

India locks FTA with New Zealand, gets duty-free access for 100% exports

The Sikh Times

New Delhi: Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal with New Zealand Minister of Trade and Investment Todd McClay during the signing of the India-New Zealand free trade agreement, in New Delhi.

tors such as textiles, apparel, leather, footwear, gems and jewellery, engineering goods, and processed foods. Furthermore,

Indian industry. Zero-duty access under India-New Zealand FTA expected to lift gems, jewellery exports to USD 50 mn in

to protect country's sensitive sectors. With this, 30 percent of tariff lines will have immediate duty elimination, covering wood, wool, sheep meat, leather-raw hides etc.



India also secures duty-free inputs for its manufacturing sector, including wooden logs, coking coal, and waste and scraps of metals, lowering production costs and enhancing the global competitiveness of

three years: GJEPIC' As part of the FTA, India has offered tariff liberalisation on 70.03 percent of tariff lines covering 95 percent of bilateral trade value, while keeping 29.97 percent of tariff lines in exclusion

63% Hindu, 34% Muslim: SIR deletions stir Bengal political row

Kolkata: The 2026 Assembly election in West Bengal will be remembered for the key role the SIR—the Special Intensive Review of the electoral rolls, played in deciding the outcome of this crucial election, say observers.



Banerjee's supporters said it was undertaken to reduce Didi's support base, especially among women and Muslim voters. The BJP leaders argued the SIR gave voters a clean list and they showed their appreciation by coming out in large numbers to vote.

Mamata Banerjee "Fought 82 Cases, Lost All": Amit Shah On Court Threat

Amit Shah expressed strong confidence that the BJP will form the government in the state with a "full and decisive majority."

Barasat.(Agency)

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday said West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee is a citizen of India and is free to go to court, in response to her threat over taking legal action over his "violent remarks".



comment. Shah had alleged that her "goons" did not allow voters to vote, but the turnout was large in the first phase of polls on April 23. He had added that the BJP will win at least 110 of the 152 seats

contested on the first phase. "I want to warn the goons not to step out of their homes on April 29. If they do, we will straighten them by hanging them upside down," he had added.

When time comes, you will know: DK Shivakumar plays down Karnataka power tussle

Bengaluru.(Agency)

Amid renewed buzz over internal differences within the ruling Congress in Karnataka and an apparent leadership tussle, Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar sought to downplay it, asserting that there are no issues within the party and that he would abide by any decision taken by the high command.

Advanced desilting machines to boost flood prevention, protect lives & crops across Punjab: CM Mann

The Sikh Times

CHANDIGARH, 27th April: Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann on Monday reviewed

machines are capable of operating even in running water and can carry out deep desilting, making them critical for both preventive action and emergency response.



"These multipurpose machines can carry on desilting deeply due to which acquiring them is the need of the hour to carry flood relief operations both in anticipation and in case of emergency," he stated, while directing the department to prepare a detailed blue-

print for their procurement. Referring to global best practices, CM Bhagwant Singh Mann said, "I had seen the operations of this machine recently during my trip to Finland where these multipurpose machines are optimally utilized."

LG V K Saxena approves notification for creation of five new districts in Ladakh

The five new districts are Nubra, Sham, Changthang, Zaskar, and Drass.

SRINAGAR.(Agency)

In a major administrative decision, Lt Governor of Ladakh V K Saxena on Monday approved the notification for the creation of five new districts in the Ladakh Union Territory, taking the number of districts in the cold desert to seven.



"I have approved the notification for the creation of five new districts in Ladakh, fulfilling the aspirations and long-pending demand of the people of Ladakh," Saxena said in a post on X.

Ladakh had only two districts --- Buddhists dominated Leh, and Muslims dominated the Kargil district. Ladakh has 86,904 square kilometers of area, bordering China and Pakistan. And as per the 2011 census, Ladakh has a population of 2.74 lakh. With the creation of five new districts, Ladakh will now have seven districts.

"Will Return For Oath-Taking Ceremony": PM Modi Predicts BJP's Win In Bengal Polls

Kolkata.(Agency)

PM Modi expresses confidence BJP will form West Bengal government after assembly polls

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday exuded confidence that the BJP would form the next government in West Bengal after the assembly polls, asserting that he would return to the state for the oath-taking ceremony after results are announced on May 4.

Addressing a poll rally at Barrackpore in North 24 Parganas district on the final day of campaigning for the second and last phase of the assembly elections, PM Modi launched a sharp attack on the ruling TMC, accusing it of presiding over 'syndicate raj', political violence and economic decline.

"The mood that I have sensed in West Bengal, I can say that I have to come again during the oath-taking ceremony of the BJP government after May 4," PM Modi said, drawing loud cheers from the crowd.



Barrackpore, the prime minister said the land had played a key role in India's first war of Independence in 1857 and was now preparing the ground for political change in West Bengal. PM Modi said West Bengal's progress was essential for India's overall development and stressed that the rise of the eastern region was

crucial for the country's future. My destiny and responsibility are to serve, secure and save West Bengal," he said. Drawing parallels with recent BJP gains in neighbouring states, PM Modi said, "After Odisha and Bihar, the lotus will bloom in West Bengal too this time."

Rajasthan CM Bhajanlal Sharma welcomes BJP chief Nitin Nabin in Jaipur

JAIPUR.(Agency)

BJP National President Nitin Nabin began his maiden visit to Rajasthan on Monday, commencing from Tonk, considered the political stronghold of Congress national general secretary Sachin Pilot.

The visit also assumes significance in the broader political context of Eastern Rajasthan. The BJP's choice of Tonk as the starting point of the tour is being seen as a calculated political move.

Electoral trends indicate a shift in the eastern Rajasthan's political balance. In the 2023 Assembly elections, the BJP secured 13 seats across five key districts, including Bharatpur, Karauli, Sawai Madhopur, Dholpur, and Dausa, while the Congress was limited to eight seats, with one going to an independent candidate.

This Muslim and Gurjar majority constituency has long been regarded as a bastion of Sachin Pilot, and the party's show of strength here signals an attempt to challenge the Congress in its own sphere of influence. Through this move, the BJP appears keen to project that it is no longer restricted to its traditional strongholds and is prepared to expand into regions once considered politically difficult.

## Advanced desilting machines to boost flood prevention, protect lives & crops across Punjab: CM Mann

Contd.....Front page

He stressed that with paddy sowing set to begin from June 1, water release must be planned carefully in view of the approaching monsoon. "Since the state is all set to start the sowing of paddy crops from June 1, so maximum water should be released from the Bhakra Dam keeping in view the monsoon season ahead," he said, adding, "By May 31 the ongoing work on new and revival of watercourses in the state will be completed after which 5000 cusec more water will be required for irrigation purposes." Reviewing ongoing works, CM Bhagwant Singh Mann expressed satisfaction over the efforts of the Water Resources department. "The works being carried out across the state to avert floods are in larger public interest," he said, adding that drain cleaning is progressing at full pace and will be completed soon. He further noted that desilting at major flood-prone sites has already been carried out effectively to prevent potential flooding. Focusing on vulnerable regions, CM Bhagwant Singh Mann said, "In the Ropar district where around 20 villages are flood prone and had faced huge losses last year, the state government has taken a number of preventive actions." He highlighted that stud and spur structures are being constructed as required to control flooding and provide relief to residents. He also directed officials to explore the feasibility of channelisation of the Swaan river for both irrigation and tourism purposes. On the occasion, Cabinet Ministers Harjot Singh Bains and Barinder Kumar Goel, Lok Sabha MP Malwinder Singh Kang, Chief Secretary KAP Sinha and other senior officials were also present.

## DTP clears 216 km of encroachments in elite Gurugram areas

Gurugram: In one of the most aggressive enforcement drives in recent years, Department of Town and Country Planning (DTP) has reclaimed over 216 km of road length across Gurugram's elite neighbourhoods. The five-day anti-encroachment drive, which ended this week, targeted nearly 7,000 properties where illegal extensions — from boundary walls to private gardens — had encroached on public roads and right of way (ROW) areas. With demolitions complete in DLF Phases 1 and 2, Palam Vihar and Sushant Lok, officials are finalising an interim report for the high court, documenting the recovery of government land. Eight enforcement teams focused on removing unauthorised structures that had narrowed roads from planned widths of 9 to 24 metres to congested lanes. Heavy machinery dismantled over 1,000 illegal extensions, including guard rooms, staircases and concrete ramps. District Town Planner (Enforcement) Amit Madholia, who supervised operations in high-violation zones, said, "Our teams cleared 216 km of road that had been occupied for years. This action is part of a mandate to restore the city's infrastructure. We will submit an interim report to the court with details of the 7,000-plus properties and encroachments cleared in this phase." While some homeowners resisted, most residents called it a long-overdue step. In Palam Vihar, where DTP cleared over 600 illegal fences and 650 ramps, residents welcomed the move. Aarohi Gupta, a long-time Palam Vihar resident, called the clearing a life-saving development for pedestrians. "For years, encroachments forced us to walk on roads amid heavy traffic because footpaths were blocked by private lawns and guard cabins. Reclaiming this space means children and senior citizens can walk safely again."

## Residents step up with water stations, sparrow nests amid soaring heat

Gurgaon.(Agency)

As temperatures soar past 41°C, residents across Greater Noida and Noida have come together to provide relief to both people and birds through community-driven initiatives. At Pari Chowk, the main intersection in Greater Noida, residents have installed three large earthen pots filled with cool drinking water for commuters and visitors braving the heat. Similar arrangements have been made in green belts across Greater Noida West, along with the installation of sparrow nests to help birds cope with the extreme weather.

"To meet the needs of the public, the pots will be replenished daily with approximately 30 to 35 20-litre bottles of water," said Manjeet Singh, a resident of Greater Noida.

## No roof & travelator, commuters avoid footbridge linking rapid rail, Red Line amid rising heat

Ghaziabad.(Agency)

A footbridge connecting Ghaziabad rapid rail station with Shaheed Sthal New Bus Adda metro station on Red Line became operational in Feb this year. But of late, it has hardly been used. The 300m footbridge has no shade, and with the temperature rising, commuters are avoiding it.

"We deboard a rapid rail train and then board the metro on the Red Line. Both trains are air-conditioned. But while making the change, you have to walk 300 m under the blazing sun," a daily commuter, Shivangi Misra, said. "With the temperature soaring up to 42 degrees, the walk feels endless."

Delhi-NCR is currently reeling under a heatwave-like condition. According to India Meteorological Department, a heatwave is declared when the maximum temperature rises by 4.5 degrees to 6.4 degrees above normal or when the actual temperature rises above normal. "In this season, it is easier to navigate through congested roads below to reach the stations. There might be auto stands or other cars parked below the bridge, but it at least has some shade. Before opening this bridge, the NCRTC should have covered it," another commuter, Vikrant Sharma, said.

NCRTC constructed this 300m-long and 6.5m-wide footbridge as a part of its multimodal integration to seamlessly connect RRTS stations with other transport modes — metro, Indian Railways, buses and airports. "The civil structure of the overbridge was ready, and so we opened in Feb. However, only half the work was done. There is a plan to install a travelator along the 300m bridge," an NCRTC official said. "Till the time it is installed, the structure cannot be covered." The official added that they initiated the process of procuring the travelators last year. "The tender for the same has also been awarded and their installation will begin next month," he said. "Once the travelators are installed, we will then begin the construction of the roof."

# Haryana gov't shifts wetland authority to wildlife department amid gaps in protection

Gurgaon.(Agency)

In an administrative shift, the Haryana gov't has moved the state Wetland Authority under the forest and wildlife department and made the principal chief conservator of forests (wildlife)-cum-chief wildlife warden (PCCF) in charge of all related works. The move follows a March 11 notification reconstituting the Wetland Authority and a subsequent March 24 departmental communication directing the Directorate of Environment & Climate Change to transfer all records, files and budgetary provisions to the PCCF (wildlife), effectively shifting control from the environment directorate to the wildlife wing. For years, the state has struggled with incomplete wetland identification, hampering efforts at conservation of wildlife around the water bodies.

Earlier, wetland-related functions were handled through the directorate of environment and climate change. With this shift, wetlands are now administratively and financially aligned with the department that already manages forests and wildlife habitats. With the PCCF (wildlife) designated as member secretary, the forest department will anchor implementation, monitoring and enforcement of wetland conservation across the state.



Subhash Yadav, conservator of forests (wildlife), south Haryana, said the decision to bring wetlands under the wildlife department would strengthen ecological management. "Now there will be no shortage of technical expertise to understand and manage their flora and fauna," he said. This could mean closer integration of wetlands into habitat protection frameworks, particularly for biodiversity-rich water bodies that function as critical ecosystems.

Despite the shift, the Wetland Authority continues to be chaired by the chief minister (or minister-in-charge), with the environment minister as senior vice-chairman and the chief secretary as vice-chairman. It includes administrative secretaries from key departments and technical members from pollution control, the biodiversity board and remote sensing agencies.

Experts from the Wildlife Institute of India, WWF-India and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) along with wetland specialists, have also been included. The authority retains its wide mandate — preparing a statewide wetland inventory identifying and notifying wetlands demarcating boundaries, regulating activities and ensuring enforcement. By moving wetlands under the wildlife wing, the gov't appears to be treating them more explicitly as ecological habitats rather than just environmental assets. Environmentalists have hailed the move but say the real change will be reflected in execution. "Bringing wetlands under the wildlife wing reflects an important shift in how these ecosystems are viewed. But the real concern remains implementation. Many wetlands are still not formally notified and boundary demarcation continues to lag, which leaves them vulnerable to encroachment," said environmentalist Vivek Kamboj.

## 3 years on, key Delhi link riddled with craters, revamp remains on paper

Gurgaon.(Agency)

A key 2.5-km road in Sector 21, earlier proposed for an upgrade into a "model road", remains in shambles, forcing commuters to navigate potholes, broken surfaces and dust pollution.

The stretch runs from the Sector 21-22-Shalapur tri-junction to the Bijwasan border, also linking the Sector 21 market to Old Gurgaon Road. Despite being a key link to Delhi, several portions of the road are riddled with potholes.

Residents said the redevelopment proposal was under planning for the last three years. "Multiple plans from a simple resurfacing to a model road were discussed over the past few years but never executed," said Prakash Lamba, RWA president of Sector 21.



About six months ago, MCG hired a consultant to prepare a DPR for the project, and the report was submitted three months ago, but the project did not move forward.

The delay is especially concerning given the volume of traffic the road carries. Poor maintenance and dust pollution have only worsened the condition. Residents

complained that loose soil and debris are rarely cleared, and there's hardly any sweeping. "It is a public health issue. At least three proposals have been floated for upgrading this stretch, each raising expectations but ultimately getting stalled. While the MLA is pressing for the redevelopment, it is yet to translate into visible action," said KL Sharma, RWA general secretary. Meanwhile, an MCG official said, "This is being planned for redevelopment as a model road. It is a 24-metre-wide stretch, and we have already reviewed the initial design. However, some modifications were required, particularly the addition of a central verge and adjustments as per site requirements, so the proposal has been sent back to the consultant for revision."

## Greenbelt in Gurgaon Sector 4 turns dumping ground amid encroachments and neglect

Gurgaon.(Agency)

The green belt in Sector 4 has fallen into disrepair, with encroachments, garbage dumping and poor maintenance undermining its role as a green buffer and recreational space for residents.

Residents said the stretch along Dhanwapur Road is the worst affected, with waste, cow dung, and debris scattered across the green belt. In several parts, makeshift structures and street vendors have occupied land meant for public use.

"The green belt in our sector is in a neglected and encroached state. What was meant to be a public space has turned into a dumping ground," said Manoj Bharadwaj, president of Sector 4 Urban Estate RWA. According to residents, a proposal to revamp the green belt was prepared around two years ago, including landscaping work and

development of a jogging track. However, the plan never materialised. Bharadwaj said maintenance has been minimal since 2013-14, adding that the area earlier had plants, seasonal flowers



and basic infrastructure. Others also flagged misuse of the space. "There is no maintenance. Cattle are tied in several places, garbage is dumped openly and construction debris is lying

around," said S S Singh Dahiya, a resident. The green belt stretch from Sector 9 chowk towards Dhanwapur and adjoining areas has been affected by prolonged neglect. Residents said repeated complaints have not resulted in action to clear encroachments or restore the space. They have now demanded a clean-up drive, removal of illegal occupation and revival of the earlier development plan.

GMDA officials said action is underway. "We have conducted a site visit, and encroachments have reduced compared to earlier. Further action will be taken within the next 15-20 days after making a formal announcement," an official said. Another official added that vulnerable stretches along the green belt have been identified and major work will be carried out during the monsoon season.

# Roads, drains & parks: Residents write to MLA over crumbling infra

Noida.(Agency)

Residents of Sector 105 have submitted a formal representation to Noida MLA Pankaj Singh, highlighting several infrastructural needs allegedly ignored for years. Their concerns included deteriorating roads, inadequate drainage, poorly maintained parks and the lack of basic public facilities affecting daily life.

In a letter, residents outlined 11 critical areas needing immediate attention, including roads in the sector that were constructed around eight years ago and remained in a state of disrepair for a long time.

"Only a few have been resurfaced, leading to significant frustration among the community members," said Deepak Sharma, RWA president of Sector 105. Sharma called for comprehensive resurfacing efforts to restore the structural integrity of the roads throughout the sector.

Residents also pointed out the need for safety measures such as white lane



markings and speed breakers, with RWA members urging immediate action.

They also demanded that streetlights be installed on dark stretches in the sector. They further raised the issue of the poor condition of signage within the sector, asserting that damaged display boards have hindered visitors'

access and caused confusion. "We have appealed for attractive stainless-steel signage, which aims to enhance the sector's visual appeal and provide better guidance," said Sharma.

