



# MAHANAGAR METRO

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## PM Modi bends it like Beckham in Sikkim but message is for Bengal

**The timing of PM Modi's political play is hard to ignore. In Sikkim's neighbouring state, Bengal, where the second phase of polls is due tomorrow, football isn't just a game - it's part of the state's cultural identity.**

New Delhi.(Agency)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi took a break from his hectic campaign schedule in West Bengal by playing football with youngsters in Gangtok, Sikkim, on Tuesday. A day after reaching Sikkim from the heat and humidity of Bengal, PM Modi was seen in a different avatar - shelving his usual kurta for track pants and football spikes. However, the timing of this political play was hard to ignore. In Sikkim's neighbouring state, Bengal, football isn't just a game - it's part of the state's cultural identity. The move by the Prime Minister seems to be well-timed to score brownie points ahead of the Bengal polls, sending across a subtle message in a state where the love for the sport runs deep.

Remember the image of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee sitting in a wheelchair and throwing a football at a rally in Bengal during the 2021 assembly elections amid chants of "Khela hobe". The slogan resonated across different sections and proved to be a rallying cry for the TMC as it won a decisive two-thirds majority. Posting images on X, PM Modi described it as an "energising" football session with youngsters.



"Nothing like playing some football with my young friends in Sikkim on a lovely Gangtok morning!" PM Modi wrote on Facebook while sharing some pictures of himself in action on the football field.

In the images, the 75-year-old Prime Minister is seen doing some warm-ups, dribbling past young

players, and sharing light moments with the children. He is also seen taking a shot at the goal during a kickabout.

The visuals triggered an avalanche of reactions on social media. "Playing in Sikkim, scoring in Bengal," one user tweeted. Football enjoys immense popularity in Sikkim and the northeastern region. In fact, the region is a hub for a significant portion of the nation's premier football talent. PM Modi arrived in Gangtok on Monday after wrapping up his intensive campaigning in Bengal. His last message exemplified that Bengal voters wanted poriborton (change) and development after "living in fear" for many years under Mamata Banerjee's TMC.

In Gangtok, the Prime Minister attended the closing ceremony of Sikkim's 50th Statehood Day celebrations and unveiled development projects worth Rs 4,000 crore. The ceremony was organised to commemorate 50 years of Sikkim joining the Indian Union.

He also led a mega roadshow in Gangtok on Monday evening. All eyes will now be on May 4, when the results for the Bengal elections will be declared along with four other states. Will the optics in Sikkim transform into a goal for PM Modi and the BJP in Bengal?

## 'Saffron Cyclone' in Gujarat: Public Rejects Opposition, Grants BJP Unshakable Mandate!

**Mahanagar Metro Group Editor Pawan Makan congratulates winning candidates; says— "Now the responsibility is public service; unite to win hearts."**

Ahmedabad The political landscape of Gujarat has once again witnessed the prowess of the 'Lotus.' In the recently concluded local body elections, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) secured a massive and landslide victory, crushing the morale of opposition parties. The aware citizens of Gujarat have outrightly rejected the Congress and the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), making it clear that they trust only the politics of development and stability. Opposition Wiped Out, BJP Flags Fly High The election results have clarified that there currently appears to be no alternative to the BJP in Gujarat. While Congress is struggling for its very existence, the tall claims made by the Aam Aadmi Party have also failed the public's litmus test. From cities to villages, the echoes of BJP's victory can be heard everywhere. Victory Message from Group Editor Pawan Makan On this historic occasion, the Group Editor of Mahanagar Metro Newspaper, Mr. Pawan Makan, extended his heartiest congratulations to all the newly elected and

victorious candidates. He emphasized that beyond celebrating the victory, it is crucial to understand the responsibility hidden behind this mandate. Mr. Pawan Makan's Call to Action: "This victory is not just a win of numbers; it is a win of the public's unwavering faith. I congratulate all the winning candidates and urge them to rise above partisan politics now that the elections are over. Working together is key. Maintaining the trust the public has placed in you is the biggest challenge. Transparency and dedication in developmental work are the only ways to sustain this confidence." Public Trust: A Massive Responsibility In his message, Group Editor Pawan Makan made it clear that with a heavy mandate comes heavy responsibility. He urged the elected representatives to listen to the problems of the common man and move forward shoulder-to-shoulder for the golden future of Gujarat. Mahanagar Metro's Perspective The people of Gujarat have delivered their verdict. This bumper victory for the BJP indicates that the public prioritizes 'results' over 'experiments.' It will now be interesting to see how deeply the newly elected representatives internalize Mr. Pawan Makan's call for 'unity and public service.'

## Karnataka Cabinet Expansion Soon? Siddaramaiah May Visit Delhi Next Week

**The cabinet expansion in Karnataka has been under discussion for months, amid growing pressure within the state unit.**

Bengaluru.(Agency)

A cabinet reshuffle is expected early next month amid a leadership change buzz in Karnataka. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah is likely to visit Delhi around May 6, after the assembly election results are declared in four states and a Union territory, to seek the high command's approval for a long-pending cabinet expansion. The anticipated visit comes at a time when senior party leaders are increasingly heading to the national capital, signaling that key decisions on a cabinet reshuffle could be imminent. The expansion exercise has been under discussion for months, amid growing pressure within the state unit.



In a fresh development, state minister Satish Jarkiholi is also learnt to have conveyed his willingness to take over as the Karnataka Pradesh

Congress Committee (KPCC) president. Sources suggest that the party leadership is carefully weighing factors such as regional representation, caste balance, and the organisational priorities before taking a final call. Congress MLA KN Rajanna said that Siddaramaiah has advised all ministers to accept forward with the high command's decision.

"The ministers agree that power is not permanent. Those who lose power will gain it (again); those who have it will try to keep it. This is a continuous process. The chief minister is (also) ready to sacrifice his position or continue in it. He will do what the high command and Rahul Gandhi says," said Rajanna.

## Shashi Tharoor accepted Congress is anti-women: Kiren Rijiju's big claim

**Kiren Rijiju claims Shashi Tharoor admitted the Congress is anti-women, as the BJP attacks Opposition after blocking the women's quote bill in Parliament.**

New Delhi (Agency)

Union Minister Kiren Rijiju, launching a fresh round of attacks on the Congress, said that Congress MP Shashi Tharoor had "in a way admitted" that the party is anti-women, citing a private conversation between the two leaders after the recent Parliament session that discussed the Women's Reservation Bill.

"After the Parliament session had ended, Tharoor told me in the (Parliament) hall that the Congress party may be anti-women, but no woman would consider Shashi Tharoor anti-women. So I said, yes, I agree that no one would call you anti-women, but your party is anti-women," he said in an interview with news agency ANI.



The Union Minister further argued that Tharoor's remark amounted to an implicit acknowledgment of the party's stance.

"He meant that even if Congress may be anti-women, women would not consider Shashi Tharoor anti-women. So what does that mean? It means that, in a way, he also accepted that Congress is anti-women. And I also accepted that he may not personally be anti-women, but his party is anti-women," the Union Minister of Parliamentary Affairs shared. The BJP has accused the Congress of being anti-

women after the Opposition voted against the women's reservation bill and related constitutional amendments. Following the bill's failure to pass through the Lok Sabha, Rijiju had earlier alleged that the Congress.

## More Defections To Hit AAP In Punjab? Akali Dal Claims 2 MPs To Jump Ship

Chandigarh.(Agency)

Days after the Aam Aadmi Party lost seven of its MPs to the BJP, a senior leader of Akali Dal has indicated that the Arvind Kejriwal-led party will weaken further in the state. Two more parliamentarians from AAP are likely to abandon the party, Bikram Singh Majithia has claimed in an online post, citing what he has referred to as his "sources."

"Another day, another departure loading... Sources indicate two Lok Sabha MPs may soon be flying out of Aam Aadmi Party. The "frequent flier" list just keeps growing," said the general secretary at Shiromani Akali Dal said, tagging AAP, Kejriwal, and Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann.

The AAP is yet to react to the SAD leader's claim. The party currently has three members in Lok Sabha; all from Punjab. India's anti-defection law allows members to break away and merge with another party if they constitute two-thirds of the party's total strength in that House. This means if

Akali Dal's claim turns out to be true, the two MPs can avoid disqualification and join another party.

In such a scenario, the AAP would be left with just four MPs - three in Rajya Sabha and one in Lok Sabha. The party has already been split after young MP



Raghav Chadha broke away from its ranks a few days earlier, taking away two-thirds of its strength in Rajya Sabha.

Justifying his move, Chadha had accused the AAP of being "corrupt and compromised". The AAP had called his move a "betrayal" despite elevating him to an MLA and then an MP.

## Sisodia joins Kejriwal to boycott judge who declined to recuse in excise case

New Delhi.(Agency)

Former Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia has followed AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal's path of "satyagraha", writing to Delhi High Court judge Justice Swarna Kanta Sharma that neither he nor his lawyers will appear in court to argue his case in the excise policy matter. In the letter, Sisodia said he has lost faith in Justice Sharma and has no option but to resort to "satyagraha."

He also wrote that he has no hope of justice from Justice Sharma, claiming that "the future of her children lies in the hands of Solicitor General Tushar Mehta."

In his letter to Justice Sharma on Monday, Kejriwal alleged a conflict of interest, stating that her children, who work as panel lawyers for the central government, have professional links with Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, who is appearing against him in the case. "I have written the following letter to Justice Swarna Kanta Sharma, informing her that pursuing Gandhian principles of Satyagraha, it won't be possible for me to pursue this case in her court, either in person or through counsel," he wrote.

Kejriwal said he would not appear before Justice Sharma in the excise policy case, stating that her decision to continue hearing the matter amounts to a "grave miscarriage of justice."

Both letters from Kejriwal and Sisodia came days after Justice Sharma refused his request to recuse herself from the case.

Kejriwal said he would neither appear in the case personally nor through a lawyer before the judge. He also said he was keeping his legal options open and reserved the right to move the Supreme Court against Justice Sharma's order. Legal experts, however, said his non-appearance could lead to coercive steps, including warrants.

"I have taken this difficult decision after coming to the clear conclusion that the proceedings being conducted in her court do not, in any manner, satisfy the fundamental principle that justice must not only be done but must also be seen to be done," he said.

Kejriwal further said, "I have taken this decision by heeding the voice of my conscience," and added, "I reserve the right to approach the Supreme Court to appeal against Justice Swarna Kanta's verdict."

## AAP's mask off, allies should see its real face: Congress after Rajya Sabha exits

New Delhi.(Agency)

**The Congress has intensified its attack on the Aam Aadmi Party after Raghav Chadha and six Rajya Sabha MPs exited the party. It says the turmoil has exposed AAP and wants Opposition parties to rethink their ties with it.**

The Congress on Monday mounted a fresh offensive against the Aam Aadmi Party in the wake of the high-profile exit of Raghav Chadha and six other Rajya Sabha MPs, saying the developments have "exposed" the party and raised questions over its role within the Opposition space. The remarks come at a time when AAP is grappling with internal churn and political setbacks, with the Congress signalling it sees an opening to rebuild its base in states where AAP had eroded its vote share in recent years.

Senior Congress leader Ajay Maken said AAP's "mask is off", alleging that the party operates as the "B team" of the BJP. He claimed that further defections could follow in states such as Punjab and Delhi in the coming months. Maken also took aim at AAP's governance in Punjab, describing it as evidence of



administrative failure. He said that while Congress had aligned with AAP on limited occasions — including post-poll arrangements and the 2024 Lok Sabha elections — the party had repeatedly acted in ways that hurt Congress in direct contests with the BJP.

Citing past elections, he argued that AAP's expansion in states like Gujarat and Goa had dented Congress' prospects, pointing to its poor

performance in Gujarat in 2022 as an example. Targeting Arvind Kejriwal, Maken said the AAP leader chose to contest independently in key elections despite broader Opposition coordination efforts. He ruled out the possibility of any future alliance between Congress and AAP, saying such an understanding was unlikely "in the near future or even later".

The Congress is also seeking to reposition itself within the Opposition by questioning AAP's credibility as a partner. While AAP is not formally part of the INDIA bloc, it has extended issue-based support on certain matters.

Within the Congress, there is a view that such support has allowed AAP to gain political legitimacy while weakening the party's own prospects. Leaders are now attempting to project AAP as an unreliable ally in a bid to influence broader Opposition calculations.

## City Union Bank reports 25% rise in profit to Rs 360 crore

New Delhi.(Agency)

Kumbakonam-based City Union Bank reported a net profit of Rs 360 crore in Q4 FY26 against Rs 288 crore during the same period in Q4, a rise of 25, driven by increase core businesses. The bank reported net interest income of Rs 786 crore in Q4 compared to Rs 600 crore in Q4FY25, registering a growth of 31%. This is the highest net profit reported by the bank in a single quarter.

Net profit for FY2 was Rs 1326 crore, an 18% jump, compared to ₹1,124 crore in FY25. The net interest income registered a 22% rise at Rs 2,830 crore at ₹2,830 crore, net interest income registered a 22% jump. The CUB's total deposits rose by 23% to Rs 78,308 crore, and the cost of deposits fell to 5.70% in FY26 from 5.85% in FY25. Total advances for the financial year reached Rs 66,699 crore.

The Gross NPA percentage for FY26 was reduced to 1.91% from 3.09% in the last financial year. Net NPA percentage decreased to 0.68% in the current quarter from 1.25% in FY25. Both GNPA and NNPA have shown sequential decrease for the past eight quarters.

The bank's board of directors recommended a dividend of ₹2 per equity share of face value of ₹1 each (200 per cent) for FY26, the payment of which will be subject to approval by the shareholders at the ensuing Annual General Meeting. The Board also approved the issue of bonus shares in the ratio of 1:3 i.e. 1 equity share for every 3 fully paid up equity shares held as on record date, which will be subject to approval by the shareholders.

The Kumbakonam-headquartered bank has opened 13 new Branches on Monday and as on date the bank has touched a network of 1000 branches in total.

## ED attaches fresh assets worth Rs 3,034 crore belonging to Anil Ambani's Reliance Group

New Delhi.(Agency)

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has attached fresh assets worth Rs 3,034 crore, including a flat, a farmhouse, land parcels and shares belonging to businessman Anil Ambani's Reliance Group, PTI reported on Tuesday, citing sources.

According to sources, the attached properties belong to Reliance Communications (RCOM) and Reliance Infrastructure Ltd. (R-Infra) of the Reliance Anil



Ambani Group (RAAG) companies.

The assets include a flat in Mumbai, a farmhouse in Khandala, a hill station in Maharashtra, some land parcels in Sanand (Ahmedabad) and 7.71 crore shares of R-Infra, among others.

The central agency issued a provisional attachment order under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) to attach these assets. The total attachment of properties in the cases against the Reliance Anil Ambani Group now stands at Rs 19,344 crore, sources said.

The Group is being investigated by the ED on charges of bank fraud and diversion of funds.

## AI-driven efficiencies compress deal values across India's IT services sector

NEW DELHI.(Agency)

India's top IT services companies are beginning to face a clear shift as artificial intelligence starts to push down the value of their traditional business.

Executives across the sector say AI-led efficiencies are compressing deal sizes and lowering billing rates, even though overall demand for technology services remains steady. The change is gradual but visible, and companies are now adjusting to a new pricing reality.

At HCLTech, chief executive C Vijayakumar said the impact is already being felt. "AI deflation could be 2 to 3% a year," he said during the company's Q4 earnings press conference on, adding that pricing is being reset as automation improves productivity.

This shift is reflected in how contracts are now being signed. Deals that were earlier valued at \$100 million are now closer to \$80 million, not because demand has fallen, but because the same work can be done faster and with fewer people. The pattern is not limited to one company. Over the past two weeks, leaders at Tata Consultancy Services, Infosys, Wipro, and Tech Mahindra have all pointed to similar trends.

"You would expect AI revenues to increase going forward, along with some of the traditional revenues to slowly taper down and AI revenue to overcompensate for the reduction in the revenue in other parts of the service line," said K. Krithivasan, chief executive of TCS. Infosys chief executive Salil Parekh described the shift in simpler terms. "So, the compression is coming on some of the services, and the growth is coming on other services, and the compression is typically in the areas where the AI foundation models and some of the tools are very efficient," he said.

# Stock markets open lower amid surging oil prices, foreign fund outflows

New Delhi.(Agency)

Stock market benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty drifted lower in opening trade on Tuesday as surging oil prices and foreign fund outflows unnerved investors. The 30-share BSE Sensex declined 208.84 points to 77,094.79 in opening trade.

The 50-share NSE Nifty dipped 42.8 points to 24,049.90. From the 30-Sensex firms, State Bank of India, Eternal, UltraTech Cement, InterGlobe Aviation, Trent and Axis Bank were among the biggest laggards. Tata Steel, Bajaj Finance, Kotak Mahindra Bank and Bharat Electronics were among the gainers.

Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, traded 0.99 per cent higher at USD 109.3 per barrel.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 1,151.48 crore on Monday, according to exchange data. "Elevated crude oil prices continue



to be a key concern, with Brent trading in the USD 106-110 per barrel range, adding to inflationary pressures and weighing on sentiment. On the domestic front, foreign investor flows remain under pressure, reflecting global risk aversion,

while domestic institutional investors continue to provide some support," Ponnudi R, CEO of Enrich Money, an online trading and wealth-tech firm, said. Overall, sentiment remains fragile and largely driven by external factors, he

added.

