



AI push, tribute to Jayalalithaa, message for students: Key takeaways from PM Modi's 131st Mann Ki Baat address

NEW DELHI(GNS): Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the nation in the 131st episode of his monthly radio programme Mann Ki Baat, highlighting developments in technology, social awareness and India's cultural heritage.

PM Modi talked about the AI Impact Summit 2026, where he met global leaders and technology executives. He noted how artificial intelligence is being used across sectors, including animal healthcare and agriculture.

In the earlier episode of Mann Ki Baat, PM Modi highlighted the need to improve the quality of Indian manufacturing, praised the rapid growth of the country's start-up ecosystem, and pointed to evolving cultural trends among young people, including "bhajan club-

bing." **Top quotes from PM Modi's address:**

- At the summit, I got the opportunity to meet the world leaders and Tech CEOs. At the AI summit exhibition, I showed myriad things to world leaders... In this summit, it explained how AI is helping us in the treatment of animals... and how farmers keep track of their dairy and animals with the help of 24x7 AI assistance.

- I showcased many innovations to world leaders. I would like to mention two things in particular: The first innovation was at the Amul booth. It was explained how AI is helping in treating animals and how, with the help of a 24/7 AI assistant, farmers are



keeping track of their dairy operations and livestock. The second innovation focused on preserving India's cultural heritage. Leaders from across the world were surprised to see how, with the help of AI, our ancient scriptures, traditional wisdom, and manuscripts are being preserved and adapted for today's generation

- In our country, those who have worked for the welfare

of society... those who have prioritised the public in their noble deeds always remain in the hearts of the people. Amma Jayalalithaa ji was one such popular leader. February 24th is the occasion of her birth anniversary. I still feel the deep affection the people of Tamil Nadu had for her, even today, during my visits to the state. The mention of Amma Jayalalithaa brings a glow to the faces of the people of Tamil Nadu. She attended my oath-taking ceremonies in Gujarat. Her thinking was very clear.

- During the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, I spoke of the 'Panch-Pran' from the Red Fort. One of them is freedom from the mentality of slavery. Today, the country is leaving behind the sym-

bol of slavery and has begun to value symbols related to Indian culture. Tomorrow, on 23rd February, Rajaji Festival will be celebrated in Rashtrapati Bhavan... The exhibition will run from 24th February to 1st March.

- In 'Mann Ki Baat', I have spoken to you at length about Digital Arrest. After this, a lot of awareness was generated in our society regarding Digital Arrest and Digital Fraud, but still, such incidents are happening... You all must be familiar with the process of KYC - Know Your Customer. Sometimes, when you receive messages from your bank asking you to update KYC or re-KYC, the question arises in your mind - I have already done KYC, then why this? I urge you not

to fret; this is just for the safety of your money. We all know that nowadays everything from pension, subsidy, insurance, UPI, everything is linked to the bank account. This is why banks periodically perform re-KYC to ensure your bank account remains secure.

- You surely remember the amazing images of the Maha Kumbh around this time last year. The sea of humanity surging on the banks of the Sangam, the immense flow of faith, and in that sacred moment of bathing, it seemed as if India was 'in communion' with its 'Sanatan Chetana'... But today, in our country, which is re-recognising its heritage, history has taken another turn, without any major announcement kerala Kumbh was organised.

SP does not need people who keep roaming around the office and trying to make their faces shine!

Lucknow(GNS): Political activities have intensified in UP regarding Mission 2027. All the political parties are busy making strategies to win the elections. Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav has started secret preparations, under which a special list is being prepared, in which the activities of the party workers will be prepared. Akhilesh has given instructions to prepare such a list in which those leaders and workers have been asked to be included who are often seen roaming or strolling in the party office and spend most of their time roaming around the SP office or just trying to shine their face, instead they should work towards strengthening the SP at the grassroots level.

According to media reports, SP has prepared an account of such leaders, in which along with the photos and phone numbers of these leaders, information has also been recorded about which worker came to the party office how many times, how many times he shook hands and how he is working at the ground level so that only such leader can get the ticket in the upcoming elections who is strengthening the party by staying among the people on the ground.

This strategy is being seen as Ganesh Parikrama strategy. SP President Akhilesh clearly wants to see the difference between field and office on the basis of this data so that no leader gets the ticket in the elections who is roaming around in the office only to show off in front of the party chief. Through this list, such leaders will be eliminated who are spending their time in unnecessary work, which clearly shows that Akhilesh is not in the mood to be careless in the selection of candidates this time. In the elections, priority will be given to those candidates who are working with everyone's work and commitment rather than everyone's support.

Union Home Minister Shah will visit Bihar on February 25, may gift transit camps to soldiers

Patna(GNS): Union Home Minister Amit Shah is expected to visit Bihar's border districts on February 25th. As part of his planned visit, he will inspect selected "Vibrant Village" villages along the Nepal border and review development work. Administrative preparations have been intensified for his visit.

According to sources, the Home Minister will visit villages along the international borders—Nepal and Bangladesh—to interact with local people and may also address a public meeting. These border villages have been selected under the central government's "Vibrant Village" scheme to strengthen infrastructure and security infrastructure.

Transit camp gift for soldiers

During the visit, a major gift is likely to be announced

for the security forces deployed along the border. According to reports, the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) has established a transit camp near the Katihar railway junction, which the Home Minister is expected to formally inaugurate. Thousands of soldiers are deployed in the border areas, whose movement primarily occurs through Katihar. Therefore, the transit camp will provide accommodation and transportation facilities for the soldiers.

Araria and Kishanganj also participated in the program. The Home Minister is expected to visit the Leti Camp (Araria) of the 52nd Battalion of the SSB, deployed on the Indo-Nepal border, on February 25th. According to local representatives, he may arrive by helicopter.



