



Mule bank accounts frozen in crackdown on cyber fraudsters in Karnataka, 68 held

New Delhi(GNS): The Karnataka State Cyber Command has arrested 68 people as part of a state-wide drive against mule bank accounts and "mule herders" involved in cyber fraud, officials said on Friday. The special operations, which have been continuing since last week across Karnataka, targeted networks engaged in aggregating and selling mule bank accounts used for cyber-crimes. The arrests were made between December 2025 and February 2026, police said in an updated report. The Karnataka Cyber Command has conducted state-wide special operations against mule accounts and mule herders across Karnataka. The special drive has continued since last week and this is an updated report," the department said in a statement. Police said the investigation identified a network of "mule herders" - individuals who aggregate and misuse mule bank accounts - who were retailing and selling such accounts to cyber criminals. A total of 68 key accused and suspects have been arrested during the period.

According to the statement, mule herders had collected personal information and documents from unsuspecting laypersons and opened multiple bank accounts in the names of their relatives.

"These accounts were operated in a business-like manner," it added.

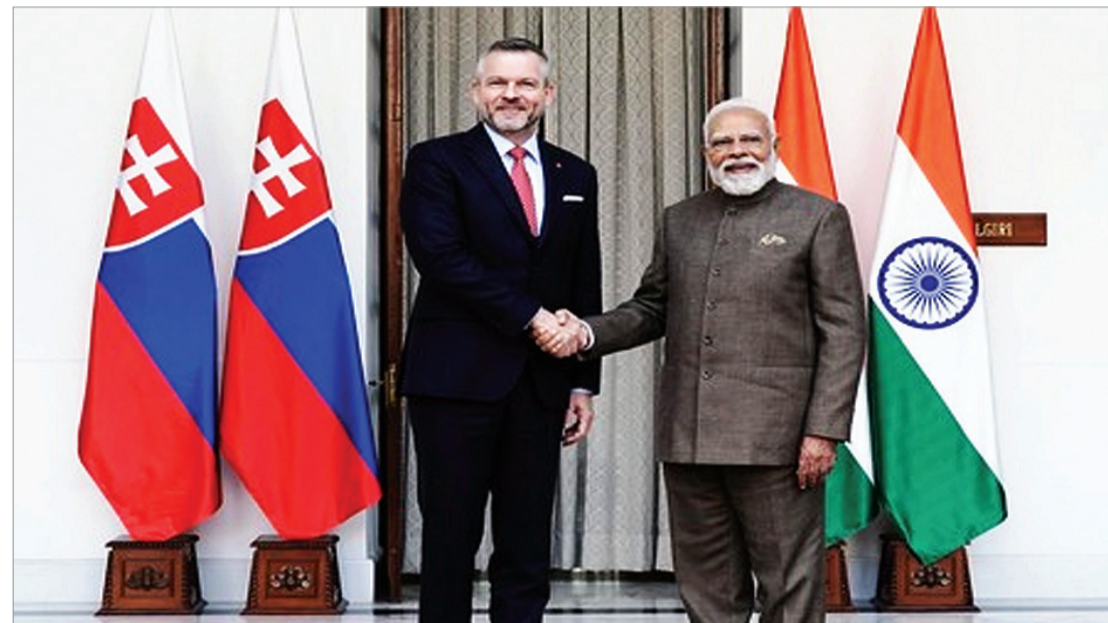
Trump now claims 11 'expensive' jets were shot down during India-Pakistan conflict

New Delhi(GNS): US President Donald Trump on Thursday said he had threatened to put 200 per cent tariffs on India and Pakistan if they didn't stop the fighting last summer, reiterating the claim that he stopped the war between the two nuclear-armed neighbours. Trump repeated the claim that he stopped eight wars within the first year of his second term in the White House as he addressed an event of the Board of Peace in Washington. India has consistently denied any third-party intervention. Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif attended the event along with leaders of the other nations who have signed up to join the Trump-led organisation. As he addressed the event, Trump listed the conflicts he helped end and asked leaders of the countries to stand up as he mentioned the nations.

Slovakia President Calls Meeting With PM Modi 'Historic Milestone' For Ties; Lauds AI Summit

New Delhi(GNS): Slovakia President Peter Pellegrini on Friday described his meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi as a "historic milestone" in Slovakia-India relations, while congratulating India for hosting the "exceptionally well-organised" India AI Impact Summit 2026. The two leaders met at Hyderabad House on the sidelines of the summit and reviewed the entire spectrum of bilateral ties, including trade and investment, digital technologies, defence, space, energy, culture and people-to-people exchanges.

momentum in ties generated by the adoption of the landmark India-EU FTA and the India-EU Joint Comprehensive Strategic Agenda 2030. The leaders agreed to further strengthen India-Slovakia relations for mutual benefit especially in the digital sector," the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said in a statement. Calling it the "first-ever" reception of a Slovak Head of State in India, Pellegrini termed the meeting a major step forward in bilateral engagement. "I congratulated him on an exceptionally well-organised India AI Impact Summit 2026 that brought together



leaders, innovators and business to scale AI responsibly and strengthen global collaboration. We agreed AI must be democratised so it benefits people - not only a few," the Slovak President said in a post on X. "We also focused on concrete results in trade and investment, and on deeper cooperation in innovation, secure technology and talent, including academic and expert exchanges in the energy field," he added. The India AI Impact Summit 2026, themed 'Welfare for all, happiness of all', aims to position India as a global AI leader while promoting inclusive growth and responsible technological development. The summit is structured around three pillars - People, Planet and Progress - with seven working groups focusing on areas such as economic growth, social good, democratisation of AI resources, safe and trusted AI, human capital, science, and resilience. More than 500 global AI leaders, including CEOs, founders, academicians and policymakers, are participating in the summit.

