



Rahul Gandhi on Indo-US trade deal: PM buckled under pressure, sold off farmers' blood and sweat

New Delhi(GNS): Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday alleged that Prime Minister Narendra Modi buckled under US pressure to finalise a trade deal and "sold off" the hard work of Indian farmers through the agreement.

Addressing reporters in the Parliament House complex after he was not allowed to speak in the Lok Sabha as he insisted on quoting from an article that cited former Army chief MM Naravane's unpublished "memoir", Gandhi also said

that it is for the first time in history that the Leader of Opposition has not been allowed to speak on the President's address.

In a post on X, Gandhi said, "PM Modi is Compromised. PM is too afraid to let me speak in Parliament about Naravane, Epstein Files and how he has surrendered on Tariffs."

Hitting back at the Congress and Gandhi, BJP MP Anurag Thakur asked whether the Congress and others in the opposition are with India's inter-



est. He also slammed Naravane's statement, "that is a side show", but the main thing is that "our Prime Minister has been compromised".

"I want to say three things. They are not allowing me to speak. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is rattled. And the trade deal that had been stuck for the last four months, for some reason which Prime Minister Modi and I know, was sealed last evening," he said. Gandhi also

claimed that Modi is under "enormous pressure", and his "image balloon" that had been inflated with thousands of crores could burst.

"The issue is not Naravane's statement, that is a side show, he (Modi) and I both know it. The main thing is that our prime minister has been compromised. Who has done it and how it has been done, the people of India have to think about it," Gandhi said.

The Leader of Opposition also said the farmers of India must understand that

their hard work, as well as their blood and sweat, has been "sold off" by Prime Minister Modi through this deal.

"He has sold it because he is compromised. He has not just sold you off, but the whole country. That is why they are not allowing me to speak," Gandhi said, claiming that the Prime Minister is "scared".

Asked what kind of pressure he was referring to, Gandhi said there is a case against industrialist Gautam Adani in the US and a lot more is to come in the Epstein files mat-

ter.

"There is a case on Adani in the US. That is not targeting Adani but Modi's financial structure. The Epstein files have more matter," Gandhi said.

The Epstein files refer to thousands of pages of documents related to two criminal investigations into sex trafficking by financier Jeffrey Epstein and his accomplice Ghislaine Maxwell, including travel logs, recordings, and emails, which have been a topic of conversation since Epstein died in custody in 2019.

Joint statement on India-US trade deal being finalised; agri, dairy sectors protected: Piyush Goyal



New Delhi(GNS): A joint statement on the India-US trade deal will be issued shortly once technical details are inked, Commerce minister Piyush Goyal said on Tuesday.

Goyal said India's interests have been fully protected in the deal and echoed by US ambassador Sergio Goro, who has described the deal as one with limitless possibilities.

Goyal said all sensitive sectors in agriculture and dairy have been protected and all segments of Indian society will benefit from the agreement.

The minister condemned Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, for disruptions in Parliament and said the government intended to make a statement on the deal in either of the two Houses.

"But because of constant disruptions caused by Rahul Gandhi and leaders of SP, TMC and DMK, I have had to come and make a statement outside," said Goyal.

He said the deal will open opportunities for several sectors and India's interests will not be compromised in any way. "We will shortly issue a joint statement by both the countries. As soon as the final understanding is reached, the joint statement inked and technical details are completed, we will issue the statement. "I can assure you this is a deal that will make all Indians proud and protect the interests of every Indian and provide opportunity for all. Agriculture and dairy sector interests will be protected," Goyal said. The commerce minister dismissed charges of the Congress on the deal being announced by US President Donald Trump, saying, "The reciprocal tariff was imposed by the US do the move to reduce it also needed to be announced by them only, it is natural."

Meta, WhatsApp face Supreme Court's ire over data privacy

New Delhi(GNS): The Supreme Court on Tuesday came down heavily on Meta Platforms Inc and WhatsApp while hearing their appeals against a Competition Commission of India order imposing a penalty of Rs 213.14 crore over the privacy policy, saying tech giants cannot "play with the right to privacy of citizens in the name of data sharing".



A bench comprising Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and Vipul M Pancholi said that it will pass an interim order on February 9. The top court ordered that the

Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology be made a party to the petitions. It was hearing appeals filed by Meta and WhatsApp against a National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) judgment that upheld the CCI's findings of abuse of dominance, while granting limited relief on advertising-related data sharing.

India, Kyrgyzstan joint military exercise to be held in Assam from Feb 4-17

New Delhi(GNS): A bilateral military exercise between Indian and Kyrgyzstan troops will be conducted in Assam from February 4 to 17, aiming to enhance interoperability between the special forces of both nations, according to officials.

The 13th edition of Exercise Khanjar will focus on joint operations in urban warfare and counter-terrorism scenarios under the United Nations mandate.

To be held at Misamari, Assam, the joint exercise will further strengthen bilateral defence cooperation and deepen the enduring military partnership between



India and Kyrgyzstan, the Army said. The exercise aims to enhance interoperability between the special forces of both nations, with a focus on joint operations in urban warfare and counter-terrorism scenarios under the United Nations mandate," a senior official said.

Chronology of events leading to announcement of India-US trade agreement

New Delhi(GNS): Following is the chronology of the developments that lead to the announcement of India-US trade agreement.

February, 13, 2025: A joint statement stated that Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Donald Trump agreed to deepen the US-India trade relationship. To this end, the leaders set a bold new goal to more than double bilateral trade to USD 500 billion by 2030 from the current over USD 191 billion.

