15733/15734 (Balurghat-Batinda - Balurghat) Farakka Express, - Balurghat) Intercity Express, 15716 (Ajmer -Kishanganj) Garib Nawaz Express, 75705/75706 (Siliguri - Radhikapur - Siliguri) DEMU Intercity Express and 15721/15722 (New Jalpaiguri-Digha - New Jalpaiguri) Paharia Express along with DEMU passenger and other connecting services. Under the revised schedule, timings at several stations have been advanced to enable faster running and improved punctuality. For instance, at Ganga Rampur, timings have been preponed from 11:18/11:20 hours to 11:15/11:17 hours, while at Buniadpur, timings have been advanced from 11:05/11:07 hours to 10:58/11:00 hours. Similar speed-up adjustments have been implemented across multiple sections, resulting in reduced travel time, while timings at some stations remain unchanged to ensure minimal inconvenience. The details of stoppages and timings of this train are available in IRCTC website and are also being notified in various newspapers and social media platforms of N. F. Railway. Passengers are requested to verify the details before undertaking their journey. NFR remains committed to safe, efficient and passenger friendly services, continually enhancing the travel experience across the region.



13063/13064 (Howrah-Balurghat - Howrah) Express, 13161/13162 (Kolkata-Balurghat - Kolkata) Tebhaga Express, 13053/13054 Howrah - Radhikapur - Howrah) Kulik Express, 15463/15464 (Balurghat - Haldibari 15719/15720 (Katihar-Siliguri - Katihar) Intercity Express (via Barsoi), 15710/15709 (New Jalpaiguri-Malda Town - New Jalpaiguri) , 13141/13142 (Sealdah - New Alipurduar - Sealdah) Teesta Torsa Express,

Remote-control exam scam busted in Delhi's Dwarka

New Delhi: The Delhi Police claimed to have busted an organised cheating racket involved in manipulating online entrance exams through remote access and outsourced paper solvers in Dwarka, leading to the arrest of the key accused and the detention of 32 students, an official said. Acting on a tip-off about suspicious activities at a building identified as "Happy Homes" in Dwarka, a police team raided the place and found several people there, he said. The arrested kingpin was identified as Harsh Vardhan (28), a resident of Patna, Bihar. During questioning, Harsh Vardhan allegedly confessed to running the racket that arranged candidates to appear in entrance examinations of a reputed management institute in Mumbai. "The examination was scheduled to be conducted at an IT lab in Jaipur, Rajasthan, and he would gain remote access to the lab's computer systems using software. He revealed that he had admission cards of candidates and that he, along with his associates, would manipulate the examination process remotely," the police officer said. According to the police, an associate, identified as Pranjal, used to recruit college students as paper solvers on the pretext of answering academic queries on online platforms. "Thirty-two students from various colleges, including Delhi University, Jamia Millia Islamia, DTU, IITs and NITs, were found on the premises and were bound down after questioning. Under the process of bound down, the accused will join the investigation whenever they are called," the officer said. Prima facie, the investigation has revealed a well-organised network involving impersonation, remote access of examination systems and outsourcing answers to ensure unfair advantage in competitive exams. A case has been registered, and further investigation is on to identify other members of the racket and its beneficiaries, the officer added.

Finland collaboration begins showing impact as classrooms shift towards joyful, participatory learning in Punjab: CM Mann

Contd.....Front page
He noted, "Teachers have reported greater confidence in experimenting with new methods and adapting lessons to diverse learning needs. A distinguishing feature of the initiative has been its insistence on contextual adaptation rather than direct transplantation of foreign models. Continuous mentoring support from Finnish experts has enabled this transition, ensuring that global best practices are meaningfully integrated into local systems." Meanwhile, CM Bhagwant Singh Mann also visited University of Turku and Turku Teacher Training School for detailed interactions. "The government now plans to scale the programme through a train-the-trainers approach, creating a cadre of master trainers to expand its reach across the state," he said, adding, "Digital platforms and blended learning formats are also being developed to support continuous professional development and wider access." The Chief Minister stated, "With a structured pathway for expansion and a growing pool of trained educators, the collaboration is being positioned as a cornerstone of Punjab's broader education reforms. The state remains committed to strengthening public education so that students are better equipped to succeed, and similar initiatives will be pursued to sustain momentum in the sector."

ULTRASONIC TESTING OF RAILS AND WELDS BY DIGITAL USFD MACHINES

Tender Notice No.: GMW-USFD-042026-MLG, Dated: 21-04-2026. E-Tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following work: **Name of Work** : Ultrasonic testing of Rails and Welds by Digital USFD machines on identified routes of Katihar Division of N. F. Railway as per Indian Railways Standard Specification for ultrasonic testing of rails, welds as issued by RDSO for one year. **Tender Value**: ₹53,89,440/-; **Bid Security**: ₹1,07,400/-; **Date & time of closing/Opening of tender** at 15:00 hrs. on 21-05-2026. For complete information with the tender document of above e-tender will be available in the website www.ireps.gov.in. Dy. Chief Engineer/Track, Maligaon

SEAT AND BERTH RE-CUSHIONING

E-Tender Notice No. DBWS-NIET-01-2026-27 Dated: 18-04-2026. E-Tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following work:- **Name of work**: Seat and Berth Re-cushioning and Allied Works on Coaches at Dibrugarh Workshop. **Approximate Cost of the work**: ₹7,70,43,147.77/- Inclusive of GST@ 18%. **Earnest Money**: ₹15,40,900/- **Date & time of closing tender**: at 15:00 hrs. & opening at 15:30 hrs. of 11-05-2026. The complete information with tender documents of above e-Tender will be available up to 15:00 hrs. of 11-05-2025 in www.ireps.gov.in CWM/Mechanical Workshop, Dibrugarh

PROVISION OF TRAMWAY TYPE OHE ARRANGEMENT

Tender Notice No. TRD/LMG/4 of 2026-27; Dated: 21-04-2026. E-tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works: **Tender No**: EL-TRD-NFR-LMG-OHE-MOD-56; **Name of work**: Provision of Tramway type OHE arrangement in the L.R. and H.R. Bay & Dismantling of the existing OHE arrangement at H.R. Bay in connection with the Extension of H.R. Bay in Guwahati diesel Trip shed. **Advertised Value**: ₹1,02,70,814.83; **Earnest Money**: ₹2,05,400.00. **E-tenders will be closed** at 15:30 hrs. on 14-05-2026. The complete information with the tender document of above e-tender is available on website www.ireps.gov.in. Sr. DEE/TRD/Lumding

11 killed in UP's Mirzapur as truck rams multiple vehicles, Bolero catches fire

The truck sustained a brake failure and rammed into another truck from behind. In the sequence of events, an Alto car, along with a Bolero, was also hit, resulting in the loss of lives.

New Delhi.(Agency)

At least 11 people died in a road accident after a truck lost control and hit multiple vehicles in Uttar Pradesh's Mirzapur on Wednesday (April 22).

As per the preliminary investigation, the multi-vehicle accident occurred around 8.30 pm. The truck, which was travelling on a route descending from the Dramandganj valley towards the Lasoda area, hit a container truck after suffering a brake failure.

Meanwhile, an alto car got trapped between the two trucks and was hit by the truck. In the sequence of events, a Bolero car, which was carrying several passengers, was also hit and immediately caught fire. The passengers who were trapped inside

were burned to death. The truck driver also sustained severe injuries and is presently undergoing treatment under serious circumstances.