President Murmu meets leaders of Slovakia, Serbia and Estonia



New Delhi(GNS): President Draupadi Murmu held separate meetings with her counterparts from Slovakia, Serbia, and Estonia on Thursday at Rashtrapati Bhavan. The discussions focused on artificial intelligence (AI), digital cooperation, and enhancing bilateral ties. According to an official statement, President Murmu welcomed his Slovakian counterpart Peter Pellegrini to Rashtrapati Bhavan and recalled his state visit last year. Murmu thanked him for the hospitality shown to him. The President appreciated Pellegrini's participation in the AI Impact Summit and described it as a defining moment for India and the world, based on the principles of People, Planet, and Progress.

Amit Shah says Congress left borders open, infiltration on the rise; launches 6,900 crore scheme in Assam; promises to make state flood-free in 5 years

with this problem firmly. Shah said at a public rally in Assam's Cachar district that no development program was started in Assam during Congress rule. 14 kilometers of road is being built every day in the state, the highest in the country. Shah is on a two-day visit to Assam. He launched the second phase of the 6,900 crore Vibrant Villages Programme from Nathanpur village in Cachar. It will cover 15 states and two union territories across the country.



Dispur, (GNS): Home Minister Amit Shah said on Friday that the Congress party had left the country's borders open, leading to increased infiltration into Assam. The BJP government has dealt

- 5 big things from Amit Shah's speech...**
- The development of border villages is a priority for Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The Vibrant Villages Program is a step in that direction.
 - The second phase of the scheme will cost ₹6,900 crore, covering 1,954 villages in 15 states and two union territories.
 - Under the Vibrant Villages Programme, comprehensive development of 334 blocks bordering Pakistan and Bangladesh will be undertaken.
 - The objective of the scheme is to stop migration from border areas and curb infiltration from international borders.
 - In the last 10 years, the BJP has given Assam a new direction in its development. In the next five years, we will make Assam a flood-free state. Assam has become a hub for healthcare facilities in the last 10 years.

I-Pac raid controversy: Mamata Banerjee accused of abusing her powers

Kolkata(GNS): The Enforcement Directorate (ED), a central investigating agency, has alleged that West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee abused her power. The agency told the Supreme Court that the Chief Minister and the state machinery entered the I-PAC office and its director's premises illegally during a raid in connection with an alleged coal theft scam. In its response to Wednesday's hearing, the central agency alleged that senior state police officers colluded and obstructed ED officials from carrying out their work under the PMLA. The agency alleged that this was done for the personal benefit of West



Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee. 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.

Chaos erupts near Jabalpur over Aarti and Azaan dispute

Jabalpur(GNS): A dispute over the Aarti and Azaan between a Durga temple and a mosque in Sihora tehsil, about 40 km from Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh, escalated into a violent clash on Thursday night. Following stone-pelting and violence, a curfew-like situation prevailed in the area. A heavy police force has been deployed, and 49 people have been arrested so far. Authorities say the situation is under control, but security has been tightened as a precaution. How the dispute began: According to the initial police investigation, the Aarti (worship ritual) at the temple and the Azaan (call to prayer) at the mosque were taking place simultaneously. During this time, an argument broke out between the two sides, leading to a clash. It is alleged that a mob of 50-70 youths emerged from the mosque and the dispute escalated.

The future of linguistic diversity: The role of youth is decisive

Yogesh Kumar Goyal

Mother tongues not only help us learn and understand regional languages but also facilitate communication. This is why, to better understand language diversity, many countries have decided to work together on this subject, enabling people from one region to not only know but also learn the mother tongue of others. Given the importance of language in human life, UNESCO celebrates International Mother Language Day globally on February 21st every year to protect the cultural and intellectual heritage of different regions, promote linguistic and cultural diversity and multilingualism, and raise awareness and preserve the various mother tongues around the world. This day is a time to celebrate lan-

guages and also to raise awareness about the importance of linguistic diversity and multilingualism. An important reason for celebrating International Mother Language Day is to promote multilingualism. Multilingualism is the ability to speak more than one language, which can be beneficial in many ways. It can help people understand different cultures and also make them better communicators. International Mother Language Day is celebrated annually with a significant theme. The theme for 2026 is "Youth Voices on Multilingual Education," highlighting the essential role of youth in protecting, revitalizing, and using technology to promote linguistic diversity, while ensuring that education systems recognize and support learners' mother tongues to foster inclusion. In

2025, the day was celebrated with the theme "Languages Matter: Silver Jubilee Celebrations of International Mother Language Day." The themes for International Mother Language Day 2024 and 2023 were "Multilingual Education as a Pillar of Intergenerational Learning" and "Multilingual Education: The Need to Transform Education," respectively. The theme for 2022 was "Using Technology for Multilingual Learning: Challenges and Opportunities," while the theme for 2021's Mother Language Day was "Promoting Multilingualism for Inclusion in Education and Society." The United Nations General Assembly declared 2019 as the International Year of Indigenous Languages. The celebration of Mother Language Day was announced by

UNESCO on November 17, 1999, and was first celebrated as International Mother Language Day in 2000. The celebration of this day was originally inspired by Bengali speakers' love for their mother tongue. The idea of celebrating February 21st was proposed by Rafiqul Islam, a Bangladeshi living in Canada, to commemorate the brutal killings that occurred in Dhaka in 1952 during the Bengali Language Movement. In memory of the young people martyred in this major language movement, UNESCO decided in 1999 that February 21st would be celebrated as Mother Language Day worldwide. On International Mother Language Day, various language and cultural programs are organized worldwide, and individuals involved in education and litera-

ture discuss different languages and offer advice on how to simplify and facilitate their learning. According to United Nations data, 90% of the approximately 7,000 languages spoken worldwide have fewer than 100,000 speakers. Worryingly, more than 40% of all languages are now endangered. According to the United Nations, only a few hundred languages have found a place in education systems and the public sector, and approximately 40% of the global population has not received education in a language they speak or understand. In the digital world, fewer than 100 languages are used globally. In this era of globalization, the competition to learn foreign languages for better employment opportunities is considered a major reason behind the extinction of mother tongues.

