



PM's first decisions at Seva Teerth: Doubling of agri fund, cashless treatment for accident victims

New Delhi(GNS): Cashless treatment of up to Rs 1.5 lakh for accident victims, doubling of agriculture infrastructure fund and financially empowering women are among the four decisions Prime Minister Narendra Modi signed as his first files from the PMO's new office complex, Seva Teerth, on Friday.

After chairing the last cabinet meeting at South Block which he vacated on Friday morning, the PM at Seva Teerth signed the files, which the officials described as service-oriented.

PM Modi's first decisions from Seva Teerth reflect a spirit of

Seva and touch every section of society. He has signed files relating to important decisions for women, youth and vulnerable citizens. Significant new initiatives taken include PM RAHAT Scheme, doubling of target of Lakhpati Didis to 6 crore, Agriculture Infrastructure Fund doubled to Rs 2 lakh crore, Startup India Fund of Funds 2.0 with a corpus of Rs 10,000 crore," the PMO said.

In its very first set of decisions after shifting to Seva Teerth, the PM signed important files taking decisions that touch every section of society: farmers, women, youth, and vul-



nerable citizens.

The Prime Minister approved the launch of

the PM Rahat Scheme under which accident victims will get a cash-

less treatment of up to Rs 1.5 lakh, ensuring that no life is lost due

to lack of immediate medical help.

The second decision

was doubling of the target of Lakhpati Didis to 6 crore.

"The government has crossed the landmark of 3 crore Lakhpati Didis more than a year ahead of the March 2027 timeline. The PM has now set a new, ambitious target of 6 crore Lakhpati Didis by March 2029, doubling both scale and aspiration," the officials said.

A major boost to farmers through the doubling of Agriculture Infrastructure Fund to Rs 2 lakh crore is the third decision.

"In a move aimed at strengthening India's entire agriculture value chain, the PM has

approved doubling the outlay of the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund from Rs 1 lakh crore to Rs 2 lakh crore," the officials said.

The fourth file the PM signed is on Startup India Fund of Funds 2.0 with a corpus of 10,000 crore to boost the next wave of innovation.

"To power India's innovation ecosystem, especially in deep tech, early-stage ideas, advanced manufacturing and breakthrough technologies, the PM has approved the Startup India FoF 2.0 with a corpus of Rs 10,000 crore," said PMO sources.

Man faints, dies at TVK rally in Tamil Nadu's Salem



New Delhi(GNS): A 37-year-old man fainted at a TVK rally in Tamil Nadu's Salem on Friday, addressed by party chief Vijay, and died on the way to the hospital, police said.

The man, identified as Suraj, a native of Maharashtra and residing here, collapsed after complaining of chest pain, and was immediately rushed to a local hospital.

He was declared brought dead at the medical facility," a police official said. He also claimed that Suraj had undergone angioplasty sometime ago.

The police have registered a case and are investigating.

According to the police, the man had gone to see Vijay. He complained of uneasi-

ness while waiting at the rally venue and fainted. Those near him initially attempted to revive Suraj, but later rushed him in an ambulance to a private hospital. However, the doctors who examined him said he was brought dead.

Police claimed that the incident happened even before Vijay arrived for the district functionaries' meeting.

Preliminary enquiry brought dead at the medical facility," a police official said. He also claimed that Suraj had undergone angioplasty sometime ago.

This is the first casualty at the TVK rally since the tragic September 27, 2025, stampede in Karur that claimed 41 lives.

US is deploying second aircraft carrier to West Asia, amid Iran tensions

Washington DC(GNS): The United States is deploying a second aircraft carrier, the USS Gerald R Ford, and its escort ships from the Caribbean to West Asia, the New York Times reported on Friday. The development comes as US President Donald Trump weighs military action against Iran as talks continue between Washington and Tehran over the latter's nuclear programme. The US is increasing pressure on Iran to make a deal over its nuclear programme. The NYT report said that four US officials who spoke on the condition of anonymity have confirmed this development and stated that the vessels

are not expected to return to their home ports until late April or early May. The USS Ford strike group's new orders will have it join the USS Abraham Lincoln carrier strike group in the Persian Gulf.

The USS Lincoln aircraft carrier and three guided-missile destroyers arrived in West Asia more than two weeks ago. The ship's extraordinary deployment, which began June 24 when the Ford left port in Norfolk, Virginia, was originally meant to be a European cruise but was redirected to the Caribbean as part of Trump's pressure campaign on Venezuela, the New York Times reported.



The US news outlet reported that the USS Ford's warplanes participated in the January 3 attack on Caracas that captured President Nicolas Maduro. The strike group's current deployment has already been extended once, and its sailors were expecting to

come home in early March. Trump, after his meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Wednesday (local US time), said that Iran was struck by 'Midnight Hammer' previously when it failed to reach a deal and added that he hoped Tehran would act in a

more reasonable and responsible way this time.

On June 21-22, 2025, under "Operation Midnight Hammer," the United States conducted strikes against Iranian nuclear infrastructure, targeting three key sites in Fordow, Natanz, and Isfahan. Iran strongly condemned the operations, denouncing them as a blatant violation of international law and the UN Charter.

Recently Iranian official Ali Larijani, in an interview with Al Jazeera, emphasized that indirect negotiations with Washington are ongoing in Oman and that no specific proposal has yet been received from the United States.

PM Modi congratulates BNP's Tarique Rahman, says 'India will support democratic, inclusive Bangladesh'

New Delhi(GNS): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday warmly greeted Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) leader Tarique Rahman on his "decisive victory" in Bangladesh's parliamentary elections and said he looked forward to working with him to

advance common development goals.

"I convey my warm congratulations to Mr. Tarique Rahman on leading BNP to a decisive victory in the Parliamentary elections in Bangladesh," Modi said in a post on X. Modi said Rahman's



victory showed the trust of the people of Bangladesh in his leadership.

