



India in the T20 World Cup semi-finals:



New Delhi(GNS): India has qualified for the semi-finals of the T20 World Cup. The team will now face England at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai on March 5th. In the final Super 8 match, India defeated the West Indies by 5 wickets. Sanju Samson top-scored with

They will face England on March 5th, defeating West Indies by 5 wickets thanks to Sanju Samson's unbeaten 97

an unbeaten 97. Batting first at Eden Gardens in Kolkata, West Indies made 195 for 4 in 20 overs. Roston Chase (40) and Jason Holder (37 not out) made key contributions, while Jasprit Bumrah took two wickets. Chasing a target of 196, India got off to a shaky start. Abhishek Sharma and Ishan Kishan each made 10 runs before being dismissed. Tilak Varma scored 27 runs off 15 balls, while captain Suryakumar Yadav added 18 runs off 16 balls. However, Sanju Samson held firm at one end, sharing a 58-run partnership with Suryakumar Yadav off 35 balls to steady the Indian innings. West Indies scored 70 runs in the last 5 overs. At one point, the Caribbean

team's score was 125/4 in 15 overs. The team scored 70 runs in the last 5 overs. Rovman Powell and Jason Holder made a crucial partnership of 76 runs not out in 35 balls for the 5th wicket. Captain Shai Hope and Roston Chase added 68 runs in 53 balls. **Tilak Varma was out after scoring 27 runs.** In the 14.4th over, Tilak Varma was caught trying to play a big shot off a slower delivery from Jason Holder. The ball was on middle stump, and Tilak moved out of his crease to play an inside-out shot, but failed to give the ball enough height. Hetmyer, standing at mid-off, took a brilliant catch running backwards. Tilak scored 27 runs in 15 balls, including 4 fours and 1 six.

Iranian Supreme Leader Khamenei killed in US-Israeli attack:

Trump said – 48 leaders eliminated in one stroke, 9 Iranian ships sunk

Tel Aviv/Tehran(GNS): Israel and the United States have attacked Iran for the second consecutive day. The attack targeted the headquarters of the Iranian Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC). On Saturday, the first day of the attack, Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei was killed. US President Donald Trump said on Sunday that 48 Iranian "leaders" had been killed in the attacks. He also said the US had sunk nine Iranian ships. The Israeli Air Force said



in collaboration with the US, had dropped more than 1,200 bombs on Iran in the past 24 hours. Khamenei's office complex was hit by 30 missiles, killing 40 commanders inside, including his daughter-in-law, granddaughter. Iran has declared 40 days of state mourning and a seven-day holiday following Khamenei's death. Meanwhile, the Iranian military has launched attacks on several Middle Eastern countries, including Israel.

PM launches projects worth Rs 7,100 crore in Tamil Nadu and Puducherry

Chennai(GNS): PM Narendra Modi visited Puducherry and Tamil Nadu on Sunday. He inaugurated infrastructure projects worth over 2,700 crore in Puducherry and 4,400 crore in Tamil Nadu. He also inaugurated eight newly constructed Amrit Bharat railway stations and three new All India Radio FM relay transmitters in Tamil Nadu. Modi then addressed a gathering in Madurai. "Tamil Nadu will play a decisive role in shaping the nation's future," Modi said. "Our collective goal is a developed Tamil Nadu for a developed India." The Prime Minister then visited the Arulmigu Subramanya Swamy Temple in Tirupparankundram, Madurai. He offered prayers and prostrated himself



before the temple priests, presenting him with a picture of the deity. **Coastal state Tamil Nadu has immense potential for development: Modi** Tamil Nadu is a coastal state with immense potential for development. However, when the Congress and DMK were in power previously, they were inactive. The Maduravoyal Corridor stalled, and the Thoothukudi transshipment remained on paper. After 2014, we acquired the Chennai Port. We revived the port and the Maduravoyal Elevated Corridor. We created India's first port cluster by integrating the Kamaraja and Chennai ports.

Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel holds one-to-one meetings with various industry leaders and investors attending the Gujarat SemiConnect Conference 2026

Gandhinagar(GNS): Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel inaugurated the 'Gujarat SemiConnect Conference 2026' with great fanfare in Gandhinagar on Sunday. This two-day conference has been organised under the theme "Gujarat – India's Gateway to Silicon" by the state government's Department of Science and Technology, with the aim of promoting strategic collaboration between high-tech chip manufacturers and local industry. In one-to-one meetings held between Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel and various industry leaders attending the conference, productive discussions took place on establishing R&D centres, memory module facilities, power chip manufacturing units, and specialty chemical facilities in the semiconductor sector. Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel provided a detailed overview of the robust



ecosystem in place for semiconductor industries in Gujarat — including Dholera and Sanand — and elaborated on the state government's proactive approach. Among those who met the Chief Minister in these one-to-one sessions were: Shri Meghav Mehta, MD of Deepak Nitrite Ltd; Dato Seri Lee Hung Lung, Chairman of Malaysia-based Hotai Electronics; Shri Makoto Terada, MD of Suchi-ROHM Semiconductor India, along with founder Shri Ashok Mehta; Shri Rajeev Gautam of Horiba India; and Ms. Radhika Viswanathan, COO of Applied Materials. Chief Secretary Shri M. K. Das, Additional Chief Secretary of the Industries Department Smt. Mamta Verma, Principal Secretary to the Chief Minister Shri Sanjeev Kumar, Industries Commissioner Shri P. Swaroop, Additional Principal Secretary to the Chief Minister Dr. Vikrant Pandey, and Science & Technology Secretary Smt. P. Bharati were also present at the one-to-one meetings.

Kejriwal said – the court's decision is a slap on the face of the BJP:

Modi himself was monitoring this case to finish us off.

New Delhi(GNS): Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) convener Arvind Kejriwal said that the court's decision in the alleged liquor scam is a strong slap on the face of the Bharatiya Janata Party.

He said at a rally at Delhi's Jantar Mantar on Sunday that Modi himself was monitoring the case to destroy AAP. He accused Modi and Shah of harassing him for four years.