Editorial

Rajya Sabha elections again on test

The same twists and turns will unfold, and the story will be written in the sky. A journey towards the Rajya Sabha, and political will just a few steps away. Himachal Pradesh will once again test the Congress party's power by trying a new face for Rajya Sabha membership. A new stage, new ambitions, and a battle against its own darkness under the lantern. Circumstances had already presented Congress with opportunities mathematically, but political machinations had robbed the ruling party of its coffers. This time, Congress will confidently reach the sky it left behind. Elections are scheduled for March 16th, when a Congress leader will emerge to replace current MP Indu Goswami. This time, rivers will flow under guard; if you walk, you'll remain on the shore. Himachal Pradesh's political stature cannot justify the importance of Rajya Sabha membership. Therefore, parties searching for candidates often import candidates from outside the state. Last time, Congress wanted to send Abhishek Manu Singhvi to the Rajya Sabha from Himachal Pradesh, but internal party maneuvering robbed the entire coffers. Whose turn will come this time will become a new story. Will the adjustment of Congress leaders from the central pool be from Himachal, or will the party identify someone from Himachal? The Rajya Sabha has been an open sky, and the best skills of MPs in the national debate are seen here. If we search Himachal's intellectual world, academics, lawyers, and economists, some writings in advocacy of issues may emerge. To strengthen Himachal's position, the Rajya Sabha elections could find such personalities who, beyond the typical test of the electoral system, want to present their views to the country on the basis of vision. Rajya Sabha seats have always been considered beyond pure politics.

Now, with all the shouting and screaming, the sky is closing in here too. After the Rajya Sabha voting, 37 new MPs will be added. Himachal will be a major base for the Congress among the vacant seats in ten states. Elections will be held this year for 72 seats, and this could give the BJP a slight edge. In the current Rajya Sabha, the BJP has 103 MPs and the NDA 126.



When humanoid robots, resembling humanoids, danced in sync with children and demonstrated precise martial arts moves on the stage of the Spring Festival Gala in Beijing, the world's eyes were fixed on China. The fact that not a single robot fell amid the flash of swords and the agility of backflips indicated that this was not just entertainment but a public display of technological maturity. This is the same platform that China has used for years to showcase its scientific and industrial achievements. This time the spotlight was on robotics, and the message was clear: China has taken a decisive leap forward in the race for artificial intelligence and automation.



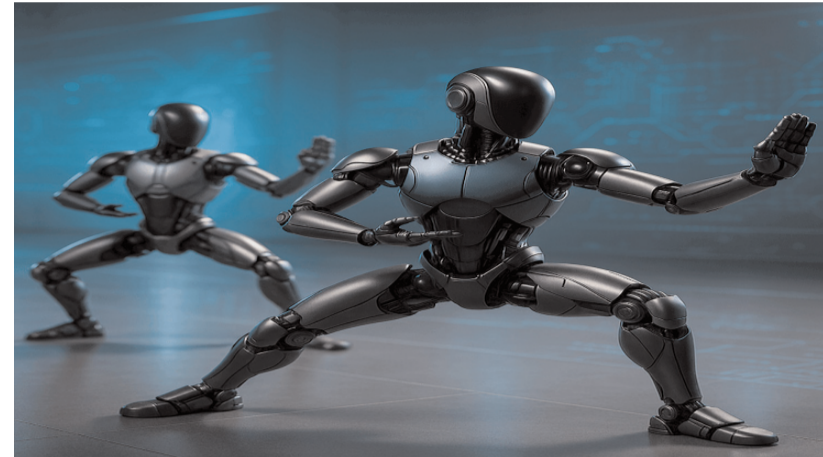
Robots dominate Beijing's Spring Festival, marking a new global balance of technological power

Kantilal Mandot

The companies behind these robots include emerging technological powerhouses like Oonitree, which have gained global recognition in a short time. While until last year, robots were seen performing simple movements, this time their gait, balance, and reaction capabilities have shown significant improvement. This progress is not just a result of hardware but a testament to the rapid development of AI software. Machine learning algorithms and real-time sensing have enabled robots to maintain balance even during complex movements. This indicates that China is now developing robots not just as display objects but as reliable partners in the production and service sectors.

To understand China's strategy, one must examine its industrial policy. Beijing has established AI and robotics as a national priority. This initiative is not only part of technological competition but also addresses the challenge of demographic structure. China is facing a rapidly aging population. A decline in the labor force could impact future production capacity. In this context, automation and humanoid robots are being seen as a means to address human labor shortages in factories, farms, and service sectors. The government aims to take production efficiency to new heights through an AI-plus manufacturing model.

Globally, China's competition is primarily with the United States and Japan. The United States has long been known for



its Silicon Valley innovation culture and aggressive private sector investment. Tesla CEO Elon Musk himself considers AI-based robotics a major area of the future and calls Chinese companies serious competitors. Japan has been a leader in industrial robotics for decades, with its machines operating in factories around the world. However, in recent years, China's momentum in the field of humanoid robots has changed the competitive landscape.

Estimates from research firms indicate that a significant portion of humanoid robots shipped globally are manufactured in China. This is not simply a result of production volumes, but also of cost-effectiveness and the robustness of its supply chain. China boasts a comprehensive industrial ecosystem, from electronics to battery and motor manufacturing. This allows it to rapidly develop prototypes and scale production. This capability has made China a leader in sectors such as smartphones and solar panels, and the same model is now being replicated in robotics.

China's growth is impacting both Asia and

the West. Countries like South Korea and Japan, which already had strong robotics capabilities, are now realizing the need for more aggressive investment. The US has also seen increased emphasis on AI research and chip manufacturing. Europe is focusing on automation to keep its manufacturing sector competitive. Thus, China's rise is giving new impetus to global technological competition. It's no exaggeration to say that robotics could become the next decade's market, what the automobile industry was in the last century.

