



PM Modi makes historic landing aboard C-130J aircraft in Assam's Dibrugarh

New Delhi,(GNS): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday made a historic landing at the first Emergency Landing Facility (ELF) of the northeast aboard the C-130J aircraft in Assam's Dibrugarh district.

Modi took off from the Chabua airfield after his arrival, and landed at the ELF in Moran on a stretch of National Highway-37.

The Rs 100-crore ELF, a 4.2-km reinforced stretch on the Moran Bypass, which

was inaugurated by the PM, will act as a strategic and multi-functional runway for IAF fighter jets and transport aircraft, strengthening defence, logistics and disaster response, officials said.

The facility is designed for both civil and military use, serving as an alternative to the Dibrugarh airport in case of emergency, they said. The PM was received at the ELF by Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, Union minister



Sarbananda Sonowal, Air Chief Marshal A P Singh and other ministers of the Assam cabinet.

After landing on the runway, Modi drove to the venue nearby from where he witnessed an aerial display of IAF fighter and transport aircraft along with helicopters. The PM was seen waving to the huge crowd that had gathered at the venue to witness the historic event. Modi was welcomed with a traditional 'Muga gamosa' (scarf), and felicitated

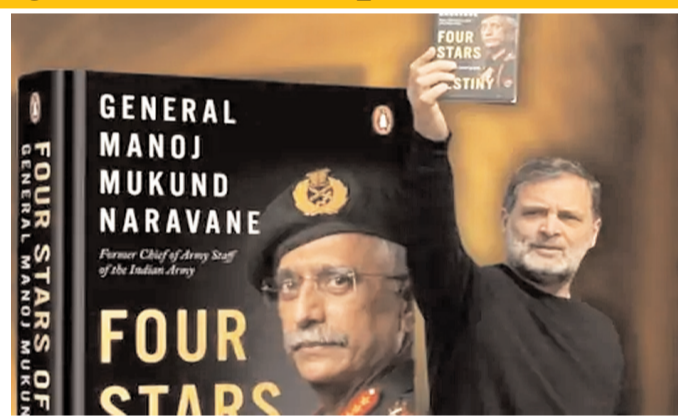
by Sarma with the Assamese 'Japi' (headgear) and a portrait of the last Chutia queen Sati Sadhini, along with a memento from the IAF by the Air Chief Marshal.

"It is with great honour that I welcome Adarniya @narendramodiji to Assam. Each visit of Pradhan Mantri is marked by historic achievements for Assam as the state takes huge leaps towards being an #AtalVichalAgramami Assam," the CM posted on X.

Claim: Officers will not be able to publish books for 20 years after retirement

Government may issue order; Controversy over former Army Chief Naravane's unpublished book

New Delhi(GNS): The government is considering implementing a 20-year cooling-off period for officers who held senior positions after retirement. During this period, officers will be barred from publishing books related to their service. Recently, former Army Chief Manoj Mukund Naravane's unpublished book has sparked controversy.



According to a news agency report, the issue was discussed at a Union Cabinet meeting on Friday. Several ministers believed that officers

holding high positions, including military officers, should have a certain cooling-off period before writing books after retirement.

Major accident in Mumbai: Under-construction metro pillar collapses; one dead, several injured

Mumbai(GNS): A terrible accident occurred in Maharashtra's capital, Mumbai, when a metro pillar collapsed. The incident occurred in Mulund, where a metro pillar suddenly collapsed, killing one person and injuring several others. A cement section of a metro pillar under construction in Mulund West fell on a passing auto-rickshaw, seriously injuring several people.



Under-construction metro pillar collapses, three to four people injured

Regarding the incident, BMC said that a part of the metro pillar collapsed

today (Saturday) at 12.20 pm near Johnson & Johnson Company, LBS Road, Mulund (West). During construction, a part of the cement metro pillar broke and fell on a rick-

shaw. Immediately after the accident, Mumbai Fire Brigade, Police, Metro staff, ward staff and 108 ambulance service reached the spot and started rescue work. Many people were

injured in the accident. One person later died during treatment.

Auto rickshaw completely shattered

A fire department official said that three to four people were injured when a part of a pillar of the under-construction metro railway route collapsed. He further said that the cement slab of the pillar broke and fell on an auto rickshaw parked below, completely shattering the auto rickshaw. A car was also hit by it. After the accident, the police cordoned off the area and diverted the traffic. Also, the debris of the pillar was removed.

AI to outpace all past revolutions; India preparing to lead AI era: Ashwini Vaishnaw

AI era: Ashwini Vaishnaw

New Delhi(GNS): Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Saturday described artificial intelligence as the driver of a "fifth industrial revolution," asserting that its scale and speed of transformation would surpass all previous technological shifts. Speaking at the ET Now Global Business Summit 2026, Vaishnaw said India was rapidly preparing its industries, students and technology ecosystem to lead in the emerging AI era through a comprehensive, five-layer AI strategy. Vaishnaw said that after the UK, South Korea and France, India would host the AI Impact Summit, which he described as the largest AI-focused gathering ever organised globally. More than 20 Heads of State and Government and over 100 global industry leaders have already confirmed their participation. The summit will centre on the



real-world impact of AI across sectors, reflecting India's ambition to move from being primarily an IT services provider to becoming a global AI powerhouse. Our focus and strength has conventionally been in providing IT services. Now we have to convert this strength," Vaishnaw said, emphasizing that over the past two-and-a-half years, India's IT industry has invested heavily in reskilling its workforce and building new AI-driven tools. He emphasised that organisations worldwide were increasingly seeking AI-based solutions that combine technological expertise with domain understanding, a gap that India's IT sector is positioning itself to bridge.

Why Gurpatwant Pannun's case against Nikhil Gupta is important to US

New Delhi(GNS): Nikhil Gupta, an Indian national, pleaded guilty in a US federal court to charges related to a foiled assassination plot targeting Gurpatwant Singh Pannun, a US-based Sikh separatist.

