

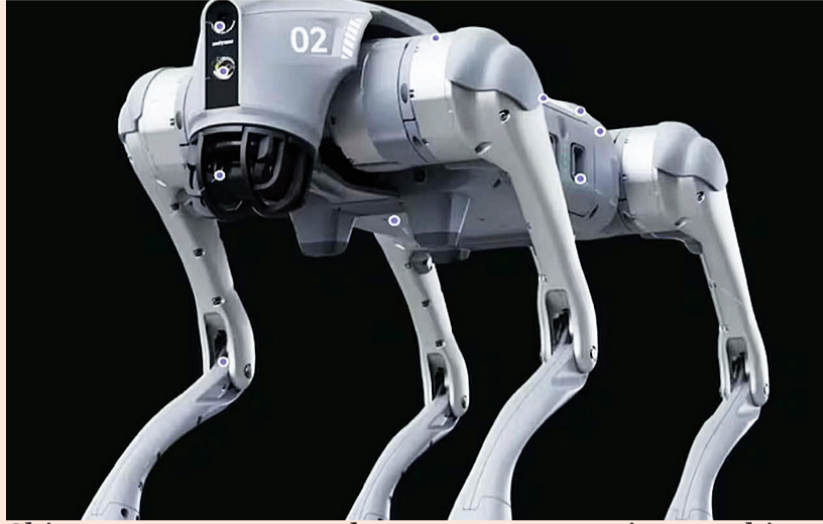


We did not create or claim anything, university clarifies on robotic dog controversy

New Delhi(GNS):

Following the controversy surrounding the robotic dog presented at the India AI Impact Summit 2026, Galgotias University has issued a clarification. The university stated that it neither created nor claimed to have created the robotic dog. According to the institute, the device was purchased from a global Chinese robotics company for educational purposes. The university administration has been forced to issue clarifications due to questions and criticism on social media.

According to media reports, a robotic dog displayed at the AI Summit has sparked controversy on social media. Some reports claimed that the university presented a robotic dog named Orion, which is actually Unitri's "Go2" model. This AI-powered device is available on



Chinese e-commerce platforms for approximately 2 to 3 lakh rupees. Following this, many social media users alleged that imported technology was being presented as indigenous innovation.

In response to these allegations, the university said in a statement, "We want to clarify that Galgotias did not create this robodog, nor does it make any such claim. We

are not creating machines, but rather the minds that will design, engineer, and manufacture such technologies in India in the future." The university stated that the robotic dog was brought to campus for student training and research. Students are using it to understand, test, and explore various capabilities and potential real-life applications. The institute states that expo-



sure to cutting-edge global technologies broadens students' vision and develops their capacity for innovation. The statement also stated that from the US to China and Singapore, we bring advanced technologies to campus because exposure creates vision, and vision creates creators. The university emphasized that innovation knows no boundaries and that learning should be conducted with a global perspective.

Mamata Banerjee is ruling Bengal like Tughlaq and Aurangzeb

►BJP MP alleges conspiracy to turn Bengal into Bangladesh

Patna (GNS): The controversy over the Babri Masjid, being built by Humayun Kabir in West Bengal, continues unabated. NDA leaders in Bihar have targeted West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, claiming that she is also supporting Kabir. Union Minister Giriraj Singh said that the Bengal government's role in issues related to the Babri Masjid also raises questions and advised Mamata Banerjee not to play a double game.

He said that Mamata Banerjee wants to remain in power with the help of Bangladeshi Muslims, but now the Hindus of Bengal have awakened. Those who call Mamata Banerjee a "lioness" are misinforming her and accusing her of taking



the state towards becoming Bangladesh. He alleged that Mamata Banerjee is governing like Tughlaq and Aurangzeb and is suppressing Hindus.

Meanwhile, BJP leader Syed Shah Nawaz Hussain also claimed a change of power in West Bengal. He said that the BJP has won in Bihar, Haryana, Maharashtra and Delhi and now the party's flag will fly high in Bengal as well. He expressed confidence that the BJP will get a clear majority in the upcoming elec-

tions. Meanwhile, rhetoric is also increasing in Bihar politics. Bihar government minister Ram Kripal Yadav, targeting RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav, said that he should first give an account of his tenure. He claimed that the Nitish government is working for all sections and historic steps have been taken for the development of the state. On the issue of prohibition, he said that if any shortcomings are found, the government will take action.

BSP will contest the 2027 elections alone; reports of alliance are fake news and part of a conspiracy.

BSP supremo Mayawati put an end to speculations circulating in political circles.

Lucknow (GNS): Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) supremo Mayawati has once again put an end to the speculation surrounding a possible alliance for the 2027 UP Assembly elections. Mayawati clarified that the reports circulating on social media and in some sections of the media regarding the alliance are completely fake news and part of a deep conspiracy. She warned party workers that opposition parties and some media houses are hatching nefarious conspiracies to weaken the BSP and divert the attention of its supporters.

According to media reports, the BSP chief clearly stated that her party will fight the 2027 mission on its own and form a government with an absolute majority. Mayawati also clarified her decision to acquire a new bungalow in Delhi. Mayawati completely dismissed the possibility of an alliance, stating that the BSP is well aware that the ideologies of the Samajwadi Party, Congress, and BJP are completely contrary to the thinking of Babasaheb Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar.

Sharing her experiences, she said that alliances with these parties have never benefited the BSP, but have always resulted in significant political losses. Mayawati alleged that whenever the BSP has formed alliances, opposition parties have taken the BSP's votes but failed to transfer their own votes to the BSP. She urged party workers to remain focused on the 2027 mission, moving with the graceful gait of an elephant.

Mayawati also strongly objected to reports circulating on social media regarding the central government allotting her a new bungalow in Delhi. She stated that false and misleading information is being circulated regarding this matter. She clarified that the central government allotted her a Type-8 bungalow after a long time, considering her security. Rumors are being spread about this, claiming that the BSP is being targeted. The current central government had allotted several bungalows for her security, but she did not accept them due to security concerns. Even if she did, she surrendered them. Now that a Type-8 bungalow has been allotted to her, she has accepted it. False information is being spread regarding this matter. Mayawati stated that as the elections draw closer, opposition parties will resort to allurements tactics, and conspiracies to keep the BSP out of power will intensify. Therefore, all Ambedkarites should remain vigilant.



