



## India's biggest win over Pakistan in the T20 World Cup

**Colombo(GNS):** India defeated Pakistan by 61 runs in the T20 World Cup, their biggest victory over Pakistan in terms of runs in the tournament's history. With this win, the Indian team has qualified for the

Super 8 round. The team is currently at the top of the Group A points table with three consecutive wins. Chasing a target of 176 at the R. Premadasa Stadium in Colombo on Sunday, Pakistan were all out for 114 in 18 overs.

Usman Khan top-scored with 44. For India, Jasprit Bumrah, Axar Patel, Varun Chakravarthi, and Hardik Pandya took two wickets each. Batting first after losing the toss, India scored 175 for 7 in 20 overs. Ishan Kishan top-

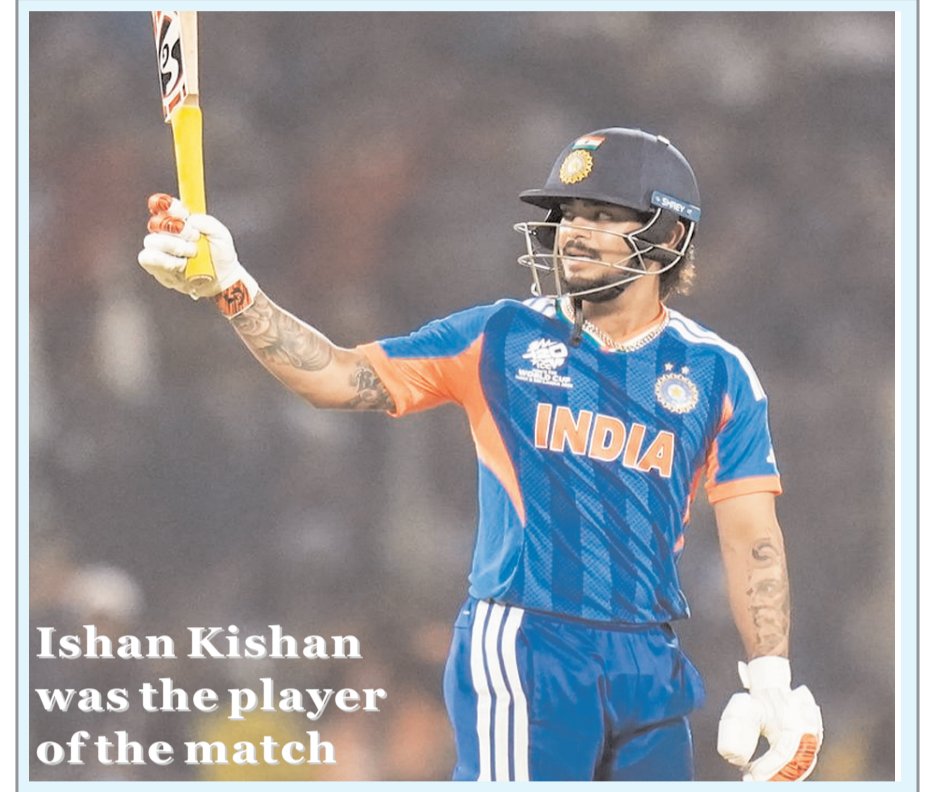
## Defeated by 61 runs; Ishan scored 77, India qualified for the Super 8.

scored with 77 runs off 40 balls, including 10 fours and three sixes. Captain Suryakumar Yadav scored 32 runs, and Saim Ayub took three wickets.

### Playing-11 of both the teams

**Pakistan:** Sahibzada Farhan, Saim Ayub, Salman Ali Agha (captain), Babar Azam, Usman Khan (wicket-keeper), Shadab Khan, Mohammad Nawaz, Faheem Ashraf, Shaheen Afridi, Usman Tariq and Abrar Ahmed.

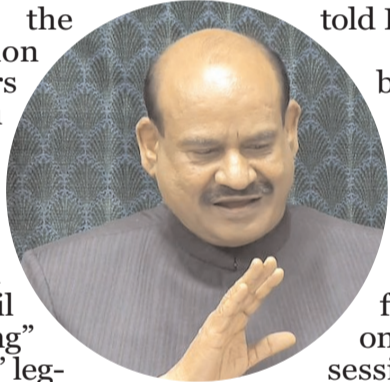
**India :** Abhishek Sharma, Ishan Kishan, Tilak Varma, Suryakumar Yadav (captain), Hardik Pandya, Shivam Dubey, Rinku Singh, Axar Patel, Kuldeep Yadav, Varun Chakravarthi and Jasprit Bumrah.



Ishan Kishan was the player of the match

## Debate, vote on motion to remove Speaker Birla to be taken up on March 9: Rijju

**New Delhi(GNS):** The debate and subsequent vote on the no-confidence motion moved by the opposition against Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla will be taken up on March 9, when the House reassembles after the recess, Union Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijju said here on Sunday. Rijju stated that the second part of the Budget Session, scheduled from March 9 to April 2, will be "interesting" as several "important" legislations and a "critical" Bill will be presented in Parliament for debate and passage. He warned that if opposition parties continue their protests as they did during the first part of the session, it would ultimately be detrimental to them.



On March 9 in the Lok Sabha, we will have the debate on the no-confidence motion moved against the Speaker. It is the rule to take it up on the first day. There will be a vote following the debate," he told PTI in an interview. The Budget Session began with the President's address to the joint sitting of Parliament on January 28 and went on recess on February 12. The Union Budget for 2026 was presented on February 1, and the session will resume on March 9, concluding on April 2. Rijju, who is on a visit to his Lok Sabha constituency, Arunachal West, mentioned that during the second part of the session, the government plans to identify specific ministries for discussions.

## Crowds throng temples in Bihar on Mahashivratri ministers become drivers in Shiva processions

**Patna(GNS):** Shiva temples across Bihar are thronged with devotees on the occasion of Mahashivratri. A 2-kilometer-long queue formed at the Brahmeshwar Temple in Brahmapur, Buxar, since early morning. By 8 a.m., approximately 1.5 lakh people had offered water to Lord Shiva. During this time, the temple was filled with knee-deep water. Tight security arrangements have been made. Crowds of devotees were also seen at the Garib Nath Temple in Muzaffarpur. At Baba Dham, more than 1 lakh devotees have already performed the Jalabhishek.



