



PM Modi will visit Israel on 25th, this is his second visit during his tenure as Prime Minister

Experts said that this tour will benefit India and give it a strategic advantage.

New Delhi, (GNS): PM Narendra Modi is going on a visit to Israel from February 25th. This will be his second visit to Israel during his tenure as Prime Minister. He had visited Israel in 2017. On one hand, India has very good relations with countries like the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia and Bahrain, and on the other hand, it also has long-standing relations with Israel. In such a situation, PM Modi's visit to Israel again is considered important. Israeli

PM Benjamin Netanyahu had planned to visit India three times in 2025 itself, but each time he had to postpone the visit.

According to media reports, strategic and foreign affairs experts say that PM Modi's visit to Israel will benefit India and provide it with a strategic advantage. They noted that PM Modi's visit comes at a time when US President Trump has declared that an attack on Iran is imminent. They added that PM Modi's visit



to Israel at such a time may seem unusual, but it holds strategic significance and appears to be a calculated move.

The strategist said that American warships are ready. At this time, PM Modi's visit to Israel will signal that India is a major power in the Middle East. It remains a strong link even amid wars and can broker peace. He has sought to signal that India remains in a strong position even amid instability. This visit comes

just days after a summit of Arab foreign ministers was held in Delhi. Furthermore, internal conflict is raging within Israel. Opposition leaders are constantly attacking and attacking Netanyahu. In such a situation, Modi's visit to Israel will send the message that many major countries of the world are with the Netanyahu government. This visit will also send the message that India has a strong influence in the Arab world.

Gwalior Congress leader taken away by Delhi Police for participating in protests during AI Summit; father claims he was not told anything

New Delhi(GNS): Delhi Police have arrested Jitendra Yadav, former state secretary of the Youth Congress, from Gwalior. Yadav is accused of participating in a semi-nude protest during the AI Summit 2026 held in Delhi. He has been taken into custody by the Delhi Police.



Local police officials are refraining from commenting on the matter. Jitendra's father, Keshav Yadav, said the police are not providing any concrete information.

In fact, on February 20th, the Youth Congress protested against the India-US trade deal at the AI Summit 2026 at Bharat Mandapam in Delhi. Several

videos of the protest have surfaced. In these videos, 15-20 activists are seen holding white T-shirts. The T-shirts feature photos of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Donald Trump. The text reads, "PM is compromised." On the basis of these videos, Delhi Police is identifying Youth Congress leaders and taking action against them.

Avimukteshwarananda's statement, I will not protest if the police arrest me... I will cooperate fully.

Varanasi (GNS): Swami Avimukteshwarananda Saraswati, surrounded by allegations of sexual abuse, issued a major statement on Monday amid fears of arrest. He said that if the police arrest him, he will not oppose it and will fully cooperate with them. He believes that the public is watching and the truth will come out with time. Swami Avimukteshwarananda, calling the allegations false, said that the incident would have been recorded on media cameras and CCTV cameras installed in Prayagraj.



Avimukteshwarananda claimed that the boys named in the case never studied at his Gurukul or visited it. He stated that the students were enrolled in a

school in Hardoi, and their marksheets, submitted in the case, provide no evidence of their connection to the Gurukul. Swami questioned why the alleged CD, if any, was being made public. He alleged that some individuals were attempting to harm Sanatan Dharma and appealed to the public to ignore rumors. The Uttar Pradesh police filed a named FIR on court orders and met with complainant Ashutosh Brahmachari the

next day to gather evidence. This entire incident has increased the likelihood of Avimukteshwarananda facing legal action. During the Magh Mela 2026, his convoy was stopped for hours during a bath at the Sangam on Mauni Amavasya, a video of a scuffle between disciples and police went viral.

Following this, Ashutosh Brahmachari filed a complaint accusing Avimukteshwarananda and his disciple Mukundanand Brahmachari of sexually abusing minor boys. When the police failed to take action, a petition was filed in court, and statements from the victimized children were recorded. Following the court's orders, a case was registered at the Jhunsi police station under Section

351(3) of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) and various sections of the Sexual Offences (SOC) Act. Avimukteshwarananda has now denied the allegations, expressed confidence in their cooperation, and stated that the truth will be revealed with time.

Meanwhile, Ashutosh Brahmachari filed a complaint at the Jhunsi police station on the same day of Mauni Amavasya, accusing Avimukteshwarananda and his disciples of assault. The dispute has been ongoing since then. During the final days of the Magh Mela, Ashutosh Brahmachari filed a complaint accusing Avimukteshwarananda and his disciple Mukundanand Brahmachari, along with others, of sexually abusing minor students.