ED Row: Mamata Banerjee's Government Alleges Political Targeting, SC to Examine Threat Claims

New Delhi/Kolkata,(GNS): The Supreme Court heard the I-PAC raid case in West Bengal on Wednesday. The Mamata Banerjee government alleged that the central government was using the Enforcement Directorate (ED) as a weapon in states where the opposition is in power. The central agency retorted, "We are not anyone's weapon. The Mamata Banerjee government in Bengal threatened us." Regarding the debate between the two sides, the Supreme Court said, "We will decide who is being used as a weapon and who is being threatened." The Enforcement Directorate (ED) filed a petition in the Supreme Court seeking a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) investigation into the I-PAC raid. The ED alleges that Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and Bengal police officials obstructed its action during the January 8 raid on I-PAC's offices. The Supreme Court has adjourned the hearing in the case until March 18. The hearing was previously postponed to February 3. On January 15, the Supreme Court stated that the West Bengal Chief Minister's obstruction of the ED investigation was a very serious matter.



'Raise India-made component' in Rafale deal: Rajnath to France

NEW DELHI/BENGALURU(GNS): Defence minister Rajnath Singh on Tuesday asked his French counterpart, minister of the armed forces and veterans affairs of France Catherine Vautrin, "to raise India-made component" in the upcoming deal for 114 Rafale fighter jets "by up to 50%", defence sources told Media.

During their 6th India-France Annual Defence Dialogue in Bengaluru, Rajnath also told Vautrin to "try to ensure that the engines of the (fighter) planes are made and overhauled in India. This will help our 'Make-in-India' effort," the sources quoted the minister as saying. The two ministers also discussed a range of bilateral security and defence issues, including priority areas for co-development and co-production



of defence equipment. India and France also renewed their defence cooperation agreement for another 10 years, announced reciprocal deployment of army officers, and inked a pact to man-

ufacture Hammer missiles in India. An MoU on JV was signed for the manufacturing of Hammer missiles by defence PSU Bharat Electronics Limited CMD and executive vice-presi-

dent of Safran Electronics and Defence. Defence PSU Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) and France's Safran company will form a JV to produce Hammer precision-guided munitions, used during Operation Sindoor, in India. Earlier, Rajnath and Vautrin attended the inaugural ceremony of the H125 Light Utility Helicopter final assembly line, jointly built by Tata Advanced Systems Ltd (TASL) and Airbus at Karnataka's Vemagal, when PM Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron virtually inaugurated the facility from Mumbai. After the facility inauguration, Modi said, "We take pride in the fact that, together, India and France will manufacture in India the world's only helicopter capable of flying to the heights of Mount Everest and export it to the entire world."

Ajit Pawar plane's black boxes damaged in fire: AAIB

Mumbai(GNS): The two independent black boxes of the Learjet aircraft that crashed at Baramati airport, killing the then Maharashtra deputy CM Ajit Pawar, sustained fire damage, the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau said on Tuesday. The AAIB said specialised support from the manufacturer was sought to retrieve data from one of the recorders, the cockpit voice recorder. The Digital Flight Data Recorder (DFDR), manufactured by L3-Communications, was successfully downloaded at the AAIB Flight Recorder Laboratory, it said.

SMS Hospital flooded due to rain, operations cancelled

Jaipur(GNS): Wednesday's rain exposed the poor arrangements at Swami Man Singh Hospital (SMS), the main government hospital in Jaipur, the capital of Rajasthan. At least three patients' operations had to be canceled after the waiting ward near the trauma center's operating theater was flooded. Patients and their families protested, but they allege that the staff scolded them and drove them away.

According to reports,

heavy rain lashed several areas of Jaipur around 2 p.m. Meanwhile, water began dripping from the false ceiling in the waiting area outside the operation theater on the second floor of the SMS Trauma Center. Within a short time, water began pouring from several locations, flooding the entire ward floor. Patients and their relatives in the ward were seen pulling trolleys and beds around to avoid the water. Seeing the situation worsen, doctors sus-



pending further operations as a precaution. An elderly woman from the Sikrai area of Dausa district, suffering from a fractured thigh bone, had been awaiting an operation

since morning. Her operation was scheduled for 1 p.m., but due to waterlogging, she had to return without the surgery. The woman's grandson Sagar alleged that when

he requested the staff to perform the operation, an argument ensued and he was scolded and sent away. It is being said that a total of three patients were sent back after waiting. According to media reports, this is not the first time such a situation has arisen due to rain in SMS Hospital. Earlier, the ICU ward of the Trauma Centre had also faced waterlogging due to which more than 10 patients had to be shifted to another ward.

The immortal legacy of Chhatrapati Shivaji and the direction of modern India

Lalit Garg

February 19th is a proud day in Indian history, when we celebrate the birth anniversary of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj. It is not merely a remembrance of a birth anniversary, but a celebration of that remarkable chapter of Indian identity, self-respect, and cultural renaissance, which lit the lamp of Swarajya in the darkness of subjugation. In the seventeenth century, when large swathes of India were under the tyrannical rule of the Mughals, particularly Aurangzeb, a young warrior from the Sahyadri mountain ranges proclaimed that "Hindavi Swarajya" was not just a dream, but a resolve—and he made that resolve a reality.

Shivaji Maharaj was born in 1630 at Shivneri Fort. He was

named not after Lord Shiva, but after the goddess Shivai—this very fact indicates that his life's inspiration lay in the worship of strength and courage. His mother, Jijabai, instilled in him the values of dharma, niti, and nationalism through stories from the Ramayana, Mahabharata, and Puranas. Under the guidance of Dadaji Konddev, he acquired a balanced knowledge of both scriptures and weapons. This balance later became his personality's most significant characteristic—he was not only a master of the sword, but also a unique example of policy and foresight.

Shivaji Maharaj's greatest contribution was the establishment of a Hindu empire, which he called "Hindavi Swarajya." It was not the kingdom of any one sect, but a

symbol of the freedom and dignity of the Indian people. Starting from small forts, he built a unified Maratha power. Forts like Torna, Raigad, and Pratapgarh were not mere stone structures but sentinels of Swarajya. His proficiency in guerrilla warfare was astonishing. Mughal generals wanted to mock him by calling him a "mountain rat," but that very strategy became the Mughals' greatest weakness. He knew the art of turning geography into his strength—swift attacks, surprise strikes, and safe retreats were the foundation of his strategy.