"India will continue to stand in support of a democratic, progressive and inclusive Bangladesh. I look forward to working with you to strengthen our multifaceted relations and

advance our common development goals," Modi said.

The BNP on Friday claimed victory in the general elections in Bangladesh to replace the interim administration, which took charge after the collapse of the Awami League regime in August 2024.

532 Naxals killed in Chhattisgarh since January 2024, says Dy CM; asserts Maoist menace to end by March 31

New Delhi(GNS): Chhattisgarh Deputy Chief Minister Vijay Sharma on Friday said 532 Naxalites have been killed, 2004 arrested and 2,700 have surrendered since January 2024 in the state, adding that the government was committed to ending the Maoist menace by March 31. Addressing a press conference to highlight achievements of the Home department, a portfolio he holds, Sharma also asserted that sustained security operations and rehabilitation efforts are yielding significant results in the fight against Naxalism.

"The government's resolve against Naxalism is clear. We are working with full force to ensure that Naxalism is completely eradicated from Chhattisgarh by March 31, 2026," he said.

Sharma said security forces

recovered around 1,100 weapons, including AK-47 rifles, INSAS rifles, self-loading rifles, light machine guns, mortars and pistols, since January 2024.

"Six Politburo and Central Committee members of the Maoist outfit have been killed, while two have surrendered, a total of 17 Special Zonal Committee members were killed, seven surrendered and one was arrested during this period," he said.

Sharma said he had long awaited the day when the number of surrenders would surpass arrests, calling the current trend "a matter of satisfaction."

"Seven rehabilitation centres are operational in the state. So far, around 1,700 former Naxalites, including 410 women, have completed training in various skill in these facilities, while



232 are currently undergoing training. All surrendered Naxalites are provided welcome kits including mobile phones to help them reconnect with society," he said.

Aadhaar, ration and

Ayushman cards are being prepared for them (surrendered ultras) and exposure visits to Raipur are being organised, Sharma added.

Appeals for surrender are being broadcast through radio

stations in Jagdalpur, Saraipali and neighbouring states, the deputy CM pointed out.

He added that the government aims to extend development to every village in Bastar, including access to schools, electricity, drinking water, hospitals and anganwadis, and ensure that the Constitution is implemented in every corner of the region.

On the Integrated Criminal Justice System (ICJS), Sharma said the Centre has developed a unified digital platform linking police, prosecution, forensic units, courts and prisons.

Chhattisgarh was among the first states to implement the system, which has been fully rolled out in Bilaspur and Durg districts and will be expanded across the state within six months, he said.

Sharma said 38 cases related to religious conversion were lodged between 2001 and 2023, while the figure rose to 67 in 2024 and 2025 combined.

The increase reflects the government's seriousness in addressing the issue to maintain social harmony and stability, he added.

The state's Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS), set up in 2016-17, registered its first FIR in 2025 in a case related to alleged links with terror outfits such as ISIS, he said, adding the squad is being strengthened.

On illegal immigration, Sharma said a Special Task Force (STF) has been formed in all districts and a toll-free number has been launched to lodge complaints in this regard, and holding centres have been notified for the first time.

Love Festival: The Interrelationship of Love and Duty

Rakesh Kumar Verma

The soul is contained within three mortal bodies: the first is the flesh, which can be felt by touch. The second is the nervous energy that animates the flesh, and the third is the body of the soul, which is invisible. The soul's body is bound by the debts of karma. Until this body is freed from the debts accumulated from past lives, the soul must wander in the mortal realm.

The god Yama is associated with death and rebirth. His noose binds our souls, while Kamadeva constantly stirs up lust with his flower arrows. Love and debt are intertwined in the narratives, which can be understood from the arguments presented by Mandhata, a descendant of Shri Ram (whose parents are the

same). It discusses a question posed by his father, Yuvanashcha, the emperor of Vallabhi. If one of two close friends is cursed to become a girl, they wish to live as husband and wife. But the soul of the young man who has become a girl asks who will perform their Shradha (sacred ritual). In such a situation, how should the young man who has become a girl behave—like a man to satisfy his ancestors or like a woman to satisfy his friend? Mandhata replied, "Like a man, because to behave like a woman is to surrender to desire." Desire is an obstacle to Dharma, changing over time and not being trusted. What remains unchanged is duty, which can be trusted. This is determined at birth. Because birth reveals our biological and hereditary qualities, inspired by this philosophy,

Jaratkaru and Agastya were married, whose children were called Putra and Putri, because their birth liberated their parents from the hell called Putra. In art, ancestors are usually depicted as male, because in the language of symbols, the male form represents the soul and the female form represents the body.

Love is a fickleness of emotions, which can sometimes be contradictory, while debt is connected to life and aspirations. As long as we satisfy hunger or worldly pleasures like consumption or ambition, we remain indebted to society and nature, which is balanced through yajna (charity).

In Greece, the god of love was seen as a playful child named Eros. As a skilled archer, he carried two types of arrows—one with

a gold tip and one with a lead tip. Gold-tipped arrows inspired affection, while lead-tipped arrows aroused hatred. This son of Venus, the goddess of beauty and fertility, had no regard for social norms, which worried Apollo, the god of organization and order, while Dionysus, the god of creative chaos, was delighted by this immorality.

A popular belief regarding the origins of Valentine's Day relates to Claudius the Cruel. According to this, Valentine was a priest serving in Rome during the third century. When Emperor Claudius II decided that unmarried men were better soldiers than married men, he banned marriage for his would-be soldiers. Valentine disobeyed Claudius and continued to secretly perform marriages for young lovers. For this crime,

Claudius ordered Valentine's execution on February 14th, around 270 AD. Today, Valentine's Day, like other festivals, is corporately driven. Gift manufacturers worldwide popularized it to capitalize on the commercial opportunities it presents. Otherwise, in romantic relationships, every day is a celebration. The love and affection of human emotions are not pre-planned special days. But today, the market is making a fortune in the name of the days of mothers, fathers, friends, teachers, sisters, wives, and girlfriends.