Another Tejas aircraft crashes on the runway, the Air Force has grounded 30 aircraft

New Delhi (GNS): An Indian Air Force Tejas fighter jet has crashed during a training flight. According to official sources, the aircraft overshot the runway due to suspected brake failure while landing at a forward airbase earlier this month. The aircraft sustained extensive structural damage, but the pilot ejected safely. The incident is reported to have occurred on February 7, and the IAF has yet to issue a formal public statement. Given the severity of the accident, the Indian Air Force has temporarily grounded its entire fleet of approximately 30 single-seat Tejas jets as a precautionary measure. Sources say the fleet will remain grounded until a comprehensive review of the aircraft's technical inspections and safety standards is completed.



ed. This is the third major incident involving the Tejas aircraft. Previously, a plane crashed near Jaisalmer in March 2024, and the second occurred during the Dubai Air Show in November 2025. Amid the spate of accidents, the Air Force is focusing on inducting modern aircraft to enhance its strike capabilities. In a press conference prior to the Vayu Shakti exercise, Air Marshal Nagesh Kapoor, Deputy Chief of the Air Staff, stated that the force is keen to induct more new-generation aircraft into its fleet.

Three terrorists killed in encounter with security forces in Kishtwar, search operation underway

Kishtwar (GNS): Three terrorists affiliated with the Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM), active in the area, were killed in an encounter with security forces in Chhatru-Pasarkoot in Kishtwar district, taking the total number of terrorists killed in Operation Trashi-1 in the area to four. According to reports, during a prolonged operation in Chhatru, security forces, including 2 Para, RR, CRPF, and the Jammu and Kashmir Police's SOG,



cordoned off the area on Sunday morning based on information about the presence of terrorists in a hut near Wani Pura in Pasarkoot, and firing ensued. Meanwhile,

security forces blew up the hut. During the search, they recovered two charred bodies and two AK-47 guns. In the evening, the army recovered the body and gun of

another terrorist from under the debris, taking the total number of terrorists killed to three.

According to media reports, the search operation is still ongoing. An army sniffer dog was also injured in the encounter and is being treated. Based on intelligence, security forces cordoned off a large area of Chhatru in January under Operation Trashi-1 and began searching for terrorists.

Violence erupts in Mexico after drug lord Manco's death; Indian embassy issues advisory

Mexico, (GNS). The death of Nemesio Ruben Oseguera Cervantes, known as El Mancho, one of the world's most feared drug lords, at the hands of the army has caused chaos across Mexico. Following confirmation of the dreaded criminal's death in a major military operation on Sunday, his supporters and rioters have resorted to violence on the streets of Mexico. Reports of arson, vandalism, and road blockades have been reported in

several states in retaliation for the death of the leader of the Jalisco New Generation Cartel. In view of this deteriorating security situation, the Indian Embassy in Mexico has issued an important security advisory for Indian citizens living there.

In a message released on the social media platform X on Monday, the Indian Embassy has appealed to Indians in Mexico to exercise extreme caution. The Embassy has specifically advised Indians living in



states like Jalisco, Michoacán, Guerrero and Tamaulipas (including parts of Nuevo León to remain in safe places until further notice.

The Embassy has clarified that in view of security operations, criminal activities and large-scale road blockades, Indian citizens should not leave their homes unnecessarily and should stay away from crowded areas. The Embassy has also issued strict security guidelines. Indian citizens have been advised to monitor local news media for any latest updates and strictly adhere to the guidelines issued by local authorities. In case of an emergency, they are

instructed to immediately dial 911. The Embassy also urged people to remain in constant contact with family and friends, sharing their location and well-being through phone calls or messages. The Embassy has also released a helpline number for any assistance. El Mancho's death is being considered a major blow to Mexico's underworld. He was not only the leader of the New Generation Cartel but was also considered the most powerful drug lord of the time.

Central Excise Duty: The Foundation of India's Prosperity and Economic Strength

Dilip Kumar Pathak

India's economic progress is driven by the contribution of thousands of hands who work day and night to strengthen the country's revenue. To honor these efforts and to raise public awareness about the tax system, February 24th is celebrated as a special occasion every year. This day marks a milestone in our country's financial system, as on this day in 1944, the Central Excise and Salt Acts were enacted. Although tax systems have changed today, and GST has assumed a prominent place, the importance of excise duty in the country's progress remains undiminished. The common citizen often wonders what they gain from paying taxes. The answer is simple and beautiful: when goods are manufactured in the country's fac-

ories and the government receives taxes on them, this money returns to the welfare of society. The paved roads connecting our villages and cities, the electric lights that dispel darkness, the free treatment in government hospitals, and the modern weapons of the brave soldiers deployed on our borders are all made possible by the taxes paid by responsible entrepreneurs and citizens. Thus, paying taxes is not just a legal act, but also a direct service to the nation.