The pinnacle of his heroism was seen when he openly challenged the vast imperial power of Aurangzeb. His daring escape after being captured in Agra was not just a personal achievement but a dev-

astating blow to the arrogance of Mughal power. Subsequently, he was formally crowned in Raigarh in 1674 and declared himself "Chhatrapati." This event symbolized not only political but also cultural renaissance—for centuries, a Hindu king was crowned according to Vedic rites.

Shivaji Maharaj's governance was as effective as his military strategy. He established the Ashtapradhan Mandal, which appointed ministers for various departments. Transparency, justice, and public welfare were prioritized in administration. The land revenue system was streamlined to prevent oppression of farmers. Protecting the honor of women was a fundamental principle of his rule—he established the tradition of respectfully returning women

captured in war to their homes. Religious tolerance was the cornerstone of his rule, with Muslim officers holding important positions in his army and administration. He did not allow any mosque or place of worship to be damaged. Thus, his Hindu Swarajya was not narrow, but rather liberal and inclusive.

Shivaji Maharaj was one of the first rulers in India to understand the importance of maritime power. He built a strong navy and ensured the security of the Konkan coast. This strategy proved extremely effective against foreign invaders, particularly the Portuguese and the Siddis. This foresight demonstrates that he was not limited to contemporary conflicts but also had the ability to anticipate future challenges.

Editorial

Pause system in speech

Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla, eschewing the practice of finding objectionable content in the government's words during the busy budget session, sets up a few barriers. A "pause" system has been introduced in what we consider the government's key document, the Governor's address, a testimony to the state's economic progress. If the Governor didn't read anything during the silence from paragraphs 3 to 16, it represents a restricted chapter of citizen information, or perhaps a new product has emerged in the government category. The Governor, referring to the double engine, single engine, and now, due to His Excellency's displeasure, deeming it a "penny government," has deducted 25 percent of the government's points. Ironically, just as the US President was raising tariff rates while cutting the central government's marks, the position of Governor is being targeted at the credibility of non-BJP governments. This should be considered an unnecessary step in the definition of democracy. We have even heard non-Punjabi-speaking governors in Punjab read their addresses in Punjabi, so that citizens can understand that the government's commentary is clear and original. The Governor of Himachal Pradesh authenticates the accountability of the elected government, but these traditions are now being changed. By reading the government's fifty-page list of achievements in just two minutes, the Governor has upended the tradition of delivering a pre-budget address. The question now is not why the Governor did this, but how one operates as a human being within the mindset of constitutional positions.

If the position of Governor of the state is unable to pass through the government's doors, is this a new beginning or a warning to change course? Clearly, there must have been some resentment or shackles to walk on the path of reality, and even greetings are now a plea on the front lines of bitterness. The government must resolve the economic problems in the state's destiny, but it needs the voice of the Governor, in his constitutional position, to express its sentiments.



Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi neither thinks small nor does he act small. Speed and scale are inherently different. The results of actions are also different. The Prime Minister's goals are also different. Once he starts a task, he strives to complete it 100%. This is absolutely true. Since assuming power in 2014, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has surpassed the country's established goals and has worked at a speed and scale, working day and night without rest. It is enough to astonish any analyst.



Union Budget Analysis: "Union Budget of Speed, Scale and Resolve"

CA Akhilesh Jain

The government led by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has always decisively prioritized action over ambiguity, reform over talk, and people over populist policies.

In 2014, per capita income was 86,647 per year, which increased to 172,000 per year in 2023. It is estimated to reach between 2.5 lakh and 2.72 lakh per year in 2026. Meanwhile, the country faced a global pandemic like the coronavirus. Despite the coronavirus, per capita income in 2022-23 was 172,000 per year, meaning that in doubling per capita income in about 9 years, the Prime Minister was successful in achieving the target of 172,000 per year despite global uncertainties, global turmoil, and a global pandemic. This per capita income reached 235,000 per year in 2024-2025. This is the Prime Minister's economic policy, speed, and scale; this is Modi's budget for 13 years.

Per capita GDP was approximately 98,405 per year in 2014-15, and it will reach 234,859 per year in 2024-2025. This is Modi's budget for 13 years.

India's total exports, which stood at US\$465 billion in 2013-14, are projected to reach US\$825.3 billion in 2024-2025. This means India's exports have achieved a positive growth rate of 177.5% in 11 years. This is Modi's budget for 13 years.

Even during the recession, India has attracted substantial foreign direct investment. As a result of the Modi government's consistent reforms and efforts, FDI, which was

approximately US\$36 billion in 2013-14, is projected to exceed US\$80 billion in 2024-25, achieving a positive growth rate of 222.23%. This reflects continued investor confidence and the rapid pace of investment in the services, digital, manufacturing, and basic infrastructure sectors. This is the vision of Prime Minister Modi's economic policy and budget for the past 13 years.

The length of the high-speed corridor was 550 kilometers in 2014, and by December 2025-2026, it has reached 5,364 kilometers. This is an almost tenfold increase. This is the speed and scale of Prime Minister Modi's work.

The number of airports is projected to increase from 74 in 2014 to 164 by 2025. India has become the world's third-largest domestic aviation market. This is the economic policy of Prime Minister Modi.

India's installed renewable energy capacity, from 76.38 GW in March 2014, is projected to reach 253.96 GW by November 2025, ranking third globally, and fourth in installed wind power capacity. Total renewable energy capacity has more than tripled over the past decade. This is the economic policy of Prime Minister Modi.

The length of high-speed tracks, which was 31,445 km in 2014, is expected to more than double to 84,244 km by 2025, enabling operation at speeds of over 110 kmph on nearly 80% of the national rail network.

Supporting industry helps to grow it. Therefore, the development of high-level high-speed rail corridors will be particularly

helpful to the industrial sector.

Prime Minister Modi has made efforts to connect all important industrial areas with high-speed roads. This is the speed and scale of Prime Minister Modi.

The defence budget has been increased from 2.53 lakh crore in 2013-14 to 7.85 lakh crore in 2026-27, representing an increase of approximately 5.32 lakh crore, representing a nearly three-fold increase. Through this increased provision, the government has reaffirmed its resolve to transform the armed forces and their capabilities to the highest standards in the world, with a strategic shift towards the goal of a self-reliant India. Disruptions in global supply chains and the prioritisation of domestic requirements over foreign vendors have re-emphasised the need for import substitution and a move towards indigenisation not only for subsistence but also for future modernisation. This is Modi's budget.