According to the FBI in New York, Gupta admitted guilt to all three counts in the second superseding indictment, including:

The plea was entered before US Magistrate Judge

Sarah Netburn, and sentencing is scheduled before US District Judge Victor Marrero on May 29, 2026.

He faces a sentence of up to 24 years in prison.

FBI statement Director Roman Rozhovsky stated that Gupta was a key participant in a murder-for-hire plot targeting a US citizen. The alleged assassination attempt was prevented due to the intervention of US

law enforcement authorities.

The FBI said that they were committed to protect individuals in the US from foreign threats.

Background of the case

The United States Department of Justice had earlier alleged that an unidentified Indian government employee (referred to as "CC-1" in court documents) recruited Gupta to arrange the killing. US prosecutors claim the plot

was disrupted before it could be carried out.

In October 2024, India's Ministry of External Affairs confirmed that the individual referenced in the US indictment was no longer employed by the Government of India.

Target

Gurpatwant Singh Pannun, designated a terrorist by the Indian government, holds US and Canadian citizenship and is a Khalistani separatist.

Sharad Pawar discharged from Pune hospital; advised rest for 3-4 days: Supriya Sule

New Delhi(GNS): NCP (SP) president Sharad Pawar, who was undergoing treatment for a chest infection at a private hospital here, was discharged from the facility on Saturday afternoon. The 85-year-old Rajya Sabha member left the hospital around 1 pm. Pawar's daughter and NCP (SP) working president Supriya Sule said he has been advised to rest for three to

four days. "Accordingly, he will rest at home and will resume his daily work thereafter," she said in a social media post.

Pawar was brought to Ruby Hall Clinic here earlier this week from his residence in Baramati town, Pune district, after he complained of difficulty in breathing and a persistent cough.

He (Pawar) sincerely thanks everyone for



inquiring about his health. He also expresses heartfelt gratitude to the doctors, nurses, and support-

ing staff at Ruby Hall Clinic who treated him and took care of him," Sule wrote.

Dr Purvez Grant, chief cardiologist, chairman and managing trustee of the hospital, had said in the morning that Pawar was in good health and had recovered well. Pawar would be discharged later in the day, he had said.

The medical team has advised him to take ade-

quate rest for a few days, following which he may gradually resume his routine work and public engagements," the doctor had said.

Vitthal Maniyar, a close friend and aide of Pawar, said the NCP (SP) chief will rest at his Pune residence for the next couple of days and will likely travel to Mumbai after completing his course of medication.

Mahashivratri is a religiously important festival

Ramesh Saraf Dhamora

Mahashivratri is the festival of Lord Shiva. It is celebrated with great pomp and show in all parts of India. Besides India, Mahashivratri is also celebrated in many other countries around the world, including Nepal and Mauritius. The Mahashivratri fast is observed every year on the Chaturdashi Tithi of the Krishna Paksha (dark fortnight) in the month of Phalgun. According to Hindu mythology, on this day, at midnight, at the beginning of creation, Lord Shiva appeared from Brahma in the form of Rudra. Therefore, this day is called Mahashivratri.

This day and night are given so much importance in the yogic tradition because they present tremendous possibilities for the

spiritual seeker. Modern science, after passing through many stages, has reached a point where it proves that everything you know as life, matter and existence, and the universe and galaxies is just one energy, which expresses itself in millions of forms. Mahashivratri is the biggest festival in Hinduism. On this day, all Shiva temples are crowded. On Mahashivratri, all devotees perform rituals to seek the blessings of Mahadev. According to the calendar, Shivratri is celebrated on the Chaturdashi date of the Krishna Paksha of the month of Phalgun.

Mahashivratri is of paramount spiritual significance. On this night, the position of the Earth's northern hemisphere is such that the energy in the human body naturally rises upward. On this day,

nature inspires humans to reach their spiritual peak. Those living a family life celebrate Mahashivratri as Shiva's wedding anniversary. Those with worldly ambitions see this day as Shiva's victory over his enemies.

It is believed that Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati were married on this day. People keep a fast on this day and worship Lord Shiva. Keeping the fast of Mahashivratri is considered the easiest. That is why everyone from children to old people keep a fast on this day. Eating food is prohibited for those who keep the fast of Mahashivratri. That is why fruits are eaten on that day. In Rajasthan, as it is the season of carrots and plums during the fast, people in villages eat fruits like carrots and plums. People worship Lord Shiva in temples and

offer him Aak and Dhatura. Lord Shiva especially likes the offering of Bhang. For this reason, on this day, many Shiva devotees grind and drink Bhang. It is said in the Puranas that once Shiva and Parvati were sitting on Mount Kailash. Parvati asked, "Is there a fast by which a person can attain your abode?" Then he told the story that in a country called Pratyana, there lived a man who earned his living by selling animals. He had borrowed money from a merchant. Because he failed to repay the loan on time, the merchant imprisoned him in the Shiva temple. Coincidentally, that day was Falgun Badi Chaturdashi. There were stories and prayers going on all night, which he also listened to. The next day, he was released on the condition that he

would repay his debt quickly. He decided to sit on the river bank that night. Some animal would surely come there to drink water. So he made a place to sit on a nearby Bil tree. There was a Shivalinga under that Bil tree. While he was making his hiding place on the tree, he kept plucking Bil leaves and throwing them, which would fall on the Shivalinga. He had been hungry for two days. In this way, he had unknowingly observed the Shivaratri fast. Furthermore, Bilva leaves were also offered to the Shivalinga on their own. After one hour of night had passed, a pregnant deer came to drink water. The hunter placed his arrow on the bow but after listening to the deer's pitiful voice, he let her go on the condition that she would come herself in the morning.

