

YAMUNA LAND SCAM ?

Massive Illegal Colony Thriving Near Delhi's Power Center

The Sikh Times GURCHARAN SINGH BABBAR

Serious questions are being raised over a large settlement allegedly spread across government land inside the Yamuna floodplain near Majnu Ka Tila and close to the historic Gurdwara Majnu Ka Tila Sahib. According to long-time local observers, thousands of multi-storey buildings, including seven-storey and eight-storey structures, have come up on government-owned land over several decades without any major action from the authorities. The area, commonly referred to as the Tibetan Colony or Majnu Ka Tila settlement, has witnessed massive commercial expansion. Critics allege that the colony contains a large market, hotels, guest houses and other commercial establishments operating from buildings constructed on land that originally belonged to the government and formed part of the Yamuna riverbed area. Local residents and activists allege that officials from various government departments, including civic and land-owning agencies, were fully aware of the growth of the settlement. They further claim that the colony could not have expanded to its



present size without the active support, protection or negligence of officials from multiple departments over many years. According to people familiar with the area, the colony was very different several decades ago. They recall a time when only temporary shelters and small structures existed there. Today, however, the locality reportedly



contains large permanent buildings, hotels and commercial complexes attracting visitors from across the country. Hundreds of vehicles can reportedly be seen



parked outside the area on a daily basis. The narrow lanes of the settlement have also become a matter of concern. Visitors often complain that the area consists of extremely



congested passages and densely packed buildings. Critics argue that such large-scale construction could not have taken place without the involvement of builders, local political interests and officials responsible for regulating construction activities. Questions are also being raised regarding the location of the colony. The settlement is situated only a few kilometres from Raj Niwas, the official residence of the Lieutenant Governor of Delhi, and close to the Delhi Legislative Assembly and major government offices. Despite this proximity to the administrative heart of the capital, allegations of large-scale encroachment on government land continue to be voiced. Activists have further alleged that while action is frequently taken against poorer settlements in different parts of Delhi, no comparable action has been initiated against major illegal colonies such as Indra Vikas Colony, Sangam Vihar, Tughlakabad and the Majnu Ka Tila settlement. They claim that this selective approach has created fear and uncertainty among ordinary residents while influential land mafias continue to operate unchecked.

Continued news page 2

Siddaramaiah to retain CM bungalow, DK Shivakumar will move to another govt house

Siddaramaiah will continue in the Cauvery bungalow even as DK Shivakumar takes over as Chief Minister. The arrangement leaves the official residence unchanged while the new Chief Minister shifts to another government house.

New Delhi.(Agency)

A unique housing arrangement has emerged in Karnataka amid an impending leadership transition. While the state's longest-serving Chief Minister, Siddaramaiah, is resigning to pave the way for DK Shivakumar to take over the top post, there will be no change in the occupancy of Cauvery, the official bungalow traditionally allotted to the sitting Chief Minister. According to sources, the two top leaders have mutually reached an amicable agreement regarding the official residence. Under this understanding, the outgoing Chief Minister, Siddaramaiah, is expected to formally retain and continue his stay in the Cauvery bungalow until the year 2028. Consequently, the incoming Chief Minister, DK Shivakumar, will initially operate and stay at his own private residence. At a later date, he will

relocate his official base to another suitable, government-allotted property instead of moving into the traditional CM house.



This unusual housing arrangement is not entirely unprecedented in Karnataka's political history. A nearly identical situation occurred back in 2021, when BS Yediyurappa, the tallest Lingayat leader of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP),

resigned from the Chief Minister's post but chose to continue living in the official bungalow long after stepping down from office. DK SHIVAKUMAR TO TAKE OATH TOMORROW

After a long wait, DK Shivakumar will take the oath as the state's 25th Chief Minister tomorrow in the Lok Bhavan. The CM-designate earlier announced that the swearing-in ceremony would be a low-key affair, citing traffic concerns in Bengaluru. "We have decided to have a low-key swearing-in function at Lok Bhavan to avoid chaos in Bengaluru. We also have to help the common people," he said. "Since it is a working day, we do not want chaos in Bengaluru city. More than 17,000 vehicles have already been booked to bring party workers and supporters to the capital. Police officers were worried about traffic disruption and public grievances," he added.

How a signature forgery row has pushed Trinamool to breaking point

A forged signature row over the Leader of the Opposition post has triggered expulsions and secret meetings in the Trinamool Congress. The controversy, which comes on the back of deepening dissent within the party, has intensified the buzz of a vertical split.

New Delhi.(Agency)

Will Mamata Banerjee's Trinamool Congress meet the same fate as Shiv Sena in 2022 and face a split? Rebellion within a party after an election loss is not uncommon, but the speed of the turmoil within the TMC suggests a split may be imminent. At the heart of the buzz is the forged signature row linked to the appointment of the Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly. The TMC was quick to expel two MLAs over the issue. But the move appears to have deepened the crisis as the expelled MLAs - Ritabrata Banerjee and Sandipan Saha - later held a late-night, secret meeting with some legislators. That the development came a day after 60 of the 80 newly elected TMC MLAs skipped a meeting at Mamata Banerjee's residence does not augur well for the party. Taken together, the events have



Congress.

WHAT IS THE FORGED SIGNATURES ROW?

But how did matters escalate so quickly? Ever since the election rout a month ago, a section of TMC leaders, including MPs and MLAs, have been publicly turning on the leadership. The anger has been specifically directed at Mamata's nephew and MP Abhishek Banerjee, the de facto second-in-command. From the party's election campaign to the choice of candidates, everything had Abhishek's imprint. On Monday, Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari, once Mamata's right-hand man, stirred a hornet's nest after he said two TMC MLAs lodged a complaint over the forgery of their signatures in a letter endorsing Sobhan Chatteropadhyay as the Leader of the Opposition. A CID probe was ordered into the alleged scandal.

brought the TMC to a crossroads as the party faces its greatest internal crisis since its formation in 1998 as a breakaway faction of the

We won't tolerate this: Bengal hawkers block rail tracks to protest evictions

Traders and hawkers blocked the tracks at Gobardanga Railway Station during an eviction protest. The demonstration sharpened concerns over livelihoods, rehabilitation and the wider anti-encroachment drive.

Madhya Pradesh.(Agency)

High drama unfolded at Gobardanga Railway Station in Bengal's North 24 Parganas district on Tuesday as traders and hawkers blocked railway tracks, protesting against eviction measures amid an anti-encroachment drive across the state. Videos from the station showed men and women occupying the tracks and raising slogans of "choilbe na, cholbe na" (we will not tolerate this) as they resisted efforts to remove stalls and shops. In a desperate show of defiance, an elderly woman lay down on the railway tracks during the protest. The demonstrators said their livelihoods depended entirely on the businesses they operated at the station and accused railway authorities of taking away their means of survival. "They are



kicking us in the stomach," one protester said, arguing that the eviction drive would leave many families without any source of income. The protest comes amid a large-scale railway land

clearance initiative launched last month. Authorities demolished makeshift shops, stalls and other structures near major railway stations, saying the drive is aimed at freeing public spaces and improving passenger convenience. On May 31, a joint team of Railways, Kolkata Police and paramilitary personnel carried out an overnight eviction operation at Dum Dum Junction. Vendors were woken up as encroachments and stalls lining the road leading to the station were cleared. Before that, around 250 hawkers and stalls were removed from the premises of Howrah station. Bulldozers and earthmovers razed temporary structures occupying footpaths and public spaces near the bus stand and the Ganga ghat area.

Final push that made Annamalai plan BJP exit, form new party

Dynamic IPS officer-turned-politician K Annamalai is planning to quit the BJP and launch a party. While his exit might appear to be sudden, it comes amid a series of developments ahead of the 2026 Tamil Nadu Assembly elections. Here's what might have been the final push.

New Delhi.(Agency)

Former Tamil Nadu BJP chief K Annamalai is on the verge of leaving the party and launching a political outfit, according to sources. For several years now, Annamalai had been spearheading the BJP's campaign in Tamil Nadu and was seen as the party's future in the southern state. Behind Annamalai's sudden exit lie years of struggle marked by competing ambitions, uneasy alliances, electoral setbacks, and a growing disconnect between his and the central leadership's plans. The developments ahead of the Tamil Nadu Assembly elections this year might have been the final push for the IPS officer-turned-politician. Annamalai has turned down all offers made by the BJP's central leadership, sources told India Today TV said on Tuesday. He will be floating a party that will oppose the Dravidian model of politics and have a more

nationalistic approach, the sources said. Annamalai's decision to quit the party is said to have been shaped by developments surrounding the BJP's alliance with the AIADMK and concerns over the party's efforts to project itself as not being opposed to the Dravidian political tradition. He met the BJP's national president, Nitin Nabin, and the party's general secretary, BL Santhosh, on Tuesday in New Delhi and sought an amicable parting from the BJP. It was the "Singham" of Karnataka Police, Annamalai, who gave the BJP its most ambitious phase in Tamil Nadu in decades. The former IPS officer transformed the party's visibility and political relevance in a state where it had long struggled to gain a foothold. Yet, despite the surge of Annamalai's fame and growing vote share of the party, the BJP remained largely in the margins of power

electorally. Yet, the same leader who became the saffron party's most recognisable face in Tamil Nadu eventually seemed like he was sidelined by his own party. Now, his next



move is still a suspense, and there are speculations that he might start a non-political movement or float his own political party in Tamil Nadu. The reason, many political experts believe, lies in the BJP's growing conviction that it could not take on

the DMK alone in the 2026 Assembly elections, and this decision hurt Annamalai. As the decision was announced to ally with the AIADMK, one of the two Dravidian giants, Annamalai stepped down as the state BJP president. The party ignored the fact that its vote share had grown considerably under Annamalai's leadership. "In Tamil Nadu, the BJP has sacrificed its day after tomorrow for a tomorrow just as uncertain," said satirist and columnist Kamlesh Singh in a post on X in April 2025. In the 2026 Tamil Nadu Assembly election, the BJP contested as a junior partner of the AIADMK. Though it won a seat, its vote share, which had climbed to over 11%, dropped to less than 3%. Several AIADMK MLAs, willing to support the C Joseph Vijay-led TVK government, were seen as keen to dump the BJP.

Front news continued
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Demanding a high-level inquiry, social activists have appealed to Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah, Delhi Lieutenant Governor Sardar Taranjit Singh Sandhu, Delhi Chief Minister Smt. Rekha Gupta, the Delhi Police Commissioner, the Vice Chairman of DDA, the Municipal Commissioner and the Chief Secretary of Delhi to investigate the matter thoroughly.

They have demanded that authorities identify the builders who allegedly sold government land, determine which officials permitted or ignored the construction of these colonies, and take strict action against anyone found guilty of corruption or abuse of authority.

According to the activists, the issue is not merely about unauthorized construction but concerns valuable public property, government land and national assets allegedly worth billions of rupees. They argue that if the allegations are proven correct, the matter would represent one of the most significant cases of public land misuse in the national capital and would require immediate intervention by central and Delhi authorities.

The activists have called for a comprehensive investigation into Indira Vikas Colony, Sangam Vihar, Tughlakabad and the Majnu Ka Tila settlement, stating that the truth about how these colonies were established on government land must be brought before the public.

Woman on her way home
from work hit by bike in
Gurgaon, dies

Gurgaon.(Agency)

A 55-year-old woman died during treatment after she was allegedly hit by a speeding motorcycle near Ghamroj toll on the Sohna-Gurgaon road on May 28. Bhondsi police on Sunday registered a case against an unidentified rider. The deceased, Bhagwati, was a native of Agra in UP and worked as a security guard at a private company in Badshahpur. She lived in rented accommodation in Ghamroj village with her younger son. According to a complaint lodged by her elder son, Akash, Bhagwati was returning home after completing her duty shift when the accident occurred around 7.30pm, shortly after she crossed the toll. Akash alleged that the motorcycle rider was speeding and driving rashly when he struck Bhagwati from behind. She fell on the road and sustained serious injuries. Passers-by shifted her to Ayushman Hospital near Hero Honda Chowk. After being informed about the accident, Akash reached the hospital, where his mother allegedly told him that a motorcycle had hit her from behind while she was walking home. As her condition worsened, family members shifted her to the civil hospital in Sector 10, where doctors declared her dead on Sunday.

Following the death, Akash approached Bhondsi police station and submitted a written complaint along with the medico-legal case documents. After preliminary verification, police registered a case under sections 281 (rash driving) and 106(1) (causing death by negligence) of BNS.

Safai workers protest over Rs
5k insurance fee



Noida.(Agency)

A group of sanitation workers on Monday protested outside Noida Authority office in Sector 6, alleging that they are being made to pay Rs 5,000 a year for medical insurance. The workers said the Authority had earlier told them it would bear the insurance cost, but has now decided to pay only half the amount, with the remaining Rs 5,000 being deducted from the workers' salaries.

Noida has around 4,800 sanitation workers. Last month, the Authority signed a contract with SBI General Insurance to provide medical insurance coverage of Rs 5 lakh annually to workers and up to five dependent family members, against an annual premium of Rs 10,000. Previously, the Employees' State Insurance Corporation had stated that ESI facilities are available only to employees earning up to Rs 21,000 per month. However, following a recent salary revision, sanitation workers' wages reached this threshold, making them ineligible for ESI and related medical benefits. "There is inflation and a price hike, and we are unable to afford medical services for ourselves and family members. The workers have been demanding medical insurance facilities for a long time. Last month, Noida Authority said that it has decided to provide medical insurance to workers and their family members. However, now the workers are told that of the Rs 10,000 annual premium, Rs 5,000 will be given by Noida and the remaining Rs 5,000 will be deducted from workers' salaries," said Vinod Makoda, a sanitation worker.

12 new air stations to fill pollution monitoring gaps in Haryana

Gurgaon.(Agency)

Haryana has started the process of installing 12 new air monitoring stations to improve pollution surveillance in districts with limited monitoring coverage. The state pollution control board has issued bid documents for the supply, installation, commissioning and five-year operation and maintenance of the stations, out of which five will be installed in Charkhi Dadri and Mahendergarh each, one in Rewari and another in Jhajjar. Haryana currently has 32 Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Stations (CAAQMS), of which HSPCB operates 29. The additional stations are expected to improve spatial coverage and generate more localised pollution data. CAAQMS provide round-the-clock measurements of key pollutants, including PM2.5, PM10, sulphur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, ozone and carbon monoxide, besides recording meteorological parameters such as temperature, humidity, wind

speed and wind direction. The data generated by these stations are used for calculating the AQI, identifying pollution hotspots and assessing compliance with environmental norms. Environmental experts have long pointed to gaps in Haryana's monitoring network, particularly outside major urban centres. Several districts have limited real-time air quality data despite concerns over mining activity, industrial emissions, vehicular pollution, road dust and agricultural residue burning.

The addition of 12 new stations is expected to significantly improve pollution surveillance and provide a more representative picture of local air quality conditions. Officials said a denser monitoring network would enable authorities to identify pollution hotspots more accurately, assess the effectiveness of mitigation measures and undertake targeted interventions instead of relying on district-wide averages. The selected agencies will be



responsible not only for installation and commissioning but also for operation and maintenance of the stations for five years to ensure uninterrupted data generation and minimise downtime.

With the latest expansion, Haryana is expected to further strengthen its real-time air quality monitoring infrastructure as regulators increasingly focus on data-driven pollution management and source-specific interventions. HSPCB member secretary Yogesh Kumar said the state has also

been tasked with installing 23 monitoring stations across NCR districts by the end of Aug. "Five are being funded by GMDA, three by FMDA, 10 by HSPCB and three under the World Bank-supported Arjun project," he said. Officials said the two stations proposed in Rewari and Jhajjar are part of this NCR expansion programme. The three stations are being established under the Arjun project, which is the clean air project funded by the World Bank. They will come up in Gurgaon, Faridabad and Sonapat. These stations are expected to provide more advanced monitoring capabilities by helping authorities understand not only pollutant concentrations but also factors contributing to pollution episodes. "The Arjun project stations will provide additional information on pollution sources and reasons behind pollution levels, which will help in better planning and mitigation measures," Kumar said.

Gurgaon tops school infra rankings, Nuh at bottom

Ghaziabad.(Agency)

The district led Haryana in infrastructure, quality and standards of education in 2024-25, according to the central govt's Performance Grading Index for Districts of India (PGI-D), released by the education ministry in May. The district scored 375 out of 600 points, placing it in the Uttam 3 category (61-70%). This is an improvement from 354 in 2023-24 and 346 in 2022-23, both of which had placed Gurgaon in the Prachesta 1 category (51-60%). Four districts — Panchkula, Faridabad, Karnal and Jind — joined Gurgaon in the Uttam 3 category. The remaining 16 districts fell in the Prachesta 1 band. Nuh was the state's weakest performer, scoring 275, though it improved from 259 in 2023-24. It was the only district in Haryana placed in the

lower Prachesta 2 category. Despite the improvements, no district in Haryana has crossed the Uttam 3 threshold. The higher



grades — Uttam 2, Uttam 1 and Utkarsh — remain out of reach for every district in the state, reflecting scope for improvement across indicators. Nationally too, no district has achieved the Utkarsh or Uttam 1 grades.

Condo upkeep bills set to go up with labour code's higher wages mandate

Ghaziabad.(Agency)

In a season of rising costs, your monthly maintenance bill could be the next one to go up. This has nothing to do with the US-Iran conflict, but the newly implemented labour code. Across condominiums and gated societies, where most of the urban population in NCR lives, maintenance budgets are being reworked because of higher minimum wages that the new labour code stipulates. The expected increase in the bill, according to society managers, is around 20-30%, depending on the kind of staff employed.

