



Uproar in Lok Sabha after Rahul seeks to quote from ex-Army chief Naravane's 'memoir'

New Delhi(GNS): The Lok Sabha was thrown into a political confrontation on Monday after Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi attempted to raise questions on India's handling of China during the discussion on the President's Address, prompting strong objections from the government and repeated interventions by the Speaker.

What began as a response to BJP attacks on the Congress's patriotism quickly escalated into a broader clash over national security,

Parliamentary rules, and the limits placed on the opposition's right to speak on sensitive foreign policy issues. At the centre of the row was Gandhi's reference to reports linked to former Army chief General M M Naravane's memoir, which he said pointed to serious concerns about Chinese military presence and decision-making at the highest levels of government. Gandhi began by responding to BJP MP Tejasvi Surya's earlier remarks questioning the Congress's patriotism. He said the

issue of nationalism could not be reduced to slogans and pointed to what he described as serious concerns over national security, referring to four Chinese tanks entering Indian territory in Doklam.

As he spoke, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh intervened, objecting to the reference and demanding that only authenticated material be allowed on the floor of the House. Gandhi replied that his remarks were based on Naravane's memoir. Singh countered that the book had not yet



been published and therefore could not be treated as an authentic source. Home Minister Amit Shah supported

the objection, stating that unpublished books and magazine reports could not be cited in Parliament and that "anything" could be

written in such publications.

Speaker Om Birla stepped in, ruling that House rules do not permit the reading or

quoting of any book or article that does not directly relate to the proceedings of Parliament. Singh further argued that "unofficial conversations" or unverified material should not be mentioned in the House.

The controversy centres on General Naravane's memoir, 'Four Stars of Destiny', which has drawn attention for its reported disclosures on sensitive issues, including the 2020 India-China border standoff and the Agnipath recruitment scheme. The book is currently under review

by the Ministry of Defence, with reports suggesting it reveals internal differences within the Armed Forces and policy-making circles, raising wider questions about disclosure norms for retired military officers. As the interruptions continued, Samajwadi Party MP and former Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav came out in support of Gandhi, saying the China issue was sensitive and that the Leader of Opposition should be allowed to speak.

Hotel manager's brother shot by criminals in VIP lane of Chhapra

Saran(GNS): A dispute escalated into violence in a VIP lane in Chhapra city, under the Bhagwan Bazar police station area, where unsuspecting criminals shot a young man.

The bullet grazed the young man's left thigh. The injured man was immediately rushed to Chhapra Sadar Hospital, where he is undergoing treatment. According to reports, the injured man has been identified as Abhishek Kumar Pandey, son of the late Subhash Pandey, a resident of Basdila village in the Kopa police station area.

Pankaj Kumar Pandey, Abhishek's brother and manager of Lalita Hotel, who is admitted to Sadar Hospital, said the two brothers were sitting in the hotel when Hrithik Singh, a resident of Kothiya, and Sonu Singh, a resident of Naini, arrived and forcibly dragged Abhishek into the lane. According to Pankaj, when he tried to intervene, the attackers also assaulted him. During this scuffle, the criminals opened fire on Abhishek. A bullet struck his left thigh, causing him to collapse, bleeding profusely.

Locals reported hearing two rounds of gunfire, causing panic in the area.

Dr. Surendra Mahato, on duty at Sadar Hospital, stated that the wound on the young man's thigh confirms a gunshot wound. However, the exact location and the presence of the bullet inside his body will only be determined after an X-ray report. The injured person is currently in stable condition. Upon receiving information about the incident, police from the Bhagwan Bazar police station arrived at the scene. Police have recorded the victim's statement and are preparing for further action.

In Madhya Pradesh, the annual examination for class 12th will be held from February 10 and for class 10th from February 13

Bhopal, Agency: The annual examination of Higher Secondary (Class 12th) organized by Madhya Pradesh Board of Secondary Education is starting from February 10 and the annual examination of High School (Class 10th) is starting from February 13. The board has made extensive preparations for both these board examinations.

Giving information on Monday, Public Relations Officer SP Shukla said that the Higher Secondary examination will start from February 10 and will continue till March 07, while the High School examination is being organized from February 13 to March 6. The examination will be held from 9 am to 12 noon for regular and self-study candidates.

Union Budget 2026: Cancer, diabetes drugs exempt from duty

New Delhi(GNS): In a significant relief to patients, particularly those undergoing cancer treatment, the Union Budget on Saturday proposed a full exemption of basic customs duty on 17 life-saving drugs and medicines, substantially reducing treatment costs and easing the financial burden on affected families.

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman also announced the launch of a major scheme, Biopharma SHAKTI, with an outlay of Rs 10,000 crore over the next five years to develop India as a global biopharma manufacturing hub.

With a focus on countering the rising burden of non-communicable diseases such as diabetes, cancer and a wide range of immunological disorders, Sitharaman said that biological medicines were critical to longevity and improved quality of life at affordable costs.

The strategy will include the creation of a biopharma-focused network with three new National Institutes of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPERs) and the upgradation of seven existing institutes in Mohali (the oldest), Kolkata, Ahmedabad, Hajipur, Guwahati, Rae Bareilly and Hyderabad. The scheme will also establish a network of

over 1,000 accredited clinical trial sites across the country.

Strengthening mental healthcare in northern India on the lines of National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS), Bengaluru, the government has proposed setting up NIMHANS-2 to cater to the region.

"Emergencies expose families, particularly the poor and vulnerable, to unexpected expenditure. We will strengthen and increase these capacities by 50 per cent in district hospitals by establishing Emergency and Trauma Care Centres," the Finance Minister said.

The Budget also proposed the setting up of five regional medical hubs in partnership with the private sector.

"These hubs will serve as integrated healthcare complexes that combine medical, educational and research facilities. They will have AYUSH centres, Medical Value Tourism Facilitation Centres, and infrastructure for diagnostics, post-care and rehabilitation. These hubs will provide diverse job opportunities for health professionals, including doctors and allied healthcare professionals," Sitharaman announced.