However, this development is also accompanied by concerns. If robots begin to perform more complex tasks, traditional jobs could be impacted. Many sectors, from industrial workers to service sector employees, will require reskilling. On the other hand, humanoid robots could prove useful in areas such as healthcare and disaster management. The potential use of these technologies in the context of warfare and security is also being debated internationally. Therefore, ethical and policy discussions are essential alongside technological advancements. China's hallmark is

not just technological prowess but a long-term vision. It integrates research, production, and market expansion in a phased manner. Public displays at forums like the Spring Festival Gala send a message to both investors and consumers that the future direction is clear. This strategy differs from the entrepreneurial culture of the United States, where innovation often proceeds through private sector initiatives. In China, coordination between the state and industry is more visible, allowing for faster project execution and risk sharing. It's also worth noting that China's confidence is reflected not in aggressive rhetoric but in results. It links technology to national pride but also seeks participation in global markets. Its companies participate in international exhibitions and attract foreign investment. This balance has made it a central player in global supply chains. If this pace continues, China could become a standard-setting force in humanoid robotics in the coming years.

Today, when robots dance on stage, it's not just a display of art, but a sign of the technological age. China has demonstrated how the combination of artificial intelligence and mechanical engineering can be applied in the real world. The United States and Japan remain powerful competitors, but the balance of competition is shifting. Time will tell which model proves more sustainable, but for now, it's clear that China's role in the global technological landscape has become more influential than ever.

Saving mother tongues is a big challenge in the digital age

Lalit Garg

International Mother Language Day, celebrated on February 21st, is not just a ritual to preserve mother tongue culture, but a celebration of the cultural soul of humanity. Its theme for 2026 is "Youth Voices on Multilingual Education," indicating that the future linguistic direction will be determined by the younger generation. This year is particularly significant as it marks the 25th anniversary—the Silver Jubilee—of this day. It was proclaimed by UNESCO in 1999 and has been celebrated globally since 2000. This year's focus is to inspire young people aged 13 to 18 to actively engage in dialogue on the preservation of linguistic diversity, the expansion of mother tongue education, and the role of languages in the digital

age. Mother tongue is not just a collection of words; it is the first expression of a person's mind, brain, and emotions. From birth, a child acquires language through their mother's sounds, lullabies, and conversations, even before receiving any formal education. This language forms the foundation of their thinking, creativity, and identity. Research has proven that early childhood education in their mother tongue significantly improves children's understanding, analytical abilities, and self-confidence. Yet, globally, approximately 40 percent of children do not receive education in a language they speak or understand.

The historical context of this day reminds us of the tragedy of February 21, 1952, when students in East Pakistan protested for the

respect of their mother tongue, Bengali, and many young people were martyred in the firing. Later, this East Pakistan became independent and became Bangladesh. In memory of those martyrs, this day has become a symbol of linguistic rights and identity. It teaches us that language is not just a medium of communication, but the foundation of self-respect and freedom. The theme for the year 2026 places youth participation at the center. Today's youth live in a digital world. Social media, artificial intelligence, and online education have become an integral part of their lives. This raises the question: is there enough space for mother tongues on digital platforms? While artificial intelligence can revive endangered languages by developing dictionaries, audio archives, and translation

systems, if technology is limited to a few languages, linguistic inequality could deepen. Therefore, youth need to use technology for mother tongue empowerment—giving their languages a global platform through apps, blogs, podcasts, YouTube channels and digital libraries. UNESCO believes that cultural and linguistic diversity is essential for a sustainable society. Under its mandate for peace, it works to preserve differences in cultures and languages, fostering tolerance and respect for others. Multilingual and multicultural societies exist through their languages, which sustainably transmit and preserve traditional knowledge and cultures. Linguistic diversity is increasingly threatened as more and more languages are becoming extinct. The mother tongue is fundamental

to life; it is a language that requires no classroom learning. The first language a person learns after birth is called their mother tongue, and it is a person's social and linguistic identity. However, in human society, we have often been subjected to human rights violations and the use of their mother tongue has been labeled as wrong. This presents both a challenge and an opportunity in a multilingual country like India. According to the People's Linguistic Survey of India, hundreds of languages have disappeared in the past few decades. This is not just the loss of words, but also the disappearance of traditions, folklore, folk songs, and outlooks on life. If the new generation becomes alienated from their mother tongue, their connection to their cultural roots will weaken.

Absolute Cinema! Are You Ready For It

NEW DELHI, (GNS): Curated film programming, thematic cultural performances, celebrity comperes, red-carpet arrivals, live musical acts and international premieres with open-air screenings; the capital is all set to host the first-ever Delhi International Film Festival (DIFF), a week-long movie extravaganza. The blitz, which will be a multi-venue and multi-format event, will start on March 25. It is being organised with the aim of positioning the city as a global film destination. The opening and closing ceremonies are likely to be held at Bharat Mandapam. "Bharat Mandapam offers world-class infrastructure, accessibility and a central location that make it ideally suited for such large-scale events," said an official. Several film festivals, organised by private bodies as well as central govt agencies, have been held in Delhi over the years. The Siri Fort auditorium has traditionally hosted most of these film festivals due to its central location. The Delhi film festival will host delegates from five



countries and screen over 125 films, reflecting a strong international and domestic mix. The programming is structured to ensure diversity and balance - 30% of the films will be international titles, 40% will be Hindi cinema, and 30% will showcase regional Indian films from across states and languages. In addition, there will be specially curated sections dedicated to patriotic films, spiritual cinema and children's films.

All screenings will be free for the public. Apart from screenings at Bharat Mandapam, shows will be held at multiplexes and cultural hubs across the city, with registration-based free entry for audiences. Open-air projector screenings are also planned at select public locations. The opening ceremony is expected to feature performances by at least three famous film stars, though names are not yet officially announced.

The closing ceremony will include musical performances along with awards honouring Delhi-origin film personalities and national cinema icons. Specially produced 4K tribute films will celebrate major awardees, including a lifetime achievement honouree and other distinguished contributors to cinema. A high-profile premiere - either a theatrical release or an OTT original - is also in the plans, with discussions under way with leading streaming platforms. In addition, an exclusive gala dinner for around 500 guests is planned at a premium venue such as Garden of Five Senses, where invited attendees will experience a curated evening featuring live instrumental music and a premiere screening. Beyond screenings and ceremonies, the festival will also focus on industry development and youth engagement. Plans include masterclasses by acclaimed directors and actors, workshops on filmmaking, VFX and sound design, and TED-style talks offering behind-the-scenes insights into cinema.