Another issue raised was the state of the drainage system, which is in disrepair. Residents called for a comprehensive

plan to reconstruct drains, improve water flow and build.

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# Tillu Tajpuria gang member arrested after exchange of fire in Delhi

**The Sikh Times**  
New Delhi: In a major breakthrough against organised crime, the Delhi Police Special Cell on Wednesday arrested an alleged key operative of the Tillu Tajpuria gang after a brief exchange of fire in Rohini, officials said. The accused, identified as Robin, alias Babloo, alias Rohit, alias Ram, alias Ramraj (40), is a life convict in two murder cases, a parole jumper and a proclaimed offender in another murder case. The police said he was also convicted under the Explosive Substances Act for possessing a hand grenade, they said. According to the police, Robin was apprehended after specific intelligence about his movement near Barwala Chowk in Rohini Sector 36 on

Monday night. The police said Robin, a resident of Bhatana Jafrabad

while he was riding a motorcycle. "When the team signalled him to

to a nearby hospital. The police recovered a pistol, three live cartridges,

Chaudhary gangs. During interrogation, he allegedly disclosed that he had established close links with gang members while in jail and remained in touch with handlers operating from abroad through an encrypted application. The police said he had been trying to procure weapons to eliminate rival gang members at the instructions of overseas handlers, the officer mentioned. Robin's criminal record dates back to 2008, when he allegedly murdered a man named Munna Singh after the latter objected to his relationship with a woman. He was later sentenced to life imprisonment in that case. In 2015, after jumping parole, Robin allegedly abducted and murdered the woman's brother, who was a witness in the earlier murder case. He was convicted and sentenced to life imprisonment in that case as well. The same year, he was arrested in the Alipur area with a hand grenade, six pistols and 13 live cartridges, for which he was awarded 10-year rigorous imprisonment under the Explosive Substances Act. The police said Robin was released on parole in April 2025, but failed to return, and was declared a proclaimed offender in March 2026 by a Delhi court. Officials said further interrogation was on to identify other gang members and uncover possible plans of targeted attacks linked to the rival gang war in the region. Robin is wanted in six criminal cases, including murder, robbery, arms possession, and explosives-related offences, the police said.



village in Sonapat district, Haryana, was planning to meet associates to arrange a new hide-out. Acting on the tip-off, the Special Cell laid a trap and intercepted him around 10.25 pm

stop and surrender, he opened fire on the police party. The police retaliated in self-defence during which the accused sustained a bullet injury in his right leg," an official said. He was taken

and a black motorcycle from his possession, the police said. Investigators said Robin had a long criminal history and had been linked to the Tillu Tajpuria and Kaushal

# Illegal steroids, expired supplements seized in Delhi's Najafgarh

New Delhi: A joint enforcement team comprising Central Food Safety Officers (CFSOs), officials from the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) Northern Regional Office, and local police has uncovered an illegal distribution hub dealing in banned performance-enhancing drugs and expired health supplements in southwest Delhi's Najafgarh area. The action followed a high-priority alert issued by the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) under the Ministry of Youth Affairs

and Sports. Acting on the input, authorities raided the premises of "M/s Gaurav Vats Nutrition," allegedly operated by Gaurav Vats, and found it functioning without mandatory licenses under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940, and the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, an official said. During the raid, approximately 2,800 capsules and tablets along with 11 injectable units of prohibited substances were seized. The recovered stock included anabolic steroids such as Methenolone Enanthate, Trenbolone, and Stanozolol, the official added. The teams also confiscated 300 tablets of Methandienone and 850 tablets of Oxandrolone. In addition, around 1,500 capsules of Selective

Androgen Receptor Modulators (SARMs) and injections labelled as Adenosine Monophosphate were found on the premises, the officer mentioned. The seized drugs have been handed over to the State Drug Control Department, which has collected samples for further analysis and legal proceedings. FSSAI officials also identified serious violations of

food safety norms.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the General Public that Mr. Brahm Singh son of Late Mr. Matadeen is the owner of Residential House of land area measuring 100 sq. yds., out of Khastha No. 123, situated at Village - Bhangal - Begumpur, Fargana and Tehsil Dadi, District Gautam Buddha Nagar, U.P., by virtue of Sale Deed dated 21.12.2020 executed by Mrs. Geeta Sharma wife of Mr. Mohan Lal Sharma and said property to be sold to Mr. Kishan Kumar, and in the property chain Original Sale Deed dated 10.07.2006 executed by Mr. Devendra Kumar son of Mr. Richpal Singh in favour of Mrs. Geeta Sharma wife of Mr. Mohan Lal Sharma, vide duly regd. as Doc. No. 4520, has been lost and already online FIR lodged vide LR No. 261857/2026, on dt. 27.04.2026, and same to be finance by SMFG India Home Finance Co. Ltd., General public hereby informed that if anybody has any charge/interest/in the said property or any kind of dispute kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 07 days of the present.

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## NAME CHANGE

I, UDAY PRAKASH S/O RAM KISHAN R/O House No. 17/156, Triok Puri, East Delhi, Delhi - 110091 have changed the name of my minor son MIHIR aged 4 years and he shall hereafter be known as MADHAV.

## NAME CHANGE

I hitherto known as MURGAN PANDEY S/O VIV TEVAR R/O D-35, Gali No-24, Bhajanpura, Garhi Mendu, North East Delhi, Delhi-110053 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as V MURGAN DEVAR.

## NAME CHANGE

I, ROHIT S/O RAMESH SINGH R/O 10/102, Dakshinpur, Dr. Ambedkar Nagar, South Delhi, Delhi-110062 have changed the name of my minor son KAVYA aged 15 years and he shall hereafter be known as KRISHNA.

## NAME CHANGE

I, SUNIL KUMAR S/O BAJRANG LAL R/O E-134, Indira Park, Najafgarh, South West Delhi, Delhi-110043, have changed the name of my minor son ARYAN alias ARYAN BHALOTHIA aged 12 years and he shall hereafter be known as ARYAN BHALOTHIA.

## NAME CHANGE

I, ADITYA TOMAR Biological S/O HIMANSHU TOMAR, R/O E-34, Rohini Sector - 14, Prashant Vihar, North West Delhi, Delhi - 110085 declare that my Mother SACHI SINGH Ex. Wife of HIMANSHU TOMAR got divorced from my Biological Father vide Divorce Decree No. 3293 dated 24-02-2025. Further my Mother remarried with KAPIL MITTAL vide Marriage Certificate No. 9073000231293 dated 12/09/2025. Henceforth I have changed my name to ADITYA MITTAL. Further I declare that my name in future to be updated as KAPIL MITTAL in all for all purposes.

## NAME CHANGE

I, Fariya Parveen W/o, Romman R/O. B-996, Gali No-20, Subhash Mohalla, Garhi Mendu, Bhajan Pura Delhi-110053 have changed my name to Fariya Naaz.

## NAME CHANGE

I Pooja W/o Sikandar R/O S-83/232, Indira Camp, Near Blind School, Begumpur, Malviya Nagar, S.O. South Delhi, New Delhi-110017 That in the school record ( Sri Dashmesh Khalsa Primary School) of my minor son namely Ronak Nindhaniya aged 10 yrs, his name has been wrongly written as Ronak instead of Ronak Nindhaniya which may be amended accordingly.

## NAME CHANGE

I VIMLESH KUMARI D/O RAMAPATI R/O RZ-5G GALI NO - 30, INDRAPARK PALAM COLONY NEAR SUDHIR DOCTOR CLINIC PALAM VILLAGE DELHI- 110045 have changed my name to VIMLESH SINGH Permanently for all Future purpose

## NAME CHANGE

I MOHAMMAD ZAID S/O MOHD RASHID R/O 42-A/5, 3rd FLOOR, PLOT NO. 271-273, QABRISTAN WALI GALI KHUREJI KHAS KRISHNA NAGAR DELHI-110052 have changed my name to MOHD ZAID ANSARI Permanently for all Future purpose

## NAME CHANGE

I MOHAMMAD RASHID S/O JAHUR AHMAD R/O 16 - A NEAR AMBEDKAR DHARAMSHALA KHUREJI KHAS KRISHNA NAGAR DELHI-110051 have changed my name to MOHD RASHID Permanently for all Future purpose

## NAME CHANGE

I am AVANTIKA daughter of Rajeev Gupta residence of - B2/65 block B/2, vijay enclave, palam village, new delhi -110045 Have changed my name to Avantika gupta

## Public Notice

I hitherto known as Ravi Shankar Lakshminarasimhan S/O Ravi Shankar, R/O H-266, Sector-22, Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh - 201301, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as R Lakshminarasimhan.

## NAME CHANGE

I MD RASHID MOHAMMED RASHID S/O MOHAMMED IBRAHIM residing at H NO-1088/15 KATRA GHULAM MOHAMMAD BAZAR, LAL KUAN, DELHI-110006 have changed my name to MOHAMMAD RASHID for all future purpose.

## NAME CHANGE

I, KANCHAN CHAUHAN RANA W/O YUGRANJ SINGH RANA residing at HOUSE NO-357, SECTOR-45, NHPC COLONY, FARIDABAD, HARYANA-121010 Have changed my name to KANCHAN for all future purposes.

## NAME CHANGE

I SEEMA W/O MOHAMMAD RASHID residing at H NO-1088/15 KATRA GHULAM MOHAMMAD BAZAR, LAL KUAN, DELHI-110006 have changed my name to SEEMA TARANNUM for all future purpose.

## NAME CHANGE

I MOHAMMED SUHAL S/O Mohd Asif R/O House No. 1955, Gali Chunarun, Suwalna, Darya Garj, New Delhi - 110002. Have changed my name from MOHAMMED SUHAL to MOHD SUHAL FOR ALL PURPOSES.

## NAME CHANGE

I, Aliya hasen D/o Mohd. Hasen R/O 2773 on 4th floor Gali Hindu wara pahani bhajla turkman gate Delhi Delhi have changed my name from Aaliya to Aliya Hasen for all future purpose.

## NAME CHANGE

I SULEKHA D/O SUKH DEV SAINI R/O RZ-1218/219 PAWAR HOUSE VIJAY ENCLAVE PALAM SOUTH DELHI 110045 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SULEKHA SAINI

## NAME CHANGE

I am Avantika daughter of Rajeev Gupta residence of - B2/65 block B/2, vijay enclave, palam village, new delhi -110045 Have changed my name to Avantika gupta

## NAME CHANGE

I AMRIT Pal R/O Hans Raj R/O L-20, Gali No-24, Radha Swami Sat Sang Ghar, Mahendra Park, DIST: North West Delhi, Delhi-110033 have changed my name to Amrit Pal Sharma for all future purposes.

## Public Notice

It is for general information that I, ASHOK KUMAR S/O Bhagnal R/O B-653, Jahangirpuri, DIST: North West Delhi, Delhi - 110033, declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as ASHOK in my minor daughter namely DEVYANSI aged 13 years in her school record, the actual name of mine is ASHOK KUMAR, which may be amended accordingly.

## NAME CHANGE

I hitherto known as KANGANA D/O ROHIT KUMAR R/O A-10/182, Rajveer Colony, Ghareli Extension, Vasundhara Enclave, PO-Vasundhara Enclave, DIST-East Delhi, Delhi-110096 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as SHANYA GUPTA.

## NAME CHANGE

I hitherto known as BUSHRA PRAVEEN D/O MD RAZIQ R/O J-215A S/F, Moorti Wali Gali, Jwahar Park, J Extn, Laxmi Nagar, PO: Laxmi Nagar, Dist: East Delhi, Delhi-110092 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as BUSHRA PARVEEN.

## NAME CHANGE

I hitherto known as ABHISHEK S/O OM PRAKASH R/O Village, Raipur Mauzampur Narayan, Barampur, Bijnor, Uttar Pradesh-246731 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as ABHISHEK CHOUHARY

## NAME CHANGE

I hitherto known as AMITA KATARIA W/O DINESH JAKHAR R/O Plot No-89, Goyla Khurd, South West Delhi, Delhi-110071 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as AMITA JAKHAR.

## NAME CHANGE

I hitherto known as VIDHYA VATI W/O UMA SHANKER PRASAD R/O KH-NO-115/1, Extn Lal Dora, Near Rakshak Dairy, Budhpur, Bijapur, Alipur, North West Delhi, Delhi-110036 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as VIDYA VATI.

## NAME CHANGE

I hitherto known as AMARJIT SINGH S/O PANNA SINGH R/O Plot No-71, 2nd Floor, Northex, Model Town III, North West Delhi, Delhi-110009 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as AMARJIT SINGH BHATTIA.

## NAME CHANGE

I RAGHIB ALI KHAN S/O HAMID ALI KHAN R/O Flat No-24 C Pocket B Lig Flat Zafrabad Shahdara Po: Shahdara Dist: North East Delhi Delhi-110032 have changed the name of my minor son ARSH MOHAMMAD aged 14 years and he shall hereafter be known as ARSH ALI KHAN.

## NAME CHANGE

I hitherto known as SARVJIT SINGH S/O PANKAJ SINGH R/O Plot No-71, 2nd Floor, Northex, Model Town III, North West Delhi, Delhi-110009 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as SARVJIT SINGH BHATTIA.

## NAME CHANGE

I hitherto known as VIDHYA VATI W/O UMA SHANKER PRASAD R/O KH-NO-115/1, Extn Lal Dora, Near Rakshak Dairy, Budhpur, Bijapur, Alipur, North West Delhi, Delhi-110036 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as VIDYA VATI.

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## NAME CHANGE

I hitherto known as AMARJIT SINGH S/O PANNA SINGH R/O Plot No-71, 2nd Floor, Northex, Model Town III, North West Delhi, Delhi-110009 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as AMARJIT SINGH BHATTIA.

## NAME CHANGE

I, SAMER SULTANA W/O MOHAMMAD SABIR residing at 7/17, ANSARI ROAD, DARYA GANJ, DELHI-110002 have changed my name to SAMAR SULTANA for all future purpose.

## NAME CHANGE

I, Zainab fatma, D/o Sharik Ali, resident of Kamalpur, Bulandshahr, Uttar Pradesh 203001, have changed my name from Zainab fatma to Zenab Fatima. Henceforth I would be known by the name of Zenab Fatima for all future purposes.

## NAME CHANGE

I, MOHAMMAD TABREZ NAFIS S/O MOHAMMAD NAFIS AHMAD residing at J-25, DDA HIG JASOLA HEIGHTS, POCKET-9A, JASOLA, NEW FRIENDS COLONY, NEW DELHI-110025 Have changed my name to MD TABREZ NAFIS for all future purposes.

## NAME CHANGE

I, Aslam Khan son of shehzad Khan R/O 584 street jute wali churi wala jama masjid north delhi delhi-110006 have changed my father name from Mohd shehzad Khan to shehzad Khan for all future purpose

## NAME CHANGE

I, RAUNAK D/O Bhoo Singh R/O H.No.3733/17, Rego pura, Karol Bagh, Delhi-110005, have changed my name to RAUNAK KAIN for all future purposes.

## NAME CHANGE

I, SARFRAZ S/O SARDAR AHMAD residing at J-EXTN 16 ABDULLAH HOUSE GALI NO-12 RAMESH PARK LAXMI NAGAR DELHI-110092 have changed my name to SARFARAZ KHAN for all future purpose.

## NAME CHANGE

I UMAR DARAJ S/O SARDAR AHMAD residing at G-58 J-EXTN 16 GALI NO-12 ABDULLAH HOUSE RAMESH PARK LAXMI NAGAR DELHI-110092 have changed my name to MOHD UMAR for all future purpose.

## Man injured in firing in Delhi's Karol Bagh; attempt to murder case filed

New Delhi: Police cordon off the area as forensic personnel examine the site of an alleged firing after one person was injured in the incident at Karol Bagh in New Delhi on Friday. Image credit. A man sustained a gunshot injury in central Delhi's Karol Bagh early Friday, following which a case of attempt to murder has been registered, police said. According to officials, a medico-legal case (MLC) call was received from Lady Hardinge Medical College and Hospital at 3:55 am regarding Rohit, a resident of Than Singh Nagar in Anand Parbat, who had been admitted with a gunshot wound. Preliminary enquiry revealed that the incident falls under the jurisdiction of the Karol Bagh police station. The victim is currently under medical observation and has provided initial details about the suspected assailants, police said. A team from the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) inspected the crime scene and recovered two empty cartridges and one live round, indicating that at least three shots were fired. Police have registered a case of attempt to murder and are pursuing multiple leads based on the victim's statement. Further investigation is under way to identify and arrest those involved.

## Cops launch drive to make Outer Dist parks crime-free

New Delhi: The Outer District Police have launched a special initiative titled "Aaradh-Mukt-Park: Ek Pahal" aimed at enhancing safety and preventing crime in public parks across the district, an official said on Thursday. As part of the drive, police teams are conducting intensive foot patrolling in parks during the day and evening hours, extending late till night. The operations are being led by Station House Officers (SHOs) and Assistant Traffic Officers (ATOs), with senior officers, including the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) Outer and Additional DCP, also participating in the patrols on a daily basis.

## NAME CHANGE

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## NAME CHANGE

I, Zainab fatma, D/o Sharik Ali, resident of Kamalpur, Bulandshahr, Uttar Pradesh 203001, have changed my name from Zainab fatma to Zenab Fatima. Henceforth I would be known by the name of Zenab Fatima for all future purposes.

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## NAME CHANGE

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## NEWS BOX

## The night a major story came straight to Washington's journalists

World. (Agency)

Journalists in the nation's capital are accustomed to chasing stories. But on Saturday night, the story came to them — hundreds of them, gathered as President Donald Trump prepared to speak, thrust suddenly into chaos when a gunman tried to storm the annual White House Correspondents' Association dinner.

