



## Women opposition MPs gherao treasury benches in Lok Sabha, force adjournment

**New Delhi(GNS):** The Lok Sabha on Wednesday witnessed dramatic scenes as women opposition MPs charged towards the Prime Minister's seat holding banners ahead of his scheduled speech, leading to adjournment of proceedings for the day. Prime Minister Narendra Modi was not present in the House and BJP member PP Chaudhary was making his remarks on the Motion of Thanks on the President's address when the opposition members trooped into the Well of the House. Government floor managers had indicat-

ed that the Prime Minister would reply to the discussion on the Motion of Thanks at 5 pm. When the House met at 5 pm after three adjournments, BJP member Sandhya Rai who was in the chair, called Chaudhary to make his remarks on the Motion. Soon, the women members of the Opposition trooped into the Well and made their way to the Treasury benches protesting against the trade deal with the US and former Army chief MM Naravane's 'unpublished' book. As opposition members



approached the Prime Minister's seat, the presiding officer adjourned the proceedings for the day. The Prime Minister is now expected to speak on Thursday in Rajya Sabha where the debate on the Motion of Thanks on the President's address has taken place without any disruption. It was not immediately clear when the prime minister would speak in Lok Sabha as opposition protests are

expected to continue. A discussion on the Union Budget has been listed in the Lok Sabha agenda for Thursday. The face-off between the government and the opposition in Lok Sabha had intensified on Tuesday following the suspension of one CPI(M) and seven Congress members for unruly behaviour for the remainder of the Budget session. Some Dalit members of the ruling alliance also met Speaker Om Birla to complain that they were insulted by the opposition benches while chairing the House proceedings.

Drama ensued outside the House also when Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi, while protesting alongside his suspended party colleagues, taunted Union minister and former Congress MP Ravneet Singh Bittu with a "traitor friend" jibe. Bittu retorted calling Gandhi 'desh ka dushman', while BJP later paraded its Sikh leaders to charge the Congress leader of insulting the community. The Lok Sabha has witnessed stormy protests by the opposition members since Monday when Rahul Gandhi insisted on

referring to the unpublished book of Naravane, a move strongly opposed by senior ministers Rajnath Singh and Amit Shah among others. On Wednesday when the House re-assembled at 2 pm after two adjournments at 11 am and 12 noon, BJP member Nishikant Dubey raked up a fresh controversy by referring to books such as "Edwina and Nehru" and "Mitrokhin Archive" among others and made certain remarks targeting former prime ministers Jawaharlal Nehru, Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi.

### Parl panel flags train punctuality drop from 90 pc in 2021-22 to 73.62 pc in 2023-24



**New Delhi(GNS):** The punctuality of trains declined from 90 per cent in 2021-22 to 73.62 per cent in 2023-24, a Parliamentary committee observed, while questioning the Indian Railways' "misleading" method of recording train timings. The Public Accounts Committee (PAC) of Parliament, in its report "Punctuality and Travel Time in Train Operations in Indian Railways", presented to the Lok Sabha on Wednesday, examined the punctuality performance of all types of trains and recommended several measures to improve it.

It noted that train punctuality stood at 77.51 per cent in 2015-16, compared to 69.23 per cent in 2018-19, before improving significantly to 90.48 per cent in 2021-22. The Committee further observed that punctuality performance again declined to 73.62 per cent in 2023-24, before showing some improvement to 78.67 per cent in 2024-25 (up to August).

Questioning the methods of recording punctuality, the report said, "The Committee notes from audit observation that IR measures the punctuality of trains at the terminating stations. Whereas, in other countries, it is measured at the originating point, intermediate station, and at terminating stations."

### 'Trade deal with US protects India's agriculture, dairy sectors': Goyal amid Opposition protests in Lok Sabha

**New Delhi(GNS):** Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal on Wednesday said that India had protected its interests in sensitive sectors such as agriculture and dairy under the trade agreement with the United States.



While addressing the Lok Sabha amid vociferous protests by the Opposition, Goyal, while reading out a statement on the India-US trade deal, which was announced late night on

would support the goals of Viksit Bharat and strengthen the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative. The Commerce Minister further said that

ensuring the energy security of India's 140 crore people remained the government's foremost priority, even as global energy dynamics continued to evolve. I want to make it clear that ensuring the energy security needs of 140 crore Indians is the government's top priority. In line with the changing international scenario, we are diversifying our energy sources with this objective in mind," Goyal said

### New Manipur CM Y Khemchand Singh: Veteran politician, administrator and Taekwondo black belt

**Imphal(GNS):** Two-time BJP legislator Yumnam Khemchand Singh, who was sworn in as the Manipur Chief Minister on Wednesday, is a long-time RSS functionary and an organisation-focused leader who has held key constitutional and ministerial positions in the state.



Apart from politics, he has had a long association with Taekwondo. A black belt holder, he is a former vice-president of Taekwondo Federation of India and has been involved in the promotion of the sport in the northeast.

Though Singh has been in politics for decades, the 62-year-old leader made his debut in the Assembly in 2017 from the Singjamei constituency in Imphal West district.