PM Modi flags off 'Namo Bharat' train reaches Delhi from Meerut in 55 minutes

Meerut Metro also launched, high-speed regional train and metro operating on the same track

Meerut (GNS): Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the "Namo Bharat" Regional Rapid Train and the much-awaited Meerut Metro at a grand ceremony held at Meerut's Shatabdi Nagar station on Sunday. Flagging off both trains, Prime Minister Modi described it as a historic moment for western Uttar Pradesh. He was welcomed by Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.

With the launch of the Namo Bharat Train, the 88-kilometer journey from Meerut to Delhi can now be completed in



just 55 minutes. The train will pass through 13 stations, two of which are underground. With this project, India joins the select group of countries where high-speed regional rail and local metro have been suc-

cessfully operated on the same track.

PM Modi travelled in the metro

Following the inauguration, Prime Minister Modi also rode the metro and interacted with students present. The

Namo Bharat Train will provide fast connectivity for long-distance travelers from Meerut to Delhi and Ghaziabad, while the Meerut Metro will provide convenient transportation within the city.

Shankaracharya Avimukteshwarananda booked under POCSO Act in Prayagraj

Prayagraj (GNS): An FIR has been registered against Swami Avimukteshwaranand Saraswati for allegedly sexually abusing minor children. This action was taken following an order from the special POCSO court in Prayagraj. His disciple Mukundanand Brahmachari and two or three unidentified individuals have also been named in the FIR filed at the Jhansi police station. Police have registered the case under relevant sections of the POCSO Act and have begun an investigation.

Station House Officer Mahesh Mishra told the media that the case was registered late Saturday night upon receiving the court's directive. The court stated in its order that the allegations constitute a serious and cognizable offense, and that a police investigation is necessary to gather evidence. The court also directed that the investigation be impartial and independent, ensuring the identity and dignity of the victims are protected. The court had ordered an FIR on the complaint.



Rain alert issued in seven districts of Madhya Pradesh, mercury crosses 30 degrees in Rajasthan

New Delhi, (GNS): The weather is changing in the hilly and plain states of the country. Rain alert has been issued for the fourth time in the month of February in Madhya Pradesh. The weather has changed due to the active cyclonic circulation and turf. The Meteorological Department has predicted rain in seven districts of Madhya Pradesh including Mandla, Dindori. In the last 24



hours, rain occurred in more than 15 districts. The weather has changed again in Rajasthan. The morning and evening cold has reduced. On Saturday, the maximum temperature of more than 10 degrees, which is 10 degrees above normal.

Celsius and above. According to the Meteorological Department, there is no rain expected in Rajasthan for the next seven days, and the skies will remain clear. This could cause temperatures to rise by 2 to 3 degrees. Meanwhile, the hottest day of February in Jammu and Kashmir was February 21st. The daytime temperature here was recorded at 21 degrees, which is 10 degrees above normal.

Shivam poured sanitizer on his live-in partner's private parts and set them on fire

Gurugram (GNS): A 19-year-old girl in Delhi was brutalized by her live-in partner. Initially, he lured her into a relationship with her under the pretense of marriage. After a dispute, the accused not only severely beat her but also poured sanitizer on her private parts and set them on fire. The victim is in critical condition and is admitted to Delhi's Safdarjung Hospital. The victim, who studied biotech at a renowned university in Gurugram, is originally from Tripura.

According to media reports, the victim student said that her live-in partner Shivam (19) tortured her for three days continuously. He used to force her into physical relations by giving her false promise of marriage. The accused started suspecting her and started beating her. On February 16, the accused brutally beat the victim.

Evaluation of Indian Kings: Tipu Sultan

Ram Puniyani

Tipu Sultan's name frequently appears in newspapers (especially in Karnataka). This is especially true around state-sponsored events commemorating his birth anniversary. The BJP consistently disrupts these events, almost always resulting in violence and unrest.

This time, the news related to Tipu comes from Malegaon, Maharashtra. The newly elected Deputy Mayor, Nihal Ahmed, installed a portrait of Tipu Sultan, the pride of India, in his office. Upon learning of this, Shiv Sainiks intervened with the authorities and had it removed. There were also some protests. Maharashtra Pradesh Congress Committee President Harshvardhan Sapkal condemned the removal of the portrait, saying that Tipu contributed

as much to Mysore as Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj did to Maharashtra. This statement was opposed by Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis. Fadnavis said that comparing Tipu to Shivaji Maharaj is an insult to the Maharaja. Following this, BJP workers pelted stones at the Congress office, resulting in the ensuing chaos, injuring approximately seven people.

The BJP objects to Sapkal's statement because, according to them, Tipu ordered the massacre of a large number of Hindus. He attempted to convert Hindus to Islam. Hindu nationalists also blame Tipu for many other things. Most of these accusations aim to portray Tipu as anti-Hindu and a tyrannical ruler. These accusations are far from the truth. Many of these myths are based on narratives

spread by the British. The British resented Tipu because he was one of the kings who fought against the British. Tipu had called on the Nizam and Peshwa to confront the East India Company's forces. Tipu anticipated the dangers posed by the strengthening of the British foothold in India.

Tipu's administration was mixed, with many high officials being Hindus. Purnia was his Mir Miran (head of department) and held a key position in the administrative structure of Tipu's kingdom. Krishna Rao was his treasurer. Shamaiah Iyengar was a high-ranking minister, and Narasimha Iyengar was a senior official in the postal department. Tipu Sultan is said to have made donations to the Shankaracharya of Sringeri, including funds for the temple's reconstruction and the installation of an

idol of Goddess Saraswati. He also donated land and funds to various temples across his empire. During his reign, the ten-day Dussehra celebrations were an integral part of Mysore's social life.