In India, the god of love is known as the archer of sugarcane and flowers. He is also called Manmatha, the churner of minds, who, riding a parrot and waving a fish flag, enters life by strung a bow of sugarcane with a flower on a string of bees.

Editorial

No confidence' in the Speaker

The incomplete opposition has submitted a notice of no-confidence motion against Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla and his removal from office. The motion has the signatures of 119 MPs. Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi and SP leader Akhilesh Yadav, along with 28 Trinamool Congress MPs and three Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) MPs, have not signed, thus rendering the opposition divided and incomplete. Clearly, this is a Congress motion, supported by the Left parties. However, in West Bengal, the Congress has announced its intention to break its alliance with the Left Front and contest the elections alone. In Kerala, these two parties are bitter rivals, but they remain closely aligned in central politics. A significant question and suspicion arises as to why the Leader of the Opposition did not sign the no-confidence motion, given that the Speaker himself is the basis for the no-confidence motion against the Speaker. There are allegations that the Speaker did not allow him to speak in the House. The suspension of eight Congress and opposition MPs should be revoked. The Congress is also upset with the Speaker's behavior regarding the objectionable remarks he made regarding the women Congress MPs who surrounded Prime Minister Modi's seat. It's amazing that the Prime Minister's seat is surrounded in the House, the Speaker expresses fears of an unexpected and unpleasant incident, and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijju releases a video of the siege, yet not even an FIR has been filed! Isn't the Prime Minister's security a serious and sensitive issue and concern? However, before mentioning the no-confidence motions during the Modi era, it is crucial to inform the country that a no-confidence motion notice was also given against the first Speaker of the Lok Sabha, Ganesh Vasudev Mavalankar, on December 15, 1954. He is considered the "Father of the Lok Sabha" and was addressed as "Dada Saheb."

The series of no-confidence motions began here, and on November 24, 1966, Madhu Limaye submitted a notice against the then Speaker, Sardar Hukum Singh.



A nation can also have multiple states within it. For example, within the Hindu nation itself, there are numerous states like India, Nepal, Bhutan, Thailand, Sri Lanka, Laos, Vietnam, Mongolia, and Tibet. Therefore, it could also be broadly called the Jambudweep nation. But can a person with a different nationality live in one state?



Remembering Deendayal Upadhyay

Kuldeep Chand Agnihotri

Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya's death anniversary was celebrated across the country on February 11th. Tributes were paid to him at various places, and a pledge was taken to follow the path he showed. Upadhyaya was the president of the Bharatiya Jana Sangh. Today's Bharatiya Janata Party is considered an incarnation of the Jana Sangh. But is the reason for remembering him only because he served as the president of the party that is in power in the country today? Should he be remembered, or is he remembered, only because he belonged to the Jana Sangh/BJP? I believe this is not the case. It is commonly said that he belonged to the Jana Sangh as long as he was alive. But after leaving this mortal body, he became part of India's eternal tradition, which envisions and seeks the path to human happiness. He was searching for the foundations of national life that would make India not just a land but Mother India. He belonged to a tradition of political thinkers, philosophers, and sages. Deendayal Upadhyaya laid the philosophical foundation for the Bharatiya Jana Sangh. But was that foundation solely for the Jan Sangh? His foundation extended to all political parties. This foundation was rooted in the eternal Indian tradition. He desired that, having been liberated from a thousand years of foreign rule, we should make our principles, those that are in keeping with our nature and temperament, the foundation of our policies. Recently, Mohan Bhagwat,

Sarsanghchalak of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, stated that our thinking and our spiritual practice are for everyone. Anyone can benefit from it. But most Indian parties based their administration and education on foreign experiments, which were failing even in the countries where they were born. Upadhyaya rejected the Western concept of the nation. Western thinkers emphasized the concept of the nation-state and implemented it in Europe. Because of this, Europe remained a battlefield for a long time. Even today, in some form or another, manifestations of that war continue to be seen in Europe. But Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya connected the concept of the nation to a living concept. He argued that a human being possesses a soul, and this soul animates the inert body. If that soul leaves the body, the person dies. The body can be preserved scientifically, but that inert or dead body cannot be revived. At best, it can become a museum asset. Upadhyaya used to say that similarly, a nation possesses a soul. Upadhyaya called it consciousness. This consciousness is called national consciousness. The body is tangible, but the soul is formless. But when the soul leaves the body, it becomes a part of God or the Supreme Consciousness. The state is tangible, but the nation is formless. The nation resides within the human heart. A state needs land for its existence. This is its necessary condition, but a nation does not need land for its existence. It maintains its existence even without land. The State of

Israel ended centuries ago. Its citizens were scattered across many countries around the world. But the Israeli national spirit or national consciousness remained intact. This is why, centuries later, this national spirit made the State of Israel a reality. It is not mandatory for a nation to have only one state. A nation can have multiple states within it. For example, within the Hindu nation, there are many states like India, Nepal, Bhutan, Thailand, Sri Lanka, Laos, Vietnam, Mongolia, and Tibet. Therefore, in a broader sense, it can also be called the Jambudweep nation.