### PM Modi to visit Malaysia on Feb 7-8

**New Delhi(GNS):** Prime Minister Narendra Modi will undertake a two-day visit to Malaysia beginning Saturday to shore up bilateral ties in areas of trade, investment, energy, and maritime security. It would be Prime Minister Modi's third visit to Malaysia, and the first after the elevation of the India-Malaysia bilateral relationship to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership in August 2024. During the visit, he will hold bilateral discussions with Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)



said announcing his February 7 to 8 trip. Modi will also interact with members of the Indian community, as well as industry and business representatives, it said. The 10th India-Malaysia CEO Forum is also scheduled to be

strengthened by the presence of a 2.9 million strong Indian diaspora in Malaysia, the third largest in the world," it said. The forthcoming visit of the prime minister serves as an opportunity for both leaders to review the entire gamut of bilateral cooperation, ranging from trade and investment, defence, security and maritime cooperation to digital and financial technology, energy, healthcare, education, culture, tourism, and people-to-people ties, the MEA said in a statement. It will also give both leaders an opportunity to set the path for future engagement for mutual benefit, it added.

### Competition panel orders probe against IndiGo for unfair business practices



**New Delhi, Agency:** The Competition Commission on Wednesday ordered a detailed probe against IndiGo for unfair business practices, a little over two months after the country's largest airline cancelled thousands of flights due to operational issues. In a 16-page order, the Competition Commission of India (CCI) said that by cancelling thousands of flights, which constituted a significant portion of the scheduled capacity, IndiGo effectively withheld its services from the market, creating an artificial scarcity, limiting consumer access to air travel during peak demand.

### 'Arre baba...': Ajit Pawar's last call to cousin 6 minutes before plane crashed in Baramati

**New Delhi(GNS):** A phone call made by Maharashtra Deputy Minister Ajit Pawar just six minutes before his aircraft crashed at Baramati airport on January 28, 2026, has now come to light, adding a poignant note to the ongoing investigation into the fatal incident. Ajit Pawar had spoken to his cousin

and Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) worker Shrijit Pawar shortly before the aircraft went down. Shrijit Pawar played an excerpt of the recorded conversation at a press conference on Tuesday, saying the call was made in response to a message he had sent regarding local election-related issues. According to



Shrijit Pawar, he had suggested representation for the Mali com-

munity in district council elections. Ajit Pawar, who was travelling at the time, called him directly from the aircraft to clarify the issue. He told me that we are taking all communities along with us. I wanted the world to know that till his last breath, he worked for everyone, across caste and religion. 'We must move forward taking everyone together' was his last message and his last voice," Shrijit Pawar said. He added that Ajit Pawar was known for personally responding to messages and calls. "Whenever I had a problem, I would message him and he would call me back. Even that day, while he was inside the aircraft, he called me," he said.

# It is the need of the hour for all countries to make suicide prevention a part of their national health policy

**Advocate Kishan Sanmukhdas Bhavani**

Globally, with the progress of human civilization, mental, social, and economic complexities have also increased. Suicide is a very serious issue related to these complexities. It is not merely an individual decision; it is deeply influenced by socio-psychological, cultural, and economic factors. Internationally, suicide is considered one of the most serious public health challenges. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), approximately 700,000 people die by suicide each year, which means that one person commits suicide every 40 seconds. I, Advocate Kishan Sanmukhdas Bhavani, Gondia, Maharashtra, believe this makes it clear that this is not just an individual problem,

but a global crisis. It is now time to address it by convening summits on international platforms. Let us tell you that the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare of the Government of India has announced the National Suicide Prevention Strategy. This is the first program of its kind in the country which includes a time-bound action plan and multi-sectoral collaboration to reduce suicide mortality rate by 10 percent by the year 2030. This strategy is in line with the World Health Organization's South-East Asia Region Strategy for Suicide Prevention. Friends, if we discuss what suicide is and why it is committed, which country has the highest number of suicides? To understand this, suicide generally means a person

intentionally taking their own life. This decision is not a momentary impulse, but the result of long-term mental and social pressure. According to the WHO's 2023 report, approximately 77% of suicides occur in low- and middle-income countries, where mental health services are limited and social stigma discourages people from seeking help. The main causes of suicide are depression, bipolar disorder, schizophrenia, drug addiction, and social isolation. Furthermore, relationship failure, unemployment, financial hardship, domestic violence, and the pressures of education and career development on young people are also major factors. Globally, suicide rates vary from country to country. The WHO's 2022 report shows that countries like

Lithuania, South Korea, Russia, Guyana, and Japan have the highest suicide rates per 100,000 population. For example, in Lithuania, the rate is approximately 25.7 per 100,000, while in South Korea, it is approximately 20.2 per 100,000. Countries like India and China have the highest total suicide rates because of their large populations. According to the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) 2022 report in India, over 164,000 suicides were recorded in a year, with an average of over 450 people committing suicide every day. The highest number of these are daily wage earners, students, and farmers. Suicide has long been a social problem in Japan, where approximately 20,000 people take their own lives every year. Friends, if we consider suicide not

just an individual problem but a social challenge, it has been internationally accepted that it is not appropriate to consider suicide solely an individual problem. Experts from the WHO and the International Association for Suicide Prevention (IASP) believe that suicide is a result of psychological, social, economic, and cultural factors. A 2021 report released by the United Nations (UN) stated that poverty, social inequality, gender discrimination, and lack of education are also major factors contributing to the increasing incidence of suicide. The suicide rate among youth is particularly concerning. Suicide is the fourth leading cause of death in the 15-29 age group. In the digital age, cyberbullying, online pressure, and unrealistic expectations