For most societies, manpower — security guards, housekeeping workers, horticulture staff, electricians, plumbers, and lift operators — accounts for 70-85% of the maintenance budget, making the pay revision the single biggest cost escalation RWAs and AOAs have faced in years. Rising cost of diesel, on which

power backup that societies need runs, has reduced elbow room. Some societies have already revised CAM (common area maintenance) charges. At Emaar Palm Gardens in Gurgaon, the decision came after a general body meeting last week. "The revised wages increased our manpower costs by around 35%. We increased CAM charges from Rs 3.15 per square foot to Rs 4.37 per sq ft," said Sunil Sharma, RWA president. For residents, the revision translates to an additional Rs 2,500-3,000 per month.

At Prateek Wisteria in Noida's Sector 77, charges have already been revised upward by 60 paise over the existing rate of Rs 2.7 per sq ft. In Ghaziabad, Orange County in Indirapuram circulated a note to residents on Monday explaining that maintenance charges had remained unchanged for nearly 17 years. "Compliance with revised statutory wages is not optional but a legal

obligation. The association has explored all possible ways to minimise the burden on residents, including reassessing vendor quotations, negotiating service charges, and reviewing PF and ESI components," the note read. The society has not yet revised the charges. At Skytech Magadh in Vaishali, where charges have been frozen at Rs 2 per sq ft since 2012, the AOA is considering a hike to Rs 3 per sq ft, subject to resident approval at a general body meeting later this month. Several other AOAs said they are looking at cost-cutting options and assessing their workforce to bring down costs. "While some upward revision is likely, our objective is to arrive at the most optimised and resident-friendly solution. We will place our recommendations before residents in the coming months," said Kavita Kumar Rajesh, AOA president of Exotica Fresco in Noida's Sector 137.

Condo upkeep bills set to go up with labour code's higher wages mandate

Gurgaon.(Agency)

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Eventually, AOA and RWA members say, they might have no other option but to increase CAM. At Gurgaon One, former RWA president Saket Singh said a hike was inevitable, with the impact in his society working out to nearly Re 1 per sq ft — charges had to move from around Rs 4 per sq ft to nearly Rs 5 per sq ft. Most RWAs, he said, had already exhausted conventional cost-cutting options.

"Most have shifted to LED lighting and optimised electricity consumption. There is very little room left for further cuts without affecting services. You cannot compromise on safety, housekeeping or essential maintenance," he said. In Greater Noida West, Arihant Arden is looking to offset electricity costs in common areas by commissioning a 500 kWp (kilowatt peak) solar system this week — touted as the first of its capacity in a residential society in NCR. "The estimated additional monthly burden after the wage hike for maintenance staff is approximately Rs 5.31 lakh — Rs 2.97 lakh for security services and Rs 3.34 lakh for housekeeping. While we have called a general body meeting and will seek approval to increase maintenance by 25 paise per sq ft. The solar panels are

expected to help cut electricity costs," said AOA president Nishith Chaturvedi.

According to Praveen Malik, RWA president of Gurgaon's Rising Homes, the cost burden becomes clearer when broken down by society size.

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Woman's headless body: Cops yet to make any breakthrough

New Delhi: A day after a headless body of a woman with severed palms was found in a drain near the Sector 82 Cut in Noida, the police on Friday intensified their search to identify the deceased. They are also resorting to forensic examination and scanning CCTV footages to get lead in the case.

Massive fire breaks out in Delhi slum near Rithala metro station; 1 dead

New Delhi: Police personnel and others gather as firemen try to douse a fire breaking out in a cluster of huts near Rithala metro station at Rohini area in New Delhi early Saturday. A man died and another sustained burn injuries after a massive fire broke out spreading to around 500 shanties near Rithala metro station in Delhi's Rohini, the Delhi Fire Services (DFS) said.

Delhi to set up solar-powered 'cooling hut' as pilot heat relief project

The Sikh Times New Delhi: In a new initiative to provide relief from the scorching summer heat, the Delhi Government is launching Thursday. Additional structures are planned, which will offer shaded resting spaces equipped with mist-based cooling facilities. Designed in the



a solar-powered public cooling structure in north-west Delhi as a pilot project, an official said on Thursday. The idea is to create a public

Rare genetic heart disease strikes 2 brothers 11 years apart in Delhi

New Delhi: A Delhi hospital performed heart transplants on two brothers 11 years apart after both developed a rare inherited heart condition that led to end-stage heart failure, doctors said on Thursday.

being diagnosed with advanced Dilated Cardiomyopathy (DCM), a disease in which the heart muscle becomes enlarged and weak, reducing its ability to pump blood effectively. The hospital said the elder brother had developed similar symptoms at the age of 16 and underwent a heart transplant at the same hospital in 2015 after his condition worsened despite medical treatment.

sprinkler system to create a natural cooling effect for visitors sitting inside, the official told. The facility, currently under construction, is expected to be completed by the end of May and inaugurated by Chief Minister Rekha Gupta in the first week of June in Shalimar Bagh, according to the official. People visiting the cooling hut will have access to seating arrangements, cold drinking water dispensers and charging sockets for mobile phones. Solar panels installed on the roof will power the facility, making it energy-efficient and suitable for use during peak summer months. "The

cooling zone where people, especially labourers, commuters and residents exposed to extreme heat, can sit for a while and get relief from high temperatures," he said. The misting effect generated through the khush grass and sprinklers is expected to help lower the surrounding temperature and reduce the risk of heat-related illnesses such as heatstroke. He also said that the Shalimar Bagh installation will function as a pilot project. If the public response is encouraging and the model proves effective, similar cooling huts may be installed in other parts of the city in the coming months. The initiative comes amid con-

tinuing heatwave conditions in the national capital, where the Delhi government has been expanding relief measures through mobile cooling units and temporary cooling zones. As part of its ongoing heat action campaign, the government has provided relief to around 2.65 lakh people between May 6 and May 23 through mobile heat relief units deployed across Delhi, Chief Minister Rekha Gupta had said earlier this week. During the same period, around 1,13,900 litres of cold drinking water were distributed, along with 44,646 gamchhas and 30,864 caps to help people protect themselves from heat-

stroke, according to official figures. Officials said cooling zones and relief facilities are being established in different districts of the city where people can take short breaks from the heat and access drinking water and shade. "Similar facilities are also being started in the remaining districts this week, and the campaign will continue till July," Gupta had said. Delhi has experienced prolonged high temperatures over the past few weeks, with the city recording its hottest night in 14 years on Monday, registering a minimum temperature of 32.4 degrees Celsius, which is 5.6 degrees above the seasonal average.

Orange alert for severe thunderstorm, hailstorm in evening hours

New Delhi: An orange alert has been issued for Delhi for the upcoming hours as moderate to severe thunderstorms accompanied by lightning and isolated hailstorms are very likely at many places across the city, according to weather officials. The city may experience light to moderate rain, with strong winds expected to blow at speeds of 50-60 kilometres per hour, gusting up to 70 kilometres per hour, as stated by the India Meteorological Department (IMD). "Thunderstorm activity has already begun over northern parts of Rajasthan and is expected to spread to Delhi by evening and continue through the night," said Mahesh Palawat from Skymet. He further added that the intensity of the storms is likely to increase tomorrow and the spell is expected to continue till May 30. From May 30 to 31, the weather system is expected to shift towards Gujarat. "The current spell of pre-monsoon rains is likely to be stronger than the pre-monsoon showers witnessed in Delhi earlier this month and in April, leading to widespread rain

NAME CHANGE

I, Amit S/O Amar Singh Kaushik R/O 10/152 Farash Khana Halwai Hatta Sonipat Haryana 131001 have changed my name to Amit Kaushik for all future purposes

NAME CHANGE

I, Kavita W/O Amit Kaushik R/O 10/152 Farash Khana Halwai Hatta Sonipat Haryana 131001 have changed my name to Kavita Kaushik for all future purposes

NAME CHANGE

I, Kirti D/O Sanjay Kumar Bansal R/O H.No. 77-78 Pocket 15 Sector 24 Rohini North West Delhi 110085 have changed my name to Kirti Bansal for all future purposes

NAME CHANGE

I, Punam W/O Sanjay Kumar Bansal R/O H.No. 77-78 Pocket 15 Sector 24 Rohini North West Delhi 110085 have changed my name to Punam Bansal for all future purposes

NAME CHANGE

I, Sanjeev Kumar Pathak S/O Nityanand Pathak R/O 131, Batuk Ji CHS Ltd., Plot 5 B, Sector-3 Dwarika N.S.I.T., Dwarika, South West Delhi, Delhi 110078 I, have Changed My Name to Sanjeev Pathak

NAME CHANGE

I, hitherto known as PRADEEP JAIN S/O KUNDAN LAL JAIN R/O XG-7, SHIVA ENCLAVE, A-4, PASCHIM VIHAR, WEST DELHI, DELHI-110063 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as PARDEEP KUMAR JAIN.

NAME CHANGE

It is for general information that I, NITU S/O RAMESH KUMAR R/O TC-597 Transit Camp Raghbir Nagar Tagore Garden West Delhi Delhi-110027 declare that name of mine have been wrongly written as NAND KISHORE in my minor son's name I have changed my name to NITU with 12 years in 10th class education documents. The actual name of mine is NITU which may be amended accordingly.

NAME CHANGE

I, DINESH KUMAR S/O GAURI SINGH R/O H.No.E-661 B, Street No-2, Band Gali, Jagjeeet Nagar, New Usmanpur, North East Delhi, Delhi-110053 have changed the name of my minor daughter CHITANNA aged 12 years and she shall hereafter be known as CHETNA.

NAME CHANGE

I, SATISH K SRIVASTAVA S/O SATISH CHANDRA R/O HOUSE NO-117, PLOT NO OLD -87, BLOCK-D, KHASRA NO-8820, UPPER GROUND FLOOR, VIJAY VIHAR PHASE-2, ROHINI, NORTH WEST DELHI, DELHI-110085 have changed the name of my minor son CHITIZ SRIVASTAVA aged 12 years and she shall hereafter be known as KSHITIZ SRIVASTAVA.

NAME CHANGE

I, hitherto known as ARUN LATA W/O MUKESH R/O H.No-10494, Bagchi Alindul Multrani Dhandra, Pahar Ganj, New Delhi, Central Delhi, Delhi-110055 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as ANNU.

NAME CHANGE

I, hitherto known as GHASSAN KHAN S/O DR. ASHFAQ KHAN R/O A 100/36 3rd floor, Gali No 1, Jamia Unnagar, Ghaffar Manzil, Jamia Nagar, South West Delhi - 110025 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as GASSAN KHAN.

NAME CHANGE

I, Kritika W/O, Nikhil Batra R/O, Q-32, 1st Floor, West Patel Nagar, Central Delhi, Delhi, 110018 has changed my name to Kritika Baluja for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I, Vinay Kumar S/O Jaswant Singh R/O, 392, SFS Flat Golden Jubilee Apartment, Sector-11, Rohini, North West Delhi, Delhi-110085 have changed my Daughters name from Navika to Navika Singh for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I, Sandeep Kumar, S/O Ram Kanwar R/O, UP-89 First Floor, Block-UP, Maurya Enclave, Pitampura, Saraswati Vihar, North West Delhi-110034 has changed my name to Sandeep Aggarwal for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I, Nakul Kaushik S/O Amit Kaushik R/O 10/152 Farash Khana Halwai Hatta Sonipat Haryana 131001 have changed my name to Nakul for all future purposes

NAME CHANGE

I, Somya Kaushik D/O Amit Kaushik R/O 10/152 Farash Khana Halwai Hatta Sonipat Haryana 131001 have changed my name to Somya for all future purposes

NAME CHANGE

I, LAXMI wife of NO-14651688N, Rank-HAV, Name-VIRUPAXI KOTABAGI residing at VILL-KURANI-WADI, PO-KURANI, TEHSIL-HUKKERI, DIST-BELAGAVI, KAR-NATAKA-591221, have changed my name from LAXMI to LAXMI VIRUPAXI KOTABAGI for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 02/06/2026 before Notary Public, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE

I, NO-10495825Y Rank-SEP Name-HARPAL legal father of SUNNI KAPOOR residing at VILL-JOVI, PO-CHOURI DHAR, TEHSIL-KARCOG, DIST-MANDI, H.P-175011, have changed my minor son's name from SUNNI KAPOOR to SUNNY KAPOOR for all future purposes vide affidavit dated 02/06/2026 Before Executive Magistrate, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE

I, IRFAN S/O AAS MOHAMMAD residing at NEAR MASJID, DHI-IRANKA(249), PO-HURITHAL, PALLWAL, HARYANA-121102, have changed my name to MOHD IRFAN for all future purposes.

NAME AND DATE OF BIRTH CHANGE

I, No-14659983L Rank-HAV Name-JADHAV SUBHASH RAMIDAS residing at VPO-DHORJALGAON, TEHSIL-DIST-AHILYANAGAR, MAHARASHTRA-414001, have changed my mother's name from SITABAI RAMIDAS JADHAV to SITABAI RAMIDAS JADHAV for all future purposes and in my service records my mother's date of birth wrongly mentioned as 01/07/1962 instead of her correct date of birth as 01/01/1956 vide Affidavit dated 02/06/2026 before Notary Public, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE

I, Ram Bhot Ritu W/O Amit Kumar R/O Village Daulat pur, Najafgarh, South West Delhi, Delhi - 110043 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Ritu Yadav

NAME CHANGE

I, Meenu Sharma W/O Naveen Kapila R/O House no. WZ-25, First Floor, Mukh Ram Park Extn., Tilak Nagar, PO: Tilak Nagar, Dist: West Delhi, Delhi-110018 have changed the name of my minor daughter Shorya Kapila aged 12 years and she shall hereafter be known as Duashree Kkapila

NAME CHANGE

I, hitherto known as GHASSAN KHAN S/O DR. ASHFAQ KHAN R/O A 100/36 3rd floor, Gali No 1, Jamia Unnagar, Ghaffar Manzil, Jamia Nagar, South West Delhi - 110025 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as GASSAN KHAN.

NAME CHANGE

I, hitherto known as BARKHA GUPTA alias RENU JAIN D/O PRAMOD KUMAR GUPTA W/O MUKUL JAIN residing at 9245/5, Multani Dhandra, Pahar Ganj, PO: Swami Ram Tirth Nagar, Dist: Central Delhi, Delhi - 110055 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as RENU JAIN.

NAME CHANGE

I, hitherto known as BARKHA GUPTA alias RENU JAIN D/O PRAMOD KUMAR GUPTA W/O MUKUL JAIN residing at 9245/5, Multani Dhandra, Pahar Ganj, PO: Swami Ram Tirth Nagar, Dist: Central Delhi, Delhi - 110055 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as RENU JAIN.

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NAME CHANGE

It is for general information that I, Prem Lata W/O Ajit Kumar R/O C-357A, Street No 16, Bhajan Pura, Bhajan Pura, North East, Delhi - 110053, declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as Mona in my Voter List No ZCF0785204. The actual name of mine is Prem Lata

NAME CHANGE

I, AKRAM KHAN S/O MOHAMMED SAMID KHAN R/O KH NO-261, GARIMA GARDEN, SAHIBABAD, GHAZIABAD, UTTAR PRADESH-201005 do hereby solemnly affirm and declare as under: That I am the citizen of India. That my wife real and correct name is BEBI KHATOON which is reflected in my wife (use the name of the relevant record Aadhar Card, Pan Card and in by mistake my passport my wife's name written as is BABY PRVEEN appended hereto. That the is BEBI KHATOON AND is BABY PRVEEN both are one and same person. That my wife's real name is BEBI KHATOON. That it is my true and correct statement.

NAME CHANGE

I, Hitherto Known as BABY KUMARI W/O KAILASH PRASAD R/O Flat No 725 Janta Flat, GTB Enclave, Nand Nagari, Delhi, GTB Hospital, Delhi, Nand Nagari, PO: Nand Nagari, DIST: North East Delhi, Delhi-110093 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as BABY DEVI.

NAME CHANGE

I, HAMID HASAN S/O ABDUL GHANI residing at H NO-6399, CHHIPYANI, HAZIRA SARAI, SAHARANPUR, UTTAR PRADESH-247001 have changed my name to HAMID HASAN ANSARI for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I, SHUBHAM SAGAR S/O RANVIR BAHADUR SINGH R/O, 123 SOUTH ANARKALI KRISHNA NAGAR DELHI -110051 have changed my name to SHUBHAM SINGH Permanently for all future purpose

NAME CHANGE

I, ELIZA RUTH RAAJRAH D/O MOTI LAL R/O H.NO 10,PHILOPINES EMBASSY,50 N NYAYA MARG N D M C CHANAKYA PURI DELHI-11002 have change my name ELIZA LALL FRANKNEY Permanently for all future purpose

NAME CHANGE

I, LAXMI wife of NO-14651688N, Rank-HAV, Name-VIRUPAXI KOTABAGI residing at VILL-KURANI-WADI, PO-KURANI, TEHSIL-HUKKERI, DIST-BELAGAVI, KAR-NATAKA-591221, have changed my name from LAXMI to LAXMI VIRUPAXI KOTABAGI for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 02/06/2026 before Notary Public, Delhi.

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NAME CHANGE

It is for general information that I, ZAHIDA PRAVEEN D/O FAZLUR REHMAN W/O MOHD. AQIL, R/O 2872-2874, Fourth Floor, Flat No. B, Near Mother Dairy, Kucha chalan, daryaganj, Central Delhi, Delhi - 110002 declare that name of my father has been wrongly written as ABDULREHMAN in my Pan Card No. ANGP1349E. The actual name of my father is FAZLUR REHMAN, which may be amended accordingly.