They announced plans to negotiate the first tranche of a mutually beneficial, multi-sector Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA) by fall of 2025.



March 4-6, 2025: Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal visits Washington DC. Holds bilateral meetings with US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer and US Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick.

April 2, 2025: US President Donald Trump announced an additional import duty of 26 per cent (10 per cent baseline tariff and 16 per cent reciprocal tariff) on Indian goods.

April 9, 2025: The US suspends the 26 per cent reciprocal tariff on Indian goods for 90 days (until July 9, 2025).

April 23-29, 2025: Then Indian chief negotiator Rajesh Agrawal (now Commerce Secretary) visits Washington for the first in-person meeting with US counterparts for a proposed trade pact. They discussed terms of references covering 19 chapters, including tariffs, non-tariff barriers and customs facilitation.

May 17-20, 2025: Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal visited Washington and met USTR Greer and US Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick.

June 4-10, 2025: A US delegation, led by the Additional US Trade Representative Brendan Lynch, visits India for week-long discussions.

ED questions ex-TDB official in Sabarimala gold 'loss' case

New Delhi(GNS): The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Tuesday questioned former Travancore Devaswom Board administrative officer Murari Babu in connection with the Sabarimala gold "loss" linked money laundering investigation, officials said. The agency is recording his statement under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), they said. Babu was arrested by the Kerala special investigation team (SIT) as part of this probe and was recently granted bail by a court. Searches were undertaken by the ED in this case last month. It filed a PMLA case on January 9 taking cognisance of a clutch of Kerala police FIRs. The politically sensitive case is already being investigated by a state SIT under the supervision of the Kerala High Court. The probe is related to a series of irregularities, including official misconduct, administrative lapses and a criminal conspiracy, to misappropriate the gold from the various artefacts of the Lord Ayyappa shrine.



Raja Warring, 7 other opposition MPs suspended from Lok Sabha for 'unruly behaviour'

New Delhi(GNS): In escalation of the tussle between the government and the opposition, seven Congress members and one CPI-M MP were suspended from the Lok Sabha on Tuesday for 'unruly behaviour' after they tore papers and threw them at the Chair.

Their suspension from the House for the remaining part of the Budget Session that concludes on April 2 will

intensify the face-off with the government over various issues, including Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi being denied an opportunity to cite an article based on excerpts from an unpublished 'memoir' of former Army chief MM Naravane on the India-China conflict of 2020. The opposition have also raised concerns about American President Donald Trump announcing the India-US



trade deal and the alleged Manikarnika Ghat in Varanasi. As soon as the

House met at 3 pm following multiple adjournments, Dilip Saikia, who was in the Chair, named the eight members. Subsequently, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju read out a resolution seeking suspension of the eight members for the remaining period of the Budget session. The suspended members are Gurjeet Singh Aujla, Hibi Eden, C Kiran Kumar Reddy,

Amarinder Singh Raja Warring, Manickam Tagore, Prashant Padole and Dean Kuriakose (all Congress) and S Ventakesan (CPI-M). Moving the resolution seeking their suspension, Rijiju said the members acted in utter disregard to the House and the authority of the Chair. They also tore papers and threw them on the Chair and were named by the Chair for their behaviour, the minister added.

The budget cuts of the central government are a serious economic challenge

Sanat Kumar Jain

The provisions of the Central Government's budget for the year 2025-26 clearly indicate that the country's economy is under severe pressure. The reality hidden behind the grand plans and figures announced in the budget is that expenditure cuts and low revenues pose a serious challenge for the government. The sectors that the government had touted as engines of growth have seen the largest allocation cuts. The rupee's decline against the dollar and the withdrawal of foreign investors from the stock market pose serious challenges for the government. First, looking at the central government's revenue receipts, the government treasury has received approximately ₹78,000 crore less

revenue than the budget estimates. This is a direct indication of the economic slowdown. Net tax collections have also fallen by approximately ₹1.62 lakh crore less than anticipated. This indicates that consumption in the country is not increasing. Despite the government's reduction in GST rates, market demand has not increased. Nor has there been any improvement in business activity in the last month. Overall, the government has cut expenditure by more than ₹1 lakh crore in the budget. Surprisingly, capital expenditure, considered the core of employment and infrastructure, has also been cut by approximately ₹1.44 lakh crore in the budget. This contradicts the government's claim of a development-oriented budget. The central government has reduced the health sector

by approximately ₹3,686 crore. This cut comes at a time when the country is grappling with challenges like contaminated water, malnutrition, and the aftermath of the pandemic. More than two dozen people have died in Indore due to drinking contaminated water.

The government has also cut the education budget by over ₹6,700 crore. This is a very worrying situation for youth and human resource development. Similarly, more than half of the country's population depends on the agricultural sector, and the budget for that sector has been reduced by nearly ₹7,000 crore. Rural development has been hit the hardest in this budget, with cuts of over ₹53,000 crore. The Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Prime Minister's Housing Scheme)

has received a reduction of ₹3,200 crore, further diminishing the poor's dream of home ownership. The central government has spent only 2 percent of the budget allocation for the Jal Jeevan Mission and drinking water schemes, despite the rising number of deaths due to contaminated water, requiring greater allocations. The most worrying situation is the cuts to SC, ST, and OBC welfare schemes. The Abhyudaya Yojana for Scheduled Castes has been cut by ₹890 crore. OBC scholarships have been cut by ₹690 crore, Dalit post-matric scholarships by ₹360 crore, and tribal development programs by over ₹1,600 crore. This clearly indicates that the government is attempting to bridge the gap between its income and expenditure through budget cuts. The current

budget reflects a stagnant economy. The annual tax increases have now stalled. To project a better economy, the government has budgeted a physical deficit of 4.4 percent, which is considered satisfactory. However, the reduction in budgets for health, education, agriculture, and the social sector cannot be considered a significant achievement. The 2026-27 budget does not offer any solution to the unemployment problem. Concerns about the rupee's decline against the dollar and the withdrawal of foreign investors are evident in this budget. It can be said that this budget is not in line with the ground realities of the current economy. The budget presented by the government to deflect criticism and present a better financial situation is far from reality.

