



Holiday Notice

All readers, advertisers, and well-wishers are informed that our newspaper office will be closed on March 4, 2026, on the auspicious occasion of Holi, the festival of colors. The next issue will be published on March 6, 2026. May this sacred festival of colors bring happiness, peace, prosperity, and good health to your lives. We sincerely wish that the spirit of love, brotherhood, and togetherness remain forever. Happy Holi to all of you.

-Editor

Strong economy makes India the hope of the world: PM Modi

New Delhi (GNS): On Tuesday, March 3, Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed a webinar on "Sustaining and Strengthening Economic Growth" as part of the Budget Webinar Series held in Delhi. He said that such a broad discussion on the budget is a successful and positive experiment. He described the large number of experts and stakeholders participating in the webinar as a sign of the strength of democratic

dialogue. Prime Minister Modi noted that the first webinar, held last week, was also widely appreciated and generated many important suggestions for the effective implementation of budget provisions. Welcoming the active participation of all participants, he said the government is committed to making policies more effective based on the suggestions. PM Modi said that today, India is



emerging as a beacon of hope for the world due to its strong economy. Global supply chains are rapidly

restructuring, and at this time, India has a golden opportunity to strengthen its role as a reliable and resilient manufacturing partner. He said that rapid and sustained economic growth is the essential foundation for achieving the goal of a developed India.

Prime Minister Modi stated unequivocally, "Our direction is clear, our resolve is clear—build more, produce more, connect more, and export more." He emphasized that today the

world is looking for reliable and sustainable manufacturing partners, and India is capable of playing this role. He emphasized quality, noting that India has signed free trade agreements with many countries, which have opened up new export opportunities. Therefore, it is the responsibility of Indian industries to ensure quality is not compromised. "Our mantra should be quality, quality, and quality," Prime Minister Modi said.

UAE President Zayed Al Nahyan addresses the public at Dubai Mall amid ongoing tensions in the Middle East

Dubai, (EMS). Amid ongoing tensions and missile attacks in the Middle East, United Arab Emirates (UAE) President Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan and Dubai Crown Prince Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum made a public appearance at the Dubai Mall on Monday evening. The visit came as missile attacks by Iran, Israel, and the US continued across the region. The two leaders strolled through the mall, meeting shoppers, posing for photographs, and interacting with people. Their public visit is being seen as a message of peace and courage. Videos showed them drinking coffee with Emirati officials and spending time relaxing at the mall, which drew widespread praise on social media.



Although UAE air defense systems consistently intercepted drones and missiles launched by Iran, the conflict heightened fear and tension in the region. Last weekend, the US and Israeli attacks on Iran led to retaliatory strikes in the region, damaging several iconic Dubai landmarks, including the Burj Al Arab, a luxury hotel on Palm Jumeirah, and Jebel Ali Port. However, the public praised the leaders' presence during this crisis. Social media users wrote that the UAE set a unique example of maintaining the safety and trust of its citizens. One user said, "This is true leadership," while another wrote, "A leader leads by example like this." Defense experts believe that such public visits provide a sense of trust and security to the general public during times of crisis. The UAE government demonstrated its commitment not only to security measures but also to its citizens' mental and emotional well-being. This event set a new example of leadership in the Middle East, clearly balancing courage, public engagement, and responsibility.

'Abdication, not neutrality': Sonia Gandhi slams PM Modi's silence on Khamenei assassination

New Delhi (GNS): Congress Parliamentary Party chairperson Sonia Gandhi on Tuesday sharply criticised the Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government for its silence over the assassination of Iran's Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei, calling it an 'abdication' rather than neutrality.

In an opinion piece published in The Indian Express, Sonia Gandhi said India's lack of a clear response to the killing "signals tacit endorsement of this tragedy." Referring to Iran's confirmation on March 1 that Ayatollah Khamenei was killed in targeted strikes allegedly carried out by the United States and Israel a day earlier, Gandhi described the assassination of a sitting head of state during ongoing negotiations as a "grave rupture in contemporary international relations." "Beyond the shock of the event, what stands out equally starkly is New Delhi's silence," she wrote. She criticised the Prime Minister for initially condemning only Iran's retaliatory strike on the United Arab Emirates, without addressing the sequence of events that led to the escalation. According to Gandhi, later remarks expressing "deep concern" and calling for "dialogue and diplomacy" were inadequate, as diplomatic engagement had been under way before what she termed "massive unprovoked attacks" by the US and Israel. She argued that India's failure to clearly defend sovereignty and international law in the wake of a targeted killing raises "serious doubts" about the credibility and direction of its foreign policy. She also pointed to the timing of PM Modi's recent visit to Israel, where he reiterated support for the government of Benjamin Netanyahu, even as the conflict in Gaza continues to draw global criticism over civilian casualties.

Maharashtra ATS raids several locations in terror-related case

Mumbai (GNS): The Maharashtra Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) has taken major action in a terror-related case in Mumbai. The ATS received inputs, based on which the team decided to conduct the raid. The ATS says the matter is being taken seriously and that suspicious activities were already being monitored. The ATS team raided three different locations in the Kurla and Govandi areas of Mumbai. This operation was carried out simultaneously and in a well-planned manner.

According to media reports, the ATS team, with the assistance of local police, arrived in these areas early in



the morning. During the raid, the relevant locations were searched. Officers questioned those present. The entire operation was kept confidential. Sources indicate that some electronic devices and documents were also recovered. Officials say that all aspects are being thor-

oughly investigated, including the alleged connections of those questioned. At present, no arrests have been confirmed. The investigating agency will gather facts and determine further action.

This action by the Maharashtra ATS is being considered part of an anti-terrorism campaign. Agencies are constantly monitoring such incidents. In a major city like Mumbai, security is being monitored with special vigilance. The investigating agencies' goal is to prevent any potential threats in a timely manner. Officials have appealed to the public to cooperate and avoid rumors.

