



# Nitish Kumar files nomination for Rajya Sabha, Amit Shah congratulates

New Delhi, (GNS): Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah on Thursday congratulated BJP National President Nitin Naveen and Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on their Rajya Sabha nominations. In his message on X, Amit Shah said that during his long political journey, including serving as an MLA, MP, Chief Minister, and Union Minister, Nitish Kumar has never been tainted. Completing such a long political journey without a single allegation of corruption proves the quality of Nitish Kumar's public life. Nitish Kumar also played a significant role in providing electricity to every village and every home in Bihar. Nitish Kumar has always advocated simplicity, purity, and the highest values of public life and has followed them to the letter. Amit Shah said that Nitish Kumar has made a significant contribution in



taking Bihar forward in every way for 11 years under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Under his leadership, all the schemes launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi have reached the people of Bihar. The Union Home and Cooperation Minister said

that Nitish Kumar was a prominent leader of the Jayaprakash Movement and since then, he has strived to live his entire life according to the principles of Loknayak Jayaprakash Narayan. Today, he is once again visiting Delhi as a Rajya Sabha MP. He said that the people

of Bihar will always remember and respect his tenure as Chief Minister. During his long political career, Chief Minister Nitish Kumar followed JP's ideals and wrote a new chapter of development in Bihar. The people of Bihar will remember his tenure with respect as a golden era. He said that Nitish Kumar truly accelerated Bihar's development. During his tenure, he worked to free Bihar from jungle raj, improved Bihar's roads, and connected villages with them. Congratulating BJP National President Nitin Naveen on his Rajya Sabha nomination, Amit Shah said that after a long political career in the state, he has become the BJP's national president and will now contribute to Parliament through the Rajya Sabha. Millions of BJP workers, along with members of the NDA, welcome the president to Parliament.

## US Congressman breaks former soldier's arm: He was protesting the attack on Iran

*His hand was stuck in a door while being forcibly removed*



New Delhi(GNS): The sixth day of the US-Israel-Iran war. Meanwhile, a hearing on the armed forces in the US Congress erupted when Congressman Tim Sheehy had protesting former Marine Brian McGinniss ejected from the meeting.

Security personnel tried to forcibly remove him, breaking his arm. According to reports, Brian McGinniss was protesting the US decision to enter the war against Iran.

During the hearing, he suddenly shouted, "America does not want to fight this war for Israel." Capitol Police then tried to escort him out, and Republican Senator Tim Sheehy joined the police in pushing him out.

It is reported that police and senators attempted to remove him from the door for approximately 20-30 seconds. McGinniss continued to protest, holding onto the door and chanting slogans. During this struggle, his hand became stuck in the door and broke.



## Iran requests Sri Lanka to hand over the bodies of 90 sailors killed in the US attack

Colombo(GNS): Iran has requested Sri Lanka to hand over the bodies of the sailors killed in the US attack on its warship IRIS Dena so that they can be cremated there. The warship was carrying 180 Iranian sailors. The warship was targeted and sunk by a US submarine off the coast of Sri Lanka. Sri Lanka, which is leading the relief operation, has said that 90 bodies have been recovered, but this number may increase. Meanwhile, the presence of another Iranian ship has been confirmed in Sri Lanka and it has requested permission from the Sri Lankan government to anchor in its territorial waters.

According to Sri Lanka's leading newspaper, Daily Mirror, Iran has requested the handover of the bodies of 90 sailors killed in the US submarine attack on the Iranian naval vessel IRIS Dena in the Indian Ocean near Sri Lanka for their last rites. All the bodies are currently being held at the National Hospital in Karapitiya, Sri Lanka. Sri Lanka's Deputy Health Minister, Hansaka Wijemuni, stated that the request to repatriate the bodies to Iran cannot be initiated immediately due to the current military situation. Sri Lanka is coordinating with Iranian authorities to conduct standard post-mortem procedures and further action.

# India-Finland trade to double, will cooperate in digital and urban solutions

New Delhi(GNS): India and Finland have decided to strengthen their partnership to increase cooperation in the field of telecommunication services, data analytics, quantum computing and AI and to find circular economy and sustainable urban solutions.

Both the countries have agreed to elevate it to the level of 'Strategic Partnership in Digitalization and Sustainability'. Both the countries will double their trade by 2030. Finland will provide opportunities to Indian talent. Along with this, it will also provide opportunities to Indian startups. This year both the countries will jointly organize the World Circular Economy Forum in



India. 11 points have been agreed upon in the bilateral talks held between the two countries on Thursday. It decided to establish separate joint task forces on startup cooperation, 6G and digitalization,

joint research on digital and environmental issues, cooperation in the fields of statistics and the environment, and a consular dialogue on mobility matters. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Alexander Stubb held wide-ranging bilateral talks at Hyderabad House in New Delhi today. Following the talks, the Foreign Ministry spokesperson described the talks as building a partnership for shared progress and prosperity. He stated that as a significant achievement, the two leaders agreed to elevate India-Finland relations to the level of a "Strategic Partnership in Digitalization and Sustainability."