## Editorial

### End in sight: On the U.S.-India trade deal, America's tariffs

News of the India-United States trade deal has brought palpable relief to a lot of Indian industries, but it also comes with persistent and important questions that remain unanswered despite a press statement by India's Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal. The initial announcement, through social media, while true to U.S. President Donald Trump's form, also marks a departure for India and Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Past trade deal announcements have all been made through more formal channels. The announcement of U.S. tariffs on Indian imports being cut to 18% from the existing 50% is certainly welcome. However, as of now, there is no clarity on when this would be implemented. While Mr. Trump said they would be cut "immediately", Mr. Goyal said that the details will be shared "soon". There is also considerable ambiguity over whether this is the first tranche or 'mini-deal' of a larger Bilateral Trade Agreement, a limited deal affecting only tariffs, or something in between. Mr. Trump's assertion that Mr. Modi has "agreed to stop buying Russian oil" must also be addressed by the Indian government sooner rather than later. Mr. Goyal did not touch upon this in his statement. Stopping Russian oil entirely would not only force India to find alternatives for about a third of its oil imports but would also cast a shadow over its relations with Russia, which is a long-time friend and critical supplier of defence equipment. Such a move would announce a very definite realignment for India and, in that light, deserves to be discussed in Parliament first. Similarly, buying more Venezuelan crude comes with its own refining challenges.

There is also the question of what India has committed to the U.S. in terms of tariff concessions, investments and purchase orders. Apart from making the assurance that sensitive agricultural items and dairy would be excluded, the government has been silent despite several significant assertions being made by Mr. Trump and his team. While the "final stages of detailing" are still to be completed, as Mr. Goyal has said, the light at the end of the tunnel has already buoyed Indian stock markets, bolstered the rupee, and brought especial cheer to labour-intensive sectors such as textiles, apparel, footwear, leather and engineering goods that had been hurting from the 50% tariffs.

## From the Kumbh Mela in Buddhist Writings to the Brahma Kumaris Kumbh Symposium!

**Preparations for the Kumbh 2027 to be held in Haridwar have already begun. Discussions have taken place on everything from the appointment of the Kumbh Mela officer to the Kumbh budget. To make this Kumbh a unique example of spirituality and beauty, organizations like Brahma Kumaris have taken the initiative to create a Kumbh atmosphere through various seminars. Under the coordination of Rajyogini BK Meena Didi and guidance of Rajyogini BK Manju Didi, the Kumbh Vichar Sammelan is going to be held again on February 8, in which saints, Mahatmas and scholars are participating. If we look at the history of Kumbh, Buddhist texts from 600 BCE mention river fairs. A Greek envoy to the court of Emperor Chandragupta in 400 BCE is said to have reported on one. Various Puranas and other texts based on ancient oral traditions mention the falling of nectar at four different places on Earth.**

**Dr. Shrigopal Narsan**

The bathing of the Akharas (army bodies) during the Maha Kumbh Mela also holds special significance. The Agam Akhara was established first, and over time, it fragmented, giving rise to other Akharas. In 547 AD, the earliest Akhara, called Abhan, was documented in writing. In 600 AD, the Chinese traveler Hiuen Tsang bathed in the Maha Kumbh Mela organized by Emperor Harsha in Prayag. The Niranjani Akhara was formed in 904 AD, while the Juna Akhara was formed in 1146 AD. In 1398 AD, Timur, in protest against the Sultan's tolerance towards Hindus, destroyed Delhi and then marched towards the Haridwar fair, massacring thousands of devotees. The Haridwar Maha Kumbh massacre of 1398 AD is still remembered. In 1565 AD, Madhusudan Saraswati established the Dasnami system and formed combat units. In 1678 AD, Shri Prannathji, the founder of the Pranami sect, was declared Vijayabhinanda Buddha Nishkalnk. In 1684 AD, the French traveler Tavernier estimated the presence of 1.2 million Hindu monks in India. The story of the conflict between the Shaivite and Vaishnavite communities in Nashik in 1690 AD still sends shivers down the spine, in which 60,000 people died. In 1760 AD, there is history of 1,800 people dying in a clash between Shaivites and Vaishnavites at the Haridwar fair. In 1780 AD, the British established arrangements for the royal bath of monastic groups. In 1820, a stampede at the Haridwar fair killed 430

people, while in 1906, the British Calvary intervened in a fight between monks at the fair, saving many lives. In 1954, 4 million people, or one percent of India's population at that time, died. The population participated in the Maha Kumbh held in Prayagraj. Several hundred people died in a stampede there at that time. In 1989, the Guinness Book of World Records certified the presence of 15 million people at the Prayagraj fair on February 6, which was the largest gathering for a single purpose till that time. Whereas in 1995, during the "Ardh Kumbh" of Allahabad, the presence of 20 million people was reported on the bathing day of January 30. In 1998, more than 50 million devotees visited the Haridwar Maha Kumbh during four months. After that, the presence of 10 million people on April 14 surprised everyone. In 2001, it was claimed that 70 million devotees had come to the Allahabad fair during six weeks. On January 24, 2001, 30 million people were expected to attend the Mahakumbh. The presence of 6 million people on the main bathing day at the Nashik fair in 2003 is a testament to the widespread public faith in the Mahakumbh. The sense of the supernatural in the Mahakumbh is easily discerned by its mundane beauty. Whenever the Mahakumbh or Kumbha is held in Prayagraj, Haridwar, Ujjain, and Nashik, large numbers of devotees take the Kumbha Snan. Each of these five locations hosts the Mahakumbh every twelfth year. In Haridwar and Prayagraj, an Ardha Kumbha is also held every