East Delhi school issues notices to parents over 'dues'

NEW DELHI, (GNS): A private school in east Delhi has issued show-cause notices to several parents claiming they have outstanding fees. It has asked for clarification why the names of their wards shouldn't be struck off the rolls.

While the parents allege that they have been paying fees according to a structure approved by the directorate of education and question the factoring in of an additional amount in the form of dues, Salwan Public School maintains that the notices are a procedural step taken following repeated reminders to recover the "outstanding payments". "The fee dues as on 31 Jan 2026, in respect of your ward, accumulated to Rs 38,910, which you did not pay. In this regard, please refer to various verbal and telephonic reminders, as well as the email correspondences," the show-cause notice reads. "As per Rule No 35(1)(a) and Rule No 167 of DSEAR, 1973, you are requested to show

cause within five days of receiving this letter as to why the name of your ward should not be struck off the school rolls for non-clearance of fee dues." A parent said, "Around 115 students are affected. Nearly 50 of us have received the notice. We have been regularly paying the fee approved by the directorate, and at times, paid online and submitted the proof when the school refused to accept cheques." Another said, "The school is showing accumulated dues, but we are not sure from which period these dues have been calculated. We have been asked to respond within five days, failing which my child's name may be struck off." Principal Richa Sharma Katyal told MEDIA, "These parents did not clear their fee dues throughout the year despite repeated requests and communications. Ninety-two percent of the parents are paying fees regularly, but a small group wants to pay the 2025-26 fees based on the 2015-16 slab."

Bangladeshi student activist visited Delhi for visa work, quizzed

NEW DELHI, (GNS): Bangladesh's headline student leader Mahdi Hasan, accused of killing a Hindu police sub-inspector, Santosh Chowdhury, was in Delhi two days ago. However, he returned on his own after being refused a visa to Europe.

He was briefly questioned by police amid a social media uproar. He stayed at a hotel in Paharganj on Feb 17. Authorities said that he was neither arrested nor detained, as he was not a wanted suspect in India, nor was there any such request from his home country. According to the owner of a Paharganj hotel where he stayed, Hasan arrived at 2 am and left the same day around 8.30 pm. He presented a Bangladeshi passport and told hotel staff that he was in the city to submit documents at the Finnish embassy. Immigration records con-



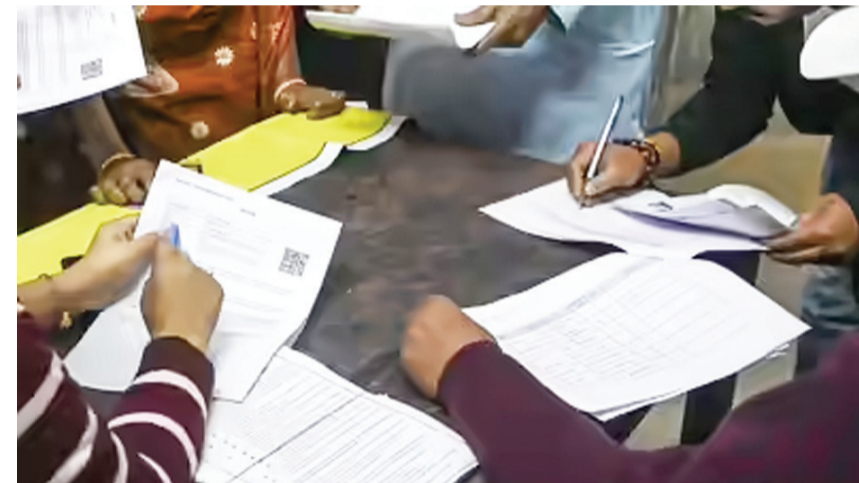
firm that Hasan left Bangladesh on Feb 16 and entered India on Feb 17, with stamps verifying both departures. During his stay, hotel staff noted that he behaved normally and showed no suspicious behaviour. "On Feb 17, police personnel questioned Hasan for about 30 minutes and then they left," the owner added. Hasan, a resident of Habiganj in Bangladesh, is facing charges in connection with the murder of the police officer there on Aug 5, 2024.

Get ready for 3rd phase of SIR in April EC to 22 states/UTs, including Delhi

NEW DELHI (GNS): Election Commission is planning to commence the third round of special intensive revision in April. While the first phase was for Bihar, Phase 2 covered a dozen states and Union territories.

The commission wrote on Thursday to chief electoral officers of the 22 remaining states/UTs, including Delhi, saying the SIR process "is expected to start from April 2026" and requested them to complete the SIR preparatory work at the earliest.

Weeks before EC announced Phase 2 of SIR on Oct 27, 2025, it had similarly written to CEOs of all states/UTs except Bihar. However, SIR was announced for only 12. This indicates not all 22 pending states/UTs are likely to be included in Phase



3, even though their electorate is only about 39 crore compared to the 60 crore already covered.

The states/UTs mentioned in the communication include Manipur and Uttarakhand, where the terms of current assemblies will expire in March 2027.

Others on the list are Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, J&K, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, Odisha, Sikkim, Tripura and Telangana; besides the UTs of Chandigarh, Dadra and

Nagar Haveli & Daman and Diu, Ladakh and Delhi.

Phase 3 may continue till June or early July in the event of extensions.

Significantly, phase 3 will coincide with the houselisting stage of Census 2027, to be held over a 45-day time frame between April 1 and Sept 30 this year as individually notified by the states/UTs. Some states such as Delhi, Haryana and Odisha that have already notified their houselisting timelines may thus need to revise these timelines or request EC for inclusion in the next phase of SIR. Some states/UTs that have not yet notified houselisting dates may choose to schedule the first phase of census after June-July or request that SIR be conducted in a later phase.