A 3-kilometer-long queue has formed here. The flow of devotees continues. Over 50,000 devotees have offered water at the Budhanath Temple in Bhagalpur. 25,000 devotees have offered water in Samastipur. Shiva temples in Gopalganj are also crowded with devotees.

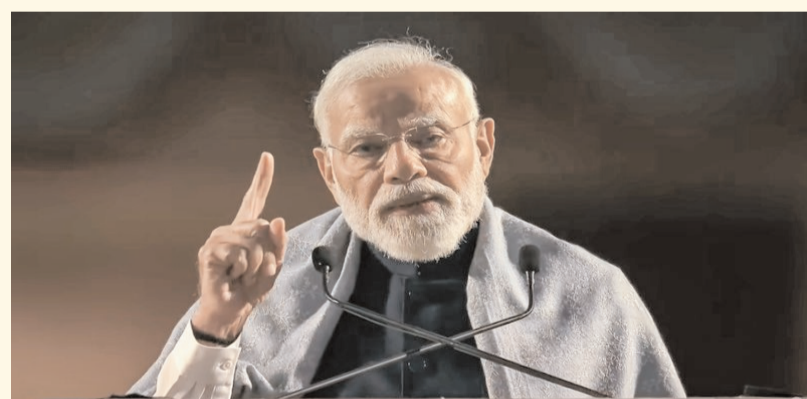
According to media reports, Lord Shiva was also offered water at the Gaurishankar Temple in Patna City. In Patna, Indian players were worshipped as Lord Shiva to celebrate India's victory in the T20 World Cup, and wishes were offered for victory against Pakistan. In

Vaishali, Union Minister Nityanand Rai became the charioteer of the Shiva procession. A smaller version of the Sahasra Shivalinga and a Nandi statue will be installed in the pavilion located in the Virat Ramayan Temple complex in Motihari. This will be a smaller version of the world's largest Shivalinga. A second smaller Shivalinga and a Nandi statue have been brought from Mahabalipuram. This Shivalinga is made from the same stone as the 33-foot-tall Shivalinga. It also contains 1008 Shivalingas in 14 circles containing 72 lingas.

## PM Modi lists 3 priorities for next decade: More structural reforms, deepening innovation, simpler governance

**New Delhi(GNS):** Asserting that his government's "Reform Express" is benefitting common citizens in a big way, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said his top three reform priorities for the next decade will be continued structural reforms, deepening innovation, and further simplification of governance. In an interview with PTI, Modi also said that by temperament, he is never satisfied as he believes that public life demands a certain constructive restlessness, a constant urge to do more, to improve faster, to serve

better. He was asked whether he was satisfied with the progress made on the reform front. Asked to prioritise three economic reforms for the next decade, Modi said, "Our direction is clear, rather than limiting it to a fixed number. "First, we will continue structural reforms that improve competitiveness and productivity. Second, we will deepen innovation in technology, manufacturing, and services. Third, we will simplify governance further so that citizens and businesses can operate with greater ease and trust," he



said. Modi said reforms have helped the common citizen, the menace of middlemen has reduced, and infrastructure expansion has improved connectivity and cut down logistics

costs. "Often, there is a limited understanding of the word 'reforms' as referring only to the economy and industry. But reforms in the social sector are as important. "Programmes like

Aspirational Districts and Aspirational Blocks have transformed lives in areas once neglected as backward. Similarly, the PM-JANMAN scheme identifies those tribal communities that have been particularly disadvantaged and works for their welfare," the prime minister said.

On the progress made by the "Reform Express", he said, "I must say that by temperament, I am never fully satisfied. I believe public life demands a certain constructive restlessness, a constant urge to do more, to improve faster, to serve better.

## Witnessing betrayal of Indian farmers in name of US trade deal: Rahul Gandhi

**New Delhi(GNS):** Upping the ante against the government over the India-US interim trade deal, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Sunday posed a string of questions to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and alleged that "we are witnessing a betrayal" of Indian farmers. Gandhi, who has been attacking the government and accusing it of a sell-out through the deal, said this issue concerns the future and asked whether India is allowing another country to gain a long-term hold over India's agriculture industry. In the name of a US trade deal, we are witnessing a betrayal of Indian farmers," the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha said in his post in Hindi on X. Posing questions to the Prime Minister, Gandhi asked what it means to import Dried Distillers' Grains (DDG). "

## Indian student Saketh Sreenivasaiah found dead days after going missing in US

**New Delhi(GNS):** A 22-year-old Indian postgraduate student who went missing in the US less than a week ago has been found dead, the Indian mission here has said. Saketh Sreenivasaiah, a student at the University of California, Berkeley, hailing from Karnataka, had been missing since

Monday. The Indian consulate in San Francisco on Sunday (local time) confirmed the recovered his body, while assuring all necessary assistance for the repatriation of his mortal remains to India at the earliest. The Consulate deeply regrets to inform that local police have confirmed the recovery



of the body of the missing Indian student, Saketh Sreenivasaiah," it said in a post on X. Extending condolences to his loved ones, the Consulate said it "stands ready to provide all necessary assistance to the family, including coordination with local authorities and arrangements for the repatriation of mor-

tal remains to India at the earliest. Our consular officers are in direct contact with the family and will support them with all required formalities and services," it added. Sreenivasaiah was enrolled in the Master of Science programme at the University of California, Berkeley.

His backpack, with his passport and laptop, was found on a doorstep in the Park Hills neighbourhood, The Berkeley Scanner news portal had reported. Earlier, local police had urged anyone with information about Sreenivasaiah to notify local law enforcement.

# Coaching culture and child deaths: A society that fails in the name of success

Dr. Priyanka Saurabh

The suicide of another student in Kota—this is not ordinary news, nor merely the personal tragedy of a single family. It raises serious questions about the education system, social mindset, and the so-called "success model" that we have unquestioningly accepted over the past two decades. The suicide note of student Kriti, who committed suicide, is not merely a document of personal anguish, but an indictment of our entire society—parents, coaching institutes, schools, and policymakers all fall under its purview.

In her suicide note, Kriti appealed to the Indian government and the Ministry of Human Resources, stating that if they truly wanted to ensure no children died, coaching institutes should be shut

down as soon as possible, as these institutions leave students hollow from within. This statement wasn't the result of a momentary impulse, but rather an expression of the long-standing mental torture that millions of students endure daily. The real question isn't why Kriti wrote this, but whether she was wrong.