But can a person with nationalistic feelings live in one state? This is a very important question. The only condition is that if the person follows the constitution and rules of that state properly, he can certainly live there. He can even obtain citizenship of that state. However, if he does not follow the constitution and rules of that state, his citizenship can be revoked. But no one can be deprived of his nationality. In another state, one has to apply for citizenship. But nationality is not obtained by applying; it sprouts naturally from within. Therefore, the difference between citizen and national must be deeply understood. A person from India whose ancestors have lived here since time immemorial is naturally both a citizen and a national. But if he goes and settles in America, he can become a citizen there according to the laws and regulations there. But that national (I cannot think of a proper Hindi word for the word national) will remain of

India. Because, as I have said, nationality is formless. It can neither be taken away nor given away. This is why Indians who went to Suriname, Guyana, Fiji, and Trinidad hundreds of years ago became citizens there. They became MPs, ministers, and even Prime Ministers, but they remained bound to India's national spirit and remain so to this day. In fact, national spirit is every person's religion. This religion has to be protected. If a nation or people with a national spirit protect this religion, then the religion also protects that nation. Sometimes, even self-sacrifice is required to protect it. Then, many ancient nations collapsed and disappeared, now preserved only in museums. Even Pandit Mohammad Iqbal used to cite the examples of Greece, Egypt, and Rome. But India's national spirit survived and remains intact to this day. How did this happen? India's national spirit has been under foreign attack for thousands of years. The reason is clear. Guru Teg Bahadur even sacrificed his life to protect the national religion. Therefore, religion protected his nation. In the countries mentioned by Pandit Iqbal, when the national religion faced a crisis, the people there did not defend it. Sacrifice is a far cry. Their kings abandoned their national religion to protect their power and preserved it in museums. But there is another important question related to national consciousness. Does national religion or nationalism make a person narrow-minded or expand their mind? The answer lies in India's eternal wisdom tradition.

The deception of deepfakes and the need for strict digital regulations

Lalit Garg

As the speed of information has accelerated in the digital age, so has the potential for confusion, deception, and disinformation. Artificial intelligence and deepfake technology have further complicated this challenge. Now, lies can be presented as truth not just through words, but also through faces, voices, and gestures. This is why the central government has decided to tighten IT rules to regulate deepfakes and AI-generated content. Under the new provisions, which will come into effect on February 20th, clear labeling will be mandatory on AI-generated content, and any illegal or misleading content must be removed or blocked within three hours. Previously, this timeframe was 36 hours. This change is not

merely a technical amendment, but a serious intervention towards digital ethics and democratic accountability. Over the past few years, the misuse of deepfake technology has been horrifyingly evident. Fake videos of political leaders, obscenely altered images of actresses, audio clips designed to incite communal tension, and artificial messages designed for financial fraud—all of these prove that technology is not neutral; it can be used and misused. When truth is being suppressed and lies are presented with a veneer of authenticity using sophisticated technology, it is natural for an atmosphere of distrust to develop in society. In such a situation, government initiatives to regulate it seem necessary, as this is not merely a matter of expression, but also of social harmony, national security,

and the dignity of citizens. The new rules clearly increase the responsibility of social media platforms. They will now have to ensure that users are informed whether the content being shared is AI-generated or not. This will establish a minimum standard of transparency. Furthermore, the three-hour deadline indicates that the government understands the seriousness of digital crimes. Denials often become ineffective once deepfake videos go viral, so swift action can limit the damage. However, verifying the authenticity of content within such a short timeframe is a highly technical and administratively complex task. This will require significantly strengthening the monitoring mechanisms on platforms, which will be challenging both cost-wise and operationally. The question of

who will define "objectionable" or "misleading" content, and on what basis, is also crucial. Freedom of expression is a fundamental right in a democracy. If the regulatory process is not transparent and fair, it will raise concerns about its misuse. In the past, whenever attempts were made to control social media, some quarters presented it as government overreach. Therefore, striking a balance between regulation and freedom is crucial. The government must ensure that regulations are not used to suppress dissent, but rather to explicitly prevent propaganda and crime. Independent monitoring mechanisms, judicial review, and a transparent grievance redressal system can be essential components in this direction. The global landscape also points to this crisis. Countries like

Australia and France have taken steps such as setting a minimum age for children to use social media. In the US, landmark lawsuits are underway to investigate the mental health impacts of Instagram and YouTube. Major tech companies there have been accused of developing addictive infrastructure for young people. Experts believe that many young people experience not only psychological but also physical discomfort when they are separated from their phones. This situation is not limited to developed countries; the uncontrolled expansion of social media is also causing social and mental crises in developing countries, including India. The AI industry itself is facing an ethical dilemma. In a highly competitive market, companies are racing for technological superiority.

BJP's Nishikant Dubey calls for stripping Rahul Gandhi of LS membership, writes to Speaker

New Delhi, (GNS): BJP MP Nishikant Dubey called Thursday for stripping Rahul Gandhi of his Lok Sabha membership and urged Speaker Om Birla to form a parliamentary inquiry committee to act against him for his alleged attempts to "destabilise the country", marking a major escalation of aggression from the governing alliance against the leader of the opposition.

Dubey has sought a "substantive motion" against Gandhi, linking his frequent visits to his alleged connections with "foreign forces working against India" and his reference to Gen Naravane's unpublished memoir.

BJP MP Nishikant Dubey raised the issue in Lok Sabha as well, igniting massive protests from the opposition benches, and sought action against Rahul Gandhi under Rules 352(5) and



353. "He (Rahul) behaves like an urban Naxal. He targets constitutional institutions like Election Commission, Supreme Court, LS Speaker Om Birla," Dubey alleged, adding, he should be expelled and barred from fighting elections.

While 352(5) covers the "conduct of persons in high authority", understood to be those holding constitutional positions enjoying a certain autonomy and no direct accountability to the govt, 353 refers to ministers and MPs. The few cases of "substantive motions" being invoked to punish parliamentarians include

the expulsion of 11 MPs in 2005 in the "cash-for-query scam". Matters like motion of thanks on the President's address also fall under the motion.

It is now for the Speaker to decide whether to admit Dubey's notice, and if he does, then he is likely to order an inquiry before the House finalises its action, which may include expulsion. The offensive against Gandhi came a day after he accused govt of "compromising" India's interests in the trade agreement with the US. Dubey alleged that Gandhi does not ask govt to extend his security cover to the visiting countries and his tours are invariably shrouded in mystery, linking this to his association with Ford Foundation and George Soros' foundation, two global institutions accused by BJP of funding campaigns against it.

