



# India sees destiny, not fear in AI, says PM Modi at AI Summit; invites world to design

**New Delhi(GNS):** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said India sees destiny, not fear, in the Artificial Intelligence revolution, while calling for global standards, transparency and watermarking in the AI-generated content and ecosystem. Addressing the India AI Impact Summit at Bharat Mandapam, the Prime Minister invited world leaders to design in India and deliver to the world highlighting the tech talent pool of the country. He also made a compelling case for transparency saying sunlight was the best disinfectant. Just like sunlight is the best disinfectant, transparency is the best security. Some nations and companies believe AI is a strategic asset so it should be confidentially developed but our thought is different. We believe AI will be beneficial to the world when it is shared, when codes are opened and shared," Modi said in the presence of world leaders including French President Emmanuel Macron, Brazil PM Luiz da Silva and global tech leaders Sunder Pichai and Sam Altman. The PM said only an open and



shared AI can ensure a better and secure world. Advocating the need to develop AI as a global common good, he warned against deepfakes. Deepfake and fabricated content are bringing instability in open societies. In the physical world we see

nutrition labels on food to inform our decisions. Likewise, authenticity labels should accompany digital content so that people know what is AI generated and what is real," said PM Modi. He said as more texts, videos and

images are coming, watermarking and clear source standards in the AI world are becoming imperative.

"So it is necessary that this trust is inbuilt in technology. We also have to be more alive for children's safety. Just as school syllabus is curated, AI space should also be child safe and family guided," the PM said.

He also divided the world into two segments and said there is one segment that is fearful of AI and another that sees destiny in AI.

"India sees destiny not fear in AI," he said, citing Indian talent, energy capacity and policy clarity to invite global leaders to make AI in India.

He also mentioned three Indian firms that have launched their AI models and apps in the Summit.

Earlier in his remarks, the PM termed the India AI Summit as historic and the largest ever.

"The Summit being hosted by India, one sixth of humanity, is a moment of pride for the Global South. India has the largest youth population in the world, the largest tech talent pool, is an example of the

largest tech enabled ecosystem. India develops new technology and also adopts it," Modi said marketing India as an ideal AI development destination.

The Summit is being attended by leaders and participants from over 100 nations, as well as the who's who of the global tech world.

The PM also said a human being should not be reduced to data points in the context of AI.

"We will have to democratise AI. This will have to be made a medium of inclusion. We have to give AI an open sky while keeping the command in our hands. It should be like the GPS which shows us the way but the final call as to what direction to take is ours," Modi said.

He presented India's 'MAANAV vision' for AI and said: "M stands for moral and ethical systems; A for accountable governance based on transparent rules and robust oversight; A for accessible and inclusive; V for valid and legitimate to make AI lawful and verifiable."

"This MAANAV vision of India will become a vital link to the welfare of mankind," he added.

## 9 patients' eyes removed, 9 others lose vision after cataract surgery in UP's Gorakhpur

**New Delhi(GNS):** Nine patients had to get an eye removed, and nine others lost vision in one of the eyes after they developed an infection following cataract surgeries at a private hospital here, prompting authorities to seal the facility and order an inquiry. Official sources said on Thursday that the surgeries were conducted on 30 patients during an eye camp held at New Rajesh Hitech Hospital on February 1. They said that within 24 hours of the surgeries, several patients began complaining of severe pain and discharge from the operated eye.

At least 18 developed infections and were referred to hospitals in Delhi, Lucknow and Varanasi as their condition worsened, with one patient, however,

partially regaining vision later, officials confirmed.

District Magistrate Deepak Meena said the hospital has been sealed and a magisterial inquiry ordered.

"If anyone is found guilty, their registration will be cancelled," he said.

Chief Medical Officer Dr Rajesh Jha termed it a "serious lapse" and said action would follow the inquiry report.

A health department culture test has confirmed bacterial infection.

Many of the surgeries were conducted under the Ayushman Bharat scheme. Patients alleged that they were discharged just hours after surgery and developed complications the next day. Some of the worst-affected



patients are undergoing treatment at AIIMS Delhi and in hospitals in Varanasi and Lucknow.

In several cases, doctors had to remove the infected eye to prevent the infection from spreading further, officials said. One of the affected patients, Paradeshi, said doctors at AIIMS

Delhi on February 17 told him that he had lost vision in the operated eye.

"They said the eye may have to be removed depending on reports," he said.

Sahwan Ali from Gola said her ordeal worsened a day after the surgery.

"There was bleeding from the eye the next day. We were rushed to Delhi. Doctors removed one eye. I can no longer see," she said.

Shankarawati of Rahdauli, whose eye was removed at a Varanasi hospital, said she now fears losing sight in the other eye. "I still have pain and blurred vision. I am scared the infection might spread," she said, while her son warned of legal action if her remaining eye is affected.

## Filmmaker Neeraj Pandey withdraws title of 'Ghooskhor Pandat', SC disposes of plea



**New Delhi(GNS):** The Supreme Court on Thursday disposed of a plea against the upcoming movie 'Ghooskhor Pandat' after filmmaker Neeraj Pandey informed the court that he had withdrawn the title along with all publicity material. A bench of Justices B V Nagarathna and Ujjal Bhuyan disposed of the plea after taking Pandey's affidavit on record and said it was expected that there should be a quietus to this controversy in all respects. Pandey said in his affidavit that though the new title of the Manoj Bajpayee-starrer has not yet been finalised, it would not be similar to the earlier name.

"While the new title has not yet been finalised, I undertake that any title that may hereafter be identified and adopted shall not be similar to, or evocative of, the earlier title in respect of which objections were raised, and shall accurately reflect the narrative," the filmmaker said.

The top court rapped Pandey on February 12 over the title of his movie, observing that a section of society could not be denigrated in the name of freedom of expression.

The top court was hearing a plea seeking a stay on the release of the film on the OTT platform Netflix.