Editorial

Lok Sabha Speaker Birla has been surrounded by controversies

Even after being elected Speaker of the Lok Sabha for a second term in June 2024, Om Birla was accused of not giving opposition MPs a chance to speak. Opposition parties have continued to accuse him of acting at the behest of the ruling party, even though the Speaker's position is a constitutional one. In June 2024, when Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi stood up to speak on the issue of NEET exams, he was heard asking Speaker Om Birla to turn the microphone on. Congress alleged that the voices of the youth were being suppressed by taking away the microphone on important issues. However, Om Birla stated that he does not turn off the microphone in the Lok Sabha; there are no buttons. This is not the first time tension has been witnessed between the opposition and Om Birla. Om Birla has been embroiled in controversies before...

The dignity of Parliament continues to decline in the country. The prestigious and constitutional position of Speaker of the Lok Sabha remains controversial. Almost the entire opposition is up in arms against Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla. The opposition has long accused Birla of bias. Opposition members have consistently accused Birla of violating his constitutional rights and openly lobbying for the ruling party. This issue is the same again. The opposition has filed a notice of no-confidence motion to remove Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla from office. Although, based on mathematics and history, removing him is extremely difficult, this move could further intensify the bitterness between the ruling party and the opposition in Parliament in the coming days. Prime Minister Narendra Modi was scheduled to address the House during the discussion on the President's address. Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla claimed that Prime Minister Modi did not appear in the House at his request. Om Birla stated that he received reliable information that several members of the Congress Party could have reached the Prime Minister's seat and caused an unexpected incident. Had this incident occurred, it would have been extremely unpleasant, shattering the democratic traditions of the country. Om Birla's claim drew sharp reactions from the opposition, with Congress MP Priyanka Gandhi saying it was completely false and there was no question of harming the Prime Minister.



When all of India celebrates the sacred festival of Mahashivratri on February 15, 2026, it will not be merely a religious ritual but a grand opportunity for self-awakening. Mahashivratri is the night when the seeker recognizes the darkness within themselves and resolves to illuminate it with the light of Shivatva. Shiva is not merely a deity; he is the eternal dimension of consciousness—Mahakala, who transcends time; Nataraja, who controls the rhythm and beat of creation; and Neelkanth, who, even after drinking poison, delivers the message of nectar.



Shiva's light amidst tension, terror and darkness

Lalit Garg

Today's era is an age of science, technology, and consumption. Humanity has explored space and developed artificial intelligence, but has lost its inner peace. Stress, depression, discontent, war, terrorism, and moral disintegration are disturbing the world. In such times, Shiva's relevance increases further. Devotion to Shiva is not a magical magic, but a scientific and spiritual path to balance life.

Shiva's form transcends duality. He is both destroyer and creator. This message is crucial for today's society. The stagnant, decaying, and immoral must be destroyed so that new life can sprout. Only when we destroy the ego, anger, greed, and attachment within us is true creation possible. This is Shiva's true miracle: the transformation of the poison within. The story of the churning of the ocean is not merely a mythological tale but a symbol of human life. When the world searched for nectar, the first thing that emerged was poison. Even today, as humanity races towards progress, the poison of pollution, violence, and imbalance is also being produced. Who will drink that poison? Shiva's Neelkanth form teaches us that sacrifice and tolerance are essential to alleviate societal crises. Only when we swallow bitterness within ourselves and do not spread it outside, can peace prevail in society. Similarly, the story of the descent of the Ganges tells us that uncontrolled



power can be destructive. Shiva held it in his matted locks and ensured a balanced flow. This message is extremely relevant in today's context. Technology, wealth, and power—these are all forces. If uncontrolled, they can be destructive, but if controlled like Shiva, they can be beneficial. Therefore, devotion to Shiva means balance of power.

The biggest problem facing modern man is stress. Competition, expectations, and insecurity have made him restless. The night of Shivratri is a night of vigil, but it is more of an internal awakening than an external one. When a devotee chants "Om Namah Shivaya," he balances his inner vibrations. This five-syllable mantra concentrates the mind, soul, and consciousness. Scientific research also shows that regular meditation and chanting reduces stress, balances blood pressure, and increases mental stability. This is a direct effect of Shiva Sadhana. The Shiva Purana describes the appearance of the Jyotirlinga at midnight on Falgun Krishna Chaturdashi. This light is

not just a stone figure, but a symbol of infinite light. Shivalinga means a symbol, indicating the formless Brahman. It is essential for modern man to understand that God is not confined to any limited form. He is energy, consciousness, present in every particle.

Today, the world is grappling with the horrors of war and terrorism. Humanity is scorched in the flames of violence. Shiva's Tandava is not merely a dance of destruction, but of balance. When injustice increases, change is inevitable. But Shiva's message also is that change is possible through compassion, not anger. He is Rudra—the remover of sorrows. The miracle of Shiva devotion is that it cultivates compassion, tolerance, and forgiveness within human beings. When individuals change, society changes, and when society changes, the path to global peace is paved. The union of Shiva and Shakti is also an important symbol for modern life. It is a coordination of man and nature, consciousness and energy, thought and action. Today, disintegration in families, distance in relationships, and

imbalance in life are due to the breakdown of this harmony. Shivratri reminds us that balance is the foundation of life. The spiritual significance of fasting and abstinence is also worth understanding today. Fasting is not merely the abstinence from food, but the restraint of the senses. It is a process of self-purification. When a person abstains from pleasures, even for a day, they have the opportunity to re-evaluate their needs. This is a vital practice in a consumerist culture.