Editorial

A cautious nudge:

On the 16th Finance Commission's recommendations

In its much-awaited recommendations, which were also tabled on Sunday, the Sixteenth Finance Commission (FC-16), as anticipated, has recommended that the vertical devolution ratio — the States' share in the divisible pool of Central taxes — be retained at 41% for the period 2026-31. States want this to be 50%. This is despite the Commission acknowledging the tightening fiscal space States face under the GST framework, and that the growing mismatch between expenditure responsibilities and assured revenues has increasingly left them with "recourse to market borrowings" as the principal adjustment mechanism. Predictably, several States have criticised the projected devolutions for the coming fiscal but have also cautiously welcomed a tweak in the horizontal devolution formula. The FC-16 has reworked the earlier "tax effort" criterion into a broader "contribution to GDP" measure and raised its weight sharply — from 2.5% under the FC-15 to 10%. This change is intended to reward productive and efficient States and represents a modest but meaningful attempt to link governance outcomes with fiscal transfers.

However, the resulting gains are deliberately restrained. The FC-16 makes it clear that any restructuring of horizontal devolution must be undertaken "gradually", to avoid abrupt redistributive shocks to States that are more dependent on transfers. Accordingly, the weight accorded to demographic performance has been reduced, reflecting the view that penalising population growth is no longer appropriate at a time when India is close to the peak of its demographic dividend. Conversely, the weight for population size has been modestly increased. The net effect is that industrialised States such as Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra see only incremental improvements in their inter-State shares. This caution is understandable but also underscores the limits of the Commission's ambition. A stronger signal could have been sent through a staggered increase in vertical devolution, for instance by committing to raise the States' share to 45% by 2031, expanding discretionary fiscal space while preserving stability.

Budget 2026-27 @ Vision 2047 – A stunning global roadmap for a self-reliant and developed India beyond populism

Globally, India's Union Budget 2026 is not a document crafted in search of instant popularity in an election year, but a confident declaration from a nation that now wants to determine its own development direction. Presented by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, this budget is neither filled with emotional slogans nor entangled in the glitz of immediate relief. However, as soon as the budget was presented, the stock market and gold and silver prices fell sharply. The decline that began before the budget speech continued even after the budget speech. Decline and only decline. From the stock market to gold and silver, decline prevailed today. The decline in gold and silver was such that it fell more in the last day than it rose in the last one to two weeks. But on the contrary, I, Advocate Kishan Sanmukhdas Bhavani, Gondia, Maharashtra, believe that this budget presents a concrete roadmap for establishing India as a self-reliant, technologically capable, and global economic power in the next two decades.

Advocate Kishan Sanmukhdas Bhavani

In a subtle but meaningful change to the 75-year-old tradition of budget presentation, the conceptual and policy focus of the budget has been redefined this time, which in itself is an indication that India is no longer a merely reactive economy, but a strategy-making nation. In past decades, the structure of Union Budgets has been such that Part A presented the broad economic outlook and government priorities, while Part B was limited to tax reforms and policy announcements. Budget 2026 breaks this tradition by not separating policy announcements from economic philosophy, but rather weaving them into a single, continuous narrative. This shift is not merely technical, but ideological. It means that the government no longer views tax policy, capital investment, technology missions, and social infrastructure as separate entities, but rather considers them as tools for a common national goal. The continuation of paperless budgets and the presentation of the digital age beyond the red cloth demonstrate that both the language and structure of governance are keeping pace with modern India.

Friends, if we consider the Budget presented on February 1, 2026, it comes at a time when the global economy is experiencing instability, geopolitical tensions, and supply-chain restructuring. Amid US-China trade tensions, Europe's energy challenges, and rising debt pressures on emerging markets, India has made it clear that it prioritizes long-term economic disci-

pline over short-term populism. The Finance Minister began his 90-minute speech with a vision of continuity, stability, and long-term growth, which in itself conveyed the message that this Budget is not a document for a single year, but one that sets the course for the years to come. The absence of surprise announcements should not be seen as a weakness, but rather as a sign of strategic maturity.

Friends, if we talk about the most unique aspect of this budget, the narrow path the government seems to be walking between economic discipline and public aspirations is essential for a developing but ambitious nation like India. Accelerating growth while controlling the fiscal deficit is no easy task for any government, especially when demands for social welfare, employment generation, and infrastructure are simultaneously pressing. Budget 2026 adopts a realistic and restrained approach, recognizing that sustainability of growth comes not simply from increasing spending, but from improving the quality of spending. This is why the central focus of this budget is 'capex-driven growth,' not subsidy-driven consumption. The most concrete evidence of this thinking is seen in the announcement of Semiconductor Mission 2.0. In the global technological landscape, semiconductors are no longer just electronics components, but have become a symbol of national security, industrial self-reliance, and geopolitical power. With an investment of approximately ₹40,000 crore, India Semiconductor Mission 2.0 clearly signals that India no longer wants