six years between two Mahakumbh festivals. This Mahakumbh Mela commences on the day of Makar Sankranti, as the Sun and Moon are in Scorpio, and Jupiter is in the constellation of Jupiter. They enter the zodiac sign of Aries. This conjunction of Makar Sankranti is also known as Mahakumbh Snan Yoga, and this day is considered a particularly auspicious festival. It is said that the doors to the higher realms open from Earth on this day, and thus, bathing on this day allows the soul to easily attain the higher realms. There are many mythological stories surrounding the Maha Kumbha. The most widely accepted one is about the falling of drops of nectar from the Amrit Kumbha obtained by the gods and demons from the churning of the ocean. According to this story, when Indra and the other gods were weakened by the curse of Maharishi Durvasa, the demons attacked and defeated the gods. All the gods then went to Lord Vishnu and narrated the entire incident. Lord Vishnu advised them to join forces with the demons to churn the Kshirsagar to extract the nectar. Upon Lord Vishnu's advice, all the gods formed a pact with the demons and began their efforts to extract the nectar. As soon as the Amrit Kumbha emerged, Indra's son Jayant, at the behest of the gods, flew into the sky with the Amrita (nectar pot). Subsequently, at the behest of the demons, Shukracharya, the demons pursued Jayant to retrieve the nectar, and after great effort, they captured him

mid-air. Thereafter, a continuous war between the gods and demons for twelve days to gain control of the Amrit Kalash (pot of nectar). During this mutual battle, drops of Amrit spilled from the pot and fell at four places on Earth: Prayag, Haridwar, Ujjain, and Nashik. At that time, the Moon protected the pot from leaking, the Sun from bursting, Jupiter from being abducted by demons, and Saturn from the fear of Devendra. To calm the conflict, God assumed the form of Mohini and distributed Amrit to everyone as per their authority, thus ending the war between the gods and demons. Since there was a continuous war for Amrit for twelve days, twelve days for the gods are equivalent to twelve years for humans. Therefore, there are twelve Kumbhs too. Out of them, four Kumbhs are on Earth and the remaining eight Kumbhs are in Devlok, which only the gods can attain; it is believed that humans do not have access there. When the planets like Moon, Sun etc., which had protected the Kalash, come to the zodiac signs of that time, at that time the Mahakumbh is formed, that is, in the year in which zodiac sign there is a conjunction of Sun, Moon and Jupiter, in the same year, in the conjunction of the same zodiac sign, wherever the drops of nectar had fallen, Mahakumbh takes place there. In order to ensure that people from all over the world take a dip of faith safely in this Kumbh 2027, the Brahma Kumaris brothers and sisters in white clothes are also sharing the divine knowledge of Rajyoga through seminars.

## National security and Rahul Gandhi's political immaturity

**Lalit Garg**

Critical issues like policy-making, national security, and parliamentary debate are the backbone of any democracy. Parliament is not merely a platform for conflict between the ruling party and the opposition, but rather the highest seat of national unity, collective conscience, and responsible expression. Therefore, when a constitutional and dignified occasion like the President's address is being discussed, it is natural for any leader to exercise extra caution regarding words, context, and timing. In a recent development, the statement made by Rahul Gandhi, the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, citing excerpts from an unpublished book by former Army Chief General M.M. Naravane, regarding the

alleged Chinese incursion, questioned this expectation. The government alleged that this statement attempted to mislead the Lok Sabha, while the opposition countered by calling it an attempt to suppress the truth. Consequently, Parliamentary proceedings were disrupted, heated debates forced the entire day's session to be adjourned, and the focus of national discourse shifted from core issues to accusations and counter-accusations. This question is not just about a single statement, but about political maturity, responsibility, and an understanding of national interest. Sensitivity is essential in public statements on matters of national security. Facts related to borders, military deployments, strategic assessments—these are all topics

where incomplete context or selective quotes can create unnecessary confusion. This is why Defense Minister Rajnath Singh and Home Minister Amit Shah called it a violation of parliamentary rules and a tampering with national security. If a leader's insistence on his statement stalls the proceedings despite the Speaker's ruling, the question arises whether the objective was to bring out the truth or to gain political advantage. The opposition's responsibility is to question the government; this is the lifeblood of democracy. However, the language, platform, and timing of questions are all bound by democratic norms. The discussion on the President's address is meant for a comprehensive discussion on the government's policies, achievements, and future

direction. Using selected excerpts from military books as a political weapon during this time, without proper context and institutional process, naturally gives rise to controversy. The opposition's claim that the government seeks to suppress uncomfortable questions is a familiar and absurd political argument; but the government's assertion that politicizing national security is inappropriate is an equally weighty counterargument. A balance between the two sides is possible only when facts, process, and time are respected. The mention of an unpublished memoir within Parliament is understandable to raise controversy. Because, according to parliamentary traditions and established rules, it is unacceptable for any

member to cite as evidence any published or unpublished book, article, or magazine material that has not been formally tabled before the House. In particular, treating excerpts from books or articles that have neither undergone parliamentary verification nor been recorded with the House's permission as factual evidence is contrary to parliamentary decorum. In this context, Rahul Gandhi's direct quoting of excerpts from an unpublished book and presenting them as the ultimate truth on matters of policy or national importance not only violates parliamentary rules but also undermines the dignity of the House and the credibility of its proceedings. Rahul Gandhi is not only a Congress leader, but also the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha.