Today, coaching in India is no longer a means of education, but has become a massive, profit-driven industry. Cities like Kota, Sikar, Hyderabad, Delhi, and Patna are called "education hubs," where millions of teenagers arrive each year carrying the burden of their parents' dreams. At the center of these dreams are a few narrow words—*IIT, AIIMS, NEET, rank, and selection*. Coaching institutes convince students that if they don't get selected, they are failures. This def-

inition of success is so narrow that it leaves no room for the average student, and there's no human process for recovery from failure.

Kriti's statement that "even a girl who scores 90+ can commit suicide" shatters our myth that mental distress is limited to weak or unsuccessful students. This thinking is not only wrong but also dangerous. Today, the pressure is no longer just about passing exams or getting good marks, but about meeting the expectations of parents, teachers, and society. Every child carries within themselves an imaginary image of the "perfect student," which they constantly lose. Even high marks and excellent performance no longer guarantee mental peace, because the problem isn't the studies themselves, but the environment in which they are taught. The lines Kriti writes for her

mother reveal the root of this entire crisis. She explains that she was forced to choose science, even though her true interests lay in English literature and history. This story isn't limited to one household. It's the reality of thousands, if not millions, of homes across the country, where societal expectations matter more than a child's interests. Parents often forget that a child is not an extension of their unfulfilled ambitions, but an independent individual. Social comparison—that so-and-so's son became a doctor or that so-and-so's daughter made it to IIT—blinds us so much that we overlook our children's desires, abilities, and limitations. Kriti's warning to her younger sister makes this suicide note even more poignant. She wants her sister to be allowed to study what she wants to study and become what

she wants to be. Ironically, even as she dies, she's trying to save someone else's life. This warning isn't just for a mother, but for society as a whole, which imposes its dreams on children instead of listening to them. Today's schools and coaching institutes teach children mathematical formulas, chemical equations, and competitive exam strategies, but they are completely failing to impart life's most important lessons. They fail to teach children how to deal with failure, how to understand mental stress, and that asking for help is not a weakness. Competition has been transformed into a tool of fear rather than inspiration. Rank lists, mock tests, and constant comparisons instill a lasting inferiority complex in children, causing them to view themselves only through the lens of marks and selection.

## Editorial

### A decisive mandate: On Tarique Rahman, the BNP, the Bangladesh result

With a landslide verdict in its favour, the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) is set to form the government in Dhaka, with its leader, Tarique Rahman, becoming the country's first male Prime Minister elected to the post in decades. Mr. Rahman's road to the post, two decades after being barred from elections (due to cases) and going into exile under the previous Awami League government, is dramatic, with his return to Bangladesh just days before the death of his mother and former Prime Minister, Khaleda Zia. The interim government led by Muhammad Yunus is expected to hand over the reins to Mr. Rahman. Despite its more than two-thirds of the elected seats in the Jatiya Sangsad, the BNP has many challenges ahead. As the first elected government since Sheikh Hasina's ouster in August 2024, the first order of business will be to restore old political institutions and effect a political reconciliation. This could mean releasing political prisoners and an outreach to the banned Awami League, many of whose supporters did not vote. The next will be to prepare for the challenge from the Jamaat-e-Islami, whose coalition won about 75 seats in Parliament, its best performance yet. As a more vocal opposition now, the Jamaat, whose leaders have pitched a regressive line on women's rights and for religious politics, will try and push the new centrist government to the right. Voters have also emphatically supported the 'July Charter' referendum, that calls for a caretaker government, reforms that could shift the powers of the Prime Minister, and an upper house in Parliament with proportional representation. Meanwhile, Mr. Rahman must hit the ground running on reviving the economy and restoring trade links with India. For New Delhi, keen to reset ties after they hit a nadir under Mr. Yunus, the outreach to the new government is important. The Modi government has had tensions with the BNP as it reduced engagement with the opposition in Bangladesh during Ms. Hasina's tenure. It must also take back the space ceded to Pakistan, the U.S. and China, which have each forged new relations with Bangladesh since Ms. Hasina's ouster.



**The rapidly increasing menace of rumours and fake news across the world, including India, is a challenge; causing serious harm to society, democracy and human life; the Fake News Act 2026 is necessary. Globally, the twenty-first century digital age has brought unprecedented power of information. The internet, social media, and messaging platforms have connected people, but at the same time, the scourge of rumors and fake news has also rapidly increased. Today, not only India but the entire world is grappling with the challenge of how false, misleading, and deliberately disseminated information is causing serious harm to society, democracy, and human life.**



## Missing Persons Rumours in the Digital Age: Fear, Facts, Law and the Threat to Democracy

Kishan Sanmukhdas Bhavani

This situation is no longer merely a matter of social and ethical concern, but has become a serious issue related to national and international security, public health, and the integrity of the electoral process. I, Advocate Kishan Sanmukhdas Bhavani, Gondia, Maharashtra, believe that the most dangerous aspect of rumors is that they often masquerade as truth. Viral content on digital platforms incites emotions, spreads fear, and reinforces prejudice. In a diverse country like India, where linguistic, religious, caste, and political differences already exist, rumors weaken the social fabric. Globally, rumors have fueled racial tensions, war-like situations, and affected diplomatic relations. Fake news's primary and most profound impact is on social harmony. Communal rumors, misleading videos, doctored images, and statements taken out of context often lead to violence, riots, and social tension. India has witnessed numerous incidents over the past year where WhatsApp messages or social media posts have led to mob violence, lynchings, and communal clashes. This demonstrates that rumors are not just an information problem, but have become a social security crisis. Therefore, it is becoming increasingly clear that general laws or voluntary policies of platforms alone are not sufficient to combat rumors. Some time ago, the issue of missing persons in Mumbai was gaining traction. After warnings issued by the Mumbai Police revealed that the number