## Prince Andrew arrested: UK Royal's dramatic detention over misconduct claims

**New Delhi(GNS):** The British Thames Valley police confirmed on Thursday that Andrew Mountbatten-Windsor, the Duke of York and younger brother of King Charles III, had been arrested on suspicion of misconduct in public office. Mountbatten-Windsor, formerly known as Prince Andrew, was arrested by the British police on suspicion of misconduct in public office, marking one of the most dramatic legal developments involving a senior member of the British Royal family in modern times. The Thames Valley police confirmed that officers had detained "a man in his sixties from Norfolk on suspicion of misconduct in public office and are carrying out searches at addresses in Berkshire and Norfolk". Under national police protocols, this individual was not named in the force's public statement, but his identity as Andrew Mountbatten-Windsor has been independently confirmed by multiple reputable sources.

## SC takes exception to twin infants' separation from mother; terms it 'cruelty of highest order'

**New Delhi(GNS):** Taking strong exception to the separation of twin children at the age of six months from their mother by her estranged husband, the Supreme Court on Thursday termed it a case of "cruelty of highest order". Cruelty of the highest order. Could the father take care of just born twins? She did not walk away; she was turned out of the house! The husband has acted extremely cruelly.

Children aged 6 months deprived of the custody of the mother, sorry! Absolutely unacceptable. Big no. She has been turned out of the house. She is running here and there to get custody of her own children. That's a travesty," said a bench of Justice Vikram Nath, Justice Sandeep Mehta and Justice NV Anjaria. The husband - who hails from Punjab - has sought transfer of matrimonial cases lodged by the wife in

Lucknow to Punjab. The bench pulled up the husband for separation of the children - now one-and-a-half-year-old - from the mother. "Depriving such small children of the love and affection of the mother is also very...not in the custody or lap of the mother, but in the lap of some other nanny or a third person...if you want this transfer petition to be entertained, you first hand over the custody of the children



to the mother," it told the counsel for the petitioner husband.

The bench directed the estranged couple to appear before it on the next date of hearing in

chambers along with their children. "You file a rejoinder to the counter affidavit and on next date that is on February 26, both of you appear before the

court in chambers along with the children," it ordered.

The counsel for the husband said that the court should not disturb the status quo with respect to the twin children, as it would be detrimental for them.

No nanny or granny can provide the care to children of six months as can the mother, the bench noted.

The husband's lawyer said she had lodged a number of cases in Lucknow, and

he was seeking their transfer. He alleged that she herself left the matrimonial home and that she was not interested in keeping the children.

The bench, however, said if she was not interested in keeping the custody of her identical twins (boy and girl), she would not have contested the case up till the Supreme Court.

"She was in fact thrown out of her matrimonial house without

her kids. Beaten up and subjected to extreme cruelty by depriving her of children," it said.

The woman's counsel alleged that the husband was an alcoholic and was not willing to show the children even on video calls.

The bench noted that the woman was a teacher and the husband a businessman and questioned him as to how much maintenance he was paying and willing to pay to his estranged spouse.

# New Chinese diplomacy or old tricks? Trust or betrayal of India's future

Kantilal Mandot

In recent years, satellite imagery and international reports have indicated that China is rapidly strengthening its strategic infrastructure. Large mountain bunkers, underground tunnels, and state-of-the-art facilities in the southwestern provinces indicate that Beijing is quietly pursuing a long-term strategy. At a time when it talks about normalizing relations and expanding cooperation with India, it's natural to question whether China truly seeks to become a trusted partner or whether this is part of its strategic policy.

History bears witness to the deep-rooted lack of trust in India-China relations. China's attack on India in 1962 created a lasting wall of distrust in relations between the two countries. Since then, border

disputes, tensions along the Line of Actual Control, and periodic clashes have made clear the vast gap between the warmth of relations and the ground reality. China has repeatedly spoken of peace and cooperation, but has simultaneously enhanced its military and strategic strength.

To understand China's foreign policy, it's essential to examine its long-term strategic thinking. China plans decades ahead, not based on immediate emotions. Its priority is protecting and expanding its national interests. Whether it's the South China Sea, the Taiwan issue, or the Himalayan border, its policy has always been to tilt the balance of power in its favor. Therefore, if China takes the initiative to improve relations with India, it may not be merely a gesture of goodwill but a well-thought-out

strategy.

In the current global landscape, China is facing pressure on multiple fronts. Trade tensions, technological sanctions, and strategic competition with the United States and Western countries have forced it to seek a new balance. India is an emerging economic and strategic power. For stability and economic development in Asia, confrontation with India is not in China's interest. Therefore, it is likely that China will adopt a policy of limited cooperation and controlled competition to avoid conflict on multiple fronts. But it's equally true that China's policies have lacked transparency. The outside world often receives limited information about its military preparations and expanding nuclear infrastructure. If the constructions visible in satellite images truly indicate an expan-

sion of strategic capabilities, this is a matter of concern for the entire region, including India. This dual picture of dialogue and trade on the one hand, and the construction of bases deep within the mountains on the other, does not inspire confidence. The most important question for India is how to assess China's intentions. Believing statements alone could be a strategic mistake. India must keep the doors of dialogue open while protecting its national interests. Balance in diplomacy and vigilance in military preparedness are equally important. It would also be unwise to escalate relations with China into a full-blown confrontation, as both countries are two of Asia's largest economies and their interdependence has grown. To understand China's destiny, it is also necessary to recognize its ambition to become

a global power. Its Belt and Road Initiative, technological investments, and growing role in global institutions point to this direction. Consequently, it views India as both a competitor and a potential partner. If India poses a challenge to its regional ambitions, competition could intensify. However, if India adopts a balanced and confident policy, opportunities for cooperation could also emerge. Trust is built not just through words, but through actions. Peace on the border, adherence to agreements, and transparency are the criteria by which China will be judged. If it truly desires a stable and positive relationship, it must take concrete steps. Otherwise, historical experience shows that it does not take long to discern the hidden machinations behind strategic friendships.