Discussing the budgets of the past 13 years is essential because no single budget was crucial to achieving the position the country currently holds. Modi inherited India, and that legacy has been nurtured by Modi. The result of both is today's India, and the future will be the result of the preparations made for the India beyond today's India.

Modi is striving to move India forward at a rapid pace. Emphasis has been placed on reforms necessary to achieve this rapid pace. The government's priorities have been changed. The government

has made constructive efforts to prepare, develop, and lead the youth to build the future of India. It has made significant efforts to maintain fiscal discipline, sustainable development, and reduce inflation. With self-reliance as its goal, the Modi government has attempted to increase domestic production capacity. It has also attempted to ensure energy security. It has attempted to reduce import dependence through programs like Make in India. Analyzing the government's overall economic policy, its core objectives are self-reliance, job creation, development of agricultural production capacity, increasing purchasing power, and improving the quality of life of citizens. By ensuring a high growth rate of 7%, the government has achieved remarkable success in its efforts to reduce poverty and improve the lives of citizens.

A country that used to import agricultural products and struggle with grain shortages now exports agricultural products worth over 2.5 lakh crore rupees. What a difference! The government's economic policy appears more like a duty-oriented policy. This has led to the government's success in lifting 250 million people out of poverty.

That's why new records are being set in the Modi government's budget, in the Modi government's economic policies, in speed and scale, in every sector, in the sky, in the water, and in the sky. Because we have reached a new level beyond our previous capabilities.

India AI Impact Summit 2026: From innovation to nation-building

Sunil Kumar Mahala

Today is the age of technology, or rather, we are living in the age of technology. It is technology that is making human life more convenient, but it is also transforming our thinking, work styles, and habits. It would not be wrong to say that artificial intelligence (AI) has emerged as the most prominent example of this change in the current era. Amidst rapidly changing geopolitical circumstances, there has been a growing emphasis on the development and innovation of modern technologies worldwide. Countries around the world are constantly transforming their traditional working systems by incorporating new technologies and innovations into their policies. AI, in particular, has profoundly impacted the work system and human role

globally, and therefore, it is considered essential and crucial for development. In this context, a significant AI summit (India AI Impact Summit 2026; February 16 to 20, 2026) is being held in New Delhi, with the aim of raising awareness about the potential of AI, its challenges, its impact on employment, and its application in everyday life. It's safe to say that AI has expanded into sectors such as healthcare, education, security, business, and defense, creating new opportunities. However, it's also a harsh reality that it has also raised concerns regarding employment impact, risks, data security, and environmental impact. In particular, questions are being raised about the increasing energy and water consumption in data centers. Therefore, to ensure the success of AI-based development, it's essential to pay

equal attention to addressing its benefits as well as potential risks.

However, let me inform readers that the India AI Impact Summit 2026, held from February 16 to 20, 2026, at the Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi, was inaugurated by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi. This five-day event is considered the first major AI summit held in the Global South, with over 300 exhibitors participating and a special focus on AI policy and innovation. It is noteworthy that the summit, being held at various venues in New Delhi, including the Bharat Mandapam, is attracting participation from over 100 countries, as well as CEOs of top technology companies like Google and Microsoft, researchers, policymakers, and heads of state from several countries. It is also noteworthy that over 500 sessions are being held

during the event, with over 800 exhibitors, startups, research institutes, and national delegations participating.

This AI Summit, held from February 16-20, is particularly significant for India, as it is emerging as the world's third-largest power in the field of artificial intelligence (AI), behind only the United States and China. According to Stanford University's Global AI Vibrancy Tool, India scores 21.59, compared to the US's 78.6 and China's 36.95. India ranks ahead of several developed countries, including South Korea, the United Kingdom, Singapore, Japan, Canada, Germany, and France, on this index. India, currently the fourth-largest economy, has also become a leading developing country in the field of AI. Therefore, hosting a global event of this scale for the first

time in a developing country is considered historic. The expo, featuring nearly 300 pavilions from 13 countries, also showcases India's growing technological capabilities. Experts believe that India can play a key role in bringing the benefits of technology to the common man through AI, providing affordable technology and reducing global inequalities, provided the country increases investment, retains talent and develops a conducive tech ecosystem.

In fact, this conference is being considered one of the largest AI events in the world and the first major AI summit held in the Global South, strengthening the role of various developing countries, including India. The conference is hosting AI-based innovation competitions, hackathons, and prize-winning events worth crores of rupees.

Piyush Mishra and Pankaj Tripathi bring wit and wisdom to DU Lit Fest

New Delhi, (GNS): Even as book stalls lined the University Stadium at North Campus last week, students thronged the hall to cheer and wave at Piyush Mishra and Pankaj Tripathi, overwhelming security on two separate days at the inaugural Delhi University Literature Festival. Sharing memories of their college days and engaging the crowd with trademark humour, the National School of Drama alumni emerged as high-lights of the fest's first two days.

'Jab bhi mauka lagta hai Dilli zaroor aata hun'

In conversation with Anoop Lather, in a session titled after his song Ek Bagal Mein Chaand Hoga, Mishra spoke about his struggling years as an actor and his bond with Delhi on Day 1 of the fest. "Dilli se mera rishta kuch



aur hai. Dilli meri mehbooba hai, aur Mumbai se meri shaadi ho gayi hai. Jab bhi mauka lagta hai Dilli zaroor aata hoon."

Sharing his affection for Gen Z, he said, "Main Gen Z se bahut pyaar karta hoon. Gen Z se koi parhez nahi hai. Bade achche log



ho tum, bas thodi jaldbaazi kar jaate ho woh alag baat hai." With his signature tongue-in-cheek humour, he added, "Main perform youth ke liye karta hoon, lekin ek bada aarop hai tumhare upar. Hamare zamane mein mohalle mein ek phenomenon

hua karta tha - pita hua aashiq. Woh tumhari generation ne gayab kar diya. Romance ka ek ajeeb-o-gareeb tareeka nikaal liya hai. Tumhare breakups hote hain, dil nahi toot'te. Tum logon ne lutf khatam kar diya hai. Prem ke bina zindagi kuch bhi nahi hai."