In the aftermath, safety and coverage blended as some of the nation's most powerful reporters and editors tried to figure out what was unfolding in front of them. Or in many cases, above them. Many of the journalists, clad in tuxedos and gowns, had ducked for cover in fear, bewilderment or just plain instinct. "We were under the table before we knew what was happening," The Atlantic magazine journalists Missy Ryan, Matt Viser and Michael Scherer wrote of their experience. When they emerged, mobile phones were the tools of their trade — to shoot pictures or video, record interviews or keep a phone line open to describe the scene to colleagues working the story off-site.

"For many people who have either been in a war zone or in the midst of a crisis, I don't think there was any fear," said former CBS News president Susan Zirinsky, who was attending. "It was get it, find it, shoot it, report it. But it was very frustrating not getting a signal out of the room."

### Struggling to get the news out of the room

She added an expletive. Cellphone service at the Washington Hilton is notoriously spotty. The bad service, however, was a key factor in Alex Brandon, a photographer for The Associated Press, securing one of the night's most memorable images: shooting suspect Cole Tomas Allen on the ground and in custody outside the ballroom, his shirt stripped off.

Brandon, who was attending as a guest and didn't have his usual gear, stood up at his table after hearing the shooting and trained his mobile phone camera on Trump, capturing photos of him as he was surrounded by Secret Service agents and then hustled off the dais.

## Pakistan not a suitable intermediary, says Iranian MP amid stalled talks

World. (Agency)

An Iranian lawmaker has cast serious doubts on Pakistan's role as a mediator in ongoing regional negotiations, raising concerns over neutrality at a critical diplomatic juncture. Ebrahim Rezaei, representing Dashtestan and serving as spokesperson for Iran's National Security and Foreign Policy Commission, said Pakistan lacks the credibility required for mediation. In a statement on X, he described Pakistan as a "good friend and neighbour" but argued it "is not a suitable intermediary" and tends to align with US interests.

Rezaei further alleged that Islamabad avoids openly criticising Washington and fails to highlight instances where the US, according to him, did not fulfill commitments, including on Lebanon and blocked assets. "A mediator must be impartial," he said, "not always leaning to one side."

His remarks come as Abbas Araghchi steps up diplomatic efforts to keep negotiations alive despite uncertainty. Araghchi recently made a second visit in three days to Islamabad, where he held talks with Pakistan Army Chief Asim Munir on the conflict and potential pathways forward.

The Iranian foreign minister had earlier met Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and other senior officials before arriving from Oman, where he held discussions with Sultan Haitham bin Tariq al-Said. Talks there focused on security in the Strait of Hormuz and broader diplomatic efforts.

## Open Hormuz now, nuclear talks later: Iran's new peace proposal to US

World. (Agency)

Amid the deepening stalemate in peace talks, Iran has conveyed a fresh proposal to the United States through Pakistani mediators, prioritising reopening the Strait of Hormuz and bringing the ongoing war in West Asia to an end, while deferring contentious nuclear negotiations to a later stage, American news outlet Axios reported.

The proposal comes amid stalled peace efforts, with US President Donald Trump saying Tehran could "call" Washington if it wants to negotiate, while reiterating that Iran must never acquire nuclear weapons. Talks appeared to falter after Washington scrapped a planned visit by envoys Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner to Islamabad, signalling dissatisfaction with Tehran's earlier offer.

The United States has demanded that Iran suspend uranium enrichment for at least a decade and transfer its existing stockpile out of the country. However, according to the report, Iran's Foreign Minister and chief negotiator Abbas Araghchi told mediators over the weekend that there is no consensus within the Iranian leadership on how to respond to these demands.

The two-stage plan conveyed via Pakistani mediators prioritises resolving the crisis over the Strait of Hormuz and ending the US blockade first.

The new proposal suggests either extending the ceasefire for a prolonged period or agreeing to a permanent end to the war, with nuclear negotiations to begin only at a later stage, after the strait is reopened and the blockade lifted.

According to Axios, the White House has received the proposal, but it remains unclear whether the United States is willing to explore it. In the past few days, Araghchi has been shuttling between mediators Pakistan and Oman and is expected to hold further consultations in Russia with Vladimir Putin on Monday.

# Pakistan lifts Islamabad-Rawalpindi restrictions as US-Iran peace talks stall

## With US and Israel peace talks at a stalemate and no immediate prospects for a second round of negotiations, Pakistan has eased restrictions in Islamabad and Rawalpindi.

World. (Agency)

Pakistan has relaxed some of the stringent security restrictions in Islamabad and Rawalpindi, allowing limited movement of heavy vehicles after it became clear that a fresh round of talks between the United States and Iran was unlikely in the immediate future. Islamabad hosted the

first round of peace talks and was preparing for another.

The curbs had been imposed last week amid expectations that Islamabad would host a second round of negotiations between the two countries. Authorities had deployed more than 10,000 security personnel and enforced tight movement controls, effectively shutting down large parts of both cities to manage traffic and ensure security. However, the talks have hit a roadblock, with Tehran unwilling to accept Donald Trump's demands to give up nuclear enrichment and amid tensions over the US blockade of the Strait of Hormuz.

The easing of restrictions in Islamabad and Rawalpindi followed the departure of Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, who left Pakistan's capital on Saturday night without waiting for the arrival of US negotiators, news agency PTI reported.

Around the same time, US President Donald Trump cancelled plans to send an American delegation to Pakistan, signalling a pause in the diplomatic process.

On Sunday, trucks carrying medicines,



perishable goods, and other essential supplies were permitted to enter the twin cities. However, authorities cautioned that traffic diversions could still be enforced on key roads if foreign delegations arrive at

short notice.

Police said that while security deployment remains in place, restrictions on regular commuters have been eased. Some arterial roads may still be closed intermittently, with traffic redirected to alternative routes, often located away from central Islamabad.

With the situation stabilising, several universities that had shifted to online classes over the past week announced a return to in-person teaching from Monday.

During his visit, Araghchi held meetings with Pakistan's top leadership, including Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Army Chief Asim Munir. He is understood to have shared Tehran's conditions for ending the ongoing conflict before departing for Oman. Describing his visit as "very fruitful," Araghchi said in a post on X that Iran values Pakistan's "good offices and brotherly efforts" in facilitating regional peace.

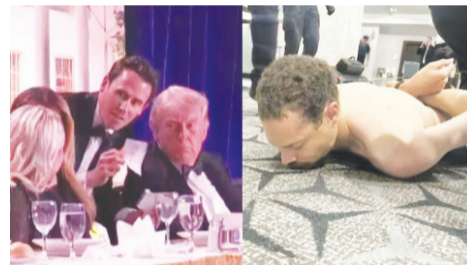
## No top security cover at White House event dinner, shooter breached hotel perimeter

World. (Agency)

The White House Correspondents' Association dinner did not receive the highest "NSSE" (National Special Security Event) designation despite the presence of US President Donald Trump, Vice President JD Vance and several top Cabinet officials, The Washington Post reported, citing officials familiar with the security plan.

The report said the Trump administration opted for a lower level of security than what is typically deployed for gatherings involving such a concentration of senior leadership, even as multiple high-ranking officials were present under one roof.

Trump, Vance and others were rushed to safety on Saturday after a gunman breached the security perimeter at the Washington Hilton Hotel and attempted to storm the ballroom where the president was scheduled to speak. The attacker, 31-year-old Cole Tomas Allen, was intercepted before reaching the venue.



Also present at the event were House Speaker Mike Johnson, Secretary of State Marco Rubio, Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent and Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth.

### SECURITY GAPS, NO UNIFIED COMMAND

Officials cited by The Washington Post flagged a major structural gap: no single agency was responsible for securing the entire hotel. While the Secret Service secured the ballroom perimeter, other parts of the venue remained outside its direct control. The suspect reportedly booked a room inside the hotel, allowing him to bypass outer security layers and move

closer to the protected area. Authorities said he managed to breach the perimeter before being stopped.

After his arrest, the attacker allegedly described the security arrangements as "lax" and warned that foreign agents could carry out a far more damaging operation under similar conditions.

### HIGH VULNERABILITY WITH TOP LEADERS UNDER ONE ROOF

Officials acknowledged that the concentration of senior leadership in a single venue created an unusual national security risk. In a worst-case scenario, the incident could have triggered a constitutional chain of succession, with senior-most Republican senator Chuck Grassley next in line after the vice president and House speaker.

The episode has prompted lawmakers to call for a probe into the decision not to grant the event the highest security designation and the apparent lack of coordinated control across agencies.

## Powerful 6.2-magnitude earthquake strikes Japan a week after 7.7 megaquake

World. (Agency)

A magnitude 6.2 earthquake struck parts of northern Japan early Monday, though authorities reported no damage or casualties. The Japan Meteorological Agency said no tsunami advisory was issued following the tremor, indicating no immediate threat to coastal areas. According to the US Geological Survey, the earthquake hit about 18 kilometres west of the small town of Sarabetsu on Hokkaido — Japan's northernmost main island — at a depth of 81 kilometres. The USGS measured the quake's magnitude slightly lower at 6.1. Japan is one of the most seismically active countries in the world, and earthquakes of varying intensity are common across its islands. Authorities routinely monitor such events closely for any signs of



aftershocks or potential secondary hazards.

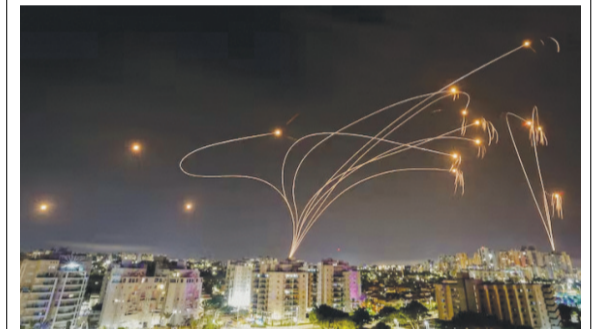
The latest tremor comes just a week after a stronger 7.7 magnitude earthquake prompted Japanese authorities to issue an advisory warning of a slightly heightened risk of a possible megaquake along the country's northeastern coastal regions.

Several port towns, including Otsuchi and Kamaishi, had issued evacuation

orders for thousands of residents, according to public broadcaster NHK.

Footage aired on NHK showed ships sailing out of Hachinohe port in Hokkaido in anticipation of the waves as a 'Tsunami! Evacuate!' alert flashed across the screen. A 3-metre tsunami could cause damage to low-lying areas, flooding buildings, and anybody exposed would be caught in its currents, according to JMA. As the quake measured an 'upper 5' on Japan's seismic intensity scale, which is strong enough to make it difficult for people to move around and cause unreinforced concrete-block walls to collapse, authorities warned residents to stay away from coastal zones as waves were expected to reach shore.

## Israel sent Iron Dome, troops to UAE amid Iran war in first overseas use: Report



World. (Agency)

In a first-ever overseas deployment of its flagship air defence system, Israel sent an Iron Dome battery along with military personnel to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) during the war with Iran, according to an Axios report citing US and Israeli officials.

The deployment, which had not been publicly disclosed earlier, took place in the early phase of the conflict after the UAE came under sustained missile and drone attacks from Iran targeting US bases, installations, and interests across the Gulf. Abu Dhabi is learnt to have sought urgent assistance from its allies as key civilian and military infrastructure came under threat. Following a call with UAE President Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu ordered the Israel Defence Forces to deploy an Iron Dome battery, along with interceptors and several dozen personnel, the American media outlet reported. According to a senior Israeli official, this was the first time Israel had deployed an Iron Dome battery to another country, with the UAE becoming the first nation outside the US and Israel to use the system.

The Iron Dome is a mobile, all-weather air defence system designed to intercept and neutralise short-range rockets and artillery shells. Developed by Rafael in partnership with Israel Aerospace Industries, with substantial support from the US, the system boasts a success rate exceeding 90 per cent. It forms the innermost layer of Israel's multi-tiered defence architecture, safeguarding civilian areas against threats launched from distances of up to 70 kilometres. Apart from the deployment of the Iron Dome, Israeli and Emirati officials said the two countries maintained close military and political coordination throughout the war, which began on February 28. Israel also carried out multiple airstrikes targeting short-range missile systems in southern Iran, aiming to neutralise threats before they could be launched at the UAE and other Gulf countries.

Since the normalisation of ties under the Abraham Accords in 2020, diplomatic relations between the UAE and Israel have evolved into an open and rapidly expanding strategic partnership. What began as a historic diplomatic breakthrough has since deepened into robust cooperation across security, defence, intelligence, and technology, driven by what experts see as increasingly aligned national interests.

# How Pakistan took disinfo drive to a new level with fake alerts on US-Iran talks

## Even though it was clear that Iran wouldn't be participating in the peace talks with the US, the Pakistani military's mouthpiece, ISPR, kept feeding false reports to journalists. The blatant disinformation, meant to project Pakistan as a peacemaker, might end up destroying any remaining Iranian trust in Islamabad's mediation efforts.

World. (Agency)

For weeks, Pakistan's establishment has pushed for a "peacemaker" role, pretending to broker peace between the US and Iran, while doing Washington's bidding. While

the Iranian delegates didn't want to meet their American counterparts, Pakistan's civilian-military hybrid regime drummed up anticipation through fake alerts and updates. The Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the media and PR wing of the Pakistan Armed Forces, played a crucial role in spreading disinformation, trapping even an international news agency. Islamabad did host at least one round of talks between the two sides, but it yielded no breakthrough. That round of talks was directed by US President Donald Trump in an attempt to extricate himself from the catch-22 situation. With the Iranian side playing hardball, the second round of talks were always in doubt. But how could it let go of the diplomatic relevance it had achieved with the moderator ruse so easily? Pakistan kept playacting and its military establishment under the leadership of Chief of Army Staff, General Asim Munir, ramped up its disinformation



campaign to project progress where none existed.

"Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi is expected to arrive in Islamabad tonight with a small delegation, according to government sources. Following important discussions with the Pakistani mediation team, a second round of Islamabad peace talks between the United States and Iran is expected, government sources say. A US logistics and security team is already present in Islamabad to facilitate the negotiation process."

This message was sent out to journalists and media outlets, including an international wire service, which released a report based on the input.

### PAKISTAN'S DISINFORMATION ON PEACE TALKS RESTARTING

It is true that Iran's Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi was headed to Pakistan. His arrival coincided with an announcement from the US that envoys Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner were also flying to Islamabad on Saturday for peace talks. White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt said on Friday, that US Vice President JD Vance was on standby to head to Pakistan should negotiations proceed favourably.

However, Araghchi's intention to go to Pakistan was not for face-to-face talks with US delegates. Tehran projected his travel to Pakistan as part of his three-nation trip. According to a report in the US news outlet Politico, Araghchi's Pakistan trip was part of a broader trip to Oman's capital of Muscat and to Moscow to "consult on regional developments".

## Short news

## Need a clean city... Vadodara's rich heritage should be conserved: Radhikaraje Gaekwad

Vadodara.(Agency)

RADHIKARAJE GAEKWAD of the erstwhile royal family of Baroda on Sunday emphasised the need to balance urban development with heritage conservation. She was speaking after casting her vote in the Vadodara Municipal Corporation (VMC) election. After voting at the Faculty of Technology of M S University, Gaekwad said her choice was "guided by the city's future growth" while ensuring that its historical identity remains intact. She expressed hope that the incoming civic body would prioritise heritage conservation alongside infrastructure development instead of focusing on "leaving personal imprint" that does not compliment the city's identity.

Speaking to The Indian Express, she underlined that Vadodara's cultural legacy must not be overlooked. "The cultural heritage of the city should not be forgotten. We need a clean city as well as conservation of the rich heritage that defines Vadodara... This city was created with a vision (by Maharaja Sayajirao III Gaekwad) and its development should be continued through a common mission..."

Highlighting concerns over governance continuity, Gaekwad pointed out that elected representatives often focus on leaving their individual imprint rather than preserving the city's established character. "Each person who is elected tries to create an imprint of their own term, which does not complement the character of the city. There is a need to understand the city's original vision, character and ethos and ensure that present-day

## Demolition of madrasa belonging to UK-based preacher begins in UP, officials say court ruled it 'illegal'

Lucknow.(Agency)

The Sant Kabir Nagar district administration on Sunday began demolishing a building allegedly linked to the UK-based Islamic preacher, Maulana Shamsul Huda Khan, after authorities found that the structure — earlier used as a madrasa — had been constructed without an approved building plan.

Officials also said that the preacher, a foreign national, had purchased the land without obtaining permission from the competent authority. District Magistrate (Sant Kabir Nagar) Alok Kumar said the building was found to have been constructed without an approved map.

The double-storey building with a basement is spread over around five biswa of land, said an official posted in the district.

On Sunday, a joint team of district officials and police personnel arrived in Moti Bazaar in Khalilabad tehsil with bulldozers and began demolishing the building. The area was sealed off. Officials said that it might take another two days to completely bring down the structure.

"Nearly a year ago, a sub-divisional magistrate's court had ordered the removal of the building after declaring that it had been constructed illegally. The order was subsequently challenged before the district magistrate's court, which upheld the SDM court's decision. A further appeal before the commissioner's court also failed," an official said.

## Massive fire at Doraha vehicle recycle unit yet to be doused even after 24 hours; 7 injured

Ludhiana.(Agency)

Day after a massive fire broke out at a vehicle scrap and recycling unit in Bishanpura village in Ludhiana district, the blaze is yet to be doused. The fire had erupted around 3.45 pm on Saturday and firefighters were still working at the site till filling of the report, Sunday. Dilshad Ali Khan, sub-fire officer at Khanna division, said that at least three fire tenders were still deployed on the site. "Fire has been controlled but not completely doused. We are hopefully it will be done by tonight," he said.