The proven effectiveness of Shiva devotion is evident in the experiences of countless devotees who have maintained their faith even in difficult circumstances. A sincere prayer gives a person inner strength, giving them the courage to face adversities. Miracles happen within, not outside—when despair transforms into hope, fear into faith, and unrest into peace. Today, it is essential that Shiva not be confined to temples. He resides not in wood, stone, or idols, but in spirit. When we speak the truth, practice compassion, and protect nature, we worship Shiva. Environmental protection is also a form of Shiva devotion, for he is the Kailash-resident yogi, protector of nature. Protecting the balance of water, air, fire, and earth is true devotion to Shiva.

Mahashivratri 2026 gives us the opportunity to resolve to recognize the poison within us and transform it into Shiva consciousness. Let us embrace restraint, balance, and spiritual practice in our lives.

Mahashivratri, Shivatva and the infinite glory of Mahadev, the lord of the cycle of creation

Kantilal Mandot

In the Indian Sanatan tradition, if any deity is considered a unique confluence of all these contradictory symbols—the beginning and the end, the simple and the mysterious, the destroyer and the creator—then it is Lord Shiva. Shiva is not just a deity, but the ultimate element of consciousness that exists at the root of all creation. Mahashivratri is the sacred night of the awakening of that Shivatva. The night when the seeker strives to transcend the Tama, Raja, and Satva within himself and connect with the auspicious element of Shiva. This is not merely a festival of fasting or worship, but a divine opportunity for self-awakening, self-control, and self-improvement. Lord Shiva's form holds profound philosophical meaning. The

crescent moon on his forehead symbolizes the calmness and balance of the mind. The Ganges, flowing in his matted hair, signifies purity and life-giving energy. The third eye symbolizes the fire of knowledge that burns away ignorance and ego. The serpent around his neck signifies that Shiva is the one who has conquered fear and death. The ashes on his body proclaim the truth that this world is impermanent and that everything will ultimately merge into the five elements.

The trident in Shiva's hand is not just a weapon, but also carries a profound spiritual message. It symbolizes victory over the three gunas—satva, rajas, and tamas. It signifies liberation from physical, divine, and material suffering. Only one who transcends these three sufferings attains Shivahood. Nandi, the bull,

symbolizes dharma, whose four legs represent the human endeavors of dharma, artha, kama, and moksha. Shiva is a yogi in meditation, but when necessary, he also assumes a fierce form and destroys unrighteousness. Thus, he is the embodiment of balance and justice.

Shiva's Nataraja form offers a profound interpretation of the cycle of creation. His Tandava dance symbolizes creation, preservation, and destruction. In one hand, he holds the Damaru, which produces sound and marks the beginning of creation; in the other, fire, which signifies destruction and reconstruction. The epilepsy man beneath his feet symbolizes ignorance and forgetfulness, which Shiva suppresses with his wisdom. This message conveys that until ignorance is suppressed, life will not be illuminated.

Worshiping Shiva at night is considered particularly significant. Night symbolizes the mode of darkness, and Shiva is also the ruler of darkness. When the world is immersed in sleep, the devotee awakens and connects with Shiva. The occurrence of Shivaratri during the dark fortnight is also symbolic. Just as the moon wanes and moves towards the new moon, the devotee strives to merge with Shiva by diminishing his ego and desires. This is a festival of self-control and self-purification. Worshiping Shiva is simple. He is Bholenath, who can be pleased with little. He is pleased with Belpatra, water, ashes and Rudraksha. Worshiping Shiva brings mental peace, self-confidence and freedom from fear. Negative energy is removed from the life of a person who regularly

performs Rudrabhishek. Chanting the Mahamrityunjaya Mantra is considered to remove disease, fear and the threat of untimely death. Devotion to Shiva develops detachment, restraint and balance in a person. It paves the way for both enjoyment and salvation.

Shiva's dominance over the cycle of creation is well known. Brahma creates the universe, Vishnu nurtures it, and Shiva destroys it. However, this destruction is not destruction, but rather a prelude to new creation. Just as a seed burrows into the soil to become a sprout, a new world emerges only after destruction. During the time of Pralaya, the entire universe merges into Shiva. He is the Adiyogi, from whom yoga originated. He is the Adinath, from whom the tradition of Tantra and meditation began.

CM seeks reports on all excavation work within three days

New Delhi, (GNS): Chief minister Rekha Gupta on Friday pulled up departments and agencies executing govt construction and excavation works for failing to submit safety compliance reports. She directed them to submit the reports within three days, and warned that any lapse in following safety norms or timelines would invite serious disciplinary action.

Gupta expressed displeasure that most departments did not respond to the Feb 7 safety directive on time, while several submissions were incomplete. Stating that the safety of residents and workers was non-negotiable, she asked senior officials to conduct regular field inspections, ensure mandatory use of protective gear at all sites, and immediately rectify deficiencies. The directions came in the wake



of a biker's death in a pit in Janakpuri.

An official said that reports would cover all ongoing and

recently completed excavation and digging works across the city, including precise site locations, safety arrangements in place, and

corrective measures taken wherever deficiencies were found. Submissions will also include geo-tagged photographs and clearly identify the designated nodal officer responsible for safety compliance. "District magistrates and revenue and disaster management officials have also been instructed to independently inspect the worksites," the official added. Officials were asked to immediately flag any unsafe excavation or construction sites discovered during inspections or through public feedback. Taking note of instances where labourers were engaged in underground and elevated works, Gupta directed all the agencies concerned to ensure use of safety gear.

Additionally, the CM also asked departments to coordinate and begin preparations for desilting ahead of the monsoon season.

Child Trafficking: HC Takes Tough Stance

New Delhi, (GNS): Expressing concern about the rise in cases where gangs and hardened criminals deploy children to carry out crimes, Delhi High Court dismissed an anticipatory bail plea. The high court said such criminals were using children as a "weapon" to escape penal action and refused to grant anticipatory bail to a woman accused of trafficking a child and engaging him in illicit liquor sale. In a recent order, Justice Girish Kathpalia said the exploitation of children in the commission of crimes was increasing day by day.