"NSD ne mujhe sab kuch diya hai" The actor, who spent 20 years in Delhi's theatre circuit before moving to Mumbai to pursue films, shared that he still enjoys visiting the campus. "NSD ne mujhe sab kuch diya hai." He added that his home in Mumbai is always open to struggling artistes. "Jo log struggle karte huye akela mehsoos karte hain, unke liye ek parivaar hai Mumbai mein. Mujhe koi parivaar nahi mila apne time mein, lekin main woh sahara banna chahta hun.

Gunshot fired outside house in Delhi's Adarsh Nagar; accused on the run

New Delhi, (GNS): A firing incident was reported in northwest Delhi's Adarsh Nagar on Tuesday.

According to the police, a PCR call was received at Adarsh Nagar police station around 10.05 pm regarding gunshots fired outside a residence in the area. The complainant, a 42-year-old woman, alleged that a man identified as Bedu (22), who allegedly had a prior dispute with her son, arrived outside their house around 9.45 pm and fired one round in the air before fleeing the spot. Based on her statement, an FIR under Section 125 (act endangering life or personal safety of others) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita was registered at Adarsh Nagar police station.

Police said the accused is found to previously have been



involved in an attempt to murder case registered at Model Town police station in 2022. Originally a resident of Ashok Vihar, he is currently believed to be staying in a rented accommodation in Burari. Police teams are conducting raids to apprehend him.

Police added that the complainant's son is also involved in a theft case registered in 2024 at the same police station.

Only awareness and enforcement can put end to underage driving: Experts

New Delhi, (GNS): Underage driving poses a serious threat on Delhi roads. Last year, traffic police challaned 125 minors for the offence. In 2024, the figure was over 350. This year, till Feb 15, nine minors were challaned, compared to five during the same period last year. Many of them are fascinated by driving, police say, and often slip away with the keys to their parents' cars or two-wheeler. When the authorities interact with these parents following an accident, most claim they were in the dark and assure police they will take steps to ensure it does not happen again.

Apart from registering a case against such a minor for underage driving, action is also taken against the owner of the vehicle under section 199A of Motor Vehicles Act, which holds guardians or owners of vehicles liable when a minor commits a traffic offence.

Last Oct, a 16-year-old girl was apprehended after the car she was driving fatally hit a 64-year-old man who was crossing a road in Shahbad Dairy. Later, a case was filed against



the girl's mother. A 32-year-old factory worker died after a car driven by a minor dragged him for nearly 600 metres in northwest Delhi's Samaypur Badli last Aug. The minor was apprehended and a case was filed against his sister for allowing him to take the wheel.

There has been a sharp rise in the number of challans issued for allowing unauthorised people to drive. In 2024, over 1.6 lakh such cases were recorded in Delhi, which jumped to more than 2.6 lakh the next year. A senior police officer said this is the result of owners handing over their cars or two-wheelers to people without valid licences, either out of trust or for convenience.

Heart & soul of Delhi's 'model' town: A colony built around 6.5-acre lake

New Delhi, (GNS): Not every colony in Delhi has a private lake, but Model Town does, its residents proudly point out. Developed by DLF Group in the early 1950s, the north Delhi colony became known for its luxurious bungalows and villas, recalls 82-year-old Dharmendra Pratap, a retired bank employee. "When I moved here in 1960, there were only a few houses. Although it has grown beautifully over time with multi-storey residences, markets and modern amenities, Naini Lake has remained its soul."

For generations, the 6.5-acre lake is more than a recreational space; it is a repository of childhood memories. Tucked amid busy lanes, it offers residents a chance to boat on its glimmering waters or take leisurely strolls along its banks. Developed in the early 1960s, the waterbody is a focal point for community gatherings, picnics and recreation.

Juhi Chaudhary, a resident



involved in Save Naini Lake campaign, recalls her father used to take her paddle-boating before school. "A quiet morning on the water was my little reward. The lake was clean and blooming with lotuses. During his college days, my father used to play cricket on its dry bed in summer."

Many echoed her sentiment. "No matter how much the colony develops, as long as the lake remains, Model Town will always feel like home," says another resident.

Today, as its condition

deteriorates and the number of migratory birds visiting it decline, residents hope it will be revived and protected for future generations. "If govt doesn't take serious action, the lake may die in the coming years," says Sanjay Gupta, president of Model Town Welfare Association. The lake may be its soul and identity, but Model Town - one of Delhi's oldest planned residential colonies - has other positives too, like accessibility, Gupta says. "It has fantastic metro

connectivity and was among the first colonies in Delhi to receive extensive coverage with two stations and direct connectivity to ISBT, Gurgaon and south Delhi," he adds.

Model Town boasts several senior secondary schools, three private hospitals and sporting facilities like Chhatrasal Stadium, developed during the 2010 Commonwealth Games, along with markets that have grown steadily over the years. Its street food is popular too, with people queuing up for chholebhature at its long-running eateries. The residents say while the colony is well-connected and vibrant, concerns remain over its ageing civic infrastructure and safety, with snatchings, car thefts and burglaries reported frequently. Moreover, conversion of single-storey houses into four-floor structures have impacted drainage systems, leading to frequent overflow, they say, calling for a robust sewer system.

Delhi's Vasant Vihar: A name that still carries an emotional weight

New Delhi, (GNS): In the mid-1950s, as independent India's bureaucracy expanded, central govt employees began forming cooperative housing societies in Delhi, planning communities for post-retirement years. Vasant Vihar was one of them.

Located near Chanakyapuri, the colony took shape in the 1970s. Suresh moved in as a 20-year-old young man with his father, who was then working in the defence ministry. "There were only singlestorey houses then - some 250 gaj, some 2,000 gaj. Beautiful parks. It was a completely different world," he recalls. "Even now, when I say I live in Vasant Vihar, people instantly light up." The colony's character had been shaped by its residents - many retired or nearing retirement. They forged a slow lifestyle and strong social bond. The neighbourhood functioned like an extended family - festivals were celebrated together, community functions were common and gardening competitions were big events.

Over time, this social cohesion changed. As younger generations entered demanding careers, community participation reduced. "We got tied up with work,



so we weren't as socially involved," says a second-generation resident. For the elderly, the core spirit hasn't disappeared. "For me, it's still the same. There's no place in Delhi like this," says another local.