Iran war: Flights from West Asia resume, bring stranded Indians home

New Delhi (GNS): In a relief to lakhs of people stuck in West Asia since Saturday, UAE's Emirates, flydubai and Ethihad from Monday started operating a few special flights, including some to India. The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) too asked Indian operators to resume flights to airspaces that are open like Oman and Saudi Arabia, with the Air India Group and IndiGo starting services from Tuesday. There is a massive demand for both regular flights and charters from Indians stranded in strife-torn West Asia but operations hinge on the situation in the region.



Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel extends greetings to the people on the festival of Holi-Dhuleti

Gandhinagar (GNS): Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel has extended his heartfelt greetings to all citizens of Gujarat on the vibrant festival of Holi-Dhuleti. He expressed his wishes that this festival may fill the lives of people with the colors of happiness, prosperity, and enthusiasm. He stated that the festival of Holi marks the victory of

truth over falsehood. While conveying his greetings, he said that this festival gives the message of meeting one another with affection by forgetting differences and promoting social harmony in everyone's life. He also urged everyone to celebrate this festival together in such a way that the environment is also preserved.

WB Chief Secy among 60L voters put 'under adjudication' after SIR

New Delhi (GNS): Several prominent figures in West Bengal, including the state's Chief Secretary Nandini Chakraborty and cricketer Richa Ghosh, have been placed in the "under adjudication" category by the Election Commission of India (ECI) following the completion of the special intensive revision (SIR) of the electoral rolls.

According to officials, around 60 lakh people across the state have been categorised as "under adjudication" and will be eligible to vote only after their names are cleared by judicial officers appointed by the Supreme Court. The figure accounts for roughly 8 per cent of the 7.04 crore electors listed in the final rolls released by the Chief Electoral Officer after the four-month exercise in the politically crucial state, where Assembly elections are due in April-May. The Trinamool Congress (TMC) has claimed that several other notable names have also been placed under adjudication, including minister Shashi Panja and MLAs Rafiqur Rahaman, Toraf Hossain Mandal and Swati Khandoker.

India has only 25 days of oil left: Import routes closed amid Israel-Iran war

government looking for new suppliers

New Delhi (GNS): Amid rising tensions in West Asia and the Iran-Israel war, India now has only 25 days of crude oil and refined oil stock left.

News agency provided this update regarding the country's energy security, citing government sources. However, the government will not increase petrol and diesel prices immediately.

Iran has announced the closure of the Strait of



Hormuz. The Iranian military has also warned that any ship passing through this route will be set on

fire. This route, located between Oman and Iran, is considered crucial for the global oil trade.

OIC's silence on attacks on Iran is a betrayal of the Muslim world

Former Jammu and Kashmir CM Mehbooba Mufti criticized the OIC

Srinagar, (GNS):

People's Democratic Party (PDP) president and former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti on Tuesday criticized the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC). She questioned the OIC's silence on the joint US and Israeli attacks on Iran, calling it a betrayal of the entire Muslim world. Expressing her anger through a post on Instagram, Mehbooba said that it is extremely disappointing that the OIC is remaining a mute spectator in this hour of crisis.

In her post, she wrote, "It is deeply disturbing that the OIC remains a mute spectator while the US and Israel openly commit acts of aggression against Iran's sovereignty. Its silence on the martyrdom of Iran's Supreme Leader Khamenei and its attempt to shift the blame onto Iran is not only worrying but also deeply shameful." Mehbooba stressed that the OIC should have strongly condemned this audacious attack on Iran, but instead tried to shift the blame onto Iran.

Describing the OIC's stance as a veiled support for the Epstein gang's actions, he said that instead of condemning this open attack on Iran, it has chosen



to remain silent, which indirectly supports the Epstein gang's actions. This is a grave betrayal of the collective conscience and interests of the Muslim community. This accusation is not the first time the OIC has been accused of being a proxy for Pakistan. On numerous occasions before, the OIC has been criticized as a proxy for Pakistan, issuing anti-India statements on Kashmir but remaining silent on other Muslim issues. According to media reports, Mehbooba Mufti's strong reaction comes in the wake of the recent developments in which Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei was killed in a joint airstrike by the US and Israel early Saturday morning, a move that has deepened geopolitical tensions globally.

Has Iran overpowered America and Israel?

Sanat Jain

On the third day of the joint Israeli-American attack on Iran, the situation has escalated into a serious situation. Following the assassination of Iran's supreme leader, Khamenei, Iran's retaliatory strike has shocked the world. In a single strike, Iran attacked US military bases in 13 countries, setting them ablaze. These attacks have once again brought the escalating tensions among Islamic countries in the Middle East to the center of global politics. Iran's response to the US and Israeli attacks has stunned both the US and Israel. For the first time, the US is struggling to maintain its dominance amid rising tensions in West Asia. Iran has claimed it targeted US bases in retaliation. Videos of the attacks on bases like the Jufair base in Bahrain

and the Al Udeid airbase in Qatar went viral on social media, revealing images of the extensive damage. This sparked a new wave of unrest across the world. Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) has indicated that US military bases in the region are targets of its missiles. Qatar, on the other hand, claimed that its Patriot missile defense system thwarted potential attacks and prevented major damage. Amidst such conflicting claims, it is difficult to accurately assess the true situation. There is also talk that US military presence exists in approximately 13 countries in the Gulf region. If tensions escalate, they too could be indirectly affected by the conflict. Photos and videos released by Iran show bases in 13 countries burning. Independent international agencies have not yet verified Iran's claims. In a wartime

environment, information flows rapidly, but verifiable information is extremely difficult to gather. Strategically, Iran faces two nuclear-capable forces: the United States and Israel. Despite this, Tehran's rapid response capability has proven that the military balance on the battlefield is not one-sided. In four days, Iran is capable of responding equally to America and Israel in this war.