## Dhoni and Amitabh Bachchan attend Sachin's son's wedding

Mukesh Ambani and Jay Shah also attend; Arjun ties the knot with businessman Ravi Ghai's granddaughter

Mumbai(GNS): Sachin Tendulkar's son Arjun Tendulkar married Sania Chandhok in Mumbai today. Amitabh Bachchan arrived at the wedding ceremony with his wife Jaya Bachchan. Former Indian captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni also attended with his wife Sakshi. Former captains Rahul Dravid and Anil Kumble, along with cricketers Ajinkya Rahane, Suresh Raina, and Harbhajan Singh, were also present. The wedding functions have been going on since March 3. Arjun Tendulkar and Sania Chandhok's pre-wedding functions were held on February 27 at the Ambani family's home in Jamnagar, Gujarat.

# Global cooperation is necessary to eliminate cervical cancer: JP Nadda Prime Minister Modi to inaugurate and lay foundation stone for new Delhi Metro lines on March 8

New Delhi(GNS): Union Health Minister J.P. Nadda said on Thursday that India is fully committed to eliminating cervical cancer as a public health problem and strengthening global health cooperation. Global cooperation is essential for eliminating cervical cancer. Addressing a virtual press briefing at the World Health Organization headquarters on Thursday, J.P. Nadda said that women's health and dignity are among India's national priorities. He reiterated that the Indian government is making continuous efforts to protect women from preventable diseases like cervical cancer. Multi-pronged strategy to combat cervical cancer The Health Minister stated

that cervical cancer remains a major public health challenge globally and in India. To combat this, the Indian government has adopted a multi-pronged strategy based on prevention, screening, early detection, and timely treatment. JP Nadda stated that the HPV vaccination campaign is being conducted over a 90-day period and follows a single-dose schedule. The campaign uses the Gardasil Quadrivalent vaccine, which is in accordance with the recommendations of the World Health Organization and India's Technical Advisory Group. The vaccine is being made available free of charge at designated government health centers across the



country. Nadda emphasized the community-centered nature of the initiative, stating that the HPV vaccination program is completely voluntary. Parental consent is central to the campaign, reflecting India's respect for family autonomy and community values. He explained that digital

technologies are being extensively utilized to ensure transparency and efficiency. Every vaccination event is recorded on the U-WIN digital platform, ensuring real-time monitoring and accountability. Vaccine stocks and cold-chain logistics are monitored through eVIN.

Nadda noted that India's frontline health workers played a crucial role in the success of this campaign. He reiterated that India fully supports the WHO's global strategy for cervical cancer elimination, which includes the 90-70-90 targets by 2030. This means ensuring HPV vaccination for 90 percent of girls, screening for 70 percent of women, and appropriate treatment for 90 percent of patients. Speaking on the occasion, WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus described India's HPV vaccination campaign as the world's largest free vaccination drive and called it a historic step towards eliminating cervical cancer. The Chief Minister said

New Delhi(GNS): Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate two new metro lines and lay the foundation stone for three new corridors in Delhi on March 8. The total cost of these projects is over Rs 18,300 crore. Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta said on Thursday that on this occasion, two new corridors of Delhi Metro Rail Corporation will be inaugurated - Majlis Park to Maujpur-Babarpur (Pink Line) and Deepali Chowk to Majlis Park (Magenta Line). Along with this, the foundation stone will also be laid for three new corridors under Phase-5 (A) of the Metro. The Chief Minister said

that these projects will not only strengthen public transport in the capital but will also help in reducing traffic congestion and pollution. The event will be held at DDA Utsav Sthal-3 (in front of Nirankari Mandal) in Delhi. He informed that the 12.3-kilometer section from Majlis Park to Maujpur-Babarpur will have eight elevated stations. Upon its opening, the Pink Line's total length will reach approximately 71.56 kilometers, giving Delhi the country's first fully operational "Ring Metro." Similarly, the approximately 9.92-kilometer Magenta Line extension from Deepali Chowk to Majlis Park will have seven elevated sta-

tions. With this addition, the Magenta Line's total length will reach approximately 49 kilometers. According to the Chief Minister, several significant engineering milestones have been achieved in the construction of these corridors. A section of the Deepali Chowk-Majlis Park corridor reaches a height of approximately 28.36 meters, making it one of the Delhi Metro's highest elevated sections. During the construction of the Majlis Park-Maujpur-Babarpur corridor, a new bridge was built over the Yamuna River and a double-decker viaduct was constructed, which includes both metro tracks and a road flyover.