## Editorial

### The Maha Kumbh of AI

Now this is the time and era of artificial intelligence (AI). In the next three years, AI will expand a thousandfold, transforming life completely. From healthcare, education, agriculture, transportation, administration and policymaking, history, culture, science, to ordinary people and employees, AI will penetrate these sectors, and these sectors will be driven by AI. India is not in the race with major and established AI-based countries, but AI talent is growing at a rate of 33 percent in the country. Nearly 69 percent of companies will increase investment in AI this year, and 80 percent are prioritizing this new skill. Nearly 92 percent of employees are also using AI. Three official mottos of AI have been declared in India: People, Planet, and Progress. These undoubtedly reflect a strong sense of morality and humanity. Therefore, the five-day AI summit being held in the capital, Delhi, is as significant as the "Mahakumbh" (great-grand festival). CEOs of over 100 multinational companies, over 20 heads of state, and representatives from 135 countries will participate in this mega-event. More than 3,250 speakers will speak, and nearly 500 sessions will be held until February 20th. This is the highest platform for discussion and reflection on new technologies, thus holding the significance of a "Mahakumbh." All stakeholders, individuals, and countries will discuss various aspects of AI and chart a path for how AI can be useful to humanity. Such a comprehensive discussion did not occur even when computers first arrived, and countries were afraid that they might replace humans. This did not happen, and today computers are a fundamental tool in our work. However, after the UK, South Korea (Seoul), and France (Paris), this AI summit is underway in India's capital, Delhi. Nearly 300,000 people have registered. The primary concern is about AI chips, employment, and the post-transformation world. In India, AI is being integrated into the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission, as it has been shown to accurately detect oral cancer with up to 86% accuracy. In the field of education, IIT Madras is working on over 100 Indian dialects (Awadhi, Braj, and Haryanvi).



While February 20th marks several national and internationally significant days (Arunachal Pradesh Foundation Day and Mizoram Foundation Day), World Day of Social Justice is also celebrated on this day. This day is celebrated to promote social equality, human rights, employment opportunities, and a just society, as declared by the United Nations. This day was established in 2007.



## World Social Justice Day: A global commitment towards equality, rights and opportunities

Sunil Kumar Mahala

Let me remind readers that social justice (according to the United Nations) refers to a situation in which all people in society have equal rights, opportunities, and equitable access to resources, and no individual is discriminated against on the basis of caste, gender, religion, language, class, or any other basis. In fact, the United Nations recognizes that social justice not only means legal equality but also ensures equal access to basic amenities such as education, health, employment, a dignified life, protection of human rights, and social security. Its aim is to reduce inequalities and build an inclusive and just society. However, it's worth noting that although the UN General Assembly declared it in 2007, its true foundation was laid at the 1995

Copenhagen Conference in Denmark. There, world leaders first recognized that eradicating poverty is not merely a matter of charity, but rather a matter of protecting human rights. Only when a society is governed by the law and has equitable distribution of various resources, such as wealth, health, and education, can the concept of social justice be realized. Today, more than 60% of the world's workers work without contracts or social security. It's safe to say that demanding their rights (social justice) has become the primary purpose of this day. Issues like poverty, unemployment, gender inequality, human rights violations, and social discrimination persist worldwide, and the primary reason behind celebrating this day is to raise awareness about these



issues. It's worth noting that the International Labour Organization (ILO) has also played a significant role in promoting this day, strengthening the concept of decent work and social security for all. It would not be wrong to say that economic inequality and social divisions are increasing worldwide. In such a situation, this day emphasizes both economic equality and the reduction of social divisions. In other words, the gap between rich and poor is widening to dangerous levels, making establishing global peace a difficult task. It would not be wrong to say that if there is unemployment, poverty, and discrimination in a society, the likelihood of civil war or crime is highest. There is a new focus on the digital divide, and for the past few years, this day has not been limited to food, clothing, and shelter. Digital social justice is now a major part of this day. Indeed, it is a harsh truth and a fact that even today, in this era of communication revolution and AI, one-third of the world's population lacks internet access. In this era of technology, lack of access to the internet is now considered a major social injustice. Because without it, opportunities for educa-

tion and employment are lost. In reality, social justice can only be achieved when a society has a strong foundation of education, employment, health, and social security. Inclusive development in any society can only be achieved by strengthening the foundations of education, employment, health, and social security. Gender equality, social inclusion, eliminating poverty and unemployment, and promoting human rights and equal opportunity are critical needs for the entire global community today. Simply put, the core message of this day is to create a society where every individual enjoys equality, respect, and opportunity. However, let me remind readers that last year, in 2025, the theme of this day was "Removing Barriers and Highlighting Opportunities for Social Justice," while this year, in 2026, it is "Bridging Inequalities for a Shared Future." It's no exaggeration to say that this theme makes it clear that in the modern era, it's not enough to simply address old issues; it's also essential to address new inequalities emerging in the digital and technological age. In conclusion, World Social Justice Day is not just an annual event,

but a global commitment. This day reminds us that peace and security are possible only when every person receives justice, regardless of caste, gender, religion, or economic status. This means that the right to equality is a necessity today. Social justice is not just the responsibility of governments; it is also the collective responsibility of societies, international organizations, and us citizens to contribute to an inclusive world. Ultimately, to put it simply, global development is incomplete unless the most vulnerable sections of society are included in the mainstream. Justice should be provided without discrimination based on religion or economic status. This means that the right to equality is the need of the hour. Social justice is not just the responsibility of governments; it is also the collective responsibility of societies, international organizations, and us citizens to contribute to an inclusive world. Ultimately, to put it simply, global development is incomplete until the most vulnerable sections of society are included in the mainstream. Justice should be provided without discrimination based on religion or economic status. This means that the right to equality is the need of the hour. Social justice is not just the responsibility of governments; it is also the collective responsibility of societies, international organizations, and us citizens to contribute to an inclusive world. Ultimately, to put it simply, global development is incomplete until the most vulnerable sections of society are included in the mainstream.