In Asian markets, Japan's Nikkei 225 index, Shanghai's SSE Composite index and Hong Kong's Hang Seng index quoted lower, while South Korea's benchmark Kospi traded higher. US markets ended flat on Monday.

"Global markets present a mixed but cautiously constructive picture. The S&P 500 and Nasdaq Composite have scaled fresh record highs, reflecting underlying resilience in US equities. However, the upside momentum remains constrained by unresolved geopolitical tensions, particularly around the Strait of Hormuz, where fresh developments continue to influence crude oil prices and global risk sentiment," Hariprasad K, Research Analyst and Founder, Livelong Wealth, said. On Monday, the Sensex jumped 639.42 points or 0.83 per cent to settle at 77,303.63. The Nifty climbed 194.75 points or 0.81 per cent to close at 24,092.70.

## Jury in place for Elon Musk's legal battle with OpenAI

New Delhi.(Agency)

Elon Musk's courtroom showdown with Sam Altman got underway here Monday with the selection of jurors entrusted to decide whether the co-founders of OpenAI betrayed a mission to build artificial intelligence for the good of humanity, not for money.

The legal clash in a courtroom across the bay from San Francisco pits Musk, the world's richest person, against a startup he once backed and now competes with in the booming AI sector.

OpenAI's ChatGPT is a formidable rival to the chatbot Grok, made by Musk's xAI lab.

"This is a tech soap opera that all investors will be watching," Wedbush analyst Dan Ives said in a note to investors.

"There will be a lot of dirt and slings thrown around in court between Musk and Altman and that is not a good thing for anyone involved...but Musk has made this personal."



Jurors were asked their thoughts of Musk and Altman, and whether they could put aside any bias while considering evidence at trial.

"Elon doesn't care about people, much like our president," said a US retiree being considered for the panel.

An Oakland city employee in the jury pool referred to Musk as "a jerk." "Brilliant engineer, brilliant businessman, but many of his actions were very harmful for the country," a prospective juror who works for a

climate tech company said of Musk.

In contrast, Altman's name struck potential jurors as familiar but did not evoke strong opinion.

Musk's lawsuit is part of a feud between him and OpenAI Chief Executive Sam Altman, but it also spotlights a debate about whether AI should ultimately serve to benefit a privileged few or society as a whole.

Court filings lay out how Altman convinced Musk to back OpenAI in 2015, acting as a co-founder for a non-profit lab whose technology "would belong to the world."

Musk pumped millions of dollars into the lab, which he subsequently left.

However, OpenAI established a commercial subsidiary, as it needed hundreds of billions of dollars for data centers to power its technology.

Microsoft has poured billions of dollars into OpenAI and its CEO Satya Nadella is among those slated to testify at the trial.

## Rupee falls 24 paise to 94.39 against US dollar in early trade

MUMBAI.(Agency)

The rupee depreciated 24 paise to 94.39 against the US dollar in early trade on Tuesday, weighed down by elevated crude oil prices and month-end dollar demand amid a broader shift toward safe-haven assets. Forex traders said Brent oil continued to move higher at USD 109 per barrel, keeping India's position vulnerable.

Moreover, factors such as unabated foreign capital outflows amid rising geopolitical uncertainties dented investor sentiments further.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened at 94.35 against the US dollar, then lost some ground and touched 94.39 against the US dollar in initial trade, registering a fall of 24 paise over its previous close.

On Monday, the rupee had settled at



94.15 against the American currency.

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading at 98.49. Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, was trading higher by 0.99 per cent at USD 109.30 per barrel in futures trade. The Indian rupee seems to be standing at a crossroads, not weak

enough to fall, not strong enough to rise, said CR Forex Advisors MD Amit Pabari.

Meanwhile, Goldman Sachs has raised its oil price forecast to USD 94.39 per barrel, while trimming India's 2026 growth forecast to 5.9 per cent.

"When growth expectations soften at the same time, it reduces the cushion the currency usually enjoys," Pabari added. According to Anil Kumar Bhansali, Head of Treasury and Executive Director Finrex Treasury Advisors LLP, rising crude oil prices are keeping India's position vulnerable.

"We have come to the end of the month, and the month-end demand could keep USD higher in the coming two days," Bhansali added. On the domestic equity market front, the 30-share benchmark index Sensex was trading.

## Peak power demand dips to 238.15 GW after year's high 256 GW

**According to Power Ministry data, the peak power demand met, or the highest supply in a day, was 237.21 GW, leaving a shortfall of 0.93 GW on Sunday**

New Delhi.(Agency)

India's peak power demand fell to 238.15 GW on Sunday, a day after touching this year's high of 256 GW. According to Power Ministry data, the peak power demand met, or the highest supply in a day, was 237.21 GW, leaving a shortfall of 0.93 GW on Sunday.

Experts said that peak power demand is inching towards the power ministry's estimate of 270 GW for



the summer season, as mercury levels have begun to rise.

In 2025, peak power demand stood at 242.77 GW, recorded in June 2025, but remained below the government's estimate of 277 GW.

In 2024, peak power demand reached 250 GW in May—a record at the time—exceeding the previous all-time high of 243.27 GW set in September 2023.

Meanwhile, the India Meteorological

Department (IMD) has projected a harsh summer this year. Experts opined that power demand will continue to rise, especially in May and June, due to heatwaves driving increased use of cooling appliances such as air conditioners and desert coolers.

The country's peak power demand has risen along with temperatures in April. The highest electricity supply on April 22 was 239.70 GW, which increased to 240.12 GW on April 23, 2026. In the first fortnight of the month, the peak power demand met, or the highest daily electricity supply, remained lower than the 235.32 GW recorded in April 2025.

Temperatures in several regions have been significantly above normal—by 5 degrees Celsius or more—indicating a developing heat stress scenario across parts of the country, according to the IMD.

## News box

## Truck crashes into crane on NH-8, operator dies

Gurgaon.(Agency)

A 20-year-old crane operator died on Sunday, days after a truck rammied into his vehicle on the Delhi-Jaipur Highway (NH-8) near Narsinghpur.

The accident took place on the evening of April 19 within the Sadar police station limits.

The deceased, Avdesh Kumar, a native of UP's Etah, was driving a crane from Hero Honda Chowk towards Kherki Daula when a speeding truck collided with the vehicle from behind. The impact caused the crane to overturn, trapping him underneath.

Passers-by pulled him out and rushed him to a nearby private hospital, where he remained in critical condition. "Despite treatment for seven days, he succumbed to his injuries on Sunday morning," an officer said.

Avdesh was living with his cousin, Raghav Jadoun, at Saraswati Enclave in Sector 10. Both worked as crane operators in the city.

Following the incident, Raghav filed a complaint with the police. Based on his statement, an FIR was registered against an unidentified truck driver under sections 281 (rash driving) and 106 (death by negligence) of BNS at Sadar police station.

Police said CCTV footage from the area has been scanned, and the truck involved has been identified. "A notice will be issued to the vehicle owner, directing him to produce the driver for questioning. Further action in the case will follow after the driver is apprehended," the officer said.

## HSVP puts on hold demolition drive, says awaiting HC instructions

Gurgaon.(Agency)

The citywide anti-encroachment drive of Haryana Shahari Vikas Pradhikaran (HSVP), scheduled to begin Monday, has been put on hold.

The decision comes as the Punjab and Haryana High Court continues to hear a petition concerning the stilt-plus-four-floor construction policy — an issue closely linked to multiple encroachment cases. Although the court on Monday refused to halt demolitions in the city, HSVP officials said the drive will begin only after receiving clear directions from the bench.

A senior HSVP official, requesting anonymity, confirmed the deferment. "The drive has been put on hold as the matter is under consideration of the High Court. We are awaiting clear directions before initiating action," the official said.

The demolition action was to be carried out in a phased manner, similar to the exercise conducted by Department of Town and Country Planning (DTCP) in private developer colonies. The drives aim to clear the right of way (RoW) by removing illegal extensions — including kitchen gardens, extended ramps, flower pots on public land, temporary kiosks, rehris, carts and other obstructions.

HSVP had earlier appealed to residents to voluntarily remove such structures, warning that bulldozer action would otherwise follow, and had prepared a detailed sector-wise schedule for the operation, citing the need to ensure smooth pedestrian movement, emergency access and road safety.

DTCP's enforcement wing removed over 7,500 encroachments from more than 15 colonies during a five-day drive that concluded on April 22, following the High Court's stay on the stilt-plus-four-floor policy and subsequent govt directions to clear right-of-way violations.

## Pipe leak? Dirty water trickles from taps in Noida for 6th day

Ghaziabad.(Agency)

Pale yellow to black water continued to flow from taps in sectors 19 and 40 for the sixth day on Monday. Alarmed residents have been pointing out health concerns. Most of them are buying potable water to meet their daily needs.

Noida Authority's general manager (water and sewer) RP Singh had come up with an explanation that the summer heat caused the minerals accumulated in the supply pipes to get dissolved in the water, leading to its discoloration. "The only remedy is proper flushing of the pipes, which was done on Thursday. By evening, the situation was brought under control and the morning supply will be fine," he said. However, the situation has barely changed.

Residents claim leakages and lack of maintenance of the supply lines have led to this brackish supply. Sector 19 RWA president RC Gupta said, "After the Authority conducted its checks on Saturday, the water became clear for a few hours on Sunday. However, on Monday morning, the same foul, muddy and black water returned to our taps."

Gupta wrote a letter to Singh rebutting his claim that the weather was to blame for the contamination, pointing out that the issue is only affecting specific blocks. "The Authority knows that there are blockages in this sector's pipelines; there might as well be leakages. Lack of maintenance is adding to the problem. We request a thorough investigation to ensure accountability," he wrote. These sectors get fresh water supply twice a day, 6-9am and 6-9pm. Residents claimed that towards the end of the supply windows, the water turns cleaner.

A resident of Sector 40, Mohinder Singh, said, "The whole system has been neglected and is being mishandled by contractual workers." He demanded action by a higher-level supervisor, highlighting the deteriorating situation at the water tank pump station in Sector 41. Meanwhile, Sector 51 residents on Monday once again demanded flushing of their supply pipelines, as they too are getting dirty water supply.

## Two brothers hack into bank account in Gurgaon, take Rs 5L loan after changing phone number

Gurgaon.(Agency)

Two bank staffers allegedly used confidential customer data to access an Axis Bank account, change its registered mobile number and quietly take a pre-approved loan of Rs 4.7 lakh in the customer's name. The fraud came to light only when Rs 12,585 was deducted as the first EMI from the victim's account.

The case was registered at Cyber Crime police station in Manesar on Dec 11, 2025, after the complainant alleged that the amount had been debited on Dec 6. When he approached the bank, he learnt that the mobile number linked to his account had been changed and a loan had already been processed in his name.

Police said the fraud was executed in stages. Mohammad Asif (36), who had worked as a sales executive at an Axis Bank branch in the city before resigning in Nov 2025 and joining Paytm,

allegedly accessed banking records and identified accounts carrying pre-approved loan offers. He then shared customer IDs, phone numbers and other sensitive details with his elder brother, Mohammad Ali (37), a deputy manager at a private bank's Delhi branch, who is suspected to be the mastermind.

Using those details, the accused and their associates allegedly forged signatures, practised them and went to the bank posing as genuine account holders. "By giving the correct customer ID, they gained the confidence of bank officials and got the registered mobile number changed," an officer said. Once the number was changed, they used internet banking access to take the loan.

Since the mobile number was changed, the victim did not get any message from the bank. Police said Mohammad Hashim (32), a Faridabad resident known to Ali, was part of the operation. "After Asif

accessed the confidential information and a SIM was procured, Hashim and another associate went to the bank," an officer said. The associate has not yet been identified. Hashim was arrested on Jan 30 and taken on three-day police remand.

A few days later, police arrested Puranchand (58), who was allegedly promised Rs 5,000 to procure SIM cards in his name.

The money trail, police said, led to fake bank accounts before being routed through multiple accounts in other states.

An FIR has been registered under charges of cheating, forgery, personation, criminal conspiracy and provisions of the Information Technology Act. Four accused have been arrested so far. Police said all banks concerned will be contacted to assess the wider scale of the fraud.



## Waiting for son to take them home, elderly couple mowed down in Gurgaon

Gurgaon.(Agency)

An elderly couple waiting by the roadside for their son to take them home were mowed down in front of him when an SUV swerved towards the edge of the road and ran them over near Sidhrawali bus stand on Saturday evening.

Man Singh (62) and his wife, Shakuntala Devi (61), residents of Budhka village, had travelled to Panchkula on April 24 for a family function — a traditional kuan puja ceremony for a relative's grandson. After attending it, they were returning home when the accident took place.

Their son, Sanjay Nehra — a student — told police he had spoken to his mother at 7.57pm. She told him they had reached Dharuhera and asked him to come to Sidhrawali to pick them up. Nehra left



home on his scooter and reached the bus stand, where his parents were waiting by the roadside. But before he could take them home, a light blue Tata Nexon coming from the Gurgaon city side ploughed into them at high speed. Police said the SUV was being driven rashly

when it veered towards the roadside and hit the couple with great force.

The impact threw both onto the bonnet of the car and into the windscreen before they were flung onto the road. They suffered severe head injuries. Despite the accident unfolding in front of his eyes, Nehra noted down the vehicle's registration number — DL14CH/6035 — and confronted the driver, Sahibabad resident Dharmendra Bhardwaj (55). Police said he works as a computer engineer with a private company. The injured couple were rushed to Bhiwadi Govt Hospital in Rajasthan, but both died during treatment. After receiving information from the control room, a police team from Bilaspur, led by SI Rakesh, reached the hospital.

## No teachers in 3 subjects, allege Gurugram University's BTech students

Gurgaon.(Agency)

Built to widen higher education options in the city and offer students an alternative to Delhi University closer home, Gurugram University is now facing questions over a basic academic failure — teaching.

With BTech fourth-semester examinations due to begin on May 12, computer science students have been left to prepare for core engineering papers through YouTube videos and online tutorials because, they alleged, no classes were held for key subjects.

Students said the semester began in Jan, but signals and systems, microprocessors and microcontrollers, and information theory and coding remained untaught subjects. As a result, nearly 200 students are now headed towards final exams without formal classroom instruction in these technical papers.

"Now that the datesheet is out and exams

are scheduled from May 12, we are being told to study from YouTube or other online sources. It's impossible to finish



an entire semester's technical syllabus in a few days," a student told, requesting not to be identified.

Another student said, "We have six subjects this semester. In one, there is no teacher at all, and two other subjects are linked to other classes where, too, teachers are unavailable. So, in three out of six

subjects, no one is teaching us. Our seniors faced the same issue, but it was never resolved. First-year students are not facing this, but second-year students are."

They said complaints were already raised with dean SS Tyagi and another professor, Sumit Chaudhary, but no lasting solution followed. The students claimed they were told those studying engineering should be able to "manage" on their own and that the syllabus might be covered in two or three "emergency classes".

The university, however, rejected the allegations. A spokesperson called the students' claims "false and misleading" and said the academic schedule had been followed. According to the university representative, one regular faculty member was unable to teach because of severe typhoid, and that a new teacher, Sumit, had now been appointed to complete the remaining syllabus.

## GDA proposes 16km metro corridor to link Vaishali to Delhi via Hindon terminal

Noida.(Agency)

Ghaziabad Development Authority has asked Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) to prepare a detailed project report for a new 16-kilometre metro line connecting Vaishali, the terminal station on the Blue line, to Gokulpuri in northeast Delhi via Hindon Civil Terminal, which currently acts as Delhi-NCR's second airport.

The proposed corridor is likely to have seven stations and pass through Sahibabad, Mohan Nagar, Pasunda, Hindon Civil Terminal and Gagan Vihar.

"In July last year, DMRC proposed 18 metro extension projects in Delhi-NCR under phase 5 of the metro extension plan, three of which were in Ghaziabad. In keeping with this, we have asked DMRC to prepare DPR for the Vaishali-Gokulpuri corridor. We expect submission in a couple of months," a GDA official said.

According to DMRC's initial Phase-V



plan, a 12-13 kilometre corridor was proposed to connect Gokulpuri on the Pink Line to Arthala on the Red Line via Hindon Civil Terminal. Officials told that GDA wanted the corridor extended further to improve connectivity for over five lakh residents of Indirapuram,

Vasundhara and Vaishali.

The terminal currently sits roughly five kilometres from the nearest metro stations, Dilshad Garden and Major Mohit Sharma Rajendra Nagar, both on the Red Line. The Sahibabad RRTS station offers a high-speed alternative. But passengers are

largely dependent on cabs and auto-rickshaws for last-mile access.

The two other metro corridors that are proposed to come up in the city include a three-kilometre extension from Shaheed Sthal New Bus Adda on the Red Line to Ghaziabad railway station, and the long-pending five-kilometre Noida Electronic City-Sahibabad link, which would serve Indirapuram, Shakti Khand and Vasundhara's Sector 5, with five stations in all.

Together, the three corridors would add roughly 25 kilometres to the metro network, at an estimated cost of Rs 7,500 crore, based on a per-kilometre construction cost of Rs 300 crore. The Noida Electronic City-Sahibabad corridor has been stalled since 2018 despite a DPR of Rs 1,873 crore having been prepared, largely due to a funding shortfall. GDA had earlier sought Rs 2,441 crore under the 16th Finance Commission for metro projects in the city.