'Hum hain na,' PM Modi assures followers of Guru Ravidas

NEW DELHI/JALANDHAR(GNS): In a goodwill gesture to followers of Guru Ravidas, whose Dalit followers are a sizeable presence in Punjab, PM Narendra Modi on Sunday said his govt was continuously making efforts to promote the saint's ideals and work in accordance with them. Modi addressed the followers at Dera Sachkhand Ballan soon after naming Adampur airport after the social reformer on his birth anniversary, lauding his message of equality. "I am confident that we will continue to strengthen the roots of our society with these efforts," he said in a message of unity to the poet-saint's followers. His inclusion of Ravidas in the saffron tent of its lodestars, where Lord Ram sits alongside revered saints, is being seen as his effort to deepen BJP's connect and broaden its cultural appeal.

His gesture of helping the spiritual head of Dera Sachkhand Ballan, the biggest dera of Ravidassia community, climb down the stairs from the dais and help him walk along by holding his hand touched a chord among followers as well. "Hum hain na! Kam padenge kya? (I am there. Will it not be enough)," he told some-



one who offered to lend a hand, drawing admiration. In his speech, he spoke of Ravidas's promotion of equality among people to emphasise it was an inspiration behind his govt's effort to build a country where everybody got respect and opportunity. Ravidas's birth anniversary is now commemorated at a national level and many states too have recognised it, he told the gathering, drawing attention to his govt's work to build memorials to the saint, including at his birthplace in Varanasi, Modi's parliamentary constituency. Modi's outreach to the Ravidassia community, who are in large numbers in Punjab while the saint enjoys following among other Dalit and disadvantaged communities in the

state and outside as well, is being seen as part of his continuing efforts to deepen BJP's bond with SCs. Dalits make up 32% of voters in Punjab, more than any other state, and are especially influential with 42% share in Doaba, the region where the dera is situated. Dera's spiritual head Niranjan Dass was recently awarded with Padma Shri. Modi said 600 years ago, Ravidas spoke for equality and helped grow a new consciousness in society, which acknowledged its weaknesses and worked to remove them, an apparent reference to social discrimination against lower castes. Modi added his govt named the airport in Ayodhya after saint Valmiki, another spiritual figure worshipped by sections of Dalits.

'Agitated' Mamata Banerjee leaves meeting with Chief Election Commissioner in a huff: EC officials

New Delhi(NGNS): West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday left the meeting with the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar here on the SIR matter in a huff without listening to the response of the Election Commission (EC) top brass on the issues raised by her, EC officials said. The CEC told the



TMC leaders that the "rule of law will prevail" and anybody taking the law into their own hands

will be dealt with strictly in accordance with the provisions of law and powers vested in EC,

they said.

Their reaction came as Banerjee lashed out at the EC after emerging from the meeting, accusing the poll panel of acting as a "dalal" (middleman) of BJP.

Wearing black shawls as a mark of "protest", Banerjee along with some "SIR-affected" families and party leaders met CEC Kumar and fellow ECs here, her party said.

Bombs hurled, firing reported as two groups clash in South Kolkata's Golpark, 10 held

New Delhi, Agency: Bombs were hurled and bullets fired during a clash between two groups here, leaving two persons injured, police said on Monday.

At least 10 people were arrested in the clash that broke out in south Kolkata's Golpark area under the Rabindra Sarobar

Police Station limits on Sunday night, a senior officer said.

"The situation is now under control. Ten people were arrested early on Monday, and raids are underway to arrest others involved in the clash," he said.

The violence broke out on Kankulia Road around 8.30 pm on

Sunday when a group of youths from another area entered the locality and were confronted by locals, he said, adding that "two persons were injured in the incident".

Stones were hurled from both sides, creating panic in the area, the policeman said. Crude bombs were

thrown, and at least one round of bullets was fired during the clash. Empty cartridges and splinters have been recovered from the area," the officer said.

A mob later vandalised several motorcycles and made attempts to attack a police vehicle when security personnel

arrived at the spot to disperse the crowd, he said.

A large police force was deployed to bring the situation under control, the officer said.

"CCTV footage from the area is being scrutinised to identify the miscreants," he said.

Locals alleged that the violence was aimed

at asserting control over the locality.

A local Trinamool Congress leader visited the area and said, "Strict action will be taken against those responsible for creating panic and disturbing public order."

The investigation is under way, the police officer said.

Epstein scandal: a global crime of sexism and pimps?

Sanat Jain

Black ink, granddaughter of black deeds

The Epstein Files are a hot topic around the world these days. Beautiful, underage boys and girls were used as sex workers to influence politicians, high-ranking officials, and corporate figures around the world. They were entrapped by sex offenders and their pimps, and then exploited by the positions and prestige of those in power around the world. Epstein became a powerful man by blackmailing politicians and corporate figures worldwide. Now that Epstein is no longer alive, the dark deeds recorded in his files are being revealed. The dark side of the heads of state and corporate leaders across the globe is now visible to the

world. In this scandalous case, Epstein, a notorious sexual abuser, exploited young children for his business. He lured prominent politicians, corporate figures, and high-ranking officials to his island and treated them to luxury. Such luxury could not have been available to the wealthy anywhere else. Due to this, Epstein became the world's most powerful power broker in a very short time. This included presidents, prime ministers, British princes, billionaires, and global tycoons, including film actors and actresses. This broker held sway over industry, power, sports, and business in various countries. After becoming involved in this game of lust, the entire world danced to Epstein's command. The US Justice Department has revealed this. More

than 3.5 million pages, thousands of photos, and thousands of videos from his computers reveal this truth. Jeffrey Epstein and his associates were involved in Ghislaine Maxwell's sex racket network. These documents include electronic messages, records of air travel, and all transactions made through banks. The name of current US President Donald Trump has appeared several times. Similarly, the names of more than half a dozen Indian individuals are also listed in this file. All these documents have now been made public. Surprisingly, some pages contained information related to Trump and several important politicians and officials. Many pages of the testimony documents were blacked out to prevent the information from reaching the public. A case of blacked-out

information has surfaced regarding sexual assault survivors who testified before the US Justice Department. Due to this blacked-out information, information about approximately two dozen brokers and suppliers is not available, which could have facilitated the investigation and punished those involved in this crime. US Democratic lawmakers have accused the Justice Department of not releasing this information within the US Congressional deadline. They have attempted to blacken much of the information that has been revealed to protect powerful individuals. This has sparked debate in the US media.