Several schools in Delhi get bomb threat emails; security on high alert



New Delhi, (GNS): Several schools in Delhi received bomb threats on Friday, prompting swift action by the Delhi Police.

Teams were dispatched to the affected locations to carry out security checks. The first call was received at 9:13 a.m. at BD Tamil Education School in Jhandewalan.

Authorities are investigating the matter. Police have urged students, staff, and parents to remain calm while security procedures are carried out.

German ex-Chancellor Merkel to deliver inaugural Manmohan Singh Memorial Lecture



New Delhi, (GNS): Former German Chancellor Angela Merkel will deliver the inaugural Manmohan Singh Memorial Lecture in New Delhi on February 26. The lecture will be titled "Germany and India in Times of Global Change."

The delivery of the lecture will be followed by a conversation between Merkel and Ambassador Shivshankar Menon who served as the National Security Adviser under late PM Singh. The programme details were confirmed on Thursday by The Manmohan Singh Trust and family sources. Former German Chancellor Angela Merkel will deliver the inaugural Manmohan Singh Memorial Lecture in New Delhi

The Tribune was the first to break the news that the late Prime Minister's family had invited Merkel for the first lecture in his memory. The invitation was sent last year and a formal acceptance was awaited.

A lot of thought went into the decision behind finalising the dignitary to deliver the inaugural memorial lecture. Former German Chancellor Merkel was found to be the most suitable. A request was sent to assess her convenience and availability. The memorial event has now been finalised," sources familiar with the development told The Tribune today.

Merkel served as Chancellor of Germany from 2005 to 2021. She was the first woman to hold that office and the second longest-serving Chancellor in German history. In 2022, she accepted the UNHCR Nansen Refugee Award saying the prize was in honour of the countless people who lent a hand when large numbers of refugees arrived in Europe in 2015 and 2016.

Tamil Nadu: CM Stalin's major poll outreach for women; Rs 5,000 credited to 1.3 crore accounts

New Delhi, (GNS): Tamil Nadu government on Friday credited Rs 3,000 in advance to 1.31 crore women beneficiaries, along with an additional Rs 2,000 as a "summer special package" under the Kalaingar Women's Rights Scheme ahead of the assembly elections. In a social media post on X, Tamil Nadu chief minister MK Stalin Rs 3,000 amount was given as an advance payment for the months of February, March and April. He also alleged that "some" were trying to block the Women's Rights Grant for three months, citing the upcoming elections, but said his government acted ahead of time to ensure beneficiaries did not face any disruption.

"For the women of Tamil Nadu, this Women's Rights Grant is the promise given by Stalin. No matter who tries to

create obstacles, I will not step back from it. Citing the elections as a reason, they are trying to block the Women's Rights Grant for three months," Stalin said. "But our #DravidianModel government has acted ahead of them! As an advance for the months of February, March, and April - ₹3,000, along with a summer special package of ₹2,000! A total of ₹5,000 has been credited this morning to all 1.31 crore beneficiaries of the Kalaingar Women's Rights Scheme," he added. He added that under "Dravidian Model 2.0," the current ₹1,000 monthly assistance would be doubled to ₹2,000 if voted back to power, calling it a promise to Tamil Nadu women.

"With the support of #WinningTamilWomen, we will continue to win! Under

#DravidianModel 2.0, we will increase the ₹1,000 Women's Rights Grant to ₹2,000! This is the promise that Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin makes to my sisters! #WeWillWinTogether," the post further read.

Meanwhile, All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam unveiled a set of five election promises, including raising social security pensions from Rs 1,200 to Rs 2,000 for senior citizens, elderly widows, unmarried elderly women, women abandoned by their husbands, persons with disabilities, and transgender persons. In the midst of the electoral buildup, the Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) is set to hold a tightly controlled election meeting on Friday at Seelanayakkanpatti in Salem. Party chief Vijay is expected to address 4,998 participants at

the KVP Garden venue.

The meeting will be strictly limited to those holding entry passes with QR codes, with heavy police deployment, vehicle checks, and traffic diversions in place to ensure safety. Authorities emphasised that those without passes should watch the programme through live broadcast channels. Heightened security measures come in the wake of a September stampede at a previous TVK gathering that claimed 41 lives, prompting authorities to ensure strict crowd management during high-profile political events. The 234-member Tamil Nadu assembly will go to the polls in the first half of the year. The DMK won 133 seats in the 2021 Assembly polls. Congress won 18, PMK won 5, VCK won 4, and others won 8.

MCD marks extra Rs 50cr to raise pay of 4,000 DBCs to Rs 28,000

New Delhi, (GNS): Addressing a long-pending demand of around 4,000 domestic breeding checkers (DBC), Municipal Corporation of Delhi's deliberative wing on Thursday announced an additional annual budget allocation of Rs 50 crore to ensure pay parity for them.

Most DBCs currently receive a monthly minimum wage of Rs 20,496, except for 272 workers who draw Rs 27,900 following a resolution passed by the erstwhile north corporation. The monthly salary of all DBCs will be Rs 28,000, bringing them at par with other contractual employees with similar experience under the principle of equal pay for equal work. The salary revision is likely to be reflected in MCD's final budget for 2026-27.

Mayor Raja Iqbal Singh later said BJP fulfilled its promise. "We delivered on our commitment to multi-tasking staff (MTS). During the budget session, leader of the house Pravesh Wahi will formally announce and seal the decision."

MCD has been employing DBCs since 2010. They had held several protests over pay disparities and the non-creation of official posts that had denied them the benefits extended to regular staff. Under



AAP govt, they were designated as MTS in 2024, but the issue of pay regularisation remained unresolved.

The matter was raised in a house meeting last Oct. According to MCD sources, the move could trigger similar demands from other MTS employees, resulting in an additional annual financial burden of around Rs 400 crore. Devanand Sharma of Anti-Malaria Ekta Karmachari Union

welcomed the move.