NAME CHANGE

I, hitherto known as BARKHA GUPTA alias RENU JAIN D/O PRAMOD KUMAR GUPTA W/O MUKUL JAIN residing at 9245/5, Multani Dhandra, Pahar Ganj, PO: Swami Ram Tirth Nagar, Dist: Central Delhi, Delhi - 110055 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as RENU JAIN.

NAME CHANGE

I, PREETI GOSWAMI D/O PARVINDER KUMAR R/O H NO-A-343, CHHATTARPUR ENCLAVE, PHASE-2, SOUTH DELHI, DELHI-110074 have changed my name from PREETI to PREETI GOSWAMI for all future purposes. That I declare that PREETI AND PREETI GOSWAMI both are same person.

NAME CHANGE

I, hitherto known as LINCY MANI ALIAS SUNNY LINCY D/O KURVIL LAL MANI R/O F/173 Top Floor Sneha Villa, Vijay Block, Near Sethi Dhami Nagar, Mangal Bazar, Laxmi Nagar, Shakarpur, East Delhi, Delhi-110092 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as LINCY MANI.

NAME CHANGE

I, hitherto known as SHREYA D/O TARUN KUMAR JHA R/O B-45, Second Floor, Dilshad Colony, New Seemapuri, East Delhi, Delhi-110095 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as SHREYA JHA.

NAME CHANGE

I, Anvinder Pal Singh Wadhwa S/O, Anamik Singh R/O, Plot No 160 SF, Chand Nagar, Delhi, 110018 has changed my name to Anvinder Pal Singh for all future purposes.

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NAME CHANGE</

NEWS BOX

A US soldier and a British soldier die during training in Iraq

WASHINGTON. (Agency)

One American soldier and one British soldier died during a training exercise in Iraq. US and UK officials said Monday without releasing further details. The deaths occurred Sunday at an air base in Irbil in the semi-autonomous Kurdish region of northern Iraq, where the U.S. has retained a presence, the US Army said in a post on X. The statement said the soldier's identity is being withheld until 24 hours after his or her family has been notified. The UK's Ministry of Defence said in a separate post that the family of the British soldier has been notified and requested a "period of grace" before more details are released. The US has been reducing the number of troops countering the Islamic State group in Iraq. But American forces have retained a presence in the Kurdish region as the U.S. seeks to strengthen ties with the Kurds. The US inaugurated a large new consulate compound in December in Irbil, the capital of the Kurdish region, highlighting Washington's diplomatic and strategic engagement in the area. The deaths occurred nearly a month after two American soldiers fell off a cliff and died during an off-duty recreational hike in Morocco. They were reported missing May 2 after participating in African Lion, an annual multinational military exercise.

Man Named Loony Toon, Who Shot At Police Officers, Sentenced To 20 Years In Prison

world. (Agency)

An Oregon court sentenced Looney John Franklin Kolb Toon to 20 years in prison for shooting at three police officers. The incident occurred during a June 2025 traffic stop in Milwaukie, a suburb of Portland. Toon, whose unusual name mirrors the famous cartoon series, Looney Tunes, as well as a colloquial term some invoke when describing an eccentric or irrational person, opened fire on the officers before being apprehended. He was convicted on multiple counts of attempted murder and will remain behind bars for two decades. As per the Clackamas County District Attorney's office, the 43-year-old was on probation in connection with a first-degree attempted kidnapping charge at the time. Afterwards, Toon abandoned his car, ran onto a golf course and evaded arrest until the officers apprehended him approximately 30 km away in the city of Sandy, Oregon, four days later. "This was an incredibly dangerous incident," said Clackamas County Deputy District Attorney Rebecca Wareham Portlock, who prosecuted the case. She added that Toon "showed callous disregard for every single person in his path and endangered the lives of four police officers." He was charged and convicted on four counts of Attempted Assault in the First Degree with a Firearm, Unlawful Use of a Firearm, Felon in Possession of a Firearm and Escape in the Second Degree. Some Milwaukie police officers who were involved in the confrontation attended the hearing but declined to make victim impact statements. Toon also declined to make a statement when offered the opportunity. Apart from the prison sentence, Toon must also pay restitution to both Milwaukie's municipal government for damaging a police cruiser and the owner of a car that he struck with bullets, the district attorney's office said.

7, Including Suspect, Killed In Shooting After "Domestic Dispute" In US' Iowa

Tehran. (Agency)

At least seven people, including the suspect, were killed in a shooting spree at multiple locations across Iowa, United States, in an apparent domestic dispute. The "series of homicides" occurred at two residences and a business in the city of Muscatine, according to police. In a statement, the Muscatine Police Department said cops were dispatched at approximately 12:12 pm on Monday to a report of a shooting at a residence on Park Avenue. When officers and emergency responders arrived at the scene, they found four people with gunshot wounds inside the house. All four victims were pronounced dead at the scene. Investigators soon identified the suspected shooter as Ryan Willis McFarland, 52, of Muscatine, who had left the residence before police arrived. Law enforcement officials located



McFarland a short time later near a pedestrian bridge with a self-inflicted gunshot wound. Officers and paramedic personnel provided medical aid, but he was pronounced dead at the scene. As the investigation progressed, detectives learned there were additional victims and, subsequently, located two men dead from apparent gunshot wounds. One was found at another residence on Mill Street, and the other at a nearby business on Grandview Avenue, authorities said. Police said that preliminary findings indicate the shootings stemmed from a domestic-related dispute, as all victims were found to be family members of the suspect. Authorities have not released the names or ages of the victims.

Rubio to testify before Congress for the first time since the start of the Iran war

The former Republican senator will sit before House and Senate committees to make the State Department's annual budget request.

WASHINGTON. (Agency)

Secretary of State Marco Rubio is set to face a litany of questions Tuesday about the Trump administration's fragile or stalling diplomatic efforts around the world when he appears for back-to-back hearings on Capitol Hill for the first time since the Iran war began. The former Republican senator will sit before House and Senate committees to make the State Department's annual budget request. But the focus is likely to shift quickly to the already unsteady ceasefire between Washington and Tehran, which has been further tested in recent days by back-and-forth attacks. Cabinet members, including Rubio,

have defended President Donald Trump's decision to launch the conflict despite promises over the years not to engage in "forever wars" in the Middle East. That work has been made more difficult by Trump's shifting goals for the conflict.

While Rubio is testifying before Congress for the first time since the Iran war started on Feb. 28, he took part in a classified briefing for lawmakers days after the first U.S. and Israeli strikes. He faced Democrats' anger over the lack of congressional approval but strong support from most Republicans for taking action against one of America's oldest adversaries.

In the two months since the war began, however, a small but growing faction of Republicans have joined Democrats in questioning the astronomical price tag and overall economic consequences of the conflict as they head into midterm elections in the fall. Last month, the Senate managed to advance legislation for the first time that would have forced Trump to withdraw from the conflict after GOP Sen. Bill Cassidy, fresh off a primary election

loss in which Trump endorsed his opponent joined Democrats in pushing it forward. The House also had scheduled a vote on a war powers resolution, but GOP leadership kept it from coming to the floor after it became clear that the majority party



would not have the numbers to defeat it. The actions show the GOP is struggling to maintain political backing for Trump's handling of the war as rank-and-file Republicans are increasingly willing to defy the president over the conflict. Following his appearances

Tuesday before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and House Appropriations subcommittee responsible for the State Department, Rubio will return to the Hill on Wednesday to testify before the House Foreign Affairs Committee and equivalent Senate Appropriations subcommittee.

Rubio — the son of Cuban immigrants — also is likely to be questioned about the administration's escalatory behavior toward Cuba, as Trump has hinted that the small island country could be the next U.S. target after operations in Iran are wrapped up. Despite a series of meetings between U.S. and Cuban officials, Trump and Rubio have renewed threats against the island's government, which take on greater weight after the administration announced criminal charges against former President Raúl Castro. Over his congressional career and now as America's top diplomat, Rubio has maintained that Cuba is a national security threat because of its ties to U.S. adversaries and that Trump is intent on addressing it.

Pentagon bars journalists from its press office, saying it has become a 'classified space'

On X, acting Pentagon press secretary Joel Valdez said the press office was redesignated a classified space because speechwriters handling sensitive material now work there.

NEW YORK. (Agency)

In another of a series of moves restricting media access at the Pentagon, the Defense Department has declared that its press office is now a classified space inaccessible to journalists. On X, acting Pentagon press secretary Joel Valdez confirmed the move, saying there was "nothing controversial" about it and that it came because speechwriters, who use classified material, were now occupying the space. "The Pentagon Press Office has been redesignated as

a Sensitive Compartmented Information Facility due to speechwriters from the Office of the Secretary of War sharing the facility," Valdez wrote. "These speechwriters



routinely handle classified material ... as a result, journalists will no longer be permitted to enter the office space. There's nothing controversial about that." The latest move, first reported by The Washington Post, took place against a backdrop of escalating tensions between the U.S. media and the second Trump administration, which has played out both in the public arena and at times in the courts. For many years, Pentagon reporters had

credentials granting them wide movement in the building as they sought to interact with press officials there. But last October, most news outlets turned in access badges and walked out of the Pentagon rather than agree to government-imposed restrictions on their work.

The New York Times sued the Defense Department on May 18 for the second time in five months, arguing that a requirement that journalists be escorted while on Pentagon grounds violates the First Amendment and is "an unconstitutional attempt by the Pentagon to prevent independent reporting on military affairs." The paper said it had filed the additional lawsuit after first suing the Pentagon in December over new rules imposed by Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth, to challenge an interim policy "that the Pentagon hastily put into place after a federal judge ruled in The Times's favor in its original lawsuit." The new policy included the requirement that journalists be accompanied by escorts at all times while in the Pentagon.

Russian attack on Ukraine kills at least 11 and traps others in damaged buildings

KYIV. (Agency)

Russia attacked Ukraine with a barrage of missiles and drones overnight Tuesday, killing at least 11 people, injuring dozens and trapping others, authorities said. At least four people were killed in Kyiv and 58 people were injured, including three children, Ukraine's state emergency service said in a statement on Telegram. Residential buildings and other civilian infrastructure were damaged in eight of Kyiv's districts. Attacks were also reported elsewhere across Ukraine. In the central Dnipropetrovsk region, at least six people were killed and 36 others injured after Russian strikes hit the city of Dnipro, according to the emergency service. A second attack as first



responders arrived at the scene killed one rescuer. A two-story residential building and part of a four-story apartment block were damaged, with people trapped beneath the rubble of the larger building. The boom of explosions echoed through most of the night and into the early morning. Kyiv had been bracing for another mass attack for days, after

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy warned that Russia was preparing a renewed assault and urged people to remain cautious and seek shelter during air raid alerts.

In the Podilskyi district, there was partial damage to the upper floors of a nine-story building, trapping people under the rubble. Rescue operations were still underway in the early hours of the morning, even as the air raid alert remained in effect.

In the Solomianskyi district, a 20-story building and a 24-story building were damaged. Ukrainian officials have been pressing allies for more air defense missiles to counter Russia's ballistic missile attacks. While Ukraine continues to intercept a high percentage of drones, ballistic missiles remain a major vulnerability for the country's air defenses.

Pentagon Bars Journalists From Its Press Office. Here's Why

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World. (Agency)

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The latest move, first reported by The Washington Post, took place against a backdrop of escalating tensions between the US media and the second Trump administration, which has played out both in the public arena and at times in the courts. For many years, Pentagon reporters had credentials granting them wide movement in the building as they sought to interact with press officials there.

But last October, most news outlets turned in access badges and walked out of the Pentagon rather than agree to government-imposed restrictions on their work. The



attempt by the Pentagon to prevent independent reporting on military affairs." The paper said it had filed the additional lawsuit after first suing the Pentagon in December over new rules imposed by Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth, to challenge an interim policy "that the Pentagon hastily put into place after a federal judge ruled in The Times's favor in its original lawsuit." The new policy included the requirement that journalists be accompanied by escorts at all times while in the Pentagon. The policy was implemented in March following a ruling by U.S. District Court Judge Paul L. Friedman that had struck down earlier restrictions. The following month, the judge ruled that the interim policy violated his March order. But the escort policy remained in place when an appeals court stayed part of Friedman's ruling while the government appeals. The appeals process is ongoing.

New York Times sued the Defense Department on May 18 for the second time in five months, arguing that a requirement that journalists be escorted while on Pentagon grounds violates the First Amendment and is "an unconstitutional

Short news

Four railway divisions & two zones major hurdle for Tirupati district

TIRUPATI .(Agency)

The unique situation of Tirupati district being administered by four railway divisions under two different railway zones has emerged as a major administrative and technical bottleneck, delaying railway development projects and infrastructure expansion in one of the country's most important pilgrimage destinations. The South Coast Railway (SCoR) and Southern Railway zone have four railway divisions, Chennai, Vijayawada, Guntur and Guntakal. Tirupati and Renigunta fall under the Guntakal Division, while Puttur, Nagari, Naidupeta, and Sullurupeta fall under the Chennai Division. The Srikalahasti-Nadikudi route comes under the Guntur Division, whereas Gudur Railway Station falls under the Vijayawada Division. Speaking to , Balaji Railway Division (Tirupati) Sadhana Samithi Convener Kuppala Giridhar said that Tirupati district's railway development has been severely affected due to the Ministry of Railways' failure to address long-standing administrative issues arising from the district being divided among two railway zones and four railway divisions.

'Your son will die': Pune woman tricked into Rs 3.9 lakh 'black magic' rituals

Pune. (Agency)

A Nashik-based couple has been accused of cheating a 53-year-old Pune woman of Rs 3.9 lakh by allegedly claiming supernatural powers and subjecting her to a series of "black magic" rituals across multiple cities to rid her of the influence of "evil spirits".

According to the complaint filed at the Lohegaon Police Station in Pune Monday, the accused, identified as Kamlesh Shivkumar Adhikari and his wife Gauri Kamlesh Adhikari, allegedly threatened her that she would "lose her sanity" and her son would die by suicide if remedial rituals were not performed.

Based on the complaint, the Lohegaon police registered an offence under relevant provisions of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and the Maharashtra Prevention and Eradication of Human Sacrifice and Other Inhuman, Evil and Aghori Practices and Black Magic Act, 2013.

The complainant has alleged that the couple told her they could solve problems as they had "supernatural powers". She also alleged that she and her son were made to undertake ritual-based "solutions" at locations including Nashik, Ujjain, and Kolkata over several months between 2023 and 2024, and transferred money both online and in cash on multiple occasions. The FIR states that the couple extracted Rs 3.9 lakh from the complainant under the pretext of resolving her personal and family problems through occult practices. The police said the woman recently learned that multiple criminal cases have been registered against the accused in Nashik for duping several people on the same pretext.

Turncoats and family ties trigger widespread rebellion as MLC nominations close in Maharashtra

MUMBAI.(Agency)

Political parties in Maharashtra rushed to finalize their candidates on the final day of nominations for the upcoming biennial Member of Legislative Council (MLC) local body elections. The high-stakes filing process was marked by last-minute surprises, intense internal drama, and a wave of rebellions across coalitions as disappointed ticket aspirants defied official party orders.

Late Sunday night, the BJP announced an 11-candidate list featuring prominent names closely related to rival opposition leaders. In a swift political turn, former Minister of State and Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leader Prajakta Tanpure was named the BJP candidate for the Ahilya Nagar local body seat just 24 hours after switching sides.

Mr. Tanpure is a relative of NCP (SP) state president Jayant Patil, a top confidant of Sharad Pawar. In another striking choice, the BJP nominated Arun Lakhani for the Wardha-Chandrapur-Gadchiroli seat. Mr. Lakhani is soon set to become the father-in-law of Revati Sule, who is the daughter of NCP (SP) Lok Sabha MP Supriya Sule and granddaughter of Sharad Pawar. The inclusion of these lateral entrants meant several long-time BJP loyalists and committed workers, including senior leader Madhav Bhandari, missed out on nominations. Meanwhile, the Ajit Pawar-led NCP experienced its own high-voltage drama over its two MLC seats. NCP Lok Sabha MP Parth Pawar heavily influenced the party's decision-making, successfully pushing for the nomination.

Suspended Punjab Vigilance reader Rana surrenders, court sends him to 7-day custody

Chandigarh.(Agency)

Holding that "custodial interrogation is indispensable as mere questioning may not yield the effective results", a special CBI court in Chandigarh on Monday granted seven days' police custody of suspended Punjab Vigilance Bureau reader Om Prakash Singh Rana in a bribery case being investigated by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

Special Judge Bhawna Jain allowed the CBI's plea seeking police remand till June 8 after observing that Rana's custodial interrogation appeared necessary for the recovery of electronic devices and digital evidence, the identification of the larger conspiracy and other beneficiaries, and verification regarding the alleged misuse of confidential vigilance information.

Rana, who had surrendered before the trial court earlier in the day pursuant to an order of

the Punjab and Haryana High Court, was represented by Advocate Sumesh Jain. The CBI was represented by Public Prosecutor Narender Singh, assisted by Inspector Kuldeep Singh of CBI ACB Chandigarh.



Seeking seven days of custody, the CBI submitted that a complaint against Amit Kumar, state tax officer, Malout, was pending before the office of the DGP (Vigilance), Punjab, and that co-accused Vikas Goyal and Raghav Goyal facilitated a meeting between

the complainant and Rana, who was then serving as Reader to the DGP (Vigilance).