Confirming the number of deaths to the press, Apama Rajat Kaushik, a senior police official from the region, said, "So far, 11 deaths have been reported, and efforts are underway to establish the identities of the victims."

Adding further, she mentioned that the police have been successful to trace the family members of some of the victims and are in the process of contacting them.

RESCUE OPERATIONS BEGAN SHORTLY

Upon learning about the incident, the state authorities reacted swiftly by

deploying police personnel and the fire brigade to the place of occurrence. Kaushik mentioned that the rescue operations began shortly with the help of the residents.

At present, police personnel remain deployed at the site, and efforts are ongoing to restore traffic movement on the affected route, a report by news agency PTI said.

Meanwhile, it has come to light that one of the trucks involved bears a Bihar registration number, while the other is registered in Madhya Pradesh.

Among the cars involved, one is from Sonbhadra district and another from Mirzapur district, Kaushik told the presspersons. A detailed probe into the matter is also underway.



UP Property Dealer, Under Debt, Poisons Pet Labrador, Then Dies By Suicide

New Delhi.(Agency)

A 33-year-old property dealer, who was under a huge debt, poisoned his pet dog and then died by suicide in Uttar Pradesh's Bareilly. Nikhil Arora was living alone with his pet Labrador named 'Premi' in a rented apartment. According to the police, Nikhil's financial situation had deteriorated due to his parents' treatment, and he had to sell his house. He had also incurred a significant debt, causing him mental stress.

On Wednesday, Nikhil was supposed to go to his friend Dheeraj's house for dinner. Suspicious of his absence, Dheeraj and other acquaintances went over to his



house. However, they found the door locked from the inside.

Soon after, they called the police - who broke open the door and found Nikhil and his dog's body lying next to each other. Cops recovered buttermilk packets and an empty sulphas container from his room.

Officials said that Nikhil mixed sulphas tablets (a highly toxic pesticide used to preserve stored grains) in buttermilk and first gave it to his dog and then consumed it himself.

Locals said that Nikhil loved his dog a lot and suspected that he may have poisoned the dog out of fear of who would take care of him after his death. Police are currently investigating the case, and both Nikhil's and his dog's bodies have been sent for post-mortem, officials said.

Nashik TCS Unit's Passwords Stored In Obscene Language: Victim

New Delhi.(Agency)

Shocking details continue to emerge in the alleged sexual harassment and 'conversion' case at the Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) in Nashik, with one of the victims claiming that the company unit's passwords were stored in "obscene language".

The victim, while recording her statement before the Women's Commission, said she was repeatedly subjected to mental harassment, inappropriate behaviour and conversations since her training days by one of the accused - Raza Memon. The woman alleged that the accused would call her into his cabin and talk obscenely. He also said things to hurt her religious sentiments, she said.

Raza Rafiq Memon, 35, is among the employees of the TCS' BPO unit in Nashik who have been arrested.

According to her, when she complained about Memon's behaviour to the company unit's manager, she was ignored. Shortly later, two other accused - Danish and Tausif - digitally stalked her and spread rumours about her.

Nashik TCS case

The incident came to light after a woman accused a colleague, Danish Sheikh, of establishing a physical relationship with her after falsely promising marriage in 2022 - when he was already married to another woman.

According to a police report, Nida Khan - one of the accused who is on the run and the sister of Danish Sheikh - allegedly made derogatory remarks about the complainant's faith and attempted to pressure her to change her religion.

It is further alleged that Khan and another individual, Tausif Akhtar, concealed the fact from the complainant that Danish Sheikh was already married to another woman.

As the police started investigating the matter, seven more women came forward, claiming that their senior colleagues mentally and sexually harassed them, and the human resources department ignored their complaints. These events reportedly took place between February 2022 and March 2026.

Ex-help raped Alwar woman 12 hours before raping and killing IRS officer's daughter

New Delhi.(Agency)

23-year-old Rahul Meena's night of violence began with a rape in Alwar and ended with an attack in Delhi that resulted in the death of a 22-year-old woman. Rahul Meena was arrested on Wednesday night after allegedly raping and murdering the daughter of an IRS officer in Delhi's posh Amar Colony area. The Delhi rape and murder, targeted a home where he was employed as a help until a few months ago, came barely 12 hours after the rape of a woman in Alwar.

On Tuesday night at around 10.30 pm, the accused Rahul Meena allegedly entered his neighbour's house in Alwar, pushed and assaulted her before raping her. He is also accused of covering her mouth, strangling her, and throwing her to the floor before committing the rape. He allegedly bit the victim at several places on her body.

While leaving around 11 pm, he

A 23-year-old former house help allegedly carried out two rapes within 12 hours -- first in Rajasthan's Alwar and then in a Delhi apartment belonging to his former employer, the police said.



threatened her and asked her to keep quiet, warning that if she informed anyone, he would kill her along with her husband and children. An FIR was registered by Alwar Police based on the victim's complaint.

'Proceedings Used As Online Tool In Political Campaign': Trinamool In Court

New Delhi.(Agency)

Court proceedings are being used as a convenient lightning rod for political campaigning on social media by the opposition, Menaka Guruswamy, representing Mamata Banerjee in the I-PAC raid case, told the Supreme Court on Thursday.

As the case was being heard in New Delhi, Phase I voting in Bengal was underway.

A video clip of the exchange between Menaka Guruswamy and Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, representing the Enforcement Directorate, was posted on X by the BJP's Amit Malviya. The post suggested that Mamata Banerjee's lawyer had referred to her as "Queen." Guruswamy today raised sharp objections to post by Amit Malviya calling it an "abuse" of court proceedings.

She pointed out that while she was making submissions on changes in law before and after independence, her submissions were misrepresented to show that she was

calling Mamata Banerjee "Queen." Guruswamy was arguing that the writ petition filed by the Enforcement Directorate, seeking a CBI probe against Mamata Banerjee and the senior officials who accompanied her when she "walked into the midst" of an ongoing raid on the I-PAC premises in Kolkata in January, is not maintainable.

The Supreme Court had previously made it clear that the Chief Minister's conduct during an ongoing raid could not translate into a "Centre-State dispute."

The Courtroom Exchange

"Now, please see my lords, and this is where Mr Seervai very nicely shows us the difference between our constitutional state and what was. What the Union is asking for takes us back to pre-constitutional India," Guruswamy argued. "Mandamus does not lie against the crown... there can be no mandamus to the sovereign... because there would be an incongruity in the queen commanding herself to do [an act]."

Man not liable to pay maintenance if DNA rules out paternity: Supreme Court

New Delhi.(Agency)

The case arose from a relationship in which the appellant, employed as domestic help in the respondent's household for three years, alleged that the respondent established a sexual relationship with her on the pretext of marriage. The parties eventually married in March 2016, and a child was born the following month, in April 2016.

The Supreme Court has held that a man cannot be compelled to pay maintenance for a child once a DNA test conclusively establishes that he is not the biological father — even if the child was born during the subsistence of a valid marriage.

A Bench comprising Justice Sanjay Karol and Justice NK Singh upheld a Delhi High Court judgment and dismissed an appeal filed by a woman challenging the denial of maintenance to her daughter.

BACKGROUND OF THE CASE

The case arose from a relationship in which the appellant, employed as domestic help in the respondent's household for three years, alleged that the respondent established a sexual relationship with her on the pretext of marriage. The parties eventually married in March 2016, and a child was born the following month, in April 2016.