The question is, will this conflict remain limited or escalate into a full-scale global war? Since the beginning of this war, Iran's disruption of crude oil supplies and sea routes has already begun to have a significant impact on global markets within the first four days. Experts believe that diplomatic measures, more significant than a display of military power, must be immediately adopted. If dialogue is

not opened, the entire world could suffer huge losses amid claims and counterclaims. Stock markets worldwide are declining. India's stock market has virtually crashed. India's exports and imports to the Gulf countries have virtually ceased for the past four days. Approximately 9 million Indians work in Gulf countries. Furthermore, Indians have significant investments in Dubai. Iran's targeting of the UAE has clearly posed challenges to India's economic, strategic, and political position. Following the outbreak of the US-Iran war, investors in the Indian stock market suffered losses of approximately ₹8 lakh crore in a single day. The global embargo on crude oil and natural gas supplies has severely impacted global import and export trade. Economic experts fear that if this war is not stopped

soon, countries around the world will be plunged into economic recession. Furthermore, it will not be long before conditions akin to World War III develop. The biggest concern is that India itself has become a party. Iran was attacked immediately after Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Israel. India's foreign policy now leans toward the US and Israel. Despite India's strong relations with Iran and the Gulf countries, India is unable to play a role as a mediator. On the contrary, India is suffering significant losses in this war despite not being involved. Over 9 million Indian citizens are employed in the Gulf countries, and their foreign exchange sources are now at risk. The surge in crude oil and gas prices, and the decline in the stock markets, make it clear that India will be the most affected by this war. The Indian government needs to be extremely vigilant.

Editorial

The Battle of the Box Economy

We reported that approximately 10 million Indians have settled in the Middle Eastern Gulf countries. They have built homes there, established businesses, and their children are also studying there. Arab countries have a fundamental need for Indians because they are technically and professionally skilled. Arab countries possess only oil and gas reserves, lack adequate education, lack comparable technological skills, and most importantly, lack democracy. Of course, in Iran, the president is elected by the people, but the Supreme Leader is a religious figure, and the president also works under his control. In the Gulf countries, there are rulers of sheikhs, sultans, and emirs. They were not democratically elected, but have ruled these countries for generations and generations. They are essentially stooges of America because of their helplessness. They are militarily weak countries, yet they are dependent on America. In any case, Indians in the Gulf countries send an average of ₹10 lakh crore annually to their homes in India. Indians in the Gulf account for one-third of the remittances Indians send to their families worldwide. This is a significant contributor to India's economy. This represents one-fifth of India's total budget, exceeding the budgets of many countries. India imported crude oil worth approximately ₹11.60 lakh crore from Arab countries in 2025, with the majority coming from Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates. India is the world's third-largest oil importer. If oil prices rise by even \$10, India's import bill increases by \$15 billion annually. This economy must be understood.

If the US-Israel vs. Iran war drags on, will the economy be devastated? A significant number of displaced Indians will likely not return, so the question of their safety during the war is crucial. The two-day war has sent crude oil prices soaring. Currently, prices are \$75-77 per barrel, but experts believe they could reach \$100-110. This is also a game for oil companies, who need to reduce their losses. If the war proves uncertain and companies remain hesitant to send their oil tankers and have to ship via South Africa, their costs will increase. Consequently, oil prices could even jump to \$150.



India is a land of festivals - full of diversity, but bound together by its cultural spirit. In this vast sky of cultural consciousness, if any festival appears most vibrant due to its multi-coloured hues, folk sounds, mythological memories and the sweetness of love, then it is Holi. Holi is not just a festival of colours, it is a cultural ritual of change of seasons, a source of folk life, the light of music and legends and a living symbol of social harmony.



Holi - a grand festival of melody colour, flavour, culture and joy

Binod Kumar Singh

With the arrival of Phalgun, when the harshness of winter eases, the fragrance of mango blossoms permeates the atmosphere, and nature glows with youthfulness, the memories and traditions of Holi awaken in the Indian psyche. This is not just a change of season, but a sign of life's renewal—from inertia to consciousness, from contraction to expansion. Holi's mythological foundation is deeply ingrained in the Indian psyche. The story of devotee Prahlad, demon king Hiranyakashipu, and Holika symbolizes the eternal struggle between righteousness and irreligion, faith and ego. Holika Dahan, lit on the night of Phalgun Purnima, is not just a religious ritual but a rite of self-purification and social consciousness. While circumambulating the fire, one awakens to the feeling of abandoning the negativity in one's heart and taking a pledge to embrace truth, compassion, and a new life. In societies rooted in agricultural culture, this festival also symbolizes the welcoming of a new harvest. The greenery of the fields, the fruitfulness of labor, and collective joy—all these are, as it were, sanctified in the fire of Holi. Thus, Holi is not only a mythological memory, but also the heartbeat of rural life.

In Brajbhoomi, Holi takes on a unique cultural dimension. The Holi festivals of Mathura,

Vrindavan, and Barsana are living examples of Indian folk tradition. Here, the festival is not merely a play of colors, but a cultural re-creation of the love affairs of Radha and Krishna. In Barsana's Lathmar Holi, women wear traditional attire and perform symbolic dance-drama with sticks, while men carry out the vibrant tradition with shields. This event is not merely a playful comedy, but a powerful expression of folk theatre, embodying the carefree nature of love and the natural tone of social dialogue.

In the temples of Vrindavan, the Holi of Flowers holds special significance. Sung amidst a shower of flowers, Holi songs fill the atmosphere with devotion and romance. Verses like "Aaj Brij Mein Holi Re Rasiya" are not merely entertaining but also bearers of cultural memory. They bring to life Radha's pride, Krishna's playfulness, the love of the Gopis, and the sensual essence of Braj.

Another legend associated with Holi involves Shiva and Parvati. When Kamadeva, in the intoxication of Phalgun, attempted to disturb Lord Shiva's penance, he was consumed by the flames of Shiva's third eye. However, moved by Rati's heartbreaking cries, Shiva revived her as Ananga. This story reveals a striking combination of passion, restraint, and compassion—a spiritual foundation for Holi's love.