## The brilliance of the AI Summit and the ground reality

Sanat Jain

The government is making lofty claims about artificial intelligence (AI) in India. Last year, the government allocated a budget of 2,000 crore for AI development, but according to reports, only approximately 800 crore was spent. This discrepancy reflects not just statistics, but the disconnect between policy and implementation. While AI summits are being held across the country and platforms are discussing the digital revolution, it's natural to question the government's real thinking on this issue. What policies has the government formulated for AI research? What arrangements have been made for research in universities and colleges? There seems to be no real thought about how India will stay ahead in this

race. The Indian government is also dreaming about AI and presenting those dreams to the public. There are constant complaints about universities and the IT sector not receiving the support they expected. Over the past several years, the central government has reduced, rather than increased, the budgetary funding for research. Research institutions have almost come to a standstill due to a lack of infrastructure, high-end computing resources, and long-term grants. Without adequate incentives for research in universities, it will be impossible to keep pace with indigenous AI technology. India will become a market where imported products will be available for sale, and we will contribute significant foreign exchange and employment opportunities to foreign countries. The participation of

multinational companies in the AI ??Summit is welcome. If the Indian government wants to make India a consumer market, this is the government's vision. The Indian government rolls out the red carpet for foreign companies. The government has no trust in Indian companies and Indian researchers. Corruption in the implementation of government policies is so rampant that Indian researchers and Indian companies lag behind foreign companies. This situation is very worrying from a long-term perspective. World-leading companies like Open AI, Google, and Microsoft are welcomed like sons-in-law by Indian politicians and bureaucrats. Every task of the Indian government is entrusted to these companies. If Indian companies and software engineers could produce better

products than these, they would be better. The government does not pay any attention to them, due to which they are forced to go abroad to pursue their careers. Microsoft, Tesla and other multinational companies are playing a leading role in the Indian and global markets with their products and government protection. The expansion of AI technology in India is naturally the need of the hour. The Indian government should promote indigenous innovation by providing parallel opportunities to foreign companies. Otherwise, India's imports will increase, foreign currency will be spent on imports. The trade deficit due to the difference between imports and exports will increase, which will be very fatal for the Indian economy.

India's limited use of AI in the

defense sector and industrial production is a matter of concern. Developed and developing nations view AI as a strategic asset, and many smaller countries are funding research in AI more than the Indian government. India has the lowest budget for research. The Indian government needs long-term investment and clear policy formulation in this area. Development and self-reliance with technology cannot be achieved through mere announcements. Economic indicators such as inflation, unemployment, and the falling value of the rupee reveal the pressure we are facing in every sector. Even in the current situation, if self-reliance in the technological sector does not increase, inflation, unemployment, and socio-economic balance in India will deteriorate even further.

# France to host 30,000 Indian students by 2030 says Macron; launches AI health hub at AIIMS

**New Delhi, (GNS):** French President Emmanuel Macron on Wednesday coupled an ambitious education push with a new healthcare partnership, announcing plans to nearly triple the number of Indian students in France while inaugurating a 5,000 sq ft Indo-French Centre for AI in Health at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS). Speaking at the AI in Action Summit, Macron said France aims to raise annual Indian student enrolment from around 10,000 to 30,000 by 2030. He said visa processes would be streamlined and aligned with the full duration of academic programmes to prevent repeated renewals. He also stressed that many advanced courses, including in artificial intelligence, are available in English and that France's comparatively low tuition fees reflect strong public funding rather than lower standards. The announcement coincided with the formal launch of the new AI health centre on the AIIMS campus, in the presence of



Union health minister Jagat Prakash Nadda. The facility is designed to deepen collaboration in AI-driven medical research, particularly in brain health, neuroscience and clinical decision support. The centre has been established under a memorandum of understanding between AIIMS, Sorbonne University and the Paris Brain

Institute, with academic support from the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi and other French institutions. It will promote interdisciplinary research at the intersection of medicine, engineering and data science, and support joint doctoral programmes and researcher exchanges. The initiative builds on two years of

joint work on neuroimaging in neurodegenerative disorders. Supported by intramural funding and a CEFIPRA grant - a bilateral Indo-French research programme - the collaboration included AI workshops, academic exchanges and neuromodulation training, eventually leading to the proposal for an incubation centre at AIIMS that has now taken institutional form. On the broader implications of artificial intelligence, Macron said its development rests on three pillars: computing capacity, talent and capital. He noted that computing power depends heavily on access to affordable, low-carbon energy and cautioned that the rapid expansion of data centres must remain sustainable.

Calling for "AI at the service of humanity", he outlined three priorities: protecting children from unregulated digital ecosystems, ensuring transparency in algorithms that shape public discourse and preserving linguistic diversity in AI systems.

## Tamil Nadu report wants governors 'defanged'

**New Delhi, (GNS):** Tamil Nadu on Wednesday pitched for greater federalism, with the state assembly tabling the Justice Kurian Joseph Committee report on Centre-state relations that recommended diminished powers for the governor and a greater role for states in constitutional amendments.

In Part-1 of the report, which runs into 387 pages, the three-member panel said for the appointment of state governors, Article 155 of the Constitution should be amended "to bind the President to appoint one of the three names approved by a majority of the state assembly". It recommended a non-renewable five-year term for governors and proposed they be barred from holding any further constitutional office except that of the President and the vice-president.

CM MK Stalin called for constitutional amendments and structural reforms to decentralise powers and provide greater autonomy to states. "How long should we remain

the receiver and the Union the provider?" he said.

Governors should not hold office in a political party or any office of the executive, legislature or judiciary in the five years preceding appointment, the report said. It also sought amendments to impose timelines for gubernatorial and presidential action on bills, with deemed assent on expiry, citing the framework laid down by Supreme Court in April 2025.

The committee recommended doing away with the governor's address at the start of an assembly session and divesting the governor of the statutory role of chancellor of state universities.

"Dissolution (of the legislative assembly) shall be ordered solely on ministerial advice," it suggested.

The panel sought a larger say for states in elections, education, health, delimitation and GST. The report slammed the three-language formula and suggested the country shift from "weak trilingualism to high-proficiency bilingualism".

## NDA Rajya Sabha tally set to cross 130 as 37 seats go to polls in March

**New Delhi, (GNS):** The governing NDA is set to further strengthen its tally in the Upper House after biennial polls for 37 seats in Rajya Sabha on March 16, but the fate of prominent retiring members such as Sharad Pawar (NCP-SP), Abhishek Manu Singhvi (Congress), Ramdas Athawale (RPI-A), Tiruchi Siva (DMK) and Priyanka Chaturvedi (Sena UBT) will depend on how their respective parties coordinate with their alliance partners. BJP-led NDA's tally is expected to cross 130 with the advantage of at least four additional members in Rajya Sabha, whose current strength is 243 with one vacancy each in Jharkhand and West Bengal.