However, the marital relationship deteriorated rapidly, leading the woman to approach the court in July 2016. She sought interim maintenance of Rs 25,000 per month and a protection order for herself and her minor child against her estranged husband and his family.

TRIAL AND APPELLATE FINDINGS

During the proceedings, the Trial Court allowed

the respondent's request for a DNA test. The report concluded that the respondent was not the biological father of the child. Relying on this finding, and noting that the appellant had allegedly concealed her income, the Trial Court rejected her plea for interim maintenance. The First Appellate Court upheld this decision, observing that the claim for the child's maintenance was no longer being pressed and agreeing with the Trial Court on the issue of concealment.

DELHI HIGH COURT'S OBSERVATIONS

The Delhi High Court examined the legal presumption of legitimacy under Section 112 of the Indian Evidence Act, 1872, which ordinarily protects children born during a valid marriage. The Court said that protection of this section would have been available to the appellant only if the DNA test, which has attained finality, had not been conducted, since the intent of the Section.

Pir Panjal is fenced. How do Pak terrorists still cross into J&K?

The mountains and forests of Pir Panjal do not obey man-made lines, but the Indian Army heavily guards this border along the LoC. It is now fenced and watched round the clock. But how do Pakistani terrorists still manage to cross into Jammu and Kashmir, and massacre civilians like they did in Pahalgam?

New Delhi.(Agency)

A year ago, when 26 civilians were brutally killed in Pahalgam's Baisaran Valley, the Pakistani terrorists who carried out the massacre emerged from the tree line of the meadow. Baisaran, located above Pahalgam town, is surrounded by forested slopes, among the most treacherous in India. This mountain range, called the Pir Panjal range, shapes the mountain zone close to Baisaran Valley. Pir Panjal has a history, quite a long one, when it comes to terrorism. Back in the 2000s, when it was not fenced, it allowed cross-border terrorism. Military officers recount that till the mid-2000s, terrorists from Pakistan would cross into India in hordes, as the range extends into Pakistan as well, with a substantial stretch lying in Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir (POK). Today, it is heavily fenced, and experts say infiltration from this route has reduced to a great extent.

Experts say that most of the infiltration now happens from semi-flat border terrains, such as the Ramgarh-Chambliyal belt and the Khora Post area in Samba sector.

But there are instances when terrorists, trained by the Pakistani military, take Pir Panjal's treacherous route to enter India. Despite being well guarded, it remains one of the most difficult terrains to secure. The terrorists behind the Pahalgam carnage used the Pir Panjal forest cover to their advantage.

The jungles of the Pir Panjal range, full of coniferous trees like pine, fir and deodar, form a canopy stretching for kilometres across the Line of Control (LoC), making it difficult for surveillance drones to do their job efficiently. However, there are also stretches of open, rocky ground, along with terrain that remains snow-covered for much of the year.

This is terrain where there is heavy deployment of the Indian Army, and where special forces units operate in full force. A serving Lt Colonel says ambushes are set up in these forests depending on intelligence that comes from the ground.

NEWS BOX

Laura Wolvaardt's South Africa outclass India to take 3-0 series lead



Mumbai. (Agency)

India scored their highest-ever total against South Africa but still suffered a nine-wicket thrashing at the hands of the home team, with skipper Laura Wolvaardt leading the way with a splendid ton in the third women's T20 International against South Africa here on Wednesday. South Africa thus took an unassailable 3-0 lead to clinch the five-match series. The remaining two WT20Is in Johannesburg and Benoni is now rendered inconsequential. Put in to bat, India made 192 for 4 -- their highest ever against South Africa -- with captain Harmanpreet Kaur and opener Shafali Verma scoring 66 and 64 respectively. But, South Africa captain Wolvaardt slammed 115 off just 53 balls while her opening partner Sune Luus struck 64 not out off 42 deliveries against a hapless Indian bowlers to easily chase down the target of 193 with 21 balls to spare and take an unassailable 3-0 lead in the five-match series. South Africa reached 193 for 1 in 16.3 overs. This was the third highest successful run chase in women's T20I history after West Indies and England overhauled 212 and 198 against Australia and India respectively in 2023 and 2018.

Wolvaardt, who has been in top form in the series having made 51 and 54 in the first two matches, struck as many as 14 boundaries and five sixes while toying with the Indian bowlers. Luus, who had made 13 and 57 in the first two matches, hit six boundaries and two sixes. The South African duo were together for 183 runs for the opening wicket before Wolvaardt got out in the 16th over. Veteran India all-rounder Deepti Sharma failed yet again with the ball as she continued to search her first wicket in the series. She returned with figures of 0/46 in 3.3 overs on Wednesday. Earlier, captain Harmanpreet Kaur and opening batter Shafali Verma struck a half century each as India produced a far better batting performance to post 192 for 4. Shafali continued his impressive form as she struck his second consecutive half century while it was the first half ton for Harmanpreet in the series. She had made 47 not out and 12 in the first two games which India lost to trail 0-2 in the five-match series.

BCCI is killing Indian players: Lalit Modi lashes out at board

NEW DELHI. (Agency)

Former IPL chairman Lalit Modi has strongly criticised the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), accusing it of overworking players and prioritising money over player welfare.

Modi's comments came in response to an NDTV report which stated that India head coach Gautam Gambhir was unhappy with the team's packed schedule ahead of the upcoming one-off Test against Afghanistan. According to the report, Gambhir was concerned that several Indian players would be involved in the IPL 2026 final on May 31 and might have to join the national squad almost immediately for the Test match



against Afghanistan, which begins on June 6. This could force the selection committee to call up reserve Test players for the fixture, despite India's recent struggles in home red-ball cricket. Reacting to the report, Modi said that the board was "killing" Indian cricketers with relentless scheduling and treating them like "mules." "The BCCI is killing its players with the hectic scheduling. Guys, stop this outrageous scheduling you are putting the boys through. They need time with their families and just some time off. You do not need the money," Modi said. He further added that the board should focus on player welfare rather than financial concerns, claiming that the IPL had already created enough long-term financial security for Indian cricket.

"I created annuity revenue that the world envies. You will never have to worry about that while sitting in those chairs. Do something good with your decisions, for heaven's sake. The welfare of the players is paramount. Do not overwork them," he said. Earlier, India Test captain Shubman Gill had also spoken about the lack of preparation time before red-ball assignments, saying that there should be at least two weeks of camp before heading into a Test series.

Donald Trump envoy pushes FIFA to replace Iran with Italy at World Cup 2026

← FIFA World Cup 2026 faces fresh controversy after a proposal to replace Iran with Italy from none other than USA President Donald Trump's envoy. While the suggestion has sparked debate, FIFA has not indicated any change to the current tournament lineup

NEW DELHI. (Agency)

A fresh controversy has emerged ahead of the FIFA World Cup 2026, with a proposal from a key U.S. official putting Iran's participation under the spotlight. According to a report from the Financial Times, an envoy to Donald Trump has suggested that Italy replace Iran in the tournament. The suggestion, reportedly made to Gianni Infantino, has added a political dimension to an already sensitive situation involving travel concerns and geopolitical tensions. Iran had earlier raised the possibility of relocating their matches away from the United States due to the ongoing conflict, but

FIFA has so far maintained that the schedule will remain unchanged. U.S. special envoy Paolo Zampolli confirmed the suggestion while speaking to the Financial Times, framing it as both a footballing and personal aspiration. "I confirm I have suggested to Trump and (FIFA president Gianni) Infantino that Italy replace Iran at the World Cup. I'm an Italian native and it would be a dream to see the Azzurri at a US-hosted tournament. With four titles, they have the pedigree to justify inclusion," Zampolli said. The proposal has also drawn attention because of Italy's absence from the tournament. The four-time world champions failed to qualify after losing their playoff, marking a third straight World Cup miss, a surprising run for one of football's traditional powers. The idea, however, remains only a suggestion at this stage, with no official response from FIFA or other governing bodies.