In this context, it's important to understand that a strong tax system provides the country with internal security and the ability to deal with external threats. Only when the government has adequate resources can investments be made in new technologies and modern infrastructure. It is this revenue that helps fund relief oper-

ations during disasters and provide free rations and essential services to millions of poor families. Without a strong financial foundation, no country can fulfill the dreams of its citizens. Therefore, excise duty is not just a government levy but also a powerful instrument of social justice, collecting taxes from industries and spending it on the upliftment of underprivileged sections of society. Over time, the methods of government functioning have also undergone significant changes. Today, in the era of the digital revolution, there's no longer the need to visit offices or stand in long queues to pay taxes. The government has made the entire process so simple and transparent that any businessman can complete his accounting from the comfort of his home. This has not only curbed corruption but

also made doing business easier. This is also a time to salute the hard work of those officers and employees who ensure that the country's treasury remains safe and that revenue is not pilfered. Furthermore, we must understand that tax collection fuels the creation of a self-reliant India. When transparency increases in our industry, foreign investment is attracted to India. This investment not only establishes new factories but also creates new employment opportunities for millions of our youth. Our economic policies can only succeed if there is a strong bond of trust between the revenue department and the taxpayer. This trust will elevate India's economy to an even higher position on the global stage in the future.

Any great nation is built not solely by government policies, but

by the honesty of its citizens. When we pay taxes honestly, we take a major step towards making India self-reliant. This occasion teaches us that we must fulfill our responsibilities with complete dedication. Tax evasion is not only a crime, but also a hindrance to a country's development. A transparent and robust tax system is the hallmark of a healthy society and a powerful India. Today, as India progresses towards becoming the world's third-largest economy, the role of such institutions and systems becomes even greater. The dream of a developed India will only come true when every individual understands their share of responsibility. Let us pledge today to help eradicate evils like tax evasion and lay the foundation for a bright future for the country by becoming honest taxpayers.

Editorial

Review of government structure

Taking the trouble to reform the education system is nothing short of revolutionary. While some notable changes certainly showcase the current government's efforts, they have exposed the ruins of shortcomings. If the Education Minister is closing 39 schools with zero enrollment, this review should be commended. Similarly, if colleges with fewer than 100 students are merged, it was considered a liability for the state's educational infrastructure. In the search for a purposeful education system, competition has begun not only between government and private schools, but also between the Himachal School Education Board and the CBSE-ICSE Board. Amidst all this, the routine of government teachers cannot remain limited to salaries, allowances, transfers, and retention in preferred positions. Strengthening the Right to Education, the Sukhu government in Himachal Pradesh has initiated a new environment and a new search for a teaching cadre by initiating the CBSE curriculum in selected government schools. The CBSE curriculum is now pitting competition not just between government and private schools, but also between government and private schools. The demand and justification for government schools under the CBSE curriculum has grown so much that the government has increased the number to 148. Most CBSE schools are being established in urban school campuses in larger towns. This means that these schools are being established in environments where comprehensive infrastructure and efficiency can be established, achieving national recognition. A special cadre of teachers is being selected here, which is being opposed by the State Teachers' Union. The union is creating obstacles to the entire campaign by raising objections against the teacher screening test.

Should we call this a scourge of government work culture or a privilege? If the current government structure were to embody a sense of responsibility and cost effectiveness, why would the state's urban schools be ruined? Why shouldn't teachers, who fear screening for updated knowledge, be asked why there's this controversy surrounding the review of the curriculum that has earned parents their trust? Why would any parent send their children to fail in a highly competitive environment, facing the teachers' disinterest and routine? If there's only one bridge between CBSE and School Education Board schools, all efforts will be in vain. If the system is to change, all preparations must be thorough.



The five-day India AI Impact Summit, held in the capital, New Delhi, concluded on Saturday, but its success has established India as a leading country in the Global South. The signing of the declaration by 88 countries and international organizations at the summit is not only a diplomatic achievement but also a global recognition of India's vision, which connects technology with human welfare. Furthermore, the widespread global support received for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's human-centered AI approach and the principle of "Sarvajana Hitaya, Sarvajana Sukhaya" demonstrates that the world wants to view technological progress not only from the perspective of economic gain, but also in the context of social justice and equal opportunity.



India will lead the world in AI technology

Manoj Kumar Agarwal

On February 21, 88 countries and international organizations endorsed the New Delhi AI Impact Summit Declaration, including the United States, China, Britain, France, Germany, and the European Union. All commitments made in this declaration are voluntary, meaning that the extent to which they act upon it depends on the countries' willingness.

In this declaration, countries took note of discussions held during the summit's seven rounds and stated that they recognize that the AI Summit in Delhi will provide international support for the development of artificial intelligence, while also respecting national sovereignty.

You should know that 88 countries and two international organizations have formally accepted the principle of "Sarvajana Hitaya, Sarvajana Sukhaya." This principle is not just a cultural phrase, but a moral compass for technological development. At a time when the world is dominated by the politics of competition, control, and dominance regarding AI, India has offered a balanced alternative by presenting an inclusive and human-centered approach. The commitment of a potential \$250 billion investment in the AI sector during the summit reflects global confidence in India's economic potential and policy stability. This investment represents not just an influx of

capital, but an opportunity for innovation, employment, and the expansion of the technology ecosystem. Furthermore, this funding demonstrates that the world is looking to India as a hub for the future of AI. India is already a global hub for IT and digital services. Now, leadership in AI means high-skilled jobs, fostering a startup culture, and becoming a major R&D hub for global companies. If this investment is implemented in the right direction, India can become not only a consumer but also a major producer of AI solutions. The advancements in AI have also raised numerous ethical and security questions, including serious concerns about data privacy, algorithmic bias, cybersecurity, and employment impacts. A key objective of the India AI Impact Summit was to find solutions to these challenges through global collaboration. India's platform for the voices of developing countries is an important step towards establishing balance in the international process. The fact that the first Global AI Summit was held in the Global South is historic. For too long, technological discourse has centered around developed countries. India has broken this tradition, demonstrating that developing countries can also play a significant role in innovation and policymaking. Many countries in the Global South are moving towards expanding digital infrastructure and data-driven governance. India's digital public infrastructure model, including