# Peace is more important today than war

Sanjay Goswami

As soon as artificial intelligence was introduced, the scope of war expanded to such an extent that it became impossible to resort to nuclear attack. Iran had nothing to do with America, but it was forced to jump into it. With the advancement of science, development has taken a new turn worldwide. With the ever-new dimensions of development, all countries are engaged in rapidly advancing their prosperity. This has yielded many positive results. Science has made unprecedented progress in all areas of medicine, health, agriculture, industry, transportation, telecommunications, war equipment, etc., and scientists are still striving towards this end. As a result, modern material resources have transformed human life. All countries

are engaged in a race to make their countries progressive, prosperous, and powerful based on science. Due to this competition, all countries have started producing weapons for their own security. A large number of innocent civilians are losing their lives in the war between America and Iran. Due to the increasing competition for weapons, the entire world is immersed in a sea of concern. To avoid this, all countries, despite being concerned for their own security and yet busy stockpiling weapons, tirelessly call for disarmament for world peace. Despite knowing the devastation caused by destructive weapons, many have attacked each other and unleashed an open dance of destruction. The consequences have claimed countless lives. They have destroyed construction projects that showcased

the prosperity of countless countries. They have spared no effort in wreaking havoc everywhere, transforming development into devastation. To avoid this aggressive policy, everyone is seeking disarmament in favor of peace, prosperity, and prosperity in their own countries, and are committed to garnering public support for this. Because everyone sees the threat of destruction looming. Today, the world is moving toward nuclear war, and we all know its consequences. 76 years ago, on August 6, 1945, the United States dropped the world's first atomic bomb on Hiroshima, Japan. Three days later, the second atomic bomb was dropped on Nagasaki, also in Japan. Both cities were almost completely destroyed. More than 150,000 people lost their lives in an instant, and those who survived were crippled. Even

today, children born today suffer disabilities because the risk of radiation lasts for 100 years or more, and innocent people suffer its consequences. To protect innocent people, all countries have been urged to pledge nuclear disarmament so that the situation of aggression against another country never arises. The global arms race itself becomes a means of creating aggressors. There, if a person also becomes an aggressor by adopting an aggressive attitude out of passion, resentment, anger, feeling of revenge, with the intention of harassing someone, insulting someone, punishing someone, then in front of him, nothing is visible except the destruction of the opponent. The aggressor desires that his attack should not fail, and the possibility of a nuclear bomb attack increases. This leads to

hatred, animosity, jealousy, and enmity between humans, which robs humans of their happiness, peace, and tranquility. To avoid such aggressive policies and establish world peace, greater emphasis should be placed on nuclear disarmament. To foster this happiness, peace, and brotherhood, it is better for humans to act as allies rather than as aggressors. This brings peace and contentment to the aggressor as well. Evil thoughts are removed from their hearts and minds. To achieve such mental peace, one need not become an aggressor. Lord Buddha, with his slogan of non-violence, gave a new direction to save the world from the ravages of war. Based on humanity, humans should consider that they will neither become aggressors nor cooperate.

## Editorial

### On AI firm Anthropic versus U.S. government

Over the last few days, the U.S. Department of Defence unceremoniously cast out the AI firm Anthropic, which develops the coding assistant Claude, and designated the firm a "supply chain risk", the kind of cattle branding reserved for firms that are compromised by hostile foreign states. The reason was simple: Anthropic refused to relent on allowing its tools to be used for widespread domestic surveillance and fully autonomous weaponry. The high-octane conflict with the U.S. government — which accused Anthropic of following a "woke" and "radical" agenda — is a shocking escalation, despite prior concessions that would allow the U.S.'s defence establishment's use of Claude, which helps create and update code bases quickly. The conflict also sends a chilling message — a great power can do anything, with or without safeguards, to attain a strategic upper hand. This is a dangerous message to send in a multipolar world where shared standards around safety are increasingly difficult to achieve.