The rally was held after his acquittal in the liquor scam case. At the rally, he praised the court's decision in the liquor scam case, calling it a victory for the people of the national capital, Delhi, and the country.

Rajiv Gandhi's name will be removed from Patiala Law University

Proposal passed in Academic Council, now the Management Board and the government have to take a decision

Patiala(GNS): The name of Patiala University's Academic Council has passed a resolution to remove former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's name from the

university's name. This proposal will now be sent to the Management Board. After receiving approval there, the matter will go to

the Punjab government for a final decision. The university was established in 2006 under the Punjab Act. The state was then governed by the Congress. The

then-Chief Minister, Captain Amarinder Singh, passed a resolution in the Punjab Legislative Assembly establishing it. Now, its name will be changed.

Now, its name will be changed.

Blast at gunpowder company in Nagpur Maharashtra, 17 dead

18 people in critical condition, explosion occurred while preparing material

Nagpur(GNS): An explosion occurred at ammunition manufacturing company SBL Energy Limited located in Raulgaon of Nagpur district in Maharashtra at around 7 am on Sunday.

Seventeen workers were killed and 18 injured in the accident, many of whom are in critical condition. Fire brigade and rescue teams arrived at the scene as soon as the accident was reported. Efforts are underway to control the factory fire.

The fire brigade reported that the blast scattered debris throughout the company. Some employees trapped under the rubble have been rescued. Fifteen injured people have been taken to a hospital in Nagpur.

PM Modi expressed grief over the incident and announced an ex-gratia of Rs 2 lakh each to the families of the deceased and Rs 50,000 to the injured.

India closely monitoring Af-Pak escalation backs Taliban but wary of full-blown conflict

New Delhi(GNS): India was closely monitoring the situation as Afghanistan and Pakistan seemed poised for a dangerous escalation, with Islamabad declaring that the two countries were in an "open war" following Pakistan's airstrikes on "terrorist hideouts" in Afghanistan and the latter's retaliatory action. Unconfirmed reports said that senior Taliban leaders were killed in Pakistan's latest air assaults on Kabul but the Indian side could not independently verify such claims.

The relationship between Pakistan and Afghanistan has unravelled dramatically in the past few years, after the initial euphoria in Islamabad over the return of the Taliban in 2021. Pakistan has blamed Tehreek-i-Taliban (TTP) or Pakistan Taliban for terrorist attacks on

its soil and on several occasions launched targeted strikes against TTP or its splinter groups' alleged hideouts in Afghanistan. According to Islamabad, Baloch insurgents also find sanctuary in Afghanistan. Kabul has mostly responded with what it calls necessary and measured military action.

On this occasion though, Pakistan has directly targeted the not just terrorist infrastructure but also Afghanistan military facilities in Kabul and other cities. What happens next, and if there's a full-blown war or not, will likely depend on whether the Taliban are prepared to go further up the ladder of escalation. India's own ties with the Taliban have seen a stunning turnaround during this period, initially on the back of its large-scale humanitarian assistance

to Kabul and now the commitment to fulfil the development needs of the Afghan people, circumventing the lack of international recognition for the regime. India's response so far to the Pakistan-Afghanistan crisis so far has been a manifestation of this new reality that Islamabad must contend with. India has continued to maintain that Pakistan's cross-border adventurism resulting in civilian casualties is nothing but a ploy to deflect attention from its domestic failures. The Indian government called Pakistan's airstrikes earlier this week an attempt to externalise its internal failures. India also strongly backs Afghanistan's sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence. The Taliban reciprocated suitably to these gestures as they endorsed, much to Pakistan's chagrin, a mention of

J&K as a part of India in a joint statement issued after Afghanistan foreign minister Amir Khan Muttaqi's unprecedented visit to India last year in October. The Taliban have also dismissed Islamabad's claims that India is using Afghanistan and its alleged links with the TTP to target Pakistan.

However, while an antagonistic relationship between the two countries allays fears about Pakistan's longstanding policy of using Afghanistan for strategic depth, a major military escalation that would imperil regional stability is more than what India would bargain for. In fact, it would come at the least opportune time for India as the government, after a period of relative peace, looks to resume its development work in the country including through the launch of new projects.

Kejriwal's decision: Signals, messages and politics

Tanveer Jafri

Delhi's Rouse Avenue Court recently acquitted all 23 accused, including Arvind Kejriwal and Manish Sisodia, in the controversial Delhi Excise Policy case. The court described the evidence presented by the CBI as weak and insufficient, stating that no criminal conspiracy or intent by the accused was proven. The court stated that mere claims are not enough; concrete evidence is also necessary. The court stated that the charge sheet contained flaws and no evidence was found. This court decision has sparked a stir in political circles. It is noteworthy that the Kejriwal government in Delhi implemented a new excise policy in November 2021. The stated objective of this policy was to increase customer convenience and curb

the black marketing of liquor by privatizing liquor sales. However, in July 2022, the then LG of Delhi, VK Saxena, recommended a CBI investigation, citing procedural flaws, arbitrary decisions, and losses of over ₹500 crore in the Chief Secretary's report.

At that time, the Central Government's subordinate agencies, the CBI and the Enforcement Directorate (ED), alleged that the new excise policy was formulated by the then Delhi government's Excise Minister, Manish Sisodia, to benefit private liquor companies. Several Aam Aadmi Party leaders received cashbacks worth ₹100 crore (approximately \$1 billion). The then Chief Minister, Arvind Kejriwal, was accused of being the mastermind behind the entire scandal. Following this, in July 2022, a case was registered by the

CBI and ED in August, based on the LG's recommendation. The new excise policy was repealed in September. Subsequently, Manish Sisodia was arrested in February 2023, and Kejriwal in March 2024. While the relevant court has acquitted all 23 accused, including Kejriwal and Sisodia, there are reports that the CBI may potentially approach the High Court to challenge the lower court's decision.