Because of the colony's proximity to the diplomatic enclave, many houses belonging to officers posted outside Delhi were rented out - often to embassies and foreign mission staff - giving the area an early cosmopolitan character. The planning was ahead of its time.

Plot sizes varied widely, blocks were designed with nearby schools, and water distribution was planned at a city level. Originally, construction rules required

roughly 50% open space and 50% built-up area. Over time, the latter expanded significantly, changing the colony's character.

The green cover, one of the colony's biggest strengths, bloomed through planting drives led by locals, notes Vivek Tandon, whose father was an original allottee. A census counted nearly 15,000 trees, while large parks acted as shared breathing spaces.

Vasant Vihar's civic infrastructure, however, is under growing pressure. Built near the Ridge, the area has limited room for expansion. Rising population density has strained roads and sewage systems have aged. Markets designed for smaller populations now handle far higher footfall. Encroachment and parking pressure have added to the civic strain. Safety remains a relative strength. While residents acknowledge no area can claim to be crime-free, most say the colony remains safer than most other areas. Accessibility is another plus point. Educational institutions draw younger families, helping maintain generational continuity, while institutions like Vasant Vihar Club continue to act as social bridges.

'Give Real-Time Info On Hospital Beds'

New Delhi, (GNS): Delhi High Court has emphasised that integrating hospitals through digital platforms can significantly improve patient care and ensure faster treatment, especially during emergencies. It has directed authorities to make real-time information on bed availability and medical facilities across the city accessible to the public.

In a recent order, a special bench of Justices Prathiba M Singh and Manmeet PS Arora noted that the govt's NextGen e-Hospital platform has the potential to enable seamless sharing of patient data and treatment records across hospitals, aiding better diagnosis and continuity of care. The court also called for the rollout of a mobile application based on the system.

The bench asked the Delhi health secretary to ensure mandatory implementation of the NextGen e-Hospital platform for admissions, inpatient and outpatient services, and discharge processes across 38 enrolled hospitals. It further directed that all these govt hospitals fully utilise the platform and that efforts be made to



bring private hospitals on board as well. The court was hearing matters taken up on its own motion regarding the strengthening of health infrastructure and access to emergency services in govt-run hospitals. During the hearing, the National Informatics Centre (NIC) made a presentation on the Hospital Management Information System (HMIS) and the progress in implementing digital modules across govt hospitals through the e-Hospital platform.

"There can be no doubt that integrating hospitals and sharing data can greatly aid quick and effective treatment, especially when patients move from one hospital to another without all records.

DDA to discontinue parking charges in housing scheme flat prices

New Delhi, (GNS): Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has decided to discontinue the levy of parking charges, including covered parking, in the total cost of flats offered under its ongoing housing schemes in a relief to homebuyers.

The move is expected to bring down flat prices by Rs 5 lakh to Rs 12 lakh. The immediate reduction will be seen in the MIG and HIG flats under four schemes: DDA Karmayogi Awas Yojana 2025 (FCFS), DDA Towering Heights Karkardooma Housing Scheme 2025 (E-Auction), DDA Nagrik Awas Yojana 2026 (FCFS) and DDA Towering Heights Karkardooma Housing Scheme 2026 (FCFS).

According to the authority's order, the cost of constructing



parking facilities will now be subsumed within the overall expenditure incurred for developing housing pockets while calculating the plinth area rate

(PAR) of flats. "No separate or additional charges on account of car or scooter garages or covered or uncovered parking will be added to the total cost," the order

said. Officials clarified that buyers who had already purchased flats under these schemes and paid parking charges will either be reimbursed or have the amount adjusted against future instalments. "Buyers are given a stipulated time to pay the flat cost in instalments. The instalment amount will be reduced accordingly," an official said.

For instance, HIG flats under the Karmayogi Awas Yojana with an 11-sq-metre parking space will see a price reduction of around Rs 10 lakh, while MIG flats under the same scheme are expected to become cheaper by Rs 4 lakh to Rs 5 lakh. The reduction will be higher for flats in the Towering Heights Karkardooma Housing Scheme, where parking spaces are larger.

The plinth area of a flat is calculated on the basis of the total covered built-up area at floor level. It includes the carpet area, common utilities such as community halls and courtyards, pump houses, and the thickness of internal and external walls, among other components.

Under the transit-oriented development (TOD) scheme, DDA offered 1,026 two-bedroom flats in the Towering Heights Karkardooma Housing Scheme, priced between Rs 1.78 crore and Rs 3.09 crore, depending on the plinth area. The e-auction saw a subdued response, with market observers attributing it largely to high reserve prices. With the flats now being offered on a first-come, first-served basis and prices effectively reduced, the

authority expects improved buyer interest and a stronger sales momentum. With this decision, the revised methodology adopted in Dec 2025 for calculating disposal prices will no longer apply. The earlier formula included adding the cost of constructing car or scooter garages (plinth area of garage × 60% of PAR, adjusted for depreciation) and parking spaces (plinth area of parking × PAR of parking, adjusted for depreciation) to the total flat cost. The new circular will not affect DDA's policy on the disposal pricing of stand-alone garages or parking spaces left unallotted after completion of a scheme. It also does not alter the authority's guidelines for the disposal of EWS flats constructed by private developers.

Growth, grit and belonging: How an 'underdog' Delhi colony built its own identity; Vikaspuri's 5-decade transformation

New Delhi, (GNS): Delhi may be too vast and varied to inspire a deep sense of connection, but its residents often feel strongly about their own mohallas. In this new series, we explore what shapes pride, perceptions and everyday life in its colonies. In 1979, Budhela village near Tilak Nagar was marked for change, though few could have imagined the transformation ahead. Farmland slowly gave way to DDA and cooperative housing flats in the early 1980s.

Around that time, Ajay Awasthi, then a Class XII student, became one of the earliest residents of what would later be known as Vikaspuri. From his balcony, he watched roads, buildings and civic services appear one by one. Water supply was erratic, power cuts routine, and grocery trips meant travelling to Tilak



Nagar. Evenings were largely silent, punctuated only by distant traffic.

Five decades later, the neighbourhood tells a very different story. Shops, clinics, coaching centres and markets hum with activity. Utilities have stabilised. Roads are busier. In safety, infra-

structure, connectivity and identity, residents say the change has been steady and visible.

