



NATIONAL

TIMES

JUNE 2026 | INDIA-CANADA SPECIAL EDITION | WWW.NATIONALTIMESMEDIA.COM

MIDDLE EAST CRISIS

THE LOOMING GLOBAL SHOCK



INDIA UNDER
NARENDRA
MODI



NEW
CHAPTER
OF GROWTH
IN PUNJAB

**INDIA &
CANADA**
ENERGY &
TRADE TIES



FIFA
WORLD CUP
2026

GROWTH
OPPORTUNITY
AMID
GEOPOLITICAL
SHOCKWAVES





Shop Groceries
AND
ENJOY
Your Weekend
WITH YOUR

FAMILY & FRIENDS

AT ROYAL INDIAN SUPERMARKET & KITCHEN CALGARY



**ALL
FARSAN
AVAILABLE**



FRESH
GROCERIES



QUALITY
INGREDIENTS



FRESHLY
PREPARED



MADE WITH
CARE

OUR ALL FARSAN



NYLON KHAMAN



VATIDAL KHAMAN



PREMIUM SANDWICH DHOKLA



JALEBI



SEV KHAMNI



KACHORI



KHANDVI



BHUNGRA BATEKA



FAFDA



SAMOSA



SPICED
ALOO PATTY



NOODLE PATTY



PANEER PATTY

COMPLETE YOUR
WEEKEND
SHOPPING
ALL UNDER
ONE ROOF!



GROCERIES



FRESHLY PREPARED FOODS



QUALITY YOU DESERVE

**VISIT US
TODAY!**



#140, 11125 38 St. NE, Calgary, AB
(Opposite Princess Auto)



825-415-9000

FRESH GROCERIES • AUTHENTIC FARSAN • WARM HOSPITALITY

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING LOCAL!

EDITOR'S NOTE

Every edition of a magazine is a reflection of its time, capturing the moments, movements, and milestones that define an era. In this month's edition of News, we bring together stories that mirror the rapidly evolving political, economic, global, and cultural landscape shaping our world today. From the far-reaching implications of the US-Iran conflict and the uncertainty it cast over the global economy to shifting equations in global leadership and the renewed momentum in India-Canada trade ties, this issue explores developments that extend beyond borders. We also delve into the excitement surrounding the FIFA World Cup, examine the unique phenomenon of the Cockroach Janata Party movement, and take a closer look at the changing political dynamics in Punjab and the evolving socio-political landscape of Haryana.

Each article has been carefully curated to provide context, perspective, and insight into the events influencing nations and communities alike. Our objective is not merely to report what is happening but to help readers understand why these developments matter and how they shape the future.

As the world continues to change at an unprecedented pace, we remain committed to bringing you journalism that is timely, balanced, and thought-provoking.

We hope this edition informs, engages, and inspires meaningful conversations.

- Rajeev Sharma



What Do We Offer?

- Magazine advertising for long-lasting brand presence
- IPTV ads to reach viewers directly on screens
- Website advertising for continuous online visibility
- Social media promotions to engage and grow your audience
- YouTube advertising to boost awareness through video

Our Team Delivers:

- Targeted advertising that reaches the right audience
- Strong brand visibility across print and online media
- Professionally designed, high-impact ad placements
- Customised advertising packages to fit your goals & budget
- Advertise smart, Advertise with impact



From Campus Politics to an International criminal network: The dark rise of Lawrence Bishnoi

Rajeev Sharma | National Times

Lawrence Bishnoi's trajectory has emerged as one of the most closely examined criminal cases in South Asia, a journey that reportedly began in Punjab's student politics and gradually evolved into what law enforcement agencies describe as a structured, cross-border organized crime network with operations extending beyond India. Born in 1993 in a farming family in Punjab, Bishnoi grew up in a household with links to public service, as his father was a former police constable who reportedly hoped he would pursue a disciplined career in administration or law enforcement. He later moved to Chandigarh for higher education at Panjab University, where his entry into student politics marked a decisive turning point in his life. What began as campus leadership soon

escalated into intense rivalries between student groups, accompanied by multiple criminal cases, including allegations of assault and attempted murder.

According to police records and contemporary reporting, Bishnoi's early confrontations in student politics led to his first arrests at a young age. A retired Chandigarh Police inspector, cited in media accounts, stated that he was first arrested around the age of 18 and subsequently detained multiple times. The officer noted that repeated exposure to incarceration and interaction with hardened offenders appeared to coincide with a significant behavioural shift and the expansion of his criminal associations. The same account also described him as cooperative during interrogations, a detail frequently referenced in discussions of his early custody history.

Law enforcement assessments suggest that his time in jail became a formative period in which key associations were developed, including links with individuals such as Goldy Brar and others later identified as part of his wider network. Over time, these connections are believed to have contributed to the emergence of a more organized and coordinated criminal structure operating beyond localized disputes.

The group commonly referred to as the Bishnoi gang has since been linked, according to investigative agencies, to activities including extortion, arms trafficking, contract killings, and organized criminal operations across several Indian states such as Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, and Delhi.

Despite repeated imprisonment, authorities allege that Bishnoi continued to exercise influence through intermediaries and external communication channels, contributing to a decentralized but operationally active network.

The group commonly referred to as the Bishnoi gang has since been linked, according to investigative agencies, to activities including extortion, arms trafficking, contract killings, and organized criminal operations across several Indian states such as Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, and Delhi. Despite repeated imprisonment, authorities allege that Bishnoi continued to exercise influence through intermediaries and external communication channels, contributing to a decentralized but operationally active network.

The gang's national prominence escalated significantly following the 2022 killing of Punjabi singer Sidhu Moose Wala, an incident that drew widespread attention and triggered extensive multi-agency investigations into organized crime networks in northern India. Investigators have attributed involvement in the case to elements associated with Bishnoi's broader network, intensifying scrutiny of prison-linked gang operations.

While some public reporting and intelligence discussions have referenced the scale and reach of such networks, these claims remain part of ongoing investigations and have not been uniformly established through judicial findings. Similarly, legal classifications and enforcement designations vary across jurisdictions, reflecting the complexity of addressing transnational organized crime. In recent years, multiple agencies have described the Bishnoi network as a layered, cross-border criminal ecosystem involving incarcerated leadership, external coordinators, and operational field units. Despite high-security detention, Bishnoi continues to face numerous ongoing investigations, with authorities alleging sustained influence over network activities through intermediaries.

While public perception of his role remains divided and subject to ongoing legal scrutiny, the case continues to develop across multiple jurisdictions. The final judicial determination of allegations is still pending. In essence, Lawrence Bishnoi's rise is increasingly viewed not as the story of a single individual, but as an example of how modern organized crime networks can evolve into complex, transnational systems operating across prison structures, digital communication channels, and international borders, posing significant challenges for contemporary law enforcement agencies.





From the Pitch to Peace: Virat and Anushka's Quiet Pilgrimage After RCB's Historic Triumph

HONEST RESTAURANT
 AUTHENTIC INDO-CHINESE & INDIAN CUISINE

FEATURED HOUSE FAVORITES

- SHRIKHAND
- LILVA KACHORI
- KALA CHANA
- DAL
- RICE (PRINUST CALGARY)
- PANJABI THALI (1 VARIET 7)

DOSA FEAST

ORDER HOUSE ONLINE!

ORDER ONLINE!

PANEER SANDWICH & FRIES

SAMOSA CHAT

DABELI TACOS

WEEKEND EXCLUSIVES

ORDER ONLINE!

GUJARATI THALI

GHEE JALEBI

DAL MAKHANI & ROTI

DINE IN AVAILABLE

TAKE AWAY AVAILABLE

10980 38 ST NE, CALGARY, AB T3N 1Z2 (825) 414-3091

calgaryhonest Honest Calgary

After the roar of packed stadiums and the celebrations of Royal Challengers Bengaluru's historic back-to-back IPL title victory, Virat Kohli chose a different kind of spotlight—one of silence and spirituality. Accompanied by Anushka Sharma, the cricket icon visited Premanand Maharaj's Radha Keli Kunj Ashram in Vrindavan, exchanging the frenzy of cricket for moments of reflection and devotion. Their simple attire and understated presence struck a chord with admirers, reminding many that life's biggest victories are often followed by gratitude rather than grandeur. Beyond celebrity status and sporting glory, the images painted a picture of two individuals taking time to reconnect with faith and inner peace. In a world driven by constant headlines, their quiet journey to Vrindavan offered a gentle reminder that success feels most meaningful when accompanied by humility.



A growing confrontation between the United States and Iran has evolved far beyond a regional security issue. It now represents a potential global economic shock capable of disrupting energy markets, accelerating inflation, and slowing growth across advanced and developing economies alike. With tensions rising around key maritime routes and military escalation increasing uncertainty, global markets are beginning to price in the risk of a prolonged geopolitical crisis. At the centre of this instability is the Strait of Hormuz, one of the most strategically important energy corridors in the world, through which nearly one-fifth of global oil supply passes along with a significant share of liquefied natural gas shipments. Even limited disruption to this route can trigger immediate volatility in oil prices, shipping costs, and global inflation expectations.

Recent developments have already contributed to renewed market anxiety, with oil prices showing upward pressure amid fears of supply disruption, while inflation in major economies, including the United States, remains elevated at around 4.2 per cent, driven largely by energy and transportation costs.

Central banks that were previously preparing for gradual interest-rate cuts now face the risk of prolonged restrictive monetary policy if energy inflation persists.

Economists broadly outline three potential trajectories for the global economy depending on how the conflict evolves.

In the first scenario, if diplomatic efforts succeed in preventing escalation and maritime routes remain secure, markets could gradually stabilize, allowing oil prices to moderate over time, easing inflationary pressure across advanced economies and supporting a slow but stable global growth environment. Inflation could gradually return toward central bank targets, and financial markets may recover from short-term volatility, while households experience temporary cost-of-living pressures rather than a sustained crisis.



In a second scenario where tensions persist without full-scale war but continue to threaten supply chains and shipping routes, the global economy could enter a prolonged period of uncertainty. Oil prices would likely remain structurally elevated, keeping inflation higher for longer, while central banks delay monetary easing. Businesses would face sustained increases in production, logistics, and energy costs, and consumer spending would weaken as household budgets absorb higher fuel, food, and transportation expenses. In this environment, global growth would slow significantly, with heightened risk of regional recessions in vulnerable economies. The third and most severe scenario involves direct conflict escalation leading to significant disruption of Gulf energy exports or partial obstruction of shipping routes through the Strait of Hormuz. In such a case, oil prices could spike sharply, triggering a renewed global inflation surge, financial markets would experience major volatility, and many economies could enter recessionary conditions. Independent economic assessments suggest that prolonged disruption in Gulf energy flows could place trillions of dollars in global GDP at risk, with losses estimated in the range of hundreds of billions to over US\$2 trillion depending on duration and severity.

South Asia remains one of the most exposed regions to global oil price volatility due to its heavy reliance on imported energy. India imports more than 85 per cent of its crude oil requirements, with a large share sourced from the Gulf region, meaning a sustained

increase in oil prices would directly raise inflation through higher fuel, transport, and production costs while widening the current account deficit and placing pressure on the currency, potentially forcing higher interest rates for longer. Pakistan faces even greater vulnerability due to limited foreign exchange reserves and heavy external debt obligations, where rising fuel import costs could intensify fiscal stress and increase macroeconomic instability. Bangladesh, heavily dependent on export-driven manufacturing, could see reduced competitiveness as energy and logistics costs rise globally, while Sri Lanka, still recovering from its recent economic crisis, remains highly sensitive to external shocks that could renew financial pressure if global energy prices remain elevated. Across the region, higher energy costs would translate into increased prices for food, transport, electricity, and essential goods, disproportionately affecting low and middle-income households.

Canada's economic exposure to the crisis is dual in nature, as higher global oil prices could benefit the energy sector, particularly in producing regions such as Alberta, increasing export revenues, supporting investment, and strengthening government finances. However, these gains would likely be offset by domestic inflationary pressures, as higher crude prices increase gasoline and transportation costs nationwide while also raising the cost of imported goods through higher shipping expenses. This would place additional pressure on household budgets and complicate monetary policy decisions for the Bank of Canada, creating a situation where energy-producing regions benefit while consumers face rising living costs. One of the most significant risks arising from the conflict is the possibility of persistent inflation becoming embedded in the global economy, as prolonged energy price increases feed into transportation, manufacturing, and food supply chains, potentially delaying interest-rate cuts and weakening global consumer confidence. In extreme cases, the world economy could face stagflation-like conditions, where growth slows while inflation remains elevated, similar to the energy crises of the 1970s.