In 1791, Maratha forces led by Raghunath Rao Patwardhan attacked and looted the historic Sringeri Shradha Peetham. The attack forced the Shankaracharya to flee. Upon learning of this, Tipu Sultan expressed deep displeasure and warned those responsible for this would face consequences. He immediately sent money, gifts, and letters to restore the temple and reinstall the idol. This attack was part of the Third Anglo-Mysore War, during which Maratha forces inflicted extensive damage on the temple, killing and wounding people, and looting property. Tipu Sultan, who maintained regular

communication with the Sringeri Jagadguru, whom Tipu addressed with utmost respect, immediately ordered the Mysore administration to assist in restoring the temple to its former glory. This demonstrates his patronage of Hindu institutions. This restoration is confirmed by several letters written in Kannada, preserved at the Sringeri Peetham. These also mention Tipu's request to the Jagatguru to pray for the prosperity of his empire. Tipu was a staunch opponent of the British. He is accused of persecuting certain Hindu and Christian groups. The motivations for this persecution were purely political and had nothing to do with religion. Historian Kate Brittlebank argues that this was not a policy based on religion, but rather a policy designed to punish those involved. Tipu targeted not only Hindu groups.

Editorial

Safety first: On Manipur and a healing touch

If a bruised and bleeding Manipur wants to heal, the words of its first woman Deputy Chief Minister, Nemcha Kipgen, must be heard. She wants the buffer zones between the Meiteis and the Kuki-Zo communities to remain for now, particularly in areas where the scars run deep, because safety comes first. Hailing from the Kuki-Zo community, Ms. Kipgen had to take oath virtually from New Delhi when a new government was installed in the State capital, Imphal, on February 4, after two years of violence and a long stint of President's Rule. While Chief Minister Yumnam Khemchand Singh is a Meitei, in an attempt to represent the three major communities in the government, Ms. Kipgen and Losii Dikho, a Naga, were named Deputy Chief Ministers. But the complexity of the ground situation is such that Ms. Kipgen is stationed in Kuki-dominated Kangpokpi, and unable to attend the Assembly session in Imphal due to security concerns. In an interview to The Hindu, she described approaching the road to peace like a mother, with empathy and care. Her work is cut out because, at this juncture, there is an acute deficit of trust in the BJP government, and between the majority Meiteis, who dominate Imphal Valley, and the tribals, particularly the Kuki-Zo communities, of the hill districts.

More than 250 people have been killed and around 60,000 people were displaced after ethnic violence between the Kuki-Zo and Meitei people erupted in the northeastern State on May 3, 2023. What is worrying is that skirmishes have begun between the Kuki-Zo and Nagas as well, with the Manipur police having to evacuate Kuki students from a school in Naga-dominated Ukhrul district after a recent flare-up between the communities. Manipur is no stranger to violence, having witnessed waves of insurgencies ever since it attained full Statehood in 1972, and the three main communities must find a way to peaceful coexistence in the geographical space they live in. Ms. Kipgen wants to hear each community's pain on their terms but she also drives home the point that every one must recognise the common ground that binds Manipuris — "our shared spaces, tribal heritage, cultural values, languages, faith traditions, social institutions, and our future, especially the future of our children".



A Balanced and visionary budget for public welfare, industrial expansion and future preparation. The new budget presented by the Gujarat government is not just a document of figures, but a clear roadmap for a developed and self-reliant Gujarat. This massive budget of over ₹4 lakh crore reflects the state's commitment to giving top priority to development, with 65 percent of the budget allocated to capital and developmental projects. The remaining amount has been allocated to essential obligations such as pensions, salaries, and interest, thereby reconciling both fiscal discipline and social balance. This budget is an excellent example of vision, inclusiveness, and balanced progress.



A grand vision of development: A decisive step towards a prosperous Gujarat

Kantilal Mandot

The government has formulated schemes focused on the poor, youth, farmers, and women through the principle of knowledge. The construction of over three lakh houses for poor families and the increase in assistance to ₹1.70 lakh under various schemes, including the Prime Minister's Housing Scheme, are significant steps towards social security. This decision is not just about building homes, but about providing a respectable life.

Keeping in mind the state's 36 percent youth population, a provision of ₹4,827 crore has been made for scholarships. Thousands of students will benefit from the construction of Samarth Kumar and Kanya hostels. Giving top priority to education for the second consecutive year is proof that the government is laying a strong foundation for the future. Meaningful initiatives have been taken to empower youth through structural improvements in primary and secondary schools, the establishment of new colleges, the expansion of sports facilities, and self-reliance schemes.

Additional allocations for daytime electricity for farmers, interest relief on Kisan Credit Cards, and financial assistance for the purchase of modern equipment will strengthen the agricultural sector.

Thousands of crores of rupees for irrigation and water management will provide stability and strength to the state's rural economy. This budget makes clear that the government considers farmers and rural development as the key to development.

The "Sakhi Sahas" initiative, which aims to empower women, establish functional women's hostels, and provide financial assistance, will provide women with the opportunity to become self-reliant. This is an inspiring step towards social change.

Industrial development is a key feature of this budget. The decision to make the Gujarat Industrial Development Corporation smart by equipping it with modern technology will open new possibilities for industry. The provision of ₹2,755 crore for the textile industry is particularly commendable, providing new impetus to textile hubs like Surat. Extensive support for MSMEs under the Atmanirbhar Gujarat scheme will create new employment opportunities. The establishment of an Export Promotion Council will further strengthen the state's presence in the global market.

Declaring 2026 as the Year of Tourism to promote religious and cultural tourism is a highly visionary decision. Initiatives to develop the

Somnath Temple as a global destination, as well as plans to develop sites like the Ambaji Temple, Mount Girnar, and Lothal, are efforts to transform cultural heritage into economic powerhouses. This will also provide significant benefits to local employment, the hotel industry, and the transportation sector.