The states where seats will be vacant in April are Maharashtra (7 seats), Tamil Nadu (6), West Bengal (5), Bihar (5), Odisha (4), Assam (3), Telangana, Chhattisgarh, Haryana (2 each), and Himachal Pradesh (1).

NDA has govts in six - Maharashtra, Odisha, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Haryana and Assam - of the 10 states where seats will be vacant due to members retiring, giving it a clear advantage. The opposition alliance has govts in Himachal Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Telangana and West Bengal. In Maharashtra, since the governing coalition, Mahayuti, is expected to secure six seats as against one by opposition Maha



Vikas Aghadi, it's advantage NDA in the state. On the other hand, MVA will see a lot of political maneuvering as the alliance will have to choose between the candidates of Sena UBT and NCP(SP). In case NCP(SP) sticks with Pawar, it is to be seen whether NCP extends his support to him amid talks of a merger of the factions. Despite not having the numbers, NCP (SP) working president Supriya Sule didn't rule out the possibility of nominating her father, claiming that a MVA meeting would be held soon to finalise a name.

The seven Rajya Sabha members from Maharashtra whose terms are set to expire on April 2 are Pawar, Fauzia Khan (NCP-SP), Bhagwat Kishanrao Karad (BJP), Dhairyasheel Patil (BJP), Athawale, Chaturvedi and Rajani Patil (Congress).

## Crushed in wreck, abandoned on road Cab driver, his family battle for survival

**New Delhi, (GNS):** Fifty-three-year-old Ajit Singh has been bedridden since Feb 3 when an SUV being driven by a minor crashed into his cab after colliding with the motorcycle of Sahil Dhaneshra (23) in Dwarka. While the young biker died instantly, Singh suffered severe head and rib injuries. "Even breathing causes me pain," he tells Media from his house in Dwarka's Ambrahi village.

Singh, who earns Rs 25,000 a month, has been driving a cab for over two decades to support his family. Out of action after the accident, he stares at an uncertain future. The family's income has shrunk to just Rs 10,000, which his 21-year-old son, Shivam, earns from his job at a private firm in Gurgaon. A third-year college student, Shivam now leaves home at dawn and returns past 11pm, sacrificing the time he once dedicated to study for his final exams.

"The burden of the entire house-



hold now rests on my son's shoulders. I was the main earning member. My wife doesn't have a job, and my two daughters are married. For the next six months, I have been advised bed rest. I need my wife's help for even my basic needs," says Singh, hoping for monetary compensation to sustain his family for the next few months.

Singh recalls how he would often come across road accidents since he began driving in 2004. "Whenever I saw a crash, I would stop my car and pray for the victims. Gradually, I started wondering whether I should quit driving as the roads were becoming more dangerous by the day. But who knew I would be the one fighting for my

life?" he says.

On Feb 3, as Singh's entire life flashed before his eyes moments after the crash, bystanders were busy recording videos. A group of college students pulled him from the wreckage and rushed him to hospital in an e-rickshaw. "If it weren't for them, I wouldn't have survived. My cab was completely crushed, and I couldn't move," he says.

"The students somehow pulled me out of the cab and tried stopping cars so that someone would take me to hospital. But the drivers slowed down, looked for a second, and sped ahead. Finally, the kids could stop an e-rickshaw. They even managed to retrieve my phone, which was damaged, from my cab," Singh says.

Touching on Sahil's death, Singh says, "As a parent, I cannot imagine what his mother must be going through. I hope she gets justice."

## Up close with wild things: Nocturnal house, walk-through aviary and more

**New Delhi, (GNS):** Delhi Zoo is set for a facelift under a Rs 400-crore modernisation plan that includes a walk-through aviary, a nocturnal house, an expanded veterinary hospital, a central plaza and an auditorium.

The zoo will also aim to curb congestion on Mathura Road.

Officials said the proposal has been cleared by a delegated investment board. A detailed project report will be prepared in three months once the funds are allocated and the project will be executed in over four years.

The modernisation of the zoo, which opened in 1959, plan aims to improve the experience of visitors as well as animals.

One of the features is the walk-through aviary, unlike the current system where birds are caged. "At present, some sections of the aviary have net viewing, which hampers clear viewing for the public. We plan to improve the aviary so that visitors can feel they are in the birds' habitat. While walking in the aviary section, people will be able to see the birds or listen to their chirping. However, there will be barricading so that people or birds are unable to harm each other," a senior zoo official



said. Similarly, glass viewing panels will be installed at animal enclosures for a clearer view. Two other additions will be a nocturnal house and CCTV cameras with AI. "Animals which are awake at night and asleep in the day, like owls, will be in the nocturnal house with minimal lighting," the official said.

Though cameras were installed in the zoo over five years ago, the plan is to update them. "We will install cameras equipped with AI so that if an animal tries to leave its enclosure, the camera will alert authorities," said the official, adding that they also aim to install the latest fire alarm system.

## FIR against online platform for sale of illegal knives

**New Delhi, (GNS):** Delhi Police has registered an FIR under the Arms Act after finding out that quick-commerce platform Blinkit has allegedly been selling illegal knives online.

The complainant in the case, a constable posted at Khyala police station in west Delhi, stated that two recent murders in the area had been committed using knives purchased through online platforms. One took place last month and another - of a 14-year-old boy - in Feb.

Following these incidents, police began scrutinising various e-commerce and quick-delivery platforms offering knives for sale and found Blinkit selling prohibited ones, an officer said.

Knives exceeding the maximum permitted blade length of 7.62 cm and width of 1.72 cm are considered illegal under the Arms Act.

As part of a verification exercise, the constable placed an order for a knife on Blinkit on Feb 13 to ascertain whether the product complied with the legal specifications, deputy commissioner of police (west) Darade Sharad Bhaskar said. The

delivery address was the second floor of Khyala police station. The knife, which cost Rs 710, was delivered at 4.05 pm the same day.

"The knife was found to be 'garidarar' (can be manually opened and closed) and had a steel blade 8 cm long and 2.5 cm wide. Hence, it was illegal," the DCP said.