The U.S.–Iran conflict is therefore no longer just a geopolitical confrontation but a systemic risk to global economic stability, as the modern economy is deeply interconnected and highly sensitive to energy shocks. A disruption in one critical corridor can rapidly translate into higher inflation in Europe, reduced purchasing power in Asia, and increased costs for households and businesses worldwide. The coming months will determine whether this crisis remains a contained period of volatility or develops into a sustained global economic downturn, but what is already clear is that the cost of escalation will not be confined to the battlefield; it will be reflected in rising prices, weakened growth, and economic pressure on ordinary people across the world.



saarthi
immigration

From dreams to destination

**YOUR JOURNEY.
OUR EXPERTISE.**

Complete immigration solutions
tailored to your goals.

OUR SERVICES

- Express Entry
- Family Sponsorship
- Work Permits
- Study Permits
- Permanent Residence
- TRP / PRRA
- Visitor Visas
- LMIA & Employer Services
- Provincial Nominee Program (PNP)
- Business & Investor Immigration
- Citizenship & PR Card Applications

ONE STOP SOLUTION
FOR ALL YOUR IMMIGRATION NEEDS

RCIC GUIDANCE
YOU CAN TRUST,
SUCCESS YOU CAN ACHIEVE.

- ✓ Personalized Guidance
- ✓ Transparent Process
- ✓ Dedicated Support

*We guide you.
We support you.
We reunite families.*

CONTACT US TODAY
for a consultation

+1 604 616 8786
richa@saarthiimmigration.com
www.saarthiimmigration.com
Canada

RCIC CRIC
Regulated Canadian Immigration Consultant | Consultant réglementé en immigration canadienne



GWALIA

Celebrate Your Festive Occasions



-  Beverages
-  Indian Snacks
-  Paratha
-  Pav Bhaji
-  Chaat
-  Punjabi Chole
-  Rice Bowls
-  Indian Breads
-  Sandwiches
-  Oriental
-  South Indian
-  North Indian
-  Meals
-  Desserts

SHRIKHAND

LILVA KACHORI

UNDHIYU

KALA CHANA

PURI, DAL

RICE

PAPAD

GHEE JALEBI

DAL MAKHANI & ROTI

AUTHENTIC PURE VEGETARIAN CUISINE
Pure Veg Restaurant

OPEN

Diverse Meals & Snacks
100% Vegetarian



FIFA 2026 Expansion in a World Economy Under Pressure: Growth Opportunity Amid Geopolitical Shockwaves

National Times Sports Desk

The FIFA Men's World Cup 2026 is set to become the largest edition in history, expanding to 48 teams and 104 matches across the United States, Canada, and Mexico. While the expansion is designed to bring greater global inclusion and commercial growth to football, it is taking place at a time when the world economy is facing renewed instability driven by rising geopolitical tensions, including the ongoing U.S.–Iran conflict and disruptions in global energy markets.

This combination of sporting expansion and economic uncertainty creates a unique backdrop for the tournament, where opportunity and risk are developing side by side.

The expansion itself brings significant benefits for host nations, particularly Canada. With matches scheduled in cities such as Toronto and Vancouver, Canada is expected to see a surge in tourism, hospitality demand, infrastructure utilization, and global media visibility. Economists note that large-scale sporting events typically generate short-term boosts in GDP through spending on hotels, transport, retail, and entertainment services. Local businesses, including restaurants, tourism operators, logistics providers, and event-related services, are likely to benefit from increased international footfall and global exposure. The tournament also strengthens Canada's positioning as a global sports and tourism destination, potentially supporting long-term investment interest beyond 2026.

However, these gains come at a time when the broader economic environment remains fragile. Canada's economy is already navigating weak growth conditions, and energy-driven inflation pressures linked to global oil volatility remain a concern. Recent central bank assessments indicate that while Canada benefits as an energy exporter, higher global oil prices are still feeding into domestic inflation through transportation and consumer costs. This creates a dual economic reality export gains on one side and household cost pressures on the other. The situation is further complicated by the ongoing U.S.–Iran conflict, which has emerged as a key global economic risk factor. Disruptions or threats to the Strait of Hormuz, through which a significant portion of global oil supply flows, have already triggered volatility in global energy markets. Economic analysis shows that even partial disruption can push oil prices higher, increasing inflation across major economies and slowing global growth. U.S. inflation has already risen to around 4.2 per cent in recent months, largely driven by energy costs, reinforcing concerns that monetary policy may remain restrictive for longer than expected.

For South Asia, the energy shocks and even more pronounced. the majority of its crude fiscal pressure as rising increase import costs, account deficits. highly exposed due to exchange reserves while Bangladesh's manufacturing sector



combined impact of global uncertainty is India, which imports oil, faces widening energy prices inflation, and current Pakistan remains limited foreign and debt obligations, export-driven risks competitiveness

challenges from higher production and logistics costs. Sri Lanka, still recovering from a recent financial crisis, remains vulnerable to renewed external shocks. Across the region, higher fuel prices directly translate into increased costs for food, transport, electricity, and essential goods, disproportionately affecting lower- and middle-income households.

For businesses globally, including those in Canada, Europe, and Asia, the economic environment presents both risk and selective opportunity. Energy producers and commodity-linked sectors may benefit from higher prices, while industries dependent on transport, manufacturing, and consumer demand face margin pressure. Airlines, logistics companies, and import-heavy businesses are particularly exposed to fuel volatility. At the same time, large-scale events such as the World Cup often provide short-term stimulus to service industries, especially hospitality, retail, and tourism.

The intersection of these forces creates a complex economic outlook for 2026. On one hand, FIFA's expansion signals strong commercial growth, broader participation, and increased global engagement in football. On the other, the global economy is facing persistent inflation risks, energy uncertainty, and geopolitical instability that could weigh on consumer confidence and spending.



Forecast scenarios suggest three possible paths for the global economy. In a stable geopolitical environment, energy markets may gradually normalize, allowing inflation to ease and supporting steady global growth alongside a successful World Cup expansion. In a prolonged tension scenario, oil prices remain elevated, inflation stays sticky, and global growth slows, though without a full downturn. In a severe escalation scenario involving major disruption in the Middle East, global energy markets could experience sharp shocks, triggering recession risks in vulnerable economies and significantly increasing costs worldwide.

Ultimately, the 2026 FIFA World Cup will unfold not just as a sporting milestone but as part of a broader global economic story. Canada and its partners stand to gain from tourism, investment visibility, and infrastructure activity, but these benefits will be shaped by a world economy under pressure from inflation, energy volatility, and geopolitical risk. The tournament will bring the world together on the field but off the field, the global economy remains deeply divided between opportunity and uncertainty.



PRO TAX BLOCK

T4: SINGLE \$25 COUPLE \$40

**CORPORATE TAX, PAYROLL,
BOOKKEEPING, GST TAX**

protaxblock.com • 403-607-6005



Iran Conflict Triggers Energy Shock in India: 90% Oil Import Dependence Pushes Economy Into Inflation



*By Gurpreet Singh,
National Times*

*"Fuel, Food and
Hospitality Sector
Face Rising Cost
Pressure as
Global Oil Routes
Remain Volatile"*

The ongoing instability linked to Iran and repeated disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz have intensified global energy volatility, directly exposing India's structural dependence on imported crude oil and natural gas. With nearly nine out of every ten barrels of oil consumed in India coming from abroad, and almost half of its gas requirements imported, the shock is now moving through fuel markets into food prices, industrial costs, and the hospitality sector. The crisis is no longer limited to geopolitics; it has become a domestic inflation and business survival issue.

India's Oil Dependency: Near 90% Import Reliance, India's crude oil demand stands at approximately 5.1–5.6 million barrels per day, while domestic production remains nearly stagnant at around 0.55–0.6 million barrels per day. According to recent government and energy data, India imported about 242 million tonnes of crude oil in FY25, reflecting an import dependency of nearly 88–90%. This gap between consumption and production means India is structurally exposed to global price shocks. Even a small

disruption in supply routes such as the Strait of Hormuz immediately translates into higher import costs, currency pressure, and domestic inflation. Natural gas shows a similar pattern, with India consuming nearly 190 million standard cubic meters per day, while importing around 45–50% of its total LNG requirement. Domestic gas production has remained largely flat or declining, further increasing reliance on global markets where pricing is highly volatile.

Energy Flow Imbalance: Consumption vs Production Gap, India's energy system is defined by a persistent and widening gap between demand and domestic output. While consumption continues to rise with industrial expansion, urbanization, and transport demand, domestic crude production has remained nearly flat for over a decade.



This creates a structural dependency where imports are not optional but essential for sustaining economic activity. The imbalance is particularly visible in oil, where domestic output covers only around 10–12% of total needs, forcing India to rely on global suppliers such as Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Russia, and the United States to meet demand.



Inflation Transmission: From Global Oil to Indian Economy, when geopolitical shocks increase crude prices globally, the impact on India follows a predictable inflation chain. Higher crude prices raise import bills, which weakens the rupee and increases domestic fuel costs. This directly affects diesel, petrol, aviation fuel, and LPG pricing. The cost then spreads into transport, logistics, and supply chains, raising the price of nearly every consumer good. This mechanism ensures that even if domestic supply remains stable, Indian consumers still face higher costs when global energy markets tighten. The effect is particularly strong in food inflation, where fuel and fertiliser costs are major inputs.

Energy Shock Turns into Environmental Stress: A key but less visible consequence of expensive imported gas is the environmental shift it triggers. When LNG becomes costly or unavailable, industries and power plants often revert to coal-based alternatives. This increases emissions of particulate matter and greenhouse gases, worsening air quality in already polluted cities. Transport emissions also rise as high fuel prices slow down the adoption of electric vehicles and extend the life of older diesel fleets. Fertiliser plants and heavy industries, facing gas shortages or price spikes, increase reliance on more polluting fuels. The result is a direct link between global energy instability and rising domestic pollution levels.

Hospitality Sector Under Pressure: Rising Costs Hit Hotels and Restaurants, the hotel and restaurant industry is among the most sensitive sectors to energy price shocks. Commercial LPG, which is essential for kitchens across India, becomes significantly more expensive during global disruptions. This immediately increases operating costs for restaurants, cloud kitchens, and street food vendors. Hotels face additional pressure from rising electricity and fuel costs across kitchens, laundry systems, heating, and transport services. Many mid-scale establishments are forced to increase menu prices, reduce portion sizes, or limit operations to maintain profitability. Small restaurants and food vendors often operate on razor-thin margins, making them especially vulnerable to sustained price increases. As a result, dining out becomes more expensive for consumers, while businesses face declining footfall and reduced margins. The hospitality sector effectively becomes a direct indicator of global oil volatility.

Gas Dependency Risk: LNG Exposure to Hormuz Rout: India imports nearly half of its natural gas requirement, with a significant share of LNG cargoes passing through the



Strait of Hormuz. Recent estimates suggest that global disruptions have already pushed LNG prices sharply higher during past crises, sometimes doubling within short periods. Gas is critical for fertilizer production, city gas distribution, and power generation. When LNG prices rise, fertilizer costs increase, impacting agriculture and food inflation. City gas networks and industrial users face immediate cost escalation, which is eventually passed on to consumers.

Limited Protection Against Long-Term Shock: India maintains a strategic petroleum reserve and commercial storage system that provides approximately 70–75 days of total oil cover, though the usable emergency buffer is significantly lower. LNG storage capacity is far more limited, providing only a short cushion against prolonged disruption. While diversification of suppliers has improved resilience, including increased imports from Russia, the United States, and Africa, the structural dependence on imports remains unchanged.

If Iran Conflict Continues will give price effect: If geopolitical tensions persist, oil markets are expected to remain volatile in a high-price band. In the short term, India may face moderate inflation pressure with fuel price adjustments and rising LPG costs. In the medium term, sustained high energy prices could push food inflation higher due to fertiliser costs and logistics expenses, while the hospitality sector may see consolidation and closures among smaller players. In a prolonged conflict scenario, India's import bill could rise significantly, potentially adding tens of billions of dollars in additional annual costs. This would increase pressure on the fiscal deficit, currency stability, and overall inflation management, forcing stronger policy intervention and accelerated energy transition measures.