of missing persons was in line with previous years' averages, the issue subsided after warnings of legal action against rumors were issued. Now, the discussions surrounding missing persons in Delhi have raised the question of whether there is truly an extraordinary crisis, or whether it is merely social panic created by digital rumors. A major news agency in Delhi claimed that more than 800 people went missing in Delhi in the first 15 days of 2026. This number sounds alarming, but it does not disclose how many cases are related to family disputes, voluntary actions, exam fears, young people's indiscretions, leaving home due to love affairs, or misreporting. Videos, audio clips, and emotional posts are going viral on social media. The issue gained further traction after a prominent leader expressed concern on Twitter. However, when the data was analyzed, it was revealed that the recovery rate of missing persons in Delhi is around 77 percent. A significant proportion of those declared missing are safely recovered. This rate is considered better than that of many international metropolises. Media reports have reported that the Delhi Police stated that the number of missing persons reported in recent months is no different from the average of previous years. I heard a senior Delhi Police officer say that rumors should be ignored. The impact of rumors on democratic processes is extremely worrying. Fake news during elections influences voter perceptions, tarnish-

es the image of candidates, and raises questions about electoral fairness. The misinformation spread through social media during election time in India in recent years is a prime example of this. Foreign interference in elections and organized fake news campaigns have been confirmed in many countries. If democracy is to be protected, rumors cannot be ignored simply in the name of freedom of expression.

Friends, if we consider the impact of rumors in the public health sector, it has proven even more devastating. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the world witnessed how false information created fear about vaccines, promoted dangerous home remedies in the name of treatment, and spread distrust in health systems. In many countries, including India, rumors prevented people from seeking timely treatment, leading to loss of life and property. It is clear that when rumors become a matter of life and death, stopping them becomes not only a moral responsibility but also a legal necessity. The role of digital platforms in India is crucial in this entire scenario.

WhatsApp, Facebook, Instagram, and other social media platforms have become the biggest carriers of rumors. End-to-end encryption, uncontrolled forwarding, and algorithm-driven content promotion have spread false news to millions of people in the blink of an eye. Current Indian laws, such as the IT Act and certain sections of the Indian Penal Code, are proving inadequate to address this problem. These laws were not

designed to account for the speed, scale, and complexity of rumors.

Friends, if we try to understand the problem from the angle of paid promotion and marketing of fear, then not only ignorance but also commercial interests are probably behind the rumors. Today many influencers, pages and channels deliberately spread scary content because: it increases views, gets engagement, gets paid promotion and brand deals, this is a kind of fear based marketing strategy, in which the insecurity of the society is sold like a product. Limitations of the law: Are the existing provisions adequate? In India, some provisions exist in the IT Act, Indian Judicial Code and other laws to deal with rumours, but they are not specific.

Friends, in this context, if we discuss the need for a specific and stringent law, there is a growing need for a Fake News Act that clearly criminalizes rumors. Such a law should not only provide penal provisions for those who knowingly spread false information, but also define what constitutes rumor, fake news, and misleading information. Efforts are needed towards a uniform framework at the international level to facilitate cooperation between countries, given the global nature of digital platforms. However, merely enacting laws will not be enough. If citizens themselves are unable to distinguish between true and false information, rumors will continue to spread in one form or another. Therefore, widespread digital literacy and media literacy campaigns are needed.

# Deendayal Upadhyay and Defection

L.S. Hardenia

The Bharatiya Janata Party is currently celebrating the birth anniversary of Deendayal Upadhyaya. Deendayal Upadhyaya was one of the BJP leaders who founded the Jana Sangh, the BJP's predecessor. The Jana Sangh later formed the Bharatiya Janata Party, but the BJP considered Deendayal Upadhyaya its greatest source of inspiration and, as long as he lived, followed the ideals he espoused. However, after some time, the BJP largely abandoned Deendayal Upadhyaya's principles and adopted various opportunistic tactics to seize power. Madhya Pradesh is a prime example of this. Such a maze was created that despite winning the 2023 elections, the Congress was

unable to retain power, and Jyotiraditya Scindia, a member of the Scindia family, played a key role in this effort. Thus, with Jyotiraditya Scindia's support, the BJP seized power in Madhya Pradesh.

In fact, the Bharatiya Janata Party has lost its claim to following the ideals of Deendayal Upadhyaya. The BJP accuses the Congress of abandoning the path shown by Mahatma Gandhi. Couldn't a similar accusation be leveled against the BJP?

It was believed that defection was an infectious disease that was eroding our parliamentary system. The severity of this malady was recognized, among others, by Deendayal Upadhyaya, founder of

the Jan Sangh and inspiration to millions of members of the Bharatiya Janata Party. In an article written on February 27, 1961, he stated, "It is natural for more than one party to exist in a democracy. These parties must adopt a kind of Panchsheel (five principles), only then can healthy traditions be established." If defection occurs on ideological and theoretical grounds, it may be justified to some extent. If it occurs on any other basis or reason, it cannot be considered justifiable. If a situation arises where no party wins a majority or wins a majority by a very narrow margin, and political parties attempt to seize power by unethical means, it would be extremely wrong.

Healthy practices must be estab-

lished to prevent such situations from arising. This will ensure the survival of stable governments and prevent political parties from falling into the clutches of self-serving politicians.

It is sad that the BJP, which considers Deendayal Upadhyaya its foremost inspiration, is striving to secure a majority despite being in a minority. What has happened in our state today is completely contrary to the path shown by Deendayal Upadhyaya.

The first attempt to seize power against the code of conduct established by Deendayal Upadhyaya occurred in 1967. Even then, the Scindia family and the Jan Sangh played a major role in orchestrating the defections. Before the 1967 elec-

tions, Rajmata Vijayaraje Scindia was in the Congress. She had serious disagreements with the then Chief Minister, Pandit D.P. Mishra, over ticket distribution and other issues.

The Queen Mother wanted the selection of candidates from the former Gwalior State to be based on her own wishes. When she presented this condition to Mishraji, he stated that the state she was referring to had ceased to exist in 1947. Hearing this, the Queen Mother became enraged. She left the Congress party, formed her own party, fielded candidates in numerous constituencies, and achieved resounding victories. Congress candidates' deposits were forfeited in several constituencies.

# Love is in the air as Delhi soaks in Valentine spirit

**New Delhi(GNS):** Delhi was awash with love and affection on Saturday as Delhiites of all ages stepped out to celebrate Valentine's Day. From couples enjoying cozy café dates to friends and families soaking in the day, the city embraced the festival with its own unique charm.