to be limited to design and software, but also wants to play a pivotal role in the global hardware manufacturing value chain. This initiative will not only reduce import dependence but also has the potential to establish India as a reliable semiconductor hub in the Asia-Pacific region. The proposed increase in capital expenditure is the backbone of this budget. The capex of ₹13.2 lakh crore for FY27, which is approximately 9 percent higher than last year, is not just a number but a clear indication of the government's priorities. This investment in infrastructure, logistics, energy, and urban development will create jobs and attract private investment. Economic history demonstrates that when the government emphasizes capital expenditure, its multiplier effect is felt across every sector of the economy. In this regard, Budget 2026 appears to be adopting a classic crowd-in strategy, in which government investment opens the way for the private sector. This strategy is also reflected in the announcements of high-speed rail corridors. Routes like Mumbai-Pune, Hyderabad-Bengaluru, and Delhi-Varanasi are not merely transportation projects but development corridors connecting urban-industrial clusters. The announcement of seven high-speed rail routes signals that India no longer wants to be limited to roads and traditional railways, but is investing with future mobility needs in mind. These corridors can play a crucial role in reducing regional economic imbalances, promoting tourism, and reducing time and cost. The Rare Earth Corridor and East-West Freight Corridor plans are

extremely important in the context of global resource politics. Developing rare earth resources in states like Odisha, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, and Tamil Nadu can make India self-reliant in strategic materials that are currently considered dominant in China. This initiative will not only strengthen industrial security but also provide opportunities for electric vehicles. It will also elevate India's capabilities in renewable energy and defense. Reducing logistics costs and increasing supply-chain efficiency through freight corridors is essential for India's competitiveness. Budget 2026's vision for the MSME sector is also noteworthy. The establishment of a ₹10,000 crore SME Growth Fund recognizes that small and medium enterprises are India's economic backbone. Integrating these enterprises into global value chains through financial and technical support is essential for job creation and export growth.

This initiative goes beyond just credit availability, but also addresses skills, technology, and market access, which have long been weak points in the MSME sector. An investment of ₹10,000 crore over the next five years under the Biopharma Shakti scheme can further strengthen India's position in the global healthcare supply chain. The COVID-19 pandemic has made it clear that pharmaceutical self-reliance is a strategic necessity for any country. By promoting research, production and innovation in the biopharmaceutical sector, India will not only be able to meet domestic needs but can also become a reliable health partner for developing countries.

Cancer is a silent epidemic, awareness is the biggest weapon

Yogesh Kumar Goyal

World Cancer Day is celebrated every year on February 4th to raise awareness about the potential causes of cancer. Indeed, for almost everyone, cancer is a word that, upon hearing it from a doctor about a family member, makes their breath catch and the ground beneath their feet slip away. In such a situation, the fear of losing that integral member of the family forever haunts them. Due to increasing pollution and a lack of nutritious food, this disease is rapidly spreading like an epidemic. In India, nearly two-thirds of cancer cases are detected very late, and often by then it is too late. The World Health Organization believes that the number of cancer patients in our country has doubled in the last twenty years,

and the number of deaths from cancer is steadily increasing year after year. Millions of cancer patients die every year.

Although cancer was considered an incurable disease until a few years ago, revolutionary discoveries have been made in the field of cancer treatment, and now, if cancer is detected early, it is quite possible to cure it. Regarding cancer, it is very important to understand that this disease can affect anyone at any age, but if it is detected early, this once considered incurable disease can now be treated. This is why, to reduce cancer cases in the country, there is a felt need to raise awareness about cancer and its causes so that they are aware of this disease, its symptoms, and its terrible danger. The best and most effective way

to combat cancer is to raise public awareness, which can lead to early detection and treatment. Early detection significantly reduces the cost of cancer treatment. This is why early detection through awareness is crucial, as such patients have a greater chance of leading a healthy and normal life after treatment. However, despite the numerous cancer treatment facilities in the country, the biggest reason we are unable to control the disease is the high cost of treatment. The lack of screening facilities in the country is also a major obstacle to cancer treatment, which in many cases is a key reason for late detection.

It's also crucial to understand what cancer really is. When our body's immune system weakens significantly, various diseases begin to

attack the body. In such circumstances, the body's cells often grow and divide rapidly, uncontrolled. This uncontrolled growth of a group of cells is called cancer. When these cells affect tissue, cancer begins to spread to other parts of the body, becoming a very dangerous condition. Medical research is ongoing worldwide to combat and defeat cancer, and thanks to these efforts, successful treatment of cancer in its early stages is now possible. While there are many causes of cancer, the most commonly cited factors include obesity, lack of physical activity, insufficient exercise, excessive alcohol and drug consumption, and a lack of a nutritious diet. Sometimes it also happens that no symptoms of cancer are visible but while undergoing some test during

the treatment of some other disease, it is suddenly discovered that the patient has cancer. But still there are many such symptoms through which most of the people can identify cancer in its initial stage itself.

Some of the major symptoms of cancer include weight loss, anemia, persistent fever, physical fatigue and weakness, dizziness, vomiting, seizures, changes in voice, difficulty breathing, bloody cough, prolonged phlegm and mucus, difficulty swallowing, bleeding during urination and defecation, lumps or swelling in any part of the body, excessive menstrual bleeding, etc. Cancer is treated through chemotherapy, radiation therapy, biological therapy, stem cell transplant, etc., but these are often so expensive that poor people cannot afford them.

DOGRA WELFARE ASSOCIATION

A strong call for the unification, protection and promotion of the shared Dogri-Pahari language and cultural heritage resonated at the annual Mel Milaap of the Dogra Welfare Association, Delhi NCR, held at Rajendra Bhavan.