# Mistaken Identity: The incident of Shivam's death in Connaught Place leaves a question unanswered

**New Delhi(GNS):** In a brutal incident that took place on the night of January 2-3 in Delhi's Connaught Place, 36-year-old businessman Shivam Gupta finally lost his battle for life in the hospital. Shivam, who had gone out to party with his friends, was brutally beaten by three men on motorcycles who mistook him for someone else. He was hit on the head with a helmet, and after falling to the ground, he was repeatedly stomped on the chest. Seriously injured, Shivam fought for his life for two weeks in the hospital, but ultimately succumbed to his injuries. This sensational murder has also left a question unanswered. Police



arrested two more accused today.

According to family members, Shivam was left bleeding profusely in the E-Block parking area of Connaught Place. Police had arrested two accused on January 6. A case has been registered against the accused under sections 110 (attempt to commit culpable homicide) and 3(5) (com-

mon intention) of the BNS (Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita).

The family is still in shock. His father, Anil Kant Gupta, said, "His death has left a void that will never be filled. His mother is completely devastated, and his sister and brother-in-law are also in shock."

Police and family investigations revealed that all three accused were delivery executives. During questioning, the arrested accused revealed that one of their friends was asking for water from a person standing in the area. Allegedly, that person rebuked them and used abu-

sive language. Angered by this, he called two of his friends, and the three of them reached E-Block on motorcycles to take revenge. The main accused pointed to Shivam, identifying him as the same person, and hit him on the head with a helmet. As soon as Shivam fell, one of the accused got off the motorcycle and repeatedly stomped on his chest, after which all three fled. The incident also left a question unanswered.

The death of Shivam Gupta in Connaught Place, considered one of Delhi's safest areas, was not the result of an old feud or criminal rivalry. It was a case of mistaken identity that claimed the life of the

36-year-old businessman. According to the family, the accused wanted to take revenge on someone else, but Shivam, who was simply returning from a party with friends, became the target. The question is, would such brutality have been justified even if he had been the intended target?

**How the family received the news:** Shivam's family became worried when he didn't return home late at night to their house in Laxmi Nagar, East Delhi. His father said, "We kept calling, but his mobile was switched off. When we called again, a policeman answered and told us that our son was unconscious and cov-

ered in blood." The next day, the police showed them the CCTV footage and explained the entire incident. On January 3, Shivam was taken to Lady Hardinge Medical College, from where he was referred to RML Hospital due to a severe head injury.

A CT scan revealed multiple fractures in his skull. Surgery was performed on January 4. Doctors had hoped he would regain consciousness within 36-72 hours. According to his father, he opened his eyes for a few minutes on January 7, but his condition continued to deteriorate. Shivam passed away on January 19. The family described Shivam as a friendly and helpful person.

## Scooter-borne men steal mobile phone from a man writhing in pain in Delhi, he dies

**New Delhi(GNS):** A shocking incident that shames humanity occurred in the Ranhola area of Vikas Nagar in the capital. Instead of helping a man who had fallen on the road and was writhing in pain, two young men on a scooter snatched his phone and fled. Due to lack of timely help, the man died on the spot. CCTV footage of the incident has surfaced, and based on its analysis, the police are now searching for the accused. Efforts are also underway to identify the deceased.

**Police informed several hours later:** The young man lay unconscious on the road for several hours without anyone helping him or informing the police. Around 8 am, local residents arrived at the spot and informed the police. The police sent the body for post-mortem and started investigating the

case. Preliminary investigation revealed no external injuries on the body. The man lay on the road in that condition for hours. Due to lack of timely treatment, he eventually succumbed. The police are searching for the accused youths. It is suspected that the man died due to a heart attack or some other medical emergency. The exact cause of death will be clear only after the post-mortem report. Police teams are searching for the two youths who snatched the mobile phone and fled. This incident has raised questions among people about where humanity and social responsibility have disappeared. The police have appealed to the public to provide immediate help in any emergency situation and inform the authorities. The CCTV footage clearly shows a man writhing in pain after falling around 4 am on Saturday.

## Shaadi.com Founder Gets Relief from Supreme Court in Fraud Case, No Arrest for Now

**New Delhi(GNS):** The Supreme Court has granted significant relief to Anupam Mittal, the founder of the matrimonial portal Shaadi.com. The court has granted protection from arrest to Mittal and two other accused for the next two weeks in a fraud case. The case stems from a complaint filed by a woman from Hyderabad. She alleged that she was defrauded of Rs 11 lakh through a fake profile on the portal. The woman argued that the platform failed to verify the details of its users.

A bench of Justices Prashant Kumar Mishra and NV Anjaria set aside an earlier order of the Telangana High Court which had refused to quash the proceedings against Mittal.

The Supreme Court, while remanding the case back to the High Court, said, "Since the quashing petition was not decided on merits, we set aside the impugned order and remand the matter back to the High Court for fresh consideration. In the meantime, the



petitioners shall approach the High Court for interim relief. No coercive action shall be taken against the petitioners for a period of eight weeks from today."

Senior Advocate Atmaram Nadkarni, appearing for Mittal, argued that Shaadi.com only acts as a matchmaker. He questioned the court, "I am only facilitating the matching. We are fully cooperating with the investigation, but why have I been made an accused in this case?"

The Supreme Court clarified that it has not expressed any opinion on the facts of the case. The Telangana High Court will now have to reconsider the

matter. The case reached the Supreme Court after the High Court last year refused to quash the FIR registered against Mittal and the other accused - Vignesh and Satish. On June 26, the Supreme Court had stayed the proceedings and issued a notice to the Telangana government. Delay in judgments is a marked disease, it must be eradicated: Supreme Court

Underlining the need to ensure timely justice, the Supreme Court on Tuesday said that the practice of High Courts reserving judgments for months without making them public is a marked disease and its complete eradication is imperative.