This information is being sought from the Justice Department. Why has this information been withheld? While US President Donald Trump's name is repeatedly being brought up,

the attempt to dismiss it as a conspiracy has sparked widespread protests in the US. Even before the Epstein file was revealed, Britain's Prince Andrew Mountbatten-Windsor resigned from his position. A woman was sent to the Prince, this was revealed in testimony. Miroslav Laichak, the National Security Advisor to the Slovak Prime Minister, has resigned. He was accused of speaking to and having contact with women while he was Foreign Minister. Information about US Commerce Secretary Harold Lutnick has also been revealed. He is accused of visiting Epstein's private island with his family in 2012. Jeffrey Epstein was convicted in Florida in 2008 for soliciting a 14-year-old girl for sex, and was sentenced to two years in prison.

Editorial

Credible and creditable: On Union Budget 2026-27

Where Budget 2025 was largely dominated by the income-tax rate and slab relaxations, Budget 2026 has done away with Big Bang measures. Instead, its scattershot approach, through various sectoral and issue-based measures, when taken together, is aimed at propelling India's growth over the medium term. Given the level of geoeconomic and geopolitical uncertainties that the Indian economy faces, this diffused approach is likely a more effective policy than targeted Big Bang announcements would be. This is not the time for further disruption. Budget 2026 contains announcements for the manufacturing sector, various services sectors, as well as particular provisions to help labour-intensive sectors such as textiles and leather. In terms of manufacturing, the Budget includes measures covering seven well thought-out areas: biopharma, semiconductor, electronics, rare earths, chemicals, capital goods and textiles. Semiconductor and electronics manufacturing are the few sectors that have gained from the government's existing PLI schemes. The India Semiconductor Mission 2.0 and the increased allocation under the Electronics Component Manufacturing Scheme are appropriate follow-ups to this. These are sectors where India needs to become globally competitive. The Biopharma SHAKTI scheme is aimed at making India a global biopharma manufacturing hub with an allocation of ₹10,000 crore over the next five years. Pharmaceuticals, already a sector that India does well in, are exempt from the U.S.'s 50% tariffs. It is also important to support those sectors that are currently hit by those same tariffs. The National Export Promotion Mission announced in the last Budget was implemented only by December 2025, nine months into the financial year. The Centre should ensure that this Budget's integrated programme for the textiles sector does not face similar delays. Also, the various measures aimed at creating 'Champion MSMEs', providing them equity, liquidity, and professional support, must be implemented quickly. MSMEs account for 48.6% of India's exports, and the EU FTA, even if it is implemented soon, will not kick in quick enough to offset the ongoing pain caused by the U.S. tariffs.

Union Budget 2026, dealing with the words 'K' from Kartavya Bhavan

Union Finance Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman delivered the Budget 2026 in Parliament, her 9th consecutive speech in her tenure, skillfully presenting the Budget, embroidering the K words. New high-speed rail corridors for environment-friendly and faster passenger transport between major cities: Mumbai-Pune, Pune-Hyderabad, Chennai-Bengaluru, Hyderabad-Chennai

Prof. Dr. Dharmendra Mehta

Hyderabad Bengaluru Delhi-Varanasi, Varanasi-Siliguri with

A record increase in Capex is expected, with capital expenditure increasing to ₹12.2 lakh crore in 2026-27, which will boost infrastructure and employment. Cloud Tax holiday for foreign service providers until 2047, with Tax dispute relief Simplification of penalty and prosecution procedures, lower pre-deposits and measures to reduce litigation.

Artificial Limb Manufacturing Incentive Scheme, Credit Subsidy Dairy-Poultry Value Chain

The establishment of the National Institute of Hospitality to promote cultural tourism, along with five university campuses along the Industrial Corridor, will be a milestone. There will also be significant progress in the healthcare sector.

Training of 1.5 lakh caregivers, promotion of seaplane manufacturing for important tasks like connectivity, infra funding through municipal bonds, launch of India Semi-Conductor Mission 2.0 by the government and increase in allocation for component manufacturing electronics to ₹40,000 crore, present a whole series of commendable words and innovations of this budget. Along with many experts, it has to be accepted that the budget is based on three duties - accelerating economic growth, capacity building



of people and strengthening the vision of Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas. Today, it may not appear to be very populist, but the cheapening of products like cashew, coconut, cocoa, clothes, 17 cancer medicines is a clear testimony to social concerns and sensitivities. Cultural Destination Promotion The historical and archaeological sites of Madhya Pradesh like Khajuraho and Bhedaghat will be developed as vibrant cultural destinations. Under the recommendations of the 16th Finance Commission, the states will be given grants. Madhya Pradesh will receive an additional amount from the central government, receiving a grant of ₹1.4 lakh crore, an increase from last year. Additionally, capital expenditure of ₹12.2 lakh crore and an SME Growth Fund of ₹10,000 crore for small industries are expected to transform the

state's industrial corridors and roads. An allocation of ₹11.2 lakh crore has been allocated for the development of Tier-2 and 3 cities with a population of over 500,000. This allocation will be increased to ₹12.2 lakh crore in 2026-27. Among these Tier-2 and 3 cities, Bhopal and Indore in Madhya Pradesh will benefit. Districts like Gwalior, Jabalpur, Ujjain, and Sagar will also develop. To promote the animation, visual effects, gaming, and comics sectors, it was announced that Content Creator Labs will be established in 15,000 secondary schools and 500 colleges across the country. Thus, the Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana, launched in 2018 to provide Rs 6,000 to farmers, needs urgent amendment. The revised proposals are likely to include increasing the scope of social security by raising the limits of PF,

ESI and bonus, and increasing the honorarium of workers of schemes like Anganwadi, Asha, Mid-Day Meal, etc., which still provide significant relief to a large section of the population. For the year 2026-27, non-debt receipts and expenditure are estimated at ₹36.5 lakh crore and ₹53.5 lakh crore, respectively. The Centre's net tax receipts are estimated at ₹28.7 lakh crore. Thus, in summary, drenched with words, underlining these special words

Textile Exports+Capital+Culture +

Cancer+Credit+Farmer+

Corridors+Capex+Customs Duty+Comics+Creative Content Skill Development @ Union Budget 2026 will also be remembered for being prepared for the first time in Kartavya Bhavan.