At least seven workers were injured after a massive fire erupted at the unit on Saturday. Two of them are critical and admitted to the burns unit of Christian Medical College and Hospital (CMCH), Ludhiana. Rest five are undergoing treatment at a local hospital in Doraha. Khan said, "Old vehicles were demolished and recycled at this unit, and their parts such as tyres, seats etc taken out. Some of the material stored inside was highly inflammable. According to the owner, there were sparks in the wires and in no time, fire had engulfed the building. At least 12 fire tenders were rushed to the site, including those from nearby towns/cities such as Ludhiana, Malerkotla, Samrala, Fatehgarh Sahib, Malerkotla, Machhiwara etc apart from those stationed in Khanna."

Inspector Akash Dutt, SHO of Doraha police station, said that they are yet to register an FIR in the case.

## Uttarakhand minister faces backlash as son's wedding in Rajaji National Park sparks environmental concerns

Haridwar.(Agency)

A major controversy has surfaced in Uttarakhand after reports claimed that the wedding of Forest Minister Khajan Das's son was organized inside the Rajaji National Park, Haridwar. The event allegedly took place at the Sureshwari Devi Temple premises, which falls within the protected tiger reserve area.

## Allegations of misuse

Environmental activists and local villagers raised objections, saying that the temple premises were misused for a private wedding function. They alleged that tents and decorations were set up inside the reserve, which is strictly prohibited under forest and wildlife protection laws. The activists argued that such actions send a wrong message, especially when ordinary citizens face restrictions in protected areas. They accused the minister of using his position to bypass rules and gain special privileges.

## Minister's response

Minister Khajan Das has denied any wrongdoing. He clarified that the wedding



was not held inside the tiger reserve but at the temple premises, which he claimed is outside the core protected zone. He said the arrangements were made with due permission and that no environmental rules were violated. Das further stated that the controversy was being exaggerated and politically motivated. He emphasized that his family respects conservation laws and would never intentionally harm the environment.

## Environmental concerns

Rajaji National Park is a critical tiger reserve and home to elephants, leopards, and several

endangered species. Conservationists argue that allowing private functions inside or near protected areas disturbs wildlife and sets a dangerous precedent. They highlighted that the temple premises fall under the jurisdiction of the forest department, and any unauthorized use could amount to violation of the Wildlife Protection Act.

## Political reactions

Opposition parties have seized the issue, accusing the BJP government of double standards. They claimed that while ordinary citizens are penalized for minor violations, ministers enjoy unchecked privileges. The incident has sparked demands for an independent inquiry into whether permissions were properly granted.

## Public sentiment

The controversy has triggered widespread debate on social media. Many users criticized the alleged misuse of a protected area for a VIP wedding, while others defended the minister, saying the temple premises have long been used for

## After BKC, pod taxi network planned across MMR; Thane, Mira-Bhayandar next in line

Interest from private players is also gathering pace. Futran Podcars, one of the companies exploring participation, recently demonstrated its technology to Transport Minister Pratap Sarnaik and MMRDA officials.

Mumbai.(Agency)

After the proposed pod taxi project in Bandra Kurla Complex (BKC), the Maharashtra government is now looking at expanding the system into a wider network, with Thane and Mira-Bhayandar being selected as the two other places to implement the new transportation system.

Officials said plans are underway to replicate the personal rapid transit (PRT) model across multiple urban pockets, positioning pod taxis as first- and last-mile connectors to the region's expanding Metro network.

The projects are expected to be implemented on a public-private partnership (PPP) basis, with the Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA) as the nodal agency.

Detailed proposals are currently being finalised by the Thane and Mira-Bhayandar municipal



corporations, based on feasibility studies conducted by Nippon Koei India Pvt Ltd.

The studies have proposed a 43.5-km pod taxi network in Thane and a 32.5-km network in Mira-Bhayandar, to be rolled out in phases. Stations are planned at a distance of one kilometre, with routes designed to integrate with the upcoming Metro corridors.

"Discussions on the feasibility of the route have been ongoing for around five months now," said Saurabh Rao, Thane municipal commissioner.

"With nearly 30km of Metro line coming up with the Thane Ring Metro, we want to ensure the route of the PRT forms an optimal network with it holistically. A formal decision on the route and financial model will be taken in the next two weeks."

Radhabind Sharma, commissioner of the Mira Bhayandar Municipal Corporation, said, "Once the DPR is ready, a proposal will be sent to the MMRDA for execution."

In Thane, the proposed network will span 43.5 km with 72 stations at an estimated cost of ₹2,806 crore, connecting key locations such as Majiwada, Viviana Mall, Manpada, Hiranandani Estate, Kasarvadavali, Teen Hath Naka and Shastri Nagar.

## No solution at sight, Andheri subway may get inundated this monsoon, too

Mumbai.(Agency)

The Andheri subway, which is shut several times after getting inundated every monsoon, may continue to remain so in the upcoming season also, with the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) not being able to find a solution till now. Civic officials said that a measure will be adopted soon, and the crisis will be mitigated from next year.

Located almost one kilometre from the Andheri railway station, the Andheri subway is a key east-west link in the western suburbs. However, during the monsoon, the subway is kept shut due to waterlogging. In 2025, the subway was shut 33 times between June and October, while in 2024, it was shut 35 times during this period, and in 2023, the subway was shut 21 times.

Speaking to The Indian Express, Abhijit

Bangar, additional municipal commissioner (Projects), said the authorities are looking at two probable options — diversion of the existing drainage network and construction of a holding tank. "The process of diverting



the drains is going to be challenging since the drains have sharp turns, which cause disruption to the flow and lead to clogs and reduced lifespan of pipelines," Bangar said.

Therefore, according to officials, a holding tank is likely to be the probable

solution to counter flooding in Andheri. A holding pond is like a detention basin that temporarily stores water during heavy rainfall. The water from a flood-prone area is routed to a nearby pond through pumps and pipelines, where the water is either kept in storage temporarily or channelled elsewhere using dewatering pumps.

Holding ponds also act as a buffer between an area and its nearby waterbody. In Mumbai, a holding pond was constructed in Hindmata Junction, which was a key flood-prone area. Following this, the issue of waterlogging in that area decreased considerably.

The BMC has roped in IIT Bombay to chalk out a solution for Andheri. Bangar said that the BMC has set a June 15 target to finalise the plan of implementation, following which tenders will be floated, with the construction work set to begin by October this year.

## Triple murder at birthday party: Accused tries to flee, shot in 'encounter' in UP

Lucknow.(Agency)

A day after a dispute over 'smearing cake' on the face of a gym trainer during his birthday party in Uttar Pradesh's Bulandshahr left three men dead, police said one of the accused arrested in the case attempted to flee and sustained a bullet injury in a shootout.

According to police, the accused, Mayank Saini, admitted during questioning that he had concealed the weapon allegedly used in the crime on the outskirts of Khurja Nagar, beneath the Agwal flyover.

Early Monday morning, police said they took the accused to the spot. Circle Officer, Bulandshahr, Shobhit Kumar, said the accused quickly retrieved the hidden weapon and opened fire at the officers while trying to flee. In retaliation, he said the team fired back and Mayank sustained a bullet injury to his leg.

Police overpowered him, recovered the weapon from his possession, and took him to a hospital.

No police personnel were injured in the exchange of fire, officers said. Police have so far arrested three persons, while efforts are underway to trace the remaining accused. The other two arrested accused are Naresh Saini and Rupesh Saini, both in their 20s. All three accused are local residents. A total of 10 persons are named in the FIR.

According to the police, they received information Saturday night that three people had been injured in a shooting incident at a gym on Subhash Road. A police team reached the spot and found three men lying in pools of blood, with gunshot wounds to their heads.

## Why Kerala's churches are trading fireworks shows for spiritual solace after Thrissur tragedy

Kerala.(Agency)

In Kerala, numerous prominent churches have announced the abandonment of elaborate fireworks displays that once formed a spectacular highlight of their annual festivals. This collective decision comes in the immediate aftermath of the tragic April 21 fireworks blast in Thrissur, an incident that claimed 14 lives and left many severely injured, casting a pall over the vibrant celebratory traditions of the region.

The devastating incident unfolded in Thrissur at a manufacturing unit responsible for preparing the fireworks for the world-renowned Thrissur Pooram festival. Multiple explosions rocked the site, leading to fatalities and extensive injuries, and consequently, the famed Pooram fireworks spectacle and



associated festivities were cancelled.

Responding to the gravity of this loss, the St Joseph's Church at Pavaratty in Thrissur was among the first to act, announcing the cancellation of its traditional three-day fireworks display. A church official told the Indian Express, "The fireworks at the church had been held every year in the last week of April in a grand way. But this time, the church has decided to avoid it

completely as a mark of respect towards the deceased workers who lost their lives".

The ripple effect of this tragedy and the subsequent re-evaluation of celebrations has extended across various denominations. Notably, five churches operating under the Malankara Orthodox denomination have collectively decided to proceed with their annual festivals devoid of any fireworks show.

A leading light in this movement is the St George Orthodox Church at Puthuppally in Kottayam district, a significant pilgrimage centre. The church has chosen to redirect the substantial funds typically allocated for fireworks towards charitable schemes. Fr Andrews T John, the church vicar, affirmed that this decision was a direct response to a heartfelt appeal from

the Church head, Catholicos Baselios Marthoma Mathews III. The church's festival, which draws attendees from diverse religious backgrounds, had scheduled its fireworks display for May 5.

Further amplifying this spiritual declaration, the St George Orthodox Church at Chandanappally in Pathanamthitta district, another prominent Christian pilgrimage centre, has also resolved against holding a fireworks display. Instead, the allocated funds will be channelled into the construction of houses for poor families. "The decision was taken in response to the appeal of the church head. This is not merely a decision, but a spiritual declaration, which elevates the meaning of celebration to the higher realm of service to humanity," a statement from the church said.

## Gujarat sizzled on poll day, heat wave conditions to continue

Ahmedabad.(Agency)

On the day of local body elections, Gujarat reeled under heatwave conditions on Sunday, with temperatures hovering above the 40 degrees Celsius mark in several centres across the state.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued a heat wave warning for several districts till April 28 morning.

On Sunday, Kandla Airport recorded 45.2 degree Celsius, the highest in Gujarat, followed by 44.8 degree Celsius in Ahmedabad, Amreli at 44.5, Rajkot 44.4, Surendranagar at 44.3, Gandhinagar 44.2, Bhuj 43.8, Keshod 43.2, Vadodara 43 degree Celsius, Deesa 42.8, Surat and Bhavnagar 41.6 degree Celsius, respectively.

While the maximum temperatures were more than 4 degrees above normal, the night time temperatures too were high — between 21 to nearly 29 degree Celsius — across the state.

A heat wave alert for districts of Surat, Patan, Rajkot, Porbandar, Surendranagar, Morbi, Kutch, Ahmedabad and Botad has been issued by the IMD.

As per the weather forecast issued by the IMD, no large change in maximum temperatures is likely till April 28; thereafter gradual fall by 2-3 degrees is likely over the region. Maximum temperatures are very likely to be in the range of 41 to 45 degree Celsius over a few pockets of inland areas of Gujarat and in the range of 35 to 40 degree Celsius over isolated pockets of Coastal areas.

## Caring enough to shield all in the cruellest months

Never mind where you are in India, there is a heat wave in your life. My workmates in Coonoor have been complaining of a 21°C heat wave that is not allowing them to sleep well at night. Meanwhile, my friends in Srinagar are angry about their 12°C heat wave. HEAT is the big four-letter word in our lives today. Every city, town and village is getting hotter than it ever was. As many blame global warming to be the prime culprit, we petty human beings are not able to accept the real cause as yet. Let me explore that a bit as my heat-added mind is getting angrier by the minute. And sorry for calling us petty. It's more I than you.

The heat around us, and most certainly the heated minds and heated bodies it is creating, is the subject at hand. Just as the heat wave starts inching up degree by degree, there is an entire economy that is on the hot move. The skincare industry is out there in the hot sun with you, offering you every solution for skin-defence (a new science on its own), just as the garment industry is offering you summer fashion to beat the sun. The air-conditioner industry is on overdrive celebrating the heat, just as air-coolers are being bought by every other segment that cannot afford an air-conditioner. In the bargain, I am told many brands have a waiting list, just as tedious and long as the LPG queue. Managing heat waves is a science on its own today. If the best way to avoid the sun is staying indoors, that is not much of an option. Remember, summer is when the 'summer holidays' are on with a vengeance. Every school is off and every parent is under pressure to take a vacation. So you need to be out. Those of us who work have our daily office routines on. Can't avoid that. Those of us who work in the field do not have the luxury of staying away from the sun. Summer is certainly a cruel season for those of us who can't afford to escape to cooler climes. The heat wave in our midst is not only causing more road rage cases, but it is also bringing down productivity all across. We are able to work less than in the winter months, or for that matter in the months in between the extreme weather patterns.

The sad fact is that minimum temperatures are climbing faster than the maximum that hits our cities and towns. We seem to be tracking the maximum temperature more than what is happening at the level of the minimum. Our days are getting hotter and hotter, and the nights are getting even hotter. In the bargain, there is just no time for the city to cool off. We begin our mornings on a hot note. In more ways than one. Have you noticed? The global warming baseline is telling. As per data on hand, the world crossed the dangerous +1.5°C threshold in 2024. This means that 2024 was the first year with the global average temperature 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels—making it the warmest year on record. What then is the ambition o 2026? To beat 2024, for sure. Add to it the measure of the 'dangerous heat' days experienced. The world in 2024 experienced 41 more such days as opposed to the baseline. Look at India. Year 2024 was the hottest since records began in 1901. The annual mean land surface air temperature was 0.65°C above the 1991-2020 average. Leave the data aside and look at what happens everywhere to all of us. We somehow seem to lose our cool all too easily. Road rage numbers tell the story all too clearly. Public health and productivity drops. Power grids are under extreme stress as we pull that much more energy out of them to stay cool and energetic. Outdoor weddings and events, however late in the evening, are events one wants to avoid. The bad news is the big news, though. Every passing year is going to see this worsen. Every summer is going to be worse than the previous one. Is it then time that we sit up and look at solutions to help mitigate it all? Isn't it time to stop being the problem and pretending to look like the solution at least?

## Ray of hope for Opposition unity

INDIA bloc should build on the gains from its pushback to the delimitation-linked Bill

SINCE 2014, when the BJP stormed to power and used its majority to artfully divide its opponents in Parliament and push through contentious Bills even in the Rajya Sabha, where it was short of numbers, Opposition unity remained a chimera. On the other hand, the Congress, still under the delusion of being India's preeminent party, was indifferent or ambiguous towards the burgeoning regional forces whose support it could have sought. The Opposition presented a spectacle of leaders divided by egos and ambition. As the Congress' strength declined in its provincial strongholds, the respect it could have received from the regional outfits fell in direct proportion. The party's dream of becoming the centripetal force of the INDIA bloc receded as other non-BJP parties refused to play along with the Congress even in Parliament. The Opposition passed up many opportunities that came its way to hem in the BJP/NDA. Recall the winter session of Parliament in December 2023, when the CEC (Chief Election Commissioner) and Other Election Commissioners Bill, 2023, was comfortably passed. It replaced the Election Commission (Conditions of Service of Election Commissioners and Transaction of Business) Act, 1991.

The high points of the new Act were the domination of the selection committee by the government and lifelong immunity from prosecution to the CEC and Election Commissioners for the decisions they took in office.

Indeed, the ongoing — and justified — furore over the large-scale disenfranchisement of bona fide voters in West Bengal can in no small measure be ascribed to the 2023 Act. Today, the Trinamool Congress (TMC) is on the receiving end, but the legislation is fated to impact other parties too at some point. It's inexplicable that the Opposition could not decipher the provisions of this law and draw up a parliamentary strategy to thwart its passage. The same session was also remarkable for the suspension of 141 MPs from both Houses for demanding a debate on a security breach that occurred on December 13, when two men jumped into the Lok Sabha chamber from the visitors' gallery, armed with gas canisters. Their passes were arranged by a BJP MP, so it was clear that the government wanted to avert a major embarrassment for itself. Had the Opposition MPs banded together, resigned en masse and hit the streets, who knows what the outcome of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections might have been? Possibly worse for the BJP, which did not reach the majority mark on its own. Compounding the Opposition's problems was the presence of a "neutral

and non-aligned" bloc of state parties — the Telugu Desam Party (TDP), YSR Congress Party, Biju Janata Dal (BJD), Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) and the AIADMK faction led by Edappadi K Palaniswami. Although they were not part of the BJP-led NDA, they were always on hand to bail out the government in crunch situations in Parliament and ensure the passage of significant Bills. Except the TDP, which is now part of the NDA, the others were humbled in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls and barely remain politically relevant today. April 17, 2026, will be enshrined in parliamentary annals as a red-letter day for the Opposition; it was not exactly a black-letter day for the BJP, given its knack for turning adversity into opportunity, but it did mark a serious

The states of southern India feared a loss of political weight at the Centre, corresponding to an exponential rise in the representation of the Hindi belt states, which have fared worse on economic and social indices by largely refusing to take population control seriously. Taking into account the apprehensions of the South, then PMs Indira Gandhi and Atal Bihari Vajpayee deferred the delimitation exercise.

While the INDIA bloc stood as one, with constituents like the Samajwadi Party refusing to budge although a rise in UP's seats might suit it, even those from the "neutral" camp — notably the BJD and the BRS — voted out the Bill. The BJP's erstwhile ally, the Shiromani Akali Dal, dubbed it "discriminatory" to Punjab's interests. The Bill was defeated by 54 votes.