This is no longer the world of the Bletchley Park AI safety summit. It was a gathering that acknowledged the rapidly growing power of AI systems, and the shared global imperative to ensure that high-stakes risks be mitigated. What resonance does that worthy message have when the country on the frontier of AI development so publicly disavows any form of safety control for war, at a time when a reckless attack on Iran — with, reportedly, some assistance from Claude — is grinding on? Firms need to show some backbone when dealing with outrageous demands that could have chilling consequences in their home country and around the world. After all, if the U.S. demands the policy space for domestic surveillance in such a full-throated fashion, where does that leave countries where infiltrating the political opposition with spyware on their phones is already the norm? Anthropic showed this backbone, and it deserved the solidarity of its peers. Sadly, that is not what happened, as ChatGPT maker OpenAI appeared to give the U.S. defence department the flexibility it sought just hours after Anthropic became persona non grata.



**In the current digital and artificial intelligence era, while technologies like data analytics, blockchain traceability, and smart supply chains are developing globally, the threat of food adulteration is also growing in parallel. This contradiction is particularly pronounced in a huge consumer market like India. The festive season, particularly beginning with Holi, multiplies the demand for sweets, ghee, khoya, and milk. At this time, the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), the food safety regulatory body, has issued directives to states to strictly monitor and prevent adulteration, highlighting the severity of this crisis.**



## India accounts for approximately 25 percent of global milk production. Despite record production growth, are quality issues being questioned?

Kishan Sanmukhdas Bhavani

The recent FSSAI Milk Surveillance Report, released a few days ago, revealed shocking findings, necessitating action by the government. The recent Milk Surveillance Report 2025-26 revealed that approximately 33 to 38 percent of milk samples failed to meet quality standards. Adulteration was found to be due to water, detergents, urea, neutralizers, and other chemical substances. Some packaged milk samples showed coliform bacteria and total plate counts several times higher than acceptable limits. I, Advocate Kishan Sanmukhdas Bhavanani, Gondia, Maharashtra, believe this is not just a quality issue but a direct threat to public health. Milk, a major source of nutrition for children, the elderly, and patients, if contaminated, can lead to long-term health problems. The report also notes regional disparities. North India is the most affected. To understand this, the report states that 47 percent of samples in North India failed the standards, making it the most vulnerable region. A recent study in the Indian Journal of Community Medicine examined 330 samples, of which 70.6 percent were found to be seriously adulterated. The main adulteration factors are as follows: Water: Water was added to increase the volume in 193 samples. Detergent (23.9%): To create foam and make the milk appear thick. Urea (9.1%): To artificially increase the fat and protein content. Experts say that drinking milk contam-



inated with coliform and detergent can cause stomach infections, kidney disease, and long-term health problems. Consumers are advised to check the brand's latest lab report and FSSAI mark before purchasing milk. This figure was 23% in Western India, 18% in Southern India, and 13% in Eastern India. Incidents of adulteration in major milk-producing states like Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan have raised concerns, while significant cases were also confirmed in southern states like Tamil Nadu and Kerala. This regional disparity indicates significant gaps in monitoring, supply chain management, and enforcement capabilities.

Friends, if we talk about India: the world's largest milk producer, yet facing a crisis, then to understand this, according to government data, India's total milk production is projected to reach 248 million tons in 2025. Production has increased by 69.4 percent in the last 11 years. Per capita availability has reached 485 grams per day, far exceeding the global average (approximately 328 grams). India accounts for approximately 25 percent of global milk

production. Ironically, despite record production growth, quality is being questioned. Experts believe that quality control systems have been left behind in the race for quantity. A recent report by Trustify, an independent lab testing platform, claimed that coliform bacteria levels in some reputable packaged milk brands were found to be up to 98 times higher than the prescribed limit. This revelation has shaken consumer confidence. In the digital age, where consumer awareness spreads rapidly through social media, such revelations can cause profound and significant damage to companies' brand value and market share.

Friends, if we consider the topic of "Milk Adulteration: Not Just Fraud, but an Attack on Public Health," then adding water, detergent, urea, starch, or synthetic chemicals to milk is not only a financial fraud but also a serious health risk. Ingredients like urea and detergent can adversely affect the kidneys, liver, and digestive system. The presence of coliform bacteria indicates waterborne diseases and food poisoning. In children, this can

cause infections, diarrhea, and chronic malnutrition. Legal Framework: Stringent Provisions, Poor Implementation Milk adulteration is a serious criminal offense in India. Section 59 of the Food Safety and Standards Act provides for a punishment of up to six years and a fine of up to five lakh rupees for unsafe food; in the case of death, life imprisonment and a minimum fine of ten lakh rupees can be imposed. Section 51 prescribes a fine of up to five lakh rupees for substandard food, Section 52 a fine of up to three lakh rupees for misbranding, and Section 53 a fine of up to ten lakh rupees for misleading advertising. Furthermore, Sections 272 (food adulteration) and 273 (sale of harmful food) of the Indian Penal Code provide for imprisonment of up to six months, while Section 420 provides for fraud with imprisonment of up to seven years. Additional action is also possible under the Essential Commodities Act in areas declared as essential commodities. Many states have made stringent amendments making it a non-bailable offense. The biggest challenge to implementation: administrative laxity or structural deficiencies? Although the laws are strict, experts believe that their enforcement is not being as stringent as expected. Improvements are needed in the number of inspections, lab testing capacity, and the speed of prosecution. In many cases, the conviction rate remains low, which reduces the fear of punishment among adulterators.