Mir Taqi Mir: A poet who transformed pain into poetry

Sunil Kumar Mahala

February 3rd marks the birthday of Mir Taqi Mir (1723-1810), the greatest poet of Urdu literature. Mir Taqi Mir was not just a poet of ghazals; he was the voice of the broken souls of his time. Mir was a great poet who elevated the Urdu ghazal to its pinnacle. Let me inform you that he is known as Khuda-e-Sukhan, the God of poetry. His poetry deeply reflects pain, love, loneliness, and human compassion. He possessed a strong command not only of Urdu but also of Persian. Mir is remembered for his use of Urdu in a style that blended and harmonized Persian and Hindustani words. According to information available on Wikipedia, he was born in Agra and died in

Lucknow. Mir Taqi Mir was encouraged to write poetry in Urdu by Syed Saadat Ali of Amroha. Let me inform readers that his original name was Mohammad Taqi. His major works include Zikr-e-Mir (an autobiography), Kulliyate-e-Mir (a collection of six diwans of Urdu works), Kulliyate-e-Farsi (a collection of Persian works), Faiz-e-Mir (a collection of five short stories), and Nuqat-us-Shura (biographies of contemporary Urdu writers written in Persian). He is known as a poet of pain. Indeed, Mir's life was spent in poverty, the grief of losing loved ones, and witnessing the devastation of Delhi. This is why his poetry evokes a pang of anguish and pain. He himself once said, "Don't call me a poet, Mir, because I have accumulated so much grief that I have

become a diwan." It wouldn't be wrong to say that the devastation of Delhi, the deaths of family members, poverty, and homelessness had broken him from within. His poetry is essentially autobiographical lines. Consider this line: "What can I do with the stone wall, tears have flowed down." Let me remind readers that Delhi was devastated after the attacks of Nadir Shah and Ahmad Shah Abdali. Mir accepted to leave Delhi and go to Lucknow, but he never truly settled there. Mir's greatest strength was his language. In fact, he could express the deepest feelings in very simple words. In technical terms, this is called "sahl-e-mumtana"—that is, something that looks easy to see, but is impossible to rewrite. The great poet Mirza Ghalib was also his

admirer. In fact, Ghalib considered Mir his master. A self-confident poet like Ghalib said, "You are not the only master of writing, Ghalib. They say there was a Mir in the past." In fact, this is the greatest testimony to Mir's greatness. Describing the state of love, he had said, "It is the beginning of love, why are you crying? Let's see what happens next." His existence is like a cloud, this display is like wine. What can I say about the delicacy of his lips, they are like the petals of a rose. Mir, in those half-open eyes, all the joy is like that of wine. These are some of his immortal lines. Regarding self-acceptance, he had once said, "There are other poets within me, but who can compete with Mir." In the end, I would say that Mir was not only a poet of

Urdu Ghazal, but also a symbol of the broken society of his time. They are true documents of the ravaged Delhi and the emotions of a shattered human being. There is no artificial beauty in his poetry. In fact, his poetry is the truth that emerges from the deep wounds of life. Despite personal sorrow, mental anguish, poverty, and neglect in his life, Mir brought the Urdu and Persian languages to the hearts of the common man and made the ghazal the voice of the soul. His pain is his creation. Unlike other poets, he never makes noise, but whispers in his works, and those whispers resonate with readers even centuries later. Therefore, reading Mir is not just a literary experience, but an experience of being human.

The Union Budget 2026-27 of the Government of India ensures all-round development of a grand India by crossing the milestones of progress, stated MP Poonam Madam

Under the leadership of Honorable Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the Union Budget for the year 2026-27 presented by Finance Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman transcends the boundaries of progress and ensures comprehensive development of a grand India, stated Member of Parliament Smt. Poonamben Madam in her official statement.

She further added that since no new taxes have been imposed on industries and businesses including MSMEs, and with simplification

of approvals, this budget will provide fresh momentum to trade and industries of Jamnagar and Devbhumi Dwarka districts, including the brass industry. Prepared at Kartavya Bhavan, this energetic and forward-looking budget is dedicated to the welfare of the poor, youth, farmers, women power, tribal communities and Scheduled Castes, and will strengthen economic and social empowerment.

Overall, this roadmap, built on three core duties—sustainable economic growth, capac-



ity building, and the vision of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas—is firmly focused on achieving a developed India and marks the path toward holistic national development.

The Member of

Parliament from the 12--Jamnagar Lok Sabha constituency, Smt. Poonamben Madam, while elaborating on the budget presented in Parliament on 1st February, stated that this youth-driven budget fulfills the government's resolve to focus on benefits for the poor, the deprived, farmers, Scheduled Castes and Tribes, and women.

She explained that the first duty is to accelerate and sustain economic growth; the second duty is to fulfill people's aspirations and build their capacities; and the third

duty is aligned with the vision of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas. With "Ease of Doing Business" and "Ease of Living" at its core, revolutionary initiatives such as specialized infrastructure development, environmental progress, economic reforms, tariff reductions, and numerous public-welfare measures have been introduced. All these efforts aim to achieve the goal of a "Developed India."