Aadhaar, UPI, and DigiLocker, has already been internationally acclaimed. Now, a similar shared model can be developed in the field of AI, benefiting small and middle-income countries. India's young population and technical talent are its greatest assets. The strong presence of Indian-origin experts in the world's leading tech companies demonstrates the country's strong tradition of mathematics and engineering. The challenge is to translate this talent into research and product development within the country. The growing funding for generative AI startups is a positive sign. Growing investor confidence suggests that Indian entrepreneurs are moving toward becoming product creators, not just service providers. However, reaching global competitiveness will require long-term and patient investment. Fostering research-based innovation requires strong collaboration between universities, industry, and government. AI is no longer a laboratory concept but a commercial reality. Finance, insurance, telecommunications, AI-based analytics and automation are driving productivity gains in the e-commerce and manufacturing sectors. If this trend becomes sustainable, AI could directly contribute to India's economic growth. The use of AI, particularly in sectors like agriculture, health, education, and the environment, holds immense potential for social impact. Precision farming in agriculture, dis-

ease prediction in health, customized learning in education, and climate analysis in the environment are all directly linked to India's development agenda. If AI solutions reach rural India, historic progress towards inclusive development is possible. India's multilingual cultural landscape poses both challenges and opportunities for AI. If India develops high-quality datasets and multilingual models for Indian languages, it will not only strengthen the domestic market but also enable it to export solutions to countries in the Global South. AI-based content creation, translation, and voice interfaces in the media and creative industries could create new economic opportunities. The expansion of AI infrastructure also poses challenges such as energy and water usage. The growing number of data centers could create environmental pressures. Therefore, balancing AI development with renewable energy and energy efficiency policies is a necessary balancing act. Technological leadership will only be sustainable if it is accompanied by environmental responsibility. Furthermore, considering the impact of AI on traditional jobs, skill upgrading is essential to prepare the next generation for emerging technologies. However, there is no doubt that the India AI Impact Summit 2026 has proven that India is not just a digital consumer behemoth but also capable of leading the global technological discourse.

Recent data from the Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways poses a serious challenge to road safety, environmental protection and the rule of law

Kishan Sanmukhdas Bhavani

Globally, India today is the world's largest democratic country with a population of over 1.426 billion. Smooth enforcement of law and order amidst such a huge population, diverse socio-economic conditions, rapid urbanization and rapidly increasing motor vehicles is an extraordinary challenge for any government. Thousands of central and state laws are in force in India and are followed satisfactorily in most areas. However, the implementation of road transport and traffic laws is an area where a serious gap exists between the system and reality. I, Advocate Kishan Sanmukhdas Bhavanani, Gondia, Maharashtra, would like to point out that the major

road transport laws and rules applicable to the public are: (1) Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Act, 2019: This law is enacted to enhance road safety and impose heavy penalties for violations (e.g., driving without a helmet/seatbelt, driving under the influence of alcohol). (2) Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989: It prescribes vehicle technical standards (e.g., pollution, lights, safety equipment). (3) National Highways Control (Land and Traffic) Act, 2002: It regulates the removal of encroachments on highways and the smooth flow of traffic. (4) The Carriage by Road Act, 2007: It deals with the rules and obligations of carriers transporting goods. (5) Transport Permits (Sections 66-70): A valid permit is mandatory for commercial vehicles.

These Acts must be strictly enforced. This failure is not merely a question of administrative laxity, but also of social mindset, technical infrastructure, political will, and moral discipline. The basic legal framework for road safety in India is based on the Motor Vehicles Act, which has been amended from time to time. These Acts aim to ensure vehicle registration, driving licenses, insurance, fitness, pollution control, and road safety standards. In 2019, extensive amendments were made to this Act, increasing penalties, encouraging digital enforcement, and delegating greater responsibilities to states. Despite this, the situation on the ground remains worrisome. According to recent data from the Union Ministry of Road Transport

and Highways, more than 70 percent of the approximately 407 million vehicles registered in the country are not complying with one statutory requirement or another. These include mandatory conditions such as pollution control certificates, valid insurance, fitness certificates, and timely registration renewals. Only about 80 million vehicles fall in the fully compliant category, while over 300 million vehicles ply on the roads with incomplete documents. Furthermore, over 20 million vehicles whose registrations have already been cancelled remain in the database. This situation is not merely a problem of administrative data; it poses a serious challenge to road safety, environmental protection, and the rule of law. Two-wheelers are

the biggest concern in India. Non-compliant vehicles include approximately 235 million two-wheelers. Non-use of helmets, triple-occupancy, minors driving, lack of insurance or fitness, these scenes have become commonplace in every small and large city in the country. From the small town of Gondia in Maharashtra to the metropolitan cities, the lack of traffic discipline is evident. Jumping signals, driving in the wrong direction, talking while driving, and performing stunts to create social media reels are no longer exceptions but are becoming a widespread social trend. The statement made by the mother of the deceased in the Dwarka incident, that this is not just an accident but a question of mentality, is central to India's road safety debate.