A bench of Chief Justice Surya Kant, Justice Joymalya Bagchi, and Justice Vipul M. Pancholi was hearing a petition stating that the Jharkhand High Court had orally pronounced a judgment dismissing a petition on December 4 last year, but the judgment had not been uploaded even after two months.

## Supreme Court reprimands UP government, asks why proper sections were not applied in hate crime case

**New Delhi(GNS):** The Supreme Court on Tuesday questioned the Uttar Pradesh government as to why the appropriate provisions of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) were not applied in the FIR registered in the alleged hate crime case in Noida in 2021.

Additional Solicitor General (ASG) KM Nataraj, appearing for Uttar Pradesh, told a bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta that they have initiated an inquiry against the concerned investigating officer. The bench then asked, "Does this solve the problem of the case not being registered under the appropriate provisions?"

When the law officer said that the FIR should have been registered under the appropriate provisions, the bench said, "Issue directions now." The court was hearing a petition seeking a fair investigation and trial in a



complaint filed by a senior citizen who was allegedly subjected to abuse and torture in a hate crime in Noida in July 2021.

The petitioner's lawyer, Huzefa Ahmadi, said that the FIR should have been registered for offenses punishable under Sections 153-B and 295-A

of the IPC. Ahmadi also referred to Section 298 of the IPC, which deals with uttering words with deliberate intent to wound religious feelings.

He said that such incidents are happening and it is not good for national unity. The bench remarked, "We should not give it any color.

## NDMC declares Kaka Nagar as first fully mechanised, dust-free Anupam Colony

**New Delhi(GNS):** The NDMC on Wednesday declared Kaka Nagar as the sixth 'Anupam Colony', becoming the first residential area in the national capital to shift entirely to a mechanised, dust-free cleaning system, a statement read. The New Delhi Municipal Council chairman, Keshav Chandra, stated that the move is a step towards cleaner air and more sustainable urban sanitation. "With this transition, all sweeping and cleaning operations in Kaka Nagar will now be carried out using machines instead of traditional broom-based methods," Chandra said.

He said that under the new system, sanitation work in the colony is being handled through five push-back mechanical sweepers and one gobbler machine.

NDMC officials said the shift is aimed at significantly cutting down dust emissions during cleaning and improving ambient

air quality in the neighbourhood.

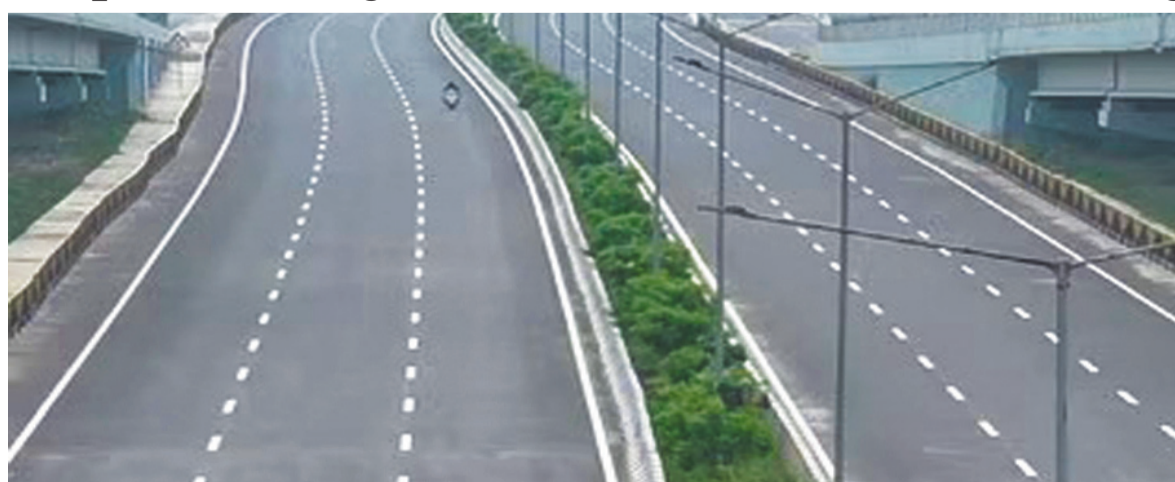
With the inclusion of Kaka Nagar, the colony joins five other residential areas earlier designated as Anupam Colonies within the NDMC area, officials said.

"Kaka Nagar stands apart as the first where cleaning activities are being carried out exclusively through mechanised means," the statement read.

Sharing details of waste management measures, NDMC advisor Rajiv Kumar Jain said that 12 wire-mesh composting units have been installed in the colony to process wet and horticultural waste. The compost generated is being used in parks and distributed among residents under the "Geela Kuda Lao, Khaad Le Jao" initiative, which has been running for the past week, officials said. Calling it a pilot project, Chandra said that the model could be replicated across other NDMC colonies based on its performance.

## Road Construction Expected to Begin Next Month on New Hindon Bridge in Noida, Reducing Traffic Congestion at Pari Chowk

**Noida(GNS):** A new connecting road is being built from Sector 146/147 of Noida to LG Chowk in Greater Noida, crossing the Hindon River. The UP State Bridge Corporation is constructing a new bridge over the Hindon. A tender has been issued for the construction of the road on this bridge. It is expected that the work will begin by the end of March.