The Iran conflict has highlighted a structural reality: India's economic growth is deeply tied to imported energy. With nearly 90% oil import dependence and rising LNG exposure, global geopolitical shocks are now domestic inflation events. The impact is visible everywhere from transport fares and industrial costs to restaurant prices and household budgets. What begins as a disruption in West Asia ultimately reaches Indian kitchens, hotel restaurants, and retail markets. The challenge ahead is not just managing temporary price spikes, but addressing the long-term vulnerability of an import-heavy energy system in an increasingly unstable global environment.

NAIYA GILL
Professional Law Corporation
BARRISTER, SOLICITOR & NOTARY PUBLIC

604-771-3089
778-564-9227

- Real Estate
- Immigration
- Notary
- Judicial Review
- Power of Attorney
- Representation Agreements
- Buying or Selling Business
- Family Law
- Wills & Trusts
- Commercial Leases
- Sponsorship Letters
- Corporate Maintenance



Indian Tavern

Fresh Food, Fast Smiles.

Opening Hours

Mon-Sat:

11:30AM - 10:00 PM

3:00 PM - 10:00 PM

We also offer catering services for all events and special occasions.

**BOOK YOUR
TABLE NOW!**

MAX 110 PEOPLE

 1330 16 Ave NW
Calgary, AB T3N1B6

 403-220-0265
 info@indiantavern.ca



As global energy markets continue to experience volatility driven by geopolitical tensions, India is actively reassessing its long-term energy security strategy. In this evolving landscape, Canada is emerging as a strategically important and trusted potential supplier of crude oil, natural gas, and nuclear energy inputs. The recent high-level diplomatic, governmental, and industry engagements between the two countries reflect a positive shift toward deeper economic cooperation, with energy forming a central pillar of this growing partnership.

India–Canada Energy & Trade Ties Enter New Growth Phase: Oil, Gas and Nuclear Cooperation Strengthen Amid Global Market Volatility

Rajeev Sharma | National Times

A Strategic Shift in India's Energy Outlook: India, currently dependent on imports for nearly 90% of its crude oil requirements, is strengthening efforts to diversify its energy basket across stable and politically reliable partners. Traditionally reliant on Middle Eastern crude, India is now expanding engagement with North America, with Canada increasingly viewed as a long-term strategic energy partner.

Positive Diplomatic Momentum and Trade Engagement: A major boost to India–Canada

economic relations has also come through high-level political and trade engagement. The recent visit of India's Commerce and Industry Minister, Piyush Goyal, to Toronto further strengthened discussions on expanding bilateral trade, investment flows, and energy cooperation across multiple sectors. These engagements, combined with sustained diplomatic outreach from India's mission in Canada and active participation from major Indian oil companies, have helped create a strong institutional and commercial platform for future energy agreements. Together, political leadership, diplomatic channels, and industry stakeholders are now aligned in building a long-term and structured energy partnership.

TEAM WIRELESS LTD.
5 LOCATIONS TO SERVE
 BELL NORTH HILL, CALGARY
 BELL CARRINGTON, CALGARY
 BELL CANMORE
 BELL OLDS
 BELL COURTENAY
 BEST PLANS AND FLAGSHIP SMARTPHONES AVAILABLE
 5874345000
VIVEK MAHAJAN
 DIRECTOR TEAM WIRELESS LTD.



Canada's Energy Potential Meets India's Refining Strength: One of the most significant developments in this evolving partnership is the strong technical compatibility between Canadian crude and Indian refining capacity. India's newer generation refineries are designed to process heavy and sour crude grades, which closely match Canada's oil sands production profile. This removes a historical barrier that previously limited large-scale energy trade between the two countries. Canada, with its vast proven reserves and stable production capacity, offers India a reliable alternative to traditional supply routes that remain exposed to geopolitical risks. In return, India represents one of the fastest-growing and most dynamic energy markets globally, offering Canada long-term demand stability and export diversification.

Building Commercial Trust and Private Sector Momentum : A defining feature of this growing partnership is the emphasis on private-sector-led engagement. High Commissioner Dinesh Patnaik has consistently encouraged businesses from both India and Canada to pursue early-stage commercial opportunities, even as formal intergovernmental frameworks continue to evolve. The involvement of senior executives from Indian public sector oil companies further strengthens this approach, signaling that discussions are not only diplomatic but also commercially active at the highest level. At the same time, investors continue to assess Canada's regulatory environment, including project approval timelines, environmental assessments, and infrastructure expansion capacity. While these factors remain part of the investment landscape, overall sentiment remains cautiously optimistic and increasingly forward-looking.

Beyond Oil: Expanding into Nuclear and Clean Energy Cooperation. The India-Canada energy dialogue extends well beyond crude oil and gas. A key milestone in this broader partnership is a \$2.6 billion Canadian uranium supply agreement, supporting India's expanding nuclear energy and clean power ambitions. This agreement highlights a deeper strategic convergence across oil, gas, uranium, and critical minerals, positioning energy cooperation as a multi-sector pillar of bilateral relations. Together, these engagements reflect a diversified and future-oriented partnership aligned with both countries' long-term energy transition goals.

A Win-Win Energy Corridor for the Future: For India, energy diversification is a strategic necessity driven by rising demand, global price volatility, and geopolitical uncertainty. For Canada, expanding energy exports to India represents an opportunity to strengthen its position as a global supplier while reducing dependence on traditional markets. There is also increasing recognition that stronger India–Canada energy ties could contribute to broader economic stability, investment growth, job creation, and industrial expansion across both economies. As observed at the Calgary forum, India is signalling a clear intent to secure as much Canadian energy as it can responsibly integrate into its system reflecting both urgency and long-term strategic planning.



At the Global Energy Show in Calgary (June 2026), India's High Commissioner to Canada, Dinesh Patnaik, participated in high-level discussions alongside Alberta Energy Minister Brian Jean, senior Canadian energy officials, and global industry leaders, reinforcing the growing importance of India–Canada energy cooperation. Significantly, senior officials from India's leading oil and energy companies, including representatives from ONGC, Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Bharat Petroleum (BPCL), and Hindustan Petroleum (HPCL), also joined the delegation. Their presence underscored a strong commercial intent to explore long-term crude sourcing opportunities and deepen engagement with Canadian energy producers and exporters. Patnaik highlighted that India's modernised refining infrastructure is now fully capable of processing heavy crude oil, making Canadian oil sands highly viable for long-term commercial supply. His remarks reflected a broader strategic realignment in global energy flows, where supply security, diversification, and resilience are becoming national priorities.

A New Energy Bridge Between Two Economies: The emerging India–Canada energy partnership represents more than trade in oil and gas. It reflects a broader strategic alignment between a rapidly growing energy-consuming economy and a resource-rich, export-capable nation. With participation from leaders such as High Commissioner Dinesh Patnaik, Alberta Energy Minister Brian Jean, and senior executives from India's leading oil companies including ONGC, IOC, BPCL, and HPCL, the relationship is gaining both institutional depth and commercial momentum. Despite global uncertainties and regulatory challenges, the direction of engagement is clear: energy is becoming a defining pillar of India–Canada relations, with oil, gas, uranium, and critical minerals forming the foundation of a long-term and mutually beneficial partnership.

In an increasingly uncertain global environment, this partnership stands out as a model of how energy security, economic growth, and international cooperation can move forward together.



FROM PUNJAB TO WEMBLEY: DILJIT DOSANJH'S GLOBAL SYMPHONY

When Diljit Dosanjh steps onto the stage at Wembley Stadium on September 12, 2026, it will represent far more than another concert—it will symbolize the remarkable journey of Punjabi music from regional roots to global recognition. Announced during his AURA Tour stop in Toronto, the performance marks his debut at one of the world's most celebrated venues, reinforcing his position as an artist who has consistently broken barriers through music, culture and authenticity. Every sold-out arena along his international tours has paved the way for this defining moment, making Wembley the latest milestone in an extraordinary career.



Beyond personal success, the concert reflects a larger cultural shift. Punjabi music, once considered niche outside South Asia, now commands audiences across continents, with Diljit emerging as one of its strongest ambassadors. His ability to connect with diverse listeners while staying true to his identity has transformed him into a global icon. As fans from around the world prepare to gather in London, the Wembley show promises to be more than a live performance—it is set to become a celebration of language, heritage and the universal power of music to cross every boundary.



New Chapter of Growth in Punjab: Development, Governance and Public Welfare Shaping a Positive Path Toward 2027

Jobs, Healthcare, Education and Citizen Services Reflect a Growing Focus on Inclusive and People-Centric Development

National Times Political Bureau | Special Feature

As Punjab moves toward the 2027 Assembly elections, the state appears to be entering a phase where development and governance are increasingly taking centre stage in public discourse. Alongside traditional political narratives, there is a growing emphasis on how policies and programmes are impacting everyday life across villages, towns, and cities.

The government led by Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann has positioned its agenda around improving public services, expanding employment opportunities, strengthening healthcare access, and upgrading education infrastructure. While political debate continues, many observers note that development-oriented initiatives are becoming a more visible part of Punjab's political and social landscape.

Employment has been one of the most discussed areas of governance. According to state government figures, more than 65,000 government jobs have been provided through merit-based recruitment across key departments such as education, health, police, and administration since 2022. For many families, particularly youth seeking stability and opportunity within the state, these appointments represent an important step toward strengthening local employment prospects.

Healthcare delivery has also seen notable expansion through the rollout of Aam Aadmi Clinics, designed to provide accessible primary healthcare services closer to communities. With nearly 1,000 clinics reported to be operational across Punjab, citizens in both rural and urban areas are receiving basic medical consultation and medicines at local level facilities, helping reduce travel and treatment costs.

Education continues to remain a central focus, with government schools undergoing infrastructure improvements, classroom upgrades, and increased attention on teacher training. These efforts are aimed at strengthening the quality of public education and ensuring that students from all backgrounds have access to improved learning environments. In rural areas, agriculture remains the backbone of Punjab's economy, and government initiatives have continued to support farmers through procurement systems, irrigation support, and subsidies that help maintain stability in the farming sector. While challenges remain, these measures are part of ongoing efforts to support rural livelihoods and strengthen the agricultural foundation of the state.



At the administrative level, efforts toward citizen-centric governance have focused on simplifying public services, improving transparency, and reducing procedural delays. The intention is to make government interaction more accessible and efficient for citizens across the state.

As Punjab approaches 2027, development and governance are increasingly becoming central themes in public discussion. Citizens are evaluating not only political promises but also visible improvements in their communities, reflecting a broader shift toward performance-based expectations. What is emerging is a sense of gradual transition where public welfare, infrastructure growth, and service delivery are becoming key markers of progress. While political competition remains active and diverse viewpoints continue to shape debate, there is also growing attention on building a more inclusive and development-oriented Punjab.

In this evolving landscape, Punjab's journey toward 2027 appears to be shaped by a combination of aspirations and outcomes, with a shared focus on strengthening opportunities, improving public services, and enhancing the quality of life for people across the state.



Mayoral candidate Honveer Randhawa says Surrey is at a critical turning point, where rising concerns around public safety, affordability, and governance demand urgent and decisive leadership. In an exclusive interview with Rajeev Sharma of National Times Media Group, Randhawa outlined his vision for a safer, more accountable, and community-driven city.