The festival, which traces its roots back to ancient Rome, has now become a highly anticipated occasion for expressing love - romantic, platonic and even self-love. Popular hangouts like Connaught Place saw couples strolling with bouquets of red roses, balloons and gift bags, while Lodhi Garden witnessed quiet moments of affection under the gentle winter sun.

Florists reported a surge in demand for red roses, gift shops stocked up on soft toys and chocolates and restaurants noted bookings days in advance as lovebirds prepared to make the day special. For many young Delhiites, Valentine's Day is a



chance to openly express feelings that previous generations often kept private.

Riya, holding a bouquet of roses, shared, "These roses are for my boyfriend. He buys me flowers a lot, and every once in a while. I think buying flowers for

your guy is a great gesture as well. After all, boys deserve roses from their ladies too." Meanwhile, Shubham, who had already gifted his bouquet to his girlfriend, said, "We're planning to go to a café next. Valentine's Day is about making simple moments special."

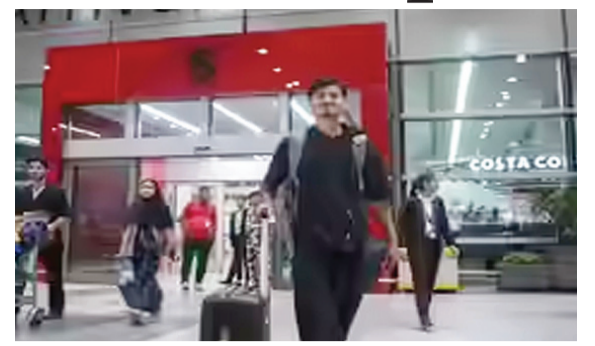
Not all celebrations revolved around expensive gifts or fancy dates. TMediasha explained, "For me and my boyfriend, Valentine's Day isn't about lavish presents. Even a simple walk in Connaught Place with coffee feels special. It's about spending uninterrupted time together." The day has also evolved beyond romantic love, with many celebrating friendships and self-love. Sanskriti shared, "I went to Nehru Planetarium with my girls to watch the space show, then had lunch at Miabella in Hauz Khas. Overall, it was an amazing day."

Even singles found ways to join the celebration. Rohan, sitting with friends at a Metro station, said, "I think Valentine's Day is about love in general, not just couples. I celebrate it with friends. The vibe in Delhi is fun, even if you're single." From romantic gestures to moments of friendship and self-appreciation, Delhiites proved that love in all its forms was very much alive in the Capital this Valentine's Day.

# 120 mist spray systems installed at IGI Airport

**New Delhi(GNS):** Chief minister Rekha Gupta on Saturday inaugurated 120 mist spray systems installed by GMR Group at Indira Gandhi International Airport and described the initiative as a significant step towards curbing air pollution in the capital.

"Our govt is working on all fronts, in collaboration with all stakeholders, to control pollution in Delhi. This initiative for dust mitigation in the airport area is commendable and strengthens our resolve for a clean and safe Delhi," said CM Gupta. South Delhi MP Ramvir Singh Bidhuri, who was also present at the event, said the mist spray systems will help check flight disruptions by controlling smog. "Flights departing from Delhi will no longer face disruptions," said Bidhuri. The mist systems, CM said,



would enhance air quality for travellers and strengthen Delhi's environmental credentials.

CM said the installation would be scaled up to 600 poles to improve dust control in and around the airport. She also outlined the govt's broader clean-air roadmap, including full electrification of the public bus fleet by 2029, expansion of metro network, development of EV charging infrastructure, deployment of over 1,000 water sprinklers, and the introduction of AI-based dust monitoring at construction sites.

# Delhi CM Rekha Gupta hails key Cabinet decisions

**New Delhi(GNS):** Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Saturday welcomed a series of decisions taken by the Union Cabinet, calling them "important and far-reaching" for the capital's infrastructure, economic growth, and cultural advancement.

In a post on X, the Chief Minister expressed appreciation for the approval of the third and fourth railway lines on the Delhi-Ambala rail route, stating that the move would strengthen the Capital's rail network and make passenger travel smoother and more convenient. She also hailed the decision to transform the historic North Block and South Block into the grand Yugeen Bharat National Museum, saying the initiative would play a significant role in preserving Delhi's cultural heritage and giving it global recognition.

Highlighting economic initiatives,



Gupta said visionary policies such as the Urban Challenge Fund and 'Startup India Fund 2.0' would help modernise urban planning in Delhi and create new opportunities for the youth.

Thanking Prime Minister Narendra Modi, she expressed gratitude for the Centre's continued support in the development of Delhi and for what she termed as welfare-oriented announcements aimed at the city's long-term growth.

# Delhi HC upholds DJB decision to bar firms facing corruption, money laundering cases from tenders

**New Delhi(GNS):** Delhi High Court has upheld the Delhi Jal Board's decision to bar compMedias facing corruption or money-laundering cases from bidding for high-value sewage and water infrastructure projects.

A bench of justices Nitin Wasudeo Sambre and Ajay Dignpaul held that the eligibility condition was a bona fide measure in public interest and did not warrant interference. "The decision taken by DJB in framing such a clause is not a targeted one and is a bona fide decision taken in the public interest. The specific work of public importance, like essential public services relating to the water supply, will always have overriding public interest," the bench observed.

The court dismissed petitions filed by two private firms challenging the eligibility clause introduced in Jan. The condition renders a bidder ineligible if an FIR or chargesheet alleging fraud, corruption, financial irregularities or other economic offences exists against the company or its key managerial personnel in relation to DJB contracts, or if they are under inves-



tigation by agencies such as the Anti-Corruption Branch, CBI, Enforcement Directorate or Economic Offences Wing.

The firms currently facing Enforcement Directorate proceedings under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act-argued that since they had not been convicted, the clause was arbitrary and discriminatory. The court rejected this, noting that allegations against the compMedias involve connivance with DJB officials, cheating and fraud.

"Merely because the petitioners were

not convicted, or because a conviction may lead to disqualification for three years, does not by itself confer any leverage upon the petitioners to claim they are being discriminated against," the bench said. The court accepted DJB's argument, presented by standing counsel Tushar Sannu, that the clause was preventive rather than punitive. The measure, it noted, was intended to protect public interest and prevent future harm.