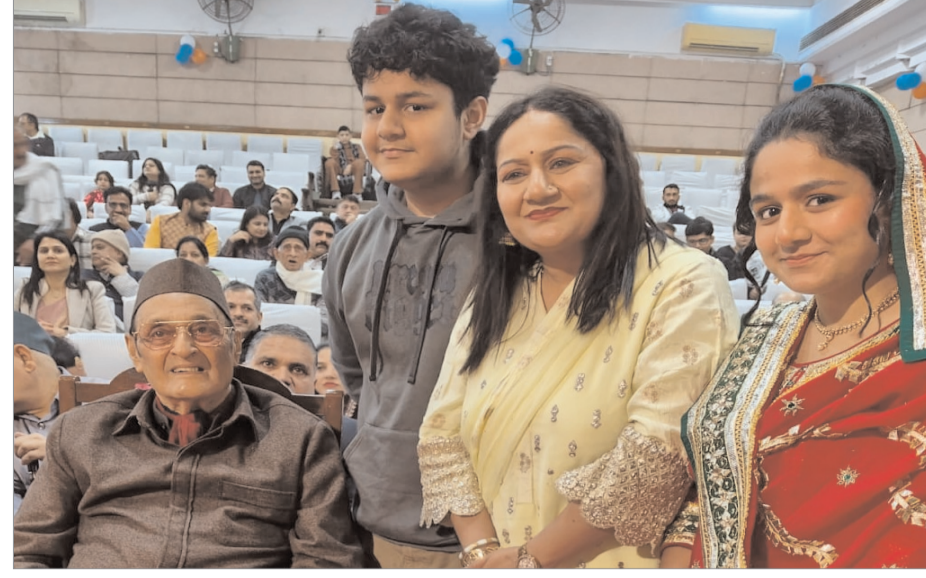
Addressing the gathering, former Union Minister and former Sadr-e-Riyasat of Jammu and Kashmir, Dr Karan Singh, urged the Dogra community to forge wider unity with neighbouring Pahari-speaking regions such as Kangra and Chamba, so that the community's collective strength is enhanced and its identity safeguarded. While advocating multilingualism, Dr Singh cautioned that one's mother tongue must never be neglected. He warned that unless the younger generation is actively encouraged to speak Dogri, the language could face endangerment



in the future. Emphasising the vital role of families—especially mothers—in preserving language and culture, the octogenarian leader exhorted Dogra society to remain progressive, united and forward-looking. He congratulated Sudesh Dogra and the entire organising team for the initiative and appealed

for sustained unity and cohesion.

Renowned singer Dheeraj Sharma, leading the Association's protest against the distortion of the popular Dogri-Himachali folk song "Maaye ni meriye, Jammuai di raah, Chamba kitnik door", rendered the song in its original



wording, reaffirming its authentic linguistic and cultural context. He was ably supported by Jyoti Gupta and other artists. The Association expressed disappointment over the silence of several established literary and cultural leaders and organisa-

tions of Jammu on this issue, while appreciating Himachali singers and artists who have voiced support for the cultural concerns of Jammu.

Senior journalist and language activist Raman Kesar termed the distortion as an

attempt to artificially separate Western Pahari from Dogri and stated that the Association intends to respond firmly yet constructively to such efforts. Rohit Mahajan, Cluster Head of The Jammu and Kashmir Bank, presented trophies to the cultural participants. Sudesh Dogra, Jagdish Sharma, Shri Kailashpati Sharma, Kulveer Singh, Col. Sunil Sharma, Neha Sharma, Satpal Sharma Bodhranj Thakur and Raj raina made significant and valuable contributions in mobilising the Dogra community and ensuring the successful conduct of the event. The Dogra Welfare Association has been consistently organising its annual Lohri function for the past four years and has consciously remained away from all forms of politics and patronage.

Issued by: Dogra Welfare Association, Delhi NCR

Chandrawal water treatment plant work likely to begin this year: CM MCD starts process to recognise teachers' associations

New Delhi(GNS): Chief minister Rekha Gupta announced on Monday that the Chandrawal water treatment plant (WTP), a project approved over a decade ago, is expected to be commissioned this year. The announcement was made after Gupta chaired a review meeting of the Delhi Jal Board (DJB) at the Delhi Secretariat on Monday.



graphical area.

The state-of-the-art ₹599 crore plant, which will have a capacity of 105 million gallons per day, is designed to serve approximately 11% of Delhi's population. It is being constructed at Chandrawal near Civil Lines in north Delhi and will cover an area of approximately 92 square kilometres – or 6.2% of Delhi's total geo-

CM Gupta said during the meeting the plant would significantly strengthen Delhi's water supply infrastructure, according to officials aware of the meeting's details. The meeting was also attended by the water minister Parvesh Verma, along with senior DJB officials. The project is expected to strengthen water supply and pressure

in several densely populated areas in the city such as Model Town, Sadar Bazar, Chandni Chowk, Matia Mahal, Ballimaran, Karol Bagh, Patel Nagar, Rajinder Nagar and RK Puram. These areas, the officials cited above said, have long been facing issues related to water availability and pressure. Originally approved in 2012, the project faced prolonged delays due to

tender cancellations and non-compliance with guidelines of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), which is assisting in the project, resulting in cost escalations of nearly ₹400 crore. In addition to the treatment plant, a parallel pipeline replacement project costing ₹1,331 crore is underway. New distribution networks are being laid across nine constituencies covering key localities such as Karol Bagh, Civil Lines, Kamla Nagar, Malka Ganj, Shadipur, Patel Nagar, Shastrri Nagar, Naraina, Zakhira, New Rajendra Nagar, Hindu Rao, Idgah, Jhandewalan, Ridge Road, Ramlila Ground and Subhash Park to reduce leakage and contamination.