The BJP's calculation that a gender smokescreen would arrest dissent failed. The flawless parliamentary tactics it demonstrated in the past to ambush the Opposition did not work this time. A legerdemain to push in delimitation and the churn it would cause in the body politic, and that too in the midst of state elections fought on the principle of upholding a federal polity, was evident to the Opposition. It foiled the move. Of course, the "asli khe" (real game) from the Opposition's perspective will begin on May 4, when the results of the Assembly elections in West Bengal, Tamil Nadu and other states will be announced. Should Mamata Banerjee win another term, there will be a clamour from the non-Congress members of INDIA to declare her as the



leader of the bloc, which has remained inchoate so far. To say that Bengal was a hard-fought battle would be an understatement. It was a state of siege which might break the back of the most battle-hardened politician. However, the Congress is unlikely to jump the gun and agree to announcing the INDIA chief prematurely. If the Congress-led United Democratic Front (UDF) upstages the ruling LDF in Kerala or the DMK retains power in Tamil Nadu, how would these victories be less critical than the one in Bengal? The BJP will not abandon the delimitation-linked Bill. Uttar Pradesh votes next year and it will be in the party's interest to pursue the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise with full zeal in the state. The onus will be on the Opposition to take on the government both inside and outside Parliament with the tenacity it displayed last week — or risk losing the small

setback. A united Opposition defeated the Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill. It was a legislation that sought to increase the strength of the Lok Sabha by 50 per cent (from 543 to 850 seats) and redistribute seats based on the 2011 Census to hasten the rollout of women's reservation. The southern states, led by Tamil Nadu CM MK Stalin and his Telangana counterpart A Revanth Reddy, were up in arms over coupling the implementation of the women's quota with a fresh delimitation. Their argument was that if seats were allocated on the basis of the 2026 population (constituencies are still drawn as per the Census of 1971, when India's population was around 55 crore, while it is estimated to be over 140 crore today), Tamil Nadu could lose 10 seats and Kerala seven, while Uttar Pradesh could gain at least 12 and Bihar more than nine.

## ECI under scrutiny: Must ensure free & fair polls in Bengal

The run-up to the Assembly polls has witnessed a bitter confrontation between the ECI and the ruling Trinamool Congress

THE spotlight on the Election Commission of India (ECI) has intensified amid the first phase of the high-stakes elections in West Bengal today. The run-up to the Assembly polls has witnessed a bitter confrontation between the ECI and the ruling Trinamool Congress over the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls. Mass deletion of voters' names has dominated the electoral discourse in the state over the past four months. Trouble started in December last year when the poll panel declared that "logical discrepancies" had been found in the forms of 1.36 crore people. Of these, 60 lakh were placed under adjudication, and then 27.1 lakh of them were deleted. Lakhs of aggrieved residents are still awaiting the decision of appellate tribunals on their appeals. All the chaos and confusion have undermined the sanctity of the rolls. Moreover, the avowed objective of identifying and listing "illegal immigrants" has been virtually cast aside. The ECI, whose credibility and neutrality have come under a



cloud in West Bengal, faces the onerous task of ensuring free and fair elections. The Supreme Court has rightly observed that the SIR process has led to a

"trust deficit" between the poll body and the state government. Notably, the exercise has been largely hassle-free in several other states and union territories. Another point of contention is the poll panel's decision to transfer around 1,100 officers, including the chief secretary, after the elections were notified.

Beyond Bengal, the ECI is under increasing pressure over Prime Minister Narendra Modi's address to the nation. Opposition parties have alleged that the PM's speech violated the Model Code of Conduct. At stake is the ECI's autonomy — can it send a strong message that no political party or individual will be spared if found guilty of violations?

The onus is on the poll body to refute the allegations of partisanship and prove that it is not another "caged parrot" — as the apex court had once described the CBI.

## How BJP's inroads into Bhadrakol could dent TMC dominance

Booth-level data analysis from Kolkata revealed deep fissures in the ruling party's urban bastion

The electoral success of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in the recently held state Assembly polls shows us a visible pattern: building a base in urban centres before expanding into rural areas. However, the state of West Bengal reveals a strikingly different story: the early entry came in the rural and semi-rural belts of North Bengal-districts like Darjeeling, Jalpaiguri, Cooch Behar and substantive part of the Jangalmahal. It capitalised on two major fronts — anti-incumbency against the ruling TMC and the BJP's appeals to the local communities, who felt neglected by the power centre in Kolkata and its suburbs. However, recent electoral performance indicates the BJP has made inroads into the urban heartland of Greater Kolkata and its outskirts. This new pattern could prove decisive in the upcoming Assembly poll to the 294-member West Bengal Legislative Assembly.

### Deep fissures in TMC's urban bastion

The 2024 Lok Sabha election results has already sent alarm bells ringing to the ruling party. Even though TMC retained its overall dominance in the state with 29 seats to BJP's 12, booth-level data analysis from Kolkata revealed deep fissures in the ruling party's urban bastion. The most interesting story lies in Bhabanipur (also spelled Bhowanipore), Chief Minister's own Assembly seat, which falls within the Kolkata Dakshin Lok Sabha seat. Out of the eight Kolkata Municipal Corporation wards (city's civic electoral units) under this Assembly seat, BJP led in five and TMC in just three. Interestingly, BJP also led in 149 of 269 polling booths within the area, despite TMC winning the parliamentary seat.

### Advertisement

Across Kolkata's 144 wards, TMC trailed BJP in 47, including key pockets in the South Kolkata region. This

is in sharp contrast to the last local Kolkata Municipal Corporation election held in December 2021, where BJP could secure only 3 wards and finished second in 48 out of 144 wards. This urban dent in what was long considered by political analysts as TMC territory, must send alarm bells ringing in the ruling camp.

### TMC swept Greater Kolkata in 2021 Assembly poll

Contrast this with the 2021 Assembly polls, when TMC virtually swept the Greater Kolkata belt. It won almost every seat in the region, barring one — Bhangar in South 24 Parganas, which was won by Pirzada Nawsad Siddique of the Indian Secular Front (ISF). This invincible winning strike rate was extended across Kolkata proper, Howrah, parts of North and South 24 Parganas and adjacent urbanising areas. BJP drew a near blank in the core urban zones of the Presidency Division (the administrative region that includes Kolkata and its immediate neighbourhood).

### Slow shift in bhadrakol in the offing

For decades, the Bengali "bhadrakol"—the educated, urban, middle-class Bengalis traditionally understood as culturally liberal, opposed the BJP's Hindutva plank and the homogenising ideology that they derive from RSS. This belt was long viewed as a solid base for the Left and, after 2011, for TMC. A breakthrough in this belt would signal more than electoral mathematics; it would postulate a cultural break among the mass who defined "Bengaliness" allergic to the regressive Hindutva politics. The slow shift towards BJP arises not only from anti-incumbency but driven by multiple governance failures along with women safety concerns in the state.

### BJP has promised DA

There have been chronic delays in Dearness Allowance (DA) payments to state government employees — profession majorly practised by the bhadrakol

community of the urban locality. The state remains stuck under the outdated ROPA 2009 pay structure, with DA remaining far below Central government levels. When Supreme Court intervened for fast payment of arrears for the period of 2008-2019, the state repeatedly sought extensions, citing fiscal constraints and election year



pressures. BJP leaders, including Union Home Minister Amit Shah, in have promised full implementation of the 7th Pay Commission within 45 days of forming a government.

### 2022 recruitment scam a blot on TMC

Another major blot in governance is the massive recruitment scam, particularly in the education sector. The School Service Commission (SSC) scandal exposed in 2022 with the arrest of then education minister Partha Chatterjee, involved in cash-for-jobs in 2016 teacher and non-teaching staff appointments. The Calcutta High Court Division Bench of Justice Debanshu Basak and Justice Shabbir Rashidi and in April 2025, the Supreme Court declared the entire process as fraudulent that led to

the cancellation of over 25,753 appointments overnight. Similar issues plagued the Teachers Eligibility Test (TET) processes.

Compounding the frustration of young voters is the TMC's heavy reliance on "dole politics" of direct cash transfer such as Lakshmir Bhandar for women, Yuvasree for unemployed youth, etc. as an alternative to meaningful livelihood options.

### RG Kar Medical College rape-murder the tipping point

The tipping point of frustration for many urban women voters arrived with the inhuman and horrific RG Kar Medical College rape-murder case in August 2024. A young trainee doctor was brutally assaulted and murdered inside the premises of a government hospital in Central Kolkata, which punctured Mamata Banerjee's claims of women safety in the state. The victim's mother Ratna Debnath, now a BJP candidate from Panihati, has kept the issue of women's safety on the front burner. Historically South Kolkata Mamata's fortress

If we study the history of TMC itself, it began life tagged as a "South Kolkata party". Its breakaway from Indian National Congress and subsequent early momentum and iconic victories are rooted in this belt. In 1984, young Mamata Banerjee famously defeated veteran CPI(M) leader Somnath Chatterjee from the Jadavpur Lok Sabha seat (covers much of the area what is now part of South Kolkata). South Kolkata remained her personal and political fortress even as TMC spread statewide, thus any erosion of popular support in this region would just not mean loss of seats but a symbolic end to the three decades of trust that Mamata Banerjee built from the streets of Bhabanipur and beyond.

# Surat man kills dietitian wife, hides body in cement-filled box, files missing report

A handwritten note found at the couple's home, allegedly written by Vishal and handed to police by their minor son, proved crucial, with a confession-like line that he had made a grave mistake and that Shilpa was no longer alive.

**Surat. (Agency)**

A chilling case of alleged murder and deception has emerged from Gujarat's Surat, where a man killed his wife, hid her body in a wooden trunk at an abandoned house, and then filed a missing complaint to mislead the police.

The case came to light after the accused, identified as 40-year-old Vishal Salvi, approached the police to report that his wife, Shilpa Salvi (39), had gone missing. Shilpa, a dietitian by profession, was last seen four days earlier, he claimed. Police began a routine missing person investigation,

but the case took a dramatic turn early in the probe.

A handwritten note recovered from the couple's home, reportedly written by Vishal himself, became the turning point. The note, which was found by their minor son and handed over to the police, contained a confession-like message stating that he had made a grave mistake and that Shilpa was no longer alive.

Following this, investigators shifted focus from a missing persons case to a suspected murder. Acting on leads,



police traced an old, abandoned property linked to the accused in the Salabatpura police station limits. Upon breaking open the locked house, officers were met with a foul

odour emanating from a wooden trunk kept in a corner of the room. Inside the box, they discovered the decomposed body of the missing woman.

The body had reportedly been concealed with raw cement. Preliminary findings suggest that the murder may have taken place four to five days before the missing complaint was filed.

Senior police officer Kanan Desai confirmed that the investigation began after the missing complaint was lodged, but the discovery of the note significantly altered its course.

The body has been sent for post-mortem, and forensic teams are assisting in gathering evidence to determine the exact cause of death.

Initial enquiries and statements from acquaintances indicate that the couple had been facing prolonged marital discord, with the husband allegedly suspecting his wife of an extramarital affair – a possible motive under investigation. The accused remains absconding, and multiple police teams are conducting searches across locations, using CCTV footage and human intelligence to track him down.

## Short news

### Child, 7, Dies, 19 Others Hospitalised After Eating Golgappa In Jharkhand



**Giridih. (Agency)**

A seven-year-old child died and 18 others were hospitalised on Sunday after consuming 'golgappa' and 'chaat' from a cart vendor in Jharkhand's Giridih district, police said.

The incident happened at Leda Bajto village under Mufassil police station limits. "A seven-year-old child died, and 18 others are undergoing treatment at Sadar hospital after they suffered food poisoning," Sadar sub-divisional police officer (SDPO) Jeetwahan Oraon told PTL.

He said that a local Golgappa and Chaat seller visited the village on Saturday evening, where a large number of villagers had consumed the food items.

They allegedly started feeling ill on Saturday night, and over 20 people, including women and children, were brought to Sadar for treatment on Sunday morning, another police officer said. According to the civil surgeon, food poisoning was detected among the patients, Oraon said. The condition of other patients is stated to be stable, he said. The police have initiated an investigation into the matter, and the cart vendor is being searched.

### Uttarakhand Weather: Dehradun records highest April temp in 17 years, schools closed, rain expected from April 28

**Dehradun. (Agency)**

Uttarakhand is witnessing a mix of scorching heat in the plains and changing weather in the hills. On Sunday, Dehradun recorded 39.2°C, the highest April temperature in 17 years. The heatwave forced people indoors, while the administration declared a one-day holiday for schools on Monday to protect children from the rising temperatures.

#### Heatwave alert in Dehradun

District Magistrate Savin Bansal issued an alert for extreme heat and heatwave conditions. All Anganwadi centers, government, non-government, and private schools (grades 1-12) were ordered closed for the day. The health department was instructed to remain fully prepared, with hospitals on alert to handle heat-related illnesses.

The Chief Medical Officer has ensured that hospitals are equipped with necessary resources to respond promptly to patients suffering from dehydration, heatstroke, or other heat-related conditions.

#### Highest April temperature in 17 years

On Sunday, hot winds and blazing sun gripped Dehradun from early morning. The maximum temperature touched 39.2°C, breaking records of the past 17 years. In most plains of Uttarakhand, temperatures remained 4-5°C above normal, intensifying the heatwave.

Residents struggled with the heat, preferring to stay indoors. Water and electricity demand surged, while outdoor activities were severely affected.

#### Weather in the hills

While the plains battled heat, the hilly districts of Uttarakhand experienced changing weather. Light rain was reported in Uttarkashi, Chamoli, Rudrapur, Bageshwar, and Pithoragarh, bringing some relief to residents and pilgrims in these regions. Strong winds and cloudy skies added to the contrasting weather pattern across the state.

## Gwalior woman gets divorce by falsely naming sister-in-law as husband's second wife

A Gwalior woman allegedly secured an ex-parte divorce by identifying her husband's sister as his second wife.

The husband has challenged the decree in the High Court, alleging that the court was misled.

**Gwalior. (Agency)**

In a startling case from Madhya Pradesh's Gwalior, a woman allegedly misled a family court into granting her a one-sided divorce by falsely identifying her husband's real sister as his "second wife."

According to details, the 40-year-old woman, married since 1998, had been living separately from her husband since 2015 due to ongoing disputes. Her husband, a marketing company official, often stayed away for work, which reportedly deepened differences between the couple. Despite the separation, the husband was unwilling to grant a divorce.

In 2021, the woman approached the family

court seeking dissolution of marriage, claiming that her husband had remarried. As evidence, she submitted a family

photograph in which the husband was seen standing with his sister and other relatives. She allegedly misrepresented

her sister-in-law as the husband's second wife.

Relying on the submitted evidence, the court granted an ex-parte divorce decree in her favour.

The matter came to light in the first week of April when the husband learned about the divorce order. Upon reviewing court records, he discovered the alleged misrepresentation and fraud. He has now challenged the decree in the Gwalior High Court, accusing his wife of obtaining the judgment by misleading the court.

The High Court is set to hear the case, where further details and the legitimacy of the divorce order are expected to be closely examined.



## Ahmedabad airport customs seize 61 designer pens worth up to Rs 30 lakh

**Ahmedabad. (Agency)**

What looked like an ordinary arrival turned into a high-value bust at Ahmedabad's Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport, where customs officials seized 61 premium designer pens worth up to Rs 30 lakh from a passenger arriving from Japan via Vietnam. The passenger, who landed on VietJet flight VJ 1805 through Ho Chi Minh City, caught the attention of officials due to suspicious behaviour during routine screening. A baggage scan raised further red flags, prompting a closer inspection.



What followed was an unusual discovery; dozens of high-end ink pens, carefully concealed inside the luggage. Each pen is estimated to be worth between Rs 40,000

and Rs 50,000, making the total haul one of the more peculiar high-value seizures in recent times.

Officials said the passenger had not declared the items, allegedly attempting to slip them past customs duty checks. The entire consignment has been seized under the Customs Act, 1962.

While the exact valuation is yet to be finalised pending expert assessment, the passenger is currently being questioned.

Authorities are also probing whether the pens were meant for personal use or part of a larger smuggling network.

## Hemkund Sahib Yatra 2026: First batch to leave May 20, doors open May 23, CM Dhami invited

The Hemkund Sahib Yatra 2026 will begin with the first batch of devotees leaving on May 20. The shrine's doors will open on May 23. CM Pushkar Singh Dhami has been invited to the farewell ceremony, with preparations underway for a smooth pilgrimage.

**Dehradun. (Agency)**

The sacred Hemkund Sahib Yatra 2026 is set to begin soon, with the first batch of devotees scheduled to leave on May 20. The doors of the revered shrine will officially open on May 23, marking the start of the annual pilgrimage. On Sunday, Narendra Jeet Singh Bindra, President of the Gurdwara Hemkund Sahib Management Trust, met with Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami to discuss preparations. He invited the Chief Minister to attend the farewell ceremony of the first batch of pilgrims on May 20, which will be traditionally led by the Panj Pyaras.

#### CM Dhami's assurance

Chief Minister Dhami assured that the state government and administration are working with full commitment to ensure

the convenience and safety of pilgrims. He said that travel arrangements are being continuously monitored and every possible assistance will be provided to make the yatra successful, smooth, and organized.

He emphasized that the government is focused on avoiding any inconvenience to devotees and is coordinating with local authorities to strengthen facilities along the route.

#### About Hemkund Sahib

Hemkund Sahib, located at an altitude of 4,633 meters in Chamoli district, is one of the most revered Sikh pilgrimage sites. Surrounded by seven snow-clad peaks, the shrine is dedicated to Guru Gobind Singh Ji, the tenth Sikh Guru. The name



"Hemkund" means "Lake of Snow," and the shrine sits beside a glacial lake, offering breathtaking views.

The pilgrimage is considered spiritually uplifting but physically challenging due to the steep trek and high altitude. Every year, thousands of devotees from across India and abroad undertake this journey, making

it one of the most significant Sikh pilgrimages.

#### Preparations for the yatra

The Hemkund Sahib Management Trust has been coordinating with the administration to ensure proper facilities for pilgrims. Arrangements for accommodation, medical aid, and crowd management are being strengthened. Special attention is being given to safety measures, considering the difficult terrain and unpredictable weather conditions. May 20 will mark the formal beginning of the yatra.