In its finalised budget, MCD is also considering relief measures for villages in Delhi, including exemptions or concessions in property tax payments for houses up to 500 square metres. A one-time financial assistance of Rs 21,000 each to 11 widows from each of the 250 wards. A creche facility for employees' children is also proposed at Civic Centre.

SAI comes up with strict stadium SOPs amid concert rush New Delhi

New Delhi, (GNS): The anger that followed Diljit Dosanjh's concert in Oct 2024 at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium (JLN) was visceral. Athletes spoke of damaged equipment, compromised training spaces and a growing fear that sport was being treated as collateral damage in the rush to monetise iconic venues.

As India's concert economy expands and large-scale live events become a regular feature at major venues, the Sports Authority of India (SAI) has moved to ensure that sport doesn't lose primacy. The concerts scheduled at the JLN stadium this

Feb are unfolding under a recalibrated regime. Non-sporting events are permitted only after it is established that international competitions, national events and training programmes remain unaffected.

The Field of Play (FoP), including the newly-laid MONDO track, is classified as a zero-load, restricted-access zone. Comprehensive armoured is installed to prevent surface stress; sensitive areas are barricaded, and any layout that risks damage to tracks or turf is rejected at the planning stage.

A scientific system has been put in place ahead of the two major concerts this month on 14th and 28th.

Cures, cult, and killings: Delhi triple murder unmasks double life of 'occultist'

New Delhi, (GNS): Opposite the Vijay Nagar home of 72-year-old Kamruddin, the alleged occultist accused of poisoning and killing three people in Delhi, lies a vacant plot where, neighbours say, he would often throw ritual offerings late at night - fruits, ashes, eggs, lemons, remnants of ceremonies - acts that left many uneasy long before his arrest.

"He would buy fruits in bulk, perform his rituals, and then discard everything in that plot. We told our children not to go near it," a neighbour recalled.

Yet in the same lane, the man, accused not only in the recent triple murder in Delhi but also in a double murder case in UP's Firozabad and one in Rajasthan in 2014, was revered as a healer to whom people turned for relief from kidney stones, chronic ailments and unexplained illnesses. Residents said for nearly a decade, cars would line the narrow approach road at all hours of the day and



night, each carrying people seeking remedies he claimed to offer. Elderly residents recalled a time when Kamruddin owned just a single, modest room on a small plot. Over roughly nine years, however, he steadily

expanded his holdings, acquiring at least eight properties in the same lane. His home also housed Aarif Kirana Store, and the family ran multiple food businesses nearby: Bismillah Hotel on the ground floor of the building, Ali Food Corner right across, managed by his grandson, and another outlet, Ali Fast Food Point, in a neighbouring plot. Locals said the family also accumulated plots and a marriage hall in Firozabad. A father of seven, Kamruddin lived with his wife in a room on the first floor of their Loni home. The ground

level housed a small dargah-like shrine, where residents claim he conducted most of his rituals. People arrived without fixed appointments, neighbours said, often late into the night. When Media visited the lane, a small plastic box containing peeled orange segments and other remnants lay in the vacant plot, which neighbours claimed was once routinely littered with similar ritual leftovers. Some said their discomfort deepened after witnessing objects they associated with occult practices inside the house as well.

WESTERN RAILWAY STORES DEPARTMENT						
E-AUCTION SALE DURING MARCH 2026 FOR P-WAY & OTHER VARIOUS SCRAP						
SPECIAL ATTENTION: ALL STEEL PURCHASERS & RE-ROLLERS						
Public e-auction for disposal of P way scrap, rail scrap & other various scrap material will be held in MARCH 2026 as per program given below:						
First Round	Second Round	Third Round	Depot/Division	Officer in charge	Contact No.	
02/03/2026	10/03/2026	23/03/2026	Ratlam	Sr. Divisional Materials Manager - Ratlam	07412230080 09752492750	
05/03/2026	12/03/2026	20/03/2026	Vadodara	Sr. Divisional Materials Manager - Vadodara	02652641592 09724091750	
06/03/2026	17/03/2026	27/03/2026	Sabarmati	Sr. Divisional Materials Manager - Sabarmati	02812476943 09724094770	
09/03/2026	16/03/2026	24/03/2026	Mumbai Central	Sr. Divisional Materials Manager - Mumbai Central	022-23094142 09004499006	
09/03/2026	20/03/2026	30/03/2026	Pratapnagar	Deputy Chief Materials Manager - Pratapnagar	02652668688 09724093750	
10/03/2026	17/03/2026	24/03/2026	Ahmedabad	Sr. Divisional Materials Manager - Ahmedabad	07922205888 09724093750	
10/03/2026	17/03/2026	25/03/2026	Rajkot	Sr. Divisional Materials Manager - Rajkot	02812476943 09724094770	
11/03/2026	19/03/2026	30/03/2026	Dahod	Deputy Chief Materials Manager - Dahod	02673241295 09724090455	
11/03/2026	18/03/2026	27/03/2026	Mahalaxmi	Deputy Chief Materials Manager - Mahalaxmi	022-24929571 09004495750	
17/03/2026	29/03/2026	27/03/2026	Pardi	Deputy Chief Materials Manager - Mahalaxmi	022-24929571 09004495750	
12/03/2026	19/03/2026	27/03/2026	Bhavnagar	Sr. Divisional Materials Manager - Bhavnagar	02782444360 09724097750	

MEGA AUCTION ON 31ST MARCH FOR ALL DEPOTS AND DIVISIONS: For detailed information please contact the concerned Depot/Divisional Officers. Note: 1. Railway reserves the right to withdraw any lot from e-Auction. 2. e-Auction will start at as per scheduled time. 3. e-Auction catalogues will be available on site www.reps.gov.in e-Auction portal. 4. In case of any assistance required regarding e-Auction, digital signatures, Registration procedure and participation, please contact above mentioned Depot/Divisional Officer. 5. All payment transactions shall be done through the online payment gateway (No.S/III/Auction Programme-1/MARCH 2026, Dated 05.02.2026)

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Delhi CM approves projects worth Rs 85-cr for SC/ST settlements

New Delhi, (GNS): Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Thursday announced a major boost to infrastructure development in SC/ST settlements, approving 146 projects worth nearly Rs 85 crore under the SC/ST Improvement Scheme.