A 17 percent increase in urban development has provided a strong foundation for municipalities and metropolitan cities. The announcement of the development of five new satellite townships is a historic step towards balanced urbanization. Smart parking, daily water supply, and the expansion of basic amenities will give cities a modern look. The funds allocated for the expansion of Surat Metro Line 2 will make significant progress in connecting the city to the high-speed rail network. This will strengthen multi-modal connectivity and save time and cost for commuters. Increasing the sports budget by 155 percent reflects the state's ambitious vision. The commitment to make Ahmedabad an Olympic-ready city and the provision for the construction of international-class sports complexes will promote a sports culture among youth. If global events like the Commonwealth Games are held in Gujarat in the future, the state's global recognition will be further

strengthened.

Extensive investments have also been made in the health sector. The development of super-specialty hospitals, the expansion of facilities in civil hospitals, and the strengthening of medical education will ensure access to quality health-care for the general public. This lays a strong foundation for social security.

The state's finances also appear balanced and disciplined. The fiscal deficit is within a manageable level relative to GSDP, and the decline in the public debt ratio indicates that the government is maintaining a balance between growth and financial stability. The increase in capital expenditures is a sign of long-term economic strength.

Overall, this budget not only addresses current needs but also lays the foundation for a future Gujarat. Encompassing housing for the poor, education and employment for the youth, relief for farmers, empowerment for women, incentives for industry, and modern infrastructure for cities, this budget presents a comprehensive vision for development. It is a roadmap that has the potential to take Gujarat to new heights economically, socially, and culturally. The public is confident that this dream will soon be realized, and Gujarat will write a new chapter of progress.

One Earth, One Humanity: A global pledge for peace and understanding

Sunil Kumar Mahala

Every year, February 23rd marks the founding anniversary of Rotary International. This year, Rotary International is celebrating its 121st founding day. Let me remind readers that this day underscores the idea that peace is not merely the absence of war, but rather the result of mutual understanding, shared efforts, and inclusive development. It would not be wrong to say that in today's era of increasing conflict, war, and tension, world peace has become humanity's greatest need. Indeed, peace paves the way for development, education, and prosperity. Mutual understanding and tolerance strengthen and consolidate any society. It is a harsh truth that without peace, neither security nor lasting progress is possible for any country or society.

Therefore, world peace is not just an ideal, but a necessary condition for human existence.

Few people know that there's an interesting reason behind the name "Rotary." According to available information, it wasn't originally called "Peace Day." It was named "Rotary" because its members held their meetings in rotation, each time in the offices of a different member. This rotation later became a symbol of service and peace around the world. It's also interesting to note that during World War II, when the world was embroiled in conflict, Rotary members held a conference in London. The intellectual foundation of this conference later paved the way for the establishment of UNESCO. Few people know that the concept of one of the world's largest peace organizations was inspired by a club

meeting.

The core message of this day is that peace is not simply the absence of war. In Rotary's vision, peace also encompasses people's access to clean water, increased literacy rates, and the development of local economies. In other words, service is the greatest means of peace. When we fight hunger, disease (such as polio), and ignorance, we are actually laying the foundation for peace. According to available information, Rotary International was founded on February 23, 1905, by Paul P. Harris in Chicago, USA. A lawyer by profession, he organized the first Rotary Club meeting with three friends. Their goal was to create a platform where professionals from diverse backgrounds could come together to share ideas and contribute meaningfully to society. Over time, it became

a global movement, and the founding day itself was recognized as World Peace and Understanding Day. According to available information, today Rotary has over 46,000 clubs active in more than 200 countries.

It is important to inform readers here that Rotary International is a global service organization whose primary objective is to serve humanity, promote moral values in society, and establish peace and harmony in the world. Its members are people from various professions and occupations who voluntarily contribute to social service. The organization conducts important projects in areas such as education, health, sanitation, water conservation, disease eradication (especially the polio eradication campaign), and community development. Today, it has thousands of clubs and millions of members

worldwide, working for the welfare of humanity with the motto of Service Above Self.

In fact, the purpose of celebrating this day, as I discussed earlier in this article, is to promote peace, service, and mutual understanding throughout the world. In today's times, increasing competition, materialistic thinking, political and social tensions, and negativity spreading through digital media have widened the distance between people. Countries often choose conflict in the race for resources and dominance. Cooperation, service, and mutual harmony appear to be gradually weakening. There was a time when the spirit of brotherhood, cooperation, and humanity prevailed in society, whereas today, personal selfishness and intolerance often seem to overshadow these values.

Technology To Bridge Gap Between Citizens And Govt

New Delhi, (GNS): Chief minister Rekha Gupta on Saturday unveiled a set of digital governance initiatives - including the 'CM Jan Sunwai' portal and mobile app, integration of e-district services with the Common Service Centres (CSC) Digital Seva network and a new online platform for EWS admissions - stating that her govt aimed to "bridge the gap between citizens and administration through technology". The launches are part of the series of inaugurations planned during the first anniversary month of the BJP govt.

The CM said the measures were designed to strengthen transparency, accountability and accessibility in public services, in line with the Centre's Digital India programme. She added that the initiatives were "steps towards building a 'Viksit Delhi' through technology-driven governance". The programmes were launched at the Delhi Secretariat in the presence of education min-



ister Ashish Sood, IT minister Pankaj Kumar Singh and senior officials.

The CM Jan Sunwai portal is a centralised grievance redressal system that enables citizens to file complaints related to multiple agencies - including Delhi govt departments, MCD, DDA and Delhi Police - through a single interface. The platform integrates jurisdictions, nodal officers and complaint categories, and generates a unique reference ID for each case.

Citizens can lodge complaints through four modes: the web portal, mobile app, a call centre (1902) and physical submission at the chief minister's office. A three-tier mechanism - comprising a grievance redressal officer, an appellate authority and a final appellate authority - has been set up for monitoring. Complainants will receive SMS updates at each stage and can send reminders or give feedback.