The bench underlined that the tender relates to the design, construction and operation of decentralised sewage treatment plants and pumping stations, along with long-term maintenance. Any delay or compromise in quality, it said, would directly affect sewage-treatment outcomes, groundwater contamination, and pollution levels in the Yamuna, with wide-ranging public-health consequences.

Both compMedias and their directors face allegations in an alleged multi-crore scam involving the augmentation and upgradation of 10 sewage treatment plants, based on complaints from DJB's vigilance wing.

# Man shot dead in Delhi's Rohini; gang war angle suspected

**New Delhi(GNS):** A man identified as Sahil Solanki was shot dead in Delhi's Rohini area on Saturday night, with police suspecting gang rivalry behind the killing. Sahil, who had recently been released from jail, was allegedly associated with the notorious Gogi gang. The rival Tillu gang is suspected to be behind the murder. The two gangs are known to be sworn enemies. Following the incident, fear has gripped the locality. Police said the investigation is underway and the accused are absconding.

Preeti, a local resident, said, "The continuous criminal incidents in Delhi over the past several days are proof that the nation's capital is now becoming a crime capital, where incidents like murder, robbery, theft, and shooting have become commonplace. The latest incident occurred in the Cartoon police station area of



Rohini district. This incident is from Rohini Sector 17, where a young man was shot dead in broad daylight on Saturday night. The deceased has been identified as Sahil Solanki, who lived with his family in Rohini Sector 17."

According to police, Sahil was shot in the head and other parts of the body. The attackers reportedly arrived on a

motorcycle, opened fire and fled the spot. Police teams, including the crime and forensic units, reached the scene and recovered multiple empty cartridges. Statements of local witnesses have also been recorded. District Additional DCP Rajiv Ranjan said over the phone that Sahil had been released from jail a few days ago and had a criminal back-

ground. Police said no previous murder case had been registered against him, though three other cases were confirmed.

Police sources claimed the deceased was known as 'Durga' and was linked to the Gogi gang in the Delhi-NCR region, though this has not been officially confirmed. A knife was reportedly recovered from his right hand at the scene. All evidence has been seized and preserved, and the body has been kept at Ambedkar Hospital in Rohini for post-mortem. The family members of the deceased are inconsolable, while residents in the area have expressed fear and concern following the brazen killing. Police have registered a case of murder and are scanning CCTV footage from nearby areas. Technical surveillance and local intelligence inputs are also being used to trace the attackers.

# Rare cancer at 10, Kenyan girl fights back even after losing a leg

**New Delhi(GNS):** By the time she turned 19, Lakita Frida faced bone cancer, lost a limb, developed a life-threatening bone marrow disorder - and survived them all.

On the eve of International Childhood Cancer Day, the story of the Kenyan teenager treated in India drew attention to Li-Fraumeni syndrome, a rare inherited condition that significantly increases the risk of developing multiple cancers from childhood. "I was five when my dad passed away from cancer," Frida, who lives in Nairobi, told Media. "Then when I was 10, I got cancer."

What began as sharp pain in her right knee during childhood sports was diagnosed as osteosarcoma, an aggressive bone cancer. With a family history of sarcoma in her father and aunt, doctors at Medanta Hospital in Gurgaon suspected a genetic predisposition. A PET-CT scan confirmed the tumour in her right femur and genetic testing

revealed a mutation in the TP53 gene, confirming Li-Fraumeni syndrome.

She underwent multi-agent chemotherapy followed by limb salvage surgery, during which her knee joint was replaced with a titanium implant. After further chemotherapy, she returned to school and remained stable for nearly two years.

In 2020, the cancer returned. "There was nothing else they could do. They had to amputate the full leg," she said. She underwent additional chemotherapy and a bone marrow transplant the same year. The first transplant was autologous, using her own stem cells.

She spent nearly 100 days in hospital recovering. In 2022, she developed myelodysplastic syndrome, a serious bone marrow disorder in which immature blood cells fail to develop properly. This time, she required an allogenic bone marrow transplant from her mother. The procedure was successfully performed.

## 'They said they would parade me naked'

# Woman YouTuber alleges assault, AISA denies charges; how scuffle unfolded at Delhi University

**New Delhi(GNS):** A woman YouTuber alleged on Saturday that she was assaulted and that an attempt was made to forcibly take her away during a protest at Delhi University's North Campus a day earlier. However, a student group denied the allegations, claiming that its members were targeted instead.

The YouTuber stated that she had gone to cover a protest demanding the implementation of new UGC regulations and was attacked after being asked her name.

"I had gone to cover the protest, as I regularly do. Before I could even take out my mic, a person behind me tried to instigate me by repeatedly taking my name. When I asked him what the issue was, he asked for my name and caste. I told him my name and asked what had happened. After that, things escalated," the YouTuber said.

"The entire crowd came towards me and attacked me. This is clear in the video. About 500 people attacked me. They just have fake narrations and fake allegations. The girls around me whispered rape threats in my ears just because I am a Brahmin; 'aaj tu chal, tera nanga parade niklega,' is what they said. The men around me were saying that they would teach me a lesson. The girls had held



me by the arms and neck. This is an attempt to murder. I had fallen unconscious, but the Police did nothing," she told Media.

YouTuber alleged that the reason the mob targeted her for her caste and that she was now registered an FIR in the

case.

"A boy there was signalling to others to take me away. Did they want to kidnap me? My clothes were being torn. I was being improperly touched. They were goons, they cannot be students. I was attacked due to my caste. Nobody supported me, only a few Law Faculties showed humMediaty, and I came out with their help as well as with that of a few women Police personnel. FIR has been registered, I trust the law. The incident occurred for about half an hour. There was mob lynching there, I escaped somehow is a big deal for me," she claimed.

"There was also a car with its gate open, and gestures were being made suggesting I be taken inside. I have filed a complaint with the police," she added. Meanwhile, Delhi University vice-chancellor Yogesh Singh described the incident as a matter of concern and said maintaining social harmony was everyone's responsibility. The All India Students' Association (AISA) said in a statement that the protest over the UGC regulations was peaceful and that its activists intervened after the YouTuber allegedly created a disruption and confronted a journalist at the site.

It termed the allegations "false and motivated" and said two of its members were later threatened and faced abuse at the police station when they went to file a complaint.