WILL IRAN PLAY FIFA WORLD CUP

2026?

For now, Iran are still scheduled to participate in the tournament. The team has already qualified and is set to play its group-stage matches in the United States, with fixtures lined up in Los Angeles and Seattle. Despite

preparations are continuing as usual. Officials from Iran have echoed a similar stance, stating that the team will follow FIFA's final decision while continuing their preparations for the tournament.

CAN FIFA REPLACE IRAN WITH ITALY IN THE WORLD CUP?

Any potential replacement would ultimately be decided by FIFA. Under tournament regulations, the governing body has the authority to select a replacement team if a qualified nation withdraws. However, the process is not straightforward. Typically, continental confederations push for replacements from within their region. In this case, the Asian Football Confederation would likely argue for another Asian team to take Iran's spot. That makes

Italy's inclusion highly unlikely unless FIFA makes an exceptional call. Despite their history and four World Cup titles, Italy did not qualify through the standard route.



earlier concerns about travel and requests to shift matches to Mexico, FIFA has indicated that all games will go ahead as planned. Gianni Infantino also reaffirmed during a recent visit to the Iranian camp that

MI vs CSK: Will MS Dhoni spice up strange IPL El Clasico of fallen giants?

IPL 2026, MI vs CSK: Mumbai Indians and Chennai Super Kings face off in IPL 2026's first El Clasico on Thursday, but this time the contest carries a different edge, with both five-time champions still searching for consistency. The spotlight, as ever, is on MS Dhoni, who is on the verge of a return after a calf strain, while Rohit Sharma is also pushing to come back from a hamstring injury.

Mumbai. (Agency)

Mumbai Indians and Chennai Super Kings return to centre stage on Thursday, but this time the spotlight falls as much on who might return as on the contest itself. Two former champions still searching for consistency, two sides with five titles each, now looking to steady campaigns that have yet to find full rhythm. At the heart of it all is MS Dhoni, whose legacy continues to shape this rivalry. On the 12th anniversary of the IPL's first match, he was hailed as the league's greatest captain by a panel of experts, a reputation built on nights like the 2010 final, when his Chennai Super Kings beat a Sachin Tendulkar-led Mumbai Indians to win their first title. Sixteen years on, Dhoni is once again central to an MI vs CSK build-up. The former CSK captain is on the verge of a return after a calf strain, and his availability could shape the tone of IPL 2026's first El Clasico at the Wankhede on Thursday. There is similar anticipation around Rohit Sharma, who has been recovering from a hamstring injury. Both

were out in the middle during training on Wednesday, batting alongside each other in a scene that brought back memories of past contests.



WILL DHONI, ROHIT RETURN?

Their journeys have run alongside each other for nearly two decades.

Rohit Sharma and MS Dhoni first shared a field on October 1, 2006, in the Challenger Trophy in Chennai, one turning out for India Red, the other for India Blue. Since then, they have been part of 652 matches across formats, sometimes as teammates, often as opponents, and almost always at the centre

of the contest. On Thursday, that thread could stretch a little further. Nearly twenty years on, they might once again take the field together at the Wankhede. Rohit is pushing for a return after missing Mumbai Indians' last two matches with a hamstring injury, while Dhoni looks set for his first appearance of IPL 2026 if the past few days in training are anything to go by. He has not only batted but also kept wickets, something he rarely did in the nets even at his peak, a clear sign he is gearing up for match intensity. It says plenty about their staying power that both remain the faces of their franchises in 2026. It also says something about where these two sides stand, still turning to familiar names while others have moved ahead with more settled combinations. Neither has been officially cleared, but both look close. Rohit has eased his way back after the setback against Royal Challengers Bengaluru and looked fluent during his time in the nets after skipping an earlier optional session. Dhoni's build-up has been steady and deliberate.

Harry Kane, Luis Diaz send Bayern Munich past Leverkusen into German Cup final

LEVERKUSEN. (Agency)

Harry Kane and Luis Diaz scored as Bayer Leverkusen won 2-0 at Bayer Leverkusen on Wednesday to reach the German Cup final for the first time since 2020.

Just three days after Bayern sealed back-to-back Bundesliga titles with a home win over Stuttgart, Kane and Diaz got the goals to keep hopes of a treble alive. Bayern's comfortable victory avenged their defeat by Leverkusen in the round of 16 last season. They will face either holders Stuttgart or Freiburg in the final. The Bavarian giants have won a record 20 German Cups but had not reached the showpiece in Berlin for six years, their longest drought since the turn of the century. "We're going to Berlin. I'm looking forward to it. It was a goal of ours to get to Berlin, to reach the final, experience that, the guys said it's an incredible

experience, so we've done nearly all the work," said Kane. "We've had a lot of away



games, tough games, we've had to grind it out. Now we've got one more to go. In a final anything is possible. We're feeling good."

Leverkusen, the 2024 cup winners, were appearing in a third successive semi-final but struggled under the bright lights as

Bayern pinned them back. Diaz and Kane forced good saves from Leverkusen goalkeeper Mark Flekken inside the opening 20 minutes but the England captain eventually broke through. Jamal Musiala threaded a pass through from the right which was intended for Diaz, but Kane was on hand to smash in when the ball evaded the Colombian completely. Leverkusen improved after the break. Nathan Tella, who scored the only goal when Leverkusen eliminated Bayern last season, forced a spectacular save from Manuel Neuer early in the second half. Tella thumped a low shot that required Neuer to fully extend himself to swat the ball away. In the final half hour, Bayern had the better chances to score with Josip Stanisic, Kane and Diaz all going close to putting the match to bed.



compelling contest, but not enough awareness from LSG on a night where two points slipped away far too easily. Three defeats in a row at home. Seven on the bounce at the venue. And now, a chase of 160 that never truly gathered shape. Lucknow Super Giants find themselves trapped in what feels like an Ekana Bhoal Bhulaiya. Combinations have been shuffled, roles reassigned, surfaces tweaked, yet the outcome remains unchanged.

THREE BALLS, THREE POOR SHOTS

Even in the press box, there was a sense of unease after Rajasthan Royals were restricted. The plan to contain Vaibhav Suryavanshi had worked, but confidence in LSG's chase was fragile at best. Their struggles with the bat this season have rarely allowed for optimism. That unease proved justified.

Lamine Yamal's World Cup 2026 hopes in doubt after FC Barcelona injury scare

← Delhi Capitals' Venugopal Rao addresses the controversial decision to bowl Nitish Rana for his full quota and the tactical middle-order collapse that handed SRH a 47-run victory in Hyderabad.