However, following this court decision, the opposition is once again attacking the central government. It was during the Modi government that agencies like the ED and CBI attempted to take action against Arvind Kejriwal and other Chief Ministers and leaders of opposition parties. Arrests were also made, but in most cases, they either granted bail, were discharged, or received relief from the

court. For example, Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren was arrested by the ED in 2024 on charges of land scams and money laundering. He was forced to resign as Chief Minister and go to jail. Subsequently, the Supreme Court stayed the ED's proceedings in 2026, and he returned to the position of Chief Minister after his release. Similarly, the High Court approved an investigation by the ED into the MUDA scam against Karnataka's Congress Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, but the Lokayukta gave him a clean chit. Similarly, Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan was once issued a FEMA notice of ₹466 crore by the ED and several show-cause notices. However, no arrests have been made yet. Similarly, the ED and CBI have questioned former Telangana Chief Ministers

Chandrashekhara Rao, D. Shivakumar, and former Punjab Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi, among others.

Recently, former Haryana Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda received a significant reprieve from the Punjab and Haryana High Court in the AJL land allotment case in Panchkula. The court quashed the CBI special court's order to frame charges against Hooda and granted him a clean chit. Based on this, the CBI court's order to frame charges was set aside. However, departments subordinate to the central government, such as the ED, CBI, and Income Tax, not only embroiled opposition leaders in trouble by leveling accusations against them, but also attempt to tarnish their political image with such accusations.

Editorial

Milk adulteration: Not an economic crime, but the height of moral degradation

Today, India proudly claims to be the world's largest milk producer. Our share of global milk production is approximately 25%. We are number one when it comes to juggling statistics, but have we ever looked deeper into the glass of milk we feed our children, believing it to be nectar? Recent reports and newspaper claims are not only shocking but also horrifying.

Because, unfortunately, today, one in three milk samples tested nationwide is failing the test. This isn't just statistical data, but an alarming indicator of the failure of our public health system. According to the FSSAI report, the adulteration rate in milk was 16.64% between 2015 and 2018, which increased to 38% by 2022. This means that almost every third glass is adulterated.

This problem is more severe in northern Indian states. The rate of non-conforming milk samples in North India has been found to be as high as 47%.

But the problem is not just that the figures of adulteration in milk have reached dangerous levels, the challenge is how careless our system is regarding this serious issue related to the health of the country.

A report from Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh, indicates that in the past five years, 490 cases of adulteration of dairy products were registered, and fines totaling 3.66 crore rupees were imposed, yet the recovery remained negligible. When the law remains unenforced, adulterators are bound to be emboldened.

Have we ever wondered what exactly is in that glass of adulterated milk?

We often think that adulteration simply means adding water to milk. If only that were true! Water only reduces nutrition, but what's being added today is downright deadly! The greed of profiteers reaches such a level that washing powder and urea are used to create foam and enhance the appearance of fat in milk. It is a well-known fact that urea directly impacts our kidneys. Apart from this, to make the milk look white and thick, low quality oil and caustic soda are added, which can completely destroy the digestive system.



The Kayad rest house in Ajmer, Rajasthan, witnessed a major event of national importance on Saturday, when Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the nationwide Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) vaccination campaign. This campaign is considered an important step towards protecting girls aged 9 to 14 from cervical cancer. During the program, while the Prime Minister declared the health of girls a national priority, he also launched a sharp political attack on the Congress in his address. He also elaborated on issues related to development, security, water management, energy, and farmers' interests.



Nationwide HPV vaccination campaign launched from Ajmer, Prime Minister targets Congress stresses on development and security

Kantilal Mandot

The gathering began with the formal HPV vaccination. The Prime Minister interacted with some girl students to assess their understanding of the vaccine's importance. He also discussed studies and exams with them, encouraging them to move forward with confidence. The campaign aims to prevent cervical cancer, which kills thousands of women in the country every year. The government believes that timely vaccination can significantly reduce the risk of this disease. The vaccination drive began with a special dome erected at the venue, and the entire event was broadcast live.

In his address, the Prime Minister accused the Congress party of attempting to tarnish the country's image on international platforms. He stated that the party, once known as the Indian National Congress, has now deviated from its original form. He sharply stated that the country will never forgive the Congress party's actions. Referring to the recent International AI Conference, he said that the world is applauding India's progress, but the opposition is busy defaming the country. The activists present at the gathering expressed strong support for his statement.

Speaking on Rajasthan's development, the Prime Minister said that the state is now "prospering through the power of the sun." Referring to the Prime

Minister's Free Electricity Scheme and solar energy projects, he said that sunlight is now becoming a source of income and savings for the common people. He described river-linking projects as a boon for the state, which is grappling with water scarcity. Initiatives like the Parvati-Kalisindh-Chambal Link Project and the Yamuna-Rajasthan Link Project will provide farmers with adequate water for irrigation and improve groundwater levels. He said that the double-engine government is rapidly advancing these projects.

In his speech, the Prime Minister also mentioned national security and the achievements of the military. He said that in recent years, the Indian Army has brought honor to the country on every front. Referring to the surgical strikes and other operations, he said that India has sent a strong message against terrorism. He alleged that the opposition has attempted to undermine the morale of the military even on such issues. The gathering raised slogans in support of the military and welcomed the Prime Minister's statement.

Referring to the brave sons of Rajasthan, the Prime Minister said that the state's history of valor is respected worldwide. He recalled the bravery of Indian soldiers, especially Major Dalpat Singh, who were martyred during World War I in Haifa, Israel. He said that he had the opportunity to pay homage to these heroes in the Israeli



Parliament, and it was a matter of pride for all of Rajasthan. This incident created an emotional atmosphere in the gathering.

During the event, the Prime Minister also inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for various development projects. Forty-three projects, costing over 16,000 crore, will strengthen urban development, road, drinking water, energy, railway, and industrial infrastructure. The expansion of national highways, flyover construction, and drinking water projects are expected to directly benefit several districts in the state. Strengthening the power transmission system and establishing new grid substations will improve energy supply. Efforts to develop infrastructure in the Jodhpur-Pali industrial belt will also be accelerated.