Meghalaya CM Conrad K Sangma condemns racial abuse of 3 Arunachal women in Delhi, says 'discrimination against northeast people must stop'

New Delhi, (GNS): Meghalaya chief minister Conrad K Sangma on Sunday strongly condemned discrimination against people from the Northeast in a social media post, saying such bias "must stop".

While Sangma did not explicitly refer to any specific incident, his remarks came around the time a purported video surfaced showing an altercation at a rented flat in Malviya Nagar, where three women from Arunachal Pradesh were allegedly subjected to racial slurs, humiliation and intimidation by their neighbours following a dispute over repair work.

According to police, an FIR has been registered at Malviya Nagar police station under relevant sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), including Section 79 (word intended to insult a woman's modesty),



Section 351(2) (criminal intimidation), Section 3(5) (common intention) and Section 196 (promoting enmity on grounds of religion, race, place of birth, residence, language, etc.). The case has been filed against two individuals identified as Harsh Singh and his wife Ruby Jain. No arrests have been made so far. Police said the incident

occurred on February 20 around 3.30 pm when the women called an electrician to their fourth-floor apartment for installing an air conditioner. During the drilling work, dust and debris reportedly fell to the floor below, prompting objections from neighbours.

What began as a disagreement over falling debris soon escalated, with the women alleging that the

couple hurled abuses and made derogatory and racial remarks targeting them and the Northeastern community.

A purported video of the confrontation, which has been circulating on social media, allegedly captures the accused using offensive language. In the footage, the woman is allegedly heard referring to the victims as "momo" and making remarks implying that Northeastern women work in massage parlours as sex workers. A police officer present at the scene is seen intervening and attempting to defuse the situation. The women denied the allegations and are seen confronting the couple in the video. One of them can allegedly be heard demanding that the neighbours verify claims made about her character, stating that the accusations were false and defamatory.

JDMC celebrates annual NCC festival with courage and unity



New Delhi, (GNS): Veerangana, a term emblematic of courage and indomitable womanhood, came vibrantly alive on February 21 at the 12th Annual NCC Festival hosted by Janki Devi Memorial College, Delhi University under the aegis of the National Cadet Corps, 5 Delhi Girls Battalion.

The festival was attended by Pankaj Saroha, Joint Director, Rajya Sabha Secretariat, Parliament of India, and Additional Deputy Commissioner, Municipal

Corporation of Delhi, as the Chief Guest. Colonel Hemant Kumar Shah, Commanding Officer, 5 Delhi Girls Battalion; Major Richa Sharma, Administrative Officer, 5 Delhi Girls Battalion, NCC university coordinator Major (Prof) Sanjay Kumar along with other esteemed officials were also present.

A defining highlight was the release of the Second Edition of the "Veerangna" Magazine - Grit to Glory, symbolising perseverance and achievement.

Delhi teen stabbed to death by group of minors in Mangolpuri after altercation; 3 held



New Delhi, (GNS): A 17-year-old boy was allegedly stabbed to death by a group of minors following a minor altercation in outer Delhi's Mangolpuri on Sunday night.

The teenager, a native of Bihar, assisted a relative at a local stall in the area. Police said a PCR call was received around 9 pm, reporting that a boy was stabbed. Initial enquiries revealed that he quarrelled with a group of boys shortly before the attack. He was rushed to a nearby hospital, where he later succumbed to his injuries. "We apprehended all 3

minors in connection with the case," said DCP (Outer) Sachin Sharma.

A case was registered, and further investigation is underway to ascertain the exact sequence of events and the nature of the dispute that led to the assault. Police are also probing whether the altercation was triggered after the accused allegedly asked the victim for a cigarette.

The victim's brother told media persons that the boy arrived in Delhi around 15 days ago and stepped out of his brother's shop to go to a nearby park at the time of the incident.

City savours slice of Holland and 'Silsila' as tulip dreams come true

New Delhi, (GNS): It was the 1981 classic 'Silsila' and its unforgettable song 'dekha ek khwab', filmed amid breathtaking tulip fields of Keukenhof in the Netherlands, which first introduced Indian audiences to the enchanting world of vibrant tulips. Many started dreaming of wandering through the fields with endless ribbons of colour.

Forty-five years later, the dream has come true as tulips are blooming across Delhi, transforming its familiar avenues into carpets of red, yellow, pink and purple.