Rejecting the plea for protection from arrest, the high court said the woman's custodial interrogation was necessary to unearth whether more children were trafficked for such purposes and to get to the root of the crime.

"Grant of anticipatory bail in a case where a child was exploited in commission of crimes would send a very wrong signal to society. Exploitation of children in commission of crimes is



increasing day by day. Children are now often being used as a weapon by hardened criminals to escape penal action," the high court observed.

"I do not find it a fit case to grant anticipatory bail to the applicant," Justice Kathpalia noted. The woman was alleged to have trafficked a child from her native village and got him employed in the sale of illicit liquor in Delhi.

Police registered an FIR after a close relative of the accused was seen selling illicit liquor along with the boy. Seeking relief, the accused contended that there was nothing to suggest that she brought the boy to Delhi for the sale of illicit liquor.

Woman journalist 'attacked, assaulted' during pro-UGC protest in Delhi University

New Delhi, (GNS): A scuffle between rival student groups at the Arts Faculty of Delhi University on Friday triggered allegations of assault and counter-claims of violence, with both sides accusing each other of intimidation and misconduct.

In a statement, the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) alleged that a woman journalist associated with a YouTube channel was attacked around 2 pm while covering a protest on campus.

ABVP Delhi state secretary Sarthak Sharma claimed that left-wing student activists manhandled the journalist after she questioned protesters. He further alleged that several of those involved were not students of Delhi University (DU) and demanded strict action from the police and the university administration.



Meanwhile, the All India Students' Association (AISA) accused right-wing students of attacking its members during a protest demanding the implementation of new UGC regulations. In its statement, AISA said its DU secretary Anjali was physically assaulted while attempting to shield a journalist from being heckled. The group also alleged that despite security personnel being present, the attackers were allowed to act unchecked.

AIIMS May Carry Out Country's First Face Transplant This Year

New Delhi, (GNS): A radical new option may soon be available for patients who have to live with horrific facial deformities even after enduring 10 to 12 reconstructive surgeries.

AIIMS Delhi has formally launched India's first face transplant programme and is preparing to perform the country's first such surgery within a year, subject to regulatory clearances. A face transplant involves replacing part of or the entire face with tissue from a deceased donor. It is not just a cosmetic surgery. The goal is to restore essential functions, such as speech, breathing, eating, eyelid closure and facial expression in patients whose injuries are beyond the reach of conventional reconstruction.

In many cases, such patients struggle not only with physical disability but also with severe social stigma and resultant isolation.

"Many suffer devastating facial deformities due to acid attacks, gunshot injuries and burns. Identifying the right candidate for the transplant and counselling him or her is essential. Unmotivated or unstable patients - those with active infections or cancers - are not suitable. That said, face transplantation is



no longer experimental, it is the need of the hour," said Dr Maneesh Singhal, head of plastic, reconstructive and burns surgery at AIIMS.

The surgery can last 14 to 16 hours and requires meticulous reconnection of blood vessels and nerves under a microscope. Even after a successful operation, patients must take lifelong immunosuppressive drugs to prevent rejection and require close monitoring for complications.

Dr Dipankar Bhowmick, head of nephrology at AIIMS, said the institute has the necessary systems in place to carry out such transplants. "Immunosuppression plays a critical role, and all infrastructure and facilities are

available at AIIMS. I am excited and will provide the best possible support for this initiative," he said.

Donor matching remains the biggest challenge. Unlike solid organ transplants, a face transplant requires visible compatibility. The donor and recipient must be of the same sex, and skin tone should be broadly similar. Securing family consent within hours of a donor's brain death, while ensuring ethical clearance and transplant coordination, adds to the complexity.

The new initiative at the burns and plastic surgery block, which was established in 2021, brings together a multidisciplinary team of surgeons, transplant physicians, nephrologists, anaesthesiologists, psychiatrists and rehabilitation experts. Dr Preethy K from the department of psychiatry said psychological screening and long-term counselling will be mandatory throughout the course of treatment.

International expert Dr Indranil Sinha of Brigham and Women's Hospital, Harvard Medical School, said the skill set and infrastructure at AIIMS are on a par with international standards, and pledged his support to the programme.

'Girls, djinn rituals, money trick': Arrested 'occultist' modus operandi emerges in Delhi triple murder probe; linked to 8 killings

New Delhi, (GNS): Police probing the triple murder case in Peeragarhi said arrested occultist Kamruddin was suspected to be involved in at least eight murders. According to police, the occultist arrested for allegedly poisoning and killing Randhir (76), Shiv Naresh (42) and Laxmi (40), whose bodies were found in an abandoned car near the Peeragarhi flyover on Feb 8, revealed a calculated modus operandi that revolved around ritualistic deception.

Police said the accused allegedly asked clients to send photographs of young women and girls as part of occult rituals and promised them a "dhanvarsha", or sudden windfall of wealth, claiming a 'djinn' would establish "physical contact" through a young woman in their family.



Multiple such photographs were found on a victim's phone, showing women posing with handwritten personal details. Investigators believe these images were circulated across groups linked to the accused.

An officer said, "He would give detailed instructions on how the girls should look, their

height, hair length, skin type and conventional attractiveness. If the ritual failed, he would highlight minor flaws as the reason." The cops are questioning a suspected chemical supplier in Firozabad and tracing the source of the lethal mixture of aluminium phosphide and sleeping pills that he gave to the victims.

Police said Kamruddin used elaborate tricks to convince people of his supernatural abilities. He would perform a "money trick," holding a shawl and placing a Rs 500 note under it, then making the cloth move in a way that created the illusion of multiplying cash. In one case, he claimed to cure kidney stones: he placed red powder over a patient's body, had him indicate the site of pain and then pretended the powder was

blood after a "surgery", claiming to have performed a procedure without stitches, an officer said. Police are trying to trace where he had learnt these practices.