Holi also holds a spe-

cial place in Indian classical music. Holi songs have been sung in styles like Dhamar, Thumri, and Dadra. This remarkable confluence of romance and devotion reflects the depth of Indian musical tradition. This bridge between folk and classical music is our cultural identity.

Folk songs popular in North India known as Phag or Phaguwa are the soul of Holi. These songs, echoing to the beats of dholak, manjira and jhanj, bind the society together. The traditions of Chautal and Dharmal in Awadh, the distinctive style of Phaguwa in Bihar and Purvanchal, and the Ger dance in Rajasthan—these are the diverse colors of Holi. Holi Mohalla, held at Anandpur Sahib in Punjab, symbolizes community discipline and bravery. Kirtans and cultural processions on Dol Purnima in West Bengal illuminate the festival with devotion and music. Thus, regional diversities combine to create a grand tone of national unity. The color tradition associated with nature has also been a distinctive feature of Holi. Saffron color from Tesu or Palash flowers, Gulal from rose and Kachnar petals, and the use of turmeric and sandalwood—these were not just for beauty, but also symbols of health and purity. This creation of colors reinforced sensitivity towards nature and a culture of collective labor.

From a social perspective, Holi is a festival of equality and dialogue. The

tradition of applying colors conveys the message that external differences are temporary; only the love of the heart is eternal. In rural society, there has been a tradition of forgetting old disputes and reconciliation on this occasion. The form of Holi has certainly changed over time. Urbanization and modern lifestyles have given a new form to its expression—through loud music, artificial colors, and grand celebrations. But the love, joy, and cultural consciousness at its core remain intact even today.

The vibrant Holi of Braj, the Lathmar tradition of Barsana, the Phag of Awadh, the Phaguwa of Bihar, the Gair of Rajasthan, the Holi of Anandpur Sahib in Punjab, symbolizes community discipline and bravery. Kirtans and cultural processions on Dol Purnima in West Bengal illuminate the festival with devotion and music. Thus, regional diversities combine to create a grand tone of national unity. The color tradition associated with nature has also been a distinctive feature of Holi. Saffron color from Tesu or Palash flowers, Gulal from rose and Kachnar petals, and the use of turmeric and sandalwood—these were not just for beauty, but also symbols of health and purity. This creation of colors reinforced sensitivity towards nature and a culture of collective labor.

That is why Holi has been flowing continuously in our cultural stream for centuries and will continue to bind the society together with love, passion and joy—as if this auspicious wish keeps echoing at every door.

Collective resolution for safe life, safe nation

Kantilal Mandot

National Safety Day is celebrated every year on March 4th in India. This day is not just a date but a symbol of awareness, responsibility, and sensitivity. The National Safety Council was established on this day in 1966. This day began to be celebrated in an organized manner in 1972, and since then it has been continuously observed as National Safety Week from March 4th to March 10th. Its purpose is to prevent accidents in workplaces, roads, homes, and public places, and to spread awareness about safety, health, and the environment.

The history of National Safety Day dates back to a period when the country was experiencing rapid industrial development, and with it, the number of accidents was also increasing.

Concerns were raised about the safety of workers, and the need was felt for an organization that could provide safety training, awareness, and guidance. This vision led to the establishment of the National Safety Council. The Council resolved to spread the message of safety to every segment of society, including industries. A few years later, it was decided to celebrate this foundation day as National Safety Day to spread the message of safety more widely.

The primary purpose of this day is to raise awareness about safety. Even minor negligence at the workplace can lead to a serious accident. If workers don't use proper safety equipment or management doesn't take necessary precautions, the consequences can be tragic. Therefore, this day reminds both employers and employees of their

responsibilities. Safety isn't just about following rules, but about building a positive work culture in which everyone is committed to keeping themselves and others safe.

During National Safety Week, programs are held in various industries, schools, and public places. Safety pledges are administered, training sessions are conducted, and awareness campaigns are launched. The goal of these programs is not just to provide information but to change behavior. A safety culture is strengthened when individuals understand that their own caution can save lives.

Each year, a theme is set for this day. The theme for the year 2025 was "Security and Well-being are Vital for a Developed India." This theme clarifies that a nation's development is possible only when its citizens are safe.

Economic progress, industrial expansion, and social advancement are meaningless if human life is insecure. Therefore, security must be considered the cornerstone of development. Road safety is also an important part of the spirit of National Safety Day. Everyday accidents force us to question whether we are truly cautious. Simple measures like following driving rules, wearing seat belts, observing speed limits, and not driving under the influence can save many lives. True commitment to safety is demonstrated only when we follow the rules ourselves and inspire others to do so. The role of emergency services is also crucial in health safety. Jikija Healthcare Limited has provided timely medical assistance to millions of people through 108 ambulance services in various states. These services have saved countless lives in

Rajasthan, Punjab, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Jharkhand, and Sikkim. Even during difficult circumstances and pandemics, these services have consistently performed, demonstrating their commitment to society. This example demonstrates that safety is not limited to awareness alone, but also involves service and dedication.

What should be our commitment to National Safety Day? This question is crucial. Dedication doesn't just mean participating in a one-day event, but rather practicing caution and responsibility year-round. Safety should begin at home. Regularly checking cooking gas, using electrical appliances correctly, teaching children fire and road safety precautions, and protecting the environment are small but important steps in our daily lives.

14th Annual Connections Meet: 10th IIMCAA awards honour excellence in journalism, advertising and public service

New Delhi, (GNS): The 10th IIMCAA Awards were held in Delhi during the inaugural session of the 14th annual Connections Meet, with top honours across journalism, advertising, public relations and public service announced at the ceremony.

Soumya Pillai was named Journalist of the Year under the Jury Awards category. Other winners included Laxmi Devi Aere for Agriculture Reporter of the Year; Safeena Wani for Print Reporting; Medha Yadav for Broadcast Reporting; Mohammad Asad for Producer; Saurav Kumar Borah for Print Reporting in Indian Languages; Alpesh Arvind Karkare for Broadcast Reporting in Indian Languages; Tanzil Asif for Independent Journalist in Digital Video; Hasleen Kaur for Ad Person of the Year; and Panchanan Mishra for PR Person of the Year.