## The architect of a smile: Healthy teeth and the secret to your self-confidence

Dilip Kumar Pathak

Our body is like a machine, and the beauty of our face is linked to our smile. The entire credit for maintaining this smile and protecting our teeth from disease goes to our dentists. Every year, March 6th is dedicated to those doctors who work diligently and meticulously to treat our dental problems. This day is not only a day to thank doctors, but also a reminder of the importance of dental health. People often visit doctors for minor ailments, but dismiss toothaches as trivial, considering them trivial. The truth is that the path to our entire body's health lies through our mouth. If our mouth is not clean, it is very difficult for the body to remain completely healthy. Dental treatment has been a tradition since ancient

times, but today, technology has advanced significantly. A dentist's job isn't just to remove damaged teeth or fill cavities; they also understand the structure of our jaws like an engineer and, like an artist, beautify our smiles. Many people today seek dentists' help to improve their appearance, which not only makes them look beautiful but also boosts their social confidence. Our deteriorating lifestyle has become our teeth's biggest enemy. Eating outside, consuming too many sweets, cold drinks, and tobacco weakens the roots of our teeth. Dentists repeatedly explain that once the enamel of teeth is damaged, it cannot be regenerated naturally.

Problems like bleeding gums or bad breath not only cause embarrassment, but doctors believe that oral filth can also contribute to heart

disease and diabetes. Therefore, it would be wrong to think of dentists as merely dental specialists; they protect our entire body. Thanks to advances in science, dental treatment has become much easier and painless. Gone are the days when people were afraid to visit dentists. Now, modern machines and medications are available that make treatment painless. Dentists are even more important for children. Proper dental care during childhood lays the foundation for strong, straight teeth later on. Experts teach children the correct way to brush their teeth in a playful way, which will help them throughout their lives. We should also dispel the misconception that visiting a dentist is expensive. In reality, if we get our teeth checked regularly, we won't have to face serious illnesses or

expensive treatments. Teeth are a precious gift from God; once lost, they can never be restored. Artificial teeth can only serve as a backup, but they can never provide the strength of real teeth. Furthermore, we must understand that tooth strength is more important than its whiteness. Many times, people, lured by advertisements, try to whiten their teeth with home remedies, which wear away the protective layer of teeth. Only an experienced dentist can give you the right advice on what is good and bad for your teeth.

Dentists today aren't just confined to clinics; they're also visiting schools and villages to educate people. They teach us that brushing before bed is even more important than brushing in the morning, as overnight dirt is the primary cause of worms. A good smile not only

makes you look younger, but it also keeps your digestive system strong, as properly chewed food nourishes the body. We should consider our dentist our friend and discuss our problems openly with them. Remember, a small mistake can lead to significant pain in the future.

Overall, this occasion gives us a chance to pledge to cherish our smiles. We should follow the advice of doctors, such as brushing twice a day, using the right toothpaste, and replacing our toothbrushes every few months. Newspapers and the media should also spread the message that healthy teeth are the key to a healthy nation. Let's visit our dentist today, get a checkup, and thank them for their selfless service. Only when your smile is healthy will you be able to truly enjoy life and laugh heartily.

# Tribes Art Festival 2026 celebrates soul of tribal heritage

**New Delhi, (GNS):** The Tribes Art Festival 2026, being held in the national capital, is exhibiting thousands of artworks by over 70 eminent tribal artists from across India.

Gond, Warli, Sohrai, Dokra, Bhil, Bodo, Koya, and Pithora tribal artists are participating in the event, showcasing the country's rich tribal heritage, art, and cultural vibrancy. The festival runs from March 2 to 13 at Travancore House.

Artist Ram Singh Urveti, whose painting priced at Rs 1,50,000 is on display, said such platforms are crucial for making tribal art visible both nationally and internationally.

"My painting portrays a huge tree interspersed with folklore. It took me two months to complete, with intricate details. It is a black-



and-white piece where I have used pens of different nibs, which itself is a labour-intensive task," he said.