Investigators said he used to ask clients to switch their phones to flight mode during meetings and avoided CCTV-covered locations. Police could trace his Loni residence because Laxmi had shared the location of his house with Naresh. A small note containing a "djinn kalma", believed to be part of the ritualistic practices, was found in Naresh's pocket.

Police said Kamruddin was also linked to a double murder in Uttar Pradesh last year and a 2014 case in Dholpur, Rajasthan, where a man allegedly killed his wife on Kamruddin's instructions.

76-year-old Ghazipur flower mandi worker killed after SUV skids on NH-24 service road in Delhi

New Delhi, (GNS): A 76-year-old man was killed after a black SUV allegedly skidded and hit him on the service road of NH-24 in east Delhi's Ghazipur village on Saturday morning.

The deceased, identified as Paik Karmai, was a resident of Ghazipur village and worked at the Ghazipur flower mandi. A native of West Bengal, he was on his way to work with two co-workers when the incident took place.

Police said a PCR call about a fatal accident was received around 6 am. The crash occurred near a petrol pump on the NH-24 service road. On reaching the spot, officers found the SUV in a damaged condition and Karmai lying on the road.

Preliminary inquiry revealed that the SUV had allegedly struck the divider and skidded between the



main carriageway and the service road before hitting the pedestrian. The driver of the SUV was identified as Shrey Kumar, a 26-year-old advocate from Noida in Uttar Pradesh. He was reportedly out on a drive with female friends when the incident occurred. He was apprehended at the spot, while the other occupants of the vehicle reportedly fled. Police added that Kumar's blood samples have been sent for forensic examination. The body has been shifted to the LBS mortuary for post-mortem.

Get Set, Go! Delhi Khel Mahakumbh Takes Off

New Delhi, (GNS): White searchlights sliced through the sky as a giant balloon hovered above Chhatrasal Stadium. Attached to it, a young girl danced gracefully in mid-air carrying the Delhi Khel Mahakumbh baton, her fluid movements captivating thousands of spectators. They watched as she turned the sky into her stage until, in a perfectly timed manoeuvre, she descended and handed the baton to chief minister Rekha Gupta, officially declaring the

games open. Friday's inauguration was also marked by a ceremonial march-past led by the city's para-athletes. Gupta, along with education minister Ashish Sood and ex-Indian cricketer Shikhar Dhawan, the event's brand ambassador, greeted participants as they toured the stadium in an open vehicle. Olympic medalist and Khel Ratna awardee Ravi Dahiya, along with Paralympic medallist Sharad Kumar, were present to lend their support.

Addressing the gathering, Gupta said the event was more than a competition; it was a celebration of the energy, aspirations and immense potential of the city's youth.

"Delhi has never lacked talent. What had been missing was the right platform. This initiative is a historic step that will give direction and opportunity to lakhs of young athletes in the years to come," she said, adding that since the formation of the current govt last year, efforts have been



made not only to accelerate development in Delhi but also to create new opportunities for young people. Nearly Rs 33 crore in long-pending prize money, which had not been released for almost three

beginning of a "new dawn" for sports in Delhi, he said every local akhada and neighbourhood stadium will now become a training ground for future global champions. "Delhi is not just returning to sports; it is preparing to lead," he said, adding that strengthening the sports ecosystem - from stadium infrastructure to support systems for athletes - is a key priority. "A strong sports culture is a pillar of a strong city. By investing in fitness, discipline and competitive spirit, we

are building a more confident Delhi," he said. Scheduled to run for a month, the sporting festival will take place across 16 stadiums and sports complexes across the city, including Thyagraj Stadium, Chhatrasal Stadium, Pehlampur Sports Complex, East Vinod Nagar Sports Complex and Rajiv Gandhi Stadium.

Organisers expect participation of nearly 30,000 athletes, with over 15,000 already registered through the official portal. Athletes

from Delhi University and GGSIPU, alongside registered sports clubs, academies and associations, will compete on an open, inclusive platform designed to give everyone a chance to showcase his or her talent.

WESTERN RAILWAY				
E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE No. S/08/2026				
Date 11.02.2026				
Sr.No.	Tender No.	Short Description of Item	Quantity	T.O.D.
64	26255110	Digital Ultrasonic Double Rail Tester with 9 Probe	4 Nos	12-Mar-26
65	04253133	Endless 'V' bolt for Railway coaches size C-122	39591 Nos	12-Mar-26
66	04252974	Wheel Profiling Inserts of Kennametal	5631 Nos	11-Mar-26
67	22253224A	3D adjustable 360 degree rotational modified Driver Seat	722 Nos	09-Mar-26
68	06261064B	Blind Socket Assembly	1089 Nos	07-Mar-26

CORRIGENDUM
Please read the due date as "23.02.2026" for the tender notice no S-07-2025 dated: 13.11.2025 at Sr. No. 705.
Regarding detailed notice EMD, Purchase restrictions and detailed tender conditions, please visit website www.rps.gov.in and www.indianrailways.gov.in
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Punjab, Haryana farm fires contribute just 5% to Delhi-NCR smog: Shivraj Chouhan

New Delhi, (GNS): Speaking during the question hour in the Rajya Sabha, he said scientific studies showed that stubble burning contributed no more than 5 per cent to winter pollution, with industry and vehicles being major sources.

"Still, acknowledging the harm caused by burning, the government provides a 50 per cent subsidy on machinery and 80 per cent for custom hiring centres under the Crop Residue Management (CRM) scheme. Over 3.5 lakh machines have been distributed across Punjab, Haryana, western UPs and MP, significantly reducing incidents," he added.

The minister said Haryana's model -- offering per-acre incentives for in-situ and ex-situ management, crop diversification, DSR adoption and rewards to non-burning panchayats -- has



been highlighted as a best practice. "Stubble is being converted into a valuable resource for pellets, thermal power, biomass, bio-CNG and fuels in the state," he said.