The Jury also conferred Special Mention Awards on Garima Singh, Nantha Kishore G K and Gargy Satapathy. Awardees received cash



prizes ranging from Rs 10,000 to Rs 1.5 lakh, along with trophies and certificates.

In the Committee Awards segment,

Chandan Roy and Abhinav Pandey were honoured as Alumni of the Year. Lifetime Achievement Awards were presented to Milan Vohra, Lipika Sud,

Pradeep Kumar Mallik, Dr Sangita Thakur and Mitali Mohanty Ghosh.

The Public Service Award recognised Suresh Kumar Vashishta, IAS; Virendra

Mishra, IPS; Kapil Sharma; Kumar Abhishek, CAPF; Prerna Prasad; and Ankita Sahoo.

Further recognitions included Anand Kumar Dutta and Madhav Sharma as Connecting Alumni of the Year. The Maharashtra and Bihar chapters were named Connecting Chapter of the Year, while IIMC Vicharaks' Samosa Party received the Connecting Group of the Year award. Under the Pillars of IIMCAA category, honours were presented to Prasad Sanyal, Ramesh Muniyappa, Manoj Kumar, Arvind Kumar and Ezrela Dalidia Fanai, posthumously. MC Joshi was felicitated for completing 50 years since graduation, and 74 alumni were recognised with Silver Jubilee honours. The event brought together alumni, media professionals and senior dignitaries from India and abroad. A souvenir publication was also released on the occasion, and organisers said chapter-level Connections Meets will be held in several cities in the coming months.

Summit Protest: HC Relief For IYC Chief Seeking Bail

New Delhi, (GNS): Paving the way for the release of Indian Youth Congress (IYC) president Uday Bhanu Chib from custody, Delhi High Court on Monday stayed a sessions court order that had halted his bail in connection with the AI Summit protest case.

In an urgent hearing, Justice Saurabh Banerjee observed that the sessions judge had paused the magistrate's order without explaining why it was a rare case requiring immediate intervention against the grant of bail. Additional sessions judge (ASJ) Amit Bansal last week stayed the magistrate's order, hours after it was passed. "Some application of mind has to be there. If there is no application of mind, the order has to be stayed," Justice Banerjee orally observed.

Appearing for the Indian Youth Congress president, senior advocate Siddharth Luthra highlighted the failure of the sessions court to follow the dictum laid down by Supreme Court that an interim order staying bail should be passed in rare and



exceptional cases and should give reasons. "You see page 1. Turn over the page. Where is the reasoning or finding?" Justice Banerjee asked the counsel for Delhi Police as he opposed the plea.

The high court recorded that the additional sessions judge granted the stay by merely noting that it was a rare and very exceptional case "without according... as to what is the rare and very exceptional case". The court said prima facie it was "not satisfied" with the ASJ's order and emphasised that an order affecting personal liberty must disclose reasons.

5-year-old can hear again, thanks to rare implant at AIIMS

New Delhi, (GNS): A five-year-old boy who had lost his hearing after meningitis as a toddler became the first child to undergo an auditory brain stem implant at AIIMS and is responding to sounds nearly 18 months after the complex surgery. The procedure, reserved for rare cases, was undertaken after doctors found that the damage to his auditory nerves couldn't be fixed by a conventional cochlear implant. An auditory brain stem implant bypasses the damaged nerve and directly stimulates the hearing centres in the brain.

Since activation of the device and with continuous speech therapy, the child began recognising environmental sounds and producing clearer speech. Doctors described his progress as steady and encouraging, emphasising the crucial role of rehabilitation in such cases.

Sharing details on the eve of World Hearing Day, professor



Rakesh Kumar, head of the ENT department, along with professor Kapil Sikka, Dr Poonam Sagar and speech therapist Shivani, said the case highlighted a larger public health concern - hearing loss often goes unnoticed until critical developmental years pass. "Hearing loss is a hidden disability," Prof Kumar said. "Hearing loss is not visible. That is why families delay seeking help."

Doctors said many parents still relied on myths, assuming a child would "start speaking

late" like another family member. In reality, babies begin babbling simple sounds such as "mama" or "dada" by five-six months. If a child does not respond to sounds or fails to achieve speech milestones by seven to nine months, evaluation is essential. AIIMS has implemented universal newborn hearing screening for every baby born there since 2021. They undergo screening through tests such as ABR, also known as BERA. If a baby fails the first screening, it is repeated within 24 hours.

Confirmatory testing is conducted within the first month, if needed.

Doctors stressed that not all hearing loss required major surgery. In children, simple causes such as earwax or infections are common and treatable. Among older adults, age-related hearing loss, presbycusis, affects nearly 30-40% of people above 60 and can often be managed with hearing aids.

They cautioned that untreated hearing loss could lead to social withdrawal, particularly among the elderly. Many avoid conversations out of embarrassment when they struggle to follow speech. Over time, such isolation may contribute to cognitive decline. Estimates suggest 6-7% of Indians has some degree of hearing loss, and more than 70% is either preventable or treatable. Congenital hearing loss affects about 0.2% of newborns, translating into thousands of affected babies each year in India.

Make a night of it! Heritage walks to promote tourism

New Delhi, (GNS): Delhi govt has planned a 'Haunted Heritage Walk' at Feroz Shah Kotla at night, along with several other curated evening walks, as part of a renewed push to boost night tourism in the capital.

These walks include 'Dekho Apna CP' covering Connaught Place, 'Walk of Shahjahanabad' in Old Delhi and evening tours at Qutub Minar complex. They have been designed for corporate groups, PSUs, institutions, RWAs, students and domestic and international tourists, Delhi tourism department officials said.