## The gap foreign scholarships reveal

India is one of only seven countries in the world that receive more than \$20 million in educational scholarships from foreign countries, according to Unesco's latest global statistical report. The others are Pakistan, China, Moldova, Algeria, Syria and Morocco. The Official Development Assistance scholarships given out by some of the OECD countries include support for pursuing higher education and research. This assistance reaches the beneficiaries as stipends, tuition fee waivers and allowances. The apparent aim of ODA is to promote international relations and human capital development among the recipient nations. The tacit intentions include deepening the rich nations' soft power and epistemological dominance. We must ask why only India and Pakistan are in the \$20-million club among the Central and South Asian countries. The report indicates that the global average is \$6 million. What does the outlier figure for India indicate? Three arguments can be considered: merit of Indian students and researchers in global academia, lack of domestic support to retain our best brains and academic influence of developed countries.

The arguments are best argued with data. According to the Union ministry of education, India contributed 5.2 percent of global research publications in 2024. Among the G20 nations, India ranked third in research output behind China and the US. On the other hand, the World Bank reminds us that India's investment in research and development was just 0.65 percent of the GDP in 2020. This is significantly lower than in the US (3.45 percent), Japan (3.44 percent), Germany (3.15 percent) and South Korea (4.94 percent).

The Economic Survey for 2023-24 stated that the total expenditure on education by the central and state governments was just 2.7 percent of the GDP. It has not exceeded 2.9 percent since 2020-21. Expenditure on education as a share of the total expenditure for social services declined to 9.2 percent in 2023-24 from 10.7 percent in 2017-18. This low investment is continuing to cause a brain drain, an observation reinforced by Unesco's latest numbers. The talented young minds attracted by foreign aid also allow themselves to be influenced by the academic interests and norms of the ODA donors. This has a serious structural impact on India's education system, and at a larger level, on society and economy. The trickle-down of research ideas, methodology, language, curricula and funding structures happens more clearly among the top ODA-receiving nations. The scholars who receive foreign funding are placed on a higher echelon of the academic hierarchy and their ideas often dominate in shaping the curriculum and research practices and priorities. The trajectory of knowledge and skills in developing countries, therefore, mimics that in the donor countries. Back home, the hierarchical position of ODA recipients is apparent in the recruitment preferences of the top private and public institutes. Such fetters deepen the colonialisation of minds many scholars have written about. The argument is surely not against receiving foreign scholarships and financial aid. Instead, we need to be clear-eyed about their possible impact on the nation's future. In this, it's also important to see India's position as an ODA provider in education. Within that, the critical question is about the amount we provide against what we receive. This is one way to see the relative position of the country in its developmental trajectory. Unfortunately, such data is not readily available from the OECD. Nor does the socio economic survey of India or any other government document provide it. From what we can estimate, the relatively thinner inflow of students reflects our inability to provide enough support to foreign scholars and provide them an attractive, globally competitive education system.

## Nobody asked the fisherman

Global flow and the cascading cost of disruption across systems and lives

WHEN global flow breaks, disruption does not remain where it begins. It travels. From oil to food to livelihoods, the cost is borne far from the point of decision. What must move cannot be negotiated each time. It must be secured by design, not restored by exception. Then, in the Strait of Hormuz, the world did what it had refused to design. Disruption returned, and with it the immediate language of consequence. Markets tightened. Insurers hesitated. Supply chains faltered. Within days, nations gathered, not by treaty, not by alliance, but by dependence. A UK-France-led effort began to take shape, not as a war coalition, but as a defensive arrangement to keep shipping moving. Escorts were discussed. Assets were offered. The objective was simple: ensure that what must move, continues to move. No doctrine was invoked. No law was written. Yet the response was unmistakable. Flow, when disrupted, compels its own restoration.

The Hormuz coalition is not an alliance. It is an admission. The Law of Flow is not a replacement for SLOCs (Sea Lines of Communication). It is their necessary completion. In a fractured world, what must move cannot be negotiated each time it is threatened. It must be secured as default. But something else happened that day. A meeting had already taken place in Islamabad. Two sides came to the table. Positions were stated. Lines were drawn. But no pathway emerged. The world saw engagement. It did not see architecture. The opportunity to convert presence into precedent passed unnoticed.

This is not about being right. It is about what being right reveals, and what it obligates. When the apple fell, Isaac Newton did not declare victory. He described a law. That is the obligation of this moment.

What followed was not design. It was improvisation under pressure. France and Britain convened fifty-one nations not because a doctrine summoned them, but because the cost of inaction became immediate and impossible to ignore. They became custodians not by appointment, but by necessity. The distinction matters.

The Law of Flow was vindicated in direction. But the gap between doctrine and architecture remains dangerously open.

The man who pays the price  
Before we return to straits and summits, consider who bears the cost when flow breaks.

Not the strategist. Not the minister. Not the trader hedging oil futures from a climate-controlled room. It is the

fisherman in Kerala whose diesel has doubled. The farmer in the Sahel whose fertiliser did not arrive. The factory worker in Vietnam whose export order vanished when shipping routes shifted. The family in Cairo paying more for bread because wheat did not move.

This is not abstraction. It is recurring reality in a world built on flow, without the architecture to protect it. Covid-19 did not ask for a passport. It moved through the same arteries that carry goods, capital and people. When flow stopped, those with the least buffer paid first and most. The daily-wage earner. The migrant worker. They did not create the disruption. They absorbed it.

Climate does not negotiate. It disrupts harvests where resilience is weakest, floods coastlines that did not emit, dries rivers entire communities depend upon. The



carbon was produced elsewhere. The cost is paid locally. Conflict no longer stays where it starts. It pulses through supply chains. A war in one region empties granaries in another. A strike in one port raises costs across oceans. Conflict today is disruption by design. Chokepoints do not announce themselves with equity. Strait of Hormuz closed, and within weeks, a hundred-dollar barrel reached every pump, every transport line, every price of every good that moves, which is nearly everything. The fisherman in Kerala did not vote for this. He is paying for it nonetheless.

Covid. Climate. Conflict. Chokepoints. Different in origin, identical in effect. They begin in decisions made by a few and distribute consequences across the many. Each begins as a headline and ends as a household cost. Each starts in strategy rooms and arrives in kitchens, fields and workshops. The common man does not live in the Strait of Hormuz. He lives downstream of it,

downstream of decisions taken in rooms he was never invited into, about systems he depends upon but cannot control. This is why the Law of Flow cannot remain a strategic insight. It must become a social compact. When flow breaks, the first to suffer are always those least equipped to absorb the shock.

Hormuz is visible. Oil has a price. Tankers can be tracked. Disruption announces itself.

The next crisis may not. A severed data cable carries no ticker. A semiconductor shortage builds silently. A food corridor closes gradually until it does not reopen at all.

Fifty-one nations gathered in time for Hormuz. Next time, the chokepoint may not wait.

When flow fails again

Beneath doctrine and disruption lies a simpler truth. Every

system we have built, the United Nations, the Law of the Sea, climate accords, trade frameworks, rests on a shared premise: that humanity has a common stake in continuity. We have given this premise many names. Multilateralism. Rules-based order. International cooperation. Its oldest and most honest name is simply this: the global common. Yet we behave as if these systems can be secured in fragments. We negotiate in compartments while disruption moves across them seamlessly. The language of sovereignty remains bounded. The reality of survival no longer is. Covid showed us that a pathogen recognises no passport. Climate reminds us that an atmosphere has no walls. Conflict demonstrates that instability travels. Hormuz reminds us that a strait we may never see determines the price of bread we must still buy. The Law of Flow is not a doctrine of power. It is a recognition of interdependence.

Custodians of continuity are not guardians of power. They are servants of the common.

As Britain and France convene the world to secure Hormuz, the shift is unmistakable. The language of deterrence is giving way to the necessity of continuity. What was once managed through power is now being compelled by dependence. Yet even as others assemble coalitions in crisis, our geography and civilisational instinct point to a larger role, not merely as a participant in episodic responses, but as a potential author of a more enduring principle. One where the uninterrupted flow of trade is treated not as a privilege of stability, but as its foundation. We sit between straits, not as geography alone, but as responsibility. In a world that still reacts to disruption, we are uniquely placed to shape the idea that flow itself must be secured by design, not restored by exception.

## Digital heist: Banks missing glaring red flags

How do dozens of fraudulent and mule accounts slip through multiple banks' KYC filters?

TWO recent headline-grabbing frauds — the Rs 20-crore crypto scam in Ludhiana and the Rs 22.9-crore digital arrest scam in Delhi — clearly indicate that India's cybercrime problem is systemic, scalable and increasingly sophisticated. In Ludhiana, an industrialist was lured through a fake crypto ecosystem and drained of Rs 19.84 crore, routed through 76 forged accounts across 15 banks. In the digital arrest case, fraudsters impersonating law enforcement officials weaponised fear, isolating the victim, coercing compliance and extracting Rs 22.9 crore through staged urgency and intimidation. In a rare intervention, the Reserve Bank of India ombudsman directed five banks to pay Rs 1.3 crore for lapses in due diligence in the digital arrest case. Significantly, both cases expose a common fault line: banking channels that fail to detect the abnormal. The scale alone raises uncomfortable questions. How do dozens of fraudulent

and mule accounts slip through multiple banks' KYC filters? How does a network sustain itself long enough



to move unusually large, rapid transfers without

triggering red flags? Compensation, when it comes, is partial and belated. It is hardly a deterrent in a high-reward fraud economy. Today's scams are behavioural operations. Fake dashboards simulate profits; fake officials simulate authority. Victims are not just deceived; they are managed, monitored and manipulated over time. Cryptocurrencies sit in a grey zone. Coercion-based frauds lack clear response protocols. Inter-bank coordination is weak. Enforcement chases money already dispersed across layered accounts. These cases once more underscore the reality that cyber fraud in India has evolved into an organised enterprise. In the absence of clear oversight, scammers exploit both the opacity and the hype associated with digital assets. Tackling it requires tighter banking scrutiny, real-time transaction monitoring and a coherent regulatory framework for digital assets.

## Oil shock clouds India's growth optimism

— The confidence in India remaining an outlier to the rest of the world can be satisfying, but the war is now deepening its effects on the economy

AS the world looks hopefully towards an early end to the war in West Asia, the global economy continues to be disrupted by the conflict. Oil prices are swinging sharply, depending on the state of negotiations between the US and Iran. But they hover dangerously near the \$100-per-barrel mark. The International Monetary Fund and the World Bank have already scaled down their forecasts for economic growth in 2026 owing to the impact of the conflict. The IMF has now predicted a slowdown from 3.4% to 3.1% while the World Bank has projected a dip from 2.7% to 2.6%.

In sharp contrast, both institutions have raised growth estimates for India during 2026-27. The IMF now projects a growth rate of 6.5% from 6.4% earlier while the Bank has pushed its forecast from 6.3% to 6.6%.

The reasons for this confidence include robust domestic demand, reduced tariffs on US exports and a raft of free trade agreements entered into over the past year. The impact of Goods and Services Tax cuts has also given a boost to consumption while the tailwinds of higher growth over the last two years are also behind these expectations of greater resilience.

Such confidence in India remaining an outlier to the rest of the world can be satisfying, but the war is now deepening its effects on the economy. Symptoms of the malaise include the continued migration of workers from manufacturing hubs back to their rural homes. The primary reason seems to be the unaffordability of cooking gas in the open market. As far as registered domestic users are concerned, neither availability nor pricing has been a problem so far, apart from some reports of delayed supplies. Even industrial and commercial users are now getting up to 70% of their earlier allocations. The crisis is for those buying cylinders in the open market, like migrant workers who



can no longer afford this basic cooking fuel. Inflationary pressures are also being felt in all strata of society as the impact of imported costs is passed on to consumers. Prices of essentials like edible oils which are sourced in large measure from abroad are rising. Electronic goods which use imported components are costing more. The prices of durables like refrigerators and airconditioners have already been raised marginally with the onset of the summer season.

Retail inflation rose to 3.4% in March, up from 3.2% in February, driven largely by higher food prices as well as increased cost of goods due to supply disruptions in West Asia. This remains within the tolerance band of the Reserve

Bank of India, but gives an inkling of the ripples of external headwinds. The fast-paced depreciation of the rupee against the dollar over the past few months is also a contributory factor.

From around 90 to the dollar in February, it even breached the 95 mark at one point. It is now at around 93 to 94. The currency has been devaluing faster than other emerging markets' currencies due to multiple factors, including the economy's reliance on imports for over 85% of its fuel demand. As a result, the current account deficit which is pegged at around 0.8% of the GDP for 2025-26, could reach 1.5% in 2026-27. CRISIL, a ratings agency, expects the CAD to widen to 2% in case oil prices remain around \$82-87 per barrel during the current

fiscal. Given the current scenario, it is possible that the average prices during the year would remain at this level.

This is an assumption based on the premise that the war ends rapidly. If not, the average price would be much higher. In fact, the Indian basket of crudes is currently ruling at around \$110 per barrel.

Critical industries have also begun to reflect the impact of the war. Official data for March shows core industry output contracted to a 19-month low of 0.4%. Fertiliser output fell by 24% on a year-on-year basis while crude oil dipped by 3.7% and coal by 4%.

In the case of fertilisers, the fall in production is directly linked to the cut in natural gas supplies due to disruptions caused by the war. While allocations have now been raised, the future prospects are ominous, given the damage to natural gas infrastructure in the Gulf countries, especially Qatar, which is a major global producer. In this context, the confidence reposed by financial institutions in India's ability to sustain growth in the face of a crisis reflects experience of the economy having bounced back, both from Covid and supply chain disruptions of the Ukraine war.

At this time, however, the war is being carried out in an arena that is far closer geographically and strategically to the subcontinent. Apart from the key aspect of energy security, there are also deep-rooted trade ties and a large diaspora in West Asia. The latter is a major contributor of remittances and has helped in boosting the country's foreign exchange reserves. The ramifications of supply chain disruptions due to the Iran conflict are likely to be greater than in the previous upheavals. These are already being felt in many ways, including higher inflation and productivity of both core sector and labour intensive industries.

# Biometric SIM checks to bank debit holds: Govt's plan to tackle digital arrests

**The report, prepared after consultations with stakeholders, seeks court directions to various authorities to ensure coordinated action against the growing cyber fraud threat. With this, the Centre is pushing for tighter accountability across telecom, banking and digital platforms to curb the surge in digital arrest scams.**

**New Delhi.(Agency)**

The government has submitted a detailed report before the Supreme Court outlining a coordinated, multi-agency strategy to tackle the growing menace of digital arrest scams, proposing measures ranging from biometric SIM verification to temporary debit holds on suspicious bank accounts.

The report, prepared after consultations with multiple stakeholders, urges the court to issue directions to key authorities, including the Department of Telecommunications (DoT), Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), to ensure uniform and time-bound implementation of safeguards.

**TELECOM REFORMS AND SIM TRACEABILITY**

A major focus of the recommendations,

submitted by the Attorney General of India on behalf of the Centre, is tightening telecom controls to curb misuse of SIM cards in cyber fraud. The Centre has called for expedited implementation of the Telecommunications (User Identification) Rules and the Biometric Identity Verification System to ensure national-level visibility of SIM issuance. Telecom service providers have been asked to strictly comply with these frameworks and cooperate in their rollout.

The report also stresses stronger verification and accountability mechanisms for Point of Sale (PoS) vendors involved in SIM activation, in line with the DoT's August 31, 2023 circular. It proposes swift blocking of suspicious or fraudulent SIM



cards used in cybercrime cases, including digital arrest scams.

Additionally, telecom operators and their PoS agents have been asked to extend full cooperation to law enforcement agencies by enabling real-time sharing of subscriber activation details and PoS data during investigations.

**WHATSAPP, PLATFORM**

**SAFEGUARDS AND DEVICE TRACKING**

On digital platforms, the report directs MeitY to ensure compliance by WhatsApp with safeguards discussed with the Inter-Departmental Committee. These include implementation of SIM-binding mechanisms in line with the DoT's November 28, 2025 circular, along with enhanced tools to detect and mitigate prolonged scam calls -- one of the defining features of digital arrest frauds. The report also suggests examining additional protective features similar to those deployed on platforms like Skype, and calls for mechanisms to identify and block device IDs used in scams, preventing repeat offenders from creating new accounts with different numbers.

## JNU makes entry into global law ranking without faculty

**New Delhi.(Agency)**

Jawaharlal Nehru University has secured a place in the QS World University Rankings 2026 for Law and Legal Studies despite not having a dedicated Faculty of Law or offering core LLB and LLM programmes.

Instead, the university's presence in the rankings rests on its research-driven approach through the Centre for the Study of Law and Governance, where legal studies intersect with public policy, governance and interdisciplinary inquiry.

Ranked in the 351-400 band this year, JNU's performance reflects a mixed trajectory. It scored 59.1 in academic reputation and 49.7 in employer reputation, along with 65.7 in citations per paper and 60 in H-index citations—indicators that underscore its research strength but also point to a dip from 2025, when it was placed in the 251-300 bracket. The decline is visible across parameters, including employer perception and research impact, even as its unconventional model continues to draw academic recognition.

In contrast, University of Delhi improved its standing, moving to the 151-200 band with an academic reputation score of 62.8. Meanwhile, National Law School of India University was placed in the 201-250 bracket, registering a strong academic reputation score of 71.6. Both institutions had featured in the 201-250 range in 2025, indicating a reshuffle within India's legal education landscape. The QS subject rankings group universities into bands such as 151-200 or 251-300, indicating a range rather than exact positions due to closely clustered scores. Evaluations are based on academic and employer reputation, research impact through citations and H-index, as well as international research collaboration.