According to the agency, Rana allegedly showed the complainant the vigilance complaint pending against him and thereafter the complainant was taken to a guest house in Sector 30, Chandigarh, where co-accused Vikas and Raghav allegedly demanded illegal gratification of Rs 20 lakh on behalf of Rana and other senior officers for closure of the complaint.

The CBI further submitted that co-accused Ankit Wadhwa, stated to be the driver of Raghav, collected the bribe money and a mobile handset and was apprehended during a trap operation. Referring to digital evidence, the prosecution submitted that "...Whatsapp chats reveal the active involvement of Rana with co-accused Raghav and Vikas in the conspiracy and even the make, model and the colour of the above said mobile handset purchased by the complainant as per demand, was shared by Raghav with Rana".

Severed limbs of missing man found near Similipal, tiger attack suspected

BARIPADA/BHUBANESWAR . (Agency)

Mutilated remains of a 55-year-old man were recovered from a forest fringe area of Similipal Tiger Reserve (STR) on Monday, prompting authorities to probe a suspected tiger attack. Severed legs of the deceased, identified as Sadhu Naik, were found by villagers in a bushy area near Kumudabadi under Ektali gram panchayat in Mayurbhanj's Jashipur block. The area falls within Karanjia forest division and is located close to Similipal North.

A resident of Basantpur village, Naik was missing from Sunday. Villagers suspect that a tiger from the nearby STR may have killed the man and dragged away his body.

Forest officials said there is no conclusive evidence yet to establish the involvement of any wild animal. A probe has been launched into the incident. Deputy director of



Similipal North Division Ramesh Kumar said preliminary observations have not revealed the cause of death. "As of now, no pug marks or other field evidence have been found at the site to confirm the involvement of any wild animal. Samples and other evidentiary materials have been collected and sent for laboratory analysis to ascertain the cause of death," he said. Sharing more details, STR field director Prakash Chand

Gogineni informed that the hunting method of a tiger or any other wild animal is different, which is not visible in this case so far. Besides, there are no pug marks in the area or any sign of dragging, he said.

Forest officials said two sniffer dogs were engaged to find the remaining body parts and possible clue of attack. But no substantial evidence has been found yet.

Search operations are continuing to locate the remaining body parts. Field officials have assured to extend necessary assistance to the bereaved family, if it is proved to be a wild animal attack, Gogineni said and added that Similipal has not recorded any tiger attack in the last four decades. Meanwhile, Jashipur police has also launched a separate probe and registered an unnatural death case in connection with the incident. IIC Sanjukta Mahalick said police are waiting.

Odisha's Bhatli farmers meet MLA over token 'irregularities'

BARGARH.(Agency)

Demanding immediate resolution of widespread token-related irregularities affecting rabi paddy procurement in the district, hundreds of farmers under the banner of Jay Kisan Andolan met Bhatli MLA Irasis Acharya on Monday.

Around 300 farmers from three blocks under Bhatli Assembly constituency gathered at the MLA's office and submitted complaints regarding blocked and inadequate procurement tokens. During discussion, the farmers said over 1.05 lakh cultivators have registered for paddy procurement in Bargarh district. However, tokens of around 7,500 farmers have reportedly been blocked. Of them, over 2,200 farmers from 12 primary agricultural cooperative societies (PACS) in Bhatli constituency have been affected, they alleged. The farmers further claimed that nearly 80 per cent of cultivators received tokens for quantities much lower than their actual produce, with some receiving procurement tokens



for as little as three to four quintals of paddy. They argued that unless adequate tokens are issued, many farmers would be deprived of selling their produce at mandis and forced to sell to private traders below the minimum support price (MSP).

MLA Acharya acknowledged the seriousness of the issue and stated that even a member of his own family has

faced similar issue. "The problems being faced by farmers due to token allocation are genuine and stem from flaws in the existing system. Even a member of my own family has received a token for only three quintals. I assure that the issue is being taken seriously and every effort will be made to resolve it within seven days," he said.

Two committees begin separate probes into Hamirpur bridge collapse deaths

Mohali.(Agency)

Two inquiry committees — one constituted by the Uttar Pradesh Bridge Corporation and another by the district administration to look into the Hamirpur bridge collapse incident that left six workers dead — have started separate investigations, officials said on Monday. The incident took place recently when a segmental span of the under-construction bridge over the Betwa river collapsed.

District Magistrate Abhishek Goyal said, "The three-member inquiry committee constituted by the district administration, headed by the Additional District Magistrate (Namami Gange), is conducting a detailed examination of all administrative, technical, and procedural aspects related to the incident. The committee members have already begun site inspections and evidence collection." The Bridge Corporation has also formed a three-member technical committee to conduct expert assessments. The committee will review construction quality, design, structural standards, construction materials, and compliance with safety protocols. Laboratory testing of construction materials will also be conducted if required, it is learnt.

A case has been registered at Kurara police station under Sections 106(1) and 125(A) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) in connection with the accident, the DM said. The investigation is underway, and necessary legal action will be taken based on the facts, evidence, and reports submitted by both inquiry committees, he added.

Chandigarh puts 10 prime residential plots for auction; reserve prices up to Rs 16.58 crore

Chandigarh.(Agency)

A residential plot in Chandigarh could cost as much as Rs 16.58 crore at the upcoming Estate Office auction, where 10 freehold sites spread across prime sectors of the city will be up for bidding. The Chandigarh Administration's Estate Office will put 10 freehold residential plots under the hammer later this month across prime sectors of the city, with reserve prices ranging from Rs 3.30 crore to Rs 16.58 crore.

The plots, spread across Sectors 15-B, 20, 21, 23, 27-D, 30-A, 37-A, 44, and 44-B, vary in size from 100 square yards to over



500 square yards, said Nishant Yadav, Deputy Commissioner, on Monday. The e-auction notice will be published on Tuesday. Submission of documents and Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) will

remain open till June 23, while the auction is scheduled to take place from June 27 to June 29.

Among the properties on offer are a 249.375-square-yard site in Sector 15-B with a reserve price of Rs 8.23 crore, two 198.33-square-yard plots in Sectors 20 and 23 priced at Rs 6.54 crore each, and a 256.666-square-yard plot in Sector 27-D with a reserve price of Rs 8.47 crore. A 338-square-yard plot in Sector 37-A has been listed at Rs 11.16 crore.

The highest-valued sites include a 502.316-square-yard plot in Sector 44 with a reserve price of Rs 16.58 crore and two 500.5-square-yard plots in Sectors 21 and 30-A, each carrying a reserve price of

Rs 16.52 crore. The most 'affordable' plots are two 100-square-yard plots in Sector 44-B, each with a reserve price of Rs 3.30 crore.

"The Estate Office has specified that an additional 5 per cent charge will be levied on corner and park-facing plots. The Sector 37-A site being auctioned is a park-facing property and will attract the additional charge," Yadav said. As per the auction conditions, bidders must possess a Digital Signature Certificate (DSC), register on the e-auction portal, and submit the prescribed earnest money deposit along with the mandatory documents, including PAN details and proof of payment. Incomplete applications will be rejected.

How an open construction pit claimed a 45-year-old's life in UP's Hapur

Lucknow .(Agency)

A 45-year-old motorcyclist died after falling into a pit dug for an ongoing road construction project in Uttar Pradesh's Hapur district, police said.

The incident took place late Sunday night in the Pilkhuwa area when Deependra Singh, a resident of Sachpal Garhi village, was returning home on his motorcycle. According to police, Singh lost control of the vehicle and fell into an excavation in the middle of the road that had been dug as part of an ongoing Public Works Department (PWD) roadwork.

Locals rushed to the spot and informed the police after pulling Singh out of the pit. However, he had succumbed to his injuries by the time help arrived. The body was later sent for post-mortem examination. Family members have alleged negligence on the part of those carrying out the road construction work and demanded legal action as well as compensation.

Circle Officer Anita Chauhan said an investigation had been initiated into the incident. Station House Officer, Pilkhuwa police station, confirmed that an FIR has been registered in connection with the incident. The SHO said the complaint was filed by the deceased's son and the FIR was registered under Section 105 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). The case has been registered against one GRS Company associated with the road construction work, the SHO said. The exact name and role of the company in the project could not be verified.

When asked about the progress of the investigation, the SHO said the inquiry was still underway and that it is too early to speak on it. The family has demanded action against those responsible for the road construction.

The ugly and the not so ugly Indian

Written by Eugene Burdick and William Lederer, the novel 'The Ugly American' was published in 1958. It was an instant sensation and is still a steady seller; it remains in print to the present day. Considered an iconic book of the Cold War, this fictionalised text, rooted in reality, pierced deep into the failures of the American diplomatic corps in Southeast Asia (by the Kennedy administration, the US Peace Corps is considered to be an offshoot of the book's immense impact). An oft-quoted passage from the book is when a Burmese journalist says: "...the (American) people I meet in my country are not the same as I know in the United States. A mysterious change seems to come over Americans when they go to a foreign land. They isolate themselves socially. They live pretentiously. They are loud and ostentatious." The last bit gave rise to the stereotype image of the 'Ugly American' outside his borders — whether he was a tourist, diplomat or businessman. It is also believed that the title was a play on Graham Greene's book, 'The Quiet American', which had been published some years earlier (both books were turned into successful films). On the other hand, I don't think there are too many 'Ugly Indians' abroad — unless we are desperate to make a reel for social media and find that creating a nuisance facilitates the purpose. We behave reasonably well when we are overseas. We stand in line, we rarely shout. We may be 'Silly Indians', 'Fawning Indians' or 'Irritating Indians' — but we are rarely 'Ugly Indians'. We keep that for when we are home. Here, we litter, we often shout, we often fight; even when none of the above are desirable or necessary. Of late, I seem to have had my share of the 'Ugly Indian' — who has come in all shapes, sizes and in varied avatars. There is a tenant who arrived with references and grand promises. Before decamping and leaving the premises locked, he has not paid the rent for well over a year and has also burdened me, among other things, with an unpaid garbage bill. As if that was not enough, a set of goons decided that a fight was the way to get things turned in their favour, and found that beating up my son and manhandling my wife (in my noted absence) would move matters their way. So between shouts of 'how they would set the house on fire', and threats to life and limb, we have much to thank for the protection of the local police force. A less personal but an unforgotten impact of ugliness stemmed from something very different. This was a professional assignment in Srinagar some two decades back. I had been asked to be the compere for a tourism promotion event for J&K's Tourism Department. With the appropriate approvals, one had been hired by the event company. Kashmir's tourism business, the backbone of the local economy, was in doldrums. This was to re-showcase one of the most beautiful places in the world that was beset by terrorism and human tragedy. One drove past the Dal and Nagin lakes and their largely empty houseboats and noted, again, their delightful names — Young Mona Lisa, Cherry Ripe, Sea Hawk, Noble House, Rolex and New Golden Fleece. The absolutely magnificent setting of the Sher-i-Kashmir International Conference Centre took care of a substantial part of the show. The storied lawns were bordered by packed flowerbeds flowing down to the banks of the Dal Lake. In the background are the low rolls of the Zabaran Range. As the sun slipped behind the hills, the lights and fountains came on. As best as I can tell, the programme was a success. This event was a bit of a junket and excursions were also on the menu. On the first visit, the very first thing that we saw as we got off the bus was graffiti on the wall that read: "Indian dogs get out." That, I'm told, has now changed. This time, the column may be somewhat grim, but these things and the insecurity that they carry with them is something that we common people seem to face on a fairly regular basis.

Engg Admissions: Race Between Popularity and Profundity

If Viksit Bharat 2047 is about the dreams of India becoming a global manufacturing hub, it requires Mechanical Engineers, Production Engineers,

When Usain Bolt successfully defended his Olympics Gold medal in 100 metres sprint for the second time in 2016, the world celebrated this hero's hat-trick and called him the swiftest human on earth. When I asked my students about Ashton Eaton, who also won the Gold in decathlon at London and Rio, the class drew a memory blank. That Bolt is a genius athlete is undoubted but Eaton got shadowed just like Daley Thompson's Moscow and Los Angeles got under Carl Lewis's Los Angeles and Seoul showdown. Moral: Mono-discipline athlete is more popular than a multi-disciplinary comparable. Is it the same in higher education? Let us explore. Advertisement The career pathway to achieve career aspirations begins from schools, navigate multiple entrance exam pathways, and just when it reaches its final destination of hope, gets muddled with exploding choices leaving young minds at the cross-roads of chaos. Millions of Indian students begin their journey towards a medical or engineering admission that germinates from an academic aspiration. These crucial formative years of cognitive sprouting become an exhausting expedition through a maze of entrance examinations, counselling systems, coaching ecosystems, cut-offs, quotas, and uncertainty. The foundational basis of a meritocratic gateway has gradually evolved into a multi-layered fence that test endurance more than aptitude. Just like a young cricketer struggles to play Test cricket, T20, and One-Day formats on the same day—with different rules, different pitches, and different captains evaluating performance differently, young students struggle to perform well in Class XII exams, NEET, JEE, other private university entrance exams, interviews and many modern testing instruments. The reason is simple. One examination rewards speed and agility, another conceptual depth and precision, another memorisation and flexibility, and another strategic elimination techniques and creativity. Students are forced to become examination tacticians rather than genuine learners. This results in either becoming a NEET/JEE super-achiever humanoids like Bolt and Lewis or matured learners with holistic knowledge but shadowed like Eaton and Thompson. It doesn't stop here. It further stretches as they enter the higher-education fracas in which mindless popularity seems to be the screaming horse and not calibrated thinking which remains the muted mule. Viksit Bharat 2047 is Prime Minister Modi's ambitious mission mode target that charts India's growth story for the next 25 years. While Digital India is one foundational pillar, it cannot be the only growth trajectory, as all cylinders have to fire to carry the Indian engine far and high. Both human

bodies and countries function similarly. Artificial Intelligence and Computer Science represents the brain

electric vehicles require battery technology, AI systems require semiconductor fabrication, smart cities require



and nervous system, but without the heart, lungs, bones, muscles, and circulatory systems, the body cannot survive. Likewise, a nation cannot be built on algorithms alone unless it is supported by robust physical infrastructure and industrial capabilities. If Viksit Bharat 2047 is about the dreams of India becoming a global manufacturing hub, it requires Mechanical Engineers, Production Engineers, Industrial Engineers, and Materials Scientists. If it is about, smart cities and urban transformation, it needs Civil Engineers, Environmental Engineers, Transportation Experts, and Structural Designers. If it is about green energy leadership, it depends upon Electrical Engineers, Energy Systems Engineers, and Chemical Engineers. If it is about semiconductor independence, Aerospace leadership, defence self-reliance, and advanced mobility ecosystems, it requires specialised core engineering talent at massive scale. In short, engineering intelligentsia of India is a superset of all and not a subset of few. The massive success of India's digital revolution rests on its physical infrastructure. Cloud computing requires data centres,

civil infrastructure, defence systems require aerospace engineering, medical technology requires biomedical engineering. Renewable energy requires power electronics and grid engineering. In essence, Computer Science and AI are accelerators, not substitutes for foundational engineering disciplines. The current trend among students often resembles a gold rush. Large numbers migrate toward Computer Science and its latest derivative cousin Artificial Intelligence not necessarily out of passion, but due to perceptions of salary, prestige, global mobility, and social validation. Core engineering branches are sometimes unfairly viewed as outdated or less glamorous. This perception is deeply misleading and if left unchecked will over-create isolated coders (Bolt-Lewis) and under-create interdisciplinary builders (Eaton-Thompson). India needs both with a balance just like Olympics needs both sprinters and decathlons. At a time when India needs this balance now more than ever, young minds and influencers should not get swayed by popularity, for popularity comes with no invitation and leaves with no farewell. In short: Young India should chase profundity and not popularity.

Punjab pulse : Civic polls verdict boosts AAP's confidence

The AAP swept the polls, leaving the Congress at a distant second, with the SAD and the BJP trailing behind even Independents

PUNJAB's local body election results may not be a definitive pointer to the Assembly elections due early next year, but they do offer important political signals. Civic polls are shaped more by local concerns than by broader state-level narratives. Historically, ruling parties enjoy an advantage in such contests because voters often believe development funds and administrative support flow more smoothly to areas aligned with the government of the day. That trend was visible again as the AAP swept the polls, leaving the Congress at a distant second, with the SAD and the BJP trailing behind even Independents. But these figures must be viewed with caution. Punjab recorded an overall turnout of nearly 64%, but participation in municipal corporations remained below 60%, reflecting subdued enthusiasm in larger urban centres. Local body polls have generally

witnessed uneven and lower voter mobilisation,

reality for the opposition: despite criticism of the government over drugs, gangsterism, law and order and governance issues, rival parties have failed to convert public discontent into meaningful gains. The Congress continues to suffer from factionalism and leadership uncertainty, while the SAD is still struggling to recover from the political fallout of the sacrilege controversy and the farmers' agitation. The BJP, though still a marginal player in the state's electoral landscape, appears to have begun preparing early for 2027. The appointment of Kewal Singh Dhillon, a Jat Sikh, as the Punjab BJP chief is significant as it signals an attempt to move beyond its traditional urban Hindu base. The road to the Assembly elections remains long. But for now, the AAP has seized the early advantage while the Opposition is still searching for coherence and direction.



reducing their predictive value for Assembly contests where turnout is usually higher and political issues broader. Even so, the verdict underlines a troubling

Universe: Do not obsess over wealth

As per the foundational rules of financial dharma, true wealth is built on value creation, smart budgeting, and fair pricing

In the Shanti Parva of the Mahabharata, it is mentioned that all kinds of meritorious acts flow from the possession of great wealth like rivers from a mountain. From wealth springs all religious acts, all pleasures and heaven itself. Wealth gives us the ability to experience life fully. It is one of the four Purusharthas (goals of life). Wealth, however, has to be created ethically and without cheating others. Do not obsess over wealth. Wealth is elusive when you seek it directly, and it invariably comes to you when you are creating value for others. Spend less than you earn. Save and invest the surplus. Limit debt unless you are creating long-term assets. Insure for hard times and unforeseen calamities. We all have customers, either in business or as employees. Understand and satisfy their needs. Create value for them and price fairly. Do not cheat or overcharge them. Resolve their problems promptly.