The walks will be available on demand. "If over 25 people are interested in a particular walk, the department will organise it for them. The time will be customised according to their convenience, but we will ensure that all the walks are wrapped up by 8.30 pm," one of the officials said.

One needs to pay Rs 500 to participate in a walk. Each member of a group will be provided with a kit that includes a bag, cap, wristband and water bottle. The walks will be led by verified storytellers and trained 'walk conductors' who are well-versed in the history of the sites and



adept at lucidly presenting them. On certain occasions, historians will also lead the walks, offering deeper insights into the capital's rich heritage.

People may reach out to the tourism department at 011-23365358 and 011-23363607 for support regarding customised group bookings and themed trails. Organisations and individuals can

also write to tourism@delhitourism.gov.in for proposals, slot availability and tailored experiences. "We encourage people to make advance bookings to ensure seamless coordination and curated, storytelling-led heritage experiences across the capital," said the official.

Among the flagship walks is the 'Haunted Heritage Walk', which uses folklore as well as documented history to provide a unique experience to enthusiasts. Other themed trails include 'Roshan-e-Dilli' at Qutub complex, 'Ek Shaam Shaheedon Ke Naam' at National War Memorial, food walks in Old Delhi and heritage explorations around Hauz Khas. "The aim is not only to enhance the visitor experience but also to stimulate local economic activity in and around heritage sites by encouraging longer visits. By tailoring these experiences for corporates and institutions, Delhi Tourism is also looking to tap into the growing demand for curated walks at an hour convenient for the enthusiasts. When people engage meaningfully with historic spaces, they also develop a sense of ownership and responsibility towards their preservation," the official said.

Middle East conflict: 80 international flights cancelled at Delhi airport



New Delhi, (GNS): As many as 80 international flights were cancelled at the Delhi airport on Tuesday morning due to operational disruptions for airlines amid the escalating Middle East conflict.

Some airlines, including Emirates, have partially started operations to and from the Middle East. An official said 36 departures and 44 arrivals were cancelled at the Delhi airport.

Meanwhile, an Emirates flight EK513 enroute to Dubai returned to the national capital due to airspace

restrictions, as per information available on flight tracking website Flightradar24.com.

The official said on Tuesday morning, an Emirates flight EK512 from Dubai landed at the Delhi airport.

"Due to the ongoing political situation in the Middle East, several westbound international flights are causing delays or schedule adjustments," Delhi airport operator DIAL said in a post on X.

Delhi airport handles more than 1,300 flights daily.

Heritage cafe revives dishes once cherished by Husain, Raghu Rai

New Delhi, (GNS): The courtyard of Triveni Kala Sangam in Mandi House rings with the clink of teacups, the clatter of cutlery and the hiss of kebabs crisping on griddles even as music from rehearsals and notes of a kathak tatkara (rhythmic footwork) drift down staircases. At a table, lawyers in black coats review the ebb and flow of a case between bites of parathas; at another, students can't stop dissecting a canvas they've just seen upstairs.

For over 75 years, Triveni Terrace Cafe has been more a hub of adda than a mere canteen. It is

now back with its heritage menu, which guides the patrons through the evolution of the cultural and arts complex and its culinary traditions.

Founded in 1950 and formally operating out of its current Tansen Marg address since 1963, Triveni was the vision of Sundari Shridharani, an artiste shaped by her time at Almorah spent with the legendary dancer-choreographer Uday Shankar and his brother, sitar maestro Ravi Shankar.

Shridharani believed that arts must be accessible to everyone, not just the privileged. Hence, classes at Triveni were affordable,



scholarships generously offered, and performances rarely ticketed. First come, first served was the only rule. The canteen grew out of this philosophy, recalls Kavita Shridharani

Mohindroo, now president of Triveni Kala Sangam and daughter of its founder.

In the late 1960s, the canteen had little more than a stove and a table - serving tea, biscuits and a

simple snack or two. Artistes would gather here after rehearsals, lingering for hours over steaming cups.

Then came Mrs Puran Acharya, the first person to

manage the space on a professional basis. She expanded the menu, though modestly, by introducing nimbu pani, coffee and a few hot snacks. Gradually, she added kebabs and parathas that would become legendary across Delhi. "Soon, everyone was here," Kavita recalls.

"M F Husain, after getting down barefoot from his car painted with galloping horses, would hold court in a corner of the canteen. Fellow painters Krishen Khanna and Vasudeo S Gaitonde used to drop in as well. Photographer Raghu Rai held one of his early exhibi-

tions here. Theatre actors, poets, writers and musicians made the courtyard their evening address. It was not unusual for three or four cups of chai to accompany meandering conversations about art, politics and life," Kavita says. The food, she says, was simple and affordable, and continues to be so. "It was honest ghar ka khana," Kavita says. "No one had money those days. But everyone had ideas." Over time, the canteen passed through different hands. After Mrs Acharya retired, Kamala Ranjit Rai and her family ran it for many years, expanding the offerings while retaining its unpretentious soul. Cold

coffee appeared on the menu, though it was simpler than today's frothy one. More dishes were added, but the spirit remained intact: affordable, welcoming and unhurried.

WESTERN RAILWAY
REPAIRS WORK
Divisional Railway Manager(WA), Western Railway, 6th floor, Engg. Deptt., Mumbai Central, Mumbai - 400008, invites E-Tender Notice No: BCT/25-26/329, dt. 25.02.2026. Work and location: (1) Lower Panel - Repairs to Roof Leakage of various office building and allied works at Lower Panel (2) Periodical painting and minor repairs of service buildings & August Kranti Colony Approx. cost of work: ₹ 2,25,15,614.66. EMD: ₹ 2,62,600/- Date & Time of submission: Till 24.03.2026, 15:00 hrs. Date & Time of opening: On 24.03.2026 at 15:30 hrs. For further details please visit our website www.ireps.gov.in 1180
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Delhi CM Rekha Gupta performs bhoomi puja for new Kendriya Vidyalaya campus in Khajuri Khas

New Delhi, (GNS): Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Monday performed the bhoomi puja for the permanent building of a Kendriya Vidyalaya at Khajuri Khas in north-east Delhi and inaugurated its temporary campus, allowing classes to commence without delay. Describing the occasion as historic for Karawal Nagar and the wider North-East Delhi region, the Chief Minister said the area had long faced a shortage of quality educational institutions and, until now, relied on a single Kendriya Vidyalaya. The new school, she said, would spare children from travelling long distances and help strengthen the academic ecosystem in the locality. The event was attended by Education Minister Ashish Sood, Tourism Minister Kapil Mishra and senior officials of the Education Department.