Safety stands out as one of the biggest improvements. Ravi Mohan Kumar, 60, recalls that when he moved in 1984, there was only one properly lit arterial road. "Snatchings were common

even a few years ago. Now, it's much better," he says.

Residents are near unanimous about the colony's social fabric. Many describe Vikaspuri as close-knit, where neighbours check on one another, share food during festivals and step in during emergencies. Though often labelled Punjabi-dominated, locals say everyday life reflects far greater diversity. Cooperative societies house families from Himachal, Uttarakhand and elsewhere, yet community events cut across backgrounds. Green spaces have emerged as another quiet strength. Plantation drives and the conversion of barren patches into parks - part of the original planning - have made greenery a defining positive. Most green cover exists within residential pockets rather than along main roads.

Delhi Plugs Into EV 2.0 With PM E-Drive

New Delhi, (GNS): Delhi govt is set to notify its ambitious Electric Vehicle Policy 2.0 soon, aligning it closely with the Centre's PM E-Drive scheme to accelerate the capital's transition to electric mobility.

The alignment would expand subsidy provisions, strengthen electric-charging infrastructure, lay down clear timeline for fleet conversion and push for a complete shift to electric buses in the coming years. The Centre's scheme has a provision to allocate Rs 4,391 crore for 14,028 e-buses, Rs 2,000 crore for installation of EV charging stations and Rs 780 crore for upgrading testing agencies.

Senior officials said Delhi govt has planned an EV corridor, featuring fast-charging stations every 5 km along the 47km Outer Ring Road, to reduce 'range anxiety' among drivers.

The city currently has just 8,998 EV charging points against a requirement of 36,177. Delhi govt has set a target to



increase the total number to 16,070 by the end of this year.

Another key focus is on expanding subsidy benefits. Currently, under the PM E-Drive scheme, buyers of electric two-wheelers and three-wheelers can avail themselves of upfront purchase subsidies through an Aadhaar-based e-KYC authentication at a dealership. The scheme offers an incentive of Rs 5,000 per kWh for two-wheelers, capped at Rs 10,000 per vehicle, depending on the battery capacity. For three-wheelers, including e-rickshaws and e-carts, the subsidy is Rs 5,000 per kWh up to Rs 25,000 per vehicle, while cargo and passenger three-wheelers (L5 category) are eligible for incentives up to Rs 50,000.

Dwarka scores on planning still grapples with civic gaps

New Delhi, (GNS): On any given morning, as the shutters of the shops roll up and walkers make their rounds through parks, Dwarka feels less like a typical Delhi colony and more like a self-contained town. Retired residents exchange greetings under kadam trees, roads fill with office-goers, and the drone of aircraft headed to IGI Airport can be heard - a reminder of how close this sprawling sub-city sits between the capital and the NCR skyline.

Planned, orderly and expansive, Dwarka appears complete at first glance. But conversations with residents reveal another story, of a neighbourhood still working to bridge certain gaps. Strong on parameters like safety, cleanliness, greenery, community connect and social cohesion, Dwarka is dragged down by accessibility and amenities and, probably, the cultural narrative often associated with older south Delhi colonies.

Located on Delhi's southwestern edge, Dwarka, envisioned as a modern residential alternative to crowded neighbourhoods, is one of Asia's



largest planned sub-cities, organised into sectors dominated by cooperative group housing societies. Evolution, however, has been uneven, say residents.

Rejimon C K, a resident of Sector 10, remembers purchasing his flat at a time when much of the area was still under construction. "Our sector was just taking shape," he recalls, describing dusty roads and vacant plots. While the area has transformed into a bustling residential hub, civic infrastructure hasn't kept pace, he says. For Krishan Singh Lingwal, the 'Treeman of Dwarka', the neighbourhood's story is rooted in its greenery.

Dwarka SUV crash: FIR filed against father of minor; victim's postmortem reveals skull fracture, brain oedema

New Delhi, (GNS): Delhi Police has filed an FIR against the father of a 17-year-old boy for allegedly allowing him to illegally drive his SUV. The boy was at the wheel of the vehicle when it collided with a motorcycle and a cab, resulting in the death of the biker, 23-year-old Sahil Dhaneshra, in Sector 11 of Dwarka on Feb 3. Sahil sustained severe brain injuries and multiple fractures, according to his postmortem report.

Police have seized the SUV and invoked against the father provisions under Section 199A of Motor Vehicles Act, which hold guardians or vehicle owners accountable when a minor commits a traffic offence. Penalties under this section include imprisonment of up to three years, a fine of Rs 25,000 and cancellation of the vehicle's registration for a year. The father was bound down and will be formally charged, Ankit Singh,



deputy commissioner of police (Dwarka), said. Cops, who had been alerted about the accident at 11:57 am, found the SUV and the cab in severely damaged condition. Sahil was declared dead on the spot, while Ajit Singh, the cab driver, sustained injuries.

"Preliminary investigations indicate that the motorcycle and SUV collided head on. Following the impact, the SUV lost control and crashed into



the cab parked along the roadside," a police officer said. Just after the accident, the SUV driver claimed he was 19 years old, the officer said. However, police later found out that he was 17, and was produced before the Juvenile Justice Board and sent to an observation home. He was granted interim bail on Feb 10 so that he could write his Class X examinations.

Sahil's mother alleged that the SUV had 12 challans per-

taining to overspeeding against it. Police are trying to corroborate the claim from the Centre's 'parivahan' portal. They are also studying a purported video of the collision circulating online to establish the sequence of events.

According to Sahil's post-mortem report, he suffered a fracture in the left temporoparietal bone in the skull and had a generalised brain oedema. Blood clots were found in his oral cavity and multiple ribs on the left side of his chest were fractured.

Explaining the nature of Sahil's injuries, a doctor said that the severe head injuries caused heavy bleeding and swelling inside his brain, particularly on the left side. Blood had collected between the brain and its outer covering. The entire brain was swollen because of bleeding and bruising.

Cop's wife & her associates caught for extorting traffic police

New Delhi, (GNS): A policeman's wife and two of her male associates are among the latest arrests in an ongoing investigation by the crime branch into a brazen extortion syndicate targeting traffic police personnel.