## WESTERN RAILWAY PROVISION OF LIFTS

Sr. DEE/P/BCT invites Tender Notice No. EL-166-160-WA-84, Date:13-02-2026 (Two Packet System). Work and Location: Mumbai Division (Non Suburban Section) - Provision of Lifts (27 Nos) on FOBs of stations (Composite tender for Electrical and Civil work). Approx. Cost of Work: ₹ 17,04,37,423.81/- EMD: ₹ 10,02,200.00/- Date & Time of Submission: till 10.03.2026, 15.00 hrs. Date & Time Opening: on 10.03.2026 at 15.30 hrs. For further details please visit our website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) 1124

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## WESTERN RAILWAY VARIOUS WORK

Deputy Chief Signal & Telecom Engineer (Construction), IInd Floor, Annex Building, DRM Office, Pratapnagar, Western Railway, Vadodara-390004 invites Tender Notice No. S&T/C/BRC/141/2025-26, Date: 11.02.2026. Name of the Work and Location: "Design, Supply, Installation, Alteration, Testing and Commissioning of Hot Stand by Electronic Interlocking (Hitachi Make) System and Outdoor Signaling Systems in connection with track circuit Work at Sevaliya Station for WTPS siding under Dy. CSTE Construction, Vadodara, Gujarat (Western Railway). Approx. Cost of the Work: ₹ 3,86,77,172.84 EMD: ₹ 3,43,400.00 Date & Time of Submission of e-tender: till 09.03.2026, 15.00 hrs. Date & Time of Opening of e-tender: on 09.03.2026 at 15.30 hrs. For further details please visit our website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) 1116

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# Peeragarhi deaths: Occultist 'brainwashed' clients; police probe money trail, modus operandi

**New Delhi(GNS):** The occultist, Kamruddin-arrested for allegedly killing three people near Peeragarhi-had started influencing five others through ritual claims and collecting money from them, said police. Investigators said chat logs and mobile records corroborated his attempts to "brainwash" them. "The individuals were residents of Jahangirpuri, Ghazipur and Loni, and had reportedly paid him money on the pretext of curing ailments or increasing their wealth," a source said, adding, "He allegedly collected amounts ranging from Rs 1,100 to Rs 10,000, claiming it was part of an initial healing process." He is suspected to be linked to at least eight murders, the source said.

Sources said this was only the first stage of his operation and that he could have extracted larger sums or involved the victims in



more dangerous acts had he not been arrested.

Police found another mobile number believed to be used by the accused and are searching for the second handset. A keypad phone has already been recovered from him, they said.

Investigators also took Kamruddin to Loni and Peeragarhi to recreate the sequence of events, as these were the routes used by the accused and the victims on the day of the killings. "He was taken to the house where he ran his fake prac-

tices, then to the spot from where CCTV footage emerged and finally to Peeragarhi," a source said.

A senior police officer said the accused initially ran a bangle business but later shifted to occult practices after seeing the possibility of earning more. "During interrogation, he said several people near his residence were already involved in such activities, which influenced him," the officer said. Police are now examining the bank accounts of the accused and his children to trace the money trail.

According to police, the occultist-arrested for allegedly poisoning and killing Randhir, 76; Shiv Naresh, 42; and Laxmi, 40-revealed a calculated modus operandi centred on ritualistic deception. The victims' bodies were found in an abandoned car, near the Peeragarhi flyover, on Feb 8.

# Early winter's exit due to less rain; clear days ahead

**New Delhi, (GNS):** Lack of winter rain, the absence of strong western disturbances and a nationwide winter rain deficiency of more than 40% are contributing to an unusually early withdrawal of winter this year, weather analysts said.

Data from the India Meteorological Department (IMD) shows that Delhi has recorded only a trace of rain so far this month. IMD's earlier monthly outlook had also warned that Feb temperatures were likely to remain above normal. "There has been almost no winter rain since Jan 1, and the western disturbances passing over north India were largely feeble. As a result, winter conditions are retreating earlier than usual," said Mahesh Palawat of Skymet. He added that although another western disturbance is



approaching, its impact on Delhi-NCR will be negligible, with only a trace of rainfall likely in isolated pockets. On Saturday, the maximum settled at 27°C, four notches above normal, up from 26.3°C a day earlier. The minimum was 9.2°C, a notch below normal, compared with 9.8°C on Friday. For Sunday, IMD has forecast maximum and minimum temperatures of 26-28°C and 10-12°C. The agency said minimum temperatures are likely to rise by 1-3°C over the next four days.

# Digital lok adalat to assist people settle traffic challans easily

**New Delhi(GNS):**A dedicated "Digital Lok Adalat" system was introduced on Saturday to enable faster and more convenient settlement of traffic challans, making the process simpler and more accessible for citizens.

It was introduced by Delhi Traffic Police, in coordination with Delhi State Legal Services Authority and National Informatics Centre, and was e-inaugurated by justice V Kameshwar Rao. Under the existing process, citizens often faced delays in the updating of notices and the settlement of challans in Lok Adalats. The newsystem was developed as a technological intervention to streamline the disposal process, ensure timely updates, and provide easier public access. Police said the newly developed portal enabled unified access to traffic challan data. Citizens also received SMS notifications regard-



ing the disposal status of their challans or notices. The initiative is expected to reduce the backlog of pending traffic challans, provide quicker settlements to vehicle owners, and ensure greater transparency and efficiency in Lok Adalat proceedings. In the current Lok Adalat, a total of 1,92,444 challans and notices have been downloaded for settlement. The disposal status of 1,25,678 challans and notices has been updated on the server.

# G20-like security setup for AI summit in Delhi; anti-drone systems, bomb squads and 500 CCTVs to guard venue

**New Delhi(GNS):** From anti-drone systems to 100-odd police personnel at each of the 10 hotels housing VIPs and 5,000 traffic cops, a G20-like security apparatus is being put in place for the five-day AI (Artificial Intelligence) Impact Summit beginning at Bharat Mandapam Monday.

Sources said a robust air defence setup, including five anti-drone systems, would guard the venue. They are designed to detect, track and neutralise drones in real time. Multiple air defence guns will also be deployed. Similar systems were in place for the world leaders' G20 summit at the same venue in Sept 2023. The venue will be equipped with more than 500 CCTV cameras, most of them featuring advanced video analytics, including facial recognition technology linked to a comprehensive criminal database and an automatic numberplate recognition system integrated with a database of stolen or suspicious vehicles. Additional capabilities, such as intrusion detection and suspect object identification, are also being incorporated to



strengthen overall security. Inside, a mini control room will be set up to monitor suspicious activity. It will have control over all CCTV feeds and can directly alert police personnel, allowing immediate action, if necessary.