The farewell ceremony on May 20 will mark the formal beginning of the yatra season. Devotees are expected to participate with great enthusiasm, chanting hymns and prayers as they embark on the journey.

# Big rail push in Bengaluru: 2 new trains to Mumbai, Vande Bharat to Mangaluru soon

**A Vande Bharat train between Bengaluru and Mangaluru, to be extended to Madgaon, along with two Bengaluru-Mumbai services, is set to be launched soon.**

**New Delhi.(Agency)**

In a major push to rail connectivity across Karnataka and beyond, Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnav has announced that three new train services, including a semi-high-speed Vande Bharat Express linking Bengaluru with the coastal belt, and two trains to Mumbai, will be launched soon.

According to the minister, the Vande Bharat service connecting Bengaluru with Mangaluru and extending up to Madgaon is in the final stages of planning. The project is expected to significantly enhance connectivity across coastal Karnataka and further integrate it with Goa.

"The service from Bengaluru to Mangaluru and onward to Madgaon is being planned. Electrification of the Hassan-Mangaluru railway line has been completed, and testing and trials are under way. We expect

the Vande Bharat service to be operational within the next few months, enhancing connectivity across the coastal region," Vaishnav said.

In parallel, the Railways will roll out two new services between Bengaluru and Mumbai. These include a superfast Mail/Express train equipped with advanced L H B coaches via Hubballi-Dharwad, and a Vande Bharat Sleeper Express aimed at offering faster and more comfortable overnight travel between the two cities.

"Simultaneously, we are introducing two new services to Mumbai, a superfast train via Hubballi-Dharwad and a Vande Bharat sleeper service between Bengaluru and



Mumbai. Both are expected to begin operations within the next couple of months," he added.

The minister emphasised that the expansion plans are designed to ensure seamless

connectivity to key coastal destinations, including Madgaon and other towns along the Konkan belt. He also noted that key technical challenges have been addressed, including full electrification of the Hassan-Mangaluru stretch and the integration of advanced safety systems such as Automated Emergency Braking (AEB), which is crucial for navigating the steep gradients of the coastal route.

The new services are expected to reduce travel time, improve passenger comfort, and strengthen economic and tourism linkages between Karnataka, Goa, and Maharashtra.

## Delhi assembly to hold special session on women's reservation bill

**New Delhi.(Agency)**

The Delhi Assembly will hold a special session on April 28 to discuss the women's reservation issue after related bills were defeated in the Lok Sabha. The BJP has called similar special sessions in other states as well that it rules. A Delhi Assembly secretariat statement said that the fifth session of the eighth legislative Assembly is scheduled to commence on Tuesday at 11 am. Officials said that the session is likely to last for a day, but can be extended further if required.



The secretariat has finalised necessary arrangements to ensure smooth and uninterrupted conduct of the proceedings, officials said, particularly security arrangement in the light of recent bomb threats.

A few days ago, Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, along with many BJP leaders, protested the non-passage of the Mahila Shakti Amendment Bill in Parliament by wearing a black armband. Terming it a "painful" development, she had slammed the Opposition for blocking the passage of the 131st Constitutional Amendment Bill in the Lok Sabha. The chief minister had alleged that this was not the first time the Congress and its allies had obstructed women's empowerment, saying their approach exposed their real intent. "Women are watching and understanding everything. This injustice will not go unanswered," she had said.

## Yamuna cruise project in Delhi delayed as shore-side works remain incomplete

**New Delhi.(Agency)**

The wait for the residents of Delhi to experience a cruise service on the Yamuna has become a tad bit longer. The project, which is likely to offer a unique experience to visitors, was expected to be launched by February this year, but the concerned agencies of the Delhi government have not yet completed work related to shore-side facilities and last-mile connectivity for passengers.

A visit to the area by this newspaper showed activities advancing at a fast pace, but a lot of crucial work appeared incomplete, like ticketing cabins, charging station, sitting and waiting area, and the parking lot, drinking water facility, public conveniences, besides recreational spaces, like play area for children.

However, onshore facilities, like the floating jetty, have been completed by the agencies. Scores of people were seen engaged in the construction activities. The staff deputed at the site said on condition of anonymity, "We have been working here since the project was announced. We hope to finish it in the coming days. Though we have no more information, we assume that the cruise service is expected to start within two to three months." The cruise vessel arrived from Mumbai to Delhi a long time back, but it has been covered with tarpaulin sheets for the time being. The staff said that it has been done to keep the vessel clean. "With the orders from higher authorities, we have covered the boat to ensure it stays clean and safe. Once the onshore and offshore facilities are complete, we will take the boat to the right place," said the staff.

The cruise is part of the Delhi government's riverfront tourism and recreation plan and will operate on a six-to-seven-kilometre stretch between Sonia Vihar and Jagatpur, upstream of the Wazirabad barrage. The project, which is being developed at an estimated cost of ₹20 crore, is expected to provide a green tourism experience to people. The government had said earlier, "The CM will dedicate it to the people of Delhi. We are bringing this in accordance with international safety standards.."

## Man found dead with gun in hand inside car in Greater Noida, suicide suspected

**New Delhi.(Agency)**

The body of a young man, identified as grocery trader Rahul Bidhuri, was discovered inside a Scorpio SUV near Gharbara village under the jurisdiction of the Ecotech-1 police station. Preliminary investigations suggest a case of suicide, as Bidhuri was found alone in the vehicle with a pistol still in his hand. The police believe that the man ended his life after shooting into his temple with the gun. While investigators are currently processing the scene to determine the exact sequence of events, no suicide note has been recovered so far. The local police have launched a detailed probe into the circumstances leading up to the incident to confirm whether it was indeed a self-inflicted injury or

**While investigators are currently processing the scene to determine the exact sequence of events, no suicide note has been recovered so far.**



if foul play was involved. As part of the probe, the police have seized the car, the pistol, and several

other belongings of the victim.

Earlier this week, a man and a woman in their 20s, who were living together in a rented apartment in Greater Noida, were found dead under suspicious circumstances.

The deceased have been identified as 27-year-old Guddu Paswan, alias Golu, and 24-year-old Jyoti, both natives of the Deoria district in Uttar Pradesh. They were in a live-in relationship.

The incident came to light on Wednesday night within the jurisdiction of the Knowledge Park police station. Upon entering the room, investigators found Paswan hanging from a ceiling fan, while Jyoti's body was discovered lying on the floor. Police are presently investigating the matter to determine the exact cause of death for both individuals.

## Supreme Court Orders Probe Into 3 Delhi Hospitals Denying Treatment To Stabbed Advocate

**Supreme Court orders probe into Delhi hospitals denying emergency treatment to stabbed advocate.**

**New Delhi.(Agency)**

The Supreme Court on Monday ordered a probe into why three Delhi hospitals - Kailash Hospital, Guru Teg Bahadur Hospital and RK Hospital denied treatment to a lady advocate who was stabbed by her husband.

The Supreme Court initiated suo motu proceedings in the case of the attack on the woman lawyer and questioned three hospitals for allegedly refusing emergency treatment to the woman who was allegedly brutally stabbed by her husband.

A bench of Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi expressed serious concern over the alleged denial of medical care, asking, "Why was emergency treatment not provided?" In the past month this is the second reported case of hospitals in Delhi-NCR of which the Supreme Court has taken cognisance over

denying emergency medical treatment to a patient in a critical situation. Earlier this month, the Supreme Court constituted a SIT to probe the rape and murder of a four-year-old minor girl. The court not only pulled up

Ghaziabad police over allegations by the father of a biased probe but also sought an explanation from two private hospitals that denied treatment to the minor girl who was reportedly brought alive to the private hospitals. The father of the girl child told the court that they have videos to show that the minor was alive when they reached the two hospitals.

**Assault And Hospital Refusal To Lady Advocate**

Appearing for the victim today, the counsel told the court that the advocate was "brutally stabbed" at her husband's office.



## Killer heatwave in April: Does India need to rethink summer vacation timing for schools?

**New Delhi.(Agency)**

**With a shift in weather patterns, several states in India witness a spike in temperatures much earlier than previously recorded. This forces schools to shut down ahead of schedule. With April seeing heatwaves and turning as harsh as mid-May, there's a strong case for rethinking India's school calendar.**

Neha Sharma keeps checking the weather prediction app on her cellphone constantly these days. Sharma, the mother of a Class I student at a private school in Noida Extension, Uttar Pradesh, is worried because her 7-year-old son has to venture out in the summer heat. "I would prefer schools to declare summer holidays early as young children are vulnerable to falling ill in this extreme heat," she said. Like Sharma, millions of parents across several states in India are worried about sending their children to school amid the heatwave. Schools and state governments share their concern. As temperatures soar, several states have begun declaring summer holidays for schools ahead of schedule.

The pattern of states advancing summer holidays has been increasing since 2022. This comes as parts of India witness a shift in weather patterns with advanced extreme



summers and a shorter but intense winter.

According to the global temperature rankings 2026, 95 of the world's 100 hottest cities are located in India. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has already issued heatwave warnings across several regions, cautioning that the heat in several North Indian states will spike up to 45 degrees Celsius on Monday.

"Climate is creating havoc in the country. The

weather has become unpredictable and is regularly changing. The call of summer vacations should be taken pragmatically," Brian Seymour, Principal of GD Somani Memorial School, Mumbai, told India Today Digital.

Governments of North Indian states generally schedule summer holidays from mid-May till late June. In the South, where summer's onset varies from the North, vacations in schools start from April and end in late May. Due to an increase in heatwaves and extreme temperatures, at least 10 states have declared summer holidays ahead of the established schedule since 2022. "Schools provide six weeks of vacation on a mandatory basis, and in Maharashtra, this rule is followed. But in the north Indian states, due to severe heat, the holiday is prolonged and continues for nearly two months," Seymour said. "The weather has become unpredictable in recent times. Mumbai is witnessing.

## Shahjahanabad renaming: Indraprastha legacy goes far beyond Old Delhi

**Indraprastha is a wider cultural-geographical legacy than Old Delhi, and calls for a broader Mahabharata heritage circuit over symbolic renaming.**

**New Delhi.(Agency)**

The Delhi government's decision to rename the Shahjahanabad Redevelopment Corporation (SRDC) as Indraprastha Virasat Redevelopment Corporation is an exercise in symbolic reclamation. By invoking Indraprastha, the legendary capital of the Pandavas described in the epic Mahabharata, renaming is the move that seeks to anchor Delhi's contemporary identity in an ancient civilizational past.

Few would dispute the government's prerogative to rename institutions. Yet, the move raises a fundamental question, especially among those who would want to propagate the ancient legacy. Does the legacy of Indraprastha meaningfully correspond to the geography of Shahjahanabad, or does this renaming risk fusing distinct historical layers?

The answer lies in examining both history and geography with some care. The identification of Indraprastha has long been debated. Archaeological excavations at Purana Qila have revealed 'Painted Grey Ware' culture remains, often associated with the later Vedic period, leading scholars to link the site with the Pandava capital. Some scholars, however, point that the textual descriptions in the Mahabharata do not point to a compact, walled city resembling later medieval urban centres. Instead, Indraprastha appears as part of a broader territorial grant, a developed region along the Yamuna that the Pandavas transformed into their capital. In fact a village named Inderpat existed till the early part of last century close to Purana Qila. The village cleared during the British construction of New Delhi (around 1911-1930).

Traditional interpretations further reinforce this understanding. The oft-cited reference to five settlements, Panipat, Sonipat, Baghpat, Maripat and Tilapat, which Pandavas received from Kauravas, suggests that Indraprastha, given its geographical location close to the Purana Qila site on the banks of Yamuna, was their main administration centre.

This geography also corresponds broadly to the present-day National Capital Region (NCR), stretching from Panipat in the north to areas near Tilapat in the south, and across the Yamuna into Baghpat. To the east lay Hastinapur, the Kauravas capital, while the battlefield of Kurukshetra lay further north of Panipat, forming a coherent cultural-geographical zone associated with the epic.

## NEWS BOX

## Rajat Patidar raising captaincy standards at RCB: Dinesh Karthik lauds leadership



New Delhi. (Agency)

Royal Challengers Bengaluru batting coach Dinesh Karthik has heaped praise on skipper Rajat Patidar, crediting him for elevating leadership standards at the franchise during IPL 2026. Patidar, who led RCB to their maiden title last season, has continued to impress both as a batter and captain in the ongoing campaign. Speaking ahead of RCB's clash against the Delhi Capitals, Karthik highlighted Patidar's calm approach and growing influence within the team.

"Rajat Patidar is constantly upping his standards. He is calm, thoughtful, and you can see that in the way he bats.

He has the respect in the room and handles his bowlers well. Under pressure, he stays composed and makes good decisions," Karthik said in the pre-match press conference.

Patidar's leadership has been central to RCB's strong start this season, with the team maintaining its aggressive identity while also showing control in key moments.

### HOW HAS RAJAT PATIDAR BEEN IN IPL 2026?

Patidar's impact this season has gone beyond captaincy. With the bat, he has been one of RCB's most consistent performers, scoring 238 runs in his first seven matches at a striking rate of over 210.

What stands out is his intent from ball one. Unlike traditional middle-order anchors, Patidar does not take time to settle. He looks to impose himself early, often hitting a boundary within his first few deliveries. That approach has helped RCB consistently push past the 200-run mark this season.

There is also a clear pattern in RCB's results tied to his rhythm. In games where Patidar got going early against teams like Sunrisers Hyderabad, Chennai Super Kings, Mumbai Indians, and Lucknow Super Giants, RCB dominated proceedings. But in matches where he failed to build momentum, such as against Rajasthan Royals and Delhi, the team struggled to maintain its edge.

## RCB's Tim David, Romario Shepherd play cricket in gullies of Delhi

New Delhi. (Agency)

Royal Challengers Bengaluru found a relaxed way to prepare for their clash against Delhi Capitals, with Tim David and Romario Shepherd spotted enjoying a game of gully cricket in the build-up to the contest at the Arun Jaitley Stadium. The two RCB stars were seen having a casual hit in the streets under the Delhi sun, trading big shots and soaking in a slice of the city's cricket culture ahead of the IPL fixture. Videos of the pair quickly made the rounds on social media, with both players appearing to enjoy the lighter side of preparations before a key away game.

According to social media posts, David and Shepherd were allegedly playing in and around the Vasant Kunj area, although India Today could not independently verify the exact location.

What was clear, though, was how much both players enjoyed the outing. David, in particular, looked right at home, sending one delivery flying with one of his trademark clean strikes, while Shepherd also joined in with his own powerful hits. It was a brief but fun glimpse of two international stars embracing the informal side of cricket in India.

### Key duo for RCB

The gully cricket came more than just a light-hearted moment. Both David and Shepherd have become important figures in RCB's setup, especially in the middle order, where their power and finishing ability have often made the difference.

The duo played a major role in RCB's fortunes last season as well, helping the side secure their maiden IPL title with crucial contributions in pressure situations. Their ability to change games quickly with the bat has made them valuable assets in the lower middle order, and that explosiveness was on display even in the streets of Delhi. RCB now turn their attention to a key clash against Axar Patel's Delhi Capitals at the Arun Jaitley Stadium. The two teams had met earlier at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium, where Delhi handed the defending champions their only home defeat of the season.

With the rematch now set in Delhi, RCB will be looking to respond. David and Shepherd, after their gully cricket warm-up, could once again have a major role to play as Bengaluru look to settle the score and keep their title defence on track.

# 25 doping tests in 2 months: How the fastest-ever marathoner conquered time and doubt

**Through injury setbacks and rigorous, self-funded anti-doping checks, Kenya's Sabastian Sawe delivered a historic 1:59:30 at the London Marathon, becoming the first athlete to break the two-hour barrier in a sanctioned race.**

New Delhi. (Agency)

Kenya's Sabastian Sawe ran 1:59:30 at the London Marathon on Sunday to become the first athlete to officially break the two-hour barrier in a sanctioned race, taking 65 seconds off the late Kelvin Kiptum's world record. The run followed months of unusual anti-doping scrutiny that Sawe had requested himself amid continued allegations around Kenyan athletics. It also came after a disrupted build-up, with foot and back

injuries in late 2025 delaying his training before his return in January 2026.

In mid-2025, with more than 140 Kenyan athletes suspended in a wider doping crisis, Sawe and Adidas approached the Athletics Integrity Unit before the Berlin Marathon in September with a simple request: "Test me as much as possible." According to The Guardian, Sawe underwent 25 out-of-competition tests in the two months before his Berlin win.

Adidas committed USD 50,000 for the enhanced testing programme, with individual tests costing up to USD 2,000. The funding continued into 2026. Sawe said he wanted to show that it was possible to reach the top "doing it the right way".

Sawe said the tests reflected the pressure Kenyan athletes were under because of doping allegations. He described a schedule of blood and urine tests several times a week, including one day when he was tested twice, once in the morning and again late at night.

### SAWE'S RISE

Born in March 1995 in Nandi County, Sawe grew up in a mud-walled home without electricity. His mother, Emily, and grandmother, Esther, shaped his early years,



and his mother recalled: "Anywhere he went, he would run."

He lived a ten-minute run from Cheukta Primary School, a distance no one in his village walked.

His rise was not immediate. In 2022, he was

hired as a pacemaker for the Seville Half Marathon, but instead of stopping at the designated point, he kept going and won the race.

In London, the lead group that included Ethiopia's Yomif Kejelcha and Uganda's Jacob Kiplimo reached halfway in 1:00:29. Sawe then produced a 59:01 second half. As Kejelcha's inexperience on his debut began to show in the closing stages, Sawe found another gear in the final mile and finished alone in Adidas Adizero Adios Pro Evo 3 shoes.

His preparations had been hit by a stress fracture in his foot and then a back injury in late 2025, leaving him unable to train properly for months. He returned to the roads only in January 2026, and by February his coach

Claudio Berardelli said his "body responded" in a way that made the target seem possible. After the race, Sawe turned to Kiptum, who died in a car accident in 2024 aged 24 and had been widely expected to be the first man to reach the mark.