Since 2017, New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) has been planting tulips across Lutyens' Delhi, and year after year, they continue to recreate a slice of the magic once seen on the silver screen.

Celebrating this floral bridge between India and the Netherlands, Marisa Gerards, Dutch ambassador to India, and her husband, Peter Knoope, hosted a special tulip



walk at her residence on Sunday. Nearly 50,000 tulips burst into bloom at her residence, bringing a touch of Keukenhof's iconic charm to Delhi.

"There are 3,000 varieties of tulips, ranging from classic single-colour blooms to rare and dramatic forms. At the height of their popularity, varieties were given grand titles such as 'Admiral' and 'General', and some were even named after historical figures," said Gerards.

Recalling a unique cultural connection between the two countries, she said a rare yellow-and-red tulip had been named after actor Aishwarya Rai Bachchan in 2005. Expressing her admiration for India's achievers, Gerards said, "There are people in India who do extraordinary work. I would like to pursue the idea of naming one of the varieties of tulips after an Indian celebrity or political

figure."

Drawing a parallel between national symbols of the two countries, she said, "Just as the lotus is deeply rooted in Indian culture, the tulip is inseparable from the Netherlands' identity. More than a seasonal bloom, it represents optimism and a fresh promise of spring."

Originally from central Asia, tulips were embraced by the Ottoman empire before being introduced to Europe in the 16th century. Over time, they became embedded in the Dutch cultural identity - evolving from ornamental garden flowers into global icons. "During the world wars, our ancestors even survived on tulip bulbs when there was nothing else to eat," Gerards said. In the 17th century, tulips became so coveted in the Netherlands that they triggered the famed 'Tulip Mania', with rare bulbs traded at prices comparable to that of a house.

Namo Bharat Launch: Joyride For Commuters

New Delhi, (GNS): For Puja Prajapati and her family, the excitement of the occasion outweighed the long wait. Puja, her husband Amit and son Prithvi travelled from Burari to the Sarai Kale Khan RRTS station around noon on Sunday, hoping to board the Nammo Bharat train to Meerut. After reaching the station, they learnt that service would begin at 6 pm.

Undeterred, the family waited nearly six hours and bought the first ticket to Begumpul at 5.45 pm, soon after the counter opened.

"Earlier, I could visit my family in Meerut's Ganga Nagar only during my son's school holidays. Now, I can make a quick trip and return the same day," said Puja, an artist. After boarding the premium coach, the family clicked selfies to mark the moment. "We travelled on the Nammo Bharat between Anand Vihar and Meerut South earlier, but



we were keen to board from the originating station the first day," Amit, an accountant, said.

The opening day saw a steady flow of passengers at the Sarai Kale Khan station. The 82-km journey from Sarai Kale Khan to Modipuram takes about 58 minutes for Rs 210, the maximum standard fare. Passengers opting for the premium coach have to pay

20% extra. Trains are scheduled at intervals of about 8-10 minutes. Though a 55-km section covering 11 stations from New Ashok Nagar to Meerut South was operational, the entire corridor, including the originating station of Sarai Kale Khan and three stations in Uttar Pradesh - Shatabdi Nagar, Begumpul and Modipuram - were opened to the public on Sunday by Prime

Minister Narendra Modi.

Many turned up simply for a joy ride. Mohan Rathore and his son, 12-year-old Sarthak, waited for almost seven hours at Sarai Kale Khan to board the first train. "My son and I had heard about it so much and we are excited to take a ride," said Rathore.

For many, the biggest advantage is reduced travel time. Vipin Kumar, who returned from Srinagar to Delhi, said the service would ease his commute home. "Earlier, I had to take a bus that stopped frequently and took around 2.5 hours to reach Meerut. Travelling with luggage was difficult. Now I can reach home in less than an hour." The service is also benefits passengers boarding from the intermediate cities. Arshi Khan, a private-sector employee, said she chose the train to reach her home in Ghaziabad faster. "It helps me avoid traffic and saves time," she said.

Delhi bomb scare: Threat emails sent to Army Public School, Air Force Bal Bharti School

New Delhi, (GNS): Bomb threat emails were received at Army Public School in Dhaula Kuan and Air Force Bal Bharti School on Lodhi Road, Delhi Fire Service officials said on Monday. Police and security agencies initiated precautionary measures and began an investigation to trace the source of the email. Further details are awaited.

The latest threat comes days after at least three schools in the national capital received similar bomb threat emails on Thursday morning, triggering panic and a swift multi-agency response. The emails were sent to CRPF Public School, St Thomas School in Dwarka, and DAV Centenary Public School in Paschim Enclave. Fire tenders, police teams,



bomb disposal squads, and dog squads were rushed to the campuses, while students and staff were evacuated as a precaution.

Officials said no suspicious objects were found during initial searches, and cyber teams were tasked with tracing the origin and authenticity of the emails.

United flavours of India at Rashtrapati Bhavan State banquets

New Delhi, (GNS): Links between food and diplomacy may be old and historical but they seldom make it to the table when it comes to conversations around a nation's global standing. A departure from norm occurred late last year when Frontiers in Political Science, a highly-cited journal focused on policies that influence governmental operation, chronicled the power of dinner in diplomacy.