Atal Canteens & free LPG likely to figure in govt's report card

NEW DELHI, (GNS): Chief minister Rekha Gupta will complete one year in office on Friday, and to mark the occasion, she and her cabinet colleagues will release a comprehensive report card at the Delhi Secretariat, highlighting the govt's work across key departments over the past 12 months. Gupta and her ministers were sworn in on Feb 20 last year, after BJP returned to power in Delhi following a 27-year hiatus.

The report card - to be unveiled on Friday afternoon - is expected to highlight the rollout of the Ayushman Arogya Yojana in Delhi, under which more than seven lakh residents have been registered so far and nearly 25,000 people have received treatment. The report will also highlight the launch of 70 Atal Canteens, providing subsidised meals at just Rs 5 each to support affordable food access for the urban poor. In addition, the govt will also list the free LPG cylinder distribution



scheme for low-income households during Holi and Diwali, besides the inauguration of 75 CM SHRI schools. Environment minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa said the govt focused on both policy and execution across sectors. Highlighting the work done in sectors of environment and industry, Sirsa said, "Whether it is industrial

redevelopment, environmental reforms, anti-smog measures, mechanised cleaning, infrastructure expansion or ensuring welfare schemes reach eligible residents, action was taken across sectors. Our priority remains reducing pollution, redeveloping roads, clearing garbage mountains and stopping untreated sewage from flowing into the Yamuna. We are committed to delivering long-term improvements." In the transport sector, Delhi govt will showcase the addition of 2,000 e-buses to Delhi's public fleet in one year and its advance orders for 4,200 more, which it claims will create the country's largest electric-bus network. On infrastructure, govt may highlight how it set in motion a major Rs 56,000 crore drainage overhaul project to replace ageing sewer and stormwater systems. It will also include how the govt cleared pending metro dues and revived stalled projects, including the Barapullah corridor.

'Gag' On Protest: Songs Of Dissent Echo In JNU & DU

NEW DELHI, (GNS): Resistance found its voice in songs on Thursday at Jawaharlal Nehru University and Delhi University, where students gathered to defend what they called their "right to dissent".

Both universities face unprecedented administrative action. At JNU, an entire elected students' union panel has been rusticated. At DU, a month-long blanket ban on gatherings is in force across campuses. Student groups have criticised the moves as a clampdown on protest and representation.

At JNU, lines from "Hum Dekhenge", a poem by Faiz Ahmed Faiz that is associated with political resistance, echoed through the park near the School of Languages, where students have been holding an encampment for the last four days.

The protest began after the university rusticated the elected union panel over alleged damage to univer-

sity property during a demonstration last year. The agitation had been against the installation of a facial recognition-based entry system in the university's central library, which students had opposed. The entry system was allegedly damaged during the protest.

Following the disciplinary action, members of the panel were served hostel eviction notices this year and barred from the campus. The rustication leaves JNU without elected student representation for at least the next eight months, until fresh polls are held.

Supporters of the now removed panel have since been attending classes in the open, with some teachers and academic units announcing boycotts in solidarity. Student leaders have demanded revocation of the rustication, withdrawal of the hostel eviction notices and fines and the CPO manual which penalises protests on campus.

'Chasing Shadow In Room Of Mirrors': Why Bomb Hoax Probes Hit Dead End

NEW DELHI, (GNS): After some south Delhi schools received bomb hoaxes earlier this month, a technical probe led police to a virtual private network (VPN) service in Bangladesh. Days later, a spate of similar threats in northwest Delhi led them to a US-based VPN, while hoaxes reported in west Delhi schools a few months ago involved a Singapore-based VPN. However, even as police were busy writing to these networks to gather user details, they were flooded with more hoaxes.

So, why is the law enforcement seemingly helpless in curbing this menace? When a threatening email lands in the inbox of a school in the city, the tactical response in the form of blaring sirens, evacuation of students



and deployment of sniffer dogs and cops on the campuses is loud and swift. However, in tech dens of the police cyber cell, the reaction is quieter and the fightback uphill and borderline demoralis-

ing. For Delhi's cyber-investigators, each hoax call represents a forensic dead end.

Despite a string of such high-profile scares stretching into early 2026, the perpetrators

remain digital ghosts. The inability to crack these cases isn't due to a lack of manpower, but owing to unsurmountable technical hurdles: the ironclad privacy of Swiss servers, geopolitical opacity of foreign domains and multi-layered shields of VPNs.

When investigators attempt to 'ping' the origin of a threat, they aren't led to a desktop in Delhi, but to a server in a jurisdiction like Panama or the Seychelles. Using VPN chains - routing a connection through multiple encrypted tunnels - the perpetrator ensures that the IP address visible to Delhi Police is a dummy. "The hoaxers hide their actual location in Delhi or elsewhere behind a series of encrypted 'tunnels'. The IP address that police see may

belong to a server in Austria, Singapore or Netherlands. To us, it is like chasing a shadow in a room full of mirrors; every time we think we have a lead, the trail bounces to another country," said a cyber cell investigator.

To get a real IP, police must request logs from a VPN provider. However, most premium services used by these actors operate on a strict no-log policy, meaning they do not store records of who use their services at a specific time. Simply put, there's no data to be handed over to the cops. So, the trail doesn't just go cold, it ceases to exist in the physical world. This wall of anonymity is reinforced by the choice of platform. In several high-profile waves of bomb threats, including the massive

surge in hoaxes in May 2024 and the recent cases this month, the senders utilised Switzerland-based ProtonMail. Known for its militant commitment to privacy, ProtonMail uses end-to-end encryption, which even it can't bypass, and does not require a phone number or personal details to create an account. From an investigative standpoint, this is a nightmare.

Because the service is protected by Swiss privacy laws, Delhi Police can't issue a standard search warrant. It must navigate the Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty - a diplomatic marathon that requires proving 'double criminality' (that the act is a crime in both India and Switzerland).