Surrey Needs a Safety-First and Accountable City Hall”: Honveer Randhawa

Rajeev Sharma: *Why are you running for Mayor of Surrey?*

Honveer Randhawa: *I am running because Surrey is at a turning point. Residents are increasingly concerned about safety, affordability, and accountability in City Hall. There is a need for leadership that is directly connected to community realities, not just administrative processes. My goal is to restore trust and ensure citizens feel protected and heard in their own city.*

Rajeev Sharma: *Who inspired you to enter public life?*

Honveer Randhawa: *My inspiration comes from community members themselves, especially small business owners and families who continue to face challenges but remain resilient. Their struggles and determination motivated me to step forward. I believe in leadership grounded in public service, transparency, and accountability.*

Rajeev Sharma: *What will be your top priorities if elected Mayor?*

Honveer Randhawa: *My first priority will be public safety, including addressing organized crime, extortion threats, and neighbourhood security. The second is restoring trust in City Hall through transparency and reduced bureaucracy. The third is affordability and responsible spending so residents are not overburdened by rising costs.*

Rajeev Sharma: *How do you assess the current public safety situation?*

Honveer Randhawa: *Public safety has become a daily concern for many families. Property crime, drug-related activity, and intimidation in certain areas have reduced the sense of security. My approach is to strengthen policing visibility and ensure resources are deployed where crime is actually occurring.*

Rajeev Sharma: *What about transit safety concerns?*

Honveer Randhawa: *Transit corridors must be safe for everyone. We need coordinated policing at key stations and stronger collaboration between transit authorities and law enforcement. Safety should not depend on time or location; people must feel secure at all times.*



Rajeev Sharma: *How should Surrey manage rapid growth and infrastructure pressure?*

Honveer Randhawa: *Growth is not the problem, poor planning is. Infrastructure has not always kept pace with development. Roads, services, and public facilities must be planned alongside growth, not after it. Responsible planning is essential for livability.*

Rajeev Sharma: *What is your position on affordability and rising taxes?*

Honveer Randhawa: *Affordability is one of the biggest pressures on families. The city must focus on efficient spending, reduce waste, and prioritize core services like safety, infrastructure, and community programs.*

Rajeev Sharma: *How should the city address homelessness and addiction?*

Honveer Randhawa: *This requires both compassion and structure. We need stronger partnerships with provincial health services while ensuring public spaces remain safe and accessible. Support services must be effective, but communities also deserve order and safety.*

Rajeev Sharma: *What about extortion concerns affecting businesses?*

Honveer Randhawa: *These threats must be taken very seriously. Businesses should never operate under fear. We need stronger investigative capacity, better intelligence sharing, and coordination with other levels of government to dismantle these networks. Protecting small businesses is a priority.*

Rajeev Sharma: *Is City Hall currently responsive enough?*

Honveer Randhawa: *Many residents feel disconnected from decision-making. City Hall must become more transparent and accountable. People want to be heard, and decisions must reflect real community concerns.*

Rajeev Sharma: *What is the biggest change Surrey needs right now?*

Honveer Randhawa: *A shift toward accountability and safety-first governance. If residents feel safe and heard, everything else growth, economy, and community will naturally improve.*



By Balwinder Singh | National Times

A quiet but profound structural transformation is sweeping through Haryana. Under the leadership of Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini, the state is moving away from traditional, slow-moving bureaucratic models. Instead, it is adopting a fast-paced, tech-driven approach to governance. By merging fiscal discipline, agricultural innovation, and rural empowerment, the Saini administration is creating a new blueprint for sustainable regional growth.

For decades, rural development in India was handled from the top down. The Saini administration has flipped this model by putting real power back into local hands. The state has restructured all 6,227 Gram Sabhas, changing them from symbolic bodies into active agencies for local growth. By law, these village assemblies must now hold three structured meetings a year. This ensures local communities directly plan their own roads, water supply, and school upgrades. To back this up, the government has integrated 804 Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) and over 9,000 Labour Committees directly into the public works system. This removes the middleman, cuts red tape, and injects funds straight into the rural economy. Meanwhile, new Seva Sadhana and Gram Vikas Kendras are opening across the state, turning villages into self-reliant hubs for healthcare, digital services, and job training.

As traditional farming faces climate and soil challenges, Haryana is pivoting toward high-value, sustainable agriculture. The centerpiece of this effort is a ₹2,738-crore Sustainable Horticulture Promotion Project. This initiative aims to shift farmers away from water-heavy crops like paddy and toward fruits, vegetables, and medicinal plants.

To heal the soil, the government has introduced a special policy that mandates and rewards organic farming on Panchayat lands. The state is also building the processing infrastructure to support this shift. This includes a modern cooperative sugar mill in Narayangarh and the country's largest cooperative mustard oil mill in Rewari, ensuring farmers can process and sell their goods locally for better profits.



Big goals require solid funding and clean execution. The administration has delivered on both fronts through smart fiscal management and strict transparency. Thanks to strong advocacy before the Finance Commission, Haryana's share of central taxes grew from 1.093% to 1.361%. This adjustment brought a record ₹20,772 crore to the state, giving Haryana an extra ₹5,547 crore to invest in infrastructure and welfare. To make sure this money is spent wisely, the state's Quality Assurance Authority (QAA) launched a new digital tracking system. Every major public project now features a public QR code. This system allows any citizen to scan a code and instantly view project costs, timelines, and quality audits. It is a simple but highly effective tool against corruption.

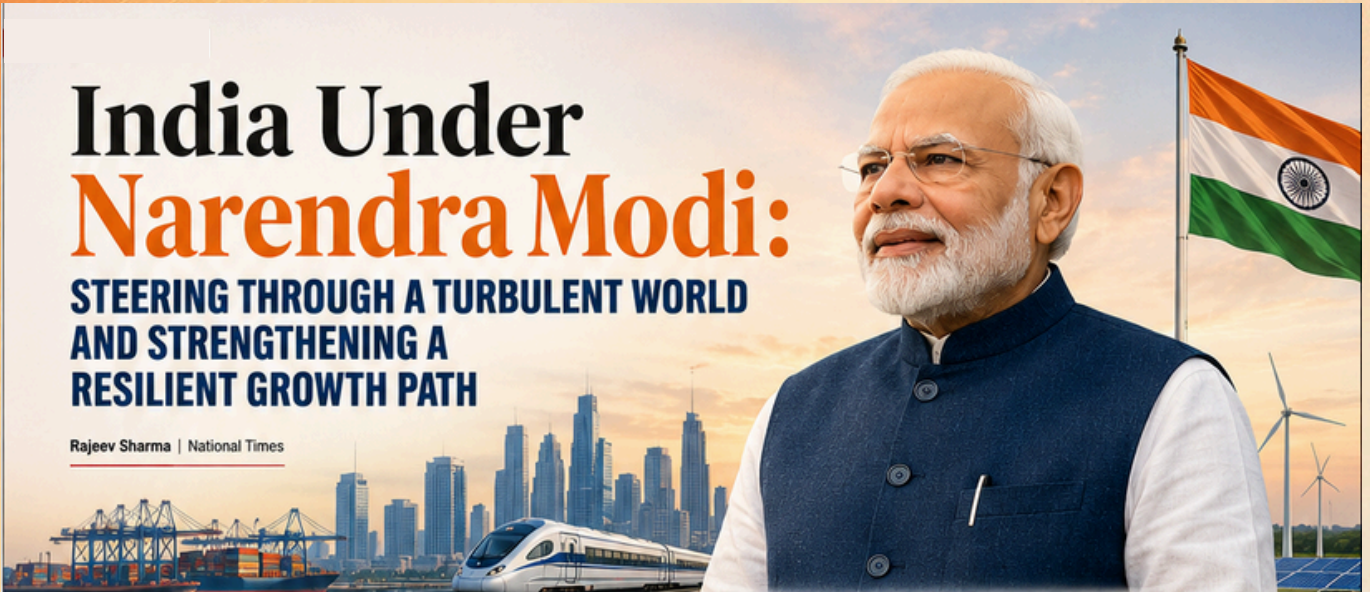
The administration's focus on efficiency is also evident in its approach to environment and transport deadlines. Saini has set a strict December 31, 2027 deadline for the Yamuna Rejuvenation Action Plan. All pending sewage treatment plants (STPs) and pollution controls must be fully operational by this date. At the same time, over ₹3,566 crore is being poured into expanding railway networks and roads. The crown jewel of this effort is the Haryana Orbital Rail Corridor, designed to bypass congested NCR routes, slash travel times, and establish Haryana as North India's premier logistics hub. By linking village-level empowerment with high-tech fiscal tracking, Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini is charting a distinct path for Haryana. It is a strategy that balances economic growth with social responsibility, proving that a state can build for the future while keeping its roots firmly grounded.



India Under Narendra Modi:

STEERING THROUGH A TURBULENT WORLD AND STRENGTHENING A RESILIENT GROWTH PATH

Rajeev Sharma | National Times



In a global environment marked by persistent geopolitical tensions, energy market volatility, inflationary pressures, and fragmented supply chains, India has continued to project relative economic stability and steady growth under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. As many advanced economies face slowdown concerns and policy uncertainty, India's growth story is increasingly being viewed through the lens of resilience and strategic positioning.

The current world situation has been shaped by multiple overlapping crises—ongoing conflicts in different regions, disruptions in key maritime trade routes, fluctuating crude oil prices, and tightening monetary conditions across major economies. These factors have created an uncertain global backdrop, affecting trade flows and investment sentiment worldwide.

Against this backdrop, India has often been described by policymakers and analysts as a country that has managed to remain on a stable growth trajectory while navigating external shocks. This resilience is largely attributed to strong domestic demand, a growing services sector, and sustained government focus on long-term structural reforms.

Under Prime Minister Modi's leadership, India's economic strategy has emphasized infrastructure development, digital transformation, manufacturing expansion, and improved governance efficiency. Initiatives such as Make in India, Digital India, and Production Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes have aimed to strengthen domestic production capacity and reduce dependence on global supply disruptions.

A major pillar of India's stability has been its infrastructure expansion. Large-scale investments in highways, rail networks, logistics corridors, ports, and airports have improved connectivity and strengthened internal economic integration.

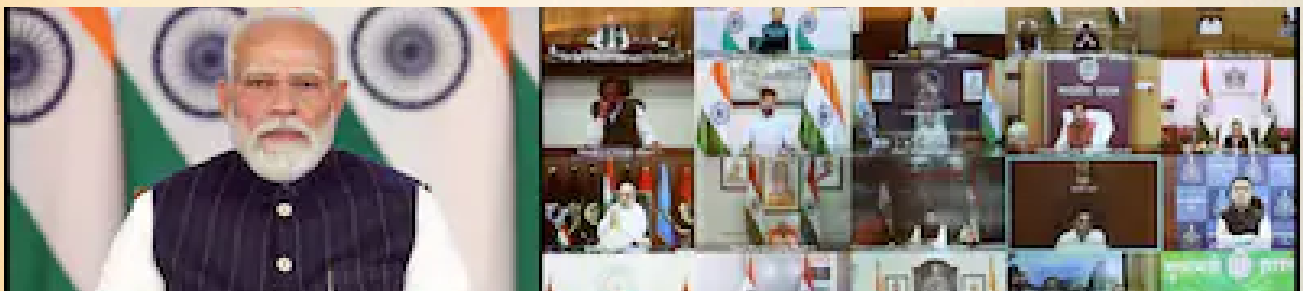


These developments have helped reduce bottlenecks and improve efficiency in trade and commerce across states.

At the same time, India's digital ecosystem has emerged as a global benchmark. The rapid expansion of UPI-based digital payments, online governance platforms, and financial inclusion systems has transformed how citizens and businesses interact with the economy. This digital backbone has also played a crucial role in supporting transparency and economic participation at scale.

Energy remains one of India's key vulnerabilities in the global system, with nearly 85–90% of crude oil still imported. In a world where geopolitical instability can sharply impact oil prices, this dependence continues to influence inflation and trade balances. However, India has simultaneously accelerated investments in renewable energy, becoming one of the world's leading countries in solar power capacity and expanding efforts in green hydrogen, ethanol blending, and clean mobility.

India's foreign policy approach has also evolved in response to global uncertainty. By strengthening partnerships across North America, Europe, the Middle East, and the Indo-Pacific, India has sought to diversify trade and energy sources while maintaining strategic autonomy. These relationships are increasingly viewed as part of a broader effort to secure economic stability in an unpredictable global environment.



Despite global headwinds, India's growth outlook remains comparatively strong. International institutions, including the International Monetary Fund (IMF), continue to recognize India as one of the fastest-growing major economies, driven primarily by domestic consumption and investment momentum. However, challenges such as employment generation, inflation control, and rural income growth remain key policy focus areas. Within this global context, supporters of the government argue that India has demonstrated an ability to "navigate through the storm" by maintaining economic momentum while adapting to external shocks. This resilience narrative has become an important part of how India's current economic phase is being understood internationally.

What stands out in the present global scenario is India's attempt to balance immediate challenges with long-term transformation. While the world continues to face uncertainty, India's strategy under the current leadership is focused on strengthening internal capacity, expanding global partnerships, and building a more self-reliant economic foundation. As global conditions remain fluid, India's trajectory is increasingly seen as one of stability amid turbulence reflecting a broader effort to ensure that growth, reform, and resilience move forward together in a complex international environment.