Krishna & the fruit Seller A wandering fruit seller was once passing by the streets of Gokul. She happened to stop by little Krishna's house. As Krishna's parents were away, she found herself displaying her wares to the only potential customer in the house, Krishna himself! Krishna was tempted by the ripe, juicy fruits he saw in the fruit seller's cart. He wanted them all! He pointed to each of them. It was a hot afternoon, and the fruit seller was feeling thirsty. She had yet to sell any fruit, but she found herself drawn to the little fellow, with a peacock feather in his hair and a cheeky smile, and decided to humour him and make him her first customer of the day. She said to him, 'You can have them for a fistful of grain!' Krishna understood what she said and ran inside excitedly to fetch her what she asked. He gathered as much grain as his little fists could hold and ran back towards the vendor, squealing with joy. He



did not realise that in his excitement, most of the grain he held had fallen to the floor, slipping from his tiny fingers and loosely clenched fist. Proudly, he offered her the few grains remaining in his hand and demanded his fruits. The fruit seller was so over and by her maternal instinct

and touched by his innocence that she took the few grains he had given her and cheerfully handed over all the fruits that Krishna wanted. That evening, as the fruit seller returned to her house to count the day's earnings, she was most surprised to find that each of the grains she

had taken from Krishna were transformed into precious gems. Shiksha: Think of each of your customers as little Krishna and keep him happy. Create value for him. You will be rewarded with far more than you expect, as the fruit vendor learnt to her pleasant surprise.

716 abortions among girls below 19 in Mumbai in 2024-25: RTI data

RTI data shows contraceptive failure cited in nearly 94% of abortion cases

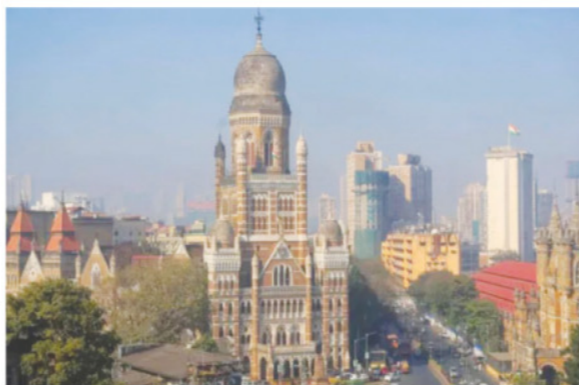
Mumbai. (Agency)

At least 716 abortions were recorded among girls below the age of 19 in Mumbai between April 2024 and March 2025, according to information obtained under the Right to Information (RTI) Act. The data further shows that the city recorded a total of 20,950 Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) procedures during the year, with failure or inadequate use of contraception emerging as the most commonly cited reason.

The information was provided by the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation's (BMC) Family Welfare Unit in response to an RTI application filed by activist Chetan Kothari seeking details on abortions, maternal deaths, and abortion-related deaths in the city. According to the RTI data, women in the 25-29 age group accounted for the highest number of abortions, with 7,296 cases

recorded during 2024-25. This was followed by women aged 30-34 years, among whom 5,673 abortions were reported. The 20-24 age group accounted for 3,314 cases, while 716 abortions were recorded among girls below 19 years of age. Kothari said, "The data indicates that contraceptive failure or inadequate use of contraceptive methods accounted for the overwhelming majority of abortions. Of the 20,685 cases for which reasons were recorded, 19,495 were attributed to improper or inadequate use of contraception or failure of contraceptive methods."

A senior BMC health official, however, said, "I would not interpret this data as evidence of contraceptive failure alone. In many cases, women may not have used contraception



correctly, may not have fully understood how to use it, or may be hesitant to disclose contraceptive use due to social stigma or embarrassment. Collecting such information requires detailed counselling and careful questioning by doctors. The data provided

through the RTI is based on information recorded during medical consultations, but these records may not always capture the complete picture. Therefore, it would be inaccurate to conclude that all these cases resulted from contraceptive failure."

Other reasons cited included danger to the life of the pregnant woman in 271 cases, grave injury to her physical health in 288 cases, grave injury to mental health in 358 cases, pregnancies resulting from rape in 27 cases, substantial risk of foetal abnormalities in 246 cases, and other reasons in 265 cases. The RTI response also provides a ward-wise break-up of abortion cases across Mumbai. K-West ward reported the highest number of MTP cases at 3,248, followed by F-North ward with 1,960 cases, S ward with 1,650 cases, R-North ward with

1,297 cases and G-South ward with 1,288 cases.

Religion-wise data shows that Hindu women accounted for 15,765 abortions, followed by Muslim women at 3,442 cases. The figures also include 649 Christian women, 354 Sikh women and 740 women from other communities. Apart from induced abortions, the city also reported 4,226 spontaneous abortions, or miscarriages, during the same period, according to the RTI response.

Kothari had also sought similar information through an RTI application in 2017. The response, covering the period between April 2017 and March 2018, recorded 19 maternal deaths linked to abortion. Of these, 13 deaths were reported among women aged 19-25 years, three in the 26-29 age group, and another three among women aged 30-35 years.

Short news

Gujarat ramps up mission back to school: Teachers task force tracks, reaches out to 6.4 lakh dropouts

Ahmedabad. (Agency)

A FEMALE municipal school teacher in Ahmedabad, who has been teaching for the past seven years at the city's western area, had an unusual deadline to meet within a fortnight last month during the annual summer vacation, before the new academic session commences on June 8.

A part of the task force of 5,200 teachers in Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation School Board, she was given a target—to track three students who dropped between Classes V and VIII in the 2025-26 academic session. The 5,200 teachers across over 450 municipal schools in Ahmedabad had tracked down around 10,000 students who dropped out between Classes I and VIII in the 2025-26 academic session.

These 10,000 children are a minuscule part of the massive 6.41 lakh dropouts across 44,000 government and grant-in-aid schools in Gujarat who have dropped out of these schools between Class I till X are being tracked down individually.

The workforce of nearly 2 lakh government teachers are tasked with tracking 6.41 lakh drop out students before the 24th edition of the annual school enrollment drive shala praveshotsav and kana kelavani, tentatively scheduled for June 18-20. In 2003-04, the then Chief Minister and present Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched Kanya Kelvani Mahotsav and Shala Praveshotsav. This year, the state government is focusing on the out-of-school children—estimated to be around 6.41 lakh.

Odisha man kills elephant and buries carcass in farmhouse, held

DHENKANAL. (Agency)

In a bid to protect his mango crop, a 61-year-old man allegedly electrocuted an elephant to death and buried its carcass in his farmhouse near Hindol town in Dhenkanal district. Police on Monday arrested farmhouse owner Pramod Raj along with excavator operator Sudhir Bhutia (24) and watchman Rajib Chaudhury (38) for their alleged involvement in killing the 30-year-old male elephant and burying its carcass. Raj committed the crime to prevent elephants from entering his farmhouse and feasting on mangoes, said police.

Divisional forest officer (DFO) of Dhenkanal Lalit Kumar Patra said Raj's farmhouse is solar fenced to prevent elephants from entering it. However, the accused electrified the entire fence to keep elephants at bay and save his mangoes. On Thursday night, Patra said, a male elephant tried to enter the farmhouse and was killed instantly after coming in contact with the high-voltage live-wire fence. After finding the elephant dead, Raj buried its carcass in his farmhouse on Friday morning with the help of an excavator without informing the local forest officials. The DFO said based on intelligence inputs, an aerial survey of the accused's farmhouse was conducted with a drone. After being confirmed of a burial site, a forest team raided the farmhouse on Sunday. The three accused were picked up and during interrogation, they confessed to the crime, said Patra.

On the day, the elephant's carcass was exhumed from the farmhouse in the presence of RCCF Sanjay Kumar Swain and officials of the forest, revenue and electricity departments. Later, veterinarians conducted the postmortem.

Forest officials have sealed the farmhouse and seized the excavator and a motorcycle used in the crime. A case has been registered in Hindol police station and the accused will be produced in court on Tuesday.

Broke relative killed elderly couple after they refused money, arrested: police

Chandigarh. (Agency)

Police in Ludhiana Monday said a financially broke relative killed the elderly couple whose decomposed bodies were recovered from their Janta Nagar residence on Saturday. Police Commissioner Swapan Sharma said they have arrested Pardeep Singh, 34 of New Angad Colony. The bodies of Kuldeep Singh, 69 and his wife Harmet Kaur, 71, were recovered from their house Saturday, and both had received multiple injuries inflicted with sharp-edged weapons.

Commissioner Sharma said Pardeep was known to the couple and was a distant relative of Kuldeep Singh. The accused used to visit the couple often at their house and on May 28 too, he had visited them to



ask for money. However, after Kuldeep Singh refused to give him money, he murdered the couple by attacking them with an iron girder and fled with Rs 60,000 cash, jewellery worn by the couple and their mobile phones, he said.

"The accused is broke. He had also mortgaged his car and wanted money to get it released," said Sharma. The police

officer added that the section 311 of BNS (robbery or dacoity with attempt to cause death or grievous hurt) has been added to the FIR registered at division number 6 police station for the offence of murder.

While the incident took around 6 pm on May 28, the couple's bodies were recovered almost 36 hours later on the morning of May 30. The crime came to fore after the couple's daughter Jyoti, who lives in Canada, kept calling them but received no response. Sources said that some relatives of the couple have claimed that when they called them, the accused impersonated as Kuldeep and spoke to them but they noticed startling difference in the voice and sensed something was wrong. "We are probing this angle if the accused impersonated the deceased and spoke."

ED alleges siphoning of school, government funds in Rs 645-crore bank fraud

Chandigarh. (Agency)

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Monday alleged that funds belonging to two private schools in Chandigarh and Panchkula were siphoned off along with money from bank accounts of the Haryana Government and the Chandigarh Administration in the alleged Rs 645-crore IDFC First Bank fraud case.

In a statement issued on Monday, the agency said its investigation had so far revealed the "embezzlement of Rs 645 crore from bank accounts of the Haryana Government, Chandigarh Administration and two private schools in Chandigarh and Panchkula maintained with IDFC First Bank".

The disclosure came days after the ED arrested real estate businessman Vikram Wadhwa under the Prevention of Money



Laundering Act (PMLA) in connection with the case. The ED alleged that Wadhwa, in connivance with co-accused Ribhav Rishi, Abhay Kumar, certain bank officials and government officials, was involved in the embezzlement of funds from government and other accounts.

"Vikram Wadhwa has been instrumental in generation, layering and concealment of

Proceeds of Crime and he received Proceeds of Crime amounting to more than Rs 70 Crore in his personal account in addition to huge amount of cash generated from embezzled fund," the agency said. According to the ED, Wadhwa subsequently invested the alleged proceeds of crime in various entities linked to him and also purchased several immovable properties. The agency said its probe has identified a network of intermediary shell entities, including Capco Fintech Services, Swastik Desh Projects, R.S. Traders and SRR Planning Gurus Pvt Ltd, which allegedly received embezzled funds directly from accounts of government departments. The money was then layered through multiple bank accounts of accused persons and associated entities, the ED claimed.

Long walk for water: How scarcity is breaking women in Maharashtra's tribal belt

Doctors say decades-long burden contributes to uterine prolapse, miscarriages, chronic pain and a growing health crisis.

Mumbai. (Agency)

The women of Vadvi Pada begin their daily search for water at the hottest hour of the day. At 3 pm, under the harsh summer sun, around 30 women and girls from the tribal hamlet in Maharashtra's Nandurbar district start their descent down a rocky hillside carrying empty steel pots. The nearest water source is nearly 3 km away. Hours later, they climb back up balancing 7-10 kg of water on their heads.

At the bottom of the hill lies a shallow natural pit. After four or five pots are filled, the water runs out, forcing women to wait nearly an hour for it to seep back into the ground. Nearby stagnant pools are also used by cattle. For generations, women across the tribal villages scattered through the Satpura ranges have spent much of their lives fetching water from distant streams, pits and wells. Now, doctors and health workers warn that this burden is taking a

severe toll on their bodies. Women interviewed across more than 20 remote hamlets in Akkalkuwa and Dhadgaon talukas described chronic pelvic pain, uterine prolapse, recurrent vaginal infections, miscarriages, kidney stones and debilitating back pain conditions they believe are linked to years of carrying heavy loads of water from childhood. Forty-year-old Bajubai Dhoma Vadvi of Khadkapani village says she has spent nearly her entire life carrying water. "As I grew older, the size of the pots increased too. By the time I was 12, I was carrying the same load as my mother," she says.

Story continues below. Subscribe to see fewer ads. Lying on a mat inside her thatched hut while her daughter-in-law Mamta Vadvi massages hot oil onto her abdomen and legs, Bajubai recounts years of pain. Mamta, 27, herself suffers from



chronic abdominal pain, recurrent vaginal infections and severe backache. "She cannot fetch water anymore because she cannot stand for long. Her uterus keeps slipping down," she says of Bajubai. Married at 13, Bajubai became pregnant soon after. "During my first pregnancy, I suffered a miscarriage while still carrying water in the ninth month. There was no choice. If women do not fetch water, the family has no water," she says. She continued carrying water through

subsequent pregnancies despite worsening symptoms. "I constantly felt heaviness and pressure in my lower abdomen. During my last pregnancies, my uterus would slip down repeatedly. My mother-in-law, who had the same condition, suggested pushing the uterus back using my finger. Somehow the children were born."

Bajubai later underwent multiple treatments for uterine prolapse, including the use of a vaginal pessary a ring-shaped device inserted to support the uterus. Two years ago, she underwent surgery after doctors detected a lump in her uterus.

The Indian Express visited 23 tribal hamlets across Akkalkuwa and Dhadgaon talukas, home to an estimated 28,000 people. Across these villages, women reported spending three to four hours daily fetching drinking water. In some settlements, they make multiple trips every day.

Ghaziabad Bakrid murder case: Uneasy calm in area amid heavy police deployment

The murder of teenager Surya Pratap Chauhan in Khoda has led to an encounter, arrests and wider police action. The case has left the locality marked by anger, silence and demands for accountability.

New Delhi.(Agency)
Nearly a week after 17-year-old Surya Pratap Chauhan was stabbed to death in Ghaziabad's Khoda area, the locality remains tense despite a series of major developments in the case. What began as a murder on May 28 has evolved into one of Uttar Pradesh's most closely watched criminal investigations, involving arrests, a police encounter, administrative action and a large-scale crackdown across the region. The killing of the teenager on Bakrid sparked widespread anger among residents and quickly became the focus of discussion across Ghaziabad and neighbouring districts. Although police have arrested several accused and the main accused, Asad, was killed in a police

encounter, normalcy has yet to return to Khoda. According to police, Surya was attacked around 3.30 pm on May 28 in Navneet Vihar following an alleged dispute linked to a motorcycle. Family members claim he was called to the location through a phone call and was then surrounded and attacked by Asad and his associates. He suffered multiple stab injuries and later died at a Noida hospital. The murder triggered protests and demands for strict action against all those involved. Police launched an intensive manhunt, arresting three accused while Asad remained absconding. A reward of Rs 50,000 was

announced for information leading to his arrest. The case took a dramatic turn on the night



of May 30-31 when police received information that Asad was attempting to collect money before fleeing. A joint team of Khoda and Indirapuram police

intercepted him. According to police, Asad opened fire during the operation, prompting retaliatory firing in which he sustained fatal injuries. One police officer was also injured. Police have since arrested Nawab, Farhan and Atif for their alleged roles in the conspiracy and attack. Another accused, Sarik Mewati, remains absconding and search operations continue.

ROAD NAMED AFTER SURYA
As public attention around the case grew, several political leaders and local representatives visited Surya Chauhan's family. Former BJP MLA Sangeet Som provided financial assistance of Rs 1 lakh, while BJP MLA Nandkishore Gurjar and Cabinet Minister Sunil Kumar

Sharma assured the family of justice. Former MLA Amarpal Sharma announced that a road or intersection in Khoda would be named after Surya Chauhan. He also said employment assistance would be provided to Surya's elder brother. The family recently immersed Surya's ashes in the Ganga at Haridwar. Despite the support received from public representatives and community members, family members say they are still awaiting complete justice and strict action against all accused. Following the encounter, authorities also initiated the proceedings against the residence linked to the family of the main accused, issuing a notice regarding alleged illegal construction and encroachment.

Crisis worsens at Delhi's Gulmohar Park, water contamination spreads across several lanes

New Delhi.(Agency)
More than a week after residents of South Delhi's Gulmohar Park began complaining of foul-smelling and contaminated water supply in parts of the colony, the crisis has now spread across several lanes, with households reporting illness, hospitalisation and acute shortage of clean water. even as repair work by the Delhi Jal Board (DJB) continues. According to residents, many families have stopped using piped water and are now dependent on DJB and private tankers as well as packaged drinking water. The latest crisis comes days after authorities inspected possible contamination points near Gate 2 and other parts of Gulmohar Park, developed in the early 1970s. Local MLA Satish Upadhyay — also the DJB vice-chairman — had earlier told The Indian Express that possible contamination sources included illegal makeshift toilets set up during construction activity behind some houses and an old pipeline near a drain close to Gate 2 that had not been properly sealed. Officials said the DJB later shifted focus to one of the colony's primary inlet zones after localised corrective measures failed to resolve the issue. They added that excavation near an earlier cave-in site revealed stagnant contaminated water, which could lead to sewage ingress into old pipelines through damaged joints and seepage points.