NEW DELHI. (Agency)

Lamine Yamal has sparked fresh injury concerns for FC Barcelona after limping off during their La Liga clash against Celta Vigo, putting both his club run-in and international ambitions under a cloud. The 18-year-old's early exit has now raised doubts over his availability for the upcoming FIFA World Cup 2026. Barcelona secured a narrow win to maintain their lead at the top of the table, but the result was overshadowed by Yamal's injury. The teenager, widely seen as one of

the brightest prospects in world football, had just given his side the lead before being forced off the pitch. Head coach Hansi Flick confirmed that the club is still awaiting clarity on the severity of the injury. "We have to wait until tomorrow. We have to see what it is. I think it's something, because he felt it and I think also after a goal he wouldn't have left the pitch without a reason. Of course, it's a pity that Lamine is injured now," Flick said. The concern within the squad was also evident, with teammate Gavi stressing how important Yamal has become to the side.

"To me Lamine is the best. Of course, for us it's a bad situation, because he's a very important player for us. He was very upset in the dressing room because he knows how crucial he is for us. I don't know how long the injury will take but I hope it's as short as possible," Gavi said.

HOW DID LAMINE YAMAL GET

INJURED?

Yamal's injury came at a moment that should have been a highlight. He won a penalty late in the first half and stepped up to convert it,



calmly putting Barcelona ahead. However, immediately after striking the ball, he pulled up and grabbed the back of his left leg. The forward dropped to the ground in discomfort even as teammates approached to celebrate. Medical staff attended to him on

the field, but it quickly became clear he would not be able to continue. Yamal walked off on his own before heading straight down the tunnel, rather than staying on the bench, which raised further concern about the seriousness of the issue. Initial reports have suggested a possible hamstring injury, with early assessments indicating a muscle tear in his left leg.

WILL LAMINE YAMAL MISS FIFA WORLD CUP 2026?

If the early diagnosis of a hamstring tear is confirmed, Yamal could be sidelined for around five weeks. That timeline would effectively rule him out of Barcelona's remaining fixtures this season, including the highly anticipated El Clasico against Real Madrid. More importantly, it puts his participation in the World Cup in serious doubt. The tournament is set to begin on June 11, leaving very little recovery time if the injury proves to be significant.

Sensex, Nifty post notable losses amid weak global cues, sustained FII selling

New Delhi, (Agency)

The Indian equity markets posted sharp losses early on Thursday tracking cautious global cues and sustained foreign institutional selling, after the recent rally. As of 9.25 am, Sensex lost 671 points, or 0.85 per cent, to reach 77,845 and Nifty dipped 179 points, or 0.74 per cent, to reach 24,198. Main broad-cap indices showed divergence with the benchmark indices, as the Nifty Midcap 100 dipped 0.34 per cent, and the Nifty Smallcap 100 lost 0.16 per cent. All sectoral indices traded in red except pharma as well as oil and gas up 0.71 per cent and 0.02 per cent. Nifty auto and consumer durables were the top losers down 1.03 per cent and 1.61 per cent respectively. (Also read: BSE gets SEBI nod to launch derivatives on Sensex Next 30 index)

The immediate support zone of Nifty is placed at near 24,100-24,000, while resistance is observed in the 24,400-24,500 range. In the previous session, benchmark indices on a weaker note after failing to sustain higher levels. Selling pressure was visible in banking and financial stocks following their recent outperformance. IT stocks also remained weak, tracking subdued global cues and uncertainty in overseas markets. FMCG, Energy and other defensive sectors showed relative resilience.

The US markets gained after President Donald Trump extended a ceasefire with Iran, saying it was warranted due to Tehran's "seriously fractured" government. President Trump said the ceasefire will be in place until Iran submits a proposal or concludes talks, even as the US military continues its blockade of Iranian ports. On the fundamental side, earnings remain a strong tailwind, with Q1 earnings growth tracking and forward EPS estimates seeing upward revision, market participants said.

HDFC Defence Fund boosts stakes in HAL, Eicher, Aequs, Sedemac; stocks in focus

New Delhi, (Agency)

Mutual Funds made several significant changes to their portfolios during the last quarter of the previous financial year, 2025-26. HDFC Defence Fund raised stakes in four companies – Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), Eicher Motors, Aequs Limited and Sedemac Mechatronics. The fund house invested in the select companies with strong fundamentals, growth potential, and stable performance. Notably, the investments were across sectors such as defense, auto, manufacturing, and industrial companies.

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited

HAL is one of leading defence PSU company in the country, manufacturing fighter aircraft, helicopters, and aviation systems. HAL shares were trading at around Rs 4,360.80 as compared to its 52-week high of Rs 5,166. The fund house purchased 50,000 shares of Hindustan Aeronautics Limited, bringing its total holdings to 2.55 million shares.

Eicher Motors

Eicher Motors manufactures popular Royal Enfield motorcycle and is also engaged in the business of commercial vehicles. The company's shares were trading at around Rs 7,112.50 at the time of writing this article on Thursday. The stock is down 12 percent from its 52-week high of Rs 8,233. The fund infused money to buy 45,000 stocks of the company. At present, HDFC Defence Fund possesses 4.95 lakh shares of Eicher Motors.

Aequs Limited

Aequs has a diversified manufacturing business, operating in the aerospace, consumer, and industrial sectors. The company's shares were trading at around Rs 182.72 today, while its 52-week is Rs 206. The fund purchased 10.51 lakh shares, bringing its total holding to 17.68 lakh shares.

Sedemac Mechatronics

HDFC Defence Fund infused money to buy shares of Sedemac. The fund house purchased the shares of the particular company for the first time.

India's gross FDI remains strong, but net flows stay near record lows: Morgan Stanley

New Delhi, (Agency)

India's foreign direct investment (FDI) outlook remains mixed, with strong gross inflows offset by persistently weak net inflows, according to a report by Morgan Stanley. The report noted that gross FDI is likely to remain well supported, driven by both greenfield and brownfield investments. However, net FDI is expected to stay subdued in the near term due to higher repatriation of capital and rising outward investments by Indian firms.

"The outlook for gross FDI remains constructive, even as net FDI may remain subdued in the near term," the report said. Gross FDI refers to total foreign investment entering a country, while net FDI is the residual amount after accounting for repatriation of profits and capital, as well as outward investments by domestic companies. According to the report, gross FDI equity inflows into India rose to \$90.8 billion on a 12-month trailing basis in January 2026, equivalent to 2.3% of GDP. This represents a 13% year-on-year increase from \$80.3 billion in January 2025. Gross FDI excluding repatriation also climbed to a three-year high of \$36.3 billion, up 38.4% year-on-year. In contrast, net FDI remained near historic lows at just \$0.5 billion, weighed down by elevated capital repatriation and a sharp rise in outward investment. Repatriation has stayed above \$50 billion for the second consecutive year, while outward FDI has surged to \$35.8 billion—more than 2.5 times higher over the past two years. The report highlighted that while headline inflows remain strong, net FDI trends are more critical from an external stability perspective, as they represent a more durable source of financing for India's current account.

Global oil shock could push up electricity prices in India: Report

Coal currently accounts for roughly 70% of India's electricity generation, making the country particularly sensitive to changes in its price.