Circle rates in Delhi to be revised to align with property market

NEW DELHI, (GNS): The Rekha Gupta govt is working on a comprehensive revision of circle rates across all property categories, from A to H, marking the first structured recalibration in several years to align notified rates with prevailing market trends. While the hike in premium colonies is modest, sharper increases have been proposed in mid- and lower-segment areas where officials say market transactions significantly exceed existing circle rates, according to details of an internal govt report. Ultra-premium stretches like Prithviraj Road, Jor Bagh, Sundar Nagar are reportedly seeing market values in the range of at least Rs 18-22 lakh per sq metre as a reason there have been demands to introduce an A+ category for it. However, the proposal has also reignited demands for



re classification. Residents of New Friends Colony have submitted nearly 70 suggestions, including a collective petition by 121 residents seeking a downgrade from Category A to B. They argue that actual transactions have been 35-40% below the prevailing circle rate for the past five years, leading to reduced liquidity and stalled deals. Residents also point to congestion and civic challenges, noting the colony's proximity to Taimoor Nagar, Bharat Nagar and Zakir Nagar, which fall under lower categories. Similar downgrade demands

have been raised by residents of Kalindi Colony and Sukhdev Vihar, who have cited a 2022 valuation committee report recommending reclassification.

Conversely, there are demands for upward revision. Property owners in Defence Colony, Greater Kailash (I & II), Gulmohar Park, Niti Bagh and Panchsheel Park - currently in Category B - have sought an upgrade to Category A, arguing that infrastructure and market rates in these areas surpass those of NFC. In Category B, the govt has proposed at least a 32% increase, revising the rate from Rs 2,45,520 to Rs 3,25,000 per sq metre. Officials said colonies such as Hauz Khas, Green Park, Punjabi Bagh and Safdarjung Enclave have witnessed 30-50% appreciation over circle rates due to redevelopment, builder floors

and improved Metro connectivity. Officials said this is not the final report but the outcome could be in the same direction. Circle rates for properties were last revised in 2014. The rates in many high-end colonies are significantly lower than market prices, resulting in large cash components in deals, artificially low property valuations on paper and lower stamp duty collections. In contrast, a few localities have circle rates that are actually higher than their current market values, and these are expected to be rationalised downward. Category C colonies, including Janakpuri, Civil Lines, Vasant Kunj, Netaji Subhash Place, C R Park and Malviya Nagar, are proposed to see rates rise to at least Rs 2.2 lakh per sq metre, reflecting market transactions 40-60% above existing benchmarks.

Renaming 'Supreme Court Metro station in Hindi to cost over Rs 40L, High Court told

NEW DELHI, (GNS)

The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) told the Delhi High Court that it was not in the favour of changing the Hindi signage for the 'Supreme Court' Metro station to 'Sarvoch Nyayalaya' in Devanagari script as it would entail financial burden on the public exchequer. The counsel for the DMRC submitted before a Bench comprising Chief Justice DK Upadhyaya and Justice Tejas Karia that the proposed change would involve an expenditure of approximately Rs 40-45 lakh. She explained that the cost would not be limited to replacing signage at the station, but would also extend to updates across road maps,



mobile applications and other related materials. "It would impose a financial burden. A single such change costs about Rs 40-45 lakh per station. The DMRC is a public sector undertaking," the counsel told the court. The DMRC further argued that renaming one station could have a cascading effect, potentially triggering similar litigation seeking changes to the names of other Metro stations.

Bomb hoaxes at Delhi, Noida schools; Board exams continue



NEW DELHI, (GNS): Several schools in Delhi and Noida received bomb threats on Thursday, prompting immediate security measures. No suspicious objects were found on the campuses, and the threats, which came even as board examinations were on, were declared hoaxes.

Threatening calls were received by CRPF Public School and St Thomas School in Dwarka, and DAV Centenary Public School in Paschim

Enclave between 8.15am and 10.30am. In Noida, multiple schools received threats via emails at around 8.53am.

Police swung into action in both cities. In Delhi, teams from local police stations, along with K9 units and bomb detection and disposal squads, were scrambled to the campuses. Students and staff were swiftly evacuated, and comprehensive anti-sabotage checks were carried out.

Over 1.2K trees face axe as 6.9 hectares exempted for key project

NEW DELHI, (GNS):

As many as 1,293 trees face the possibility of felling or transplantation with the Delhi Government this week granting exemption for clearing 6.9531 hectares of land for the development of the Bijwasan railway station in Dwarka's Sector 21. The Government of the National Capital Territory of Delhi, through the Delhi Lieutenant Governor, has issued an extraordinary gazette notification granting this exemption to 6.9531 hectares for the development of the Bijwasan railway station in Sector-21, Dwarka.

The notification pertains to an application submitted by the Rail Land Development Authority (RLDA) through its Joint General Manager (Project) on the Delhi Preservation of Trees Act (DPTA)'s e-Forest portal. The

application sought permission under the Delhi Preservation of Trees Act, 1994, for transplantation or felling of 1,293 trees within the project site.

Under the law currently, tree felling and transplantation is permitted on an area not more than one hectare.

Section 9(3) of the Delhi Preservation of Trees Act, 1994, restricts tree officers to considering applications for tree felling or transplantation for areas up to a maximum of one hectare. To overcome this, the Government of the National Capital Territory of Delhi sometimes invokes Section 29, which allows it to exempt specific projects from this 1-hectare limit in the public interest. The notification in respect of the Bijwasan railway station project says the Tree Officer (West Forest Division), after due consideration, has

sought exemption under Section 29 of the DPTA from the restriction contained in Section 9(3), which limits the Tree Officer's consideration to a maximum area of one hectare. "Acting in public interest and exercising powers under Section 29 of the Act, the Delhi Lieutenant Governor has exempted the 6.9531-hectare project area from the one-hectare limitation specified under Section 9(3), solely for the purpose of processing the application related to the Bijwasan railway station development," the notification accessed by The Tribune shows. The notification, however, makes it clear that this exemption does not amount to automatic permission for transplantation or felling of trees. The application for tree cutting or transplantation will be examined independently by

the Tree Officer (West Forest Division) in accordance with the provisions of the DPTA, 1994, Delhi Preservation of Trees Rules, 1996, relevant guidelines, directions and applicable court orders.