The CM inaugurated the completed works and laid foundation stone for several new projects at Malkaganj Chowk, Timarpur.

Addressing a gathering, CM Gupta said the initiative reflects the government's commitment to inclusive development, guided by the Prime Minister's vision of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Prayas.

Emphasising a shift in governance priorities, she said, "Money once wasted on 'Sheesh Mahals' will now be spent directly on public welfare." She added that Delhi's real strength lies not only in its skyline, but in neighbour-



hoods where ordinary families live and work. The CM assured the gathering of taking development to every lane and colony

without discrimination. The event was attended by Cabinet Minister Ravindra Indraj Singh, Timarpur MLA Surya

Prakash Khatri, Model Town MLA Ashok Goel and other dignitaries. The Chief Minister said nine projects completed at a cost of Rs 4.12 crore were inaugurated on the occasion, while foundation stones were laid for 64 new projects worth Rs 38.63 crore. These works include renovation of chaupals, construction and strengthening of roads, park development, laying of sewers and improvement of drinking water facilities. Reviewing her government's 357-day tenure, CM Gupta said long-pending and stalled projects are now being taken up on priority, with strict monitoring to ensure timely completion. She highlighted ongoing expansion of health centres, schools, Atal canteens, flyovers and hospitals across the city and said special attention was being given to neglected areas such as Malkaganj and Timarpur.

Kejriwal withdraws plea against summons



New Delhi, (GNS): Delhi High Court on Thursday allowed ex-CM Arvind Kejriwal to withdraw his petition challenging the summons issued to him by Enforcement Directorate (ED) in connection with its probe into an excise policy-linked alleged money laundering case.

A senior counsel, appearing for the AAP national convener, said he did not wish to pursue the matter any further as he had been acquitted in the case filed against him for failing to appear before the agency. In response, ED said it will challenge the

acquittal order and press for Kejriwal's prosecution in cases relating to alleged non-compliance with its summons.

On Jan 22, a trial court had acquitted the AAP supremo in two separate cases lodged against him for not appearing before ED in pursuance of the summonses asking him to join the probe. Observing that the accused was a serving CM and "he too enjoyed his fundamental right of movement", the trial court held "the legal challenge to due service of summons is maintainable" and the agency failed to prove that he had intentionally disobeyed the summonses.

Currently, Kejriwal is on interim bail in the alleged laundering case, with Supreme Court referring questions on the aspect of the "need and necessity of arrest" under Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) to a larger bench for in-depth consideration.

HC asks Centre to take a call on GST exemption for adult diapers

New Delhi, (GNS): Delhi High Court on Thursday asked the Centre to consider and decide within six months a plea seeking GST exemption for adult diapers. A bench of Justices Nitin W Sambre and Ajay Diggpaal passed the order on a petition challenging the "arbitrary and discriminatory" levy of 5% GST on adult/clinical diapers.

A senior counsel for the petitioners argued that an adult diaper is not a luxury item but is used by a highly vulnerable population. "There is no real intelligible differentia between the use of a sanitary pad and an adult diaper. It is something you can't live without if you require it. It is a hygiene product you have to have access to. Your life is without dignity without it," the counsel said. The petitioners - persons with disabilities - sent a representation to the authorities on Sept 3, 2025, which remains undecided.

In their plea, Swarnalatha J and T S Guruprasad said sanitary napkins had rightly been exempted from the



levy of GST in 2018, and similar relief should also be extended for adult diapers, as the rationale behind such exemption is to ensure affordability and avoid discouraging their use.

"As such, non-exemption of adult/clinical diapers from the GST is manifestly arbitrary, discriminatory and violative of the petitioners rights under Articles 14, 19 and 21 of the Constitution, as well as under the provisions of Rights of Persons with Disability Act," the petition said. The counsel for the authorities said the levy of GST was a policy decision that could not be taken "unilaterally".

DDA's notice to re-acquire 123 disputed land plots in S Delhi

New Delhi, (GNS): The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has issued a public notice announcing that it will re-acquire 123 land parcels across several south Delhi villages, acting on recent Supreme Court directions in multiple land acquisition cases. The step, officials said, is intended to prevent buyers from being misled into purchasing plots currently under legal dispute.

The notice, issued by DDA's land management department, stated that the re-acquisition process is being undertaken in matters falling under Section 24(2) of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013.

"The Supreme Court delivered judgments in several batches of cases concerning land acquisition, particularly on the applicability of Section 24(2) of the 2013 Act in DDA-related matters and other cases decided after May 17, 2024," the notice said. "Following these rulings, the competent authority reviewed the cases and recommended re-acquisition of 123 parcels, while deciding not to proceed in 25 cases," it said.



DDA has uploaded details of the cases on its official website for public access. The affected villages include Palam, Lado Sarai, Jasola, Neb Sarai, Maidan Garhi, Chattarpur, Satbari, Mehrauli, Tughlakabad, Kilokri, Najafgarh, Tikri

Kalan, Prahladpur Bangar, Samaypur, Mahipalpur, Pitampura, Naraina, Karala and Begumpur, among others.

According to officials, the parcels were originally acquired by DDA in 1980 for planned development across 13 villages. Compensation had been paid at the time, but several landowners challenged the acquisition, leading to prolonged litigation. The Supreme Court later ruled that DDA may re-acquire the land if required for public purpose.

In compliance with the court's directions, DDA will now initiate re-acquisition of the 123 parcels. Officials said these land parcels are needed for ongoing and future development projects. "For public convenience, we have uploaded village-wise details, including khasra numbers and case disposal dates," a DDA official said. The authority has also cautioned citizens against engaging in any land transactions involving these sites. "These parcels belong to DDA and are under re-acquisition proceedings. People are advised not to enter into any sale or purchase deals," the official added.