The research examined how diplomatic meals in Portugal (1910-2023) were shaped by Portuguese foreign policy and geopolitical contexts and how Portuguese gastronomic culture has been leveraged as a culinary diplomacy and geopolitical rapprochement

strategy. "Culinary practices have facilitated Portuguese diplomatic negotiations while providing opportunities for cultural exchange and political messaging," the paper concluded.

Days after the research became a talking point in diplomatic circles, Rashtrapati Bhavan here at home tried something that had never been tried at banquets hosted for the visiting heads of states. On January 27, Restaurant NAAR, which began operations from Himachal Pradesh's Kasauli around 2022, was invited to serve the banquet President Droupadi Murmu hosted for India's Republic Day guests - President of the European Council Antonio Costa and

President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen.

This was a rare moment when a private restaurant owner, Prateek Sadhu, and his team headed by chef Kamlesh Negi were invited to lead the state banquet preparations at Rashtrapati Bhavan.

The menu that emerged echoed India's Himalayan traditions as Murmu employed a regional cuisine to advance national democratic credentials by laying India's "culinary diversity" on the table for the EU top guns. The menu NAAR unveiled at the banquet carried the following description - "Here is a slice of India's living culinary heritage reimagined through the vision of a new genera-

tion of chefs and culinary researchers who are redefining how the world experiences our cuisine. Drawing inspiration from the Indian Himalayan belt, each course of the menu is a tribute to the wisdom of mountain communities, their landscape and time, honour relationships with food, while presenting these traditions in a contemporary and refined form. Rooted in regional produce and ancient cooking techniques, these dishes echo the diversity of the Himalayan region from Kashmir and Ladakh to Himachal, Uttarakhand, and the vibrant Northeast, characterised by earth, the grains, forest hubs, fermented elements and slow-cooked preparations."

The shift was stark. For

decades, Indian President's state banquets had served a broad national palate, drawing ingredients and flavours from all over the country. Of late, however, Rashtrapati Bhavan has started serving regional cuisines. While the Himalayan philosophy guided the banquet for EU leaders, the courses served for Patrick Herminie, President of Seychelles, on February 9 were inspired by centuries old cultural ties the two nations share as cohabitants of the Indian Ocean region. Each course curated for the Seychelles head of state showcased rich culinary elements from India's coastal regions of Gujarat, Maharashtra, Kerala, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, where spices, coconut, bananas, lentils and rice

form part of the rhythm of daily lives.

Earlier on December 5, 2025, Russian President Vladimir Putin was treated to a pan-Indian flavour, complete with cottage cheese, slow-cooked

spinach, stuffed chargrilled potatoes, baby aubergines and a hearty blend of yellow lentils simmered with tomato and onion and tempered with cumin and asafoetida.

WESTERN RAILWAY VARIOUS WORKS
PROVIDING FACILITIES FOR DIVYANGJAN IN VARIOUS STATIONS
 Divisional Railway Manager (WA), Western Railway, 6th floor, Engg. Deptt., Mumbai Central, Mumbai - 400 008. Invites E-Tender Notice No: BCT/25-26/320 dt. 18/02/2026. Work and Location: Joravasan-Surat Section: Providing ramp, tactile tiles, parking lot, slip resistance surface etc. for divyangjan in various stations under DEN/C/Mumbai Central. Approx. Cost of Work: ₹ 3,01,18,640.14. EMD: ₹ 3,00,600/- Date & Time of Submission: Till 17.03.2026, 15:00 Hrs. Date & Time of Opening: On 17.03.2026 at 15:30 Hrs. For further details please visit our website www.ireps.gov.in 1143
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WESTERN RAILWAY VARIOUS WORKS
 Dy. Chief Signal & Telecom Engineer (Construction) Western Railway, Railam, Invites Tender No: S&T/C/RTM/117/2025-26, Dated: 17.02.2026. Name of Work: Design, Supply, Installation, Programming, Testing & Commissioning of New Hot Standby Electronic Interlocking System, with Supply, Installation, testing & Commissioning of various indoor & outdoor Signalling Systems & gears in DHARSARDARPUR Section of Ratlam division in connection with Dahod-Indore new BG Line work of Ratlam Division, Western Railway (MP). Estimated Cost of Work: ₹ 14,04,26,987/- Cost of Earnest Money: ₹ 8,52,100/- Bidding Start Date: 05.03.2026. Closing Date & Time: On 19.03.2026 at 15:00 hrs. For further details please visit our website www.ireps.gov.in 1142
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WESTERN RAILWAY VARIOUS WORK
 Divisional Railway Manager (WA), Western Railway, 6th floor, Engg. Deptt., Mumbai Central, Mumbai - 400 008. Invites Sr. No.1. E-Tender Notice No: BCT/25-26/318 dt. 17/02/2026. Work and Location: (1) Mumbai Central (Main): Pre-monsoon cleaning and maintaining cleanliness of valley gutter of COP for a period of monsoon and pre-monsoon cleaning of terrace slab of building under jurisdiction of SSE (W-I) Mumbai Central. (2) Marline Lines to Khar: Pre-monsoon cleaning and maintaining cleanliness of valley gutter of COP for a period of monsoon and pre-monsoon cleaning of terrace slab of buildings under jurisdiction of ADEN(W/S) Bandra. (3) Mumbai Central to Prabhadevi: Pre-monsoon cleaning and maintaining cleanliness of valley gutter covering shed and terrace slab of buildings under jurisdiction of ADEN (Est/S) Lower Parel, including Mumbai Central Carshed, Mahalaxmi Workshop, Lower Parel Workshop & Wadala Railway Colony. Cost of Work: ₹ 29,44,916.04. EMD: ₹ 58,900/- Sr. No.2. E-Tender Notice No: BCT/25-26/319 dt. 17/02/2026. Work and Location: Mahalaxmi - Construction of 12 Units Type-VI Quarters, 23 Units Type-V Quarters & 03 Units Transit Quarters. (Composite tender). Approx. Cost of Work: ₹ 23,38,30,072.36. EMD: ₹ 13,19,200/- Date and Time of Submission of both Tenders: Till 17.03.2026, 15:00 Hrs. Date & Time of Opening of both Tenders: On 17.03.2026 at 15:30 Hrs. For further details please visit our website www.ireps.gov.in 1145
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Gujarat state so far