**Indian institutions show improved standing**

University of Delhi is placed in the 151-200 band, showing improved standing, while National Law School of India University ranks in the 201-250 band with a strong academic reputation among global law institutions.

## Survival plan amid scorching summer: Mandatory midday rest for workers, cold water in DTC buses

**New Delhi.(Agency)**

The Delhi government on Monday said that it has made preparations to tackle the ongoing heatwave, with department-wise instructions issued to minimise hardship for residents. Outlining key measures, the government said all DTC buses will be equipped with cold water through onboard cool boxes, ensuring that commuters can access drinking water whenever needed. In addition, water counters will be set up near bus shelters, offering free cold water and ORS solutions to the public.

Chief Minister Rekha Gupta said the labour department has directed all employers to enforce a mandatory rest period for workers between 1 pm and 4 pm, protecting them from peak heat exposure. Employers have also been made responsible for providing drinking water, shaded areas and other essential facilities at worksites. The CM added that children remain the government's top priority.

Schools have been instructed to ensure adequate drinking water, proper ventilation and heat protection measures. It is now mandatory to provide every student with an ORS drink before dispersal so they are better protected during their journey home.

The MCD and PWD have been specifically asked to safeguard the health of sanitation workers and construction labourers, including halting work during peak afternoon hours. She added that the health system is on full alert, with hospitals stocked with essential medicines and adequate facilities to handle any emergency situation.

Meanwhile, Gautam Budh Nagar administration has stepped in to safeguard students. The district magistrate revised school timings for all institutions in Noida, shifting classes to early morning between 7:30 am and 12:30 pm to minimise exposure of students to extreme temperatures.

## Storm rips through mass wedding, 36 couples flee mid-ritual

**New Delhi.(Agency)**

At the onset of summer, a quick spell of thunder and showers can lift everyone's mood -- especially in the dry, arid regions of Rajasthan. But that was not the case in Tonk, where people ran for their lives, abandoning a mass wedding of 36 couples, as a towering dust storm swept through the ceremony.

So strong was the storm that it left the entire venue in ruins within minutes. Tents were

uprooted, and all kinds of materials were blown far into nearby fields. Items brought for the bride and groom were also scattered over long distances. While trying to escape,

several children and women were injured after being struck by metal pipes from the tent structures.

The whirlwind was followed by heavy rain, disrupting the

celebrations and dampening the mood of those attending the mass wedding. The venue had been buzzing with activity since morning -- tents up, festivities underway, and

joy in the air -- as members of the Dhakad community gathered in an open ground, awaiting the arrival of Rajasthan Energy Minister Heeralal Nagar. The minister later arrived at

the event and blessed the couples after the storm had subsided.

At around 3:30 pm, however, the weather suddenly changed, and strong winds quickly turned into a powerful whirlwind. Rajasthan has been

witnessing unusual weather patterns in recent days due to western disturbances and is likely to experience more thunderstorms and dust storms in the coming days. Just a few days ago, heavy hailstorms in several districts created visuals resembling colder regions.



## Oil, LPG tankers reaching Mumbai despite US blockade of Hormuz. Here's how

**Oil and LPG tankers and vessels have reached Mumbai from the Gulf despite the US blockade in the Strait of Hormuz. Experts say routes through Iranian waters and naval coordination limit the blockade's reach. We analyse whether the speculated routes are actually feasible.**

**New Delhi.(Agency)**

The US vowed to choke the Strait of Hormuz after Iran refused to bend, but the results so far have exposed the limits of naval power in one of the world's busiest maritime corridors. The US Navy, deployed east of the Strait in the Gulf of Oman to monitor and restrict traffic entering or leaving the passage, has not been able to make the blockade airtight. Dozens of tankers have reportedly continued to slip through.

There is also a route many observers have pointed to that could allow ships to sail directly from Iran's Kharg Island to Mumbai. The latest example of an Indian ship crossing the strait is the vessel Desh Garima. Two Indian vessels —

Jag Arnav and Sanmar Herald — came under Iranian fire along the tense route, but Desh Garima crossed the strait on the same day, and docked in Mumbai last Wednesday. The tanker carried 97,000 metric tonnes of crude oil from Ras Laffan in Qatar. Not just Desh Garima, over 30 other tankers have reportedly passed through the Strait of Hormuz since the US's blockade began on April 13. There is chatter about multiple non-Indian ships that have headed from Iran to India, though there has been no confirmation or denial either from Tehran or New Delhi.

"At least 34 tankers with links to Iran have bypassed the US blockade since it began," reported The Financial Times recently in an article in which it tracked dozens of ships coming out and going into the Persian Gulf.



## Will break your legs: Delhi cloud kitchen owner vs cops over bribe claims

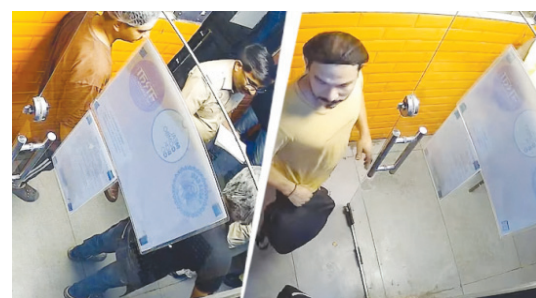
**New Delhi.(Agency)**

**A Vasant Kunj cloud kitchen has accused Delhi Police personnel of issuing threats and demanding bribes over late-night operations. The Delhi Police have denied any wrongdoing, saying action was taken due to traffic congestion, residents' complaints, and missing licences for late-night operations.**

A 24/7 cloud kitchen in Delhi's Vasant Kunj has alleged that police officers threatened to break workers' legs if the outlet remained open after 10 pm and later demanded "setting" to allow operations to continue. However, the Delhi Police denied any misconduct or wrongful intent on the part of its officers. Glisco Kitchens owner Gagandeep Singh Sapra said that despite repeated attempts to seek clarity from the Delhi Police following an alleged shutdown warning during the intervening night of Sunday and Monday, he eventually managed to establish contact.

However, he claimed the officers sent to assist were the same personnel who had earlier issued the threat.

"Called 112. They say -- 'we will send someone to help you,' but the people they send are the same people who told us, 'Taange tod doonga teri,'" Sapra wrote in a series of posts detailing



the alleged harassment. He further alleged that officers told him the kitchen's complaint would not be registered and that the only way to continue operations was through informal payments. "The beat officers who came in the PCR gave a simple answer: 'Aap apni setting kar lo jo dena hota hai mahine ka do,'" he claimed.

Responding to Gagandeep's tweets, the Delhi Police took to X and dismissed the bribery allegations, saying, "It is further clarified that

no misconduct or wrongful intent on the part of police personnel has been found."

The Delhi Police added that Gagandeep may file a detailed complaint along with supporting evidence so that the Vigilance Department can investigate the matter.

In his post, Gagandeep had alleged that the officers who visited him said the cloud kitchen's complaint would not be accepted and that the only way to resolve the matter was by paying bribes. "The beat officers who came in the PCR gave a simple answer: 'Aap apni setting kar lo, hum kuch nahin kar sakte, hum chithi bhi nahin lenge aur complaint bhi nahin lenge. Aap apni setting karo, jo dena hota hai mahine ka do,'" Sapra wrote in the thread. In the initial complaint sent by Harpreet Kaur Sapra on April 27, which was allegedly not registered, she said that a few individuals wearing Delhi Police uniforms entered their kitchen during service hours at around 2:30 am and asked them.

# Explosion near Punjab rail track triggers probe, unidentified body found nearby

A low-intensity blast damaged a railway track near Patiala on Monday night, prompting a multi-agency response. Investigators are examining the cause and whether a body found nearby is connected to the incident.

## Patiala. (Agency)

A low-intensity blast near a railway track in Punjab's Patiala late Monday night damaged a section of the line and triggered a multi-agency probe, officials said. The explosion, reported around 10 pm, occurred on a rail line primarily used for freight movement.

Senior police officials, including Patiala SSP Varun Sharma, along with teams from the Government Railway Police (GRP) and Railway Protection Force (RPF), rushed to the site near the Shambhu-Ambala stretch soon after the incident. Visuals showed officers inspecting the damaged track. "A low-intensity blast has taken place. It has caused damage to the track," Sharma said, adding that the extent of damage is being

assessed.

## BODY RECOVERED, LINK UNDER PROBE

An unidentified, dismembered body was recovered from near the blast site, though officials said it is not yet clear whether the death is linked to the explosion.

"The matter is under investigation," Sharma said when asked about a possible connection.

## MULTIPLE AGENCIES, FORENSIC TEAMS DEPLOYED

Following the incident, senior officers, including the Deputy Inspector General of Police, reached the site to oversee the response. Teams from GRP and RPF also joined the investigation.



Forensic experts have been called in to collect samples and examine the scene to determine the nature and cause of the explosion. Officials are working to piece together the sequence of events and assess whether any sabotage angle is involved.

The blast comes months after a similar incident in January on the dedicated freight corridor in Sirhind, in Fatehgarh Sahib district, which had damaged a train engine and left a loco pilot injured.

## A KALI DAL SLAMS GOVERNMENT

The Shiromani Akali Dal hit out at the state government over the incident, raising questions over law and order.

Senior leader Bikram Singh Majithia said the explosion on the Shambhu-Ambala track, which damaged the line and led to the recovery of a mutilated body, had disrupted train services and pointed to a worrying pattern. Referring to earlier incidents,

including the Sirhind blast and a recent suspicious recovery in Gurdaspur, Majithia said repeated occurrences raise "serious security concerns" in the state. He questioned Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann over the government's response, alleging there has been no clear action plan or high-level review on law and order.

Accusing the administration of misusing the police for political purposes, Majithia claimed security decisions were being driven by "political considerations rather than public safety", and warned of fears of a return to the law and order situation seen in the 1980s and 1990s. Calling it a "serious failure", he posed a series of questions on accountability, asking who would take responsibility.

## Short news

### Woman's body found in Mumbai's Andheri drain, two arrested for murder

Maharashtra. (Agency)

In a chilling case from Mumbai, police in Andheri have solved the mystery of an unidentified woman's body found in a drainage line, arresting two accused in connection with her murder. The case came to light on April 24 when civic workers of the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation were carrying out routine cleaning operations in a drain in Andheri East. Around 11:30 am, they spotted a decomposed body of a woman inside the drainage line and alerted the police.

Upon arrival, officers recovered the body and began an investigation. Due to the advanced state of decomposition, identifying the victim proved difficult. Police then examined missing persons reports from nearby stations, eventually identifying the deceased as a 40-year-old woman who had been reported missing earlier.

Through sustained interrogation and technical analysis, investigators discovered that the woman had been murdered by people known to her. The accused were identified as Joseph Coelho, 65, and Maria Coelho, 63, residents of the Marol Pipeline area in Andheri East.

According to police findings, the murder stemmed from a domestic dispute. The accused allegedly killed the woman and later disposed of her body in the drainage line in an attempt to destroy evidence.

Both accused have been arrested and booked under charges of murder and other relevant sections of law. Andheri police said further investigation into the case is ongoing.

### Burqa, Malaysia: Fresh Details On How Accused Tried To Convert TCS Staff

Mumbai. (Agency)

In shocking new details in the harassment probe at the TCS Nashik unit, it has emerged how the accused allegedly tried to change the name of a survivor and convert her religion. A conspiracy was also hatched to send the survivor to Malaysia under the pretext of a job opportunity and work for someone named Imran, sources said. Nida Khan, who earlier worked as a process associate in TCS, has been charged with hurting the survivor's religious sentiments and intimidating her to change her religion, said sources.

Since the survivor belonged to Scheduled Caste, sections under the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act have also been invoked in this case.

### Burqa And Islamic Books

Khan had given a burqa and Islamic religious books to the survivor with the alleged intent of conversion, sources have said, adding that such items have been seized by the police. However, it is yet to be found out where she had sources the books and burqa from.

She also allegedly installed "Islamic applications" on a survivor's mobile phone and sent her YouTube and Instagram links of religious content in an "attempt to influence her", they added.

Sources said that she had also taken away the survivors' educational documents and tried to force her to change her name to "Haniya". It has also allegedly come to light that they had contacted someone in Malegaon to facilitate the process, they said.

A court last week denied Khan interim protection from arrest after she claimed she was pregnant. She has been on the run since the matter came to the light.

Police sources suggest that it is crucial that they seize her mobile phone to extract digital evidence. The probe also aims to find out if she received funds to carry out the crime and who gave her shelter.

## Cops raid Dehradun bar operating beyond hours, find senior IPS officer present

A late-night drive to shut a Dehradun pub was disrupted after IG Rajiv Swarup was found at the spot. Uttarakhand Police has sought reports and is checking CCTV footage amid questions over coordination.

Dehradun. (Agency)

A late-night enforcement drive in Dehradun took an unusual turn after a senior police officer was allegedly present at a bar operating beyond permitted hours, prompting the Uttarakhand Police headquarters to seek a detailed report within 24 hours. The incident took place on Saturday night at the 'Romeo Lane' bar on Rajpur Road, which was reportedly functioning past the prescribed closing time. Dehradun Police have enforced a strict 11 pm deadline for all pubs and nightclubs since March 30.

Acting on information that the bar remained open around 1 am, a police team led by City SP Pramod Kumar reached the spot to enforce closure.

## POLICE ACTION AND ALLEGED INTERVENTION

Reports and a video shared by CPI-ML state



secretary Indresh Maikhuri alleged that the bar was operational till around 12.30 am and that the presence of a senior officer prevented police from shutting it down.

It was claimed that Rajiv Swarup, Inspector General of Police (Garhwal range), was present at the location and intervened during the police action, leading to a temporary halt in enforcement. The police team was reportedly unable to proceed with closure at that stage.

The situation later escalated, following which Dehradun SSP Pramendra Singh Dobal reached the spot and ensured the bar was shut.

## IG DENIES ALLEGATIONS

Responding to the controversy, IG Swarup denied the allegations of attending a late-night party or obstructing police action.

He said he was passing through the area with his family and objected only to what he described as an unusually large police deployment. "Incorrect information is being spread about my presence," he said.

Taking serious note of the reports, Additional Director General (Law and Order) V Murugesan has asked both the IG Garhwal and the Dehradun SSP to submit a comprehensive report within 24 hours. Officials said CCTV footage is being examined to establish the sequence of events and verify competing claims.

## Gujarat man kills brother over black magic suspicion, injures two nieces

Narmada. (Agency)

A chilling tale of superstition and violence has emerged from Gujarat's Narmada district, where a man allegedly murdered his younger brother in a brutal attack driven by suspicions of black magic, before turning on his own nieces.

The incident took place in Bhuchhad village of Nandod Taluka, sending shock waves through the local community. According to police, the accused, Ramesh Vasava, believed that his younger brother, Gurji Vasava, was practising black magic against him. What began as a heated argument between the two soon spiralled into deadly violence. In a fit of rage, Ramesh reportedly fetched a sharp weapon and ambushed Gurji while he was returning



from a shop. He attacked him viciously, slitting his throat and leaving him fatally injured. Gurji succumbed to his injuries on the spot.

The violence did not end there. When Gurji's daughters, Savitri and Shilpa, rushed in to intervene and save their father, the accused turned on them as well. Both young

women sustained serious injuries; Savitri suffered a head wound while Shilpa was injured on her hand. They were rushed to Rajpipla Civil Hospital, where they are currently undergoing treatment.

As police began their investigation, a disturbing past came to light. Officials revealed that Ramesh had a history of violent crime. Nearly two decades ago, in 2005, he had killed another brother, Vitthal Vasava, during a drunken altercation. Despite the gravity of that crime, he had spent only a brief period in jail before being released following a settlement. This time, however, the brutality of the act and the attack on multiple family members have intensified the case.

## Can you recite Kalma, Maharashtra man asks 2 security guards, then stabs them

A 31-year-old man was arrested for allegedly stabbing two security guards in Mira Road near Mumbai after asking their religion and whether they could recite the Kalma. The case was handed to the ATS as police examine his online activity and possible extremist links.

Mumbai. (Agency)

A 31-year-old man was arrested for allegedly stabbing two security guards in Mira Road near Mumbai after he asked them about their religion and if they could recite the Kalma (an Islamic declaration of faith), which they denied, police said. The accused, identified as Jaib Zubair Ansari, watched ISIS-propaganda videos and police are probing whether the attack had any ideological or extremist links.

The incident occurred around 4 am on Sunday in Mira Road East, where the two security guards - Rajkumar Mishra and Subroto Sen - were on duty at an under-construction building.

Police said Ansari, who was in the area, saw the guards and asked their names and religion, to which they answered. He then



asked whether they could read the Kalma. When the guards said they could not, he allegedly pulled out a knife and attacked them.

Mishra suffered serious injuries, including damage to his intestines, while Sen sustained minor injuries to his back. Sen managed to hide inside a security cabin

after the attack, police said.

After assaulting the guards, Ansari fled the scene. Sen alerted police, following which both injured men were rushed to Wockhardt Hospital for treatment. Police said the guards' condition is stable and they continue to receive medical care.

## ACCUSED ARRESTED IN 90 MINUTES

The Maharashtra Police said a police team reached the spot soon after receiving information about the stabbing. Using CCTV footage from the area, investigators identified Ansari and tracked him to his rented residence in the Naya Nagar area in Mira Road East. He was arrested within one-and-a-half hours of the incident.

A case has been registered at Naya Nagar

Police Station based on Sen's complaint.

During the investigation, police found that Ansari's online activity allegedly included repeated viewing of ISIS-related propaganda videos.