The venue will also have 20-25 anti-sabotage teams, along with bomb detection and disposal squads, to conduct continuous security sweeps.

These teams are already inspecting every nook and corner of the site, as well as surrounding areas, to detect and neutralise any potential risk. Five teams of the NDRF will be deployed to tackle any kind

of disaster, and two teams have been kept in reserve. Steps are also being taken to ensure no protests or demonstrations are held around the venue. Twenty-five teams with wireless sets and buses will coordinate, and if there is any chance of a gathering, they will immediately reach the spot and detain the protesters.

Sources said guests would be accommodated at 10 hotels in and around the city. Each hotel will be placed under the supervision of a senior DCP-rank officer, who will be responsible for overseeing all security arrangements at the property.

"To support the officer, a team of approximately 100 personnel will be deployed at each hotel. This staff will manage entry and exit points, and monitor guest movements," a source said. As the event is being held at the time of school examinations, police have been asked to assist students if they get stuck in congestion or roadblocks. "If students risk being late for their exams, cops will take steps to transport them safely and promptly to their respective examination centres.

# 10 retail pharmacies in Delhi face action for violating rules

**New Delhi(GNS):**In a move to curb the sale of sub-standard medicines, the Delhi Drugs Control Department conducted a special enforcement drive at Nangloi. During the drive, the department inspected 12 retail pharmacies. Out of these, 10 pharmacies were found violating the Drugs Rules, 1945. The department initiated action against them under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act.

During the drive, 49 medicine samples were collected for test to ensure compliance with regulatory standards. Some pharmacies were found displaying unauthorised discount boards in violation of the provisions of the Act and Rules. These boards were removed on the spot.

Health Minister Pankaj Kumar Singh said, "Public health is our highest priority. The Delhi Government is committed to protecting citizens



from spurious and sub-standard medicines. As long as I serve as the Health Minister, no fake medicines will be allowed in Delhi. Enforcement will continue wherever violations are found."

The drive is part of an ongoing effort to maintain strict regulatory oversight

across the national capital, including earlier operations targeting lifesaving anti-cancer drugs to safeguard vulnerable patients. The authorities have warned all drug retailers to adhere strictly to the provisions of the Drugs Rules and maintain ethical pharmaceutical practices.

# Sub inspector duped of nearly 17 lakh by cyber scammers

**New Delhi(GNS):** A sub-inspector was allegedly duped of nearly Rs 17 lakh after cyber scammers, posing as officials of a natural gas distribution company, threatened to disconnect his gas connection.

In his complaint, the cop said he received a call from an unknown person claiming to be from the gas company. The caller warned that his pipeline connection would be cut off unless he immediately verified his details. The caller also correctly cited his account number, making the call appear genuine. Under pressure, he shared certain information but maintained that he did not reveal any OTPs, banking passwords or login credentials.

# Delhi man arrested for strangling wife to death on Valentine's Day over domestic dispute

**New Delhi, (GNS):** A 39-year-old man has been arrested for allegedly murdering his wife in outer Delhi's Sultanpuri by strangling her with a scarf on Valentine's Day.

The deceased has been identified as a 35-year-old housewife and a resident of Sultanpuri. Her husband, who works as a driver in Punjabi Bagh, was taken into custody. The couple has two sons, aged 10 and 13.

Police have denied the claims that suspicions of an illicit affair may have led to the alleged murder. Police have clarified that no evidence supporting infidelity as a motive has emerged during the investigation so far. Officers said that the incident appears to have followed a domestic



dispute between the couple.

Upon reaching the house, police found the woman lying on a mattress on the floor inside a room, with a scarf tied around her neck.

She was shifted to the hospital, where doctors declared her dead. The body has been sent for post-mortem examination to ascertain the exact cause of death, police said.

# Delhi L-G VK Saxena inaugurates first-ever DDA Green Expo

**New Delhi(GNS):**In a major push towards a greener and sustainable urban future, Lt Governor VK Saxena inaugurated the first-ever DDA Green Expo 2026 at Baansera in the national capital on Saturday. The two-day event, themed "Beyond Growth: Reimagining Urban Futures," brings together senior government leaders, urban planners, climate experts and industry stakeholders to deliberate on innovative solutions for Delhi's environmental challenges.

During the inauguration, Saxena also unveiled the DDA Greens 2026 Year Book, highlighting the authority's commitment to promoting green spaces across the city. "The expo reaffirms



our commitment to a greener, healthier and more hopeful future for Delhi," he said, adding that the event honours Delhi residents who nurture small green patches, teach children about local biodiversity and plant and care for saplings—calling them "everyday heroes of our environmental journey."

The Lt Governor emphasised the transformation of Baansera, a previously degraded and polluted site, into a platform for sustainable urban planning, calling it a "stellar example of greening and reclaiming degraded land."

DDA Vice-Chairman N Saravana Kumar highlighted that apart from its role as a planner, developer and regulator, the Delhi Development

Authority also acted as Delhi's Environmental Trustee, ensuring that green initiatives integrated ecology, innovation and community engagement.

A major highlight of the event was the signing of multiple memorandums of understanding (MoUs) aimed at transforming DDA parks into civic and ecological hubs. Partnerships were signed with the National School of Drama to organise theatre workshops in park spaces, the University of Delhi for ecological research and student-led fieldwork and Delhi Technological University for introducing technology-driven sustainability solutions. An MoU with the National Medicinal Plants Board will facilitate the development of herbal gardens and medicinal

nurseries, while collaboration with WWF-India will establish Citizens' Nature Hubs to promote environmental awareness. DDA will also enter into a knowledge partnership with the Mathura-Vrindavan Development Authority for sustainable and heritage-sensitive urban planning practices.

The expo features panel discussions on climate-responsive city design, flood resilience, nature-based infrastructure and innovative financing models for green infrastructure. Through these initiatives, the DDA aims to reposition its parks as centres for research, cultural engagement, youth participation and environmental learning, moving beyond recreation to become dynamic platforms.