The distribution of appointment letters to youth was also a major attraction at the gathering. Thousands of young people selected for various state government departments received

their appointment letters from the Prime Minister. This not only generated enthusiasm among the youth but also conveyed the message of the government's employment generation policy. A large number of women, saints, and BJP workers were present at the event. Extensive security arrangements were made, and the entire area was under the control of security agencies.

This gathering in Ajmer wasn't just the launch of a vaccination campaign, but it showcased various dimensions of health, development, politics, and nationalism. On one hand, there was a commitment to protecting the health of daughters, while on the other, there was a sharp attack on political opponents. The message delivered from the soil of Rajasthan was clear: the government prioritizes health security, infrastructure development, and national pride. The impact of the HPV vaccination campaign and the progress of these projects will determine the true success of this event.

Emotions mixed in gulal, happiness hidden in caution

Yogesh Kumar Goyal

On Holi, the festival of colors, who wouldn't want to forget their mutual animosity and become drenched in vibrant colors? People express their joy by smearing colors and applying gulal on each other, but the increasing use of bright chemical colors instead of natural colors on Holi is becoming a cause for concern. Most colors are acidic or alkaline, commercially produced, and even a small amount of water can produce vibrant colors, leading to their indiscriminate use on Holi. These colors have a very harmful effect on the skin. People with dry skin, especially the delicate skin of women and children, are particularly vulnerable to these colors. The effects of the acid and alkali cause

itching, and after some time, small white rashes filled with pus begin to appear on the skin. If treated promptly and properly, they are fine; otherwise, serious skin diseases can develop. Poor quality commercial colors can cause various harms, including allergies, skin conditions, irritation, eye damage, headaches, and more. Sometimes, even small carelessness on Holi can cause lifelong pain. Therefore, if you want to make your Holi a joyful and memorable one, be sure to pay attention to a few important things.

Use natural colors instead of chemical colors. Most commercial colors contain engine oil and various harmful chemicals, which have a very bad effect on the skin. Before playing Holi, apply mustard or coconut oil or cold cream or sun-

screen cream on the face and entire body so that the pores get closed and the colors remain on the upper part of the skin. This will also make it easier to remove the color from the skin after playing Holi. Before playing Holi, oil your hair thoroughly and apply castor oil on the nails so that the color can be removed easily later. Before going to play Holi, put rose water in the eyes and as far as possible, play Holi wearing glasses so that the colors do not affect the eyes.

Women should wear thick, loose-fitting cotton and dark-colored clothing while playing Holi. White or light-colored clothing can soak into water and stick to the body, causing embarrassment in public. Never behave in a manner that could give your relatives, husband's

friends, or other men an inappropriate opportunity to harass you. Maintain complete restraint, decency, and decorum. Even if you witness someone's inappropriate behavior, remain silent and avoid encouraging them to escalate. Bathe immediately after playing Holi, but using laundry soap, kerosene, lime water, yogurt, turmeric, etc. to remove color from the skin is harmful. Wipe the gulal (coloured powder) from your face thoroughly with a dry cloth. If any color remains, gently clean the skin with a cotton ball dipped in coconut oil or cleansing milk.

To remove the color, add a little alum in the bathing water and take a bath with cold water only. Hot water makes the color even more firm. Good quality bathing soap can be

used instead of detergent soap. If you feel itching or burning sensation on the skin even after bathing, then apply glycerin mixed with rose water. Shampoo your hair to remove the color from the hair. Put rose water in the eyes after bathing. If color gets into the eyes while playing Holi or you feel burning sensation in the eyes, then do not rub the eyes but immediately consult an eye specialist.

Holi is not just a spectacle of colors, but a celebration that touches the depths of human emotions. If our enthusiasm is tainted by carelessness and harms someone's skin, eyes, or the environment, the very spirit of the festival is hurt. Therefore, the true joy of Holi is found only when it is imbued with awareness and sensitivity.

Master Plan 2041 to get nod soon: Rekha

New Delhi, (GNS): Delhi's Master Plan 2041 is likely to be approved soon, chief minister Rekha Gupta said on Saturday while presenting her govt's one-year report card in the south Delhi Lok Sabha constituency.

South Delhi MP Ramvir Singh Bidhuri and MLA Kailash Gahlot were also present at the event. Gupta said Delhiites were awaiting the new Master Plan to guide the capital's planned development. The Master Plan 2021, which shaped Delhi's land use, housing, infrastructure and commercial growth, has lapsed, leaving a policy gap for long-term urban planning. The proposed Master Plan 2041 - in the works for years - is expected to provide clarity on land use, housing and infrastructure for the next two decades.

Gupta attended the public meeting as part of an outreach drive to engage with residents after completing one year in office. She said her govt had



focused on service delivery, governance and development over the past year. "Under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji, we worked

with the resolve of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas'. In this one year, our govt laid the foundation of a developed Delhi by ensuring that all parts of the city, includ-

ing south Delhi, were brought into the mainstream of development," she said.

Bidhuri said crores were being spent on development works in south Delhi. "CM Gupta got around Rs 40,000 crore sanctioned from the Centre and Delhi govt for the development of south Delhi. The funds are being spent on key infrastructure projects, including metro expansion, elevated roads, flyovers, roads, electricity, water supply, sewerage, schools, dispensaries and parks. Development works worth at least Rs 200 crore to Rs 700 crore are being undertaken in each assembly constituency in south Delhi, while nearly Rs 2,000 crore has been allocated specifically for village development," he said.

Gupta added that her govt was committed to eliminating the city's "mountains of garbage" and ensuring a cleaner, pollution-free capital.

Govt pension: Najafgarh tops list of beneficiaries

New Delhi, (GNS): The capital's outskirts and high-density areas are leaning more on state support, an area-wise map of its old-age pensioners shows. While these areas dominate the list of 4.4 lakh Delhi govt pension beneficiaries, central and Lutyens' Delhi have the lowest numbers.