The tax invoice named the online platform as the seller, with an address in west Delhi's Tihar village. Based on these findings, a case under Sections 25, 54 and 59 of the Arms Act was registered.

Following further investigations, 16 illegal knives were seized from various dark stores and outlets linked to Blinkit across Delhi on Feb 15. Police teams continued their raids the following day and recovered 32 more such knives from a warehouse of the platform located in Gugaon's Farrukhnagar. So far, 50 knives have been seized.

Police are trying to identify those responsible for the procurement, storage and sale of the illegal knives.

A response was sought from the platform, but it refused comment.

# Why Traffic Cops Have Their Hands Full

**New Delhi, (GNS):** With several heads of states descending on the capital for the AI summit, traffic management across central Delhi switched into a high-security mode on Wednesday. Given the sheer scale and sensitivity of VVIP movement and the fact it was a weekday, traffic crawled its way on several stretches, past barricades and intersections that were tightly controlled by police.

The first wave of VVIP movements began in the morning with the arrival of delegates for the summit and continued through the afternoon. Every arrival impacted the stretches around the airport as the convoys headed to hotels like The Oberoi, The Claridges, Le Meridien, The Imperial, Leela Palace, Taj Palace, Hyatt Regency and The Ashok. National Traffic on National Highway-8 and Dhaula Kuan were severely impacted.



A commuter wrote on social media, "There's heavy traffic towards Terminal 1. Please advise Delhi Traffic Police to deploy (more personnel)." Another posted, "International travel

now feels faster than reaching home from the airport. Delhi traffic tests patience more than immigration queues."

While the strictest traffic restrictions were expected later in the day, especially near 6 pm when the delegates were to move to Bharat Mandapam, the venue of the summit, their individual schedules affected traffic earlier as multiple convoys moved to Hyderabad House, AIIMS and other public locations, depending on bilateral meetings and other engagements of the VVIPs. Till 4 pm, at least 40 such 'movement cycles' had already taken place, according

to a source.

Anjali, a commuter, said it was ironic that while the summit promises to simplify life through technology, traffic chaos made movement across central Delhi difficult. Approaching Bharat Mandapam via Mathura Road or nearby arteries felt daunting, she said. Anjali left GK-II at 3.40 pm for a meeting near Parliament, but her route kept on changing as the traffic situation worsened near Lajpat Nagar. "Diversion via Ring Road, South Extension, Defence Colony and Golf Links all led to more snarls," she said. Running extremely late, she finally had to cancel the meeting and reached her ITO office at 5 pm.

There were multiple reports of prolonged checks on roads near central Delhi hotel zones and heavy security build-up around India Gate, which also slowed down traffic. Congestion was reported across multiple stretches through the day, including Teen Murti Chowk, the

Barapullah Road stretch, Sardar Patel Marg, Ring Road (AIIMS-sensitive stretch), South Extension corridor, Mathura Road, Pragati Maidan Tunnel, C-Hexagon, Connaught Place outer circle, Mother Teresa Crescent, Dhaula Kuan, NH-8 Delhi-Gurgaon stretch, and Golf Links, New Delhi. Officials from Delhi Traffic Police said simultaneously managing multiple high-security delegations across different routes is a complex and real-time operation, especially on a weekday.

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E-Auction Sale Notification No. S/III/Auction Program-I /MARCH-2026 dated 05.02.2026. E-Auction Sale at PARDI Depot scheduled to be held in the month of MARCH-2026 on 17.03.2026 & 29.03.2026 has been rescheduled and the same will now be held on 11.03.2026 & 18.03.2026 respectively. All other terms and conditions will remain unchanged. (S/III/Auction Program-II / MARCH-2026 Dt. 16.02.2026) 1139  
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# AMC to host AmdavadNXT, a first-of-its-kind public exhibition on city mobility from Feb 21 till Feb 23, 2026

Feb 19, 2026, Ahmedabad: As the city prepares to step onto the global stage in the run-up to the 2030 Commonwealth Games, the Amdavad Municipal Corporation (AMC) will host AmdavadNXT, a three-day public exhibition and convening on urban mobility from February 21 to 23 at Riverfront House. Open to all citizens, the initiative aims to spark city-wide dialogue on strengthening public transport as the backbone of an inclusive, climate-resilient and people-centric mobility system. Organised by AMC under the SHIFT Transport coalition in partnership with WRI India, TUL Foundation, UrbanVoices, aProCh, MYBYK and others, the event is supported by over 50 organisations, 35 schools and 18 universities. Envisioned as a first-of-its-kind platform, AmdavadNXT will bring together policymakers, planners,



academic institutions, startups, civil society groups and citizens to reflect on Ahmedabad's transport journey and chart the road ahead. The exhibition will showcase the city's mobility evolution—from AMTS to BRTS and Metro—through interactive maps, infographics, multimedia installations and panel discussions. Visitors can explore best practices from other cities in Gujarat, engage with startups working on civic and urban solutions, and view a life-size model of the UNESCO World Heritage Walled City of Ahmedabad.

Municipal corporations from Navsari, Gandhinagar and Mehsana will also present innovative initiatives. Municipal Commissioner Shri Banchhanidhi Pani, IAS, said that as Ahmedabad grows as an economic and cultural hub with global ambitions, its mobility systems must evolve in tandem. "AmdavadNXT is an important step in bringing together institutions, experts and citizens to collectively envision a public transport system that is safe, inclusive and sustainable. By strengthening integration,

accessibility and public engagement, we aim to make public transport the backbone of Ahmedabad's urban future," he said, inviting educational institutions to encourage student participation. Beyond the exhibition, the deliberations and citizen feedback gathered over the three days will be consolidated into a White Paper titled 'Making Amdavad Ready for 2030'. The document is expected to outline key recommendations, priority interventions and actionable pathways to enhance gender integration, safety, accessibility and climate responsiveness in the city's transport network, supporting Ahmedabad's readiness for global events and long-term urban growth. The event, being held in collaboration with CEPT University, will run from 10 am onwards at the Ground Floor of Riverfront House and is open to all citizens.