According to sources, Ansari studied in the US until 2019 before returning to India and living alone in Mira Road on rent. Investigators also found that his landlord had allegedly asked him to vacate the rented flat by May 5.

Until three to four months ago, Ansari worked as a teacher at a coaching centre, where he taught chemistry and mathematics.

## ATS JOINS INVESTIGATION

The case has now been transferred to the Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) of Maharashtra Police for further investigation.



for several minutes before being rescued. She was rushed to the intensive care unit and is currently undergoing treatment.

Based on a complaint filed by her son, the police have registered a case of negligence against Dr Vasantrao Pawar Medical College, Hospital and Research Centre.

In a clarification issued after the incident, the medical college stated that the system involved was not a conventional passenger lift but a hoist trolley used to carry drums of surgical equipment. The administration added that a government electrical engineer inspected the system and found no evidence of a technical fault or mechanical failure.

The hospital also said that Ahire had crossed a designated safety line and looked into the trolley's path without following operational guidelines, which led to the accident.

Short news

**Proposal for Karnataka HC's Mangaluru bench runs into opposition, practical challenges cited**

**BENGALURU.(Agency)**  
The proposal to establish a bench or circuit bench of the Karnataka High Court in Mangaluru, that would help the people of Udupi, Mangaluru, Kodagu, Hassan, Shivamogga, Uttara Kannada and other surrounding areas, has sparked sharp opposition from a section of the legal fraternity, with critics warning that the move could aggravate existing challenges rather than resolve them.

The demand for a High Court bench in coastal Karnataka has long been championed by local bar associations and political leaders, and delegations from Dakshina Kannada have submitted representations to the Chief Justice. However, a section of advocates has flagged multiple practical and logistical concerns. A key issue raised is the acute shortage of judges at the principal bench in Bengaluru. The High Court is already grappling with vacancies, and critics argue that deputing judges to a new bench in Mangaluru would further strain judicial capacity, increase case pendency and burden the remaining judges. They insist that filling existing vacancies must take priority before any expansion is considered.

Concerns have also been raised over inconvenience to litigants. The proposal reportedly seeks to bring districts such as Shivamogga and Chikkamagaluru under the jurisdiction of the Mangaluru bench. Lawyers argue that for many from these regions, Bengaluru is more accessible than Mangaluru, and a shift could create avoidable hardship.

**Post-pandemic inflation lingers, idli-sambar a casualty in Kerala**

**THIRUVANANTHAPURAM.(Agency)**  
Good news: Kerala's idli-sambar tastes exactly the same as before Covid. Bad news: the bill that comes with it has turned bitter. This popular breakfast dish has quietly become a telling casualty of post-pandemic inflation.

An analysis based on an official report shows that ingredients for a standard home serving — 20 idlis with traditional sambar, enough for four to five people — that cost Rs 105 in 2015, and barely moved to Rs 107 by 2019, now costs Rs 145.

The "Retail Prices of Essential Commodities Report" from the department of economics and statistics covering 75 essential commodities shows that prices which moved gradually before the pandemic have surged sharply since.

Before Covid, some key ingredients had actually become cheaper. Toor dal — the soul of every sambar — fell from Rs 122 per kg in 2015 to Rs 95 in 2019. Black gram, which gives the idli its texture, dropped from Rs 123 to Rs 95 in the same period. After the pandemic, both reversed sharply. Toor dal peaked at Rs 178 per kg in 2024, an 87% rise from 2019, before easing to Rs 136 in 2025. Black gram climbed to Rs 130, a 37% rise.

The year 2021 was the inflection point for several commodities. Until then, prices rose gradually with occasional corrections. From 2022, the pace became exceptional, with nearly every commodity hitting historic highs. Dry chillies averaged Rs 146 per kg in 2019, peaked at Rs 269 in 2022 and eased to Rs 191 in 2025. Turmeric powder doubled from Rs 16 per 100g in 2015 to Rs 30 in 2025, with most of the rise after 2021. Nothing tells the story better than coconut.

**51 families in Wayanad begin afresh in League-built houses**

**KALPETTA.(Agency)**  
Nearly two years after the landslide swept away their homes and memories, 51 families from Chooralmala and Mundakkai are rebuilding—steadily and bravely. In a township created by the Indian Union Muslim League (IUML) at Thrikkaipatta-Vellithode, survivors are moving into new homes that stand as quiet symbols of relief, resilience, and the strength to begin again.

In the first phase, families gathered under one roof, setting aside faith and politics, bound instead by shared loss and quiet trust. That trust now stands fulfilled, homes delivered even before the government township at Kalpetta becomes fully operational.

Over the past two days, families have begun moving in—some already carving out small patches for home farming. Of the 51 houses, 14 were allotted to Hindu families, prioritised without a draw; their housewarmings opened with traditional rites, including Ganapathi homam, in the presence of local IUML leaders. The remaining 37 homes, assigned to Muslim families through a draw, were welcomed with prayers of their own—each home carrying a quiet, heartfelt note of gratitude. Binimol, one among the first to move in, said the moment felt like a long-awaited answer to their prayers. "We had complete faith in the League, we knew they would keep their word. That is why we stepped away from the government project. Today, we feel truly blessed. This is a beautiful, fully furnished three-bedroom home with every modern facility."

**Probe Agency Disburses Rs 127.69 Crore To 1.73 Lakh Rose Valley Scam Victims**

**Kolkata.(Agency)**  
The Enforcement Directorate (ED) Kolkata Zonal Office, working alongside the Asset Disposal Committee (ADC), has reached a significant milestone in the restitution process for victims of the Rose Valley Group ponzi scam. As of April 2026, the coordinated effort has successfully navigated multiple phases of fund recovery, returning life savings to over 1.7 lakh investors, according to a press release.



The recovery process is being hailed as a major victory for transparency and victim-centric legal action. The ED's role extends beyond mere investigation; it is actively facilitating the liquidation of seized assets to ensure "Proceeds of Crime" return to their rightful owners.

According to the release, the Rose Valley Group had fraudulently mobilised approximately Rs. 17,520 Crore from investors across West Bengal, Assam, Odisha and other States by

promising high returns, out of which Rs. 6,666 Crore remained unpaid to investors. Since the investigation has begun, the ED has taken sincere steps for tracing, attachment, seizure and safeguarding of assets of Rose Valley Group.

So far, ED has attached or seized movable and immovable properties having a book value of approximately Rs. 1,568 Crore spread across various states, including West Bengal, Odisha, Assam and Tripura, intending to secure maximum restitution to the affected

victims. A major milestone in the restitution process was achieved on 22 April 2025, when ED handed over a demand draft of Rs. 517.54 Crore to the ADC pursuant to orders obtained from the Special Court at Bhubaneswar, enabling restitution of attached Proceeds of Crime for the benefit of victims, the release noted.

In a major development for the above cause, the ED and ADC have initiated automation of the claims and disbursement mechanism through artificial intelligence-based technology, for which approval of the High Court was obtained on March 31.

The ADC has entered into an arrangement with Stock Holding Document Management Services Limited, a government company, for revamping the refund portal so that KYC extraction and multistage matching of claims can be carried out in a time-bound and efficient manner. With the revamped system, the disbursement timeline is expected to be reduced significantly, the release noted.

**Uttarakhand: Army clears snow for Hemkund Sahib Yatra 2026, shrine to open May 23 with safety measures in place**

**The sacred Hemkund Sahib Yatra 2026 begins soon, with the first batch of pilgrims leaving May 20. The Indian Army is clearing snow from the route, while the government and shrine management prepare facilities to ensure a safe, smooth, and organized pilgrimage experience.**

**Chamoli.(Agency)**  
Preparations for the Hemkund Sahib Yatra 2026 are in full swing as the revered Sikh shrine in Chamoli district gears up to welcome thousands of devotees. Located at an altitude of 4,633 meters, Hemkund Sahib is surrounded by seven snow-clad peaks and sits beside a glacial lake, making it one of the most spiritually significant and visually stunning pilgrimage sites in India.



To ensure the route is safe and accessible, the Indian Army has taken on the challenging task of clearing heavy snow from the trekking path. Despite harsh weather and difficult terrain, soldiers are working tirelessly to make the journey smooth for pilgrims. Their efforts are being widely appreciated, as the cleared path will allow devotees to reach the shrine without facing major obstacles.

**District administration is also finalizing arrangements**

The district administration is also finalizing arrangements to provide better facilities along the route. Camps, medical aid, and crowd management systems are being strengthened to avoid inconvenience. Coordination between departments is being emphasized to ensure that every aspect of the pilgrimage runs efficiently. The shrine's doors will officially open on May 23, 2026, but the first batch of pilgrims is scheduled

to leave on May 20. This group will be led by the Panj Pyaras, following tradition. On Sunday, Narendra Jeet Singh Bindra, President of the Gurdwara Hemkund Sahib Management Trust, met with Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhama to discuss preparations. He invited the Chief Minister to attend the farewell ceremony of the first batch of pilgrims.

**State government is fully committed to the convenience**

Chief Minister Dhama assured that the state government is fully committed to the convenience and safety of devotees. He emphasized that arrangements are being continuously monitored and that every possible assistance will be provided to make the yatra successful, smooth, and organized. The government is focusing on avoiding any inconvenience to pilgrims and is coordinating with local authorities to strengthen facilities along the route.

**Google lays foundation for Rs 1.35 lakh crore AI hub in Visakhapatnam**

**VISAKHAPATNAM.(Agency)**  
Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Tuesday laid the foundation stone for a large-scale Google Cloud India Artificial Intelligence (AI) hub being developed by Google in Visakhapatnam.

for Electronics and Information Technology Ashwini Vaishnav, State IT Minister Nara Lokesh, and senior representatives from Google Cloud, the Adani Group, and Bharti Enterprises. Envisioned as a one-gigawatt-scale data

Chandrababu Naidu described the occasion as the beginning of a new technological chapter for Andhra Pradesh, stating that the entry of Google marks a major shift for Visakhapatnam and the State.

The project, being executed in partnership with AdaniConneX and Nxtra by Airtel, forms part of Google's proposed \$15 billion (approximately Rs 1.35 lakh crore) investment in India between 2026 and 2030.



The AI hub will span 601.4 acres across three strategic locations, including Rambilli in Anakapalli district, and Adavivaram and Tarlavada in Visakhapatnam district. Of the total extent, 266.6 acres are located in Tarlavada village, 174.8 acres in Rambilli, and 160 acres in Adavivaram. The project is expected to generate around 3,000 direct technical jobs upon completion.

The foundation ceremony at Tarlavada village was attended by Union Minister for Electronics and Information Technology Ashwini Vaishnav, State IT Minister Nara Lokesh, and senior representatives from Google Cloud, the Adani Group, and Bharti Enterprises. In his address, Chief Minister N.

He noted that the proposed \$15 billion investment will significantly strengthen Andhra Pradesh's position in the global technology landscape. Describing the project as a defining moment, he said the AI data centre will establish India as an important hub in the global artificial intelligence ecosystem and observed that "Google, which began as a search engine, is now becoming a growth engine for India."

Comparing the development to the rise of Cyberabad, he maintained that North Andhra is entering a similar phase of transformation driven by large-scale digital infrastructure. He added that April 28, 2026, will remain an important milestone in the State's development history.

**Slump in onion prices leaves AP farmers in tears**

**KURNOOL.(Agency)**  
Onion farmers in Kurnool district are facing severe financial distress as prices have crashed sharply at the end of the Rabi season, forcing many growers to dump their produce in market yards and even abandon standing crops in their fields.

At the Kurnool Agricultural Wholesale Market Yard, onion prices over the past few days have ranged between Rs 400 and Rs 1,200 per quintal, with most of the produce fetching only Rs 400 to Rs 600 per quintal. These rates are far below the cost of cultivation, leaving farmers with heavy losses.

Unable to secure remunerative prices, several farmers have dumped their onion bags in corners of the market yard and returned home in despair. Others have chosen not to harvest their standing crop, as labour and transportation costs would exceed the sale proceeds.

Market Yard Secretary R Vijaya Lakshmi said the Rabi season usually witnesses a decline in prices, but this year's fall has been unusually steep. "From the beginning of the season, the highest price was only around Rs 2,000 per quintal. Current prices are extremely disappointing," she said.

The slump has been attributed to multiple factors, including near-closure of exports to Bangladesh due to international tensions, fuel shortages affecting transportation to neighbouring states, and the arrival of superior-quality onions from Maharashtra.

**'Export curbs may hit Kharif cropping'**  
Local onions, though sizable, have suffered internal layer damage due to intense summer heat, reducing their shelf life and consumer demand.

**Madhya Pradesh Assembly Passes Women's Reservation Resolution Amid Showdown**

**Bhopal.(Agency)**  
A special session of the Madhya Pradesh Legislative Assembly, called in the name of 'Nari Shakti Vandan', turned into a high-voltage political battleground on Monday as the House passed a government resolution proposing 33 per cent reservation for women in Parliament and all Legislative Assemblies. The resolution was passed following a fierce clash between the ruling BJP and the opposition Congress over timing, intent and political credibility.

implemented with immediate effect, following the completion of the delimitation process."

Opening the discussion in the House, Yadav struck a sharp tone, accusing the Congress of historically denying women their rightful political space despite being in power for decades after Independence. Calling it an "injustice against half the population," he said, "There were several opportunities in history to grant women equal representation, but Congress delayed delimitation and blocked the path through constitutional manoeuvres."



The Chief Minister went further, declaring that MP now stands for "Mahila Sashaktikaran Pradesh", and claimed that the government's commitment was visible on the ground, citing that 17 out of 55

districts are headed by women collectors. He argued that if timely decisions had been taken, women's representation in the Lok Sabha and Assemblies could have more than doubled, adding, "We are determined to ensure that women get their rightful share. But this cannot happen without a constitutional amendment and delimitation." The opposition was quick to

turn the spotlight back on the government. Leader of Opposition Umang Singh mounted a direct challenge, questioning the delay embedded within the resolution itself. "Women need reservation today, not in 2029 or 2047. If your intentions are honest, why wait for delimitation? Implement it now," he demanded, cornering the government on what he called a "future promise with no present action".

The debate intensified as the Congress accused the BJP of using women's empowerment as a political slogan rather than a policy priority. After the resolution was passed, the Congress staged a walkout, with Singh later stating, "The BJP is anti-women, and this mindset was clearly visible inside the House."

## NEWS BOX

## Return of the pirates: Iran slams US tanker seizures as armed robbery

World. (Agency)

Iran has sharply condemned the United States after US forces seized two tankers allegedly carrying Iranian oil, calling the action "armed robbery on the high seas" and a violation of international law. Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmail Baghaei accused Washington of legitimising piracy, saying the seizures amounted to "the outright legalisation of piracy and armed robbery on the high seas." In a post on X, Baghaei said the world was witnessing "the return of the pirates," alleging that US authorities were using legal warrants to justify what he described as unlawful plunder under official flags.

### US DEFENDS TANKER SEIZURES

US authorities, however, defended the move as a lawful enforcement action. Jeanine Ferris Pirro said US forces had seized the tankers Majestic X and Tifani under court-approved warrants.

According to Pirro, both vessels were carrying roughly 1.9 million barrels of Iranian oil each when they were intercepted in the Indian Ocean. She said the operation was part of a broader effort to disrupt illicit oil networks and prevent sanctioned entities from profiting. Pirro added that US agencies would continue to "relentlessly investigate, track, and pursue" such cases in coordination with national security partners.

### US WARNS FIRMS OF SANCTIONS DEALING WITH IRAN AIRLINES

The United States has warned companies worldwide that providing services to Iran's airlines could expose them to sanctions, as Washington intensifies its economic pressure campaign. US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said businesses offering support such as jet fuel, catering, landing services or maintenance to Iranian aircraft risk punitive action under a programme dubbed "Operation Economic Fury". In a post on X, Bessent urged foreign governments to ensure that companies within their jurisdictions avoid assisting Iranian airlines in any capacity.

## Trump shooting scare renews 'staged' conspiracy theory

WASHINGTON. (Agency)

A flood of misinformation exploded online after US President Donald Trump escaped a weekend shooting scare, fueling renewed -- and unfounded -- claims that he has staged assassination attempts to boost his political fortunes.

Trump and his top administration officials were evacuated Saturday from a media gala in Washington after gunfire erupted outside the ballroom, marking the third assassination attempt targeting the Republican in two years. AFP's fact-checkers identified a series of social media posts from anti-Trump accounts circulating an unsubstantiated theory that the White House staged the shooting to distract attention from unfavorable news, including the unpopular US-Israeli war with Iran.

Posts advancing the claim garnered 80 million views on Elon Musk's platform X alone within two days of the shooting, according to the disinformation watchdog NewsGuard. Many of the same accounts previously claimed that two assassination attempts on Trump in 2024 -- in Pennsylvania and Florida -- were also staged. The narrative largely emanated from a left-wing conspiracy movement that researchers call "BlueAnon," a play on the right-wing QAnon cult. "Many of the anti-Trump accounts baselessly claiming that the WHCD (White House Correspondents' Dinner) shooting was staged made identical claims after the 2024 assassination attempts," NewsGuard's Sofia Rubinson told AFP.

## Indian-origin man sentenced in Singapore for molesting minor

SINGAPORE. (Agency)

A 33-year-old Indian-origin man was sentenced to 19 months' jail by a Singapore court for molesting his friend's minor sister over a decade ago.