Prem Singh Dhingra (85), a resident, said he and his wife had both fallen ill. "The water was very dirty. But we had been using RO for years, so we continued using the water to brush our teeth and take bath... I developed diarrhoea and had to be hospitalised," he said. His 78-year-old wife, diagnosed with typhoid, is still in the hospital. "The water is still dirty and smelly. We are staying at our daughter's place in Uday Park till the situation is fixed at Gulmohar Park."

Eye on tackling undervaluation, stamp duty loss: Delhi tightens scrutiny of property registrations

New Delhi.(Agency)
To curb undervaluation of properties and ensure that government receives the correct amount of stamp duty, the revenue department has directed all sub-registrars and joint sub-registrars to closely scrutinise property registrations and take action to recover deficient amount if the declared property value is lower than the circle rates, particularly in cases involving basements in residential areas, officials said on Monday. The circle rate is the minimum price fixed by the state government below which a property cannot be sold, while a stamp duty is levied to register documents, like an agreement or transaction paper between two or more parties, with the registrar.

The circular, issued by the Divisional Commissioner's office, lays down the procedure to be followed under Section 47-A of the Indian Stamp Act, 1899, in cases where properties appear to be undervalued. Officials also said that the circular has been issued following a recent High Court order. According to the circular, under the Delhi Stamp (Prevention of Under-valuation of Instruments) Rules, 2007, owners must clearly specify both the plinth area (covered area) and built-up area (total physical footprint) of the property and the stamp duty will be calculated on the basis of these values, including the construction cost.

"In the case of partial sale of property, the valuation shall be proportional to the actual plinth area sold, and the stamp duty shall be determined accordingly," read the circular issued by the department. However, it is often observed that stamp duty is incorrectly computed on the maximum permissible plinth area instead of the actual built-up area, leading to undervaluation, it said.

Saket tragedy triggers MCD action: Owners of six buildings sent notices

Letters were sent to MCD regarding 200-300 such illegal structures by Mehrauli police station to MCD, BSES, and Delhi Jal Board in the Mehrauli-Chattarpur belt in the last three months.

New Delhi.(Agency)
Two days after a building collapse in Saidulajab area near the Saket Metro station in South Delhi killed six people, including five medical and engineering graduates, the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) launched a crackdown on Monday against illegal constructions and issued notices to owners of six buildings in the vicinity, said officials. Monday that the Delhi Police on two occasions in March had flagged ongoing illegal construction atop the four-storey building, which crashed on May 30. More than a dozen people — mostly medical and engineering graduates — were present inside a canteen adjacent to it, which was crushed in the collapse.

Six of them died. Even as construction of only three floors plus stilt parking is allowed, as per officials, a large number of buildings



— like the one that collapsed — are allegedly flouting the norms in the neighbourhood, which is home to a large number of students preparing for various competitive exams. Sources told that letters were sent to

MCD regarding 200 to 300 such illegal structures by Mehrauli police station to MCD, BSES, and Delhi Jal Board in the Mehrauli-Chattarpur belt in the last three months. A senior MCD official said, "We'll analyse what action has been taken against these units. At some places, notices may have been issued, some units may have been sealed, and at some places demolitions have been carried out." Close to the site of the incident stands another abandoned structure of five floors, which was also sealed by the MCD. "After it was sealed, authorities just scrapped some part of its porch and then removed the seal. It should have been razed completely," said a source on the condition of anonymity.

'There was no 16-hour study schedule, played sports': JEE Advanced AIR 10

New Delhi.(Agency)
On the days when his preparation for JEE (Advanced) took a toll on him, Sikka would step away from his desk. He would play chess, head out to play sports with friends, or simply leave the books behind for a few hours. "I tried studying 14-15 hours a day for two days," he recalled. "It didn't work for me. The cognitive load became too much. I couldn't process things properly and my problem-solving ability started going down," he told The Indian Express on Monday.

Among the 1,79,694 candidates who appeared for both papers of JEE (Advanced) 2026 on May 17, Sikka secured an All India Rank (AIR) 10

with a score of 311 out of 360 marks. The results, declared on Monday, placed him among the country's



highest-performing engineering aspirants. All three top rankers — Shubham Kumar, Kabir Chhillar, and Jatin Chahar — belong to the IIT Delhi

zone, which dominated the Common Rank List (CRL) this year. While Kumar scored 330 out of 360 marks, Chhillar received 329 marks. Chahar secured the third place with 319 marks.

For Sikka, who lives near South Extension and studied at Delhi Public School, R.K Puram, the journey to crack one of India's toughest examinations began much earlier, in Class 9.

Some of his friends had started preparing for competitive examinations, and he found himself drawn to the challenge. "I tried some problem-solving and liked the idea of solving difficult questions," he said. "I wanted to take it up as a challenge."

Manesar violence case: 3 workers get bail, court asks how families survived without their wages

New Delhi.(Agency)
Stating that demanding a salary hike to meet rising daily expenses is "not an offence itself", a Gurgaon court has granted bail to three factory workers arrested following the April 9 labour unrest in Manesar. The court also expressed grave concern for the workers' families, observing that it was a matter of "serious and sensible thought" as to how their children survived without wages while the men languished in jail.

Additional Sessions Judge Dr Gagan Geet Kaur passed three separate bail orders on May 30 for Shyambir (50), Vivek Kumar alias Bunty (24), and Raj Kumar (32). The three were arrested in connection with the violence that erupted on April 9, during a protest by workers demanding higher wages at Richa Global Exports Pvt. Ltd at the Industrial Model Township (IMT) area. The prosecution alleged that a mob of 200-250 protesting workers pelted stones at the company's managerial staff and police, set vehicles on fire, and caused injuries. The charges levelled against the accused included rioting, obstruction, causing damage to public and company property, and attempt to murder, with the police alleging the workers attacked officials with the "intention to kill". While the prosecution opposed bail, citing the severe nature of the charges, the court closely examined the specific roles attributed to the three men and the lack of substantial evidence: Vivek Kumar and Raj Kumar: The prosecution alleged both men were present at the spot, pelted stones with the intention to kill police officials, set a government motorcycle on fire, and were "captured in video damaging a

government vehicle". Shyambir: The police alleged he was part of a pre-planned conspiracy, citing his mobile tower location at a co-accused's house where plans were allegedly hatched to provoke workers via



inflammatory WhatsApp messages. The police also relied on a "photograph of a get-together of the applicant-accused with other co-accused". However, the judge did not find force in

the prosecution's immediate grounds for continued incarceration. Regarding Shyambir, the court held, "Except this, nothing incriminating has been shown against him... Prima facie... no incriminating evidence has been shown against applicant-accused till date".

For all three men, the court found no justification for further custody, explicitly recording in all three orders: "Admittedly, nothing is to be recovered from him". The court further noted that none of the applicants had a prior criminal background. Highlighting the systemic tragedy of the incarcerated labourers, the judge made strong observations about their prolonged custody. Shyambir had been in jail since April 13, while Vivek and Raj Kumar were incarcerated since the day of the incident on April 9.

CBSE Class 12 post-result portal inaccessible, left in lurch, say students amid OSM row

CBSE later opened the revaluation portal on June 2 and it is expected to be kept open until June 6 midnight.

New Delhi.(Agency)
Amid complaints over errors in this year's Class 12 board results linked to CBSE's On-Screen Marking (OSM), a digital evaluation system introduced for the first time this year, the Post-Result Activities portal — that was to become operational from Monday to address re-evaluation concerns — remained inaccessible throughout the day, claimed students and principals. Amid looming college admission and counselling deadlines, the delay in the re-evaluation has left students in lurch.

A CBSE official, speaking on condition of anonymity, told The Indian Express that the technical team was working to fix the website and oversee its rollout. "The portal will open soon. IIT Madras and IIT Kanpur teams are working closely with us to make the platform as robust as possible," the official said, acknowledging the inconvenience caused to students. CBSE later opened the revaluation portal on June 2 and it is expected to be kept open until June 6 midnight.

A principal of a private school in Southwest Delhi said students had been closely monitoring the portal since Monday morning. "All my students were waiting for the portal to open. We are just waiting, and they are all very worried," the Principal said. "Counselling for several colleges is about to begin. That is what is bothering the students."

Students say that repeated delays in re-evaluation have created uncertainty at a time when admission processes are beginning across institutions. For 17-year-old Kushal Jain, a Class 12 student who scored 97 marks each in Physics and Mathematics but 79 in Chemistry, the delay in re-evaluation of his Chemistry answer book has become a source of anxiety. "The registration for Joint Admission Counselling (JAC) Delhi for admission to engineering and B Arch programme closes on June 9. My counselling starts on June 2. CBSE keeps extending the dates and students are stuck in limbo... my revised score may give me a better chance in the admission process. But delayed revision won't help," he said. The latest delay comes after multiple glitches were faced by students while trying to access their scanned answer books.

NEWS BOX

GT players evacuated as short circuit causes team bus breakdown after IPL final

NEW DELHI. (Agency)

As the fireworks lit up the Ahmedabad sky and Royal Challengers Bengaluru players celebrated yet another IPL triumph, one man sat quietly in the stands, soaking in the moment. Abhishek Pathrod had found a spot close to the presentation stage, eagerly waiting for his childhood friend Rajat Patidar. With the coveted trophy in his hands, Patidar walked straight towards his childhood friend after the ceremony. The two embraced, their eyes moist with emotion. It was a hug that carried years of shared dreams, struggles and countless hours spent playing cricket together. "Dekha, jeet gaye. Kar diya na maine," Patidar told Abhishek before pulling him in for another hug.

Abhishek, who had played a significant amount of junior cricket alongside Patidar, couldn't resist reminding his friend of the remarkable journey. "Yes bhai, welcome, injury replacement to two-time IPL-winning



captain," he replied, triggering laughter from both. Two years ago, Rajat Patidar was just another player in the RCB dressing room. He shared space with superstars like Virat Kohli, Faf du Plessis and several other big names, but had little identity of his own on the IPL stage. Patidar is now the only captain after MS Dhoni and Rohit Sharma to win back-to-back IPL titles as captain.

"Usko to record pata nahi tha ki Rohit aur Dhoni ke record ko barabar kiya. His teammates told him. I remember when he took the captaincy, all of us friends got together and asked him, 'bhai 17 saal se nahi jite, pressure ka kya?'. He had smiled and said, 'kya pata iss baar jeet jayein'. He went on to lead the team to the IPL title," Pathrod remembered. Leading RCB is a completely different challenge from captaining a team like Mumbai Indians or Chennai Super Kings. The franchise carried the burden of a 17-year trophy drought. But Patidar not only embraced the captaincy, but he also elevated his batting alongside it - something many great captains have struggled to achieve.

Patidar's childhood coach and mentor, Amay Khurasiya believes the batter always possessed leadership qualities, regardless of his lack of captaincy experience.

I trained my binoculars on Virat Kohli right after the IPL final. I couldn't find him



Ahmedabad. (Agency)

The report was filed. The last line was sent to my teammates at the desk, the laptop shut. There were still a few balls left in the IPL 2026 final, and I had already reached for the binoculars because when Royal Challengers Bengaluru crossed the line, there was only one place worth looking at.

I trained them on him well before the winning six. He hit it: 75 off 42 balls, nine fours, three sixes, the last of them sealing the chase with two overs to spare. And then I waited. He blew a flying kiss toward the stands where Anushka Sharma sat. He raised his bat, briefly, at the crowd. And then he walked across to shake hands, opponents first, then teammates, in the manner of a man who had known all evening how this would end. I kept the binoculars on him, waiting for the knees to buckle, for the chest to open, for the Kohli I knew to come flooding through. The thing about Virat Kohli is that he celebrates a wicket like he has just won a World Cup. Arms spread, chest out, roaring at no one and everyone, as though the act of a batsman losing his stumps is the most significant event in human history. It is instinct, not performance — or perhaps, with Kohli, the two have always been the same thing. For seventeen years at Royal Challengers Bengaluru, that intensity was the heartbeat of the franchise. When he hurt, the team hurt. When he wanted it, you could feel it from the stands. Which is why anyone watching closely, on television or from the press box in Ahmedabad, spent much of the IPL 2026 final searching for that man and finding someone else entirely. To understand why that mattered, you had to have been in the same stadium twelve months earlier.

In the 2025 final against Punjab Kings, Kohli had started crying before the last delivery was bowled. Standing along the boundary rope, he sank to his knees, tears running freely. It was not a celebration, not yet. It was the release of 17 years of weight, the accumulated pressure of four runner-up finishes and a franchise that had taken everything he had and kept asking for more.

Virat Kohli, RCB fired up as Mo Bobat calls for unprecedented IPL feat

IPL 2026: Royal Challengers Bengaluru ignited dreams of an unprecedented IPL three-peat after team director Mo Bobat delivered a stirring dressing-room rallying cry following their 2026 title victory over Gujarat Titans.

Ahmedabad. (Agency)

Royal Challengers Bengaluru might have just won their second consecutive Indian Premier League trophy, but the franchise has no intention of stopping. After ending an agonizing 18-year title drought last year, the team has well and truly gelled into a powerhouse, and they are now chasing a feat no other franchise has ever achieved.

Delivering a fiery speech in the dressing room following RCB's dominant victory over Gujarat Titans in the IPL 2026 final in Ahmedabad on Sunday, team director Mo Bobat wasted no time shifting the

goalposts. "I've got one last thing to say," Bobat announced to a captivated dressing room. "No team's ever won three in a row. Skipper, what do you reckon? Three in a row?" The question instantly shifted the vibe of the room. Virat Kohli and the rest of the squad erupted, completely hyped up by the prospect of charting unprecedented territory. Skipper Rajat Patidar answered with absolute certainty: "Definitely." SILENCING THE AUCTION CRITICS

Achieving a three-peat is an exceedingly rare feat in elite sport, with Australia's dominant men's cricket era between 1999 and 2007 standing as the most famous modern template. To even be in a position to replicate that greatness, Bobat stressed that building the right foundation from the ground up was essential. Speaking to reporters in a virtual press conference on Monday, Bobat reflected on the strategic choices that built this championship core during the previous mega auction. At the time, critics were far from impressed. "It's

funny when we finished our mega auction, I think we were ranked second bottom for the quality of the squad by quite a lot of broadcasters and a lot of experts," Bobat recalled. "Many people had us to finish



last. "Rather than letting outside noise derail them, the management backed their calculated blueprint." That was certainly nothing that affected our thought process or psychology," Bobat asserted. "We were clear on what we were trying to build as a squad in terms of team structure. We were quite clear

on the attributes and characteristics that we wanted from players—a combination of skill and character." Bobat also noted that while franchises cannot completely win a tournament at the auction table, they can certainly lose one, explaining that "it's quite hard to undo things that you then either regret... once you've got through your first mega auction."

THE INFINITE GOAL

A massive pillar of RCB's unprecedented back-to-back success has been the calm leadership of Rajat Patidar. Stepping into the captaincy role, Patidar has prioritised collaboration over autocracy. "I always like to back my instincts, but I also like to go and communicate with the coaches and the experienced players, where I can get ideas," Patidar explained. "Overall, this is my way of captaincy." With a robust leadership group backing his instincts, the franchise is ready to transition from a double-champion to an absolute dynasty. Bobat believes that a truly great team must never get comfortable with past success.

Roland Garros Day 10 Order of Play: Zverev and next-gen stars take centre stage

Roland Garros moves into a loaded day with Alexander Zverev, Elena Svitolina and Joao Fonseca all on the schedule. The draw also carries a Ukrainian derby, a late-night clash of disruptors and Indian interest in boys doubles.

MIAMI. (Agency)

Day 10 at Roland Garros marks the start of the quarterfinal phase, bringing with it a stacked lineup featuring top seeds, breakthrough performers, and blockbuster matchups across the draw. Second seed Alexander Zverev headlines the action, while teenage sensation Joao Fonseca continues his giant-killing run on

the Paris clay. The women's singles draw also takes centre stage with seventh seed Elena Svitolina set for an all-Ukrainian quarterfinal clash against Marta Kostyuk. Kostyuk enters the contest on the back of a stunning straight-sets victory over four-



time champion Iga Swiatek, one of the biggest upsets of the tournament so far. Action on Court Philippe-Chatrier begins at 2:30 PM IST with eighth seed

Mirra Andreeva taking on 18th seed Sorana Cirstea in the opening match of the day session. The schedule then moves into the much-anticipated Svitolina-Kostyuk encounter, before second seed Alexander Zverev takes on Rafael Nadal, who has impressed with a series of hard-fought wins to reach this stage. The night session features another intriguing showdown as Novak Djokovic's conqueror Joao Fonseca meets Jakub Mensik, both emerging as breakthrough names of the tournament after taking down established stars. Meanwhile, India will also be represented in the junior category, with Arnab Paparkar competing in the boys' doubles second round against the top-seeded pair. The day's action also spans across Court Suzanne-Lenglen, where several top seeds from the women's, men's, and mixed doubles draws continue their pursuit of the title.