A household name in 1980s, former DD newsreader Sarla Maheshwari no more

New Delhi, (GNS): Sarla Maheshwari, whose clear diction and dignified demeanour made her one of the popular Doordarshan (DD) newsreaders in the 1980s, passed away on Thursday. She was 74.

"She had been ailing for the past two years. A diabetic, she was also on dialysis," her nephew, Neelansh Jariwala, told Media on phone. Sarla also taught Hindi in the city's Hansraj College and worked for BBC television.

In the 1980s, the state-run broadcaster was India's lone television channel enjoying a captive audience. Prime time news readers such as JV Raman, Shammi Narang, Neethi Ravindran, Salma Sultan, Rini Simon, Komal GB Singh, among others, were household names. Now when TV news is a synonym for



noise and when stridency and hectoring are mistaken for anchoring, many old-timers fondly recall those gentler and genteel times.

Sarla belonged to the same select group of news readers. "Her command and grasp over the Hindi language reflected in the way she read news. Sarla epitomized simplicity and ele-

gance reflecting a graceful Indianness. If today, people remember DD positively and with nostalgia, her personality was significant in shaping that image," says Narang.

Sarla joined DD in 1976. She was Sarla Jariwala then. Her surname derives from the family business of jaris (embroidery of gold and silver

threads) in Chandni Chowk where she was born. Working for her PhD on a comparative study of Hindi and Gujarati Literature at Delhi University, she applied for a job in DD. "I was one of the three selected - Ashwini Kaur (Sareen) and Anjali Rai - being the other two," she once recalled in an interview. In the 1980s, all three became popular newsreaders. In Sept 1984, she married Pawan Maheshwari, a gastroenterologist, then working in England. They first met at a friend's place. He also treated her for an ailment. "Marry me and you'll be okay, I joked," said Pawan at a TV show sometime back. They did. When the two went back to England, Sarla worked for the BBC. On coming back to India in 1988, she rejoined DD.

Trips to and from Dehradun a regular for family, but this one ends in tragedy

New Delhi, (GNS): On Thursday, outside the mortuary at Lal Bahadur Shastri hospital, relatives of Neelam Garg and her daughter Deepanjali waited in silence, some seated on the pavement. Others pacing restlessly, trying to come to terms with the loss.

The family, originally from Haryana's Sarola village, has been settled in Delhi for decades, building both their business and their life. Neelam, a 55-year-old homemaker, lived in Rohini's Sector 7 with her husband Rajender, a rice trader based in Naya Bazar, their son Deepanshu, 28, and his wife Sonali. Deepanshu worked alongside his father, helping manage the family's business.

Deepanjali, fondly called Deepti by friends and family, had settled in Dehradun after she married Anshul,

a property businessman, about six years ago. A homemaker, she is survived by two sons, Vivan and Vashu, aged five and three. Relatives Media spoke to recalled how she remained deeply connected to her parental home and visited frequently with her children.

"Deepanshu got married only last year, and the family was looking forward to the couple spending their first Holi together with Deepti and her sons," said Surendra Kumar Mittal, Neelam's brother, struggling to hold back tears.



A Year On, Some Lessons Learnt From NDLS Tragedy, But Cannot Bring Back Loved Ones

New Delhi, (GNS): A year after the New Delhi Railway Station crowd crush claimed the lives of 18 people, the families of the victims remain trapped in a cycle of grief and hardship. For many, the tragedy dismantled their futures: a carpenter is abandoning the city to move to Bihar, children have been forced into premature adulthood, balancing household chores with school, while others have lost their sole breadwinner.

Education has been a major casualty, with aspiring medical and engineering students seeing their preparations derailed by trauma and financial loss. While some families used compensation to fulfil the final wishes of the deceased, others struggled to afford basic tuition. From grand-



mothers stepping in as primary caregivers to widows pleading for employment, the survivors are no longer just mourning -

they are fighting a quiet battle for survival.

The family of Pinki Devi, 41, one of the victims, has been

unable to recover from the tragedy. Her relative Sarita Devi, who was injured in the crowd crush, said she still experiences shoulder pain, which worsens during the winter. Pinki's young daughter Kritika, she said, has suffered deeply. After attending school, she returns home to manage household chores. "She has grown up too fast," Sarita said.

The family lives in Sangam Vihar in south Delhi. Their most cherished memory is a final social media reel made together while travelling to New Delhi Railway Station. In the video, Pinki appears happy and excited, eagerly looking forward to her journey to the Mahakumbh. Now, Pinki's husband Upender, who works as a carpenter, plans

to leave the city and move with his children, Kritika and her brother Prince, to their native place in Bihar.

Manoj Shah, a labourer who works at the Tikri border, is still struggling to come to terms with the loss he suffered. His parents, Vijay and Krishna Shah, aged 45 and 40, as well as his 11-year-old niece Suruchi were killed in the tragic incident. His parents, recalled Manoj, had one wish - to see their daughter Kajal get married in a grand and joyful ceremony.

"After their death, whatever compensation we received, we decided to use it to fulfil that wish. Last Nov, we organised my sister's wedding in Bihar using that money. This was the only thing we felt we could do for

them," he said.

Mamta Jha, a 40-year-old homemaker, was returning to Delhi from her native place in Madhubani, Bihar, when the incident crushed the family. Her husband Bipin, who lives in Kirari, said, "My relatives had asked her to stay back for a few more days, but she returned for the sake of the children and me. Our entire family is still living in deep depression." The tragedy has severely affected the children's education. Jha's elder daughter was preparing for medical entrance examinations, but her studies were disrupted for nearly five-six months. Similar was the case with their other daughter too. The girls' younger brother, meanwhile, constantly asks for his mother.