UP State Bridge Corporation officials told Noida that the construction of the bridge over the Hindon will be com-

pleted by March 15. As soon as the bridge construction is complete, bitumen and mastic work will be carried out

on it. If an agency is selected through this tender, the bitumen work will be started by the end of March. It will

take about a month to complete.

Authority officials say that they are preparing to open these roads to

vehicles by July. The Noida and Greater Noida authorities are constructing the roads in their respective areas. After the completion of this work, those traveling between Noida and Greater Noida will have another alternative route. The length of the connecting road on the Greater Noida side is approximately one kilometer, which is costing approximately Rs. 25 crore to build. The authority is striving to complete it quickly.

Apart from the bridge, 80 percent of the

road construction work has been completed in Noida, while in Greater Noida, 50 percent of the work has been completed. A road approximately 800 meters long is being built in Noida to connect to the bridge, on which Rs. 31.15 crore is being spent. Authority officials say that after the bridge is built, it will take about three months to complete the remaining work on the Noida side. Last week, the General Manager of the Greater Noida Authority inspected the work and instructed to expedite the work.

**Traffic congestion at Pari Chowk will be reduced:** The construction of this new connecting road will reduce the pressure of vehicles at Pari Chowk.

Vehicles traveling between Greater Noida's Surajpur, Gamma, Alpha, and other sectors and Noida will use this new route. They will no longer need to go towards Pari Chowk. This will save drivers approximately 10 kilometers of extra travel and also reduce traffic congestion at Pari Chowk.

# Those with PNG connections will also receive the cylinder subsidy amount, announces Chief Minister Rekha Gupta

**New Delhi, (GNS):** The Delhi government will provide free cylinders to ration card holders during Holi and Diwali. This scheme will also benefit those with PNG connections.

Chief Minister Rekha Gupta said that the Delhi government has taken an important and welfare-oriented decision to provide relief to economically weaker families from inflation. The cabinet has approved a scheme under which all ration card holder families in Delhi will be provided financial assistance equivalent to two LPG cylinders annually



from 2026.

This scheme is part of the Delhi government's targeted, transparent, and accountable welfare policy. She said that the stipulated amount for the cylinder will be sent through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) to the Aadhaar-seeded bank account of the head of the family. According to the Delhi

government, the current price of an LPG cylinder in Delhi is Rs 853 per cylinder. Beneficiaries under the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana will be given assistance of Rs 553 per cylinder after adjusting the central government's subsidy of Rs 300 per cylinder.

People have been waiting for this scheme since the BJP government came to power in Delhi. Opposition parties Aam Aadmi Party and Congress have also been targeting the government over this. The government claims that this will provide great relief to economically backward families.

Chief Minister Rekha Gupta said that non-Ujjwala ration card holder families will be provided assistance of Rs 853 per cylinder. Chief Minister Rekha Gupta said that this scheme is not just financial assistance, but a means to ensure dignity and relief during festivals.

The promise made before the elections has been fulfilled: BJP state president Virendra Sachdeva said that the Delhi government is fulfilling the promises made by the BJP before the elections. Now, a fund of Rs 242 crore has been sanctioned for free gas cylinders in Delhi during Holi and Diwali. This has paved the way for free gas cylinders during festivals in Delhi.

# Delhi court summons M3M directors in Gurugram land deal case

**NEW DELHI(GNS):** A Delhi court last week summoned the directors of real estate developer M3M India Pvt. Ltd., accused of allegedly inducing a competing real estate firm into a fraudulent land deal in Gurugram valued at around ₹450 crore.

On January 31, chief judicial magistrate Harshita Mishra of Tis Hazari Courts took cognisance of a chargesheet filed by the Delhi Police's Economic Offences Wing (EOW) in March 2022, based on the complaint filed by MGF Developments Ltd., against M3M India and its directors, including Basant Bansal, Roop Bansal and Pankaj Bansal, among several subsidiaries and allied companies. The order read, "It prima facie appears that the accused induced the complainant company in entering into an agreement qua the exchange of land in Gurugram and fraudulently got the land mutated for a building project". The charges included section 120-B (criminal conspiracy), 420 (cheating), 406 (criminal breach of trust) and 34 (common intention).

In 2016, MGF agreed to transfer certain land parcels in Chauma, Gurugram to M3M group in exchange for another land and a payment of ₹114 crores through post-dated cheques, the FIR read.

The prosecution stated that it was agreed between both the parties that the transfer would be rendered null and void if the cheques were dishonoured.

# Six Noida Societies Fail STP Inspection Authority Writes to Impose Fines

**Noida(GNS):** Several societies in Noida Sector-150 have non-functional sewage treatment plants (STPs). An inspection by the Noida Water Department found that the STPs of six societies failed to meet the required standards. These societies are discharging untreated sewage water into drains. The sewage being discharged into the drains is accumulating in pits in the same sector.

The Noida Authority has sent letters to the Uttar Pradesh Pollution Control Board to impose fines on the concerned societies. Authority officials said that the societies were inspected by the Environment Cell on January 28.

Construction work is underway on plot number A-3 in plot number 1 of Sports City in Sector-150. Families have also started living in the flats. The authority's



inspection revealed that water is being pumped out of the society and discharged into the drain. The authority's water department has issued a notice to Logix Heights Private Limited regarding this. Due to its proximity to the Yamuna and Hindon rivers, the groundwater level here is at a depth of 25-30 feet. When builders excavate, water starts seeping out of the ground.