New Delhi, (Agency)

A recent report by ISI Markets has warned that global oil supply disruptions could feed into higher electricity prices in India, underscoring the country's continued exposure to fluctuations in fossil fuel markets. The report draws a close connection between international energy prices and domestic power tariffs, noting that movements in crude oil and coal have historically been mirrored in India's electricity costs. With oil prices expected to rise in the event of supply shocks—such

as disruptions along key global shipping routes—the impact is likely to be transmitted to end users, including households and industries. "Households and corporates—especially in industry—will have to contend with rising electricity prices resulting from supply shocks," the report observed.

It added that any global shift toward coal as an alternative during periods of oil disruption could place additional upward pressure on coal prices. Given coal's central role in India's energy system, such trends would have direct implications for power tariffs. Coal currently accounts for roughly 70% of India's electricity generation, making the country particularly sensitive to changes in its price. According to the report, this heavy dependence means that volatility in global fossil fuel markets—whether in oil or

coal—tends to feed through into domestic electricity pricing. Historical patterns reinforce this link, with past spikes in crude oil and coal prices often coinciding



with increases in electricity tariffs. The report suggests that this correlation is likely to persist in the absence of a significant structural shift in the energy

mix. At the same time, it highlights India's accelerating transition toward renewable energy as a key long-term buffer against such volatility. Since 2017, renewable sources have accounted for the majority of new power capacity additions in the country, driven largely by solar and wind projects. However, the report points out a gap between installed capacity and actual electricity generation from renewables, indicating challenges in utilisation, integration, and grid efficiency.

Despite these constraints, India's expansion of clean energy is positioned as central to its broader strategy to enhance energy security, reduce import dependence, and stabilise long-term power costs.

The report concludes that sustained investment in renewable energy, coupled with improvements in system efficiency and grid performance, will be essential if India is to better insulate itself from future global energy price shocks.

Rs 2 lakh outstanding balance limit, peer-to-peer transaction capped at Rs 25,000 -- Here's all about RBI's draft PPI guidelines

New Delhi, (Agency)

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has released the Master Direction on Prepaid Payment Instruments (PPIs), 2026, a conducive framework for long term growth of PPIs with enhanced security of transactions. RBI has said that these directions shall apply to all Prepaid Payment Instrument (PPI) Issuers and System Participants, while a non-bank entity shall seek authorisation for issuance of PPIs by submitting an application. The central bank has said a non-bank applicant shall have a minimum net-worth of Rs 5 crore, and shall submit a certificate from its statutory auditor. A non-bank PPI issuer shall attain a minimum net-worth of Rs 15 crore by the end of the third financial year of authorisation. The minimum net-worth, as applicable, shall be maintained by a non-bank PPI issuer on an ongoing basis. RBI draft PPI guidelines: Issuance and Loading of PPIs. In its Conduct of PPI Business guidelines RBI clearly laid down instructions for Issuance and Loading of PPIs. RBI has mentioned the

following points

a. A PPI may be issued as a card, wallet, or in any such form / instrument which can be used to access the PPI and to use the amount therein. No PPI shall be issued in the form of a paper voucher.



b. A PPI may be loaded by debit to a bank account or another PPI, or by cash, unless specified otherwise. A Special Purpose PPI may be loaded by a credit card as well. c. A bank PPI issuer may load PPI through Business Correspondents (BCs).

d. A non-bank PPI issuer may load PPI through its agents in person, in accordance with the provisions outlined by RBI in circular

C.O. DPSS.POLC.No.S-384/02.32.001/2021-2022 dated August 03, 2021 on 'Framework for Outsourcing of Payment and Settlement-related Activities by Payment System Operators', as amended from time to time. RBI framework on General Purpose PPI

RBI said a Full-KYC PPI would be issued after completing customer due diligence (CDD) process, in accordance with MD on KYC. A Full-KYC PPI shall be issued subject to the following conditions: i. An issuer can issue only one such PPI to a holder at any point in time.

ii. Such PPI should have a minimum validity of one year from the date of issuance. iii. The amount outstanding in such PPI shall not exceed Rs 2,00,000 at any point of time.

iv. The total amount debited from such PPI during a month should not exceed Rs 2,00,000. PPI issuer may set limits within these ceilings, considering the risk profile of the PPI holder, other operational risks, etc.

Asian stocks retreat, oil tops USD 100 despite fresh records on Wall Street

A growing sense of unease over prospects for an end to the Iran war, which is in its eighth week, is weighing on investor sentiment even after US President Donald Trump extended a ceasefire.

HONG KONG, (Agency)

Stocks retreated in Asia on Thursday after an initial jump that pushed Japan's Nikkei 225 index above 60,000 for the first time, while oil prices gained as investors reacted to shaky prospects for more talks on ending the war with Iran. US futures also fell back after indexes on Wall Street rallied to records a day earlier, helped by strong corporate earnings. Markets in Japan and South Korea briefly touched new records,

driven by buying of tech shares. Tokyo's Nikkei 225 lost 1.5% to 58,707.60 after climbing to 60,013.98. South Korea's Kospi was 0.1% lower at 6,414.57, giving up earlier gains after briefly surpassing 6,500. The government reported a better-than-expected 1.7% annual economic growth rate for the January-March quarter, boosted by strong exports, particularly of computer chips used in the artificial intelligence boom.

Hong Kong's Hang Seng shed 1.1% to 25,865.88, while the Shanghai Composite index fell 0.8% to 4,073.71. Australia's S&P/ASX 200 declined 0.8% to 8,770.70. Taiwan's Taiex sank 1.6% and the Sensex in India lost 0.6%.

A growing sense of unease over prospects for an end to the Iran war, which is in its eighth week, is weighing on investor sentiment even after US President Donald Trump extended a ceasefire. It's

unclear whether and when another round of peace talks will take place.

Iran fired on three ships in the Strait of Hormuz on Wednesday after the US began imposing a sea blockade of Iranian ports last week, and Trump said the US would continue its blockade of Iranian ports. Maritime traffic through the Strait of Hormuz, where roughly a fifth of the world's oil normally passed before the war, is still largely halted and the likelihood of its reopening dimmed after Iran's Revolutionary Guard seized two of the three ships that were attacked. Global energy prices have surged on the Iran war energy shock. Brent crude, the international standard, was 1.5% higher early Thursday at USD 103.39 per barrel. It was around USD 70 a barrel before the Iran war began in late February.

Benchmark US crude was up 1.8% to USD 94.66 per barrel.



around 4 million units annually," he added. Currently, Maruti Suzuki operates manufacturing facilities in Gurugram, Manesar and Kharkhoda in Haryana, along with Hansalpur in Gujarat, with a combined installed capacity of approximately 2.4 million units per year. As part of its expansion plans, the company has identified land for a fifth manufacturing plant at Khoraj Industrial Estate in Sanand, Gujarat. Once fully operational, the new facility is expected to add an annual capacity of 1 million units. Maruti Suzuki presently produces 17 models across more than 650 variants, serving both domestic and international markets.

Petrol, diesel prices be increased to Rs 25–28 per litre after state assembly polls? Petroleum ministry says...

In a post on X, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has said that such media reports are "fake", adding that fuel rates remain unchanged.