"Such platforms are also important for building the economic resilience of tribal artists. Our art is more valued, and we

fetch a good price when we integrate culture, commerce and corporate partnerships," Urveti added. Union Tribal Affairs Minister Jual Oram said the festival aims to create a long-term socio-economic impact by positioning tribal communities at the

centre of "cultural preservation, enterprise development, and national growth". "From traditional forms to modern art, painting has evolved over centuries. The Ministry takes pride in promoting and preserving tribal art at risk of extinction while advancing tribal development," he said after inaugurating the event.

Oram added that his ministry is pursuing an integrated approach to tribal empowerment that combines cultural preservation with socio-economic development. He highlighted major initiatives such as the PM JANMAN for Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs), DAJGUA for benefit saturation, the expansion of Eklavya Model Residential Schools for quality education, and strengthened market linkages through TRIFED.

## Free bus rides: 3,600 pink cards issued from 50 centres on Day 1

**New Delhi, (GNS):** A day after the launch of Saheli Pink National Common Mobility Card, Delhi govt on Tuesday began issuing the smart card to women residents from 50 centres across the city. Only women with an Aadhaar card proving Delhi residency are eligible for the card, which enables free travel on public buses.

Over 3,600 cards were issued on the first day, an official said, adding that the turnout was less than expected due to Holi. "The cards are being issued instantly after Aadhaar cards are submitted and an Aadhaar-based verification is done," said an official. "The counters will function on the working days from 9am to 5pm. The shift to a smart card-based system will ensure better monitoring and prevent duplication," he added.

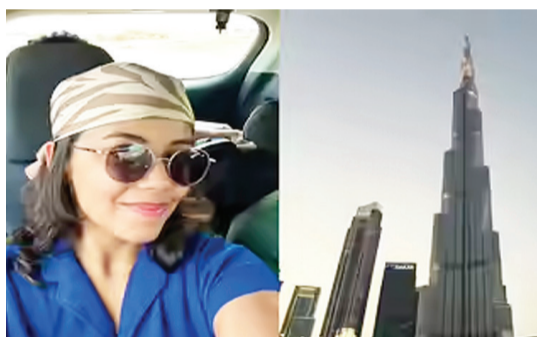
The move replaces the paper-based free travel ticket system, under which a pink slip



is issued by a conductor allowing women a free ride. All women travelling by public buses in the city were eligible.

Hailing the free ride, chief minister Rekha Gupta posted on X, "Through this single card, women will also be able to travel easily on the metro and RRTS. This decision of ours is an important step towards making travel for Delhi's women safe and fully convenient."

### 'Missile struck 4.5km away' Zepto techie shares real-time Middle East updates from Dubai returns to Bengaluru via Muscat



**New Delhi, (GNS):** Stranded in Dubai as the Middle East erupted into chaos, Kritika Kumari, a software developer at quick commerce platform Zepto, found herself navigating a tense mix of uncertainty, canceled flights, and missile strikes - and still managed to make her way safely to Muscat, Oman, before catching a flight back to Bengaluru.

Kumari, who had been in Dubai for work, had been posting regular updates on X, sharing snapshots of empty streets, fighter jets overhead, and the tense atmosphere in the city after coordinated U.S. and Israeli airstrikes in Iran prompted hundreds of Iranian missiles and drones to target Israel, the UAE, and neighboring Gulf countries.

On February 28, Kumari posted that the last missile strike had occurred just 4.5 km from where she was staying. "Totally tensed and stressed on how I will go back home safe or if I will be able to go back," she wrote. Since then, she regularly shared updates from Dubai, including photos of empty streets, fighter jets in the sky, and scenes from her hotel.

With airspace closed and flights canceled, Kritika, along with four colleagues, explored alternatives. On the night of March 1, she applied for an Oman e-visa through the Atlys app. By Tuesday afternoon, the visa was approved - delayed by a few hours, but enough to set the plan in motion.

The escape was a mix of buses, cabs, and border crossings. "We were dropped at the UAE border by cab, then got on a bus to reach the Oman side for immigration," she said. Finding the bus slow and expensive, the group switched to a taxi, paying 500 dirhams for five people to speed things up. Overall, transport cost about 3,500 dirhams for the journey from Dubai to Muscat.

Kumari's flight from Muscat to Bengaluru was booked for early morning, costing around 40,000 rupees per person. "We were weighing all possibilities - stay or leave - but yesterday's incident triggered us to move out," she said, reflecting on the tense decision-making. Her story is just one of many of Indians stranded in Dubai as the conflict raged on. Iranian missile strikes hit Bahrain, Kuwait, Israel, and the UAE, while NATO forces intercepted missiles heading toward Turkey.