Najafgarh tops the list with 11,653 senior citizens who receive pension, followed by Uttam Nagar (11,198), Bawana (10,426), Rithala (10,305) and Narela (10,259). In contrast, New Delhi has just 1,164 beneficiaries - the lowest in the city - followed by Delhi Cantt (1,937) and R K Puram (2,036).

Overall, nine constituencies, including Mundka, Mustafabad and Gokalpur, have cross the 9,000 mark. These areas are largely marked by informal and migratory labourers and weaker family-safety nets.

"The distribution of the beneficiaries shows the social secu-

city map of the capital. Areas with high numbers of such beneficiaries show that thousands of people who spent their careers in the informal economy are now ageing without a financial cushion, apart from this meagre financial support from Delhi govt," said an official. This pension is provided to registered beneficiaries under Delhi Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, and is handled by the department of social welfare of Delhi govt.

Seniors who are between 60 and 69 years receive Rs 2,000 a month. Those who are 70 or older get Rs 2,500. Only those with a family income below Rs 1 lakh qualify for this pension.

On Feb 4, Delhi govt cleared pending payments, with registered beneficiaries receiving the arrears in bank accounts. The payment had been pending for months because of technical and administrative reasons.

Demarcation of floodplain: 'Different weights on 7 planets' thrill kids at Vigyan Utsav

NGT seeks report in 2 weeks

New Delhi, (GNS): Calling the Aug 2026 deadline for the demarcation of the Yamuna floodplain in Delhi unreasonable, National Green Tribunal has directed Delhi govt to submit a fresh report within two weeks with a shorter and more reasonable schedule.

The tribunal earlier took cognisance of media reports, including of media, on flooding and delay in the demarcation of the floodplain along the 22km Yamuna stretch from Wazirabad to Palla in Delhi.

In a report dated Dec 5, 2025, which was submitted to NGT, Delhi govt outlined steps taken towards compliance with earlier tribunal directions requiring the demarcation in line with the criteria adopted for the Ganga.

The report added that the irrigation & flood control department shared Survey of India data with Geospatial Delhi Limited, which prepared a preliminary PDF map super-



imposing one-metre contours over the 1:100-year floodplain boundary. However, no ground truthing has been conducted yet. The study awarded to Central Water and Power Research Station (CWPRS), Pune, faced technical limitations due to data gaps and the completion has been projected for Aug 2026, the report stated.

NGT observed that the work assigned to CWPRS might not have much relevance for the floodplain demarcation since the exercise was required to be completed based on Survey of India's data.

New Delhi, (GNS): "Standing" on the surface" of Neptune planet, 15-year-old Rachna was shocked to find her weight was more than her actual weight of 46 kg. When she calculated her weight again on Planet Venus, she was thrilled to find she weighed less than 46 kg. Rachna was one of the several youngsters who found out that their actual body weight was different on seven different planets of our solar system. These youngsters were not travelling in deep space but they were part of a gathering at Vigyan Utsav on Saturday that was organised by Prime Minister's Museum and Library (PMML) to celebrate National Science Day.

In the science pavilion at "Know your weight on different planets", Rachna and the like also found out the exact answer to this astronomy puzzle about the different weights: "Weight on Neptune is 1.19 times the weight on Earth



whereas the weight on Venus is 0.91 time the weight on Earth". This explanation was mentioned on the posters that also stated that a person weighs more on Neptune than on Venus because Neptune has stronger surface gravity due to

its higher mass. Besides the planet pavilion, the day-long event for children also featured free virtual reality shows and 'Nukkad Nataks'. Hands-on science experiments, physics games and 'Do It Yourself' STEM kits were

provided by organisations like Vigyan Vyanjan and KMC Astroclub - the astronomy club of Kirori Mal College. PMML director Ashwani Lohani said, "Such events showcase the deep roots of democracy in the country besides promoting scientific temper in this age of artificial intelligence."

Science & educational books, telescopes and DIY kits from various innovators were also on display. Hand-made paintings of pioneering physicist Dr CV Raman and missile-cum-space scientist and President A P J Abdul Kalam were put up at the fair for kids to draw inspiration from them.

An event, themed 'A Carnival of Curiosity', was hosted by Nehru Planetarium and PMML to foster a culture of scientific inquiry through interactive learning. PMML also celebrated the 130th birth anniversary of ex-PM Morarji Desai on this day. A panel exhibition on the life and contribution of him was displayed.

Dal Lake to Mahakumbh, Maity returns to landscapes

New Delhi, (GNS): In the late 19th century, Impressionists changed the course of art by stepping out of their studios and into the open air. Painters like Claude Monet and Pierre-Auguste Renoir sought to capture fleeting light and atmosphere directly from nature, often working outdoors to seize a passing cloud or a reflection in water.

That same impulse - to go out, observe and respond to landscape and light - anchors artist Paresh Maity's new solo exhibition 'Luminous Terrains', organised by Art Alive Gallery at Bikaner House. Following the success of his 2022 show 'Infinite Light', the exhibition marks the renowned contemporary artist's return with a body of work devoted entirely to landscapes across India, Venice and France.

"The last solo had many things mixed-painting, sculpture, watercolour, ceramics, mixed media. The new show is mainly oil and acrylic on canvas and drawings (pen and ink on paper). And it's fully dedicated to landscapes," Maity told media. It brings together views of Dal Lake in Srinagar, the ghats of Varanasi, Rajasthan's desertscapes, the Venetian



lagoons, the French Riviera and the rugged charm of Madhya Pradesh in the sensorial language of Impressionism.

"I started my life with landscapes because I grew up in the historic town of Tamluk (in West Bengal), a place with lush green fields, open spaces, ponds and lakes. And I believe the more you go close

to nature, the better off you are in life. People are forgetting that. So, I thought let me go back to landscape and show people that nature is everything."

The artist's sustained engagement with landscape has also been visible in The Times of India's Art of India (AOI) exhibition series. Maity presented large canvases across AOI's Delhi and Jaipur showcases this year, and is set to unveil more works at the upcoming Mumbai edition in March.