Congress leader Jairam Ramesh said the vilification of farmers for causing pollution

must stop. "In recent years, the Union Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change has often blamed stubble burning by farmers in Punjab, Haryana and UP for the winter pollution crisis in Delhi and other parts of North India. Today, in the Rajya Sabha, the Minister of Agriculture and

Farmers Welfare stated categorically that stubble burning was responsible for just around 5 per cent of the pollution load. The vilification of farmers for causing pollution must stop," he said in a post on X.

Explaining the rationale behind launching the Crop Residue Management Scheme, Chouhan said that although stubble burning was an easy way for farmers to clear their fields for the next sowing, it has several disadvantages apart from causing pollution. These include the destruction of crop-friendly insects, loss of nutrients and organic carbon and reduced soil fertility. That is why the government introduced the CRM scheme, he stated. Chouhan also said the government had created an Agriculture Infrastructure Fund to ensure safe storage of farmers' produce.

50 lives lost to potholes in Delhi over five years'

New Delhi, (GNS): known for its historic landmarks and political significance, continues to grapple with poor road infrastructure, with potholes emerging as a major safety hazard.

Government data reveals that Delhi has recorded the highest number of pothole-related deaths among all Union Territories, claiming 50 lives over the past five years, accounting for a significant share of road accident fatalities in the city.

According to information provided in the Lok Sabha by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, between 2020 and 2024, Delhi witnessed 245 accidents caused by potholes, with 2024 alone recording the highest number of 84 accidents. These incidents resulted in 27 grievous injuries and 225 minor injuries, highlighting the severe consequences of neglected road maintenance.

The problem remains immediate and life-threatening. In the past five days, the city has

witnessed two tragic fatalities due to falls into open pits. In an accident in Janakpuri, a 25-year-old man died after falling into a pit. Days later, another man died after falling into an open drain in Begampur, Rohini. This is not just a case in Delhi. Adjoining Noida is also affected. In January this year, a software engineer died after his car lost control and fell into a water-filled pit in Sector 150, Greater Noida.

The recurring incidents reflect not only the deteriorating road conditions but also public apathy and delays in reporting and repairing dangerous potholes. With the monsoon season exacerbating road damage, the authorities face mounting pressure to implement timely repairs, enhance road safety audits and ensure proper monitoring to prevent further loss of life. Citizens and road users continue to call for accountability and swift action to make Delhi's roads safer for all.

Finally, 'Asha Ki Kiran' For Inmates Hit By Crowding

New Delhi, (GNS): For years, Rohini's Asha Kiran, one of Delhi's largest shelter homes for people with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities, was grossly overcrowded. Wards routinely exceeded their capacities and residents were forced to share mattresses. Frequent deaths were not unheard of - many due to illnesses linked to poor living conditions.

Following years of public scrutiny and judicial intervention, a bit of relief, although limited in nature and scope, is finally discernible, aided in part by the opening of a new facility.

The push to improve the condition of Asha Kiran follows a series of unsavoury incidents in the past. In 2010, a ministerial committee, set up in the wake of 57 deaths at the complex in 2009 and 2010, recommended its immediate decongestion. At the time, it used to house around 970 residents, far exceeding its designated capacity of 570.

In 2015, a Comptroller and Auditor General audit flagged severe overcrowding, noting that earlier recommendations had still not been



implemented. While Delhi govt acknowledged the issue, work to free it up was gradual until mid-2024, when the situation escalated dramatically. Between Jan and July of that year, more than 20 residents died; at least 14 of the deaths were reported in July.

The spike in fatalities triggered suo motu action by National Human Rights Commission and sustained intervention by Delhi High Court.

Strings attached: Italy to India, puppets burst to life on city stage

New Delhi, (GNS): Ten-year-old Safar thought Delhi was made of chocolate dreams. He saw photos of its glittering markets and imagined the stores will have toys stacked higher than trees in his Jharkhand village. So, he ran away and came to Delhi.

But the city he met was harsh and unyielding. Trapped as a bonded labourer on a farm for three years, the sparkle faded quickly. Hungry, hopeless and seemingly lost after he managed to escape, a stranger's simple question - "Do you want to study?" - changed his life.

In a shelter he landed up in, Safar found books, safety and eventually his own voice as a storyteller. Later, when he went back to his house in Jharkhand, only to find it crumbling, he made a choice: he would return to Delhi, not as a lost boy, but as someone ready to shape his own destiny.

Safar's journey takes centre stage in 'Am I Lost?', a performance where strings, shadows and simple objects are skilfully animated to breathe life into his story. It is one of the many powerful narratives that will be brought to life at Ishara International Puppet Theatre Festival.

Presented by Ishara Puppet Theatre



Trust and Teamwork Arts, the festival runs from Feb 13 to 22 at India Habitat Centre, where every evening, unique stories will quite literally find their strings and step into the spotlight. Now in its 22nd year, the festival weaves a magical journey across cultures as it brings together master puppeteers from South Korea, Bhutan, Italy, Turkey, Albania and India.

"Puppetry is one of the world's oldest narrative and visual performing art forms. Its objective nature allows epics, folklore and social issues to be shared in an innocuous milieu," says Dadi D Pudumjee, festival director and founder of the trust. "Nothing matches a good live perform-

ance, especially the magic and innocence of puppet theatre."

According to Pudumjee, Ishara's popularity over the years, among children and adults has sparked new festivals nationwide, supported by regional groups, govts, and UNIMA India - part of the global puppetry network soon to mark its centenary in Prague. This year's line-up in Delhi promises precisely that magic.