Expressing her enthusiastic response, MP Poonamben Madam also said that this budget provides strong direction to

India's global role and opens the doors toward becoming the world's third-largest economy. At the same time, it strengthens the visions of "Fit India," "Healthy India," and "Green India."

She added that the budget presents an ambitious roadmap to accelerate the "Make in India" and "Atmanirbhar Bharat" initiatives. Unprecedented emphasis has been placed on IT, AI, emerging industries, and new sectors. With the objective of strengthening the national economy

through small and medium businesses, trade, and manufacturing, a new structure for income tax, duties, cess, and charges has been introduced.

By ensuring a harmonious balance of facilities, progress, and security across all aspects of daily life for every section of society, this budget will deeply touch the hearts of millions of citizens of the country, she expressed with confidence while concluding, this, very important conversation.

Report by: Nayana P. Dave - Jamnagar

Budget raises funds for Delhi's central hospitals, AIIMS gets Rs 5,500 crore

New Delhi, (GNS): The Union Budget 2026-27 has raised allocations for major central government hospitals in Delhi, signalling a push to strengthen tertiary care, medical education and high-volume patient services in the capital.

AIIMS New Delhi has been allocated Rs 5,500.9 crore for 2026-27, an increase of Rs 262.2 crore, over the previous year's revised estimates. Officials said the additional funding will support advanced clinical care, research and training.

Safdarjung Hospital and Vardhman Mahavir Medical College together received Rs 2,170.7 crore, up from Rs 2,045 crore in 2025-26. Safdarjung remains one of the country's busiest referral centres. A sharper rise was allocated to Dr Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital and Atal Bihari Vajpayee Institute of Medical Sciences, whose combined outlay increased to Rs 1,450.7 crore from Rs 1,214.7 crore, reflecting expanding services and higher



operational needs. Women's healthcare institutions also saw a modest increase. Lady Hardinge Medical College and Smt Sucheta Kriplani Hospital were allocated Rs 795.9 crore, compared with Rs 770 crore last year. Paediatric care received a marginal raise as well. Kalawati Saran Children's Hospital has been allocated Rs 182.2 crore, slightly higher than the revised estimate of Rs 177 crore. Officials said the enhanced allocations aim to sustain the heavy patient inflow, upgrade ageing infrastructure and meet rising operational costs at Delhi's major government hospitals, which cater not just to the capital but to large parts of north India.

Eye on decongesting Delhi-NCR & boosting faster-public transport, Rs 2,200cr allocated for NCRTC

New Delhi, (GNS): The Union Budget has allocated Rs 2,200 crore to National Capital Region Transport Corporation, around 25% lower than the previous financial year's outlay.

The joint venture company, created to implement the Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) project, had received an allocation of Rs 2,918 crore in 2025-26 and Rs 3,855 crore in 2024-25.

Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Sunday earmarked Rs 1,324 crore under revenue expenditure and Rs 876 crore under capital expenditure for the regional rapid rail project.

The investment would support efforts to decongest Delhi-National Capital Region and help authorities reduce pollution through



faster and cleaner public transport.

Under Phase I of the project, three major corridors - Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut, Delhi-Panipat-Karnal and Delhi-Gurgaon-SNB - were planned to converge at Sarai Kale Khan Namoo Bharat station.

Several future corridors, including Delhi-Faridabad-Ballabgarh-Palwal, Ghaziabad-Khurja, Delhi-Bahadurgarh-Rohtak and Delhi-Shahdara-Baraut are in the pipeline.

At present, a 55-km section of the 82-km Delhi-Meerut Namoo Bharat corridor - from Delhi's New

Ashok Nagar to Meerut South in Uttar Pradesh - is operational.

The upcoming Delhi-Panipat-Karnal and Delhi-Gurgaon-Bawal rapid rail corridors are estimated to take about 2 lakh vehicles off the road, according to the proposed detailed project report.

The Delhi-Gurgaon-Bawal Namoo Bharat corridor will pass through urbanised and industrial areas such as Gurgaon, Manesar, Manesar Bawal Investment Region, and Bawal, connecting Delhi's IGI airport with the regional rapid transit system.

When the other corridor is operational, commuters will be able to travel from Delhi to Karnal in 90 minutes and from Kashmiri Gate to Murthal in just 30 minutes.

The name's bond! MCD gets another shot at fund-raising

New Delhi, (GNS): To encourage big cities to issue higher-value municipal bonds, the Union Budget on Sunday proposed an incentive of Rs 100 crore for a single bond issuance exceeding Rs 1,000 crore. The move presents Municipal Corporation of Delhi with an opportunity to make a fresh attempt at entering the municipal bond market after two previous setbacks.

In 2012, the then undivided MCD had initiated the process of obtaining a credit rating to issue municipal bonds. However, soon after the exercise, it was trifurcated into north, south and east corporations, bringing the process to a halt.

A second attempt was made in 2017, when the erstwhile South Delhi Municipal Corporation had explored the option for infrastructure projects. "The civic body secured a credit rating of B+ and planned to issue bonds worth Rs 200 crore, backed by projects such as a solar power initiative and Bharat



Darshan Park," said an official. "The proposal, however, could not move forward due to delays in approval from Delhi govt. It was to be forwarded to Centre after that," he added.

With MCD a merged entity now, the new incentive could provide it with the much-needed push. "It will be a challenging task to issue bonds as the civic body will need to come out with strong proposals to convince investors. However, there are a few sectors where MCD is already making efforts and where a lot is at stake, such as green energy, solar energy and landfill remediation," said another official. "This is an opportunity to bundle such projects to mobilise funds and support infrastructure development," he pointed out.

Another official said no municipality had so far come out with a bond of Rs 1,000 crore. "The task is even more difficult for us as the overall credit rating of MCD was BBB last year. MCD can prepare a project-specific detail report and highlight its crucial points to issue bonds." Before issuing bonds, a credit rating is undertaken to assess the financial health of the issuing body. The exercise is carried out by a third party, an empanelled or independent rating agency such as ICRA and CARE, to evaluate creditworthiness. "Credit ratings are assigned based on assets and liabilities of urban local bodies, revenue streams, resources available for capital investments, governance practices over the last two-three years, and the future viability of the project for which the bond is proposed," said an official.