## MCD to sign MoU with Northern Railway for revenue share from outdoor ads on rail property

New Delhi, (GNS): Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) has given its nod to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Delhi division of Northern Railway for revenue sharing from outdoor ads displayed on railway properties that are visible to the public and fall within MCD's jurisdiction. According to the draft MoU prepared last Nov, 25% of the total revenue earned by the railways from such ads - installed in accordance with the Outdoor Policy, 2017 - will be shared with the civic body. Payments will be made quarterly. Ads installed inside stations will not be covered under this arrangement. "We met railway officials last week. While both parties agreed in principle to sign the MoU, certain issues were raised, including the mode of payment to be adopted by the railways for revenue sharing and regulatory concerns regarding the installation of ads - such as hoardings, banners or digital screens - on small 75-square-yard properties, which are gen-

erally prohibited without permissions. As soon as these issues are sorted out, an MoU will be signed," an official said. The modalities of the MoU are being worked out and are expected to be finalised soon, a senior Northern Railway official said. The draft MoU also proposes an annual review of rates. MCD will require the railways to furnish details of the stations. "There was litigation between Northern Railway and MCD pending before Supreme Court on issues of revenue sharing and permissions. In order to resolve the matter amicably, both parties agreed that the first party (railways) shall share 25% of the revenue received from outdoor contracts," the draft MoU said. The Delhi division of Northern Railway will also inform the civic body about the licence fee and size of each outdoor site at the time of award. The draft states that reconciliation of accounts will be carried out jointly on a half-yearly basis by the Railway Division and MCD.

## How Delhi Is Aiming High With Drone Policy

New Delhi, (GNS): The city govt is framing a Delhi drone policy to promote investment and create jobs while deploying drones across key areas of governance, including urban planning, infrastructure monitoring and pollution control, apart from using them to help police with security measures. An apex committee comprising the IT secretary, home secretary and a special commissioner of Delhi Police has held a meeting where various aspects of the policy have been considered, including ways of making it competitive, a Delhi govt official said. The panel also discussed key takeaways from similar policies in several states and aligning Delhi's framework with the Centre's drone rules, 2021, to ensure regulatory consistency. A working committee will be set up to draw up finer details of the policy in engagement with govt departments and stakeholders. "Consultations with the stakeholders, including start-ups, academic institutes and industry representatives, are expected to begin

next month before the policy is drafted," the official said. Govt is studying drone policies of Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Andhra, Uttarakhand and Himachal, with an aim to adapt their best practices to suit Delhi's needs. A group of officers recently visited Telangana for that purpose. "These states have adopted progressive frameworks offering capital subsidies for drone manufacturing units, production-linked incentives, R&D grants, reimbursement of certification costs and dedicated drone parks or testing corridors," said another official. Their USP lies in creating an end-to-end ecosystem - from manufacturing and component supply chains to pilot training schools and assured govt demand for mapping, agriculture and infrastructure projects, the official said, adding that some of these states have integrated drones into broader start-up and skilling policies, ensuring industry support is backed by talent development and market access.

## 'Suspicious car found behind Red Fort': J-K man posed as NIA officer to dupe job seekers; here's how Delhi Police arrested him

New Delhi, (GNS): A man from Jammu and Kashmir has been arrested in Delhi for allegedly impersonating an officer of a central agency and cheating economically vulnerable families on the promise of jobs, police said.

The accused, identified as Mudassar, a resident of Pulwama, was intercepted during patrolling by a team from Kotwali police station.

According to police, a black Hyundai Santro with a Jammu and Kashmir registration number was found parked under suspicious circumstances near Delhi Chalo Park behind the Red Fort.

Mudassar and a minor boy were inside the vehicle when officers approached them.

"When questioned, Mudassar produced an identity card similar to that issued by the National Investigation Agency. The card appeared suspicious and both were brought to the police station for detailed questioning," a



senior police officer said.

Investigators later found that the card resembled one issued by the National Investigation Agency, but was allegedly forged.

Preliminary inquiries suggested that Mudassar had been targeting economically vulnerable families in Jammu and Kashmir, promising employment opportunities in Delhi in return for money.

"Mudassar had assured the minor boy's family of arranging a job for him and taken an advance payment before bringing him to Delhi," the officer added.

Police said the pair left Kashmir on 12 February and

reached Delhi the following night.

They had been staying at a guest house in the Jama Masjid area.

The accused told investigators he had contacted some people to arrange a job for the minor, but he could

not produce any documentary proof to support the claim. A joint interrogation involving the Special Cell, the Intelligence Bureau and the central agency concerned concluded that the identity card was forged and had not been officially issued.

## Two maintenance workers arrested for theft at AI Summit

New Delhi, (GNS): Police arrested two maintenance workers for allegedly stealing high-tech wearables during the AI Impact Summit, police said on Wednesday.

The duo identified as Ashish and Manish in their 40s had been hired for maintenance at the event and reportedly took the devices out of "curiosity" and because they "thought they were cool," police said. The theft came to light on Monday after Dhananjay Yadav, founder of Bengaluru-based AI startup, reported on social media platform X that his company's patented AI wearables went missing during the summit. Yadav described how, despite handing over the devices to security for safekeeping, the wearables disappeared. "We trusted the security, hoping our devices would be safe... only to find them gone," he wrote on X. Just wanted to update everyone, our devices have been recovered.

## CM launches water and sewer projects worth over 2,100cr Shifting Of Power Lines Begins For WTE Plant

New Delhi, (GNS): Chief minister Rekha Gupta on Wednesday inaugurated several projects worth over Rs 2,100 crore at Ramlila Maidan and Todapur in west Delhi to strengthen the capital's water and sewer infrastructure.

The projects, undertaken by Delhi Jal Board, aim to enhance sewage treatment, modernise water supply, and provide long-term solutions to decades-old civic issues.

The Nilothi-1 Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) has been expanded from 40 MGD to 60 MGD at a cost of Rs 373.2 crore, while the Pappankalan Phase-1 STP's capacity was increased from 20 MGD to 30 MGD with an investment of Rs 225.3 crore. These expansions are expected to boost overall sewage treatment capacity and curb the discharge of untreated wastewater into the Yamuna.

Old pipelines at Haiderpur in north-west Delhi were replaced at a cost of Rs 50.72 crore, and similar replacement at Pitampura and adjoining areas were done at a cost of Rs 19.44 crore, the CMO said.