New Delhi(GNS): The Municipal Corporation of Delhi has begun the process of accrediting teachers' service associations and have started inviting applications for recognition. This includes MCD teacher unions, none of which have been formally recognized for the past two years as the process had not been initiated, due to the standing committee's formation being delayed.

The notification, also seen by news agency, states that only one association will be recognised by the department, which has the maximum number of members in the MCD's teaching staff under its education department. The number of members must also be above 35% of the total

number of teaching staff under the education department. Associations will have to apply for recognition as a Service Association with their memorandum, constitution, bye-laws, names of office bearers, and estimated membership.

Kuldeep Khatri from the Teachers' Justice Forum, an MCD school teachers' union, claimed that the order violated the service association rules, 1993.

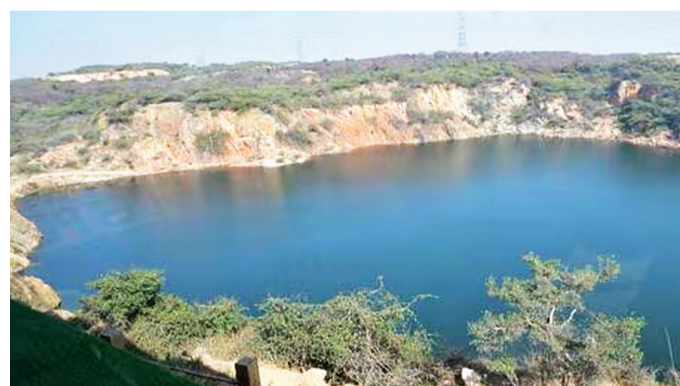
"The file regarding the association's recognition has been requested. Until the requested file is received and a final determination is made regarding how many associations are eligible to enroll members among the teachers, the order to conduct membership drives is unconsti-

tutional. Membership is supposed to be conducted by the department through the DDO zone by filling out consent forms, whereas this order is asking the association to provide its members," he said.

An MCD official from the education department, requesting anonymity, said, "This is merely an initiation of the process of recognising associations, which they have been asking for. We require a number of people in the association, as we cannot provide recognition without knowing how many people are in the association. How can we recognise an association without knowing if it has 1 member or 40? We will follow every rule of the government while carrying out this process."

Neeli Jheel could be Delhi's first Ramsar site Night out in CP turns tragic; Delhi man dies after being beaten with helmet

New Delhi(GNS): A late-night outing in the heart of the national capital turned fatal for a 36-year-old businessman who died days after allegedly being struck repeatedly on the head with a helmet by food delivery partners following an argument.



An only child, Shivam Gupta's death has left his family shattered and desperately seeking justice. A resident of east Delhi's Laxmi Nagar, Shivam had gone to Connaught Place central Delhi's commercial hub with a friend on January 2 to attend a party. An altercation later broke out between him and some delivery partners near E-Block, close to Rajiv Chowk Metro Station, during which he

was attacked by around three men. A PCR call received around 1.30 am on January 3 informed police about an injured man lying unconscious on the road, bleeding. Shivam was rushed to Lok Nayak Jai Prakash Hospital nearby, where doctors found multiple hematomas a pool of clotted blood and declared him unfit to give a statement. Speaking to PTI, Shivam's father, Anil Kant Gupta, said his son had left home on the evening of January 2 to attend a party but did not return.

"I kept calling him, but there was no answer. After some time, I got a call from police saying that my son was admitted in hospital," the grieving

father recalled, his voice choking with grief.

He said the injuries were severe and targeted. "When we reached the hospital, his condition was alarming. He was vomiting blood and not responding. We requested the doctors to refer him to another hospital for better treatment," the father said.

Medical teams later advised an immediate transfer for specialised care. He said Shivam was shifted to Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital on January 4 and underwent surgery on January 5. "The doctors clearly told us that the injuries were life-threatening and an immediate operation was necessary. After the procedure, we were informed that the next 36

to 72 hours would be crucial for recovery.

"For a while, he showed signs of improvement. He was responding to the doctors when they called out to him. We had hope," the father said. "But, he left us on January 19."

The 61-year-old senior Gupta, who owns two shops in the Paharganj area, said Shivam was his only child and the sole support of the family.

Police inspected the spot near the parking area and conducted videography and photography. Blood-stained material was seized from the scene and sent for forensic examination, while CCTV camera footage from the nearby control room was checked as part of the

investigation. Investigators said the case progressed as medical details and witness accounts emerged. Police sources said an FIR was initially registered under Section 110 and Section 3 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita. Police said additional sections may be added as the investigation progresses.

Two men were apprehended, the sources said, adding that further investigation is underway to identify the roles of all those involved.

A family member said, "He went to attend a party, but never came back. A helmet was used as a weapon, and it took his life. We want strict action so that no other family has to go through this pain."

'Delhi Khel Mahakumbh': Month-long sports event to start Feb 13

New Delhi(GNS): Delhi education and sports minister Ashish Sood on Monday announced the launch of 'Delhi Khel Mahakumbh', a month-long sporting event, starting February 13, which will be inaugurated by chief minister Rekha Gupta.