Public Works Department is planning to construct service lanes and a toe wall along Ring Road near the Millennium bus depot and Baansera. This is expected to improve access and safety on one of Delhi's busiest arterial corridors. A tender has been floated for the project, which has an estimated value of ₹3.7 crore. The work is scheduled to be completed within 60 days from the date of commencement. Ring Road carries heavy daily traffic, including buses, commercial vehicles and inter-city commuters. Before the work begins, there are plans to carry out a detailed road pavement condi-

Service roads near Millenium bus depot and Baansera to boost safety on Ring Road

New Delhi, (GNS): Public Works Department is planning to construct service lanes and a toe wall along Ring Road near the Millennium bus depot and Baansera. This is expected to improve access and safety on one of Delhi's busiest arterial corridors.

A tender has been floated for the project, which has an estimated value of ₹3.7 crore. The work is scheduled to be completed within 60 days from the date of commencement.

Ring Road carries heavy daily traffic, including buses, commercial vehicles and inter-city commuters.

Before the work begins, there are plans to carry out a detailed road pavement condi-

tion survey using advanced survey techniques. These include laser-based systems, GPS mapping and video image processing tools.

This data will be fed into road and pavement maintenance systems. Based on the survey's findings, the bituminous concrete will be laid to strengthen and restore road surfaces where required.

"The project is intended to support smoother movement on Ring Road while addressing structural and maintenance needs along the corridor. Without service roads, every local stop or turn spills directly onto the main lanes, slowing traffic and increasing risk," explained an official.

Court junks passport forgery case against nurse deported from Belgium

New Delhi, (GNS): Pointing to glaring holes in the prosecution case, a court has discharged a Kerala-based nurse from a decade-old cheating and passport forgery case linked to her deportation from Brussels in 2015. The court held that the prosecution failed to prove that she had cheated the Indian immigration authorities, as alleged by Foreigners Regional Registration Office (FRRO).

Noting that there was "no sufficient ground" to proceed against the accused, additional sessions judge Pranav Joshi discharged Leena Maria Soosai from offences under various IPC provisions, including cheating and forgery, as

well as for allegedly "holding forged passport" under Passport Act.

The multiple lapses in the investigation flagged by the court included "lack of proper chain of custody", "absence of original documents" and "concealment on the part of the prosecution". The case appeared to have been built solely on unverified allegations raised by the Belgian immigration authorities, the judge said.

In Dec 2015, Soosai had travelled from New Delhi to Brussels and was deported the next day after the Belgian authorities had allegedly detected tampering in her passport. The defence, led by advocate Manoj Taneja, sub-



mitted that while her original passport was retained, no FIR was registered at the time and she was allowed to return to Kerala.

An FIR was registered on-ly eight months later in 2016, at the instance of FRRO, at the IGI Airport police station. Soosai was granted anticipato-

ry bail the same year and the chargesheet was filed on July 12, 2022.

Despite allegations of cheating, the court noted that the Indian authorities had flagged "nothing suspicious" at her departure from New Delhi and that the case was initiated only after her deportation. Since the alleged offence was detected abroad, the prosecution was also required to establish that the offence was committed in India under Section 188 of CrPC, but the investigation was noted to be "completely silent on this aspect".

The court noted that the Belgian authorities could not be examined due to immunity under Vienna Convention.

Delhi Police budget up 4.6% stress on tech, security infra

New Delhi (GNS): Delhi Police has been allocated a budget of Rs 12,846 crore for 2026-27, a 4.6% increase compared with that of the previous financial year. According to budget estimates, the revenue expenditure for FY27 is Rs 11,881.5 crore, up from Rs 11,315.6 crore. The capital expenditure has been set at Rs 964.6 crore, as against Rs 943.5 crore in 2025-26. The increased allocation will be used to strengthen the force's technological capabilities, acquire new vehicles, enhance security infrastructure and invest in advanced software to combat cybercrime, an officer said. Last year, Delhi Police had invested heavily in strengthening its operational and investigative capabilities. Fifty-five PCR patrol vehicles were inducted, and the centre of forensic support and evidence analysis of the crime branch was established. Eight new posts were set up across various districts of the city to improve local policing.

Delhi's Kitty Stays Intact At 1,348cr

New Delhi, (GNS): The allocation for Delhi under the Union Budget has remained unchanged at Rs 1,348 crore. The amount under revenue (Rs 968 crore) and capital (Rs 380 crore) heads are also the same as in the budget estimates for 2025-26. However, the allocation for FY26 was later reduced to Rs 1,242 crore in the revised estimates.

This time, Delhi has received Rs 951 crore as central assistance for UTs, intended to finance various schemes of the city govt. An additional central assistance of Rs 380 crore has been given for the Chandrawal water treatment plant as an externally aided project.

The city has also received a grant of Rs 2 crore for enhanced compensation to 1984 anti-Sikh riots victims and Rs 15 crore as grant towards contributions to Union Territory Disaster Response Fund, meant for providing relief in case of notified calamities like earthquakes, droughts and floods.

Congratulating Nirmala Sitharaman for presenting a "spectacular" Budget, CM Rekha Gupta said a provision of Rs 1.4 lakh crore to the states as rural and urban local body and disaster management grants will help them move forward.

The CM said the proposed Delhi-Varanasi high-speed rail corridor is a historic step towards fulfilling the resolve of Viksit Bharat.

"It (the Budget) has something for every segment, especially generation of employment for youth, conservation and development of cultural heritage, boosting sports, providing rebates for availing education and health services in foreign countries," she said after watching its presentation along with locals at an event in northwest Delhi's Tri Nagar.

Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva said the Budget aims at promoting the construction industry, tourism, pilgrimage site development and medical tourism. "It encourages sports and budding talents and will give wings to Young India," he said.