Gupta said that when she assumed office, she found that while multiple platforms allowed citizens to lodge complaints, there was no mechanism to track whether those complaints were being resolved. "We are not just creating a platform to listen; we are creating a mechanism to ensure time-bound solutions. Physical public hearings will continue alongside the digital system," she added. In the education sector, the govt launched a secure, cloud-based portal for admissions under the

Economically Weaker Section (EWS), Disadvantaged Group (DG) and Children With Special Needs (CWSN) categories. The new platform replaces older software and features Aadhaar-based verification, digital validation of birth and income certificates, and automated seat allocation to curb duplication and fraud.

Education minister Ashish Sood said the portal was developed with NIC and is intended to ensure that reimbursements to private schools for EWS admissions reach genuine beneficiaries. "This involves public funds and we must ensure transparency and eliminate irregularities," he said.

Officials said around 75 e-district services have now been integrated with more than 7,000 CSCs across Delhi to improve doorstep delivery. "Residents can access services such as income, caste and residence certificates, birth and death certificates, and welfare-related services at a nominal fee of Rs 30 per service.

Towards a drug-free Delhi

Anti-narcotics task force launches portal

New Delhi, (GNS):

The anti-narcotics task force (ANTF) launched an official logo and a website on Saturday. The platform aims to facilitate seamless sharing of data on narcotics-related offences and offenders, and track them better.

The portal provides comprehensive information on ANTF initiatives, awareness campaigns, rehabilitation centres, legal provisions, achievements, and avenues for public cooperation and reporting.

Explaining the symbolism of the ANTF logo, special commissioner of police (crime) Devesh Chandra Srivastava said, "It reflects strength, coordination, and a mission-driven approach towards building a drug-free society."

DCP (crime) Sanjeev Kumar Yadav added, "The official website was launched as a dedicated



digital platform to enhance transparency, public outreach, and citizen engagement. It will also ensure smooth sharing of data on narco offences and offenders for better tracking and detection of narco criminals." The website was launched by lieutenant governor Vinai Kumar Saxena while inaugurating the Delhi Police exhibition hall in Connaught Place.

Quick Commerce Delivery Exec Dies After Car Hit His E-Scooter

New Delhi, (GNS): A 25-year-old delivery executive working with Zepto died after allegedly being hit by a car in west Delhi's Tilak Nagar early on Saturday. The accused, a contractor with Municipal Corporation of Delhi, was arrested, but has got bail.

The deceased was identified as Hem Shankar, a resident of Raghunagar in west Delhi. His family alleged that after the collision, Shankar was dragged by the accused for several metres. The family said Shankar was travelling from Subhash Nagar to Mayapuri via Rajouri Garden for a delivery when the incident occurred.

Police suspect that the accused, Mohit Kumar, a 27-year-old resident of Najafgarh, was under the influence of alcohol at the time of the accident. His blood sample has been sent for testing, they said.

A PCR call was received at 3.26am, reporting the accident near the red light close to Subhash Nagar metro station on Najafgarh Road, towards Rajouri Garden. When police reached the spot, both the car



and the victim's electric scooter involved in the collision were found there. Shankar was already shifted to Deen Dayal Upadhyay Hospital, where doctors declared him brought dead. Sources claimed that the car was speeding when it took a sharp left turn and struck the e-scooter, flinging it away. The car then hit a pole and finally came to a stop after crashing into a drain cover.

Deputy commissioner of police (west) Darade Sharad Bhaskar said eyewitnesses told police that the Hyundai Verna car allegedly hit Shankar's e-scooter from behind, causing the rider to fall and sustain critical injuries.

At Media CSR Summit, VP CP Radhakrishnan bats for 'One Nation, One Election'

New Delhi, (GNS): Vice-President C P Radhakrishnan on Saturday made a strong pitch for the concept of 'One Nation, One Election' to enable "stronger decision-making and long-term policy focus" at the Times of India National CSR Summit 2026, where he conferred Nripendra Misra, former principal secretary to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, retired SC justice Bela M Trivedi and former comptroller and auditor general (CAG) V K Shunglu with lifetime achievement awards for their contributions.

Speaking at the CSR Summit, organised by Times Foundation at Bharat Mandapam, Radhakrishnan underlined the importance of electoral processes in ensuring public participation and accountability. Noting that people always compare China with India, the VP highlighted that both countries are very different, with China having only a single party and India having a multi-party system where elections take place regularly in different states.

"Bihar election is over and now elections are due to take place in Assam,



West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Puducherry. Once these elections are over, Uttar Pradesh elections will come up next year and so on..." he said. "The performance of a political leadership, not only here, but unfortunately all over the world is not being rated by the real performance for society or the country but by their electoral victories. So, no political party will be in a position to take a strong decision unless 'One Nation, One Election' gets implemented," the VP said.

Misra, who has been recognised for "public leadership and nation building", is currently the chairman of the Executive

Council of the Prime Ministers Museum and Library. He is also the chairman of the Temple Construction Committee for Shri Ram Jannabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust in Ayodhya.

Among the six other eminent personalities honoured with lifetime achievement awards was former Supreme Court judge Justice Bela M Trivedi, who was honoured for 'judicial integrity and constitutional service'. Radhakrishnan commended the Times Foundation for convening the Summit and bringing together leadership and ideas with a call for action. Former CAG VK Shunglu was honoured for his contribution to 'Constitutional stewardship and institutional integrity'. A highlight of the programme was students from DPS RK Puram and DPS Faridabad rendering the full version of Vande Mataram at the beginning of the programme, to be followed by the national anthem. Philanthropist Aruna Goenka was conferred with a lifetime achievement award for 'catalysing hope, nourishment and human dignity'.