The crime took place over the years when the victim was seven to nine years old, and Melvinder Singh Gurmit Singh was 19 to 21 years old. Singh had contested two counts of molestation, claiming among other things that the girl had kissed him consensually and that she was taking revenge on him. The girl had not disclosed the offences earlier as she felt nobody would believe her, but said the molestation impacted her ability to give and receive physical affection, reported Channal News Asia.

She finally lodged a police report in March 2023 after revealing the molestation to her mother and boyfriend when they separately questioned her.

The court convicted Singh and sentenced him to 19 months' jail. The prosecution had sought 20 to 22 months' jail for Singh, saying he had exploited a young victim and abused the trust placed in him by the victim and her family members. Singh said he will be appealing against his conviction and sentence.

For each count of molestation of a minor, he could have been jailed for up to five years, fined, caned, or given any combination of these punishments.

# US lawmakers propose SACRED Act to shield worshippers with federal buffer zones

**US Representatives Tom Suozzi and Max Miller have introduced the bipartisan SACRED Act to curb harassment outside places of worship. The proposal has drawn backing from faith groups and is being presented as consistent with First Amendment protections.**

New York. (Agency)

In response to a nationwide surge in harassment and intimidation outside religious institutions, US Representatives Tom Suozzi (D-NY) and Max Miller (R-OH) have introduced bipartisan legislation aimed at protecting Americans' ability to safely access their places of worship.

The lawmakers unveiled the Safeguarding Access to Congregations and Religious Establishments from Disruption (SACRED) Act on Monday during a press conference at the Holocaust Memorial and Tolerance Center of Nassau County. Surrounded by leaders from diverse faith and advocacy groups, Rep. Suozzi emphasized the urgent need to address the growing fear among constituents who face hostility simply for practicing their religion. "No one deserves to be harassed or intimidated, especially on their way to their place of worship," Rep. Suozzi said. "We have a responsibility to address that fear in a thoughtful, targeted way that protects our constituents while balancing the First Amendment right to peacefully protest."

### KEY PROVISIONS OF THE SACRED ACT

Currently, there is no dedicated federal statute explicitly protecting worshippers from harassment right at the doors of their religious institutions. If passed, the



SACRED Act would establish strict federal penalties to bridge this gap.

Under the proposed legislation, it would become a federal crime to intentionally intimidate, obstruct, or harass individuals exercising their right to religious worship. Specifically, the bill prohibits: Threatening or physically blocking the path of worshippers within 100 feet of a place of worship. Approaching an individual within 8 feet for the explicit purpose of harassment or intimidation while they are within that 100-foot buffer zone.

### A RESPONSE TO RISING TIDES OF

### INTIMIDATION

The legislation comes at a time when communities across the country—including synagogues, churches, mosques, Hindu mandirs, and Sikh gurdwaras—have reported an unprecedented wave of aggressive demonstrations. Worshippers have frequently reported being shouted at, physically blocked from entering services, and subjected to threatening rhetoric.

According to the Anti-Defamation League (ADL), antisemitic incidents have reached historic levels, with the organization tracking over 9,300 incidents in 2024 alone.

Similarly, the American Jewish Committee (AJC) recently reported that 55% of American Jews have altered their behavior in the past year out of fear of antisemitism. "Every American deserves to practice their faith free from fear, intimidation, or harassment," said Rep. Miller, the bill's Republican co-lead.

## King Charles arrives in US as White House shooting and Iran rift shadow visit

World. (Agency)

Britain's King Charles and Queen Camilla arrived in the United States on Monday afternoon for a four-day trip, a tour which has taken on even greater prominence after the White House Correspondents' dinner shooting and amid acrimony between the close allies. The state visit, by far the most high-profile and consequential of Charles' reign, marks the 250th anniversary of the U.S. declaration of independence from British rule, and is the first to the country by a British monarch for two decades.

Charles and Camilla touched down at Joint Base Andrews around 2:30 p.m. ET (1830 GMT) and will head to the White House for a private meeting with self-proclaimed royal fan President Donald Trump. The week's schedule includes an address to Congress, a lavish state dinner at the White House and a stop in New York City.

### PRESS DINNER SHOOTING JUST DAYS BEFORE VISIT

The long-planned visit has become enmeshed in a political spat between the two countries over the U.S.-Israeli war on Iran, which led Trump to voice deep displeasure with the British government for failing to support the



offensive. The shooting on Saturday at the White House Correspondents' Association dinner in Washington, where U.S. officials have said the president and members of his administration were the likely targets, has cast a further pall over the visit.

Buckingham Palace said the trip would still go ahead as planned following

discussions between British and US authorities to determine if the incident would impact the royals' plans. "The king and queen are most grateful to all those who have worked at pace to ensure this remains the case and are looking forward to the visit getting underway tomorrow," a palace spokesperson said on Sunday.

### TRUMP HAS CRITICISED UK OVER IRAN STANCE

On arriving in Washington, the king and queen have a private tea with the president, an unabashed lover of the British royal family who regularly describes Charles as a "great man", and his wife, first lady Melania Trump. The 77-year-old king, who is still undergoing treatment for cancer, will address Congress the next day - just the second time a British monarch has done so. The royals will then head on to New York where they will commemorate those killed in the September 11, 2001, attacks ahead of the 25th anniversary, while the queen will also mark the centenary of children's stories featuring Winnie the Pooh.

## Iran offers Hormuz reopening and truce before nuke talks; Trump unhappy: Report

World. (Agency)

US President Donald Trump is unlikely to accept Iran's latest proposal to resolve the ongoing West Asia conflict in a phased manner, with officials saying the plan falls short of Washington's core demand that Tehran's nuclear programme be addressed upfront, according to reports citing US officials.

According to US officials, Trump is dissatisfied with Tehran's proposal, which seeks to defer negotiations on Iran's nuclear activities until after a ceasefire is achieved and disputes over maritime security, particularly in the Strait of Hormuz, are resolved. The US administration considers the nuclear issue central to any durable settlement and is unwilling to separate it from



broader negotiations, news agency Reuters reported.

Iran's three-point proposal amid the stalemate in peace talks outlines a phased approach: first ending the US-Israel war on Iran and securing guarantees against renewed hostilities; then resolving the US naval blockade and reopening key shipping routes; and only later addressing contentious issues such as Iran's nuclear

programme and uranium enrichment rights.

A US official briefed on Trump's meeting with advisers said the president rejected the sequencing, insisting nuclear concerns must be tackled from the outset. US Secretary of State Marco Rubio echoed that stance, saying any agreement must ensure Iran cannot develop nuclear weapons.

"We can't let them get away with it," Rubio said in a Fox News interview Monday. "We have to ensure that any deal that is made, any agreement that is made, is one that definitively prevents them from sprinting towards a nuclear weapon at any point." One of the main reasons, according to Donald Trump, for going to war with Iran was to deny it the ability to develop.

# \$500 million superyacht linked to Putin aide sails through Hormuz amid blockade

**Shipping data showed that the superyacht Nord, linked to Vladimir Putin aide and steel magnate Alexey Mordashov, passed through the Strait of Hormuz. The rare transit has drawn attention as movement along the route has trickled to near zero amid blockades imposed by both the US and Iran.**

World. (Agency)

Battered by blockades, with traffic in the Strait of Hormuz trickling to near zero, a superyacht linked to sanctioned Russian billionaire and Vladimir Putin aide Alexey

Mordashov sailed through the critical shipping lane at the centre of the US-Iran conflict. The rare transit has raised eyebrows as movement through the waterway has remained heavily restricted since the war began in February.

According to MarineTraffic data, the 465-foot vessel, Nord, left a marina in Dubai on Friday afternoon, crossed the strait on Saturday morning and arrived in Muscat early on Sunday. The yacht is valued at more than USD 500 million. It is not known how the vessel obtained permission to make the passage.

Iran has sharply reduced movement through the Strait of Hormuz, which lies at the entrance to the Gulf and normally carries about one-fifth of the world's oil supply. Daily transits have fallen to just a few vessels -- mostly merchant ships -- from around 125 to 140 a day before the war

began on February 28. The US has imposed a naval blockade on Iranian ports amid a fragile ceasefire with



Iran. Russia and Iran have long maintained close ties and have moved closer in recent years, including through a 2025 treaty that expanded intelligence and security cooperation. On Monday, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi arrived in Russia for a meeting with President Vladimir

Putin after holding talks with mediators in Pakistan and Oman over the weekend.

Mordashov, who is known to be close to Putin, is not officially listed as Nord's owner. However, shipping data and Russian corporate records from 2025 show that the yacht was registered in 2022 to a Russian company owned by his wife. That company is registered in Cherepovets, the same Russian town where Mordashov's steelmaker Severstal is registered.

Mordashov was among several Russians sanctioned by the United States and the European Union after Russia's war in Ukraine over his ties to Putin. Nord is among the world's largest yachts and features 20 staterooms, a swimming pool, a helipad, and a submarine, according to industry publication Superyacht Times. The vessel's transit through the Strait of Hormuz has drawn attention due to restrictions on the route and Mordashov's links to the Kremlin.

## US and Iran clash at UN nuclear treaty meet over Tehran's vice-president role



World. (Agency)

The United Nations witnessed a sharp exchange between the United States and Iran on Monday as tensions over Tehran's nuclear program spilled into a key global conference on arms control. The 11th review conference of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, which came into force in 1970, opened in New York with disagreement already brewing over Iran's selection as one of 34 vice presidents for the month-long meeting. The appointment was made by the Non-Aligned group, according to conference chair Do Hung Viet.

Washington strongly objected. Christopher Yeaw, a senior official at the US Bureau of Arms Control and Nonproliferation, described Iran's inclusion as an "affront" to the treaty. He accused Tehran of long-standing non-compliance and of refusing to cooperate with the International Atomic Energy Agency over concerns about its nuclear activities.

Calling the decision "beyond shameful," Yeaw said it undermined the credibility of the conference.

Iran swiftly rejected the criticism. Reza Najafi dismissed the US remarks as "baseless and politically motivated," and countered by highlighting Washington's own nuclear history and ongoing arsenal expansion.

The diplomatic clash comes against the backdrop of a continuing conflict involving Iran, the United States and Israel, where nuclear tensions remain central. US President Donald Trump reiterated over the weekend that Iran must never acquire nuclear weapons, maintaining a firm US stance.

Tehran has long argued that it has the right to enrich uranium for peaceful purposes, while Western powers fear such capabilities could be diverted toward weapons development. Although Iran denies seeking nuclear arms, both the IAEA and US intelligence assessments have previously indicated that Tehran pursued a weapons program until 2003. In a possible diplomatic opening, Iranian sources on Monday outlined a proposal to ease tensions, suggesting that nuclear discussions be postponed until the current conflict ends and disputes over Gulf shipping are resolved.

# 5 easy and healthy Non-vegetarian Recipes



golden and crisp.

## Grilled Chicken Breasts

### Ingredients

1/3 cup mustard  
1/4 cup honey  
2 tablespoons mayonnaise  
1 teaspoon steak sauce  
4 skinless, boneless chicken breast halves

### Method

- Preheat the grill for medium heat. In a shallow bowl, mix the mustard, honey, mayonnaise, and steak sauce.

- Set aside a small amount of the honey mustard sauce for basting, and dip the chicken into the remaining sauce to coat. Lightly oil the grill grate.

- Grill chicken over indirect heat for 18 to 20 minutes, turning occasionally. Watch carefully to prevent burning!

## Fish Teriyaki

### Ingredients

1 cup Soy Sauce  
1/4 cup Sugar  
1/4 cup Salad Oil  
2 tsp Ginger 2 cloves  
Garlic  
700 g Fish Fillets  
1 tsp Sesame Seeds

### Method

- Mix together soy sauce, sugar, oil, ginger, and garlic in a large bowl. Cut fish fillets into four equal portions. Marinate fillets in the prepared mixture.

- Place fish on a broiling pan, reserving the marinade. Simmer fish fillets 4-5-inch above the heat for 3-4 minutes, basting with reserved marinade frequently.

- Sprinkle fish fillets with sesame seeds. Remove from pan and serve hot.

## Egg White Omelette with Veggies

### Ingredients

3 large egg whites  
1 teaspoon salt  
1 teaspoon freshly ground pepper  
1/2 cup thinly sliced spinach  
1 tomato chopped

oil and heat over medium heat 1 minute.  
- Pour egg mixture into pan and cook until eggs begin to set on bottom. Cook 2 minutes. Slide omelet onto a serving plate and garnish with reserved filling.

## Prawn Salad

### Ingredients

Red chillis chopped  
1 clove garlic  
2 tablespoons olive oil  
800 green prawns peeled and de-veined  
1 cup cherry tomatoes  
100 g green beans  
100 g peas  
1 red capsicum thinly sliced  
juice of 1 lemon  
freshly ground black pepper

### Method

- Place chilli and garlic with oil in a food processor and blend until lightly chopped. - Transfer half the mixture to a mixing bowl. Add prawns and toss to coat thoroughly. Allow this to marinate for 30 minutes. - Preheat oven to 200 °C. Transfer remaining mixture to dish. Add tomatoes, beans, and peas. Toss to combine. Microwave on high for three minutes, or until vegetables are just cooked.

- Transfer prawns to a baking tray and bake for ten minutes, or until cooked. Remove from oven and tip prawns and cooking juices into cooling vegetables.



Adequate protein intake is crucial for muscle growth and maintenance.

Today we're looking at some quick and healthy protein-rich non-vegetarian recipes that will help you clock your daily protein requirement without spending too much time in the kitchen. Let's get started!

## Baked Chicken Legs

### Ingredients

8 chicken legs - skinned  
1 teaspoon curry powder  
2 teaspoons French mustard  
1/2 cup yogurt  
1 cup breadcrumbs

### Method

- Combine, curry powder, mustard and yoghurt and mix well. Coat chicken legs in mixture before rolling in breadcrumbs. Place on a plate in fridge for 30 minutes.

- Preheat oven to 350 F. Grease an ovenproof dish. Place chicken legs in dish and bake turning once or twice.

- Bake for approximately 45 minutes or until chicken is cooked through and crumb is



## How to make Sun tea



You get iced tea in all forms -bottled, powdered, and, of course, homemade. However, there is one unusual way to make iced tea, and that's by leaving it out in the sun for the brewing process. It's called -you guessed it -sun tea. And what better day to make a jug full of it than on Iced Tea Day?

Here's how you make it

- You'll need 4 cups of distilled water 5 teabags of any kind (use more if you want stronger tea).

- A clear glass container with a lid

- Sugar to taste

- Ice

Method

- Sanitize the container thoroughly by placing it in boiling water for a few minutes, and then allow it to dry.

- Fill the container with distilled water.

- Add the teabags to the water

- Place container in direct sunlight for 2-4 hours

- Remove teabags and discard them

- Add sugar if you like

- Pour over ice and serve

This method of making tea is simple, but since the tea has to brew outdoors, it provides the perfect breeding ground for bacteria.

Here are some precautions to follow when making sun tea

- Sanitize the container and lid well.

- Place the container on a tray, not directly on the ground.

- Do not let the tea stand in the sun for more than four hours.

- Discard the tea if you see ropey strands or white spots in it as they are signs of bacteria growth.

- Discard the tea if it has thick or syrupy consistency.

## Try a jamun and paani puri shot before you bid adieu to summer

While many parts of the country have started experiencing the first spells of monsoon, many cities are still sweltering with no respite from the sun. Though the met department is forecasting an on-time arrival of monsoons, here's a lowdown on the list of thirst quenchers that you could indulge ahead of the pouring season. While sugarcane juice and fresh coconut water top the list, you can give a shot to these exotic drinks as well. The juice parlours have come up with quirky swig and sip options to make the last spell of summer more delightful.

Shot it up with Jamun and Paani Puri

The juice parlours in the city have taken the shot craze to a different level with shots of jamun, paan and paani puri being introduced exclusively made for the season. Karan Dhawan, a juice centre owner in Vijay Nagar, specialises in selling different shots. He says, "My father Jugdish Dhawan started this legacy of selling different juices and creams in Indore 60 years back. I have added shots to our juice menu this season. A jamun shot (set of 4) costs Rs. 90 while a paan shot will cost you Rs. 120. These shots are made only by natural ingredients and salt is added on the edge of the glasses to add the feel of a shot." These shots count for quintessential summer quenchers and have become popular amongst youngsters as well. Sonal Chawla, a regular at the juice centre, says, "I love the strawberry and paani puri shots. The feeling of gulping a crushed tangy paani puri is divine."

## The mirchi fans

As the name suggests, Mirchiana is a spicy masala soda drink that is ruling the summer drinks this season. Kamal Irani, owner of a city juice parlour, has been quenching the thirst of people for exotic juices since 1928. She shares, "Mirchiana is a drink that youngsters are crazy about. We have been serving it since years and people love it. Since it is priced at Rs. 20, it is also pocket-friendly and quite popular." Pallavi Somnath, a college student, says, "I am a complete Mirchiana fan.

Anybody who comes to my place in summer is served with this drink. The drink tastes even better when served with ice cream." Talking about other thirst quenchers, Irani further adds, "Pinacolada, that is priced at Rs. 40, is yet another drink which people love. It is best known for a thick soda base and lots of ice. Also people have this false notion about the inferior quality of ice which the juice centres use. The ice that we use is made of mineral water. We use the same ice for all our drinks be it a Rs. 10 drink or a Rs. 100."

## Acoconut date

Coconut crush counts for one of the best energy drinks in summer. Not as exotic as other drinks, but a juice centre in Usha Nagar is

best known for its thick coconut crush with cream Rs. 80. Aman Agrawal, who indulges in such crushes often, says, "I had coconut crush at this store just by chance. Since then, I have not been able to restrain myself from indulging in them once in a while. Now, I make it a point to have the crush at least thrice a week. A large glass of a mixed fruit juice Rs. 60 is another must-have from the shop."