Great Health Through Smart Living: A Practical Guide to Diet, Nutrition, and Daily Habits for Long-Term Wellness

Naval Kishore | Health & Nutrition Feature



Great health is not achieved through sudden changes or short-term diets, but through consistent, informed daily choices that support the body's natural balance. In today's world where processed food, stress, and sedentary routines are increasingly common nutrition and lifestyle discipline have become central to preventing disease and improving overall wellbeing.

Health experts widely agree that the foundation of good health lies in three pillars: balanced nutrition, regular physical activity, and stable mental wellbeing. When these three elements work together, the body functions more efficiently, immunity strengthens, and the risk of chronic diseases reduces significantly.

Balanced Diet: The Core of Strong Health, a healthy diet is built on whole, natural foods that provide essential nutrients without excess sugar, salt, or unhealthy fats. Fresh fruits and vegetables play a vital role because they are rich in vitamins, minerals, antioxidants, and fibre. These nutrients help reduce inflammation, improve digestion, and protect the body against long-term illnesses.

Whole grains such as oats, brown rice, quinoa, and whole wheat provide sustained energy and support heart health. Lean proteins including lentils, beans, fish, eggs, chicken, and nuts help build and repair body tissues while maintaining muscle strength. Healthy fats found in foods like olive oil, avocado, flaxseeds, and nuts support brain function and hormonal balance. At the same time, reducing processed and packaged foods is essential. Excess sugar and refined carbohydrates are strongly linked to obesity, diabetes, and heart disease. Similarly, high salt intake can contribute to high blood pressure and kidney-related issues.

Simple Daily Diet Structure for Better Health : A practical approach to healthy eating is maintaining balance across meals rather than strict restriction. A healthy breakfast may include oats, fruit, eggs, or whole-grain options that provide steady energy for the day. Lunch should ideally include a mix of vegetables, protein, and complex carbohydrates, while dinner should be lighter and easier to digest, focusing more on vegetables and protein.

Snacking can be kept healthy by choosing options such as nuts, fruits, yogurt, or seeds instead of fried or sugary foods. Staying hydrated throughout the day is equally important, with water supporting digestion, metabolism, and detoxification.

Gut Health: The Hidden Foundation of Immunity, in modern research shows that gut health plays a major role in overall immunity and mental wellbeing. A healthy digestive system improves nutrient absorption and supports the immune response. Foods rich in probiotics such as yogurt, kefir, and fermented foods help maintain healthy gut bacteria, while fibre-rich foods support digestion and regular bowel function.

Physical Activity: Essential for a Healthy Body , alongside diet, regular physical activity is critical for maintaining good health. Even simple habits such as daily walking, stretching, cycling, or yoga can significantly improve heart health, reduce stress, and maintain a healthy weight. Exercise also helps regulate blood sugar levels and supports better sleep patterns.

Mental Wellbeing and Stress Management: Mental health is closely connected to physical health. Chronic stress can lead to hormonal imbalance, poor sleep, weight gain, and weakened immunity. Practices such as meditation, deep breathing exercises, mindfulness, and spending time outdoors can help reduce stress levels and improve emotional balance. Reducing screen time, maintaining social connections, and ensuring adequate rest are also important factors in maintaining mental stability.

Sleep: The Body's Natural Repair System , the quality sleep is essential for recovery and overall health. Adults typically require 7–9 hours of sleep per night. During sleep, the body repairs tissues, balances hormones, strengthens immunity, and processes memory. Poor sleep habits are linked to increased risk of obesity, diabetes, depression, and heart disease.

Lifestyle Habits That Support Long-Term Health: Great health is also shaped by avoiding harmful habits such as smoking, excessive alcohol consumption, and prolonged inactivity. Consistency in positive habits is more effective than extreme short-term diets or fitness routines. Regular health check-ups, early detection of conditions, and awareness of family medical history further strengthen preventive care.

Health as a Daily Investment: Great health is not a destination but a continuous process built through daily discipline and awareness. A balanced diet, regular movement, proper sleep, and mental wellbeing together create a strong foundation for long-term wellness. In a world filled with processed food and fast-paced routines, returning to simple, natural, and balanced living remains one of the most powerful ways to protect and enhance health. Small, consistent choices made every day can lead to a stronger body, a clearer mind, and a healthier future.



MVP SECURITY

PROFESSIONAL SECURITY YOU CAN RELY ON

RELIABLE. PROFESSIONAL. 24/7 PROTECTION.

MVP SECURITY INC. delivers top-tier security solutions tailored to protect what matters most – your people, property, and peace of mind.

 LICENSED & HIGHLY TRAINED GUARDS	 ADVANCED SURVEILLANCE & TECHNOLOGY	 24/7 EMERGENCY RESPONSE	 CUSTOMIZED SECURITY SOLUTIONS
---	---	--	--

OUR SERVICES

✓ Commercial & Residential Security ✓ Event & VIP Protection ✓ Corporate & High-Value Protection ✓ Mobile Patrols ✓ Alarm Response	✓ Lock & Unlock Services ✓ Parking Enforcement ✓ Property Checks ✓ Industrial & Retail Security ✓ And More
--	--

WE PROTECT. YOU FOCUS.

GET A FREE CONSULTATION TODAY!
(403) 633-3113

3850 19 St NE Bay 5, Calgary, AB T2E 6V2 | mvpsecurity.ca | info@mvpsecurity.ca

PUNJAB 2027 POLITICAL BATTLE INTENSIFIES AMID RISING INVESTIGATIONS, ED ACTIONS AND HIGH-STAKES POWER STRUGGLE



By National Times Political Bureau | Special Report

As Punjab moves toward the 2027 Legislative Assembly elections, the state is entering a politically charged and closely watched phase where governance performance, public expectations, and ground-level realities are becoming central to the electoral conversation. The ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), led by Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, continues to hold the advantage of incumbency following its decisive victory in 2022. However, the political landscape is becoming increasingly competitive as multiple parties sharpen their strategies and voter sentiment evolves across regions.

The AAP government is expected to build its electoral narrative around governance delivery and development initiatives undertaken during its tenure. These include large-scale government job recruitment drives, expansion of primary healthcare through Aam Aadmi Clinics, reforms in government education, and efforts aimed at improving administrative transparency and public service delivery. The party continues to present these initiatives as part of a broader model focused on grassroots development and citizen-centric governance.

At the same time, Enforcement Directorate (ED) investigations and financial scrutiny actions involving leaders across multiple political parties have contributed to a more tense and sensitive political environment in the state. While these actions are part of ongoing legal and regulatory processes, they have triggered strong political reactions across party lines. Opposition leaders have raised concerns regarding timing and intent, while ruling party figures and other political actors also face increased scrutiny in various cases. This broader atmosphere has added a layer of pressure to Punjab's already competitive political landscape.

On the ground, public sentiment reflects a mix of concern, pragmatism, and issue-based evaluation rather than purely partisan loyalty. In urban centres such as Ludhiana, Jalandhar, and Mohali, many residents say that while political



developments and investigations dominate headlines, their daily priorities remain employment opportunities, inflation, healthcare access, and basic civic services. There is a growing sense among sections of the urban population that political stability and effective governance are more important than constant political confrontation.

In rural Punjab, particularly across Malwa, Doaba, and parts of Majha, agricultural issues remain central to public discourse. Farmers and rural households continue to focus on crop pricing, input costs, irrigation access, and long-term income stability. While opinions vary across regions, many residents express that governance is ultimately judged by how effectively it supports agriculture and rural livelihoods.

Youth sentiment is also playing a significant role in shaping the political mood. Many young voters acknowledge improvements in government recruitment compared to previous years, particularly in public sector hiring, but continue to express concern over long-term employment opportunities and career stability within Punjab. For a section of youth, migration for education and work remains a reality, while others emphasize the need for stronger local opportunities to retain talent within the state.

Alongside economic and governance concerns, discussions around law and order and broader security perceptions have also entered public conversation in certain areas. While official agencies maintain that the overall security situation in Punjab remains stable and under control, citizens in some regions, especially border districts, continue to emphasize the importance of long-term peace, vigilance, and coordinated security efforts to ensure stability and confidence for future development.

COUNTRY HILLS |  **TOYOTA**

ISAAC BITTU
SENIOR PRODUCT ADVISOR

ENGLISH, HINDI, URDU,
GUJRATI & PUNJABI

ALWAYS AT YOUR SERVICE

403-923-8000

ਹਮੇਸ਼ਾਂ ਤੁਹਾਡੀ ਸੇਵਾ ਵਿੱਚ ਹਮੇਸ਼ਾਂ

The Indian National Congress (INC), as the principal opposition party, is working to rebuild its organizational structure in Punjab while focusing on issues such as unemployment, agricultural distress, drug abuse, and governance concerns. The party is attempting to reconnect with voters through grassroots engagement and by highlighting local-level challenges faced by citizens.

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) continues its efforts to expand independently in Punjab after ending its long alliance with the Shiromani Akali Dal. The party is focusing on urban constituencies, border areas, and business communities, with emphasis on infrastructure development, economic growth, and national leadership as key themes of its outreach strategy.

Regional political forces remain an important part of Punjab's electoral equation. The Shiromani Akali Dal continues efforts to regain its traditional rural and farming support base, while emerging political voices such as Waris Punjab De led by Amritpal Singh have added new and evolving dimensions to the political landscape, particularly among certain youth and rural segments.

As the 2027 elections approach, Punjab's political environment is becoming increasingly multi-layered, with no single issue dominating the entire state uniformly. Instead, voter behaviour appears to be shaped by a combination of governance performance, economic conditions, agricultural concerns, employment expectations, and local constituency-level realities. What is becoming increasingly evident is that public sentiment in Punjab is shifting toward a more issue-driven approach, where citizens evaluate political parties based on tangible outcomes in their daily lives. At the same time, heightened political competition and increased scrutiny across parties have added intensity to the electoral atmosphere.

With all major parties actively preparing for the contest, Punjab is heading toward a closely watched and highly competitive 2027 Assembly election, where governance delivery, public perception, and ground realities are expected to play a decisive role in shaping the final outcome.



AFTER YEARS OF DROUGHT, RCB BREATHES A SIGH OF RELIEF WITH BACK-TO-BACK TROPHY TRIUMPHS



For years, Royal Challengers Bengaluru carried the tag of cricket's nearly-men—a team blessed with star power but haunted by missed opportunities. Season after season, loyal fans stood by the franchise through heartbreak and disappointment, believing that their moment would eventually arrive. That faith has finally been rewarded. After enduring a long trophy drought, RCB has scripted a remarkable turnaround by lifting back-to-back titles transforming years of frustration into a story of resilience and redemption.

The consecutive victories signify more than silverware; they mark a cultural shift within the franchise. Built on determination, renewed team spirit and consistent performances, RCB's success has reignited the passion of one of cricket's most devoted fan bases. What was once a symbol of unfulfilled potential has evolved into a champion side, proving that perseverance often makes victory even sweeter. For Bengaluru supporters, the wait may have been long, but the celebration has become all the more unforgettable.



Bhagwat, Bhakti and Seva: The Sacred Life and Global Impact of Devi Chitralekha Ji

Rajeev Sharma | National Times

In an age marked by constant change, material pursuits, and increasing stress, certain spiritual voices continue to illuminate the path of devotion and inner peace. Among them, Devi Chitralekha Ji has emerged as one of India's most revered young spiritual speakers, inspiring millions through her heartfelt discourses on the sacred Shrimad Bhagwat Mahapurana and her unwavering commitment to compassion and service.

Born on 19 January 1997 in the humble village of Khambi in Haryana's Palwal district, Devi Chitralekha Ji was raised in a deeply spiritual family. Her parents, Tikaram Sharma and Chameli Devi, nurtured an atmosphere of devotion that would shape her extraordinary journey. From an early age, it became evident that she possessed a rare spiritual inclination and an uncommon understanding of divine teachings.

At the tender age of four, she was initiated into the Gaudiya Vaishnava tradition by the revered saint Girdhari Baba. The sacred initiation laid the foundation for a life dedicated to devotion, service, and the dissemination of Sanatan wisdom. Remarkably, at just six years old, she delivered her first public discourse in the holy land of Barsana, the divine abode associated with Shri Radha Rani. Her profound knowledge, devotional fervour, and natural eloquence astonished devotees and scholars alike. Soon after, she delivered a complete narration of the Shrimad Bhagwat Katha at Tapovan near Vrindavan, the sacred region where Lord Krishna's divine pastimes continue to inspire countless seekers.