Home Births Yet To Phase Out Fully

New Delhi, (GNS): Despite sharp gains in hospital-based childbirth, a small share of deliveries in Delhi continues to take place outside medical institutions and is attended by relatives or other untrained persons, according to Delhi govt data on type of medical attention received at birth released recently.

The data for 2005-2024 show that although institutional deliveries have risen consistently over the past two decades, 2.4% of births in 2024 were still assisted by relatives, untrained persons and 0.9% of births were not clearly recorded under formal medical categories. This is down from 6.8% in 2005, but underscores that informal delivery practices have not been fully phased out.

Former Safdarjung Hospital professor Achala Batra said the govt had made significant efforts, including financial incentives for expect-



tant mothers, to increase institutional deliveries. "Yet distance to hospitals and the fear of caesarean deliveries continue to discourage women from seeking institutional care, pushing some towards home births," she said.

Former MCD health department head Arun Yadav said the numbers were not alarming but added that the capital should aim for near-universal institutional deliveries. "In cases of home births,

the risk of infections increases as hygienic practices are not followed and serious complications can arise," he said.

A senior official said that the remaining gap reflects socio-economic disparities, migrant families without documentation, limited awareness among vulnerable communities and cultural preferences for home deliveries. The data also indicates a steep decline in births conducted by untrained midwives. In 2005,

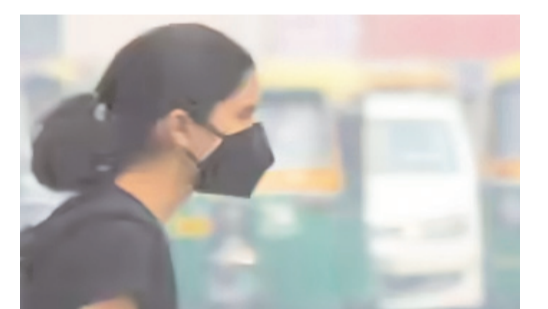
around 19.2% of deliveries were handled by traditional birth attendants; by 2024, the share had dropped to 0.9%. An official said this pointed to a shift away from unsafe, informal practices towards medically supervised care. Even home deliveries assisted by qualified doctors or nurses declined after peaking around 2010. Officials said this showed that skilled care had increasingly moved into hospitals and formal health facilities equipped with emergency support. Institutional deliveries rose from 73.7% in 2005 to 96.1% in 2024 - an increase of more than 22 percentage points. Delhi crossed the 90% mark in 2018 and has steadily consolidated its gains since. Officials attributed the rise to expanded maternal health infrastructure, incentive-based schemes promoting hospital births and stronger antenatal outreach.

Stricter particulate matter emission cap for industries

New Delhi, (GNS): In a significant tightening of industrial emission standards, Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) has issued a direction underlining a uniform and more stringent particulate matter (PM) emission limit of 50mg/Nm3 for identified industries operating across Delhi-NCR.

The commission, in an earlier direction issued in March 2022, fixed the maximum permissible emission for PM at 80mg/Nm3 while asking the industries to aim for 50mg/Nm3 through suitable technology upgrades and installation of requisite air pollution control devices such as bag filters, cyclonic filters, wet scrubbers, etc.

Nearly four years later, CAQM has issued the revised standards, which will be applicable to large and medium industries from Aug 1, 2026, and to the rest from Oct 1. CAQM has cited previous recommendations made by a technical committee, for which a timeline was set for the industries to install new devices



required to achieve the stringent PM emission norm of 50mg/Nm3.

According to the order, shared on Friday, "The maximum permissible limit of PM emissions from 17 categories of highly polluting industries identified by CPCB - red category (medium and large) air-polluting industries, food & food processing and textile industries having boilers/thermic fluid heaters, and metal industries having furnaces, operating in Delhi-NCR - shall be 50mg/Nm3." The standard will not apply to those industrial units that are prescribed a PM emission norm of less than 50mg/Nm3, it added.

Experts call for transforming mindsets and curriculum at seminar on disability and social inclusion at JMI

New Delhi, (GNS): The Centre for the Study of Social Inclusion (CSSI) Jamia Millia Islamia (JMI), in collaboration with the Office of the Dean, Academic Affairs, on 18 February conducted a day-long seminar-workshop on 'Disability and Social Inclusion in India: A Roadmap for Change'. The event saw enthusiastic participation from academics, policymakers, practitioners, and students.

In her welcome address, Prof. Tanuja, Officiating Director of CSSI and Dean of Academic Affairs, framed inclusion as a matter of fundamental justice and pluralism in alignment, while Dr. Arvind Kumar, convener of the seminar, highlighted the Centre's success by recognizing the achievements of Faisal,



an alumnus of the Centre who is a Hellen Keller awardee now. Dr. Ashima Mangla, Joint

Secretary of the University Grants Commission and Guest of Honour, advocated for a mindset

shift treating the differently-abled as equal, creative citizens, which Prof. Nilofer Afzal, Dean of Student Welfare, JMI, added to the discussion by calling for deep-seated sensitization across the physical, academic, and social spheres of university life.

The Chief Guest on the occasion, Prof. Sohrab Ahmad Khan, Dean, School of Allied Health Sciences and Research, Jamia Hamdard, urged strict adherence to UGC accessibility guidelines to support the high prevalence of disability among the elderly and working population, while Adv. Dr. K. C. George, Secretary, Chief Executive, Deepalaya & Former Joint Director, Ministry of Women & Child Development, Govt. of India, opined to "include everyone, exclude none," empha-

sizing sign language literacy and decision-making power.