The initial phase will feature seven sports, including kabaddi, football, athletics, wrestling, basketball, volleyball, and squash, across 16 different stadiums and venues in the capital such as Bawana, Vikaspuri, and Najafgarh, said Sood. The aim is to ensure equal

opportunity for youth across the capital. The event will see participation from over 20,000 athletes.

The first-ever sports 'Mahakumbh' is a state-level event, with the motto "Aao Delhi Khele" which aims to integrate sports with education and youth development, an official said.

Sood stated that in team events, the gold-winning team will get ₹1,75,000, silver will get ₹1,51,000, and bronze ₹1,31,000. In individual events, the gold medalist will receive



₹11,000, silver ₹9,000, and bronze ₹7,000. Sood also unveiled 'Ranveer', the official mascot for the event and said, "Ranveer symbolises energy, courage, and

sporting spirit of Delhi's youth." Addressing a press conference at the Delhi Secretariat on Monday, Sood said that under the leadership of chief minister Rekha Gupta, the Delhi government has accorded renewed priority to sports and resolved to transform Delhi into the sports capital of India. "The previous government failed to allocate adequate budgetary support for sports due to which children were deprived of opportunities to participate at national and international levels.

The sports budget stood at ₹60 crore in 2021-22, which was reduced to ₹41 crore in 2022-23, further slashed to ₹26 crore in 2023-24, and remained stagnant at ₹26 crore till 2024-25. The present government has tripled the allocation for Sports and Youth Affairs to ₹76 crore in 2025-26," Sood added. He reiterated that the current government has launched several initiatives to promote sports, including financial assistance and improved facilities for athletes.

Delhi HC refuses bail to gig worker accused of stealing metro cable

New Delhi(GNS): The Delhi High Court has refused to grant bail to a gig worker accused of stealing a 32 metre copper cable from a metro line, observing that he played with the lives of the public and caused immense loss to the exchequer.

Justice Saurabh Banerjee said the accused did not merely indulge in "some foolhardy antics" but his actions put the life and limb of the public in utter danger.

Dismissing the bail plea, the judge noted that the accused was a habitual offender.

"While granting bail this court must take into cognisance the public good versus

the private good involved herein. The applicant herein has been guilty of playing with the lives of the general public," the court said in the order passed on January 31.

"The offence alleged to have been committed by the applicant herein has multifarious effects on the society at large, more so, since the applicant has put the life and limb of one and all in utter danger.

"As the applicant is not guilty of some foolhardy antics, he has no doubt caused immense loss to the public exchequer. All of the above cannot be ignored. All the aforesaid factors, both factually and legally, are them-



selves sufficient for denying bail to the applicant," it concluded.

The accused, a delivery boy in Punjabi Bagh following a report of theft by Traction Power Control at 2:51 am on

the intervening night of June 29 and 30, 2025, the Delhi Police said.

He has been in judicial custody since his arrest in July 2025.

FIRs were registered by the Delhi Police for the offence of theft under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, as well as obstructing running of train, maliciously wrecking a train or causing sabotage and damage to or destruction of certain metro railway properties under the Metro Railways Act, 2002.

Delhi Police opposed the bail plea and informed the court that the accused was a habitual offender with significant criminal antecedents.

Indian Navy Half-Marathon gets good response

NEW DELHI(GNS): The second edition of the Indian Navy Half-Marathon was conducted in New Delhi today. The event witnessed an overwhelming response from participants competing across three race categories - 21.1 km, 10 km and 5 km, making it an inclusive event for runners of all calibres and backgrounds.

The flagship race, half-marathon, was flagged off by Navy Chief Admiral DKK Tripathi in the presence of Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi.

The 10-km run was flagged off by Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports, Mansukh L Mandaviya. The event



was also graced by badminton star Saina Nehwal and former Indian Hockey Captain PR Sreejesh. The event was

hosted at the iconic Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, with the race route covering India Gate and historic Kartavya Path.

The event has also attracted international participation from across 24 countries.

Delhi Government may build a new bridge over Yamuna aiming to improve connectivity in eastern parts of the city.

New Delhi(GNS): The Delhi government is considering building a new bridge over the Yamuna River. It could be constructed near the Signature Bridge. This plan is currently in its initial stages and is under discussion. Its construction would improve connectivity in the eastern parts of the city. Officials said on Monday that the Delhi government is considering a proposal to build a bridge over the Yamuna near the Signature Bridge or replace the old iron bridge (Loha Pul). The government is working to reduce traffic congestion and improve connectivity in the eastern parts of the city. This proposal was put forward by the Trans-Yamuna Board in a recent

meeting with Public Works Department officials. A senior government official said that the plan is currently in its initial stages and is under discussion. An official said that the proposal is in its preliminary stages. The government is considering it to improve connectivity in the Trans-Yamuna area and strengthen the link between North East, North, and Central Delhi. According to officials, with the completion of RRTS stations and the Delhi-Mumbai Expressway, traffic congestion is expected to increase on the Ring Road, especially near Sarai Kale Khan. Currently, the Delhi-Meerut Expressway and the Delhi-Dehradun Expressway terminate at Sarai Kale Khan on the

Ring Road. Officials said that the DND-Sohna (Jewar) link of the Delhi-Mumbai Expressway is also expected to open soon. An official said that keeping this in mind, the government is planning to propose the construction of a new bridge. The location has not yet been finalized and is being examined. The PWD will study the stretch from Old Wazirabad to Kalindi Kunj to examine feasibility, traffic congestion, and vehicular movement. The old iron bridge is a double-decker bridge. Vehicles run on its lower deck and trains on the upper deck. Currently, there are approximately 25 bridges over the Yamuna River, including both road and rail bridges.