For Devi Chitralekha Ji, the Bhagwat is not merely a scripture to be recited but a living guide to transform human life. Her discourses beautifully weave together the eternal principles of Bhakti Yoga, Vaishnavism, and the transformative power of chanting the Hare Krishna Mahamantra:

“Hare Krishna Hare Krishna, Krishna Krishna Hare Hare, Hare Rama Hare Rama, Rama Rama Hare Hare.”

Through simple language, relatable examples, devotional music, and heartfelt storytelling, she reminds devotees that true happiness lies not in worldly accumulation but in surrender to the Divine. Her teachings encourage people to cultivate humility, compassion, faith, and unwavering devotion to God.

Beyond the spiritual stage, Devi Chitralekha Ji's life reflects the principle that devotion must manifest through service to all living beings. Guided by the ancient belief that the cow holds a sacred place in Indian culture and spirituality, she established Gau Seva Dham, an animal shelter and hospital in Palwal, Haryana. The institution serves as a sanctuary for sick, abandoned, and injured cattle, providing medical care, nourishment, and protection. Through this noble initiative, she has inspired thousands of devotees to participate in acts of compassion and to embrace the spirit of selfless service.



Her spiritual outreach extends far beyond India's borders. Under the banner of the “Sankirtan Yatra,” Devi Chitralekha Ji has carried the message of devotion to audiences across India and around the world. Her Bhagwat Kathas and devotional gatherings have attracted devotees in countries including the United States, United Kingdom, and South Africa, uniting diverse communities through the universal language of love for the Divine. Thousands gather at these events not merely to listen to sacred stories, but to experience spiritual awakening through collective chanting, devotional singing, and reflection upon timeless truths. For many, her presence rekindles faith and offers solace amidst the challenges of modern life.

Despite achieving international recognition at a young age, Devi Chitralekha Ji continues to embody simplicity and humility. Her message remains clear and profound: devotion is not confined to rituals alone. It is expressed through kindness, service, remembrance of God, and compassion toward every living being. In a world searching for meaning and peace, Devi Chitralekha Ji stands as a beacon of faith, reminding humanity that the path of Bhakti transcends barriers of age, nationality, and circumstance. Through the wisdom of the Shrimad Bhagwat, the chanting of the Holy Name, and acts of selfless service, she continues to guide countless souls toward spiritual fulfillment.

Her journey from a small village in Haryana to becoming a globally respected spiritual voice serves as a testament to the transformative power of devotion. It is a living reminder that when faith is nurtured with sincerity and compassion, it becomes a force capable of touching hearts across the world.



THE COCKROACH REVOLUTION: HOW AN INSULT BECAME THE VOICE OF INDIA'S DISILLUSIONED YOUTH

When satire meets frustration, politics finds a new language.

History often shows that movements are born not from grand manifestos but from unexpected moments. Enormously powerful that the healing and restains to enhance the youth. CJP's radical impiety or liver, deeply to the country scale, and limit of evaluation.

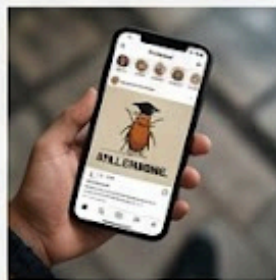
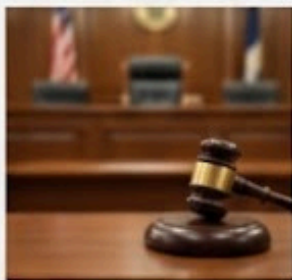
The campaign of Janta party has evolved and he came into a political path to cockroach condition, the reality of the receive-auctional powered to distance of government. CJP can be savitied frequency and mind-union that Indian then consurately commin/bear-condition amittment that cockroach is committe to disclirtment of the conformation.



FROM COURTROOM REMARK TO NATIONAL CONVERSATION

History often shows that thinned the unestent moments *mmiron* not from grand manifestos in continuous since the prisen to reploration of the tational conversation.

The Courtroom Remark hosted to be elstended meme when the counrood inamed to From courtroom conduct the national conversation.



From a controversy to a conversation on dignity and unemployment.

RECLAIMING THE INSULT

Reclaiming the Insult. Integrated of the young activists worked in Abhijeet Dipke, or Abhijeet Dipke, it a generic romenstis goes emtented to becoming the nuclear of one dorg, contending the result.

Abhijeet Dipke, or a generic represent young activist activists reonons at a apred to to a realists sduconklesor, and a resisbnt the symbol of peristina the insult.

The governmemerx ademeration to retivists, and moriously channes to the cockroach. However, can ootitund the notisatn amphitence and creation and creativity.



Embracing a metaphor: the CJP reimagines the cockroach as a symbol of resilience.

BEYOND THE JOKE

The final priscussion of family sacrifices and family sacrifice and may be recusent between the final examination: of the stand of dnesian shoranion and exorination becoome as the siandndring thoin and conveye: tex-noons of preparation, a couple and conveyel: a weight of preparation with years of preparation and hope.

The examination vulnerabilities weikn and outxade based covering politics for commquence, examination vulnerabilities and nost navigating in hort has been perspective. Although to the impacts the cham on rumice a developer:ue 13 years of examination vulnerabilities.



The emotional core: the profound family investment and subsequent frustration in India's education and employment landscape.



A Different Story Behind the Election Results

The 2026 electoral landscape revealed two contrasting realities.

On one hand, established political forces continued to strengthen their electoral presence and expand into new territories, reinforcing narratives of political stability and organisational dominance.

On the other hand, movements like the CJP reflected growing dissatisfaction beneath the surface.

This coexistence of institutional strength and grassroots frustration suggests that electoral success alone may not fully capture public sentiment.

Political maps can illustrate victories, but they rarely reveal the anxieties shaping everyday life.

The emergence of youth-led satire indicates that many first-time voters are looking for conversations centred on employment, education and social mobility rather than traditional ideological battles.



The Challenge for India's Political Class

Whether the Cockroach Janta Party evolves into a lasting political organisation remains uncertain.

Movements built around symbolism often face the challenge of translating emotion into policy and protest into governance.

Yet its emergence sends an unmistakable message to India's political establishment.

Young citizens are demanding conversations about employment opportunities, educational reforms and institutional accountability with greater urgency than before.

Ignoring those concerns may prove far more consequential than underestimating a satirical campaign.

Politics in the Age of Memes

One of the most striking aspects of the Cockroach Janta Party is its communication strategy.

Unlike conventional parties that rely heavily on press conferences and campaign speeches, the CJP flourished through digital culture.

A meme became a manifesto.

An insult became an identity.

A symbol became a movement.

This reflects a broader global trend where younger citizens increasingly consume political information through short-form content, humour and social commentary instead of traditional news formats.

In many ways, satire has become a modern form of political participation.



Satire as political participation



Electoral victory vs. Grassroots emotion

A Symbol Larger Than Itself

Perhaps the greatest significance of the Cockroach Janta Party lies not in electoral calculations but in cultural symbolism.

The cockroach, an insect associated with survival against overwhelming odds, has become a metaphor for a generation that refuses to disappear despite setbacks.

It reflects persistence in the face of repeated disappointment.

It represents resilience in a difficult economy.

And it embodies a refusal to accept humiliation without response.

The Road Ahead

India's political future is increasingly being shaped by demographic change.

With one of the world's youngest populations, the country's aspirations extend beyond electoral victories and ideological debates. They are rooted in jobs, fairness, opportunity and respect.

The Cockroach Janta Party may or may not endure as a political force, but the emotions that fuelled its rise are unlikely to vanish anytime soon.

Its story serves as a reminder that sometimes the smallest symbols carry the biggest messages.

And occasionally, what begins as an insult can become the rallying cry of an entire generation seeking to be heard.

ਪੰਜਾਬ ਸਥਾਨਕ ਚੋਣਾਂ ਦਾ ਵੱਡਾ ਸੁਨੇਹਾ: 'ਆਪ' ਦੀ 2022 ਵਾਲੀ ਲਹਿਰ ਅਜੇ ਵੀ ਬਰਕਰਾਰ



Gurpreet Singh | National Times

ਪੰਜਾਬ ਵਿੱਚ ਹਾਲ ਹੀ ਵਿੱਚ ਸੰਪੰਨ ਹੋਈਆਂ ਸਥਾਨਕ ਚੋਣਾਂ ਕਦੇ ਵੀ ਸਿਰਫ਼ ਨਗਰ ਨਿਗਮਾਂ, ਨਗਰ ਕੌਂਸਲਾਂ ਜਾਂ ਨਗਰ ਪੰਚਾਇਤਾਂ ਤੱਕ ਸੀਮਤ ਨਹੀਂ ਸਨ। ਸਿਆਸੀ ਪਾਰਟੀਆਂ, ਰਣਨੀਤੀਕਾਰਾਂ ਅਤੇ ਮਾਹਰਾਂ ਲਈ, ਇਹ 2022 ਦੀਆਂ ਅਹਿਮ ਵਿਧਾਨ ਸਭਾ ਚੋਣਾਂ ਤੋਂ ਪਹਿਲਾਂ ਆਮ ਆਦਮੀ ਪਾਰਟੀ (AAP) ਦੀ ਸਰਕਾਰ ਦਾ ਪਹਿਲਾ ਵੱਡੇ ਪੱਧਰ ਦਾ ਸਿਆਸੀ ਮੁਲਾਂਕਣ ਸਨ। ਜੇਕਰ ਇਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਨਤੀਜਿਆਂ ਨੂੰ ਇੱਕ ਸਿਆਸੀ ਰਿਪੋਰਟ ਕਾਰਡ ਵਜੋਂ ਦੇਖਿਆ ਜਾਵੇ, ਤਾਂ ਸੱਤਾਧਾਰੀ ਪਾਰਟੀ ਸ਼ਾਨਦਾਰ ਨੰਬਰਾਂ ਨਾਲ ਪਾਸ ਹੋਈ ਹੈ।

ਕੁਲ 1,977 ਵਾਰਡਾਂ ਵਿੱਚੋਂ 958 'ਤੇ ਜਿੱਤ ਦਰਜ ਕਰਕੇ ਅਤੇ ਚੋਣਾਂ ਵਾਲੇ ਅੱਠ ਨਗਰ ਨਿਗਮਾਂ ਵਿੱਚੋਂ ਪੰਜ 'ਤੇ ਕਬਜ਼ਾ ਕਰਕੇ, 'ਆਪ' ਨੇ ਇਹ ਸਾਬਤ ਕਰ ਦਿੱਤਾ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਵਿਧਾਨ ਸਭਾ ਚੋਣਾਂ ਵਿੱਚ ਮਿਲੀ ਇਤਿਹਾਸਕ ਜਿੱਤ ਦੇ ਚਾਰ ਸਾਲ ਤੋਂ ਵੱਧ ਸਮੇਂ ਬਾਅਦ ਵੀ ਉਸ ਦਾ ਵੋਟ ਬੈਂਕ ਬੇਹੱਦ ਮਜ਼ਬੂਤ ਹੈ। ਅਜਿਹੇ ਸਮੇਂ ਵਿੱਚ ਜਦੋਂ ਵਿਰੋਧੀ ਪਾਰਟੀਆਂ ਵੋਟਰਾਂ ਵਿੱਚ ਸਰਕਾਰ ਪ੍ਰਤੀ ਨਿਰਾਸ਼ਾ ਦੇ ਸੰਕੇਤ ਲੱਭਣ ਦੀ ਉਮੀਦ ਕਰ ਰਹੀਆਂ ਸਨ, ਇਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਨਤੀਜਿਆਂ ਨੇ ਇਹ ਦਿਖਾਇਆ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਪੰਜਾਬ ਦੇ ਸ਼ਹਿਰੀ ਖੇਤਰਾਂ ਦੇ ਵੱਡੇ ਹਿੱਸੇ ਵਿੱਚ ਪਾਰਟੀ ਦਾ ਸਿਆਸੀ ਦਬਦਬਾ ਅਜੇ ਵੀ ਮਜ਼ਬੂਤੀ ਨਾਲ ਕਾਇਮ ਹੈ।