In her keynote, Prof. Nilika Mehrotra of JNU addressed the intersectionality of disability with gender and caste, calling for a shift in curriculum and attitude, a sentiment echoed by Dr. Rasheed, Assistant Prof., Faculty of Law, JMI, who discussed 'Blind Ethnography' as a sensory method to overcome traditional research biases. Prof. Md. Mahtab Alam Rizvi, Registrar, JMI, concluded by reaffirming the power of education and calling for a rejection of discriminatory attitudes that treat the differently-abled as inferior.

The first technical session, "Discourses on Disability in the Indian Context," chaired by Prof. Rakesh Kumar Sharma from the

University of Delhi (DU), examined the structural and legal barriers facing the community. The second technical session, "Narratives of Disability: Agency, Representation, and Frameworks," was chaired by Prof. Sarika Sharma, Professor, Faculty of Education, Jamia Millia Islamia. The distinguished speakers shared critical insights on reimagining disability discourse through rights-based, inclusive, and agency-centered perspectives. Faisal Ashraf Nomani, alumnus of JMI, highlighted self-advocacy and visibility as key to reshaping disability narratives. Anwesha Baruah, associated with JMI, underscored the role of policy advocacy and leadership platforms in advancing disability rights.

8 arrested for plotting terror attack in Delhi, have links with ISI, Bangladesh

New Delhi, (GNS): Eight suspects have been nabbed for allegedly plotting a major terror conspiracy in Delhi at the behest of Pakistan's ISI and Bangladesh-based extremist organisations, police sources said on Sunday.

Six of the suspects have been arrested from different parts of Tamil Nadu and will be brought to Delhi for interrogation. Some of the arrested individuals are stated to be Bangladeshi nationals, sources added. Two people were picked up earlier during follow-up action linked to the same case. Security agencies had on Saturday issued an alert on a possible explosion near the Red Fort here after central intelligence agencies indicated that Pakistan-based terror outfit Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) has allegedly kept prominent religious places in India on its target list.



Sources said the operation was carried out following specific intelligence inputs about a module suspected to be planning subversive activities in different parts of the country, they said.

During searches, police seized

dozens of mobile phones and SIM cards from their possession, which are being analysed to ascertain the extent of the network and possible foreign links.

Preliminary investigation suggests that the group was in

touch with handlers linked to Pakistan's ISI and certain Bangladesh-based outfits. Central agencies are assisting in the probe, sources said.

Intelligence agencies had indicated that the LeT could be trying to carry out an Improvised Explosive Device (IED)-based attack. The alleged plan is reportedly linked to attempts by the terror group to avenge the February 6 blast at a mosque in Islamabad, Pakistan, sources said. The alert came in the backdrop of the deadly car explosion near the historic Red Fort on November 10, 2025, which killed 13 people and injured more than 20 others. The blast occurred when a car loaded with explosives detonated near Gate No 1 of the Red Fort metro station, igniting multiple vehicles nearby and causing panic in the densely populated area.

Horrific double murder in Delhi

Woman, daughter killed in Sarita Vihar; bodies found in bed box



New Delhi, (GNS): A 35-year-old woman and her six-year-old daughter were brutally murdered and their bodies stuffed into a bed box at their residence in southeast Delhi's Sarita Vihar. Police have identified a neighbour as the prime suspect and are investigating whether he acted in rage after the woman reportedly rejected his advances. Police said a PCR call was received around 10.30pm on Friday reporting the discovery of two bodies at a residence in Aali Vihar. A police team from the local station went to the house and found the bodies concealed in a bed storage box. The bodies were taken to AIIMS.

"While initial medical exam-

inations showed no obvious external wounds, the post-mortem conducted on Saturday indicated the cause of death as strangulation and smothering. The final postmortem report is still awaited," a senior officer said. The woman's husband, who works at a printing press in Okhla, said he returned home to find the apartment door locked from the inside.

Double murder: Man searched for wife, daughter for 2 hours He searched for his wife for nearly two hours and asked relatives if she had gone somewhere. When his other children, who had been outside, returned crying, he alerted the neighbours. Together, they forced the door open.

South Delhi road rage: Techie stabs man to death in parking row, injures friend

New Delhi, (GNS): In an apparent case of road rage, a software engineer was arrested on Friday for allegedly stabbing a man to death and injuring his friend during a parking and right-of-way dispute in south Delhi's Aya Nagar.

Police said they received information about the incident on Feb 20 from Haryana Police, who reported that one person had been declared dead on arrival and another admitted with stab injuries at a Gurgaon hospital. Since the crime took place in Aya Nagar, Delhi Police took over the investigation. A preliminary probe found that the two men were returning late at night from a DJ function in Dera village. Around midnight, near Ganpati Garden in Aya Nagar, they encountered a car allegedly parked in a manner that blocked their path. The men, travelling in a mini-truck carrying DJ equipment, asked the driver to move his vehicle. "The car driver said they could pass, but the truck driver insisted there was not enough space," an officer said.

An argument broke out between



the two sides over the parking position and right of way. According to police, the altercation escalated and the car driver allegedly pulled out a knife and attacked both men. The injured were taken to a hospital in Gurgaon, where one of them - identified as Sandeep Lohia, 38 - died. His friend, Rishi, suffered stab wounds and is undergoing treatment. Police said he is stable and out of danger.

Investigators launched a search for the car driver. The accused, identified as Ravi, 32, a resident of Sonipat, was arrested. Police said he works as an engineer at a private company in Gurgaon and had reportedly come to Aya Nagar to attend a wedding.

Delhi police arrest six Bangladeshi nationals in Tirupur for posting messages supporting Pak terror outfits

New Delhi, (GNS): The Q branch of the Delhi police on Saturday arrested six Bangladeshi nationals living illegally in Tirupur on charges of posting messages supporting a Pakistan-based terror outfit on social media platforms. The operation led to the seizure of eight mobile phones and 16 SIM cards from the suspects. They were living in Tirupur using forged documents, police said.