At Bikaner House, he unveiled a 45-foot-wide Mahakumbh triptych, rendered as a vast expanse of faith and harmony. "You've probably never seen a painting that big," he says proudly.

Alongside the show, Art Alive Gallery will launch a new publication on the artist with essays by historian Partha Mitter and art critic Kishore Singh. For Maity, the book extends the exhibition beyond its limited run. "A book is like a library. An exhibition happens for a few days. But the book will continue the legacy of both art and artist," says Maity.

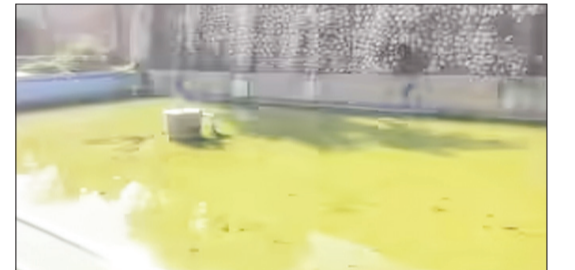
'Luminous Terrains' is on view till March 10 at Centre for Contemporary Art in Bikaner House.

Fountains dry & structures damaged: Talkatora Garden crying for attention

New Delhi, (GNS): Once counted among the most picturesque gardens in Lutyens' Delhi, Talkatora Garden under the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) is slowly losing its charm.

Known for its expansive lawns, central fountains, walking paths and seasonal flower beds, the garden has been a favourite among walkers, families and tourists, especially in spring. But during a media visit to the garden on Friday, the fountains - once the highlight - were found non-functional. Locals said the nozzles had been missing for long, allegedly stolen due to lack of monitoring. Damaged electric wires and dried fountain beds added to the neglected look. Lighting panels mounted on stone parapet pillars along the ramp leading to the bund and the iconic mehrah were either broken or missing. A large portion of the bund wall had collapsed and was covered with a makeshift green mesh.

Staff said the wall had caved in



more than six months ago during the rainy sea-son. "Restoration of this heritage structure and other damaged portions is the responsibility of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI). Some work has begun," a staffer said. Tiles and cemented structures near the bund, maintained by NDMC, were also found damaged.

Talkatora Garden is a Mughal-era site linked to the 18th century, during the reign of Emperor Muhammad Shah (1719-1748). The name 'Talkatora' comes from the Persian tal (tank) and katora (bowl), referring to a bowl-shaped depression that served as a water tank.

Holi Goes High-Tech in Delhi's Chandni Chowk

New Delhi, (GNS): Nothing is what it seems in Sadar Bazar's Holi market. The rows of brightly coloured large cylinders in some shops look like fire extinguishers, but are not. These are gigantic colour dispensers. They are so large that they cannot be lifted. They need wheels.

Delhi is getting ready for the festival of colours, and the cylinders are the rage. When media checked the capital's Holi stock in one of its busiest markets, these metal dispensers with hoses were the showstopper. The cylinders don't squirt out liquid colours. They spray the gulaal in its powder form. Each cylinder can hold several kilos of coloured powder.

In Sadar Bazar's Bartan Wali Gali, several shopkeepers had



the extinguisher-like colour sprayer. Some can spray 27 shades of gulaal in one burst. "Each cylinder carries about 2 kg of colour and starts at Rs 450," a seller said.

The shift this year is technological. Traders said there is a rise in the demand for electronic pichkaris. These are battery-operated water guns fitted with auto-suction technology that

sprays a continuous stream of colour. "Bacche electric ki hi demand karte hain," says Laxmi Pandit of Laxmi Traders in Chandni Chowk. There's also an "iPhone 17 Pro" water blaster that's selling out fast. Yet, for every high-end colour dispenser, there are hundreds of mango-shaped pichkaris that cost Rs 5. It's an evergreen festival favourite. There are also small-scale vendors selling "pakka" grease - the colours that will take days to disappear from your face.

Abhishek Jain (27) has spent the last 15 years watching trends change from behind his Sadar Bazar counter. "Every year, there is a new variety," he said, pointing to an umbrella-shaped colour shower that drenches revellers in a single pop. There is a Bahubali

sword pichkari too. A strikingly realistic iPhone 17 Pro pichkari, with a back panel resembling the actual phone, is among Jani's fastest sellers. It costs Rs 50.

Some water guns are a nod to mythology with a playful twist. Sunny Ahluwalia (42), another trader, has squirters that are shaped like tridents and maces. There is a Pathaan-themed blaster and small axe-shaped squirters for small children. "This year, electronic pichkaris made in India are the biggest trend," Ahluwalia said. The crates of fake mangoes - which are water guns - and the bazooka-style squirter are there too.

In Lala Lajpat Rai Market in Chandni Chowk, Ajit Narula, known as "Sardaji Toy Wale", has run Narula Toy Corner for 30

years. Here, battery-operated pichkaris range from Rs 250-2,000. The premium models - priced at Rs 1,500 - feature sound effects and laser lights that flash as water jets out.

Organic, fruit and herbal gulaal, including lab-tested variants, are in demand, particularly as gift options. "Premium packaging and chemical-free colours are selling well," says Shehzaad (56), a trader. But when it comes to playing Holi, many still reach for the traditional bright gulaal, he said. Buying habits, too, are evolving. "Many customers now order through e-commerce websites even if prices are slightly higher there. They prefer avoiding crowds. A significant part of our sales is now online," Shehzaad said.

Delhi CM inaugurates ICU, endoscopy suite; launches AYUSH stress programme

New Delhi, (GNS): Delhi chief minister Rekha Gupta on Saturday inaugurated a 10-bed Medical ICU ward and a GI HD Video Endoscopy Suite at Guru Tegh Bahadur (GTB) Hospital and launched an Integrated AYUSH Stress Management Programme. She also laid the foundation stone of a new OPD building at the Institute of Human Behaviour and Allied Sciences (IHBAS), according to a statement. The chief minister said the government was working in "mission mode" to upgrade health services to world-class standards.

"Transforming Delhi's healthcare into a world-class system is our resolve," she said.