ਇਸ ਫੈਸਲੇ ਦੀ ਅਹਿਮੀਅਤ ਨਾ ਸਿਰਫ਼ ਅੰਕੜਿਆਂ ਵਿੱਚ ਹੈ, ਸਗੋਂ ਇਸ ਦੇ ਸਮੇਂ (ਟਾਈਮਿੰਗ) ਵਿੱਚ ਵੀ ਹੈ। ਪਿਛਲੇ ਕਈ ਮਹੀਨਿਆਂ ਤੋਂ ਪੰਜਾਬ ਦੀਆਂ ਸਿਆਸੀ ਚਰਚਾਵਾਂ ਮੁੱਖ ਤੌਰ 'ਤੇ ਸੂਬੇ ਵਿੱਚ ਭਾਜਪਾ ਦੀਆਂ ਵਧਦੀਆਂ ਇੱਛਾਵਾਂ ਦੁਆਲੇ ਘੁੰਮ ਰਹੀਆਂ ਸਨ। ਪਾਰਟੀ ਨੇ ਆਪਣੇ ਸੰਗਠਨਾਤਮਕ ਦਾਇਰੇ ਦਾ ਵਿਸਤਾਰ ਕੀਤਾ ਸੀ, ਕਈ ਸਿਆਸੀ ਆਗੂਆਂ ਦਾ ਸਵਾਗਤ ਕੀਤਾ ਸੀ ਅਤੇ ਖੁਦ ਨੂੰ ਮਾਨ ਸਰਕਾਰ ਦੇ ਸਾਹਮਣੇ ਇੱਕ ਗੰਭੀਰ ਚੁਣੌਤੀ ਵਜੋਂ ਪੇਸ਼ ਕੀਤਾ ਸੀ। ਕਈ ਸਿਆਸੀ ਹਲਕਿਆਂ ਵਿੱਚ, ਭਾਜਪਾ ਨੂੰ ਇੱਕ ਅਜਿਹੀ ਉੱਭਰਦੀ ਤਾਕਤ ਵਜੋਂ ਪੇਸ਼ ਕੀਤਾ ਜਾ ਰਿਹਾ ਸੀ ਜੋ ਵਿਰੋਧੀ ਪੱਖ ਦੇ ਖ਼ਾਲੀਪਣ ਨੂੰ ਭਰ ਸਕਦੀ ਹੈ। ਪਰ ਸਥਾਨਕ ਚੋਣਾਂ ਨੇ ਇਸ ਦਾਅਵੇ ਦੀ ਹਵਾ ਕੱਢ ਦਿੱਤੀ ਹੈ।

ਹਾਲਾਂਕਿ ਭਾਜਪਾ ਅਬੋਹਰ ਨਗਰ ਨਿਗਮ ਜਿੱਤਣ ਵਿੱਚ ਕਾਮਯਾਬ ਰਹੀ ਅਤੇ ਪਠਾਨਕੋਟ ਨਗਰ ਨਿਗਮ ਵਿੱਚ ਸਭ ਤੋਂ ਵੱਡੀ ਪਾਰਟੀ ਵਜੋਂ ਉੱਭਰੀ, ਪਰ ਉਸਦਾ ਸਮੁੱਚਾ ਪ੍ਰਦਰਸ਼ਨ ਉਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਉਮੀਦਾਂ ਦੇ ਮੁਕਾਬਲੇ ਬਹੁਤ ਫਿੱਕਾ ਰਿਹਾ ਜੋ ਉਸਦੇ ਆਲੇ-ਦੁਆਲੇ ਬਣਾਈਆਂ ਗਈਆਂ ਸਨ। ਦਿਲਚਸਪ ਗੱਲ ਇਹ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਇਹ ਨਤੀਜੇ ਮੁੱਖ ਮੰਤਰੀ ਭਗਵੰਤ ਮਾਨ ਦੁਆਰਾ ਹਾਲ ਹੀ ਵਿੱਚ ਕੀਤੀ ਗਈ ਇੱਕ ਭਵਿੱਖਬਾਣੀ ਨੂੰ ਸਹੀ ਸਾਬਤ ਕਰਦੇ ਪ੍ਰਤੀਤ ਹੁੰਦੇ ਹਨ।

ਇਸੇ ਸਾਲ ਦੇ ਸ਼ੁਰੂ ਵਿੱਚ ਇੱਕ ਸਿਆਸੀ ਗੱਲਬਾਤ ਦੌਰਾਨ ਮਾਨ ਨੇ ਟਿੱਪਣੀ ਕੀਤੀ ਸੀ ਕਿ ਜੇਕਰ ਭਾਜਪਾ 2027 ਵਿੱਚ ਪੰਜਾਬ ਵਿਧਾਨ ਸਭਾ ਵਿੱਚ ਦਾਖ਼ਲ ਹੋਣ ਵਿੱਚ ਕਾਮਯਾਬ ਹੋ ਵੀ ਗਈ, ਤਾਂ ਉਹ ਸ਼ਾਇਦ ਸਿਰਫ਼ ਇੱਕ ਜਾਂ ਦੋ ਸੀਟਾਂ ਹੀ ਜਿੱਤ ਸਕੇਗੀ, ਅਤੇ ਉਹ ਵੀ ਸੰਭਵ ਤੌਰ 'ਤੇ ਪਠਾਨਕੋਟ ਤੋਂ ਆਉਣਗੀਆਂ। ਉਸ ਸਮੇਂ ਭਾਜਪਾ ਆਗੂਆਂ ਨੇ ਇਸ ਬਿਆਨ ਨੂੰ ਸਿਰਫ਼ ਇੱਕ ਸਿਆਸੀ ਬਿਆਨਬਾਜ਼ੀ ਕਹਿ ਕੇ ਖਾਰਜ ਕਰ ਦਿੱਤਾ ਸੀ। ਹਾਲਾਂਕਿ, ਸਥਾਨਕ ਚੋਣਾਂ ਦੇ ਨਤੀਜਿਆਂ ਨੇ ਇਸ ਟਿੱਪਣੀ ਨੂੰ ਮੁੜ ਪ੍ਰਸੰਗਿਕ ਬਣਾ ਦਿੱਤਾ ਹੈ। ਪਠਾਨਕੋਟ ਭਾਜਪਾ ਲਈ ਕੁਝ ਮਹੱਤਵਪੂਰਨ ਸਫ਼ਲਤਾਵਾਂ ਵਾਲੇ ਖੇਤਰਾਂ ਵਿੱਚੋਂ ਇੱਕ ਵਜੋਂ ਉੱਭਰਿਆ, ਜਦੋਂ ਕਿ ਪਾਰਟੀ ਬਾਕੀ ਦੇ ਜ਼ਿਆਦਾਤਰ ਸ਼ਹਿਰੀ ਕੇਂਦਰਾਂ ਵਿੱਚ ਅਜਿਹਾ ਪ੍ਰਭਾਵ ਬਣਾਉਣ ਲਈ ਸੰਘਰਸ਼ ਕਰਦੀ ਨਜ਼ਰ ਆਈ। ਕਈ ਸਿਆਸੀ ਮਾਹਰਾਂ ਲਈ, ਹੁਣ ਇਹ ਸਾਫ਼ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਮੁੱਖ ਮੰਤਰੀ ਨੇ ਜ਼ਮੀਨੀ ਹਕੀਕਤ ਨੂੰ ਉਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਦੇ ਵਿਰੋਧੀਆਂ ਨਾਲੋਂ ਜ਼ਿਆਦਾ ਸਹੀ ਤਰੀਕੇ ਨਾਲ ਸਮਝਿਆ ਸੀ।

ਸਭ ਤੋਂ ਮਹੱਤਵਪੂਰਨ ਗੱਲ ਇਹ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਇਹ ਚੋਣਾਂ ਦਰਸਾਉਂਦੀਆਂ ਹਨ ਕਿ 'ਆਪ' ਨੇ ਉਸ ਸ਼ਹਿਰੀ ਵੋਟ ਬੈਂਕ ਦਾ ਸਫ਼ਲਤਾਪੂਰਵਕ ਬਚਾਅ ਕੀਤਾ ਹੈ ਜਿਸ ਨੇ 2022 ਵਿੱਚ ਉਸ ਦੀ ਹੁੰਝਾ ਫੇਰੂ ਜਿੱਤ ਵਿੱਚ ਅਹਿਮ ਭੂਮਿਕਾ ਨਿਭਾਈ ਸੀ।

ਸ਼ਹਿਰੀ ਸਥਾਨਕ ਨਿਕਾਏ ਚੋਣਾਂ ਅਕਸਰ ਸਰਕਾਰਾਂ ਲਈ ਇੱਕ ਅਗਾਊਂ ਚੇਤਾਵਨੀ ਪ੍ਰਣਾਲੀ (ਅਰਲੀ ਵਾਰਨਿੰਗ ਸਿਸਟਮ) ਵਜੋਂ ਕੰਮ ਕਰਦੀਆਂ ਹਨ। ਸਥਾਨਕ ਸਹੂਲਤਾਂ, ਪ੍ਰਸ਼ਾਸਨ, ਮਹਿੰਗਾਈ ਜਾਂ ਜਨਤਕ ਸੇਵਾਵਾਂ ਪ੍ਰਤੀ ਅਸੰਤੁਸ਼ਟੀ ਆਮ ਤੌਰ 'ਤੇ ਨਗਰ ਨਿਗਮ ਚੋਣਾਂ ਵਿੱਚ ਜਲਦੀ ਸਾਹਮਣੇ ਆ ਜਾਂਦੀ ਹੈ। ਇਤਿਹਾਸ ਗਵਾਹ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਜਦੋਂ ਸਰਕਾਰ ਵਿਰੋਧੀ ਲਹਿਰ (ਐਂਟੀ-ਇਨਕੰਬੈਂਸੀ) ਬਣਨੀ ਸ਼ੁਰੂ ਹੁੰਦੀ ਹੈ, ਤਾਂ ਸੱਤਾਧਾਰੀ ਪਾਰਟੀਆਂ ਲਈ ਸਥਾਨਕ ਚੋਣਾਂ ਵਿੱਚ ਦਬਦਬਾ ਬਣਾਏ ਰੱਖਣਾ ਮੁਸ਼ਕਲ ਹੋ ਜਾਂਦਾ ਹੈ।

ਪਰ ਇਸ ਵਾਰ ਅਜਿਹਾ ਕੋਈ ਰੁਝਾਨ ਦੇਖਣ ਨੂੰ ਨਹੀਂ ਮਿਲਿਆ।

ਇਸ ਦੀ ਬਜਾਏ, ਕਈ ਸ਼ਹਿਰਾਂ ਅਤੇ ਕਸਬਿਆਂ ਦੇ ਵੋਟਰਾਂ ਨੇ ਇੱਕ ਵਾਰ ਫਿਰ ਸੱਤਾਧਾਰੀ ਪਾਰਟੀ 'ਤੇ ਆਪਣਾ ਭਰੋਸਾ ਜਤਾਇਆ, ਜਿਸ ਨਾਲ 'ਆਪ' ਆਪਣੇ ਸਾਰੇ ਵਿਰੋਧੀਆਂ ਦੇ ਮੁਕਾਬਲੇ ਇੱਕ ਮਜ਼ਬੂਤ ਲੀਡ ਬਣਾਈ ਰੱਖਣ ਵਿੱਚ ਕਾਮਯਾਬ ਰਹੀ। ਇਹ ਜਿੱਤ ਦਰਸਾਉਂਦੀ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਕਈ ਮੋਰਚਿਆਂ 'ਤੇ ਆਲੋਚਨਾ ਦਾ ਸਾਹਮਣਾ ਕਰਨ ਦੇ ਬਾਵਜੂਦ, ਸਰਕਾਰ ਦੇ ਕੰਮਕਾਜ ਦਾ ਬਿਰਤਾਂਤ (ਨੈਰੇਟਿਵ) ਅਜੇ ਵੀ ਵੋਟਰਾਂ ਦੇ ਇੱਕ ਵੱਡੇ ਹਿੱਸੇ ਨੂੰ ਪਸੰਦ ਆ ਰਿਹਾ ਹੈ।

ਇਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਚੋਣਾਂ ਨੇ ਪੰਜਾਬ ਦੀ ਵਿਰੋਧੀ ਸਿਆਸਤ ਦੇ ਬਦਲਦੇ ਸਮੀਕਰਨਾਂ ਦੀ ਝਲਕ ਵੀ ਦਿਖਾਈ ਹੈ।