## Litchi and Kiwi Crushers

Litchi and kiwi are definitely the fruits of the season. People love litchis and kiwis blended in crushes too. A juice parlour on YN road serves thirst quenching litchi shake at Rs. 100 and kiwi crusher at Rs. 90, made from fresh litchis and kiwis.

## Other must-have drinks

- Blue Lagoon Mocktail  
- Fresh fruit creams with soda  
- Strawberry shake  
- Apple juice  
- Minted sugarcane juice

## Healthy sips

A canteen in the DAVV campus has come up with an option of beet root juice this season. "The beet root juice, that is priced at Rs.10 is a perfect energy drink to cope with the scorching sun and heat in the canteen," says Mohini Bansal an MBA Finance student in DAVV University. The canteen also serves healthy watermelon juices as well. "There is nothing exotic about a watermelon juice but it keeps you hydrated throughout the day.



## NEWS BOX

## PV Sindhu's heartbreaking loss triggers India's Uber Cup exit, blanked 0-5 by China

New Delhi. (Agency)

India's run in the Uber Cup 2026 came to a heartbreaking end as they were beaten 0-5 by China in the Group A clash on Monday, April 27. The tone for the exit was set by PV Sindhu's loss in the singles match to world No. 2 Wang Zhiyi, where she let a lead slip in the decider to lose 16-21, 21-19, 19-21.

India had qualified for the quarterfinals of the Thomas Cup with a 5-0 win over Australia earlier in the day. The Indian women started their campaign with a narrow 2-3 loss to hosts Denmark before responding in style with a commanding 4-1 win over Ukraine. However, they needed a win against China to keep their hopes alive. However, things went downhill the moment Sindhu lost her singles clash with Wang.

The Indian ace started her match well despite trailing early. After trailing 4-7 early in the opening game, she fought back to level at 9-9 and then won five consecutive points to go into the interval with an 11-9 advantage. Using sharp net play and powerful smashes, she extended her lead to 14-10, but Wang responded strongly with clever deception and accurate placement to fight back. From 16-16, the Chinese player took control and sealed the game with a string of winners. Sindhu came out aggressively in the second game, storming to a 9-4 lead with a flurry of smashes.

Wang fought back to level at 10-10 with her trademark angles and deception, but Sindhu stayed composed late on. Leading 18-16, she earned two game points and converted the second with a powerful smash to force a decider. She carried that momentum into the third game, racing to a 9-3 lead and extending it to 11-6 at the break before pushing ahead to 18-12 with relentless attacking play. But Wang produced a stunning comeback, winning six straight points to make it 18-18. From there, the Chinese shuttler edged ahead and sealed the match after Sindhu found the net on match point.

**OTHER RESULTS**  
Sindhu's loss put India immediately on the backfoot and China used the momentum to secure the comfortable win. In the doubles clash, world No. 1 Chinese pair Liu Sheng Shu and Tan Ning beat India's Priya Konjengbam and Shruti Mishra in straight games, tightening China's hold on the tie.

## Mitchell Santner ruled out of IPL 2026 as troubles pile up for Mumbai Indians

New Delhi. (Agency)

Mumbai Indians have been dealt a major blow after Mitchell Santner was ruled out of IPL 2026. The all-rounder injured his left shoulder during the match against Chennai Super Kings on April 24 at the Wankhede Stadium and was unable to recover in time for the remainder of the tournament. The incident took place in the 17th over when Santner completed a diving catch to dismiss Kartik Sharma. He was immediately seen clutching his left shoulder and was later treated in the dugout, where he had an ice pack applied and his arm placed in a sling.

The substitution was approved during the second innings, with MI bringing in Shardul Thakur as a concussion substitute, a decision that also sparked considerable debate.

MI have struggled thus far in the competition, as they are struggling at ninth in the table with four points and a net run rate of -0.736 after losses in five out of seven games.

### WHO DID MUMBAI NAME AS REPLACEMENT?

As a replacement for Mitchell Santner, Mumbai Indians have signed South African left-arm spinner Keshav Maharaj. One of South Africa's most experienced spinners across formats, Maharaj is known for his accuracy, control, and ability to build sustained pressure. He has been a regular presence in the Proteas setup since making his international debut in 2016.

Interestingly, Maharaj was named in South Africa's squad for the 2021 T20 World Cup without having played a single T20I. He later made his debut as captain against Sri Lanka and made an immediate impact by picking up a wicket with his very first delivery in the format.

A proven leader at both international and franchise levels, Maharaj has taken 31 wickets in his last 30 T20 matches, with best figures of 3 for 15. He was also recently part of the support staff of the South Africa women's team that secured a 4-1 T20I series win over Harmanpreet Kaur's India. Languishing in the bottom half of the table, Mumbai Indians will be looking to bounce back when they take on Sunrisers Hyderabad on Wednesday, April 29, at the Wankhede Stadium.

# Mind your business: Kris Srikkanth grills Hemang Badani over Fleming-Dhoni jibes

**IPL 2026, DC vs RCB: Kris Srikkanth tore into Hemang Badani after Delhi Capitals' nine-wicket loss to Royal Challengers Bengaluru, citing his old remarks on Stephen Fleming. The attack intensified scrutiny of Delhi's tactics, team calls and familiar mid-season slide after three straight defeats.**

New Delhi. (Agency)

The IPL has a habit of bringing old words back at the worst time and Hemang Badani is now learning that the hard way, as a 2025 interview resurfaces for the Delhi Capitals head coach.

Following Delhi's humiliating nine-wicket loss to Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) on Monday, former India captain Kris Srikkanth launched a blistering attack on Badani. Srikkanth's fury wasn't just directed

at the scoreboard, but at what he perceived as Badani's past arrogance regarding the coaching credentials of Chennai Super Kings coach Stephen Fleming.

The root of the friction lies in comments Badani made during an interview with former cricketer Yo Mahesh. At the time, Badani had questioned whether Fleming was truly a "great" coach, suggesting his success was entirely tethered to MS Dhoni.

"If Fleming is such a big coach, why hasn't he won anywhere else apart from the IPL?" Badani had asked, pointing to Fleming's stints in the SA20, The Hundred, and the Big Bash League. He went as far as to say, "CSK are winning because of Dhoni. Dhoni is the kingpin... if someone says Fleming is a good coach, I won't agree to it."

### SRIKKANTH BLASTS BADANI

With Delhi Capitals currently languishing in 7th place with just three wins from eight games, Srikkanth didn't hold back.

Reminding Badani of his past remarks, Srikkanth suggested that the DC coach should focus on his own sinking ship before critiquing others.

"On top of all this, Hemang Badani went after

questioning Badani's own tactical acumen. "Everybody is bringing this up and slamming him. Why talk about others? You should have been mindful of your job. Who are you to say Stephen Fleming won only because of MS Dhoni? What have you done? Anything special? Nothing."

### A HORROR NIGHT AT KOTLA

The timing of the verbal volley coincided with one of the darkest chapters in Delhi's batting history. Just days after scoring a massive 264 in a losing cause against Punjab Kings—a match where they conceded the highest successful chase in IPL history—the Capitals' confidence appeared completely shattered.

Facing RCB at the Arun Jaitley Stadium, Delhi were blown away for a measly 75 — their third-lowest total in IPL history. At one point, the scoreboard read a surreal 9 for 6, threatening the lowest total in the league's existence. Only a gritty 30 from Abhishek Porel saved them from absolute ignominy before RCB chased the target in a mere 6.3 overs.



Stephen Fleming," Srikkanth fumed. "Hey Hemang. First take care of yourself before talking about others. I have always said this: 'in life, don't talk too much'. He spoke too much. Now, he has to shut up and watch stuff happening."

Srikkanth continued the onslaught,

## Manchester United close to Champions League spot, but still work to do: Carrick

New Delhi. (Agency)

Manchester United moved closer to securing a place in next season's UEFA Champions League with a hard-fought 2-1 win over Brentford at home on Monday, April 27, but interim manager Michael Carrick said his side still had work to do. With four games remaining, Carrick said United wanted to finish as high as possible in the Premier League table.

Goals from Casemiro and Benjamin Sesko helped United beat Brentford and move to 61 points, 11 ahead of Brighton and Hove Albion in sixth place. With the top five from the Premier League qualifying for the Champions League, United need two more points to confirm their place next season.

Carrick, however, said the team should stay



grounded despite being close to qualification. The Champions League is one thing, but it's not something that we should be over-celebrating either," Carrick told reporters, as quoted by Reuters.

"We want to be finishing high up the league really, and we want to be challenging high up in the league and trying to get more points so

our season doesn't get to a close when that happens."

Carrick said United had put themselves in a good position, but added that there was still more work to be done.

Casemiro's goal against Brentford was his ninth of the season. The Brazilian is set to leave at the end of the season, and Carrick praised the midfielder for his commitment in the closing stages of his time at the club.

"From both sides it's pretty clear. Probably the situation and the clarity of it has helped everything," Carrick said.

"It means a lot to him and credit to him because of the situation that it is, he's given absolutely everything as well and had some big moments for us." United next face Liverpool in the Premier League on Sunday, May 3, with Carrick's side still pushing to secure Champions League qualification and finish as high as possible in the table.

## Off target: Internet erupts over Vaibhav Sooryavanshi question to Manu Bhaker

**At an event in New Delhi celebrating 75 years of Indian shooting excellence, Manu Bhaker was asked about cricket prodigy Vaibhav Sooryavanshi. While Bhaker's response was a masterclass in maturity, the question itself has drawn sharp criticism, reigniting the debate over the Indian media's enduring obsession with cricket.**

New Delhi. (Agency)

Double Olympic medalist Manu Bhaker once again proved her composure extends far beyond the shooting range. However, while Bhaker is being lauded for her grace, the internet is venting its fury at a reporter who used a platform celebrating Olympic excellence to ask the shooter about a teenage cricket sensation. The incident occurred during an event in New Delhi held to commemorate 75 years of the National

Rifle Association of India (NRAI). The gathering featured the crme de la crme of India's shooting fraternity, intended to honour the sport's rich history, which includes Bhaker's historic two-medal haul at the Paris 2024 Olympics.

The atmosphere shifted when a reporter



pivoted from the theme of the day to ask Bhaker for her thoughts on Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, the 15-year-old cricketer who has recently taken the IPL by storm. Sooryavanshi, who recently became the youngest player to reach 1,000 runs in T20 cricket, has been the

subject of intense media scrutiny since his debut.

### FOLKS, SHE IS AN OLYMPIC MEDALIST!

The question did not sit well with sports fans and social media users, who quickly took to X and Instagram to question the journalist. The primary grievance among netizens was the perceived "cricket-centric" bias of Indian media, even at an event specifically designed to honour Olympians. "Folks, she is an Olympic medalist. To ask her what she thinks of Vaibhav Sooryavanshi is unfair on her achievements and her sports. Cricket anyway is the ruling passion of the country. Your sports editors do not need another celebrity quote to spin a headline on Sooryavanshi. Optionally, the next time ask Vaibhav Sooryavanshi about Manu Bhaker and see the looks you get," Joy Bhattacharjya, a reputed sports broadcaster, wrote on X.

## How critics made Shreyas Iyer solve his short-ball issue: Wanted to prove them wrong

**Shreyas Iyer said criticism over his short-ball weakness pushed him to improve as the PBKS captain opened up on fixing the issue and becoming one of IPL's best finishers.**

NEW DELHI. (Agency)

For a long period of time in his international and IPL career, Shreyas Iyer seemed to have a short-ball problem. It seemed like a short ball would have his name on it, and many felt that it would be the reason behind Shreyas' downfall. He solved the issue during the ODI World Cup 2023 and has now become one of

the most effective players of the pull shot. This was evident during the win against MI at the Wankhede when he pulled Jasprit Bumrah for a towering six. Speaking on JioStar's 'Believe' to Irfan Pathan, Shreyas said that he was triggered by the constant criticism around his short-ball issue and wanted to prove people wrong.

"People said I would never fix my short-ball problem. That triggered me. I wanted to prove them wrong by performing well. So, I worked hard on it. Earlier, I would just take a single or try to keep the ball down. But now my mindset has changed. If I see a short ball in my zone, I am going to hit it for a six," said Shreyas.

The PBKS skipper also said that he tries to face close to 50 overs during batting practice and is focused on creating a rhythm for himself by facing real bowlers. "I work with Pravin Amre. I have been with him since I was



young. I also talk to coaches like Abhishek Nayar. We share ideas. During my batting practice, I now try to play around 50 overs and face over 300 balls. That helps me understand what works for me. I don't follow a fixed pattern," said Shreyas.

"I give myself more time in the middle and face real bowlers, not just sidearm throws. The more I face bowlers, the clearer my movement becomes. I focus on creating a rhythm. Just before the bowler delivers, I try

to get into my position quickly. That creates a flow. You must have seen AB de Villiers do that. Even Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli have that rhythm before playing their shots. I try to do the same."

### RISE OF THE CHASE MASTER

Along with overcoming his short-ball issue, Shreyas has also become one of the most dependable finishers in the IPL. In his last seven innings while chasing, Shreyas has hit five fifties. The PBKS skipper said that he finds finishing to be fun and plans to keep himself at the crease for longer and capitalise on the platform provided by Prabhsimran Singh and Priyansh Arya at the top. "I want to stay not out and finish off the game because the fun of finishing is different. So, I tell myself that the longer I stay till the end, the chances of winning will increase, and the team will also benefit. At the same time, the contribution from the youngsters and the openers.



Championships and the 2026 Federation Cup one final opportunity to qualify for the Asian Games selection trials.

According to the Wrestling Federation's Asian Games selection policy, only medal winners from the 2025 National Championships and the 2026 Federation Cup are eligible to compete in the senior selection trials. However, those who secure medals at the Open Ranking tournament will earn a place in the national camp, which could also put them in contention for the trials.

Vinesh said that she tried to contact WFI regarding the issue but hasn't got a response so far. "I am hoping to make a comeback at the National Open Ranking Tournament. The registration for it was open till April 30. However, when I tried to register, the portal says it is now closed. I have been trying to contact the administrative staff of the federation, but they haven't responded to my calls," Vinesh told The Indian Express.

Vinesh said that she faced similar sorts of issues at the Federation Cup as well.

## Vinesh Phogat slams Wrestling Federation: They're deliberately blocking my return

New Delhi. (Agency)

Vinesh Phogat has claimed that the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) was deliberately trying to block her return to the mat after a 20-month hiatus. Vinesh, who walked away from the sport after her Paris Olympics heartbreak, made a retirement U-turn in December last year. The 31-year-old was preparing to return for next month's National Open Ranking tournament.

However, Vinesh has been unable to register for the competition after the WFI portal said that the registrations are closed. According to a WFI circular, dated April 8, the last day for entry is April 30. The tournament offers wrestlers who were absent from the 2025 National



# Jacqueline Fernandez

## Recalls Akshay Kumar's Prank On Housefull Sets That Gave Her 'Real Trauma'

The upcoming episode of the quiz reality show *Wheels of Fortune*, will see Bollywood actress Jacqueline Fernandez recalling the time when Bollywood superstar Akshay Kumar left her traumatised. The actress elaborated on a prank played on her by Akshay Kumar from the early days of her career in Bollywood.

During the game show, host and superstar Akshay asked Jacqueline, "Aapko 17 saal ho gaye hain industry main, kabhi aapse kisine galat baat ki hai?"

To everyone's surprise, Jacqueline laughed and replied, "Yes, bahut!" A curious Akshay asked her to elaborate, to which Jacqueline recalled an incident from her first item song, "Mera pehla item song 'Dhanno' tha in 'Housefull', aur us, waqt Akshay ne mere saath bahut ganda prank kiya tha. It actually gave me trauma!"

She further explained, "Set par kaafi security thi bodyguards aur log khade the. Mujhe laga police hai, toh maine casually pooch liya ki itni security kyun hai. Thodi der baad Akshay mere paas aake bolte hain, 'Jacqueline, tumne kuch galat kiya hai kya? Police tumhare liye aayi hain. Song ke baad tumhe station le jayenge.'"

She further added, "Main poore song ke dauraan itni darr gayi thi, mujhe samajh hi nahi aa raha tha maine aisa kya kiya hain."

Realising the impact of his prank, Akshay apologised and said, "Agar maine aisa kiya tha, toh main sorry bolta hoon."

He further added, "Insaan ko haste-khelte rehna chahiye, thodi masti karte rehna chahiye. Prank bhi karne chahiye, but sirf tab tak jab tak kisi ko dukh na ho. Agar kisi ko dukh nahi hua, toh masti chalte rehni chahiye."

Talking about the song *Dhanno*, it featured in the movie *Housefull* that starred Akshay Kumar, Arjun Rampal, Deepika Padukone, Lara Dutta, Riteish Deshmukh, Boman Irani, Randhir Kapoor. The song was picturised on Jacqueline Fernandez who played a special appearance just for the song.



## Priyanka Chopra To Make Cameo Appearance In Filmmaker Mira Nair's Upcoming Biopic Drama? Deets Inside



The report on the renowned Hungarian-Indian painter Amrita Sher-Gil has been making headlines for quite some time, and now the new update suggests that filmmaker Mira Nair has managed to bring Priyanka Chopra on board for a special cameo.