Franchise cricket's boom forces ICC to take action on jam-packed calendar

BUDAPEST. (Agency)

Alarmed by the rapid proliferation of franchise T20 leagues across the globe, the ICC Board has approved the formation of a dedicated committee to examine how franchise cricket can coexist with the international calendar without disrupting the existing structure. The move reflects growing concerns among member boards that the expansion of domestic leagues is increasingly putting pressure on bilateral commitments and the ICC's Future Tours Programme (FTP). The issue has gained urgency as franchise leagues continue to multiply across cricketing markets. Alongside the IPL, tournaments such as the SA20, ILT20, Big Bash League (BBL), Bangladesh Premier League (BPL), Lanka Premier League (LPL), The Hundred and the Caribbean Premier League (CPL) occupy significant windows in the cricket calendar, while the European T20 Premier League is set to launch later this year. The Board expressed concern regarding the growing expanse of franchise cricket and resolved to form a committee to assess the



harmonisation of franchise cricket with the international calendar within the current structure," the ICC said in a statement. The governing body has long grappled with balancing player availability, national commitments and the commercial growth of franchise competitions. Previous discussions within ICC committees have included proposals to cap the number of leagues a player can participate in during a

season while ensuring international obligations remain the priority. The concern is particularly acute for smaller cricketing nations, where players increasingly view franchise cricket as a more lucrative and sustainable career path than international cricket. Recent years have seen several high-profile players step away from international cricket to focus on franchise opportunities. West Indies batter Nicholas Pooran retired from international cricket before turning 30, while South Africa's Heinrich Klaasen also opted out of national duties despite remaining one of the most sought-after T20 players in the world. Former West Indies spinner Sunil Narine similarly spent much of his career prioritising franchise commitments over representing his national side. With new leagues emerging and existing tournaments expanding, the ICC fears that an unchecked franchise calendar could further undermine bilateral cricket and complicate scheduling under the FTP. India remains an exception, with the BCCI continuing to prohibit its contracted first-class.

Arnaldi outlasts Tiafoe in 5-hour epic to seal historic Italian trio in Paris

Roland Garros: Matteo Arnaldi outlasted Frances Tiafoe in a five-set French Open epic to reach the quarter-finals. The comeback completed a rare Italian trio in the last eight and set up a meeting with Matteo Berrettini.

Paris. (Agency)

Matteo Arnaldi produced one of the matches of the French Open to become the third Italian man in the quarter-finals on Monday, beating American 19th seed Frances Tiafoe 7-6(5) 6-7(5) 3-6 7-6(3) 6-4 in a late-night contest on Court Suzanne-Lenglen that lasted five hours and 26 minutes. The result gave Italy a notable presence in the



last eight, with Arnaldi joining Matteo Berrettini and Flavio Cobolli despite Jannik Sinner's surprise second-round exit. Arnaldi, ranked 104 in the world, will now face compatriot Berrettini for a place in the semi-finals. Arnaldi had looked finished when he fell 4-1 behind in the fourth set, with Tiafoe in control and the match slipping away.

Instead, under the Paris floodlights and with the crowd fully engaged, he found another push, dragged the contest into a deciding set and then came through on his third match point after a night of fierce ball-striking and punishing rallies. "It's a dream to be here. Today in the third set I was so tired," Arnaldi said after the match. "We live to play these

matches, I always wanted to play like this at night at Roland Garros. It was not tennis, just something else, with everything we had. Someone had to win. Fortunately, it was me tonight." Arnaldi has now spent 17 hours and 42 minutes on court in Paris, the most by any player reaching the quarter-finals of a Grand Slam since the ATP Tour began recording match times in 1991. He had already needed more than five hours to get through his third-round match, and again he had to rely on endurance as much as skill.

Against Tiafoe's power, the Italian survived through relentless defence, chasing from corner to corner and repeatedly turning defence into attack. The match stretched both men to exhaustion before Tiafoe finally broke, sending a backhand into the net to end it. For Arnaldi, it was a comeback from the edge and a place in the last eight; for Italy, it was another marker in a strong Paris run, with three men in the quarter-finals and an all-Italian meeting between Arnaldi and Berrettini now set to decide one semi-final spot.

PV Sindhu wins Indonesia Open opener, potential An Se-young clash ahead

NEW DELHI. (Agency)

India's P. V. Sindhu made a confident start to her Indonesia Open campaign, defeating Thailand's Busanan Ongbamrunphan in straight games to advance to the Round of 16 on Tuesday. The former world champion prevailed 25-23, 21-16 in a match that was far more competitive than the final scoreline suggested. Sindhu looked set for a comfortable opening-game victory after establishing a healthy lead, but a penalty for delaying the restart allowed Busanan a route back into the contest. The Thai shuttler seized the opportunity, clawing back the deficit and turning what appeared to be a routine game into a tense battle. However, Sindhu showcased her experience when it mattered most. Every time Busanan threatened to wrestle momentum away, the Indian responded with aggressive attacking play and greater consistency. Sindhu eventually regained control to close out the



opening game before carrying that momentum into the second, sealing the match in straight games and moving one step closer to a potential rematch against world No. 1 An Se-young. The South Korean star, who defeated Sindhu in the quarterfinals of the Singapore Open last week, is expected to be the Indian's next major hurdle in Jakarta. However, An must first negotiate her opening-round clash against Turkey's Neslihan Arin before any meeting with Sindhu can materialise. With Tuesday's victory, Sindhu extended her remarkable dominance over Busanan to 21 wins in 22 meetings. The head-to-head record remains one of the most lopsided among top-level women's singles players in world badminton. While Busanan once again pushed Sindhu with her defensive resilience and court coverage, the Indian's superior attacking game ultimately proved decisive in the key moments. OTHER INDIAN SHUTTLEERS IN ACTION

India will have several more players in action as the opening rounds continue in Jakarta. Men's singles star Lakshya Sen, who reached the quarterfinals of the Singapore Open last week, is scheduled to face home favourite and world No. 13 Alwi Farhan later in the day. Former world No. 1 shuttler Pornpawee Chochuwong.

New income tax regime: Can you claim deduction for interest on Home Loan? Explained

New Delhi, (Agency)

One common question most taxpayers will grapple with when they file their income tax return is if they can claim a deduction for home loan interest on their property under the new tax regime. The simple answer to this question is that under the new tax regime deduction for home loan interest on self-occupied property is not available.

However, taxpayers can still claim a deduction on interest paid on a let out property. For a let out property, a deduction is allowed with no ceiling limit for loan interest against rental income from such property in the new tax regime. A taxpayer filing ITR under the new tax regime is not allowed to claim interest deduction against self-occupied property. However, for a let out property, the entire home loan interest repayment can be claimed as a deduction without any limit against the rental income under the new tax regime. Under the new tax regime, even if the interest deduction is allowed against the rental income, if there is any loss under the head house property then it cannot be set off against other income. Such losses cannot be carried forward to the future assessment years. Since the losses cannot be carried forward, the tax benefits on home loan interest are limited to the rental income from house property.

Let out property and tax deduction

According to the Income Tax India portal, "Income is taxable under the head 'house property' if it arises from a property consisting of any building or land appurtenant thereto." For the computation of income under this head, a house property has been classified into three categories:

Let-out property

Self-occupied property

Deemed let-out house property

Any rental income from a property owned by a taxpayer whether it is residential or commercial will be taxed under 'income from house property' unless it is used for their own business or is regarded as business activity. Any home that is rented out to a tenant for the whole or part of the year is considered a let-out house property for income tax purposes. For taxation, the rental income is classified under 'income from house property' and qualifies you for tax deductions. You can claim the entire home loan interest repayment as a deduction without any limit against the rental income of the let out property under the new tax regime. However, the tax benefits on home loan interest are limited to the rental income from house property.

ED conducts searches against Vedanta Group in FEMA probe

New Delhi, (Agency)

The Enforcement Directorate has conducted searches at premises linked to Vedanta Group as part of an investigation into alleged violations under the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), officials said on Tuesday. The searches were carried out on Monday at multiple locations, including Delhi and Rajasthan, as the federal agency initiated a foreign exchange violation probe against the global mining conglomerate promoted by billionaire Anil Agarwal. Officials said the investigation pertains to alleged contraventions under FEMA's civil provisions. Confirming the ED action, a Vedanta spokesperson said the company was cooperating with investigators. "The company is extending full cooperation to the authorities and are providing all information sought." The company remains committed to compliance with all applicable laws and regulations. "As the matter is currently under regulatory process, we are unable to comment further at this stage," the spokesperson said.

Vedanta Ltd is a major producer of metals and critical minerals, with operations spread across India, Africa, the Middle East and East Asia.

India's public cloud spending set to reach USD 17.5 billion in 2026: Gartner

New Delhi, (Agency)

India's spending on public cloud services is expected to rise 28.1% to USD 17.5 billion in 2026 from USD 13.7 billion in 2025, driven by growing demand for artificial intelligence (AI)-ready infrastructure, application modernisation and digital transformation, according to Gartner.

The research and advisory firm said organisations across India are increasing investments in cloud technologies as cloud adoption becomes more closely linked to business objectives such as improving productivity, accelerating innovation, enhancing customer experience and strengthening resilience. "Strong enterprise demand for AI-ready cloud infrastructure is redefining cloud investment priorities in India, driving the next phase of public cloud spending growth," said Ashish Banerjee, Sr Principal Analyst at Gartner. "This is further fueled by rising demand for application modernisation, digital sovereignty, digital service delivery and more scalable, consumption-based IT models, as organisations move toward more advanced and strategic cloud use cases," he added. According to Gartner, infrastructure-as-a-service (IaaS) and platform-as-a-service (PaaS) will be the fastest-growing segments of India's public cloud market in 2026. IaaS spending is forecast to grow 40% to USD 6.26 billion in 2026 from USD 4.47 billion in 2025, while PaaS spending is expected to increase 25.4% to USD 6.41 billion from USD 5.11 billion. The rising need for AI-ready infrastructure, including GPUs, high-performance compute, high-speed networking, scalable storage and always-on inference capacity.

Not UK, not Germany: This Asian country has overtaken India as 6th largest stock market

South Korea has moved past India in global stock market rankings after a sharp rally in AI-linked chipmakers. The shift underlines how investors are favouring markets tied to the AI supply chain while Indian equities face near-term pressures.

New Delhi, (Agency)

Days after Taiwan pushed India out of the world's top five stock markets, another Asian economy has now moved ahead of India. South Korea has overtaken India to become the world's sixth-largest stock market, powered by a massive rally in artificial intelligence-linked semiconductor companies. Data compiled by Bloomberg shows that the total market capitalisation of South Korean-listed companies has surged 86% this year to reach \$5 trillion. In comparison, India's market value has fallen to \$4.8 trillion. The development

marks another setback for Dalal Street, which have been struggling with foreign investor outflows, a weakening rupee, rising energy costs and slowing earnings growth. The contrast is striking because India's economy remains more than twice the size of South Korea's.

According to International Monetary Fund estimates cited by Bloomberg, India's economy is expected to be worth around \$4.15 trillion this year, compared to South Korea's \$1.93 trillion economy.

Yet when it comes to stock market value, South Korea has now moved ahead.

AI BOOM DRIVES SOUTH KOREA'S RISE

The biggest reason behind South Korea's jump in the rankings is the global artificial intelligence boom. Bloomberg reported that technology giants Samsung Electronics and SK Hynix have become the driving force behind the country's stock market rally. The two companies, both major suppliers of memory chips used in AI systems and data centres, have recently joined the \$1 trillion market-cap

club. Their sharp rise has helped push South Korea's benchmark Kospi index to record levels and transformed investor sentiment towards the country.

South Korea's ascent follows a similar



trend seen in Taiwan, where chip giant Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company (TSMC) helped lift the island nation's stock market above India's just days ago. Together, Taiwan and South Korea have become two of the biggest beneficiaries of the global race to build artificial intelligence infrastructure.

Gerald Gan, Chief Investment Officer at Reed Capital Partners, told Bloomberg that the rally highlights the growing importance of South Korean technology companies in the next phase of technological innovation. "It also reflects a broader shift in global capital flows toward major Asian economies, which were once overshadowed by Western markets but are now playing an increasingly prominent role in shaping the future of technology and growth," he said. **MORE THAN JUST AI**

Bloomberg reported that South Korea's stock market has also benefited from domestic

reforms. President Lee Jae Myung's push for corporate governance reforms has coincided with the AI investment boom, creating a powerful combination for investors. The Kospi index has already crossed Lee's earlier target of 5,000 points, and some Wall Street analysts are now projecting even higher levels.

Why your society maintenance bill could soon be Rs 3,000 higher every month

New Delhi, (Agency)

If you live in a gated community or apartment complex, your monthly maintenance bill may soon become noticeably higher. Across parts of Delhi-NCR, many housing societies are reviewing their maintenance charges after a recent increase in minimum wages for workers such as security guards, gardeners, cleaners, electricians and plumbers. According to a Times of India report, several residential communities have either already increased maintenance charges or are preparing residents for higher monthly bills in the coming months.

WHY MAINTENANCE CHARGES ARE GOING UP

The biggest reason behind the increase is the higher wage bill that societies now have to bear following the latest labour code revisions. Housing societies depend on a large workforce to manage daily operations, including security, housekeeping, landscaping, electrical maintenance and plumbing services.

With minimum wages rising, the cost of running these services has also increased significantly. Many resident welfare associations (RWAs) and apartment owners' associations



(AOAs) say they have little choice but to pass some of the additional cost on to residents. In some cases, maintenance charges are expected to rise by around 25% to 30%, potentially adding as much as Rs 3,000 a month to household expenses.

RISING COSTS BEYOND SALARIES

The wage increase is not the only challenge facing housing societies.

According to the report, many communities are also dealing with higher diesel costs, which have increased the expense of running backup power generators during electricity outages. At the same time, inflation and rising operational expenses are putting additional pressure on society budgets.

As a result, management committees are exploring various ways to reduce costs, including switching to LED lighting, promoting energy-efficient practices and investing in solar power systems for common areas.

SOME SOCIETIES LOOKING FOR ALTERNATIVES

Not every housing society is immediately passing on the entire cost increase to residents. The report says several apartment associations are trying to absorb part of the additional expense by cutting electricity consumption and improving operational efficiency.

Rupee rises 16 paise to 95.03 against US dollar in early trade

MUMBAI, (Agency)

The rupee appreciated 16 paise to 95.03 against US dollar in early trade on Tuesday, as the market weighed India's strong domestic fundamentals against ongoing geopolitical uncertainty. Forex traders said the USD/INR pair opened on a positive note this morning on a slight risk off sentiment. However, the uncertainty surrounding West Asia continues to cast a shadow over financial markets and energy prices. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened at 95.16 against the US dollar, then touched 95.03 in early trade, up 16 paise from its previous close. On Monday, the rupee depreciated 34 paise to close at 95.19 against the US dollar. Market participants are now turning their attention to two key events closer to home -- the RBI policy decision scheduled for June 5, the



second event is the ongoing trade dialogue between India and the United States, CR Forex Advisors MD Amit Pabari said. A US delegation led by Assistant US Trade Representative Brendan Lynch will begin discussions with Indian officials in New Delhi this week as both countries work toward finalising a trade agreement. "Markets will closely monitor any progress on tariff-related issues and broader trade

cooperation," he said. Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading at 99.19, down 0.01 per cent. Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, was trading down 0.59 per cent USD 94.42 per barrel in futures trade. On the domestic equity market front, Sensex declined 296.19 points to 73,971.30 in early trade, while the Nifty dropped 103.30 points to 23,272.25. Foreign institutional investors offloaded equities worth Rs 3,911.68 crore on a net basis on Monday, according to exchange data. On the domestic macroeconomic front, India's industrial production expanded by 4.9 per cent in April, while manufacturing output grew 6.2 per cent, matching its budget estimate.

Why LPG prices haven't risen despite global supply costs surging

Indian households continue to pay lower LPG rates even as global supply costs surge. The gap is being absorbed through subsidies and mounting under-recoveries at oil companies.

New Delhi, (Agency)

Even as global LPG prices have surged in recent months, Indian households have been largely shielded from the increase, with the government and state-owned oil companies absorbing a significant portion of the cost, government sources told India. According to data shared by government sources, the estimated cost of supplying a domestic LPG cylinder is currently around Rs 1,200. However, households covered under the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) are paying just Rs 613 per cylinder after subsidy support. This means nearly Rs 587

per cylinder is being absorbed through a combination of government support and under-recoveries borne by oil marketing companies (OMCs). The figures come at a time when global LPG prices have risen sharply due to supply disruptions in the Gulf region and tensions around the Strait of Hormuz, a key route for global energy shipments. Despite these pressures, domestic LPG prices for households have remained unchanged. Government sources said the cost of LPG supply has increased by nearly two-fifths over the past few months as international benchmark prices climbed. The Saudi Contract Price (CP) for propane, which serves as the benchmark for India's LPG imports, rose from \$525 per tonne in January to \$750 per tonne in April. The sharp increase in global prices has put pressure on India's fuel subsidy system because the country imports a significant portion of its LPG requirements. Yet consumers have largely

been protected from the increase. According to the data, even households that do not receive Ujjwala support continue to pay less than the actual supply cost.

The price of a domestic LPG cylinder for



general consumers stands at around Rs 913, well below the estimated supply cost of Rs 1,200. The gap between the market cost and the retail selling price has resulted in mounting under-recoveries for oil marketing companies.

Government sources told India Today that OMCs faced domestic LPG under-recoveries of Rs 41,338 crore during FY25. The situation is expected to become even more challenging this year.

For FY26, under-recoveries are estimated to rise to around Rs 60,000 crore following the recent increase in international LPG prices. To ease some of the burden, government compensation to oil marketing companies for FY26 is projected at around Rs 30,000 crore, according to the data. The figures also highlight how Indian LPG prices compare with neighbouring countries. According to the data shared with India Today, households in Sri Lanka pay around Rs 1,241 for an LPG cylinder, while prices are around Rs 1,207 in Nepal and Rs 1,046 in Pakistan. In comparison, Indian households pay around Rs 913 for a domestic LPG cylinder, while beneficiaries under the Ujjwala scheme pay only Rs 613.