# CCTV Cameras to be Installed in Noida Sector 150 After Engineer's Death; Authority Takes Action

**Noida(GNS):** Following the death of 27-year-old software engineer Yuvraj Mehta in Noida, the Noida Authority has now swung into action. The authority has decided to install CCTV cameras on the internal roads of Sector 150. This step has been taken by the authority in response to the security demands of local residents after the engineer drowned in a waterlogged pit along with his car last month. According to an HT report, officials said on Tuesday that a joint survey by engineering and traffic teams will identify specific locations for the cameras to cover blind spots, main roads, and areas outside housing societies. According to a statement issued by the authority on Tuesday, the live feed from the CCTV cameras will be monitored at the Integrated Command and Control Center in Sector 94. Noida Authority General Manager SP Singh said, "Residents of Sector 150 have demanded the installation of CCTV cameras to ensure sur-



veillance in the area... The authority will conduct a survey to identify the appropriate locations where CCTV cameras are needed. Following this, an estimate will be prepared."

**Steps Being Taken to Address Security Concerns:** This move aims to address long-standing concerns in this rapidly developing sector, which has nearly a dozen housing societies

and is home to over 10,000 people, but suffers from issues such as uneven lighting, construction debris, and limited surveillance.

The step comes after widespread anger following the death of 27-year-old Yuvraj Mehta. Yuvraj died late on January 17 when his car skidded off the road and fell into a waterlogged pit dug for a commercial project.

# Three of the busiest roads to be revamped-providing relief from traffic congestion

**Gurugram(GNS):** Three of Gurugram's busiest and most congested major roads are set to be revamped. The Gurugram Metropolitan Development Authority (GMDA) has released a fund of approximately Rs 50 crore for this purpose. Under the new project, MG Road (from IFFCO Chowk to the beginning of Golf Course Road), Hamilton Court Road, and Vyapar Kendra Road will be transformed into model roads by March 31, 2026. Currently, Hamilton and Vyapar Kendra roads are one-way, which will be converted into two-way roads.

This decision was taken after a high-level review meeting chaired by GMDA



CEO PC Meena in January. The new roads will be designed to ensure disciplined traffic, pedestrian safety, and improved existing infrastructure.

The new model roads will feature new lane markings, zebra crossings with pedestrian signals, improved traffic light sys-

tems, fully operational service roads, removal of encroachments and illegal parking, digital information boards, reflectors, improved street lighting, and a public announcement system. E-challans will be issued through CCTV surveillance, eliminating the need for manual checking

by traffic police. There have been continuous complaints of illegal parking and encroachment by street vendors on these three roads. It is hoped that this problem will also be resolved after the construction of the new roads.

According to GMDA Executive Engineer Amit Godara, development work was already underway on these three stretches. Now, a budget of Rs 20 crore each has been finalized for Hamilton and Vyapar Kendra roads, and Rs 10 crore for MG Road. These roads experience very heavy traffic, so there is a need to transform them into smooth two-way roads equipped with all necessary facilities.

# Will a Delhi Police constable get a promotion? A committee formed after 18 years in a legal battle over a single mark

**New Delhi(GNS):** A Delhi Police constable has been fighting a legal battle against his department for 18 years to get one mark in an exam. He has demanded a mark for a question asked in the exam, claiming it was incorrect. The Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) has constituted a committee to determine whether the question asked in the 2007 exam was correct or incorrect. It has also stated that if the question is found to be incorrect, he should be given one mark so that he can receive a promotion from 2007.

According to the information, Gajendra Singh was recruited as a constable in the Delhi Police in 1989. In 2007, the department conducted an exam for promotion, in which he also participated. He was not considered successful in the exam. In 2008,

when he sought a reply through RTI, he was told that those who scored 125 marks had been promoted, while he had scored 124 marks. Gajendra told the department that some questions in the exam were outside the syllabus. In addition, the question asked regarding Section 164 of the CrPC was itself incorrect. Therefore, he should be given one additional mark. When the department did not heed his request, he approached the CAT. This is the question the constable claimed was incorrect.

Before the CAT, Gajendra's lawyer, Anil Singhal, stated that question number 53 in the exam asked where the accused is searched under Section 164 of the CrPC, whereas under this section, statements are recorded before a magistrate.

# 2.76 Lakh Ration Card Holders in Delhi Sent Notices via SMS, Only 200 Responded

**New Delhi(GNS):** BJP MLA Harish Khurana has completely refuted the allegations made by the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) regarding ration card verification in the national capital. He said that fake ration cards were issued without verification during the 'AAP' government's tenure, depriving the underprivileged and needy people of benefits.

Khurana stated that in the investigation conducted now, more than 2 lakh ration cards have been canceled and notices have been issued to 2.76 lakh people. Of these, only 200 people have responded. He said that he



will demand that the Chief Minister release a white paper on this matter. The MLA informed that from 2014 to 2024, a total of 9,22,766 applications for ration cards were received in Delhi, many of which were issued without proper verification. This truth has come to light during the verification process.

It is worth noting that last month, the Delhi government increased the annual income limit from Rs 1 lakh to Rs 1.20 lakh to increase the number of eligible families for ration cards. The statement said that the decision to increase the annual income limit was taken in a recent cabinet

meeting chaired by Chief Minister Rekha Gupta to make Delhi's food security system more equitable and focused on poor families.

Following this decision, families with an annual family income of up to Rs 1.20 lakh will be eligible for ration cards. The statement quoted the Chief Minister as saying that new food security rules will be implemented in Delhi with the resolve that no one goes hungry. The Chief Minister's office said in a statement that data verification revealed that a total of more than 8,27,756 vacancies were created due to all these reasons.