THE BIGGEST BUDGET

₹ 4 Lakh 8 Thousand 53 Crore

The goal of
'Earning Well, Living Well'
is being pursued

The state government's holistic and all-inclusive approach

The budget rests on five pillars: social security, human resource development, infrastructure, economic development, and green growth.

Provision of ₹16,116 Crore for

Swarnim Jayanti Mukhyamantri Shaheri Vikas Yojana

Provision of ₹2,000 Crore for

Six Regions: South Gujarat, Central Gujarat, North Gujarat, Saurashtra, Coastal Saurashtra, and Kutch

Provision of ₹4,272 Crore for

Construction of Over 3.15 Lakh Houses Under Various Schemes to Achieve the Vision of **"Homes for Everyone"**

Investment of ₹1,250 Crore to

Modernise 25 GIDCs with Advanced Technology; Investment of ₹50 Crore for Renovation of 125 Mini GIDCs

Provision of ₹3,472 Crore for

Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Mukhyamantri Amrutam (**MAA Yojana**)

Additional Provision of ₹3,000 Crore

Namo Shakti Expressway and Somnath Dwarka Expressway Projects

Under Viksit Bharat – Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) VB-G RAM G, Working Days Increased from 100 to 125, with an **Allocation of ₹1500 Crore**

Provision of **₹5,967 Crore for Scholarships to Around 97 Lakh Students** by the Departments of Social Justice, Tribal Affairs and Education

Gujarat State Export Promotion Council (GEPC) Will Be Established to Boost Gujarat's Exports

Provision of ₹1,565 Crore for Assistance in the Purchase of Various Agricultural Mechanisation Tools

Provision of ₹47 Crore to Boost Women's Self-Employment Opportunities

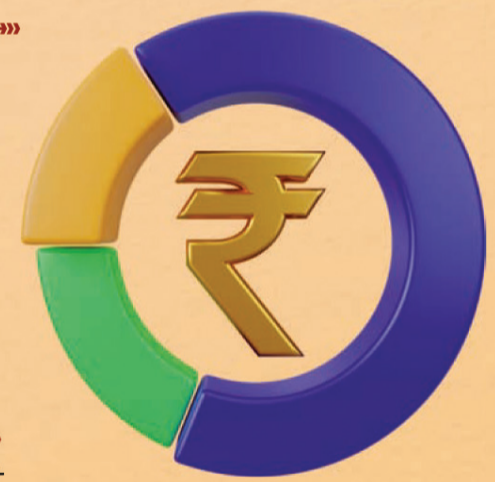
Five New Satellite Towns (Kalol, Sanand, Savli, Bardoli, and Hirasar) to Be Developed to Reduce the Burden on Major Cities and Create New Employment Opportunities

Provision of ₹5,600 Crore Under Mukhyamantri Gram Sadak Yojana

Provision of ₹1,286 Crore for 2,463 New Buses, Including 500 AC Electric Buses, and 500 Midi Buses for Tribal and Industrial Areas

Provision of ₹60 Crore for Establishing a Data Fusion Centre and a Centre of Excellence for AI in Policing for Gujarat Police

Decision to Increase Monthly Assistance for Students (Belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Developing Castes, and Economically Backward Classes) Studying in Ashram Shalas and **Grant-in-Aid Hostels to ₹2,500, increase of ₹340**



" Giving a new momentum to the progress of 'Garvi Gujarat', this historic Budget 2026-27 will touch every aspect of citizen life, empower it, and ensure equal opportunities for development for all. "

- Shri Harsh Sanghavi, Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister, Gujarat