Hailing the new Income Tax Act to be implemented from April 1, Sachdeva said, "By not imposing new taxes, govt provided major relief to the middle class, and by granting incentives and support to foreign data service-related companies in India, new avenues of employment have been opened up for the youth."

He lauded the reduction in customs duty on medicines for cancer and seven other diseases, saying the step reflects the "sensitive and compassionate face of the Modi govt". Also, concessions on smartphones will benefit the youth and cheaper microwave ovens will help homemakers, he added.

Water minister Parvesh Verma said the assistance for the Chandrawal plant is a major step towards strengthening Delhi's water infrastructure and ensuring 24x7 clean water supply for lakhs of families. This project will also improve distribution efficiency and long-term water security for the city, he added.

"Equally important is the Centre's support for urban infrastructure, roads, flyovers and connectivity projects, which will help decongest traffic, improve mobility and enhance the quality of life for Delhiites. Under the visionary leadership of Modiji, Delhi is being integrated into the larger vision of Viksit Bharat, be it through modern water systems, world-class road networks, flyovers or high-speed rail connectivity," Verma said.

However, AAP national convenor Arvind Kejriwal said, "The biggest problems in India are unemployment and inflation, but the Budget has no blueprint for creating jobs. It will result in an increase in inflation and unemployment."

Nirmala chooses reforms over populism, but can she deliver

New Delhi, (GNS): In these times of populist narratives, it is hard to imagine a Finance Minister presenting a largely no-populist budget.

But Nirmala Sitharaman did precisely that with her 2026-27 Union Budget presentation in the Lok Sabha on Sunday.

For the 90 minutes that she spoke, parliamentarians cutting across party lines waited anxiously to hear of constituency specific or at least state specific or at least region specific provisions.

What came instead was a slew of calculated reform-oriented announcements aiming to make India self-reliant, boost the national export potential and stay the course of reforms as promised by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his 2025 Independence Day address from the

Red Fort. Since the 2025 moment, the government has unleashed 350 reforms with GST simplification, Labour Codes notification and rationalisation of mandatory Quality Control Orders topping the charts.

Not that there was no political symbolism in FM Sitharaman's speech as she took the centre stage flanked by none other than the PM who feted her throughout. In fact, the FM began her presentation with the invocation of Magh Purnima and Guru Ravidas Jayanti, both of which fell on Sunday, and went on to unveil a pack of lofty missions and promises while pledging to follow the path of "kartavya" (duty) as she rolled the first ever budget prepared outside the British era secretariat buildings of the North and the South Blocks in Lutyens Delhi.



This Budget was prepared in Kartavya Bhavan, built by the BJP-led NDA Government as part of the ongoing Central Vista project which has reimaged the whole of central Delhi moving government ministries out of the colonial buildings to the Swadeshi ones. Nirmala Sitharaman's Budget speech took

note of this historic shift and the ongoing project to decolonise the Indian mind, as the PM and Sangh Parivar call it. That said, while a section of experts lauded the FM for steering clear of the temptations of wooing five election-going states (Tamil Nadu, Kerala, West Bengal, Assam and Puducherry) with budget sops, others asked if the ambitious announcements she contained in her speech would see the light of day. And there were plenty of them - many first-time announcements - starting with "corporate mitras", trained to help micro and small industries fulfil their compliance requirements at affordable costs and "high-value agriculture" to boost cocoa, coconut, cashew and sandalwood production to seaplanes and women-led SHE (self-help entrepreneur) marts.

Commercial LPG price hiked by Rs 49



New Delhi, (GNS): In the national capital, the retail price of a 19-kg commercial LPG cylinder has been revised to Rs 1,740.50, while the price of the 14.2-kg domestic LPG cylinder remains unchanged.

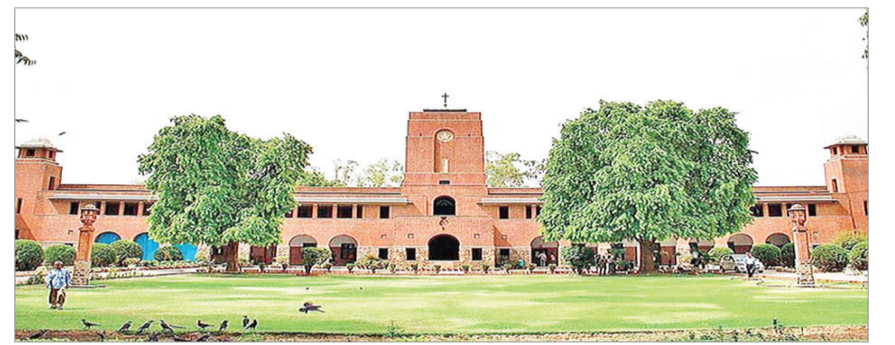
Oil marketing companies increased the price of 19-kg commercial LPG cylinders by Rs 49, with the new rates

coming into effect from Sunday. This follows a price hike in January, when commercial LPG cylinder rates were increased, adding to the cost burden for hotels, restaurants and other commercial users. Last month, oil marketing companies raised the price of a 19-kg commercial LPG cylinder by Rs 111, taking its retail price in Delhi to Rs 1,691.50.

DU students stopped from lighting candles at Gandhi statue on Martyrs' Day

New Delhi, (GNS): Students at Delhi University were allegedly stopped by campus security guards from lighting candles at the Mahatma Gandhi statue on Martyrs' Day, triggering criticism over restrictions on peaceful remembrance within the university premises.

The incident took place around 100 metres from the Vice Chancellor's office in North Campus, close to the main gate. "Mahatma Gandhi's statue was in darkness on his Martyrs' Day. We only wanted to light a candle, but guards stopped us, saying the administration was not allowing it," said Samarth Beniwal, a Delhi University student. He added "We debated for nearly an hour but left peacefully to avoid any confrontation." Another stu-



dent, Vikas Ranwa, said the denial was disheartening. "On Gandhi's martyrdom day, we went to pay tribute by lighting a candle, but guards did not allow us. We returned without lighting it," he said. Mandeep Kasana, also a DU student, questioned the broader implications of the incident. "On Gandhi's death anniversary, students were stopped from paying tribute at his statue. This raises serious questions about the state of our universities," he said. Students maintained

that the gathering was non-political and involved no slogans, banners or protest activity. Talking to The news agency, the chief security officer of DU said, prior permission is mandatory for any form of protest, candle march or organised gathering on campus. "Students are required to take permission from the university administration for such activities," the official stated. Meanwhile, the office of the DU Proctor did not respond to queries.