Foundation stones were laid for major water supply improvement proj-



ects at the Chandrawal water treatment plant (WTP). Projects costing Rs 1,258.4 crore - through two packages - will modernise infrastructure and improve supply reliability in several areas.

Multiple household sewer connection projects were launched in Begumpur, Wazirabad, Ranhola and Sant Nagar, collectively costing over Rs 158 crore. These will be linked to STPs in Rohini, Coronation Pillar and Nilothi. The Molarband STP will also see a capacity enhancement of 0.67 MGD at a cost of Rs 14.7 crore.

Addressing the gathering, the chief minister said: "Our govt does not merely make announcements. We ensure timely completion of projects.

A robust water and sewer system is essential for building a Viksit Delhi." She directed officials to adhere to timelines and maintain high-quality standards.

Water minister Pravesh Verma said the projects marked the beginning of a new development phase for Delhi. "This is not just about infrastructure creation but about laying a strong foundation for a Viksit Delhi aligned with the vision of Viksit Bharat. We are committed to making water and sewer services modern, efficient, and future-ready," he said. Officials said the projects will collectively improve service delivery, expand treatment capacity and contribute to cleaning the Yamuna.

Speaking about DJB's amnesty scheme, Gupta said commercial consumers are being included in it and the scheme will be extended to Aug.

More than 3.52 lakh consumers have benefited from the scheme. Under this initiative, penalties, interest and surcharges were waived, providing relief of approximately Rs 1,400 crore, while the DJB received revenue amounting to Rs 484 crore.

New Delhi, (GNS): Revving up the process to establish the city's fifth waste-to-energy (WTE) plant at Bawana, Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) has begun shifting three 400 KV transmission lines that pass through the project site.

The relocation is expected to conclude by June. Construction of the boundary wall and setting up the site office will take place simultaneously.

"Physical work for shifting the lines has started at the site. While installation of boilers, chimney and other machinery for the WTE plant will begin once the site is cleared and lines are shifted, the concessionaire was also directed to initiate procurement of equipment and, in the meantime, proceed with boundary wall construction and related preparatory work to ensure the plant is completed within the stipulated timeline," an official said. The plant will process 3,000 metric tonnes of segregated municipal waste per day, generate 28 MW of electricity, cost Rs 604 crore, operate for 25 years, and is slated to become fully operational by Dec 2027. Delhi generates

around 11,500 MT of municipal solid waste daily, of which only about 6,550 MT is processed at WTE plants. While four WTE facilities (at Okhla, Ghazipur, Tehkhand and Narela-Bawana) are operational, their combined capacity remains inadequate. Expansion of both Okhla and Tehkhand plants and establishment of the Bawana facility are critical to easing pressure on Delhi's saturated landfills.

In March 2025, MCD issued a work order for this plant after Supreme Court upheld the former's authority to fix tariffs for the Narela plant, clearing the way for construction. On June 18, the environment ministry granted clearance for the new 30 MW plant at Bawana.

Thereafter, then MCD commissioner Ashwani Kumar signed a tripartite agreement with Power Grid and DTL to facilitate removal of the high-voltage lines from the project site in April 2025. As per the arrangement, Power Grid will execute the relocation, while MCD will bear the one-time capital expenditure.

## HC at 'complete loss of words' over vacant positions in DCPCR

New Delhi, (GNS): Taking strong exception to a delay of two and a half years in filling vacancies at Delhi Commission for Protection of Child Rights (DCPCR), the high court on Wednesday warned of consequences if the posts were not filled by mid-April.

"Keep progressing at a snail's pace and scrap the (DCPCR) Act," a bench of Chief Justice DK Upadhyaya and justice Tejas Karia said as it reprimanded Delhi govt for "attempting to justify" the delay.

"From July 2023 to Feb 2026, you took time and then justified that it was essential for maintaining transparency in the selection process... More than one year elapsed, and you tried to justify it," the bench told the counsel for the govt, and

observed that it was at a "complete loss of words" over the authorities' failure.

The court's criticism came after the govt claimed that the process of appointing the chairperson and members was likely to conclude by the second week of April. The govt counsel assured the court that the matter was "progressing" and that the second week of April was the "outer limit".

If such a long period was essential to maintain fairness, and to ensure that the most suitable candidates were appointed, the HC noted, the state govt would have to rethink.

"We caution that, in case the process is not completed, as stated by the govt, the matter will be viewed seriously. We hope and expect that the statement made

in the affidavit shall be honoured," the court observed, underlining that the delay in appointments belied the legislative mandate.

Counsel appearing for one of the petitioners highlighted that DCPCR was also entrusted with the task of monitoring the implementation of the POCSO Act and the Juvenile Justice Act.

Advocate Prabhsahay Kaur further highlighted data on missing children, saying 12 children went missing every day in the capital between Jan 1 and 15, and submitted that the DCPCR had a robust system of volunteers, ex-army men, and teachers who were involved in such cases to assist the police and the public.

"All such projects have fallen flat. For the past three years, there has been no one monitor-

## AI app analysing coughs could close COPD diagnostic gaps in primary care, AIIMS study shows

New Delhi, (GNS): An artificial intelligence-powered mobile application developed by a Karnataka-based startup and validated by AIIMS may soon help bridge a key diagnostic gap in India's primary health-care system. The app, Shwaasa, uses an algorithm-based platform to screen patients for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), one of India's major causes of illness. AIIMS-Delhi conducted a

validation study on 460 people at its Ballabgarh unit last year. When compared with spirometry - the gold standard for lung function testing - the tool showed moderate overall correlation and strong agreement in severe cases. Here's how it works: The patient coughs into a smartphone, the microphone captures the sound and the embedded AI software analyses it instantly. Within minutes, the app flags whether the lungs

appear normal or show signs of COPD or asthma. The tool is about 90% accurate in distinguishing normal from abnormal cases. Its accuracy in identifying specific conditions such as COPD and asthma ranges from 82% to 87%. The study's findings are in the process of being published. COPD is the second leading cause of morbidity in India, but spirometry is unavailable in most district hospitals and primary care centres.