As per *Mid-Day* sources, Priyanka Chopra will be seen in a special appearance in Mira Nair's upcoming biopic drama. While the report suggests that Nair has kept the details under wraps, a source shared, "The film aims to present the painter's life across Hungary, India, and France. There was a specific part for which Mira had approached Priyanka last year, and she shot for it last week. The actor was in Hyderabad to finish some work on 'Varanasi'. After that, she flew down to Amritsar and filmed for two days."

The project has been a passion project for Nair for several years. Initially announced in 2020 following the release of *A Suitable Boy*, the film will chronicle Amrita Sher-Gil's journey from 1915 to 1941, spanning India, Hungary, and France. According to *Mid-Day*, Nair spent four years convincing producers to back the period drama. Casting a respected and versatile actor like Tabu is expected to further elevate the film's profile and lend credibility to the ensemble. While the lead role is still unconfirmed, the biopic is reported to feature over 15 actors from the Hindi film industry. Tanya Maniktala has clarified that she has not been cast as the protagonist, keeping the central role a mystery.

### More about Priyanka Chopra

Priyanka had already carved out a successful career in Bollywood with films such as *Aitraaz*, *Krrish*, *Dostana*, *Kaminey*, *7 Khoon Maaf*, *Don*, *Agneepath*, *Barfi!*, *Dil Dhadakne Do*, and *Bajirao Mastani*. After *Jai Gangaajal* in 2016, she transitioned to international projects and has since maintained a steady presence overseas.

Now, she is also set to return to Indian cinema with SS Rajamouli's upcoming film *Varanasi*. The project will star Mahesh Babu and Prithviraj Sukumaran in key roles, with Priyanka playing a character named Mandakini.

Early glimpses of the film have already generated buzz, showing her in a saree while handling a gun. The film is expected to release in 2027.

## After Heeramandi, Richa Chadha To Star In New Crime Thriller Series As A Detective



After leaving a lasting impression with her portrayal of Lajjo, the courtesan in Sanjay Leela Bhansali's period drama web series *Heeramandi*, Richa Chadha is all set to surprise audiences once again with a completely different avatar. According to industry sources, Richa will soon be seen headlining a gripping crime thriller series for a leading OTT platform. In a sharp turn from her recent period role, the actress is reportedly stepping into the shoes of a detective for the upcoming project.

While details about the series are being kept tightly under wraps, it has been learnt that Richa has already begun shooting. The show is expected to explore a layered narrative set against the backdrop of crime and investigation, with Richa's character said to be central to the unfolding mystery.

A source close to the development shared, "After *Heeramandi* and post pregnancy, Richa was keen to explore something radically different. The role of a detective allows her to tap into a sharp, restrained, and cerebral space. It's a character that demands both emotional intelligence and quiet intensity qualities she naturally brings to the screen. She has already started filming, and the look and tonality are very distinct from anything she has done before." Richa Chadha has spent close to twenty years in the Indian film industry, known for roles that often sit outside mainstream formulas. Films such as *Gangs of Wasseypur*, *Masaan*, and *Fukrey* helped establish her reputation for taking on unconventional parts.

But international exposure is not completely unfamiliar territory for her. The actor has appeared in projects with cross-border collaboration before.

These include *Words With Gods* (2014), a multinational anthology involving Indian, Mexican and American filmmakers. She also featured in *Masaan* (2015), which had an Indo-French production background and the Indo-American drama *Love Sonia* (2018).

Manoj Bajpayee And

# Adah Sharma's First Look Posters From 'Governor: The Silent Saviour' Unveiled

The new posters of the upcoming film 'Governor: The Silent Saviour' starring Manoj Bajpayee were unveiled on Monday a few days after his birthday. On Monday, Manoj took to his Instagram, and shared a joint post with the film's team. They wrote in the caption, "This was a war. There were no armies. Just one man... who refused to let a nation fall. GOVERNOR - The Silent Saviour in cinemas on 12th June, 2026". The new poster takes the audience deeper into the world of the intense drama. They also feature Adah Sharma. Apart from the face reveal of the cast, the posters also come with impactful taglines that read, "Ab Bari Meri Hai", "I Will Not Let India Fail", and "India Is On The Verge Of Bankruptcy, He Saw It Coming".



While different posters showcase the varied shades of National Award-winning actor Manoj Bajpayee, they truly speak volumes about the intense drama set to unfold on screen.

The story is inspired by a real former governor who passed away recently, and the film carries a strong "national crisis" theme. The film is reportedly inspired by S.

Venkitaramanan, who served as RBI Governor during India's 1991 economic crisis and was closely associated with the country's financial rescue period. However, the makers are yet to corroborate the above claims, and confirm if it's indeed based on him.

The film is presented by Sunshine Pictures, produced by Vipul Amrutlal Shah and directed by Chinmay Mandlekar. It is co-produced by Aashin A. Shah and written by Suwendu Bhattacharyjee, Saurabh Bharat, Ravi Asrani, and Vipul Amrutlal Shah. With lyrics by Javed Akhtar, the music of the film is composed by Amit Trivedi.



Are you in love with colours? Try

# Rainbow Food

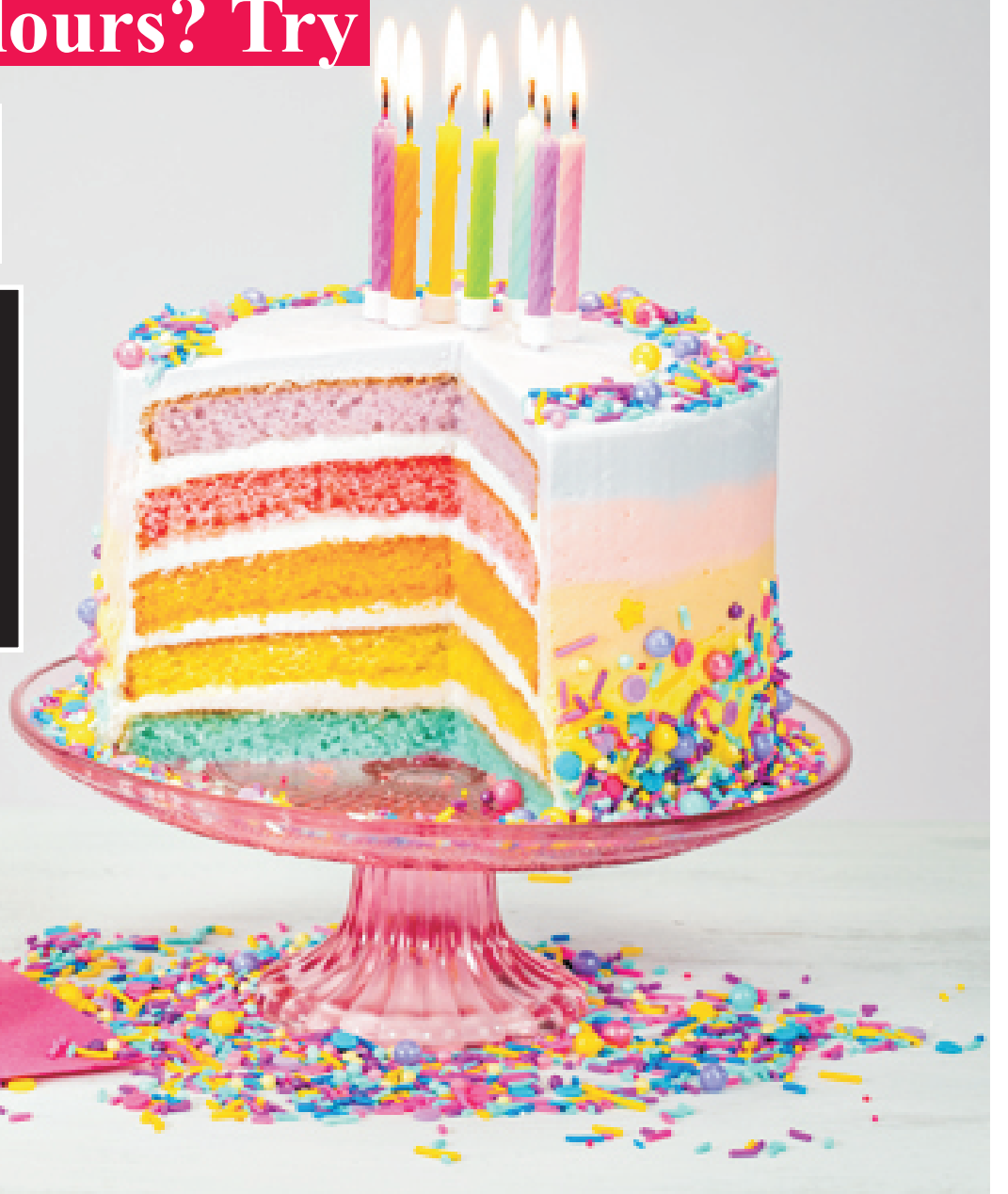
They say leprechauns find gold at the end of a rainbow. While we may not be able to exactly vouch for it, the internet sure has struck gold when it comes to all things rainbow. Yes, rainbow colours have infiltrated every aspect of our lives — think rainbow-themed parties, rainbow cakes and even rainbow puke on SnapChat. And the latest fad that has the internet going crazy is a rainbow-coloured grilled cheese sandwich. Here are a few things which are themed around rainbows — because, sometimes, you need to see everything in all its seven-coloured glory.

**Rainbow food**  
Rainbow grilled cheese sandwich Created in Hong Kong, this sandwich, also dubbed as 'unicorn grilled cheese sandwich' is everything a sandwich should be — gooey, filled with the goodness of four different kinds of gooey cheese and of course, it is multi-coloured. An Instagram user posted that the ingredients include lavender (blue), basil (green) and the yellow was actually a combination of four kinds of cheese - mozzarella, cheddar, Swiss emmental and gruyere. While we are not really sure of how healthy this sandwich is, we sure cannot deny that it does make for a pretty picture!

**Rainbow cakes**  
These have been around for a while now. Although they are a little tedious to bake (the process involves baking seven differently coloured cakes and then assembling them into one gigantic seven-layered cake and finally frosted with vanilla frosting), they sure make for a pleasant surprise when they are actually cut. And, oh, did

we mention seven layers of cake in one slice?

**Rainbow bagels**  
Made by the Bagel Store in Brooklyn, these delicious bites of bagels actually taste like any other bagel, but it is the toppings that make them unique. There are plenty of options to choose from — including funfetti cream cheese, cannoli cream cheese



choose offbeat ingredients in the colours of the rainbow to create a visual impact.

**Rainbow latte**

Almost nothing's a better pick-me-up than coffee, so, imagine if there was something bright, cheery and colourful that topped your latte to brighten up your mornings? Well, believe it or not, rainbow lattes are totally legit. Created first by Mason Salisbury, a barista at a coffee shop in Vegas, the process involves adding food colouring to steamed milk in order to create these dreamy designs. Needless to say, perfecting the rainbow on the latte, takes loads of practice.

**Other rainbow things**

**Rainbow hair:** While it was a style that was sported by punk rockers earlier, an increasing number of celebrities including the likes of Nicki Minaj,

Christina Aguilera and Katy Perry have embraced the trend with open arms. Check out the gorgeous daughter of Mick Jagger, Georgia May; pull off this style with elan.

**Rainbow nails:** Perk up your manicure with a rainbow-coloured polish. They are bound to attract a second look for sure!

**Rainbow puke:** The 'lenses' feature of Snapchat lets you puke rainbows! That's right.

Quite popular among the millennials, this feature is bound to garner some laughs from your fellow Snapchatters.

**Rainbow dress:** Wear it like how Lindsay Lohan does. Unless you are particularly adventurous, you may not want to go the Miley Cyrus way.

**Rainbow makeup:** Rainbow makeup, too, is quite the rage these days. Whether they are on the eyes, the lashes or the lips, most women are ditching solid colours for a seven-themed hue.



## Give your weekend breakfast a twist

After a hectic week, your mind and body need a healthy treat. The best way to do this is through a nutritious breakfast during the weekend. Here we bring you some easy to make and healthy breakfast options.

**Spicy Scrambled Eggs**

**Ingredients**  
Eggs - 2, Onion - 1, finely chopped, Tomato - 1, finely chopped, Turmeric powder - a pinch, Oil - 2 tsp, Green chilli - 1, chopped, Red chilli powder - 1/4 tsp, Coriander leaves - little, chopped, Salt as per taste

**Optional ingredients**

Capsicum - 1/4 cup, chopped, Peas - 2 tblsp, boiled

- Method**
1. Break the eggs into a bowl.
  2. Add a small pinch of salt and beat lightly.
  3. Heat oil in a pan over medium flame.
  4. Saute the onions for 2 to 3 minutes.
  5. Add the green chillies, turmeric powder, red chilli powder and stir well.
  6. Add the tomatoes, pinch of salt and stir to mix.
  7. Cook for a minute or two.
  8. Pour the eggs into the pan and allow it to set, about 30 seconds.
  9. Stir well for 2 minutes or until well scrambled.
  10. Garnish with coriander leaves.
  11. Serve at once with toasted bread, roti or chapati.



mixture and place them on the hot tawa.

6. Add a little oil around the edges and cook on both sides until well done.
7. Remove and serve hot.

**Mixed Sprouts Sandwich**

**Ingredients**  
Mixed Sprouts - 1 cup, Coriander leaves - 1 cup, Green chillies - 3, Bread slices - 6 to 8, Wheat flour - 1 tsp, Oil - 1 tsp, Salt as per taste, Ghee as required

**Optional ingredients**  
Onion - 1, sliced, Tomato - 1, sliced

**Method**

1. Heat 1 cup of water in a pan and bring to a boil.
2. Add the sprouts for 10 minutes and drain well.
3. Add salt and grind to a coarse paste in a mixie.
4. Heat little oil in a pan.
5. Add the ground paste.
6. Mix the wheat flour in little water and add to the pan.
7. Stir-fry for a minute or two and remove.
8. Grind the coriander leaves, green chillies and little salt to a fine paste.
9. Spread this green chutney on the bread slices.
10. Add 1 or 2 tblsp of the ground sprout paste to 3 or 4 slices and spread evenly (on top of the green chutney).
11. Cover with the remaining slices.
12. Heat a tawa over medium flame.
13. Place the prepared sandwiches and apply little ghee around the edges.
14. Cook for a minute on both sides and remove.
15. Alternatively, place them on a sandwich maker and cook.
16. Serve with ketchup.

**Sweet French Toast**

**Ingredients**  
Bread - 1 small packet, Eggs - 6, Sugar - 4 tsp, powdered, Oil as required

**Method**

1. Break the eggs and beat well.
2. Add the powdered sugar and mix.
3. Heat a tawa over medium flame.
4. Add a little oil.
5. Dip the bread slices in the egg

## Kulfi the popular desi chilled delight

Come summer and as soon as the shout of 'Kulfi le lo' fills the air, children as well as adults rush to buy this delicious chilled delight. Kulfi is a traditional cold dessert native to India, which kulfiwalas sell in huge earthenware pots. These are also known as matkas which are covered with a damp maroon cloth. These vendors go door to door with the kulfi, which is frozen by placing the moulds inside the pot that is filled with ice and salt. They sell the kulfi on a stick, in a terracotta cup or cut them into bite-sized pieces and serve these on a huge green leaf.

Even now these kulfiwalas do the rounds of residential areas and are a common sight on the crowded beaches of Mumbai.

**Origins of kulfi**  
The process of evaporating milk to make it dense was already popular in India as the sweet dish rabri. Later, during the Mughal period, this mixture was flavoured with pistachios and saffron, packed and sealed into metal cones and immersed in slurry ice, resulting in the invention of kulfi as we know it today. The recipe also finds a mention in the Ain-i-Akbari, a document recording the administration of Emperor Akbar since it was a popular item prepared in the royal kitchens.

**The traditional kulfi**  
Kulfi is traditionally prepared by evaporating sweetened and flavoured milk by slow cooking, while continuously stirring to keep the milk from sticking to the bottom of the vessel. When its volume lessens and the mixture thickens, it is kept aside to cool and is garnished with cardamom, saffron, or pistachio nuts. This mix is then frozen in tightly-sealed clay khulars, which are submerged in ice mixed with salt to speed up the freezing process. While this process is still followed, nowadays there are individual kulfi moulds available that are refrigerated for six to seven hours after which they are ready to eat. However, the slow freezing process in a khular ensures a smooth kulfi without any ice crystals while also giving an earthy flavour to the dessert.

**New ways of preparation and flavours**  
With time the preparation of kulfi has transformed and easy ways of making it have been developed. Using sweetened condensed milk and thick cream fastens the process and more sugar is added as per the taste. A paste of cornstarch and water is used to

thicken the mixture. Some also boil the milk, while adding bread crumbs and sugar to get a creamy layer which is scooped out and again added to the mixture in the end to thicken it. The kulfi is frozen in moulds or in individual portion bowls, which are kept in the freezer and are removed some time before serving the dessert. The traditional flavours of kulfi are malai, kesar, pista, badam, and rose but now there are newer variations being added. While fruity flavours like mango, sitaphal, litchi, apple, orange and strawberry have become common in specialised kulfi centres, others like coconut, peanut, chocolate and avocado are also becoming popular. A completely different flavour, liked especially by youngsters, is the falooda kulfi. This is kulfi with rice noodles, topped with sugar syrup and other ingredients.

**Kulfi v/s Ice cream**  
While Kulfi has similarities to ice cream in appearance and taste... It is a denser, creamier frozen dessert as compared to ice cream. Unlike ice cream, kulfi is not whipped. Kulfi takes a longer time to melt than ice cream.