The Bijwasan railway station has been undergoing major redevelopment since November 2025 and plans are to transform it into a modern, integrated transit hub.

The authorities have been directed to ensure that the number of affected trees is minimised within the exempted area. The boundary details of the exempted land have been specified in the gazette.

The notification on the issue has issued by Vijay Kumar Bidhuri, Secretary (Environment and Forests), by order and in the name of Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena.

Beauty, blood and Bishnoi links: Arrest of 'Madam Zeher' opens can of worms in Delhi's drug underworld

NEW DELHI, (GNS): The Special Cell of the Delhi Police has arrested Khusnuma Ansari, also known as Neha, described by investigators as an accomplice of Mahfuz, alias Bobby Kabootar. 'Lady don', Khusnuma, operated a beauty parlour in northeast Delhi. However, police claim the business was merely a front to mask the gang's illegal activities and manage their drug distribution network.

Khusnuma and Bobby have been associated for seven years. During the arrest near the Mahipalpur flyover, police said they recovered a significant quantity of drugs, leading investigators to refer to her as "Madam Zeher".

Ansari was allegedly managing a drug syndicate linked to the Lawrence Bishnoi-Hashim Baba gang.

Mahfuz was earlier arrested by the Special Cell.

His name had surfaced during several investigations, including the murder of Punjabi singer Sidhu Moosewala, as well as a firing incident at the residence of actor Disha Patani.



A pattern emerging: Ansari's arrest comes amid a series of cases in the Delhi-NCR region where women are alleged to have played central roles in gang activity - either as conspirators, facilitators or operational heads.

In 2025, a 17-year-old boy, Kunal, was stabbed to death in northeast Delhi's Seelampur on Thursday evening, in what police believe was a revenge killing. The murder sparked protests and heightened tensions in the area.

Police have identified two teenage suspects, currently absconding, and have formed 10 teams to track them down.

A woman named Zikra was arrested for allegedly conspiring with the accused

and abetting the crime.

Who is 'Lady don' Zikra? Investigators say Zikra previously worked as a bouncer for jailed gangster Hashim Baba's wife, Zoya, and is alleged to be associated with the Shoaib-Mastan gang - a local criminal outfit known to operate in the area.

She was earlier arrested for flaunting firearms on Instagram, where she boasts a following of 15,000. In many of her posts, she posed with weapons, allegedly to project gang-related bravado.

According to investigators, Zikra played a key role in instigating the murder. Police said she encouraged the two teenage suspects, who are also believed to be part of the Shoaib-Mastan gang, to carry out the attack on Kunal.

Earlier case in Noida: In 2024, police in Noida took custody of Kajal Khatri, the 'lady don' who was arrested by Delhi Police in connection with the murder of an Air India employee at a market in Sector 104 in January that year. She was sent to Luksar jail after being brought on transit remand.

Interstate criminal wanted in ATM booth robbery cases held

NEW DELHI, (GNS): The Gurugram police have arrested an interstate criminal, who was carrying a reward of Rs 20,000 on his head and was wanted in cases of ATM booth robbery in Rajasthan. The police have recovered illegal weapons from his possession.

According to the police, the accused identified as Muzammil (29), a resident of Shikarpur village in Nuh district was arrested with weapons from sector 45 area on Thursday.

During interrogation, it was revealed that the accused is a habitual criminal and a member of a gang that robs ATM machines. The illegal weapon recovered from the accused was purchased from a person in Nuh for Rs 3,000 and was carrying it with him to carry out the robbery.

"The Rajasthan police had announced a reward of Rs 20,000 in



two cases of assault and robbery of a security guard posted at an ATM booth. Two criminal cases have already registered against the accused in Nuh, one in Gurugram, 3 in Rajasthan, and 1-1 case registered in Maharashtra and Telangana. We are questioning the accused", said a spokesperson of the Gurugram police.

'My girl lay soaked in blood. No one helped: 6-year-old dies in hit-and-run in Delhi; grandmother recounts horror

NEW DELHI, (GNS): A six-year-old girl was killed and her grandmother injured after the e-rickshaw they were travelling in collided with a car and overturned in west Delhi's Janakpuri, officials said on Thursday.

Recounting the incident, the grandmother told news agency PTI that the two had just begun their routine journey to the child's school when the crash occurred. She said a speeding car ramed into the e-rickshaw with tremendous force, throwing her onto the road.

She recalled regaining consciousness to find herself lying injured, with her granddaughter



beside her. Despite being in shock and pain, she said her immediate concern was the

child, who was bleeding heavily.

The grandmother alleged that she pleaded with a car driver

present at the scene to help take the girl to the hospital, but the person left without assisting. She added that she could not confirm whether it was the same vehicle involved in the collision.

The child's mother, who works at a hospital, said she received a call from her mother after the accident. She told PTI that a hospital staff member who witnessed the incident later informed her that the elderly woman had been crying for help while the child struggled to breathe. According to her, bystanders had gathered but none initially intervened.

The grandmother said she

saw the girl bleeding profusely. "I begged a car driver, who was standing there watching us, to help and take the child to the hospital. Instead of helping, he ran away. I don't remember if it was the same car which hit us," she alleged, breaking down.

Police said a PCR call regarding an accident involving a minor girl was received from Mata Chanan Devi Hospital on the morning of February 17. The girl and her maternal grandmother, Mercy Xavier (57), a resident of Lajwanti Garden, were initially taken there and later shifted to a hospital in Dwarka. The child succumbed during treatment.

During enquiry, Xavier told police that around 7.40 am she was travelling in an e-rickshaw with her granddaughter when, near the Janakpuri Fire Station, the vehicle collided with a car and overturned, causing serious injuries. Officials said Xavier remains under treatment and is stated to be stable.

Based on preliminary findings, a case has been registered at Janakpuri police station under relevant sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita for rash and negligent driving causing death. The offending vehicle has been seized.