Acting on specific information about provocative posts and communication with extremist modules operating out of Pakistan, Q branch officers reached Tirupur on Saturday and conducted raids in three locations with the help of the Tirupur police. They arrested Mijanur Rahman, Mohammad Shabat, Umar, Mohammad Litan, Mohammad Shahid and Mohammad Ujjal.



Investigations revealed that the group had been working in garment units in Uthukuli, Thirumurugan Poondi and Palladam areas. "The suspects were in possession of fake Aadhaar cards, which they used to secure employment and housing. They did not

have any valid passports or visas to stay in India," a senior police official said.

The seized mobile phones have been sent for forensic analysis to identify their handlers. The Delhi Q branch is interrogating the six men to determine the extent of their

involvement with terror networks and whether they were part of a larger sleeper cell.

According to police sources, the group is linked to a person who recently stuck inflammatory posters in Delhi supporting a Pakistan-based terror organisation.

'Clear drafting, electoral transparency key to democracy'

New Delhi, (GNS): Clarity in legislative drafting and greater transparency in elections are essential to strengthening India's democratic framework, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla and Union law minister Arjun Ram Meghwal said on Friday. They were speaking at the launch of three new academic programmes by OP Jindal Global University, addressing students, teachers and legal professionals in central Delhi.

Birla underscored the importance of clear drafting in reducing judicial intervention. The more precise a law and its definitions are, he said, the fewer the ambiguities that require interpretation by courts. "When we are the world's largest democracy and looking at current and future needs, these master's degree courses will help improve our democracy. They will prepare young people to contribute to the political, democratic, technological and literacy spheres. Since 1952, 18 Lok Sabha elections have been held, and India remains the only country where elections are conducted in a transparent manner," he said. Meghwal emphasised that clear and unambiguous drafting reduces litigation and eases the burden on courts. "In



legislative language, even a single word can carry different meanings. Every word in the Constitution has meaning; every concept has significance. Legislative drafting is extremely important. When a ministry prepares a Bill, it undergoes legal vetting and careful drafting. There is a full institutional mechanism to ensure clarity and precision," he said.

The university launched three one-year postgraduate programmes: an MA in Legislative Drafting, an MA in Electoral

Analysis and Management, and an MA in Political Communication.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, the guest of honour, welcomed the initiative. Calling legislative drafting "a science, mathematics and an art", he said precise language determines how laws operate. He noted that the difference between "may" and "shall" can decide whether a provision is mandatory or directory, and even punctuation can alter the intent and impact of a statute.

Woman, daughter murdered in Delhi, bodies stuffed into bed box

New Delhi, (GNS): A 35-year-old woman and her six-year-old daughter were found murdered at their house in southeast Delhi's Sarita Vihar area, with police identifying a neighbour as the prime suspect and launching raids to nab him, an official said on Saturday.

A PCR call was received around 10.30 pm on Friday regarding discovery of the two bodies at the Aali Vihar house, he said. Police found the bodies concealed in the box storage of a bed. They were rushed to AIIMS, where they were declared dead, the official said. Multiple operational teams have been deployed to probe the case. Crime and Forensic Science Laboratory teams have examined the scene and collected evidence, he added. The deceased were identified as Jyoti and her daughter.

While initial medical examination did not reveal external injuries, the post-mortem conducted on Saturday indicated strangulation and smothering as cause of death. The final post-



mortem report is awaited, police said.

Following preliminary investigation, Deen Dayal (35), an accountant living in the same building, has been identified as the prime suspect in the case, officials said. Police said a case is being registered under Section 103(1) (murder) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita. Ajay Giri, a neighbour, said a couple lived in the house with their three children.

Two of the children had gone to school and were safe. The neighbour said the husband came home at night and saw two of his children sitting outside.

4 Youth Cong workers sent to 5-day police custody

New Delhi, (GNS): A Delhi court on Saturday sent the four Indian Youth Congress (IYC) workers, who were arrested for protesting at the AI Summit venue, to five-day police custody.

Earlier, the court reserved its order on police plea seeking five-day custody of the four protesting Youth Congress workers. The arrested IYC workers were produced before Judicial Magistrate Ravi, who reserved the order after completion of arguments.

The arrested protesters were Krishna Hari, national secretary of the Youth Congress from Bihar; Kundan Yadav, IYC state secretary, Bihar; Ajay Kumar, IYC state president, Uttar



Pradesh; and Narasimha Yadav from Telangana.

The Delhi Police had sought five-day custody of the arrested protesters, arguing that they raised anti-national slogans and wore T-shirts with objectionable images of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The counsel for the accused argued that they were associated with a political party, and had exercised their democratic right to a peaceful protest at Bharat Mandapam. Their simple demand was for employment. Government jobs are out of reach. Even in MNCs, there are no decent-paying jobs. Today's youth are frustrated," it argued.

The Delhi Police had filed an FIR under Section 61(2) of the

Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) for unlawful assembly, violating prohibitory orders and causing hurt to, assaulting and disobeying a public servant. As many as four IYC workers were arrested in this regard, they added.

According to the police, the group had entered the venue wearing sweaters and jackets over T-shirts carrying provocative messages. Near the hall, one of them removed his outer layer and began waving the printed T-shirt, setting off the protest.

Additional Commissioner of Police Devesh Mahla said the protesters were swiftly removed to prevent any disruption to law and order.

'Jhula Ped' on Lodhi road becomes evening escape for children

New Delhi, (GNS): On Lodhi Road, a towering Sap-taparni tree fondly called the "jhula ped" has become a world of joy for children from Haji Colony who study at nearby Atal Adarsh Vidyalaya.

After school, they tie cloth to its low branches, crafting makeshift swings that carry their laughter into the evening air. "We once aimed for 50 swings under this tree; now, we make only 15," one such kid, Raunak, says softly, as the branches continue to cradle their dreams.