The statement said the newly inaugurated ICU at GTB Hospital is equipped with advanced machines and upgraded facilities



aimed at providing timely and quality treatment to critically ill patients. "The GI HD Video Endoscopy Suite will enable faster and more accurate diagnosis of gastrointestinal and digestive disorders, facilitating early detection and timely treatment," it added.

Highlighting the rising stress levels in modern lifestyles, Gupta described it as a "silent epidemic" affecting students, working pro-

fessionals and the elderly.

The government has decided to operationalise Integrated AYUSH Stress Management OPDs at Ayurvedic and Unani Tibbia College, Nehru Homoeopathic Medical College, Dr B.R. Sur Homoeopathic Medical College, Brahm Prakash Ayurved Charak Sansthan and IHBAS, the statement said.

These centres will focus on yoga, lifestyle counselling and

digital detox interventions.

Gupta added that efforts would be made to strengthen the nearly 1,500-bed capacity of GTB Hospital by expediting construction of its rear building, which had remained incomplete earlier, according to the statement.

Referring to IHBAS as a leading centre for mental healthcare in the country and North India, she said the new OPD building would reduce waiting time and streamline consultation, diagnostics and treatment processes in view of the rising patient load, the statement read.

Delhi health minister Pankaj Kumar Singh termed the day significant for the Capital's health sector and said the foundation stone of the IHBAS OPD building reflected the government's commitment to accessible, modern and high-quality healthcare.

22-year-old woman held for cybercrime



New Delhi, (GNS): A 22-year-old woman has been arrested for allegedly arranging mule bank accounts for an interstate cybercrime syndicate. The woman was nabbed from Greater Noida West, UP. She told cops that she procured and supplied mule bank accounts on a commission basis. According to police, multiple cyber fraud complaints indicated that two bank accounts registered under the name of a resident of Vijay Vihar were used to receive funds that were stolen. Both the accounts reportedly

received Rs 50,000 siphoned from a resident of Bengaluru and Rs 3.8 lakh from a resident of Telangana.

A senior police officer said the accounts were used to dupe victims through fake cryptocurrency and online trading platforms. The woman revealed that the bank account kits had been supplied by a co-accused woman, who was arrested on Feb 5. She disclosed the involvement of one Vivan, allegedly the kingpin of the nexus. Police said efforts are on to trace Vivan.

Samaypur Badli murders: Husband arrested, police verify loan claim

New Delhi, (GNS): Delhi Police has arrested a man accused of murdering his wife and three children in Samaypur Badli late Tuesday night. The accused, Munchun Kewat, is a vegetable vendor who lived with his wife, Anita, and their three children in the Chandan Park area. Police said that during



initial questioning after his arrest in Rajasthan, Kewat claimed he had taken a loan from a man in Bihar who had been threatening him. Unable to repay the money, he allegedly committed the murders. Police tried contacting the person he named, but the phone was switched off. A team has been sent to Bihar to verify the claim, sources said.

A senior police officer said investigators are examining all angles and verifying Kewat's statements.

Anita's brother told media that Kewat had asked her father for Rs 7 lakh but received only Rs 2 lakh

because the family could not afford more. "He took the money around a month before the murder and kept arguing with my sister over the loan and their financial situation," he said, adding, Kewat had also borrowed money from people in his native village. "He gambled frequently and accumulated debt. My sister repeatedly asked him to stop," he said. Police are also probing whether anyone helped him commit the crime or flee. The incident was reported around 8.05am on Feb 25 when neighbours alerted police. A team reached the house and found Anita and her three daughters lying dead

Ruckus during DU college fest, admin blames 'outsiders'

New Delhi, (GNS): Police resorted to lathicharge outside Delhi University's Deen Dayal Upadhyaya (DDU) College in Dwarka on Friday afternoon after a massive crowd gathered for the second day of its annual fest, Kalrav 2026, where singer Mohit Chauhan performed.

Purported videos circulating on social media showed police personnel using batons to disperse the crowd amid chaotic scenes at the college gate. A few clips also showed attendees attempting to scale the boundary wall to enter the campus. Students alleged that a stampede-like situation developed after the entry was restricted and police used force to disperse the crowd.

A senior police officer said no formal inquiry had been initiated as no one was injured and no medico-legal case was registered. "The crowd included many outsiders. There were two separate lines, one for boys and another for girls, but



the boys' line was much longer. Some boys moved into the girls' line, began misbehaving, and were pushing and shoving," he said.

Both the college authorities and police repeatedly tried to pacify the crowd and asked the groups to separate and maintain law and order, but the presence of a large number of outsiders had made managing

the situation challenging, he claimed. When the crowd did not listen, mild force had to be used to manage the situation, the officer clarified.

"A total of 120-125 personnel were deployed, with an assistant commissioner of police in charge. The college administration has also conducted an inquiry and nothing serious was found," he added.

According to fest organisers, entry to the fest was restricted to DU students with valid ID cards and QR codes issued after prior registration. Around 8,000 registrations were approved - 3,000 from the host college and 5,000 from other colleges. However, on Day 2, over 50,000 students turned up outside the venue, many allegedly without valid ID cards or registration, they claimed. Entry for the 7pm event was closed at 2pm as the crowds swelled, but the gates had to be reopened after groups began agitating, they said. Principal Hem Chand Jain told media that police had taken action to maintain law and order after some students without valid QR codes created a ruckus and attempted forced entry. "Their intervention helped prevent serious harm, especially to women," he pointed out. Around 150 police personnel and bouncers were stationed and no major accident occurred, he added.

Delhi excise policy case: Special CBI court says then-LG was consulted why single out Arvind Kejriwal; rejects 'selective' conspiracy claim

New Delhi, (GNS): Virtually upholding the now-scrapped Delhi excise policy, a special CBI court has observed that the then Lieutenant Governor was consulted and that his secretariat was involved in the processing of the policy.

The court noted that in such a scenario, the theory of conspiracy could not selectively survive against one constitutional authority while being rendered inapplicable to another.