## Rohit Sharma amps up training, set for return in MI vs SRH clash after injury layoff

New Delhi. (Agency)

Rohit Sharma has stepped up his training ahead of a possible return for the Mumbai Indians in their clash against the Sunrisers Hyderabad at the Wankhede Stadium on April 29. Rohit has been out of action since April 12 after suffering a hamstring injury during the Mumbai Indians' loss to the Royal Challengers Bengaluru in Mumbai.

Since then, Rohit has been working closely with the medical team and support staff in an effort to return to the field. India Today has learnt that the former India captain is very likely to be available for selection for the match against the Sunrisers Hyderabad. Rohit has been training and doing gym work without any issues, and the physios are optimistic that he should be

available for the game. He has not reported any pain or discomfort during his rehabilitation so far.

Mumbai Indians went on a break after their



loss to Chennai Super Kings in Jamnagar and returned to their base in Mumbai on April 26. An optional training session was held later that evening, and Rohit was among the

players who chose to spend time in the nets. Rohit was joined in the session by Hardik Pandya, Suryakumar Yadav, Tilak Varma and others. The former India captain was seen batting with intent in the nets and appeared to be in good rhythm as he moved closer to a return.

In Rohit's absence, Mumbai Indians have tried a couple of combinations at the top of the order. Quinton de Kock scored a hundred after replacing Rohit at the top, but has not made an impact with the bat since then. Danish Malewar, who partnered De Kock in the last few games, has scored just two runs so far and is expected to make way once Rohit returns.

The former Mumbai Indians skipper has scored 137 runs in four matches at an average of 45.67, and he is now very likely to be available for selection for the Sunrisers Hyderabad match.

## KKR's Angkrish Raghuvanshi fined after angry reaction to controversial LSG dismissal

**IPL 2026: Angkrish Raghuvanshi was fined 20 per cent of his match fee after his angry reaction to a controversial dismissal against Lucknow Super Giants. The obstructing-the-field call sparked debate and drew protests from the KKR camp.**

New Delhi. (Agency)

VKolkata Knight Riders batter Angkrish Raghuvanshi has been fined 20 percent of his match fee following his animated reaction to a controversial dismissal against Lucknow Super Giants in IPL 2026. The youngster also received one demerit point for breaching the league's Code of Conduct. In an official statement from the IPL governing body said that Raghuvanshi was found guilty of a Level 1 offence under Article 2.2, which relates to



abuse of equipment during a match. According to the statement, Raghuvanshi admitted to the offence.

"Angkrish Raghuvanshi has been fined 20% of his match fee and has also accumulated one Demerit Point for breaching Level 1 of the IPL's Code of Conduct," the statement read. "He was found to have breached Article 2.2, which relates to abuse of cricket equipment or clothing, ground equipment or fixtures and fittings during a match," it added. The incident occurred shortly after his dismissal, when the batter struck the boundary cushion with his bat and later threw his helmet in

frustration while walking back.

### HOW WAS ANGKRISH RAGHUVANSHI DISMISSED IN LSG vs KKR?

The controversy unfolded in the fifth over of KKR's innings. Raghuvanshi, batting on nine off seven balls, pushed a delivery from Prince Yadav and initially set off for a quick single.

However, a mix-up with his partner at the non-striker's end saw him turn back midway. As he scrambled to make his ground, a throw from Mohammed Shami struck him on the pads. LSG appealed immediately, and the decision was referred upstairs. After a detailed review, the TV umpire ruled him out for obstructing the field, concluding that Raghuvanshi had altered his running path in a way that interfered with the throw. The decision sparked debate, with many questioning whether the batter had intentionally changed direction or was simply reacting instinctively in a split-second situation.

## Rohan Jaitley's safety push at DDCA shines after Ngidi injury at New Delhi stadium

**IPL 2026: Lungi Ngidi suffered an on-field injury during the IPL 2026 match between Delhi Capitals and Punjab Kings at the Arun Jaitley Stadium. The swift medical response and his stable discharge underlined the venue's focus on player safety.**

NEW DELHI. (Agency)

The roar of the crowd at a packed stadium often drowns out everything else. That evening in Delhi felt no different, with every ball cheered and every moment owned by the game. Until, suddenly, it wasn't. A mistimed moment in the field saw Lungi Ngidi go down hard during the IPL 2026

clash between Delhi Capitals and Punjab Kings at the Arun Jaitley Stadium. The noise faded into silence as the pacer lay in visible pain, turning a high-intensity contest into a moment of concern. What followed, however, told a larger story.

### SYSTEM STEPS IN WHEN IT MATTERS

Within seconds, the medical team was on the field. There was no panic, no delay, just clear coordination. Signals were exchanged, equipment arrived quickly, and Ngidi was attended to with precision. Beyond the boundary, an ambulance was already in place, not as a formality but as part of a system designed to respond. Time, in such situations, is critical, and none of it was lost.

Ngidi was assessed, stabilised, and stretched



off for further medical evaluation. The good news followed soon after, with the pacer declared stable and later discharged from hospital, bringing relief to both teams.

### ROHAN JAITLEY'S APPROACH TO PREPAREDNESS

As president of the Delhi and District Cricket Association, Rohan Jaitley has focused on

strengthening systems rather than making noise around them.

His tenure has seen steady upgrades in infrastructure, medical readiness, and operational efficiency at venues like the Arun Jaitley Stadium. The idea has been simple: while cricket remains unpredictable, preparedness cannot be. The incident involving Ngidi served as a real-time test of that approach. Medical teams were not just present, but strategically positioned. Emergency response was not improvised, but practiced. Ambulances were not symbolic, but

functional.

### NOT JUST ABOUT THE GAME

Such readiness is built over time. It comes from attention to details that rarely make headlines, from response times and staff training to adherence to global safety standards.

## SkyHop Aviation receives AOC to commence seaplane operations

New Delhi.(Agency)

SkyHop Aviation said on Monday that it has received its Air Operator Certificate (AOC) from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) to commence commercial seaplane operations in India. As per the airline, this development follows the successful series of test flights conducted earlier this month, including water take-offs & landings at the Ganga Barrage and Tehri Lake in Uttarakhand.

Avani Singh, Founder & CEO, SkyHop Aviation, said, "Receiving the AOC is an important milestone for us and the result of consistent effort over the past year. Building SkyHop from the ground up has been a learning experience, and this certification gives us the foundation to move ahead with confidence."

"We look forward to continuing to work closely with them as we prepare to commence operations. Our aim is simple – to offer a safe, reliable and new way of connecting parts of India that are still difficult to access."

Avani Singh is the daughter of SpiceJet promoter Ajay Singh. She previously led SpiceHealth and is now spearheading the new venture. As per reports, this is a personal venture of Avani and is not related to SpiceJet. In the first phase, SkyHop plans to connect five islands in Lakshadweep with each other and with the mainland. Operations will begin with a 19-seater aircraft. The airline is also evaluating opportunities in other parts of the country where such connectivity can make a real difference. SkyHop is being developed as India's first dedicated commercial seaplane operator, with a focus on improving access to regions where conventional airport infrastructure is either limited or difficult to develop, said the airline. It added that it aims to unlock new routes, reduce travel time and enhance regional accessibility across the country.

## Stock markets bounce back after three days of decline

New Delhi.(Agency)

Benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty rebounded in early trade on Monday after three days of decline, tracking a rally in Sun Pharma and a positive trend in global equity markets.

The 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 546.64 points to 77,210.85 in early trade. The 50-share NSE Nifty climbed 169.55 points to 24,067.50. From the 30-Sensex firms, Sun Pharma climbed over 4 per cent after the company said it will acquire US-based Organon & Co in an all-cash deal at an enterprise valuation of USD 11.75 billion. Adani Ports, Kotak



Mahindra Bank, Tata Steel and Mahindra & Mahindra were also among the major gainers.

Axis Bank, Bharat Electronics, Bajaj Finance and Reliance Industries were the laggards from the blue-chip pack.

In Asian markets, South Korea's benchmark Kospi, Japan's Nikkei 225 index, Shanghai's SSE Composite index and Hong Kong's Hang Seng index were trading higher. US markets ended mostly higher on Friday. Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, traded 1.18 per cent higher at USD 106.6 per barrel.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 8,827.87 crore on Friday, according to exchange data. On Friday, the Sensex dropped 999.79 points or 1.29 per cent to settle at 76,664.21. The Nifty slumped 275.10 points or 1.14 per cent to end at 23,897.95.

## Delaying your ITR? Know these key deadlines for filing and corrections

NEW DELHI.(Agency)

Filing your Income Tax Return often feels like something you can "do later". But that delay can quietly turn expensive. A missed deadline doesn't just mean a late filing—it can bring penalties, interest, and unnecessary stress.

As the new financial year gets underway, understanding the key timelines for FY 2025-26 (AY 2026-27) can save you from last-minute panic and extra costs.

### DIFFERENT DEADLINES FOR DIFFERENT TAXPAYERS

Not everyone follows the same ITR deadline, and that's where many people get confused. For salaried individuals, pensioners, and those without business income, the last date to file returns is July 31, 2026.

This is the most common category, yet also the one where delays happen the most. If you are a freelancer, professional, or run a small business, you get slightly more time, with the deadline set at August 31, 2026.

For businesses or professionals whose accounts require a tax audit, the timeline extends further to October 31, 2026. These cases usually involve more detailed filings, which is why the extended window is provided.

### MISSED THE DEADLINE? YOU STILL HAVE OPTIONS

Missing the original due date is not the end of the road, but it does come at a cost. You can still file a belated return until December 31, 2026. However, this usually attracts a penalty along with interest on any unpaid tax. If you realise you made a mistake after filing, you can submit a revised return within the same deadline, that is, December 31, 2026. This allows you to correct errors, but any additional tax must be paid with interest.

# Utterly Betterly...in a jam of content, one clear spread wins

New Delhi.(Agency)

It has never been easier to reach millions, and just as easy to disappear without a trace. In today's digital economy, where content moves at overwhelming speed and scale, attention is plentiful but memory is rare. In India, influencer marketing is a multi-thousand-crore industry. Brands are no longer competing to be seen, but to be remembered.

Influencer-led campaigns now operate at a scale that is both expansive and opaque. Industry reports indicate that a significant share of sponsored content is increasingly underlabelled, blurring the boundary between personal recommendation and paid promotion. Micro- and nano-influencers, often with fewer than 50,000 followers, now drive a disproportionate share of engagement, allowing brands to fragment messaging across hundreds of voices rather than a single campaign.

This architecture is reinforced by design. Algorithms privilege recurrence, ensuring the same message surfaces across feeds in quick succession. Short-form video has further compressed attention spans. In seeking ubiquity,

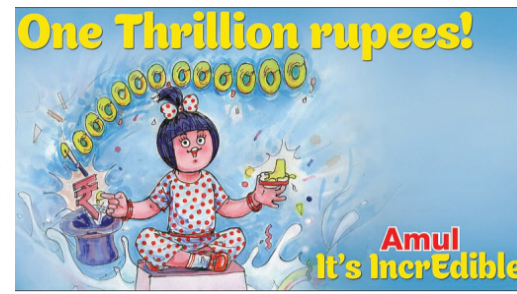
brands risk forfeiting the very distinctiveness that once made them recognisable.

It is against this backdrop of excess that a markedly different model of communication stands out. Decades before algorithms began curating attention, Amul had already demonstrated that recall need not be engineered through repetition; it could be earned through consistency.

Amul began in 1946 as the Kaira District Co-operative Milk Producers' Union in Anand, Gujarat, formed to counter the monopoly of private dairies. Under Verghese Kurien, the cooperative model expanded into the Gujarat Co-operative Milk Marketing Federation and became central to India's White Revolution. By the 1990s, India had become the world's largest milk producer, with Amul linking millions of farmers to a national market.

As scale increased, the challenge moved from production to differentiation. Milk, by its nature, offered limited scope for product distinction. In 1966, Amul's advertising was entrusted to the agency

led by Sylvester daCunha, with art direction by Eustace Fernandes. The solution they developed was structural rather than cosmetic: a recurring, hand-drawn mascot designed for outdoor hoardings that could be updated frequently.



The Amul Girl, introduced the same year, was deliberately simple in design: blue hair, polka-dotted dress, minimal lines, allowing rapid reproduction across billboards. More importantly, she enabled a shift in communication strategy. From 1967 onwards, Amul moved from product-centric advertising to topical commentary, responding to current events

in politics, sport and culture, often within days. Each event is distilled into a single visual and a single line. The format has remained largely unchanged for decades.

Consider the range, longevity and immediacy of its commentary. In 1967, when helmets were made compulsory in Bombay, Amul's simple directive, "Use your head," captured both policy and product in one stroke. In sport, where emotion often overwhelms expression, Amul has consistently found brevity. When Diego Maradona dominated world football, the line "Maradona toh aisa hona, butter hona toh Amul hona" folded global spectacle into local idiom. Years later, during MS Dhoni's farewell to international cricket, "Bye, Bye Dhoni!" captured a national sentiment in three unadorned words. That same discipline extends to global economics. When tariff tensions under Donald Trump dominated headlines, Amul responded with "Tariffing scenario!" compressing a complex trade debate into a line that travelled further than most analysis. In another moment, "Iski tariff karo" turned policy into everyday speech, making geopolitics feel almost domestic.

## Amazon to expand quick commerce service 'Amazon Now' to 100 cities across India

New Delhi.(Agency)

Amazon on Monday said it will expand its ultra-fast delivery service 'Amazon Now' to 100 cities across India, backed by over 1,000 micro-fulfilment centres (MFCs) and an investment of Rs 2,800 crore to strengthen its operations network and associate welfare.

The expansion marks a major push by the e-commerce giant into India's rapidly growing quick commerce market, where deliveries within minutes are becoming increasingly competitive.

The company said Amazon Now, currently available in Mumbai, Delhi-NCR and Bengaluru, will be progressively rolled out in metro and non-metro cities, including Kochi, Amritsar, Mangalore, Visakhapatnam, Lucknow, Pune, Hyderabad, Chennai, Kolkata, and Jaipur, among others.

The service offers delivery of thousands of daily essentials — including groceries, fresh produce, personal care



products, fashion and beauty items, small appliances, baby products and pet supplies — within minutes.

The company said the expansion will be supported by a network of more than 1,000 MFCs and will enable over 16,000 farmers to sell fresh produce directly to customers through sellers on Amazon Now. "Encouraged by strong customer response, we have accelerated our expansion plans and will scale Amazon Now to 100 cities," said Harsh Goyal, Vice President, Everyday Essentials, Amazon India.

According to the company, Prime

members have tripled their shopping frequency after starting to use Amazon Now, while continuing to receive unlimited free deliveries within minutes.

Amazon said customers will continue to have access to multiple delivery speeds, including thousands of essentials in minutes, over 1 million items eligible for same-day delivery and another four million products available for next-day delivery on Amazon.in.

The Rs 2,800 crore investment, the company said, will also go toward improving associate safety, health and financial well-being while expanding its broader operations network for deliveries spanning minutes, hours and days. The announcement comes as major e-commerce and quick commerce players intensify investments in dark stores, logistics infrastructure and rapid delivery capabilities to tap surging demand beyond metros.

## Sukanya Samriddhi update: Any change in interest rates this quarter?

New Delhi.(Agency)

If you've been waiting for a change in Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana returns this quarter, here's the answer, i.e., nothing has changed. The government has kept the interest rate steady, even as many investors were hoping for a revision.

For the April to June 2026 quarter, the Sukanya Samriddhi Account (SSA) continues to offer 8.2% per year, making it one of the higher-yielding small savings schemes available right now.

### INTEREST RATE REMAINS AT 8.2%

The interest rate for Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana is reviewed every quarter, but revisions do not happen every time. For this quarter, the rate stays at 8.2%, the same as the previous period.

The interest is compounded annually,

which helps the savings grow steadily over the long term. It is calculated monthly, based on the lowest balance in the account between the fifth day and



the end of each month, and is credited at the end of the financial year.

For parents planning long-term savings for their daughter, this consistency can actually be reassuring.

### A LONG-TERM SAVINGS OPTION

### FOR DAUGHTERS

Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana is designed as a long-term financial tool. The account runs for 21 years from the date of opening, although contributions are required only for the first 15 years.

The scheme is backed by the government and can be opened at post offices and authorised banks across the country. It remains a popular choice for those looking to build a dedicated fund for education or future expenses. The scheme is quite flexible when it comes to deposits. You can start with as little as Rs 250 in a financial year, while the maximum investment is capped at Rs 1.5 lakh annually. After the first deposit, you can add money in multiples of Rs 50. There is no strict limit on how many times you deposit in a year, which makes it easier.

# Bitcoin at 12-week high near 78,000 mark: 3 key factors explained

New Delhi.(Agency)

Bitcoin is quietly climbing again. There's no sudden spike or frenzy this time, just a steady move higher that has taken the world's largest cryptocurrency close to the \$78,000 mark. For many investors, this calm but consistent rise feels different from the sharp rallies seen in the past. So, what's really pushing Bitcoin up right now? Experts say there are a few key reasons behind this measured surge.

### INSTITUTIONAL DEMAND IS HOLDING THE MARKET UP

One of the biggest reasons behind Bitcoin's rise is consistent buying from large investors. Instead of quick, speculative trades, the market is seeing steady inflows, especially through exchange-traded funds.

Sumit Gupta, Co-founder of CoinDCX, explains, "A key driver behind this rally has been sustained institutional participation. Strong Spot Bitcoin ETF inflows, including roughly \$1 billion

in net inflows per week and nine consecutive days of positive flows at one stage, indicate that institutional demand remains robust despite prevailing uncertainties." This kind of steady demand gives the market a strong base and reduces extreme volatility.