Delhi notifies 'removal of difficulties' order

New Delhi, (GNS): In a key step towards enforcing its landmark school fee regulation framework, the Government of the National Capital Territory of Delhi has notified the Delhi School Education (Removal of Difficulties) Order, 2026, to resolve initial implementation hurdles under the Delhi School Education (Transparency in Fixation and Regulation of Fees) Act, 2025.

The Act, which came into force on December 10, 2025, along with its rules, aims to bring transparency and accountability to school fee fixation in Delhi. It mandates the constitution of School Level Fee Regulation Committees (SLFRCs) in every school, with representation from parents and teachers, and lays down a structured mechanism for



determining fees in blocks of three academic years.

However, the government acknowledged that "practical difficulties" emerged during the academic year 2025-26, as the Act was notified after the timelines prescribed for constituting these committees had expired. To address these teething issues, the Lieutenant Governor has exercised powers under

Section 21 of the Act, which allows the government to remove implementation difficulties within two years of the law's commencement. Under the newly notified order, all schools have been directed to constitute their SLFRCs within 10 days from February 1, while the SLFRCs, already constituted under an earlier order dated December 24, 2025, will be

treated as valid under the present order.

Once the SLFRC is constituted, school managements must submit their proposed fee structures for the next block of three academic years beginning 2026-27, within 14 days. The SLFRC will then examine and fix the fees in accordance with the provisions of the Act. The order also directs the Director of Education to constitute District Fee Appellate Committees (DFACs) for each education district within 30 days of the order's publication. These revised timelines will apply only to the upcoming three-year fee block, starting from 2026-27. For all future blocks, the timelines originally prescribed under the Act and the rules will be strictly applicable.

Importantly, the order stipulates that until fees are formally fixed for the next three-year block, schools shall not charge any fee higher than what was being charged as of April 1, 2025. Any exorbitant fee collected during the academic year 2025-26 will be dealt with in accordance with the law, subject to the outcome of pending legal challenges to the Act and the rules before the Delhi High Court and the Supreme Court.

Addressing another potential regulatory gap, the order clarifies that upon the expiry of a three year fee block, schools are barred from increasing fees until approval for the subsequent block is granted. Any fee collected during this interim period must be adjusted against the fees eventually fixed under the Act.

Road rage: Lawyer thrashed with sticks in Mukherjee Nagar

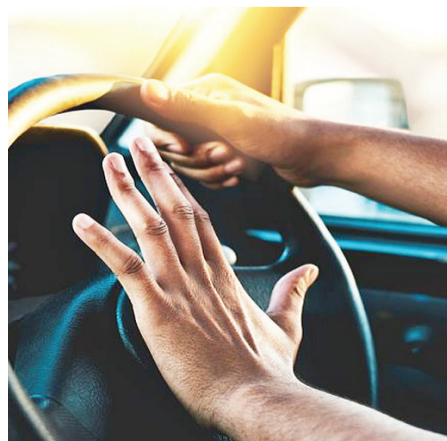
New Delhi, (GNS): An advocate practising in the Delhi High Court was allegedly assaulted and beaten with sticks by five to six men in an apparent road rage incident involving a black Thar and an SUV near northwest Delhi's Mukherjee Nagar, an official said on Sunday. The incident took place around 8.45 pm on January 25 near a restaurant in the area, adding that the accused are yet to be arrested.

The complainant, 29, a resident of Noida Extension in Uttar Pradesh and practising in the Delhi High Court, told police that the assault followed a brief altercation

over the Thar blocking his car in a narrow lane.

"I had gone to Mukherjee Nagar to meet a client and was driving my SUV when a black Thar, bearing a Haryana registration number, stopped abruptly in front of my vehicle at a turn," the FIR read.

He claimed that the Thar completely blocked the passage for his car. After waiting for nearly five minutes, he managed to squeeze his car out from the right side, after which the Thar driver allegedly began hurling abuses at him. "When I got down from my car and objected to the verbal abuse, the Thar driver threatened to kill me.



When I told him that I will call the police, the accused shut his vehicle windows, spoke on the phone and drove a short distance ahead before stopping again and continued to hurl abuses," the com-

plainant told police.

He said by then, a crowd had gathered at the spot, and someone advised him not to engage and instead inform the police. A friend of the complainant had reached the spot by then, and the two were walking back to their car to call the police when the Thar driver allegedly returned with five to six associates. "All of them were carrying wooden sticks and suddenly attacked us from behind. The attackers repeatedly struck on our heads with sticks, intending to kill us. I tried to defend myself by snatching a stick from one of the assailants, but it broke," the FIR read. The victim told

police that he sustained serious head injuries, began bleeding profusely and felt dizzy, with his vision turning dark. His friend was also assaulted and suffered head injuries. As more people gathered at the spot, the attackers fled, leaving the victims injured on the road. Police sources said a PCR van reached the spot after a call was made and both injured men were taken to Babu Jagjivan Ram Memorial Hospital for treatment. A senior police officer said a team was dispatched to the hospital to record victims' statements. "Our team reached there and tried to record the statement of vic-

tims. Due to pain and trauma, the victims were initially unable to give statements at the hospital. But the complainant approached Mukherjee Nagar police station on January 26 and recorded his statement," the officer said. He further said based on the complaint, an FIR under sections 115(2) (voluntarily causing hurt), 126(2) (wrongful restraint) and 3(5) (common intentions) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita has been registered. "We have formed teams, checking CCTV footage to nab the accused," the officer said, adding that further investigation into the matter is underway.