Referring to earlier conditions in the region, Gupta said there was a



time when students attended classes on alternate days owing to a shortage of classrooms, and in some cases two classes operated from a single room.

She said coordinated efforts of the triple-engine government were accelerating development in education and core infrastructure, includ-

ing roads, drinking water, sewerage systems, flyovers, foot overbridges and hospitals.

The Chief Minister said the new Kendriya Vidyalaya would provide education of national standards and contribute to building a "Viksit Delhi". She added that coordination between the Centre, the Delhi Government and the Municipal Corporation had expedited development projects, and that the metro project in Karawal Nagar was expected to begin soon.

Education Minister Ashish Sood said the initiative marked comprehensive development in an area that had long struggled with inadequate schooling facilities. Tourism Minister Kapil Mishra described the school as a major achievement for the region.

With the new addition, the number of Kendriya Vidyalayas in Delhi has risen to 47, serving over 1.19 lakh students across the national capital.

How Police Exposed Betrayal By A Friend

New Delhi, (GNS): The alleged killers played a high-stakes game of shadows to bury their trail and then employed every trick in the book to lead investigators down a blind alley.

However, the sleuths proved to be more than their equal - patiently stitching together National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) data and a maze of footage from CCTVs at Yamuna Expressway toll plazas and multiple locations across Delhi to unearth a trail of betrayal.

At 2.40 pm on Feb 18, Anroop Gupta had left his residence at Radhika Apartments in Dwarka Sector 14 in his car for the canteen he ran at Chhattisgarh Sadan in Sector 13. Several hours later, at 9.40 pm, he reportedly sent a voice note to a friend, asking him to visit the canteen. While Gupta's earlier texts were in Hindi, responses were limited to a brief "ok" following the voice note. Four days later, at 3.12 pm on Feb 22, a social media story purportedly showing Gupta in Goa was posted from his account. However, friends and family noticed a facial mole in his photo they knew had been removed earlier. They smelled a rat, approached police and filed a missing person complaint.

Cops swung into action. They obtained data from NHAI and found Gupta's car was last seen on the intervening night of Feb 19 and 20 on the expressway. CCTV footage at toll plazas revealed it went towards Vrindavan and was headed back for Noida after a few hours. Simultaneously, police checked CCTV footage at Chhattisgarh Sadan and found Gupta taking a bike taxi.

No Rush Job: Holding Areas, Greater Vigil Help Railway Stations Keep Chaos At Bay

New Delhi, (GNS): The last-minute rush of passengers heading home for Holi does not seem to be descending into total chaos, as crowd-control measures appear to be in place at the city's railway stations. Over 700 Holi special train trips have been operated by Northern Railways since Feb 21 and will continue until March 7 from various cities.

"In the past five days, about 14 lakh passengers have travelled from Delhi. Based on continuous monitoring of passenger rush at major stations, 22 additional special trains are scheduled to run on Tuesday," said Himanshu Shekhar Upadhyay, chief public relations officer, Northern Railways.

A spot visit by Media to New Delhi Railway Station on Monday revealed a temporary holding area set up outside, allowing travellers to wait in an organised manner before boarding. Restricting entry to confirmed passengers, authorities had suspended platform ticket sales.

Around 12.10pm, the Bihar



Sampark Kranti Express from New Delhi to Darbhanga Junction arrived at a platform. Among the passengers was Falinder Kumar, a resident of Pitampura, travelling to Muzaffarpur for Holi. "I reached the station at 8am and waited in the holding area. The arrangements this year are well managed, and we didn't face any hassle while boarding the coach," he said.

Railway staff and RPF personnel were stationed at every door to manage passengers on board. They advised travellers to avoid using mobile phones near open windows and to keep handbags secure, cautioning that slowing trains could increase the risk of theft.

'We heard missile over hotel': 310 travellers from Abu Dhabi land in Delhi amid Gulf crisis, families break down at IGI

New Delhi, (GNS): What was meant to be a dream honeymoon turned into days of anxiety for 27-year-olds Raghav and Varsha Gupta after escalating regional tension disrupted air travel in the Gulf, forcing them to wait for a safe journey home. The couple had left for Dubai and Abu Dhabi on Feb 22. Within days, they found themselves watching missile interceptions light up the night sky, with plumes of smoke in the distance. "They were at their hotel when they first heard a missile overhead," said Raghav's 60-year-old mother, Niranjana, speaking outside Terminal 3 of IGI Airport on Monday evening.

"Everyone was shaken. The hotel asked guests to move to the lobby for safety, arranged for food for the night, and even provided shelter to those stranded at the airport," she



said, recalling that it was a trip they had been eagerly looking forward to.

By Monday morning, the airline had arranged for school buses to ferry passengers to Abu Dhabi airport. When Raghav finally stepped out of the arrival gate in Delhi, clutching his six-month-old niece, the family broke into tears. "The situation there is tense, but authorities seem to have it

under control," he said. The couple were among 310 passengers on board the Etihad flight that made it to Delhi.

Twenty-five-year-old Neeraj Rani, a Canada-based law student, was travelling home last Friday with a brief layover in Abu Dhabi. Instead of a short stopover, she found herself stranded at the airport for two days after a missile strike disrupted operations.

With tears in her eyes, she embraced her 52-year-old father, Devendra Kumar, upon landing. "People there are scared," she said. Kumar admitted that the uncertainty had left the family in Delhi terrified. The family recalled being glued to the news and monitoring every update.