Sharvari Wagh

Wows Fans With Her Piano Skills, Recreates 'Maskara' From Main Vapas Aaunga

Actress Sharvari has found a new way to express her love for her song "Maskara" from her upcoming film "Main Vaapas Aaunga" as she showcased her talent by playing the song on the piano and stated that she is "finding new ways to obsess" over it. Sharvari shared a reel video of herself dressed in an all-black ensemble. In the clip, the actress is seen sitting and playing Vedang Raina's bit on the piano. "A piano, 10 free minutes in between shoot, and a little bit of #Maskara.. Had to try.. tbh just finding new ways to obsess over this part of Maskara #MainVaapasAaunga Releasing in cinemas on 12th June," she wrote as the caption. The song has vocals by Vedang and Nilanjana Ghosh. "Maskara" shows how the feelings of young love haven't changed over time. For Sharvari's character Jiya, it's all sparkle and mischief. She



dances through the feeling, teasing it, turning her butterflies into something bold and fun.

For Vedang's character Keenu, it is soft, honest, and vulnerable, as he quietly understands what she is playfully hiding. Main Vaapas Aaunga is set in Imtiaz Ali's dreamy world of love and longing. The film is set in Punjab predating the Partition of India, and tells the story of 2 lovers. The film features the architectural ruins of Punjab.

It stars Diljit Dosanjh, Naseeruddin Shah, Sharvari, and Vedang. Produced by Applause Entertainment and Mohit Choudhary and Shibasish Sarkar of Window Seat Films, the film releases in cinemas on 12th June 2026.

Talking about Sharvari, she began her career as an assistant director for Luv Ranjan and Sanjay Leela Bhansali in 2015, before making her acting debut in the war drama series The Forgotten Army – Azaadi Ke Liye in 2020 by Kabir Khan. The actress was then seen in the dud Bunty Aur Babli 2 in 2021. After which she was seen in the comedy horror film Munjya in 2024.



R Madhavan's Wife Sarita Calls Him 'Wonderful Husband And Father' In Birthday Wish: 'You Make Us Proud'



Actor R Madhavan, who turned 56 years old on Monday, received a heartfelt birthday wish from his better half, Sarita Birje.

Sarita penned an emotional note on her official Insta handle, in which she called Madhavan a "wonderful husband and amazing father".

She went on to add that she and their son, Vedaant, are keen admirers of his strength, kindness, and commitment. Dropping a video montage of a few unseen moments with the 'Rehnaa Hai Terre Dil Mein' actor, she wrote on the photo-sharing app, "Happy Birthday to my wonderful husband! And an amazing father, we are so grateful for the love, guidance, and support you give our family every day. You make us incredibly proud with all the hard work, dedication, and accomplishments you have achieved. (sic)".

"We admire your strength, kindness, and commitment, and we are so lucky to have you in our lives. Wishing you a birthday filled with happiness, love, and all the joy you deserve. love you," Sarita went on to add.

Several members from the entertainment industry, such as Shilpa Shirodkar, Bipasha Basu, Raghav Sachar, and, others used the comment section to wish Madhavan on his special day.

Additionally, his 'De De Pyaar De 2' co-star Rakul Preet Singh also wrote on her Insta Stories, "Happy Birthday @actormaddy... I've always admired your work, and I'm so grateful to have had the opportunity to work with you and learn from you. You're not only a remarkable artist but also an amazing human being."

"Here's to many more memorable roles, beautiful stories, and a year filled with joy, peace, good health, great food, and everything that makes you happy. Wishing you a wonderful birthday and an incredible year ahead!", she added. Moreover, director Vignesh Shivan added, "To an intelligent, Apolline, Polymathic, Erudite, handsome, inspiring & successful gentleman wishing a year that's filled only with astounding success and abundant happiness... Happy birthday to you @actormaddy sir #RMadhavan lots of love & respect (sic)."

'My Wife Never Left Me': Bobby Deol Praises Tania Deol, Says She Ran House Financially When He Had No Work



Bobby Deol has been enjoying a strong professional resurgence in recent years after making a comeback with his impactful performance in several projects, including Animal and The Ba***ds of Bollywood. This marks a sharp turnaround from a long period of professional lull, during which he also faced personal struggles, including alcohol addiction and other challenges. In a recent conversation with Rajat Sharma on Aap Ki Adalat, Bobby opened up about that difficult phase in his life. He admitted that during his career slump, he turned to alcohol as a way of coping with feelings of failure and self-doubt. He credited his wife Tania Deol for helping him overcome alcohol addiction. He also rubbished rumours that she left him during his low phase, saying that she always stood by him.

Bobby Deol On Battling Alcohol Addiction

Bobby shared that his wife, Tania, played a crucial role during those tough years, even managing household responsibilities and finances while he had no work. He revealed that a turning point came when his children began questioning him, which motivated him to take control of his life and work on himself.

"When you give up, you get into self-pity. It's human nature. You feel your world is over, no one likes you, and then you get addicted to a few things which help sedate you. Even my father loved to drink, and I too started drinking and got addicted. But my wife helped me out of it," said Bobby Deol.

"If Tanya wasn't in my life, I wouldn't be sitting here today. She took care of our house financially. She was working and bearing all the expenses at home. It was when my children started asking why I was always sitting at home and their mother would go to the office that something snapped within me and I decided to work on myself," he said.

Bobby Deol Rubbishes Rumours Of Wife Tania Walking Out Of Marriage During His Bad Phase

The actor also addressed rumours suggesting that his wife had left him during his difficult phase, dismissing them as completely false. He clarified that although she would often warn him about his drinking, she never walked out of the marriage and stood by him throughout.

Katrina Kaif

Shares Glimpses Of Her 'Amazing' May, Drops Pictures With Vicky Kaushal And Vihaan

Katrina Kaif has just posted a series of pictures on her social media, and we can't keep calm looking at the cuteness. The actress has taken to her Instagram to give fans a peek into how her month of May went, and we surely know that she had fun. The actress attached her post with a long caption explaining each of the pictures that she shared. Putting out the post, Katrina Kaif wrote, "May..... you've been amazing" and continued explaining the pictures in the carousel. Explaining the first few pictures, in which she is looking absolutely dapper in an all-black outfit, the actress wrote, "Whichever city I go to, my search for the best hot chocolate is on..... happy to say that this is the best one ever...." Sharing a few more pictures featuring Vicky Kaushal, his birthday cake, and more, the actress added, "Happy Family, but mummy has a strange hairstyle" The actress also gave a glimpse of her life with her baby boy, Vihaan. The actress is seen holding a storybook in her hand. Finally, the last picture in the carousel is a screenshot of the song Naa Pushde. Talking about it, Katrina wrote, "I discovered this song all on my own... absolutely nobody told me about it"

About Katrina Kaif and Vicky Kaushal

Katrina Kaif and Vicky Kaushal tied the knot on December 9, 2021, in a private yet grand wedding ceremony at Six Senses Fort Barwara in Rajasthan after dating for nearly two years. Over the years, the couple have kept their relationship and personal life private.

The couple first announced their pregnancy in September 2025 with a soft black-and-white Polaroid-style picture on Instagram. In the photo, Vicky was seen lovingly holding Katrina close while she cradled her baby bump. Their caption read, "On our way to start the best chapter of our lives, with hearts full of joy and gratitude. ॐ"

Months later, in November 2025, Katrina and Vicky announced the birth of their baby boy with another joint statement. Without revealing the baby's face, the couple shared that they had welcomed "our bundle of joy" and thanked everyone for the love and blessings pouring in. The couple later revealed their son's name as Vihaan Kaushal in January 2026 while sharing the first glimpse of him online. Since then, Katrina has largely stayed away from the spotlight, embracing motherhood privately.



We all know how spices like haldi and dhania can rev up a dish, but the culinary benefits apart, did you know spices can also work wonders for the skin and hair?



What your grandmother said has come true, with more people realizing the benefits of Indian spices in fighting acne, clearing clogged pores and enhancing the complexion.

Benefits galore
Several spices can add value to the skin. Says Dr Rashmi Shetty, Mumbai based cosmetologist and anti-ageing expert, "Some of our spices like cardamom, cinnamon, garlic etc are great immune boosters. They have some or the other property which increase metabolic rate and enhance the immune system. When we prepare Indian detox drinks and diets, spices are always used in them, so consuming them orally is also very good for the skin and body. And when it comes to using spices in beauty treatments I find two ingredients to be very useful, coriander and turmeric."

Cinnamon
People are not very aware of it, but cinnamon has some great benefits. It has very good antibacterial properties, it improves blood

circulation. It can be used for pimples. Just make a paste of it and apply it on the affected areas on the skin. When applied overall on the face, it will help in skin rejuvenation as it improves blood circulation.

Turmeric
"Turmeric has wonderful anti ageing, antibiotic and antiseptic properties. As a beauty product, it is often used in skin creams also. Every other product touts 'haldi' as an ingredient. It also has good skin lightening properties. It can be used as a facepack along with honey for wonderful results on skin," reveals Dr Shetty. Dermatologist, Dr Madhuri Agarwal, shares a few more:

Coriander seeds
These are very cooling and soothing. If you soak them overnight and use the water as eyes drops, it clears your eye, gives a wonderful cooling effect and makes the eyes look more bright, shiny and more white.

Black pepper
Black pepper is very good for exfoliation. If you make a powder of it and apply a paste on

How Indian spices enhance your beauty Treatment

Ginger
your acne marks and blemishes, it will help exfoliate the affected skin and give it a clearer appearance. It can also help in clearing pimples. A little curd can also be added to black pepper powder and applied for beauty benefits.

Ginger can aid in skin rejuvenation and it improves the skin colour and texture. It can be applied as a paste on the skin and left for some time. It will improve skin tone. It is said to reduce blemishes.

Red masoor dal
Though it is not among the spices, this still a great beauty product. It can be used in

face packs and has anti-tanning properties. Use it as a body scrub, especially for dry skin. To gain its benefits, make a dry paste of it and add chandan (sandalwood) and haldi (turmeric) and apply this on the skin. Grind masoor dal and store it in an airtight jar for further use in your face packs and pastes.

Be careful
Things to be kept in mind when using these spices:
1. Apply the paste or other mixture correctly. It should not go into the eye. To be safer, avoid the eye and eyebrow area completely.
2. Also, ensure it does not touch the hair as certain spices can bleach the hair.
3. Do a patch test by applying the mixture on the inside of the elbow first, to avoid any redness.

Secrets to make your Fragrance last long

Layer your smell and moisturize your skin to make your fragrance last all day, says an expert.



open which when you apply the fragrance will soak up the scent better and the fragrance will stay longer as it gets layered on top of a line extension toiletly wash.

* After you have a shower, moisturize your skin with a generous amount of fragrance-free lotion or a body lotion with the same fragrance you use. Moisturized skin blends well with the perfume ensuring long lasting fragrance. On dry skin, the fragrance will dissipate faster.

* Perfumes tend to react with fluctuating body temperature throughout the day and emit scent accordingly. To maximize the smell of your perfume, apply it on your pulse points as they tend to react with warmth of your blood and emit the fragrance accordingly. Wear the perfume on wrist, inside of your elbows, the nape of your neck and on your cleavage. Also, never rub the area where perfume is applied as it breaks down and diminishes the fragrance.

* Depending on the fragrance and the season, it is advisable to spray a little on your clothes too, particularly in winters on your sweaters or pullovers for a longer lasting smell. Thumb rule for spraying - always spray the perfume approximately 15 to 20 cms away from your body. Spraying an even amount of fragrance over a large area will have longer effect than concentrating it over smaller spot on skin.

Another way is to spray the fragrance in air and slowly walk into the mist. This will evenly distribute the fragrance across your body and will last longer too.

Ashokkumar, CEO and director of perfume house All Good Scents, shares how:
* Start with a warm shower. Use a shower gel, body wash or a scented soap all over your body and then spray the fragrance once your body becomes dry. When you take warm shower, it causes your pores to

Budget friendly beauty tips

We are all constantly looking for beauty tips which are easy on the pocket, after all what's better than looking good and not spending much while you are at it.

Here are a few budget-friendly beauty tips you can follow
Stay hydrated: Drinking the mandatory eight glasses a day can do wonders to your skin and body. Staying hydrated is a simple yet important step in ensuring a healthy, supple skin. You can consume other liquids as well.

Make up remover: Make sure you remove your make up before you sleep, and you don't need expensive products to do the same. Olive oil and baby oil can help as well.

Sleep well: Getting sufficient sleep will keep you healthy and active throughout the day. It is important for day-to-day functioning and can rejuvenate you to start the new day afresh. Not getting proper sleep can give you dark circles and puffy eyes and keep you irritable throughout the day.

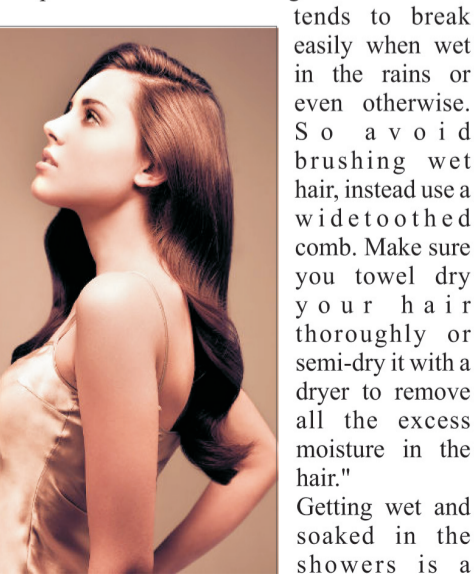
Green vegetables and fruits: If you binge on fast foods and sugary delights often, it's time to stop. Fruits and vegetables are rich in antioxidants and can do wonders for the skin and overall nourishment of your body.



Rainproof Your hair

With the heavy downpour and thick monsoon winds blowing our way, you can feel the moisture seeping into your luscious locks. Ever wondered, what excess moisture could do to your hair? For starters, the humid air during the monsoons can leave your hair feeling wet and sticky, notwithstanding the blow dry session you've just been through. If that's not bad enough, getting wet in the rains with inadequate hair care can leave you with an itchy, flaky scalp that is prone to dandruff, bacterial and fungal infections. "Exposure to extreme and contrasting climatic conditions--extreme heat in the summers to the damp monsoons--can take a toll on your hair, ultimately leaving it frizzy and unmanageable. The extreme variations in weather often strip off the outermost layer of your hair, making it brittle, rough and dry," informs celebrity hairstylist Adhuna Akhtar. Here are some expert tips to battles hair woes in the monsoons.

Fight that frizz
For those used to light, airy tresses, a rough and unpredictable monsoon can surely strike havoc. However, it takes only a slight change in your regular hair care routine to ensure beautiful, stylish hair all-year-round. Oiling your hair regularly is one such trick. If you thought hair oiling was a grandmother's myth to healthy hair, here's what hairstylist-to-the-stars Savio John Pereira says, "Go in for deep oil massages to condition your hair and scalp during monsoon. Use a hair mask after your shampoo to moisturise hair. Identify your hair type and then use the right shampoo and conditioner for good results. Hair tends to break easily when wet in the rains or even otherwise. So avoid brushing wet hair, instead use a wide toothed comb. Make sure you towel dry your hair thoroughly or semi-dry it with a dryer to remove all the excess moisture in the hair."



From the scorching heat to the refreshing, cool showers of monsoon, are your tresses ready for the climate change? Celebrity hairstylists tell you how to look after those locks and keep them feeling healthy and beautiful.

pleasure that few can resist, but think again. Pereira reiterates, "Air pollutants dissolved in rainwater may spell doom for your tresses and make hair bonds weak, thus making your hair dull and frizzy." So avoid wetting your hair this monsoon. And yes, never ever tie wet hair. You knew that, right?

Monsoon styles
Don't let the monsoon dampen your spirit. While there are umpteen styles to try your hand at, read about the top two styles to sport during this season. Akhtar mentions, "We're lucky this

is the year of the bob. Many women are opting to chop their long locks for a short, flirty and fun haircut. Wear it classically straight or opt for a trendy, dishevelled wavy bob or 'wob' either way a bob never goes out of fashion and it is the perfect accessory for the wet and wild monsoons." Braids are another big hit that have made a come back even on the runways and red carpet. Pereira suggests, "Braided hairstyles are the best option to keep your hair up and away from the nape. From fish tails, French braids, twisted braids, multiple braids, waterfall braids, etc, try any for a fun twist. It can be worn the classic way, which is at the back or to the side depending on the occasion."

So go out there and get cracking on your monsoon coiffure now! RAINPROOF your hair Annabel Dsouza? From the scorching heat to the refreshing, cool showers of monsoon, are your tresses ready for the climate change? Celebrity hairstylists tell you how to look after those locks and keep them feeling healthy and beautiful With the heavy downpour and thick monsoon winds blowing our way, you can feel the moisture seeping into your luscious locks. Ever wondered, what excess moisture could do to your hair? For starters, the humid air during the monsoons can leave your hair feeling wet and sticky, notwithstanding the blow dry session you've just been through. If that's not bad enough, getting wet in the rains with inadequate hair care can leave you with an itchy, flaky scalp that is prone to dandruff, bacterial and fungal infections. "Exposure to extreme and contrasting climatic conditions--extreme heat in the summers to the damp monsoons--can take a toll on your hair, ultimately leaving it frizzy and unmanageable. The extreme variations in weather often strip off the outermost layer of your hair, making it brittle, rough and dry," informs celebrity hairstylist Adhuna Akhtar. Here are some expert tips to battles hair woes in the monsoons.