### GLOBAL FACTORS ARE SHAPING THE TREND

Bitcoin is increasingly reacting to what's happening around the world. From interest rates to geopolitical developments, global signals are playing a bigger role than before.

Gupta notes, "Bitcoin's move to a 12-week high underscores how closely digital asset markets are increasingly responding to broader macroeconomic and geopolitical developments."

He adds that optimism around easing

global tensions has improved overall risk sentiment, allowing crypto markets to move higher along with other asset classes.

At the same time, the rally is not turning aggressive. Riya Sehgal, Research Analyst at Delta Exchange, points out,



"From a macro perspective, elevated interest rates, geopolitical tensions, and the upcoming Federal Reserve decision are limiting aggressive risk appetite, keeping the rally controlled."

### INVESTORS ARE THINKING

LONG TERM Another clear sign is how investors are looking at Bitcoin. Instead of chasing quick gains, many are now treating it as part of a long-term investment strategy.

Gupta says, "Investors are increasingly looking beyond short-term price action and viewing Bitcoin as a long-term strategic asset within diversified portfolios."

He also highlights that participation across other cryptocurrencies like Ethereum and Solana shows improving confidence, even though the overall recovery remains measured rather than overly enthusiastic. Sehgal adds that key technical levels are still holding, which supports the current trend. "Technical positioning remains constructive, with \$75,000 on Bitcoin and \$2,300 on Ethereum acting as critical support levels," she says.



# Shraddha Kapoor

## Gushes Over Rumoured BF Rahul Mody's Work: 'Kitna Talented Hai Uff'

Actress Shraddha Kapoor has been in the limelight for her alleged relationship with Rahul Mody for some time now. While the two have never openly commented on their relationship status, they are often captured by the shutterbugs together.

On Sunday, Shraddha showered praises on her rumoured beau through her latest post on social media. Taking to the Stories section of her official Instagram handle, Shraddha remarked on the latest advertisement by Rahul Mody featuring 'Saiyaara' actress Aneet Padda.

Praising Aneet, the 'Stree' actress wrote, "Cuteness + best acting ka perfect mishran = @aneetpadda (sic)" Calling Rahul Mody "talented", Shraddha went on to write, "Aur cuteness se yaad aya, yeh writer-director kitna talented hain uff @modyrahulmody (sic)"

The speculations of Shraddha and Rahul being in a relationship started doing the rounds back in early 2024 after the alleged lovebirds were spotted leaving a dinner date in Mumbai together. After that, these two have been spotted together on multiple occasions. They even attended the lavish pre-wedding festivities of Anant Ambani and Radhika Merchant together.

In June last year, Shraddha decided to make her relationship with her writer beau Instagram official. She took to her Instagram Stories and dropped a still of herself posing for a selfie with Rahul Mody.

Twinning in white, Shraddha lovingly held Rahul's arm in the photo captioned, "Dil rakh le, Neend toh vaapis de de yaar" (Take away my heart, but at least return my sleep)."

In addition to this, Shraddha was also seen wearing an "R" pendant in a picture. Talking about her professional commitments, Shraddha will be headlining the biopic based on the life of the legendary Marathi folk performer Vithabai Narayangaonkar titled "Eetha". Additionally, she will also star in the third instalment of her popular 'Stree' franchise. Her lineup further includes "Nagin," backed by filmmaker Nikhil Dwivedi.



## Amid Divorce Rumours, Sunita Ahuja Says She'd Want A Son Like Govinda, Not A Husband



Govinda and his wife, Sunita Ahuja, have been in the headlines for quite some time. Reports of the actor's alleged affair had everyone discussing it. Now, in a recent chat, Sunita has spoken about how the Hero No. 1 actor is an excellent son and father, but she wouldn't want him as a husband in her next life.

Sunita Ahuja, in a recent chat, was asked if she ever got jealous of his fan following. She replied, "When you are confident in your husband... if there's a hero and you hear about his affair, it used to be fine at that time (in the '90s). I am not talking about today."

While talking to Abhishek Vyas Insights, Ahuja shared how Govinda has always been an amazing son but not a good husband. The social media star and YouTube vlogger shared, "I will say it again. Govinda is a good son, brother. But as a husband, what I want... I love going to parties, for dinners, on holidays, but he got so indulged in providing for his family that he never enjoyed it. He is 60 but has never lived for himself."

"This makes me feel bad. You are such a big superstar, what have you seen in life? Nothing. I always say that I want a son like Govinda, not a husband. There's no point even regretting it now; can't leave him now. It has been 40 years now; even thinking about it would be a crime," Sunita added.

### When Sunita Denied Divorce Rumours

During the 2025 Ganesh Chaturthi celebration, Sunita interacted with the media and strongly dismissed divorce rumours, saying, "Aaj media ke muh pe thappad nahi padi hai kya? Humko saath mein dekh kar... itna close... agar kuch hota toh itne nazdeek hote? Humari duriya hoti. Koi hum dono ko alag nahi kar sakta. Chahe upar se koi bhi aa jaye... mera Govinda sirf mera hi hai aur kisi ka nahi hai. (Hasn't the media gotten a slap in the face today? Seeing us together like this... so close... If there was something wrong, would we be this close? There would've been distance between us. No one can separate us... My Govinda is only mine and no one else's.)"

Govinda and Sunita married in 1987, kept it a secret until their daughter Tina was born in 1989, and have stayed a strong unit for decades. However, the rumours clearly aren't ready to take a break. Govinda and Sunita Ahuja have been one of Bollywood's favourite love stories for decades, but recent chatter around their marriage has kept them in the headlines more than ever.

## Aamir Khan Says Ek Din Needs Time As Advance Booking Opens 39 Days Before Release



Sometimes, a film doesn't arrive with noise or massive hype... it slowly finds its way into conversations. And that's exactly the kind of space Ek Din seems to be stepping into, well before its release date. With advance bookings opening a surprising 39 days ahead of its May 1 release, the romantic drama has already caught attention for doing things a little differently. Backed by Aamir Khan, the film marks a key moment for his son Junaid Khan, who stars opposite Sai Pallavi in her first Hindi-language project.

Speaking to Just Too Filmy, Aamir addressed the unusual decision, explaining that it wasn't part of a conventional plan at all. Instead, it came from within the team and made sense for the kind of film they were putting out. "The fact is that Ek Din is a very small film, in the sense that it has got actors who are very new. Junaid has barely started his career, and Sai [Pallavi] is doing her first film in Hindi. So I thought this film would need a little more time to get traction. So the earlier we start, the better. It is a story that I believe, and I am quite a mushy audience."

The strategy reflects a quiet confidence rather than a box office gamble. Aamir acknowledged that predicting audience response is never straightforward, but emphasised what matters more to him at this stage of the film's journey.

He spoke highly of director Sunil Pandey, crediting his commitment to bringing the story to life. "He has done such an amazing job. He has worked so hard for the film; he is very persevering. None of us knows whether the film is going to do well, but what is important for me is whether we are able to bring the script alive in the film. That, for me, is the first yardstick for success. So when I see the film today, I see that Sunil has really managed to bring out what was there in the script, really honestly. Of course, numbers are important to understand the success of the film, but what if a film you don't like does well? I am not happy with that success."

# Preity Zinta

## Visits Hanuman Temple After Punjab Kings Defeat Delhi Capitals In IPL Match

Bollywood actress Preity Zinta, who is currently busy with the IPL, visited a Hanuman temple in Connaught Place, New Delhi, following Punjab Kings' (PBKS) win over Delhi Capitals (DC) on Saturday. A video of Preity's visit to the temple was shared by the temple's secretary. The video featured Preity Zinta arriving at the temple with her face slightly covered with a dupatta. The actress was seen looking pretty in a traditional pink outfit. She was seen wearing a simple suit featuring floral detailing. The actress was seen entering the temple with her team and quickly leaving without creating any chaos.

The caption of the video reads, "Faith, blessings & grace, Preity Zinta @realpz at Pracheen Hanuman Mandir CP with Mahant Pramod Sharma & @mahantdeepankarsharma Jai Siyara "



As soon as the video was posted, fans started reacting to it. One wrote, "Reason why they chased down 264 in 19 overs... Hanuman ji never lets you down... I am an RCB fan but I want this queen to win the trophy this time... Jai Siya Ra ."

"Koi nahi hara sakta Punjab ko is baar, inke saath Hanuman ji hain," another comment read. A third user shared, "Is baar Punjab hai ji, RCB nahi, toh

Punjab jeetni chahiye Bhagwan."

Preity has been a regular presence at Indian Premier League matches this season, passionately cheering for Punjab Kings from the stands, with her energetic reactions and post-win celebrations often going viral.

### About the match

Punjab Kings made a mockery of the target of 265 as they chased it down comfortably to break their own record of the highest completed chase in T20 history. Delhi Capitals posted a mammoth 264/2 thanks to a record KL Rahul century. However, PBKS were up to the task as they secured a six-wicket win to consolidate their position at the top of the IPL 2026 points table.





# 7 ways to overcome feeling underappreciated

underappreciated. Move closely with the team, and be open to doing assignments together.

**4. Working on strengths and weaknesses :** Keeping track of your performance can often help you in getting to know more about your capabilities and shortcomings. Play on your strengths and better yourself by working on your negative points. Set goals at regular intervals. The results are sure to leave a smile on your face.

**5. Take a break :** You're ruining your life both on the professional and personal front if you are obsessed with working overtime, or if you tend to avoid taking holidays in between. Plan short trips once a month, chalk out plans for a long trip to somewhere you haven't been to, once in, say, four months. When things are planned in advance, you tend to relax and work more efficiently. Needless to say, you will come with a fresh perspective and refreshed vigour from a fun-filled trip.

conversations with people around.

**7. Promote yourself :** Unlike in the earlier days, nowadays, it is important that you bring your achieved target and perfectly finished jobs to the notice of your boss. He/she should understand your commitment towards work and you should make them feel that you're game for more challenging assignments. Initiate a conversation with your boss on the work plans you have for the coming days. This will eventually help you climb the

and accept gratitude wholeheartedly.

**2. Be yourself :** Comparing yourself to others will only lead to more insecurity. By doing away with

this habit, you attain peace of mind, which will help you concentrate more on self-analysis, which, in turn, will help you better yourself both personally and professionally. At the end of the day,

Have you ever felt that the extra effort you put in at your workplace is not getting the deserved recognition? Sometimes, such thoughts might unnecessarily lead you to think that you are lagging way behind

## Delhi Police bust Rs 16 crore cyber fraud network, arrest 2 dummy directors

The Sikh Times

New Delhi: Delhi Police have busted a cyber-fraud facilitation network involving mule bank accounts and shell companies, and arrested two dummy directors after detecting a fund flow of over Rs 16 crore within eight days, an official said on Saturday. The accused, identified as Sonu Kumar and Aminder Singh, were acting as dummy directors of a private limited firm, which was found to be at the centre of the laundering network, he said. The case was registered following analysis of suspicious mule accounts flagged on the National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal and inputs received via the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre's Samanvaya portal. During the investigation, a bank account linked to the company at a Bawana branch came under scrutiny after it was found connected to 336 cyber fraud complaints across multiple states. The account showed abnormal activity and was used at various layers of the money trail, police said. Detailed financial analysis revealed that over Rs 16 crore was routed through the account within a span of eight days, indicating large-scale laundering. The probe further uncovered links to more than 35 suspected shell companies and a wider multi-layered network handling funds across several accounts and banks. "Vulnerable people were lured with job offers or commissions and made dummy directors, while control of bank accounts remained with handlers operating remotely, including from outside Delhi," a senior police officer said. The accounts were used to receive cheated money, layer transactions, and transfer funds to obscure the trail. Further investigation is underway to identify and apprehend other members of the network, police added.

## Delhi MC rolls out portal for regularisation of properties in 1,521 unauthorised colonies

New Delhi: The Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) on Friday launched the SWAGAM portal to begin the process of regularisation of properties in 1,521 unauthorised colonies across the Capital, said officials. The online platform will allow residents to apply directly for regularisation of their properties under the PM UDAY Scheme. With the civic body aiming to streamline and digitise the process, applicants can now submit their requests through the MCD's official portal. To facilitate applicants, the MCD has also set up physical help desks across all 12 zonal offices, enabling residents to seek assistance in filing applications. Additionally, the civic body has empanelled over 700 professionals who can be consulted for guidance during the application process. Officials said once an application is submitted, the regularisation certificate is expected to be issued within approximately 60 days. The certificates will be generated online and issued through the respective zonal building departments. Applicants will also receive SMS alerts and have access to an online tracking system to monitor the status of their applications. Clarifying the procedure, the MCD said no physical verification of properties would be conducted. Instead, applicant data available on the PM-UDAY portal would be automatically integrated into the SWAGAM system, reducing paperwork and processing time. The responsibility for handling applications would lie with zonal building department officials, while a dedicated technical team from the National Informatics Centre would manage the portal at the headquarters level.

## ED raids against Raheja Developers in home buyers 'fraud' case

New Delhi: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Saturday conducted fresh searches against real estate company Raheja Developers as part of a money laundering investigation linked to alleged fraud with home buyers, officials said. They said about seven premises in Delhi-NCR are being covered as part of the action. The agency had raided the company, its promoters and some others in June 2025 too as part of a similar investigation. The latest searches are being conducted in the matter of alleged fraud with the home buyers and non-delivery of flats in its project 'Raheja Revanta', according to the officials. The company, however, denied any wrongdoing or fraud committed by it in this project. "The company has invested significantly more than customer collections, as confirmed by a RERA-supervised forensic audit, and no funds have been diverted.

Empowered Women Prosperous Kashi

**UP 65 VARANASI**

In the sacred city of Varanasi, the eternal abode of Baba Vishwanath

**Inauguration and Foundation Stone Laying of 163 Development Projects with an investment of ₹6,330+ Crore**

Flagging off of two Amrit Bharat Express trains (Banaras-Pune and Ayodhya-Mumbai)

Transfer of bonus to 3,21,813 milk producers associated with Banas Dairy

by

**Narendra Modi**  
Prime Minister

**Projects for Inauguration**

- 55 MLD Sewage Treatment Plant at Bhagwanpur with ₹308+ Crore
- 4-lane widening and strengthening of Varanasi-Azamgarh Road from Kaili Mata Mandir to Ring Road with ₹277+ Crore
- Rail overbridges on the Varanasi-Sarnath rail route and Babatpur-Chaubeypur Road with ₹196 Crore
- Implementation of 30 rural drinking water projects under the Jal Jeevan Mission with ₹89 Crore
- Sewa-Rigpa building at the Central University of Himalayan Studies, Sarnath, with ₹46 Crore
- Construction of a modern 100-bed old age home in Ramnagar with an investment of ₹25 Crore

**Projects for Foundation Stone Laying**

- Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay multi-tracking (15 km) including construction of a rail-cum-road bridge over the Ganga River with ₹2,464+ Crore
- 6 sewage and 7 water supply infrastructure projects under the AMRUT 2.0 scheme with ₹1,583 Crore
- 500-bed multi super-specialty hospital at SSPG with ₹315+ Crore
- Integrated divisional office and Nagar Nilgam office building with ₹247+ Crore
- ₹114 Crore for the renovation and development of the 198-bed Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Hospital

and Women's Conference

In the august presence of

<b>Anandiben Patel</b> Governor, Uttar Pradesh	<b>Yogi Adityanath</b> Chief Minister, Uttar Pradesh	<b>Nitin Nabin</b> Member, Rajya Sabha
<b>Pankaj Chaudhary</b> Minister of State, Finance, Government of India	<b>Keshav Prasad Maurya</b> Deputy Chief Minister, Uttar Pradesh	<b>Brajesh Pathak</b> Deputy Chief Minister, Uttar Pradesh
<b>Anil Rajbhar</b> Minister, Labor and Employment, Co-ordination, Uttar Pradesh	<b>Ravindra Jaiswal</b> Minister of State (Independent Charge), Stamp and Court Fee, Registration, Uttar Pradesh	<b>Dr. Dayashankar Mishra 'Dayalu'</b> Minister of State (Independent Charge), Ayush, Food Security and Drug Administration (MOS), Uttar Pradesh
<b>Poonam Maurya</b> Chairman, District Panchayat, Varanasi	<b>Ashok Tiwari</b> Mayor, Varanasi	<b>Dr. Sunil Patel</b> MLA, Rohanliya
<b>Saurabh Srivastava</b> MLA, Varanasi Cantt	<b>Neel Ratan Singh</b> MLA, Sevapuri	<b>Dr. Neelkanth Tiwari</b> MLA, Varanasi South
		<b>Tribhuwan Ram</b> MLA, Ajagara
		<b>Dr. Awadhesh Singh</b> MLA, Pindra
		<b>Hansraj Vishwakarma</b> MLC

and other dignitaries

**Vikas Varanasi-Samridhi Uttar Pradesh :** India's first multi-modal terminal | India's first freight village, spanning over 100 acres | The nation's first urban ropeway system under construction | Extension of the National Waterway-1 (Varanasi-Haldia) to Ayodhya under way | Varanasi ranked among the top 10 cities in the Smart Cities ranking | Construction of an integrated pack house | Establishment of Shramjeevi Mahila Chhatravas, named after Lok Mata Ahilyabai Holkar Ji | Establishment of Government Homoeopathic Medical College | Varanasi Nagar Nilgam secured first place in the Ganga Town category under Swachh Survekshan-2023 | An international cricket stadium under development | Establishment of Centre of Excellence at Sato Mahua, Varanasi | With Phase I and Phase II complete, the Vedic Science Centre at Banaras Hindu University begins its academic journey | Construction of a museum at the ancestral residence of former Prime Minister Late Lal Bahadur Shastri in Ramnagar

28<sup>th</sup> April, 2026 4:00 PM

Banaras Locomotive Works Ground, Varanasi

Information and Public Relations Department, U.P.

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