New Delhi, (Agency)

The Petroleum ministry has dismissed reports of increase in petrol and diesel prices post elections in several states. In a post on X, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has said that such media reports are "fake", adding that fuel rates remain unchanged. "There are some news reports suggesting a price hike of petrol and diesel. It is hereby clarified that there is no such proposal under consideration by the Government," Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has tweeted. The ministry said that such news items are designed to create fear and panic amongst the citizens and are



mischievous and misleading. "In fact, India is the only country where petrol and diesel prices haven't increased in the last 4 years. Govt of India and Oil PSUs have taken relentless steps in order to insulate the Indian citizens from steep increases in

international prices." Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas wrote. Government's rebuttal on a prospective price rise of petrol and diesel came on the back of the report published by Kotak Institutional Equities. The

report indicated that petrol and diesel prices in India could undergo a steep hike after the ongoing state assembly elections get over on April 29. Kotak Institutional Equities said that petrol and diesel could see a price rise of Rs 25-28 per litre, amidst crude oil rates hovering close to \$120 per barrel. Global oil prices edged higher on Thursday due to a stalemate over the next round of peace talks between the United States and Iran that kept the energy artery Strait of Hormuz effectively closed. The June contract for Brent on the Intercontinental Exchange traded at \$103.35 a barrel, up around 4 per cent from the previous close. Meanwhile the June futures contract for West Texas Intermediate on the New York Mercantile Exchange (NYMEX) rose 1.62 per cent to 94.47 a barrel. The central government has time and again reiterated that it remains committed to ensure the affordability of essential fuels including petrol, diesel, LPG.

Medha Shankr

On Marriage Proposals Before 12th Fail: 'Relatives Didn't Know I'll Be Successful'

Nearly three years after 12th Fail, which marked her acting debut, Medha Shankr is now gearing up for the release of her sophomore feature, *GINNY WEDS SUNNY 2*. The film revolves around two individuals – a peppy Delhi girl and a shy small-town simpleton – and their families navigating the complexities of an arranged marriage. But do opposites really attract? Medha exclusively tells News18, “Yes, I do believe so. If two people have contrasting personalities, there will be attraction. But there should be similarities in their values.” One would assume that having earned the moniker of ‘national crush’ following the super success of 12th Fail, she would be flooded with attention from men. But Medha asserts that there have been no ‘proposals’.

She, in fact, recalls how her relatives would bring prospective matches before her first film happened, expecting her to meet men through arranged set-ups. “They would keep bringing this topic up earlier. They didn’t know that I would end up having a successful career. They would think that acting is just a hobby for me and that I would eventually go back home after four years,” she says.

But all of that changed post 12th Fail. “They would bring me rishtas earlier and I would go, ‘What is this?’ But after 12th Fail released, everyone went quiet. They were like, ‘Achcha, iska career kahin toh jaa raha hai.’ So, now, nobody brings me marriage rishtas,” Medha states. She heaves a sigh of relief that she has a supportive family, who doesn’t hurry her about tying the knot. Medha reveals that she herself is in no rush either. “There’s no pressure from home to get married. My dad has never put that kind of pressure on me. I’m lucky that way. But yes, he does tell me ki time se kar lena aur jisse karni ho, usse kar lena. He understands that my work needs me at present. Abhi time hai shaadi mein. But eventually, I do want to get married,” she remarks.

As for *GINNY WEDS SUNNY 2*, Medha is sharing screen space with Avinash Tiwary and their chemistry has already captured the imagination of netizens. Talking about him, she shares, “Avinash and I’ve very different personalities. I wouldn’t call him shaant. In fact, it’s a whole character that he plays! I bring out his crazy side. So, if I’m not around, he could be quite boring (laughs).”

“Mere energy se he becomes very entertaining. He may tell you that he’s scared of me but don’t believe him! He’s the calmer one between the two of us. I, on the other hand, am very fun loving. I love laughing and my goal in life is to be happy. I don’t like people giving me stress. And the one thread of commonality between me and Avinash is that we’re both very sensitive,” she adds.



Did Yuzvendra Chahal Send 'Cute' DM To Taniya Chatterjee While Married To Dhanashree Verma? Actress Reacts



Taniya Chatterjee recently made headlines after she revealed that Yuzvendra Chahal had messaged her on Instagram. During her interaction with the paparazzi, the actress exposed Yuzvendra Chahal’s DM, alleging that the former RCB spinner had called her “cute” in 2023. What started as a routine paparazzi moment quickly snowballed into a full-blown controversy, drawing intense social media attention, alleged PR involvement, and even legal action. The situation has only escalated further given its timing, coinciding with ongoing chatter about Chahal’s past relationship with ex-wife Dhanashree Verma, turning it into one of the most widely discussed topics in recent times. Recently, in an interview with the Free Press Journal, Taniya Chatterjee reacted to the buzz around her brief interaction with Yuzvendra Chahal, especially as it resurfaced amid discussions linked to Dhanashree’s earlier comments about alleged infidelity in their marriage. She said, “Oh my God. Like, I don’t even know him that well, I barely know him. It was just two DMs, only cute stuff. So that’s it.”

She further revealed that it was the public reaction that brought the matter into the limelight for her. Taniya added, “People kept messaging me and telling me that at that time he was married, so people were telling me that while being married he was sending me that message, cute one.”

Taniya avoided making any direct claims against Chahal, clarifying that their interaction was brief and harmless. She also said that the situation has been blown out of proportion.

Yuzvendra tied the knot to Dhanashree in December 2020, and they reportedly separated in 2024 before finalising their divorce in 2025. The “cute” DM by Chahal was sent in 2023, which has fuelled the speculations.

Meanwhile, Taniya earlier revealed that Chahal has filed a defamation case against her. Expressing her disappointment, she revealed that she has been getting trolled and humiliated but no one is questioning Yuzi.

Virat Kohli's Ex-GF Reacts To Being Dragged In 'Instagram Like' Row; Deepika Padukone Shoots Amid 2nd Pregnancy



Deepika Padukone and Ranveer Singh are one of the most loved couples in town. After welcoming their first child, Dua, in 2024, the duo is now all set for their baby number 2. On Sunday, Deepika and Ranveer took to social media and announced their second pregnancy. Since then, the internet has been going gaga over the two. While Ranveer is currently riding high on the success of *Dhurandhar: The Revenge*, mommy-to-be Deepika is busy with her work commitments. A while ago, director Punit Malhotra took to social media and dropped a lovely picture with her from the sets.

AI is becoming quite a problem for many celebrities, with people using the technology to morph their images without their permission. This has led many, including Amitabh Bachchan and Salman Khan, to seek protection of their personality rights. Now, in a surprising turn of events, a new controversy has taken over the internet. Pictures of Bollywood actress Alia Bhatt promoting a Pakistani clothing brand have spread on social media.

At a time when the world continues to feel divided along cultural and political lines, a small yet meaningful moment from Anne Hathaway has struck a chord with fans online. While promoting *Devil Wears Prada 2*, the actor casually used the word “Inshallah” during an interaction – a phrase of Arabic origin that translates to “God willing.”

Dhurandhar 2: The Revenge is almost in its final run at the box office, and the Aditya Dhar directorial continues to break records. Recently, the movie became the third-highest-grossing Indian film, beating *Pushpa 2: The Rule*, and now, with its 33-day total standing at Rs 1,758.96 crore gross worldwide, can the Ranveer Singh starrer make another record? Time will tell. The first and second spots for the highest-grossing Indian films worldwide are held by Nitesh Tiwari’s 2016 Bollywood family sports drama *Dangal*, starring Aamir Khan (Rs 2,090 crore), and *Baahubali 2: The Conclusion* (Rs 1,788 crore). Now, as the spy thriller continues to earn at the box office, Ranveer Singh’s film is just Rs 30 crore away from dethroning *Baahubali 2: The Conclusion*, and the probability of that happening is quite high.