Special Judge Jitendra Singh rejected the prosecution's claim that then chief minister Arvind Kejriwal and his deputy Manish Sisodia had unilaterally tweaked the policy. Instead, the court pointed out that the changes were attributed to the Lieutenant Governor.

Highlighting what it termed an "internal contradiction" in the prosecution's case, the court said: "The contemporaneous documentary record establishes that formulation and processing of DEP-21/22 (excise policy) involved consultation at the highest executive level."

"The file notings record discussions with Hon'ble LG, incorporation of suggestions, approval by the council of ministers, and subsequent appraisal of Hon'ble LG," the court added.



The material shows institutional participation of the LG Secretariat in scrutiny and movement of the file. It further reflects that the policy was neither concealed nor processed in isolation, but travelled through recognised constitutional channels," the court observed.

It relied upon the CBI's voluminous documentary evidence to note that, in such a "scenario, the theory of conspiracy cannot selectively survive against one constitutional authority while being rendered inapplicable to another on the basis of the very same material." The court examined the documentary trail, including committee reports, departmental notings, GoM deliberations, Cabinet approvals and communications with the LG's Secretariat, and concluded that the

charge "of unilateral manipulation cannot logically and legally be sustained against the deputy chief minister alone when the documentary chain demonstrates deliberation, consultation and processing through the office of the Hon'ble LG. The same notings cannot, in law, exonerate one authority while simultaneously incriminating another, when both are reflected in the same institutional record."

The judge highlighted that the LG and the senior officers of his secretariat "were integral to the movement and scrutiny of the file. If the prosecution case were to be taken to its logical conclusion on the premise of manipulation in policy formulation, it would inevitably extend to those very authorities who processed, examined and apprised themselves of the policy. Yet no such allegation is pressed."

However, the court was quick to clarify its observations "do not imply that any other constitutional authority ought to have been arraigned as an accused. On the contrary, the contemporaneous record, when objectively examined, discloses no unilateral manipulation by deputy CM. The material reveals a process marked by consultation, communication and administrative engagement at multiple levels.

Court orders release of 14 students over JNU protest, modifies bail condition

New Delhi, (GNS): A Delhi court on Sunday ordered the immediate release of 14 students arrested for the Jawaharlal Nehru University Students' Union (JNUSU) protests on February 26, noting that the right to liberty must be balanced against the state's legitimate interests. The 14 were granted bail within a day of their arrest but had not been released because the court order required the authorities to first verify their permanent addresses.

In his order on Friday, judicial magistrate Animesh Kumar agreed to grant bail since the accused were students with their careers ahead of them. But the judge ordered verification of the permanent addresses of the students before their release.

Lawyers Abhik Chimni and Sidharth Ganeshan, who appeared for the students, later urged the court to modify the court since verification of their permanent address would take a significant amount of time despite due diligence by the police.

On Sunday, judicial magistrate

first class (JMFC) Ravi agreed to modify the condition.

Ravi said the verification was an important procedural step, but it could not be allowed to operate as an obstacle to keep the accused in continued judicial custody when they could furnish bail bonds and were prepared to provide additional safeguards. The court ordered that the students be released forthwith and directed the police to expedite the verification process. The students were told to file an undertaking committing to cooperate in the probe.

The court noted that the investigating officer (IO) had conceded that the delay in verification was due to external factors, such as travel and bank holidays, and was not attributable to the accused. Ravi also noted that the accused were young students, and not habitual criminals, and that keeping them in jail despite granting them bail would be detrimental to their academic careers, especially in a case arising out of a protest.

Town Hall revamp back on table, MCD explores heritage-led redevelopment

New Delhi, (GNS): Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) is working on a proposal to develop the historic Town Hall in Chandni Chowk into a cultural hub, offering the public a space for recreation and engagement in a heritage setting.

The landmark - a draw for domestic and international tourists - is being considered for conversion into a major destination that showcases Delhi's past. The move follows a recent visit by chief minister Rekha Gupta, who recommended revamping the complex in collaboration with the Delhi govt and operating it under a revenue-sharing model, according to sources.

On Feb 26, MCD wrote to Delhi Tourism and Transport Development Corporation



(DTTDC) seeking its expertise in heritage redevelopment and tourism promotion. The letter from the City Sadar Paharganj

zone has asked DTTDC to "examine the proposal, suggest possible collaboration, identify appropriate schemes and outline a

broad framework for taking the project forward. The civic body said such guidance would support its efforts to restore the heritage asset and integrate it into the city's cultural and tourism map."

Officials said MCD owns the Town Hall building, which served as its headquarters from 1866 to 2012. The structure reflects Delhi's architectural, administrative and cultural heritage. "Since 2012, the premises have remained vacant. MCD is exploring conservation, restoration and adaptive reuse of the Town Hall in a manner that preserves its heritage value while enabling public engagement," said an official.

In Aug last year, MCD appointed a consultant to pre-

pare a project report to revitalise the 162-year-old structure. The plan was to use part of the complex for public functions and shift the City Sadar Paharganj zonal office there. "However, after a meeting with the commissioner, the civic body decided to revive the entire complex as a public cultural hub," the official said. Ahead of the G20 Summit last year, MCD carried out basic repairs. But officials said the building now requires extensive restoration. "The plaster on the ceiling was damaged in many places, including the main hall, prompting restrictions on entry in sections such as the porch, where a portion of the ceiling recently collapsed," another official said earlier.

Constructed between 1860

and 1863 in the mid-colonial style, the Grade-A heritage structure stands on a 13,735 sq m plot and comprises three buildings.

Multiple redevelopment plans over the years did not progress. In Dec 2022, MCD shifted the library housed in the building to the Civic Centre's third floor. The same year, the Union culture ministry expressed interest in taking over the site on a 33-year lease to develop a museum, library, research centre and restaurant. The plan stalled due to lack of clarity on revenue sharing. Earlier, in 2018, the erstwhile North Corporation proposed a heritage hotel, but no bids were received. In 2023, MCD set up a heritage cell to prepare restoration estimates.