The woman, Sneha Lata, was the kingpin of a module active in this scam. Her husband was posted in the traffic unit for six years and had recently been transferred to central range. The police started probing this module after a traffic cop alleged that he was being blackmailed into paying Rs 1.2 lakh. According to DCP (crime branch) Sanjeev Kumar Yadav, the complainant alleged that the trio threatened to release fabricated and "objectionable" videos of him, which investigators now confirm were doctored to simulate professional misconduct. Lata had come under the scanner after she was spotted in CCTV cameras while trapping traffic. She used to have a piece of cloth wrapped around her face to hide her identity. The cops then laid a trap and a team led by inspector Arun Sindhu and ACP Sanjay Nagpal, arrested Lata (32) and her associates - Sachin and Amir Chaudhary, alias Sikander from Samalakhia.

Lata turned out to be the mastermind



of the module. DCP Yadav said the gang used hidden spy cameras to clandestinely record officers during routine challan proceedings. This raw footage was then handed over to an accomplice for manipulation, where it was edited and distorted to create a false impression of corruption, serving as the primary instrument for their blackmail.

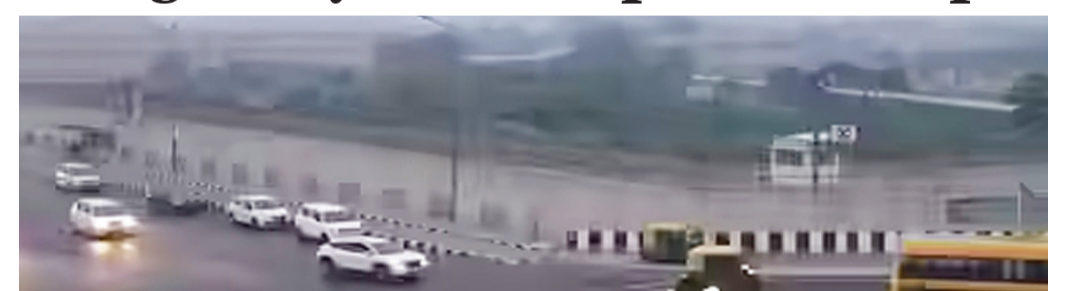
Interrogations revealed that Lata had previously been an associate of another

kingpin, named Ashok Kumar alias Babli. Following his death in Dec 2025, she reportedly branched out to form her independent cell.

While she and Sachin had no prior criminal record, Amir - a cab driver - was found to have been previously involved in a similar crime syndicate. The police have registered a case under several sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), including Section 308 (2) for extortion.

Cops are now focusing on tracking down the remaining members of the gang, specifically the person responsible for editing the videos and a woman accomplice allegedly involved in the recordings. Several mobile phones that were used to coordinate the scheme have been seized as evidence. The probe is, however, strangely silent on the role of the traffic cops. A well-oiled racket of this scale seems impossible without insider connivance. The crime branch had first busted the racket in Dec and arrested the main kingpin Raju Meena. The gang was selling special stickers to facilitate hassle-free movement without documents. Each sticker cost Rs 2000-5000. The syndicate manufactured and distributed over 2,000 such stickers every month.

Delhi, Noida wake up to light rain IMD issues yellow alert, predicts slight daytime temperature dip



New Delhi, (GNS): Parts of Delhi and Noida witnessed light rain on Wednesday morning, a day after the India Meteorological Department (IMD) forecast drizzle and a slight dip in daytime temperatures. The IMD had predicted overcast skies accompanied by light rain and issued a yellow alert for the day in Delhi.

According to the department, maximum temperatures are expected to settle between 26°C and 28°C, while minimum temperatures may range from 13°C to 15°C.

Officials said minimum temperatures are likely to remain largely unchanged over the next 24 hours, before dipping by 2-3°C over the following two days. No significant change is expected thereafter. On Tuesday, the city recorded a maximum temperature of 30.9°C, slightly lower than Monday's 31.6°C.

The minimum temperature stood at 12.4°C, marginally above normal, compared to 10.1°C the previous day. North-westerly winds blew at speeds of up to 6 kmph.

One-Year MA Plan Meets Uneven Rollout In Capital

New Delhi, (GNS): The first set of students under Delhi University's four year undergraduate programme (FYUP) under the National Education Policy is set to graduate come May, but the city's postgraduate system is not uniformly prepared to absorb them. For students under FYUP, the promise of a one-year Master's degree may be harder to access than expected, creating a transition-year bottleneck in the capital, which draws a large number of post graduate aspirants from across the country. And it is not just DU that adopted FYUP. Several universities across the country were brought on board in 2022.

According to the University Grants Commission, at least 20 central universities have adopted



FYUP. At Jawaharlal Nehru University, one of the city's foremost postgraduate and research institutions, which is ranked second as per the National Institutional Ranking Framework - a one-year MA structure has not taken shape.

Heads of several schools at the university told Media that preparations for the new pathway have not even begun.

"There is currently no syllabus, no course framework and no preparatory work done for a one-year Master's programme,"

said a senior department head on condition of anonymity. "With just a few months left before the FYUP batch graduates in various universities, there is practically no time to create a robust academic structure for all our courses. It is not even clear whether the university will start the one-year MA this year." JNU has over 50 MA and MSc programmes, and barring a few language courses, one year MA is not available in the university, even as the university has implemented multiple entry-exit options.

Under the proposed NEP framework, universities need to rework curriculum, secure executive council approvals and reconfigure academic calendars - a process that academics say is inherently time-consuming.

At DU, one-year MA has been rolled out but admissions this year are restricted to its own FYUP graduates, excluding students from other universities. DU's executive council had approved the implementation guidelines for the one-year postgraduate structure in line with NEP provisions, last year. However, teachers pointed out that syllabi for several courses are yet to receive final approval. "Running parallel one-year and two-year MA structures will require a robust academic ecosystem. It's a significant challenge for universities that are already stretched thin on faculty and resources," said Abha Dev Habib, a faculty member at DU's Miranda House. At Jamia Millia Islamia, while the university is

preparing to offer the one-year MA from the 2026-27 academic session, its own first FYUP batch is still in the third year due to delayed implementation of the four-year structure.

Several heads of departments said the rollout is on schedule. "The one-year MA is planned from the upcoming academic session, and the university should be able to accommodate eligible students," a senior faculty member said. However, they acknowledged the transitional gap, adding, "Since our first FYUP cohort is a year behind, by the time they graduate under the four-year system, students from other universities would already have completed their degrees. This creates an uneven transition phase."