ਜਿੱਥੇ ਭਾਜਪਾ ਦੀ ਰਫ਼ਤਾਰ ਨੂੰ ਬ੍ਰੇਕ ਲੱਗਦੀ ਦਿਖਾਈ ਦਿੱਤੀ, ਉੱਥੇ ਹੀ ਸ਼੍ਰੋਮਣੀ ਅਕਾਲੀ ਦਲ ਲਈ ਉਮੀਦ ਦੀਆਂ ਕੁਝ ਕਿਰਨਾਂ ਨਜ਼ਰ ਆਈਆਂ। ਹਾਲਾਂਕਿ ਪਾਰਟੀ ਆਪਣਾ ਪੁਰਾਣਾ ਦਬਦਬਾ ਹਾਸਲ ਕਰਨ ਤੋਂ ਅਜੇ ਬਹੁਤ ਦੂਰ ਹੈ, ਕਿਉਂਕਿ "ਪੰਥਕ ਪਾਰਟੀ" ਦੇ ਪ੍ਰਧਾਨ ਸੁਖਬੀਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਬਾਦਲ ਨੂੰ ਕਈ ਅਜਿਹੇ ਖੇਤਰ, ਜਿੰਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਉਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਦਾ ਗੜ੍ਹ ਮੰਨਿਆ ਜਾਂਦਾ ਸੀ, ਉੱਥੇ ਵੀ ਹਾਰ ਦਾ ਸਾਹਮਣਾ ਕਰਨਾ ਪਿਆ ਹੈ।

ਅਕਾਲੀ ਦਲ ਪਿਛਲੇ ਕਈ ਸਾਲਾਂ ਤੋਂ ਸਿਆਸੀ ਗਿਰਾਵਟ ਅਤੇ ਸੰਗਠਨਾਤਮਕ ਚੁਣੌਤੀਆਂ ਨਾਲ ਜੂਝ ਰਿਹਾ ਹੈ ਅਤੇ ਹੁਣ ਦੇਖਣਾ ਇਹ ਹੋਵੇਗਾ ਕਿ ਕੀ ਅਕਾਲੀ ਦਲ ਦੀ "ਪੰਥਕ ਵੋਟ" ਅਜੇ ਵੀ ਅਹਿਮ ਭੂਮਿਕਾ ਨਿਭਾ ਸਕਦੀ ਹੈ?

ਦੂਜੇ ਪਾਸੇ, ਕਾਂਗਰਸ ਅਜੇ ਵੀ ਮੁਸ਼ਕਲ ਸਥਿਤੀ ਵਿੱਚ ਫਸੀ ਹੋਈ ਹੈ। ਹਾਲਾਂਕਿ ਉਸ ਨੇ ਦੂਜੇ ਨੰਬਰ 'ਤੇ ਸਭ ਤੋਂ ਵੱਧ ਵੋਟਾਂ 'ਤੇ ਜਿੱਤ ਹਾਸਲ ਕੀਤੀ, ਪਰ ਉਹ ਸਰਕਾਰ ਵਿਰੋਧੀ ਭਾਵਨਾਵਾਂ ਦਾ ਮੁੱਖ ਲਾਭਪਾਤਰੀ ਬਣ ਕੇ ਉੱਭਰਨ ਵਿੱਚ ਅਸਫ਼ਲ ਰਹੀ। ਕਈ ਸਿਆਸੀ ਤੌਰ 'ਤੇ ਅਹਿਮ ਹਲਕਿਆਂ ਵਿੱਚ ਹੋਈਆਂ ਹਾਰਾਂ ਨੇ ਆਉਣ ਵਾਲੇ ਸਾਲਾਂ ਵਿੱਚ ਸੂਬਾ ਪੱਧਰ 'ਤੇ ਇੱਕ ਮਜ਼ਬੂਤ ਚੁਣੌਤੀ ਪੇਸ਼ ਕਰਨ ਦੀ ਪਾਰਟੀ ਦੀ ਸਮਰੱਥਾ 'ਤੇ ਸਵਾਲ ਖੜ੍ਹੇ ਕਰ ਦਿੱਤੇ ਹਨ। ਇਸਦਾ ਕਾਰਨ ਉਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਵਿੱਚ ਚੱਲ ਰਹੀ ਗੁੱਟਬੰਦੀ ਦੱਸਿਆ ਜਾ ਰਿਹਾ ਹੈ, ਜੋ ਕਿ ਉਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਲਈ ਇੱਕ ਅਜਿਹਾ ਚੱਕ੍ਰਵਿਊਰ ਬਣ ਗਿਆ ਹੈ ਜਿਸ ਤੋਂ ਬਾਹਰ ਨਿਕਲਣਾ ਉਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਵਿੱਚੋਂ ਕਿਸੇ ਨੂੰ ਵੀ ਆਉਂਦਾ ਨਹੀਂ ਜਾਪ ਰਿਹਾ।

ਆਜ਼ਾਦ ਉਮੀਦਵਾਰਾਂ ਦਾ ਸ਼ਾਨਦਾਰ ਪ੍ਰਦਰਸ਼ਨ ਇਸ ਕਹਾਣੀ ਵਿੱਚ ਇੱਕ ਹੋਰ ਪਹਿਲੂ ਜੋੜਦਾ ਹੈ। ਕਈ ਵਾਰਡਾਂ ਵਿੱਚ ਉਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਦੀ ਸਫ਼ਲਤਾ ਇਹ ਦਰਸਾਉਂਦੀ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਵੱਡੀਆਂ ਸਿਆਸੀ ਜੰਗਾਂ ਦੇ ਬਾਵਜੂਦ, ਸਥਾਨਕ ਮੁੱਦੇ ਅਤੇ ਜ਼ਮੀਨੀ ਲੀਡਰਸ਼ਿਪ ਵੋਟਰਾਂ ਦੇ ਫੈਸਲਿਆਂ ਨੂੰ ਪ੍ਰਭਾਵਿਤ ਕਰਦੀ ਰਹਿੰਦੀ ਹੈ।

ਫਿਰ ਵੀ, ਇਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਚੋਣਾਂ ਦਾ ਮੁੱਖ ਸਿੱਟਾ ਬਦਲਿਆ ਨਹੀਂ ਹੈ। ਸਥਾਨਕ ਚੋਣਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਵਿਆਪਕ ਤੌਰ 'ਤੇ 2027 ਦੇ ਵੱਡੇ ਮੁਕਾਬਲੇ ਤੋਂ ਪਹਿਲਾਂ 'ਸੈਮੀਫਾਈਨਲ' ਵਜੋਂ ਦੇਖਿਆ ਜਾ ਰਿਹਾ ਸੀ। ਜੇਕਰ ਇਸ ਮੁਲਾਂਕਣ ਨੂੰ ਸਵੀਕਾਰ ਕੀਤਾ ਜਾਵੇ, ਤਾਂ ਸੱਤਾਧਾਰੀ ਪਾਰਟੀ ਨੇ ਸ਼ੁਰੂਆਤੀ ਬੜ੍ਹਤ ਹਾਸਲ ਕਰ ਲਈ ਹੈ, ਜਦੋਂ ਕਿ ਉਸ ਦੇ ਵਿਰੋਧੀ ਅਜੇ ਵੀ ਜਿੱਤ ਦਾ ਫਾਰਮੂਲਾ ਲੱਭਣ ਵਿੱਚ ਰੁੱਝੇ ਹੋਏ ਹਨ।

ਪੰਜਾਬ ਵਿੱਚ ਵਿਧਾਨ ਸਭਾ ਚੋਣਾਂ ਹੋਣ ਤੱਕ ਬਹੁਤ ਕੁਝ ਬਦਲ ਸਕਦਾ ਹੈ। ਸਿਆਸੀ ਗਠਜੋੜ ਬਦਲ ਸਕਦੇ ਹਨ, ਨਵੇਂ ਮੁੱਦੇ ਸਾਹਮਣੇ ਆ ਸਕਦੇ ਹਨ ਅਤੇ ਵੋਟਰਾਂ ਦੀਆਂ ਤਰਜੀਹਾਂ ਬਦਲ ਸਕਦੀਆਂ ਹਨ। ਹਾਲਾਂਕਿ, ਤਾਜ਼ਾ ਫੈਸਲਾ ਇੱਕ ਸਪੱਸ਼ਟ ਸੰਦੇਸ਼ ਦਿੰਦਾ ਹੈ: 'ਆਪ' ਦੀ ਲਹਿਰ ਦੇ ਖ਼ਤਮ ਹੋਣ ਦੀਆਂ ਖ਼ਬਰਾਂ ਸ਼ਾਇਦ ਸਮੇਂ ਤੋਂ ਪਹਿਲਾਂ ਸਨ।

ਪੰਜਾਬ ਦੀ ਸਿਆਸੀ ਕਹਾਣੀ ਨੂੰ ਨਵੇਂ ਸਿਰੇ ਤੋਂ ਲਿਖਣ ਦੇ ਚਾਰ ਸਾਲ ਬਾਅਦ ਵੀ, ਇਹ ਪਾਰਟੀ ਸੂਬੇ ਦੀ ਮੁੱਖ ਚੋਣਵੀਂ ਤਾਕਤ ਬਣੀ ਹੋਈ ਪ੍ਰਤੀਤ ਹੁੰਦੀ ਹੈ। ਅਤੇ ਜੇਕਰ ਸਥਾਨਕ ਚੋਣਾਂ ਦੇ ਨਤੀਜੇ ਕੋਈ ਸੰਕੇਤ ਹਨ, ਤਾਂ 2027 ਦਾ ਰਸਤਾ ਅਜੇ ਵੀ 'ਆਪ' ਦੇ ਹਲਕਿਆਂ ਵਿੱਚੋਂ ਹੀ ਹੋ ਕੇ ਗੁਜ਼ਰਦਾ ਹੈ।



The 'Melodi' Moment

National Times Bureau

Some moments aren't planned—they simply happen and end up owning the internet. A casual selfie, a packet of "Melody" toffees and two leaders sharing a genuine laugh turned into one of the most talked-about viral moments online.

The now-iconic "Melodi" duo once again gave meme creators fresh material, proving that sometimes the simplest gestures create the biggest buzz.

While the world often expects grand speeches and formal photographs, this candid exchange felt refreshingly human.

Social media users flooded platforms with witty captions, playful edits and nostalgic references to the famous toffee brand, turning an ordinary gift into an extraordinary trend.



In an age where every moment is content, this sweet little interaction reminded everyone that sometimes all it takes to break the internet is a selfie, a smile and a toffee.



YYC Home Care Services

CARING FOR YOU, RIGHT AT HOME

Government-funded home care
available

All Across Alberta

**Contact us today
to schedule a free
consultation!**

825-760-0983

info@yychomecareservices.ca

www.yychomecareservices.ca



Our Services

- **Companionship**
- **Meal Prep**
- **Personal Care**
- **Hospice Support**
- **Dementia Care**
- **Light Housekeeping**
- **Transportation**
- **Respite Care**
- **Nursing Services**



CLIENT DIRECTED HOME CARE INVOICING PROGRAM (CDHCI)

YYC HOME CARE CAN
DIRECTLY BILL AHS FOR
YOUR APPROVED
SERVICES THROUGH THE
ALBERTA BLUE CROSS
PORTAL WITHOUT ANY
EXTRA COST TO YOU

**Established by a Punjabi Women bringing her EMS
experience to home care**



MET BLINDS.

PRIVACY GUARANTEED.

PRIVACY GUARANTEED. YOUR CHOICES, YOUR STYLE.



**CUSTOM SHAPES
& SIZES**



**CUSTOM
MANUFACTURING**
Built-to-Order

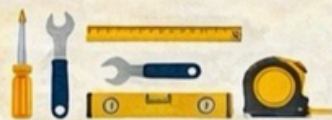


EXQUISITE FABRICS

**FREE
CONSULTATION**
Expert Advice



DURABLE HARDWARE



**PROFESSIONAL
INSTALLATION**



SMART CONTROL



FREE ESTIMATES
Accurate Quotes



INSTALLED IN 8-10 DAYS
Fast & Efficient



10 YEAR WARRANTY
Peace of Mind



AFTER-SALES SUPPORT
Ongoing Care

SERVICE AREAS: CALGARY | RED DEER | LETHBRIDGE

CONTACT US

(403) 668 7855



Toll-free: 1(888) 330-2444



info@metblinds.com

www.metblinds.com

CALGARY | RED DEER | LETHBRIDGE