For some, the decision to come home was immediate. Thirty-year-old Sanjana, who lives in Abu Dhabi, travelled to Delhi with her one-year-old baby after tensions escalated. Describing the atmosphere as terrifying, she said it was the calm demeanour of those around her that offered reassurance. "Seeing my neighbours carry on normally made me feel things were still under control," she said. Her husband has remained in Abu Dhabi for work, and she plans to return once the situation stabilises.

Karan Aujla ziplines, sings atop a high custom stage: It took me many years to reach here

New Delhi, (GNS): The stage was a spectacle, the crowd was a sea of people, and the vibe - kaafi wavy! Karan Aujla performed in Delhi on Saturday, making sure that over 70,000 people in the audience saw him up close. He was literally On Top when he sang Utte Dekh, ziplining across the stadium from the back to the front. Pausing for a few photographs, dancing throughout the performance, and singing atop the 50-foot-high custom stage, Karan parted with "Oo, Dilliwallon," as he called them during the show, performing hit numbers like For A Reason, HIM, Boyfriend, Wavy, Jee Ni Lagda, Softly, Mexico, On Top, Bachke Bachke, and more.

After initial hiccups with entry - with or without wristbands - and 10,000 steps to reach the venue, Karan delivered a performance the city will remember for a long time.

Karan Aujla performed crowd favourites including For A Reason, HIM, Boyfriend, Mexico, On Top and Bachke Bachke. Talking to fans in Punjabi, Karan shared, "It took me many years to reach here. It is all because of you. I could never do it alone. It is your love, your prayers. Tussi mere gaane na sunde taan Aujla Aujla na bann da. I always try to give this mes-



sage to the little Aujla - Karan Singh - I remind him that you've struggled a lot, but ab tera time aa gaya. I love each and every one of you."

"I had said this at the last show as well. My village is in Ghurala (Ludhiana). If you travel to Delhi from my village by car, it takes eight hours. But if you want to become like Aujla and do a stadium show, it takes 10 years. Mehnat karte raho. Make sure you dream big. Whatever you do, keep going. Your day will come."

With IMAX-style LED walls projecting high-definition visuals, synchronised

drone shows and lighting grids delivering a 360-degree spectacle, the scale of the production stood out. Even Delhi Police joined the buzz, acknowledging a drone-style projection addressed to them on Instagram: "Aujlee iss gesture to assi mar jaan... Appreciate the love. Tussi stage sambhali, asi shehar (sic) Before wrapping up the show amid fireworks and after a series of carefully choreographed stunts, he told the crowd, "Spend time with your loved ones. If you're going through anything, share it with your parents, friends, siblings - the people closest to you."

Tie-up to boost solar research and training



New Delhi, (GNS): The International Solar Alliance (ISA) and IIT Delhi have joined hands to build a brighter solar future, focusing on strengthening global solar capacity through training, academic expansion and collaborative research.

The partnership aims to create a strong international talent pool by training Solar Technology Application Resource-Centre (STAR-C) instructors from ISA member countries. The two formalised a framework for action with a strong emphasis on capacity

building, academic collaboration and human resource development. The collaboration will support the training of renewable energy engineers, STAR-C trainers and research professionals, alongside promoting joint research, technology cooperation, and knowledge-sharing initiatives in solar energy. The framework builds on cooperation between ISA and IIT Delhi's department of energy science and engineering, which already supported an MTech programme in renewable energy technologies.

From Ladli To Pink Saheli: Delhi Women Get 4 Reasons To Cheer

New Delhi, (GNS): In a major push for women empowerment in the capital, President Droupadi Murmu on Monday launched four key welfare initiatives of Delhi govt. They include introduction of smart cards for free public bus rides, financial security for the poor, and welfare of the girl child aimed at ensuring "dignity, economic independence and social respect for women".

Under 'Meri Punji, Mera Adhikar' drive, over Rs 100 crore was directly transferred to 40,642 beneficiaries of Delhi Ladli Scheme. The President also unveiled Delhi Lakhpati Bitiya Yojana, which will provide staged deposits in the name of each eligible girl from her birth, maturing to over Rs 1 lakh by the time she turns 21. This amount will sup-



port her higher education or vocational training. The Pink Saheli National Common Mobility Card

affordable mobility.

Additionally, Delhi govt transferred Rs 130 crore into the accounts of ration card-holding families to purchase LPG cylinders. Under the scheme approved by the cabinet last month, each poor family in Delhi will get Rs 850 through direct benefit transfer every Holi and Diwali. It was a promise made by BJP ahead of the 2025 assembly elections.

The President said a developed India by 2047 will be possible only when women are empowered with dignity, security and equal opportunities. "I am confident that all these welfare schemes will empower the sisters and daughters of Delhi and make a significant contribution towards the goal of building a prosperous Delhi," said the

President. "Today, women are excelling in every field, but it is also a fact that they still face violence, economic inequality, social stereotypes and health-related neglect. The goal of women's empowerment can only be achieved by removing these obstacles. A woman will truly be empowered when she has the ability to make independent decisions, can live a life with self-respect, and has access to equal opportunities and security. An empowered woman can change not only her own life but also the direction of society and future generations," the President said.

However, women's empowerment is not solely the responsibility of govt, she said. "It is the responsibility of every member and institution of society. Delhi is

the capital of the country. If the women of Delhi are safe, educated and self-reliant, and provide confident leadership in every sphere of society, it will send a positive message throughout the country," Murmu said. The launch also marked the anniversary celebrations of BJP govt, which was formed on Feb 20, 2025. LG V K Saxena, chief minister Rekha Gupta and several beneficiaries of the schemes were present at the event.

Richa Singh, a resident of Badarpur who attended the event, said govt's decision to provide money for LPG cylinders has brought much-needed relief to families in her locality ahead of Holi. "Several women in my area have received the amount directly in their bank accounts.