Father turns into a monster after wife goes to her village, rapes 14-year-old daughter

New Delhi(GNS): A minor girl studying in the sixth grade in Delhi's Paharganj area has filed a case against her own father for rape. The victim, a minor student, went to the Paharganj police station with her friend's parents and narrated her ordeal to the police. The police then arrested the accused father. Based on the complaint of the minor daughter, the police have registered an FIR against the accused father under Section 64(2) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and relevant provisions of Section 6 of the POCSO Act and have started an investigation. Police said that a 14-year-old minor girl studying in the sixth grade came to the Paharganj police station on February 1st with her friend's parents. She stated that her mother had gone to her village in Bihar 15 days ago. During this time, around 1:30 AM on January 31st, her father sexually assaulted her and also threatened her not to tell anyone about it. The victim also stated in her complaint that such incidents had occurred 4-5 times in the last 10-15 days. She remained silent earlier due to fear, as the accused allegedly used to brutally beat her and her mother. The accused had threatened her not to tell anyone.

Speaker Gupta thumbs up for record capex allocation

NEW DELHI(GNS): Vijender Gupta, Speaker of the Delhi Legislative Assembly, on Sunday congratulated Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on presenting her ninth consecutive Union Budget for 2026-27, describing it as a landmark and visionary exercise that lays a strong roadmap for building a Viksit Bharat.

He said the Budget reflected a comprehensive, forward-looking vision of national transformation with a clear focus on self-reliance, inclusive growth and trust-based governance.

Welcoming the record public capital expenditure of Rs 12.2 lakh crore on infrastructure, Gupta said the massive investment would act as a powerful engine of growth by

strengthening physical and digital infrastructure. He noted that the sustained infrastructure push would catalyse employment generation, boost productivity and improve logistics efficiency, thereby enhancing India's overall economic competitiveness.

The Speaker said the Budget strongly reflected the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his commitment to building a developed, self-reliant and inclusive India by 2047. He underlined that the Prime Minister's development vision rests on four pillars - the poor, farmers, youth and women. He said the Budget translated this vision into actionable policies through investments in infrastructure, manufacturing, technology, human

capital and social security.

Gupta appreciated the strategic thrust on deep tech and advanced manufacturing, including the launch of India Semiconductor Mission 2.0 and the development of Rare Earth Corridors. He

said initiatives aimed at MSMEs, exports and domestic manufacturing would integrate Indian industry with global value chains and empower small entrepreneurs and artisans.

Highlighting the Budget's pro-people and

pro-poor orientation, he welcomed measures focused on farmers, cattle owners and women, including agriculture advisory services, fisheries development, animal husbandry support and initiatives under Nari Shakti.

Will the rising school fees in Delhi go unchecked? Government washes its hands of the matter in the Supreme Court

New Delhi(GNS): The Delhi government on Monday informed the Supreme Court that the new law regulating fees in private schools in the national capital will not be implemented in the academic year 2025-26. This was stated before a bench of Justices PS Narasimha and Alok Aradhe, which was hearing a batch of petitions related to the implementation of the Delhi School Education (Transparency in Fee Determination and Regulation) Act, 2025. The law will not be implemented in the current academic year. Additional Solicitor General SV Raju, appearing for the Delhi government, informed the bench that the law will not be implemented in the current academic year. The bench granted liberty to raise all issues before the Delhi High Court, which is hearing petitions challenging the 2025 Act and the subsequent rules. The Supreme Court was hearing petitions, including those challenging the High Court's January 8 order, which refused to stay the notification directing private schools to constitute fee regulation committees.

13 Delhi Railway Stations, Including Bijwasan, to Get a New Look; Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw Details the Plan

New Delhi(GNS): The Delhi Division has received an additional Rs 118 crore this year for the redevelopment of railway stations and enhancing security in Delhi. The redevelopment of 13 stations in Delhi is underway under the Amrit Bharat scheme. The budget allocation will support this. This year, Delhi is set to receive two major projects, including the Bijwasan railway station and the iron bridge being built over the Yamuna River. Giving details about the budget allocated to Delhi, Railway



Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said that during the UPA-2 regime, Delhi received only Rs 96 crore annually from the budget. However, for the year 2026-27, Delhi has

been allocated a budget of Rs 2711 crore, which is 27 times more than the budget allocated by the UPA government. Redevelopment of 13 stations will gain momentum. He said that this amount will accelerate the redevelopment of 13 stations underway in Delhi. The redevelopment of these stations is being done at a cost of Rs 5887 crore. According to the information, in the year 2025-26, the Delhi Division received Rs 2593 crore in the railway budget. Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said that devel-

opment works worth Rs 8976 crore are being carried out by the railways in Delhi. These include laying new tracks, redeveloping stations, and enhancing security. Providing better connectivity to Delhi. Minister Vaishnaw said that to provide better connectivity to Delhi, 14 pairs of Vande Bharat and 8 pairs of Amrit Bharat Express trains are being operated from here. The railways have built 14 underpasses and flyovers in Delhi in the last decade. 100 percent of the trains in Delhi are running on elec-

tricity. Underground trains will run in the Siliguri corridor. The government has announced the construction of seven new high-speed corridors in the budget. The Varanasi-Siliguri high-speed corridor will be underground in West Bengal. This strategically important 40-kilometer-long stretch is known as the Siliguri Corridor and borders Bangladesh. Plans are underway to lay underground tracks in the Siliguri Corridor. There are also plans to expand the existing track to four lanes.