From Korea, 'Doong Doong Alert' by Culture Art Bakery FFWANG reimagines the folklore monster Eoduksini through objects and shadow puppetry. In a non-verbal musical journey, young Jiho confronts strange floating beings, which are metaphors for anxiety, offering children an imaginative way to understand their emotions.

Italy's 'Variations' by Di Filippo Marionette introduces Proto, a marionette. The show blends string puppets, live songs and playful surprises. "It is an enormous pleasure to perform in India," said the artistes, who fondly recall their first visit to the country in 2018. Audiences can even expect Proto to cheekily snap a photo of them mid-performance. From Albania comes 'Albanian Wedding' by Tirana Puppet Theatre.

Why DDA can't move ahead with Signature View razing

New Delhi, (GNS): While Signature View Apartments has been completely vacated, Delhi Development Authority (DDA) is likely to take more time before beginning the demolition process.

The authority's chief vigilance officer has written to CBI, seeking permission to initiate the razing of the structurally unsafe buildings, as the investigating agency is conducting an inquiry into the matter, said an official.

Built between 2007 and 2010 and allotted in 2011-12, the Mukherjee Nagar apartments, part of a DDA housing scheme, began showing structural distress within a few years. The authority commissioned a structural audit by IIT Delhi in 2021-22, which recommended immediate evacuation and dismantling of the complex, which comprises 336 flats spread across 12 towers, because of safety concerns.



The authority is also awaiting Delhi High Court's decision on an increased floor area ratio (FAR) sought by residents. The matter is scheduled for hearing in March. The authority has agreed to the residents' welfare association's demand for a facilitation allowance from July 2023, subject to submission of proof, such as zero electricity and water bills.

DDA has decided to demol-

ish the apartments using the conventional floor-by-floor method instead of imploding the towers after experts found their structural quality to be extremely poor, making it unsafe to drill into weak walls to insert explosives. "Given the dense population of the adjoining areas and the geographical location of the apartments - it is surrounded by SFS Flats Society on one

side and residential and commercial establishments on the other - it was decided that the structures should be demolished manually," an official said.

On Oct 13, 2025, a joint team of Municipal Corporation of Delhi and DDA disconnected water and power supplies to the apartments after several residents had sought an extension of the Oct 12 deadline set by Supreme Court to vacate all the flats.

Also last year, CBI registered an FIR against 28 retired DDA officials and private contractors on charges of criminal conspiracy, corruption and use of substandard materials in the construction of the apartments. Delhi LG V K Saxena directed the vigilance department to conduct an inquiry and initiate criminal proceedings against the accused officers.

MCD To Collect Wet & Dry Waste On Alternate Days

New Delhi, (GNS): To promote waste segregation at source among residents, Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) is likely to soon implement an alternate-day collection system across all wards.

Under the proposed plan, wet waste would be collected on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays, while dry waste will be picked up on the rest of the days of the week. The decision was recently taken by the civic body in compliance with Solid Waste Management Rules, 2026. Notified by the Centre, they have replaced the 2016 regulations and will come into effect from April 1. They mandate strict four-stream segregation at the source - wet, dry, sanitary and special care wastes - and apply to all urban and rural areas in the city. "While bylaws have to be



notified, a decision has been taken to adopt prominent points mentioned in the new rules," said officials.

To implement these rules and chart a way forward, the issues were discussed at length with zonal deputy commissioners and other stakeholders during a meeting chaired by corporation commissioner Sanjeev Khirwar on Feb 7.

Dr, no! Patchy Wi-Fi hurts residents, students

New Delhi, (GNS): Already weighed down by intense academic pressure, thesis work and long hospital duties, medical students and resident doctors in at least two institutes in the city are struggling for something as basic as internet access.

Those at University College of Medical Sciences, attached to Guru Teg Bahadur Hospital (GTB), are hobbled by the lack of reliable Wi-Fi access. Despite repeatedly raising the issue with the librarian and other authorities, the students say no concrete action has been taken. They point out that modern medical education relies heavily on digital platforms, online journals, e-books, research databases and academic portals.

Resident doctors use tablets and



other digital devices to access books, medical journals and research material essential for patient care, apart from ongoing academic work. In the current situation, however, accessing these resources has become a challenge, they say.

While the college provides seven to eight computers with internet access in the library, the students point out that this is insufficient considering the large number of users. Moreover, the library closes in the evening, leaving the residents - many of them work long and irregular hospital hours - without Wi-Fi access during crucial study time.

The Resident Doctor's Association has raised the issue, to which the university's library officials have replied that they have communicated their worries with the concerned department and requested the students to "bear with the inconvenience" caused in the interim.

"The library understands the importance of uninterrupted internet access for academic and research purposes,

especially for accessing e-resources, online journals, databases and other study materials. The Wi-Fi infrastructure is managed by the department of biostatistics and medical informatics. The decision regarding extending Wi-Fi access to students and residents is an institutional matter and is subject to administrative approval and technical feasibility, as determined by the competent authority. The library communicated this with the concerned department/authorities on Dec 30, 2025, for their consideration and resolution at the earliest," according to a letter dated Feb 12, 2026.

The students say that uninterrupted internet access is a basic academic necessity, especially in a medical institution where up-to-date research and digital learning tools are integral to training and patient care. "Apart from the

library, there's a reading room, but it lacks Wi-Fi connectivity. We are not asking for some luxury," said a resident doctor at GTB, requesting anonymity.

Upon reaching out to the administration, an official replied to Media, saying, "This is not correct information." However, no response to a follow-up question was provided.

Students at Maulana Azad Medical College, too, echo similar concerns. "The library here has a Wi-Fi connection, but it closes around 7 pm. Our books are bulky, so we cannot carry them everywhere. Besides, we have research work to conduct, write our thesis and often read journals. Seamless Wi-Fi is a basic requirement, but both UG and PG students are being forced to stay connected to the internet at their personal expense," said a resident doctor at MAMC.