Zeenat Aman

'Was Not A Very Good Actress,' Says Mumtaz: 'How Many Awards Did She Get? Not Everyone Is A Star'

Veteran actress Mumtaz has said that Zeenat Aman was not a good actress. She said that she is ready to apologise to Zeenat, but she stands by her statement. Mumtaz mentioned that the term “star” is used too loosely, and that only actresses like Madhubala, Rekha and Nargis were true stars among heroines.

Mumtaz said, in a chat with Vicky Lalwani, “Zeenat Aman, okay. Zeenat Aman was not a very good actress, sorry to say—I would say sorry to her as well. How many awards did she get? If you call everyone a star, how will that work? Not everyone is a star.”

She added, “Not everyone can be a star; not everyone can be Dilip Kumar. It takes years to become a star—you lose your hair by the time you get there.” She mentioned, “Meena Kumari, Madhubala, Nargis, Rekha—these were the real stars among heroines.” This criticism comes after Mumtaz slammed Zeenat Aman’s take on live-in relationships in 2024. While Zeenat argued that live-in is a good way of life for couples, Mumtaz dragged her and said, “Zeenat should be careful with what she is advising. She has all of a sudden come into this huge social media popularity, and I can understand her excitement about sounding like a cool aunty.”

“But giving advice that is counter to our moral values is not the solution to increasing your following. Aap Zeenat ko hi le lo misaal ke taur par (Take Zeenat for example)... She knew Mazhar Khan for years before marrying him. Her marriage was a living hell. She should be the last

person doling out advice on relationships,” she had said then.

Meanwhile, Zeenat Aman was recently seen on *The Royals*, and her performance was appreciated by fans and critics alike. She will also appear in *Bun Tikki* with Abhay Deol and Shabana Azmi. The film is directed by Faraz Arif Ansari. Jyoti Deshpande, Dinesh Malhotra, and Marijke Desouza have produced the film under designer Manish Malhotra’s banner, Stage 5 Productions.





5 ways to keep your

Child busy on a Train journey

Kids and train journeys don't go along too well. It is almost always difficult to keep a child busy when you are on the train for a long journey as kids tend to get bored and irritated easily.

While feeding them from time to time and making them sleep are age-old tricks that parents rely on for momentary respite, here are a few other ways to keep your child busy on a long train journey:

1. Be patient and take your kid for a walk. You might have to answer, "Are we there yet?" quite a lot of times but don't lose your patience. Since kids find it difficult to sit still at a place for long, they tend to be anxious about how long they have to sit at the same place. Take them for a walk inside the train. Stand with them at the door for a while and let them enjoy the view from the door. That would help them feel fresh from time to time.

2. Use play-dohs to keep them busy. Board games might get boring after a certain point of time, but play-dohs are far more interesting and creative and work better when it comes to keeping children busy for a long time. Carry coloured play-dohs for your kid and teach them to create new figurines. Give them time to create whatever they want to and help them with ideating their models. Encourage them to be as creative as they can.

3. Draw a town and create a story. Carry a couple of A3-sized papers with you, crayons and toy cars. Draw a small town with a marketplace, houses, amusement park, a school, your kid's best friend's

house, a circus, a hospital, etc. Then make your child drive through town. Help them in planning a day and make his or her ride interesting by creating car chases and escapes. If your kid is old enough, make him or her create the town.

4. Help your kid in making a book. Take a few white papers, fold them together and make a book. Carry some colour pencils and ask your kid to fill the book with his or her favourite things — like their favourite, flower, animal, superhero, etc. Make the book cover as interesting as possible with

your kid's name on it so that he or she is attracted and interested in the activity. Writing their names in a decorative way on the cover will give them a sense of belonging.

5. Let your child have fun. If your kid is happy after interacting with a fellow passenger or wants to play with another kid on the train, let them indulge in it. Let them have fun by indulging in some activity with your co-passengers. If you force your child to sit still at one place while he wants to play with the kid on the other seat, you will end up making him or her cranky. However, keep an eye on your child as he or she plays around.

How to pet-proof Your home

Planning on buying a pet? If you want to keep one, you need to ready your home, so that you keep your pet safe, as well as your home tidy!



- Instead of a carpeted flooring, having a wooden flooring is advisable, as keeping a pet means constantly having to clean the floor. Since your pet will wet the floor, or shed fur, vacuuming the carpet will become tiresome.

- Just like you would do with young kids, keep all breakable articles out of reach. If you have any valuables or any other showpiece that is fragile, stow it away safely in the cupboard. Pets like cats and dogs who like to

jump around the room can break them.

- Don't forget to keep things like bathroom cleaners, phenyl, insecticide sprays etc safely hidden. There is a possibility that your pet can gain access to them and can cause itself bodily harm. Do the same with medicines and toiletries.

- Whenever you open your windows for fresh air, keep an eye on your pet or install a screen. You pet, if it's a cat, dog or a bird, might escape or fall out of the window.

Scary as this seems, daring to be authentically ourselves is an act that is part of who we truly are. Psychologist Maslow said that we are often and constantly moving towards a fully self-actualised presence. Carl Jung gave us wholeness, a view that we are always seeking to feel whole. When I see people step into their greatness, their purpose, their dream, I want to do more of that myself. When you see someone you admire, do what they do with such ease, joy and purpose, you want to step into the possibility of doing the same.

Our deepest fear, that we are powerful beyond measure, often manifests in procrastination, in not feeling motivated enough. Sometimes we feel numbed out, and at other times, we feel overwhelmed by the amount of things we need to get around to during the day that owing our purpose, living it, seems best when pushed to another day. What do you do when you are in this space? How can you gather your bearings, from what seems like a few difficult days, and live in connection with your joy?

Here are three guideposts/practices

1. Trust: You are where you need to be, to fully experience this moment for what it is, so that you can discern what your response can be the next moment. Trusting that I am where I need to be, I acknowledge that I could be less rushed and hurried, that I could practice standing in my truth and my limits rather than getting carried away by my habitual patterns of behaving. When you can trust yourself and your path, you will find that what you are doing here and now is part of your magical purpose, it is where your light needs to shine.

2. Simplicity: I dig simplicity, clarity and silence. But many times, out of force of habit, I choose complexity, confusion and noise. When we take our thoughts that feed fears and stories of abandonment seriously, we become confused about our dreams, our purpose and we question whether we should even do what we are doing. Allowing these thoughts and emotions to simply flow like a river and responding with kindness, compassion and love towards ourselves (first) and others (next) is what choosing simplicity means. I

3 simple practices to make your Dreams come true

In several little pockets of the world, brave and courageous women and men take a leap and follow their dream every day.

am, of course, not saying this is easy. After a hard day, I came home and took some time out, breathing and writing. Then, my husband massaged my back and did some spinal adjustments and voila, I was feeling better again! Sometimes, we can sit in the difficulty of our mood for long stretches of time, and then

realise that something as simple as a massage can completely heal us. Remembering these simple responses towards ourselves and our mental health go a long way in living a simple and purpose-filled life.

3. Doing the work: I believe that giving our dreams wings

means doing the work every single day. And when we do something every single day, alongside kissing our babies, brushing their teeth, giving them a bath, reading them bedtime stories, cooking and washing, we make our life fully lived. We end up shining in our own brilliance.