## Gole Market restoration misses deadline; May 2026 new target

**New Delhi, (GNS):** New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) has extended the deadline for the Gole Market museum project to May 2026, marking the third extension since the foundation stone was laid in Oct 2022.

Officials attributed the current delay to, among other factors, construction disruptions due to pollution-related GRAP restrictions during the winter.

According to NDMC, nearly 40% of the civil work at the museum site, a heritage structure, was completed by Decend. However, NDMC did not comment on the current status of the project. A recent site visit by Media revealed that the pace of the construction remained slow. Simultaneously, NDMC is also carrying out the excavation work for the proposed subway in the area. This work also faced delays and the construction could begin only last Sept after getting traffic-related



approvals. The subway will provide safe access to the museum at the traffic roundabout, connecting Bhai Veer Singh Marg with the complex. It will be equipped with lifts at entry and exit points for persons with disabilities.

The restoration of Gole Market, a heritage structure, has been pending since 2006. After a visit by lieutenant governor VK Saxena, an updated proposal was placed before the council in Aug 2022. The conservation and restoration work began in Oct 2023, with an initial deadline of Oct 2025. It

was later revised to March 2026. The total cost of the project, including the subway, is estimated to be Rs 21.7 crore. The heritage complex, built in 1921, has to be transformed into a museum without altering its original architectural character. The museum will highlight the contributions of women achievers to the nation. "It will be the country's first museum dedicated to women achievers, showcasing their contributions to art, literature, culture, social service and the freedom struggle," an official said earlier.

## Congress slams govt on free cylinder scheme, hospital EWS treatment

**New Delhi, (GNS):** The Delhi Pradesh Congress Committee president Devender Yadav accused the BJP-led Delhi Government of indulging in "publicity politics" over its announcement of free cooking gas cylinders on Holi and Diwali, alleging that several eligible families would be left out of the scheme. Yadav said the government had promised free cylinders to 15.50 lakh ration card holder families, while over 17 lakh families possessed ration cards in the Capital and many others were yet to be verified for new cards. He alleged that the scheme would benefit only those with valid ration cards and questioned why the government had not fulfilled its poll promise of providing subsidised LPG cylinders at Rs 500 to every household. Targeting Chief



Minister Rekha Gupta, he claimed that large public funds were being spent on announcements at Talkatora Stadium, including the free cylinder scheme, the Lakhpati Bitiya Yojana and the proposed Pink Card facility for women. Yadav said the government should instead implement its promise of providing Rs 2,500 monthly honorarium to women, which he argued would offer sustained relief for household expenses. He also

raised concerns over the eligibility criteria of Lakhpati Bitiya Yojana, stating that families with annual income above Rs 1.20 lakh would be excluded, even though the notified minimum wages for unskilled workers exceed that threshold annually.

Additionally, on healthcare, Yadav cited the Supreme Court's contempt notices to 51 private hospitals in Delhi over alleged non-compliance with its 2018 order mandating free treatment for economically weaker section (EWS) patients. He alleged that successive AAP and BJP governments failed to ensure that hospitals allotted land at concessional rates provided 10 per cent In-Patient Department (IPD) beds and 25 percent OPD services free of cost to the EWS patients.

## HK Dua, former Editor-in-Chief of The Tribune, passes away at 88



**New Delhi, (GNS):** Veteran journalist, diplomat and former parliamentarian HK Dua passed away on Wednesday.

He was 88. He breathed his last peacefully this afternoon at a private hospital, a member of his family said. Dua was keeping unwell and was admitted to the hospital three weeks back. He is survived by wife Aditya and son Prashant.

His cremation will take

place at the Lodhi Road crematorium on Thursday.

Born on July 1, 1937, Dua was also the media adviser to two prime ministers - Atal Bihari Vajpayee and HD Deve Gowda.

He also served as India's ambassador to Denmark (2001-2003). A towering figure in Indian journalism, Dua was widely respected for his editorial independence and sharp political insight.

## 'Sounds of explosives heard': Stranded Indians from Dubai, Abu Dhabi land safely at Mumbai, Delhi, Kochi airports

**New Delhi, (GNS):** Stranded people from Dubai and Abu Dhabi began returning to India on Wednesday, reaching major airports in Delhi, Mumbai, and Kochi. Many expressed relief at being back home safely amid the escalating situation in the Middle East, describing a mix of anxiety, caution, and gratitude.

At Indira Gandhi International Airport, passengers arriving from Dubai described a tense atmosphere. One passenger said, "I have just landed. There is an atmosphere of fear at the moment,



but I think the people living in Dubai are not as scared as the people who had gone for a trip or for some work; it was diffi-

cult for them." Another passenger added, "I was in Dubai for three days, so there were problems at

some places, but the administration there managed everything well. Sounds of explosives were coming from some places, but there was not much problem."

At Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport, a passenger returning from Dubai said, "I was stuck in transit, but the government of India and the UAE took good care of us, and the airline team and the hotels were very kind to us. The situation over there is relatively safer than in Abu Dhabi, but I hope everyone comes back home soon."

At Cochin International

Airport, Malayalam actress Swasika, who arrived from Abu Dhabi, said, "Heavy panic situation is not there, but still, as we are from another country, so definitely we will get a little panic. I was supposed to come on 28th February. Everything was under control." Another passenger from Abu Dhabi noted, "Today I heard that the US embassy was attacked. The scenario is getting worse. But everybody is going to work. The government is supporting a lot. This is not a panic situation, but at night time, because of the firing sound, it is disturbing."

# CM Rekha Gupta, BJP leaders extend Holi greetings to Delhi residents

**New Delhi, (GNS):** Senior BJP leaders in the national capital on Tuesday extended Holi greetings to residents, highlighting themes of social harmony, development and environmental responsibility. Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, in her message, described Holi as a symbol of harmony, love and unity. She said the festival represents India's shared culture and diversity, and expressed hope that it would bring happiness and prosperity to every household in Delhi.

Drawing a parallel between the festival and governance, the Chief Minister said just as colours blend to create beauty, her government is working to transform Delhi with modern infrastructure, improved transport connectivity and pollution-control measures. She reiterated her commitment to building a "Viksit Delhi" and urged residents to celebrate an eco-friendly Holi using natural



colours.

Delhi Mayor Raja Iqbal Singh also conveyed his greetings to the people, calling Holi a celebration of positivity, brotherhood and renewed energy. He appealed to residents to mark the festival responsibly by conserving water, using natural colours and maintaining cleanliness in public spaces.

Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva extended wishes while addressing a Holi Milan Samaroh at Kashmiri Gate. He said people in Delhi see Holi not merely as a religious occasion, but a festival symbolising social harmony and community unity. Sachdeva added that BJP workers would celebrate the festival by sharing its joy with all sections of society.

## 3 charred bodies recovered after two separate fires in Delhi's Paharganj and Rithala

**New Delhi, (GNS):** Three people died in two separate fires across the city. In the first incident, two charred bodies were recovered after a fire broke out at a toy godown in central Delhi's Paharganj on Wednesday evening.

According to the Delhi Fire Service (DFS), a call regarding the blaze was received at around 4.37 pm. Fifteen fire tenders and nearly 75 fire personnel were rushed to the spot to douse the flames. After the fire was brought under control, two charred bodies were found inside the premises. Their identities are yet to be established, a DFS official said.

# Massive fire breaks out in Delhi's Rithala, over 50 shanties destroyed



**New Delhi, (GNS):** A major fire broke out in a cluster of shanties in Delhi's Rithala area early on Thursday, destroying more than 50 huts, officials said.

The Delhi Fire Services (DFS) received a call about the blaze at around 4.15 am, no deaths or injuries have been reported so far. Firefighters rushed to the spot and began operations as the flames quickly spread through the tightly packed shanties.

Around 16 fire engines were deployed to control the fire. After several hours of effort, firefighters and local police managed to bring the blaze under control by about 6.30 am.

Sources said a girl has been reported missing since the fire broke out, and search operations are currently underway.

Initial reports suggest that more than 50 huts were located in the area, many of which were completely destroyed in the incident.

## South Delhi crackdown ahead of Holi, 204 detained

**New Delhi, (GNS):** Ahead of the Holi celebrations, the southern range of the Delhi Police carried out a large-scale, intelligence-driven enforcement drive under Operation Aaghat 4.0, resulting in the arrest of more than 200 accused under various Sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), Arms Act, NDPS Act, Delhi Excise Act and the Public Gambling Act. According to the officials, the operation was launched on the eve of Holi across South and South-East districts with the objective of preventing crime. The strategy focused on proactive, preventive and pre-emptive policing to ensure that the festival of colours was celebrated in a peaceful, safe and dignified manner. During the synchronised crackdown, over 3,980 persons were rounded up or apprehended during area checks and verification drives.

Of these, 204 accused were formally arrested under substantive criminal laws, while over 970 individuals were apprehended under preventive provisions. Cops also prosecuted more than 550 persons for drinking in public places and impounded 475 vehicles under Section 66 of the Delhi Police Act. The operation led to significant seizures, including 36 weapons comprising illegal firearms, live cartridges and knives, resulting in 33 cases under the Arms Act.

Narcotics seizures included 7.2 kg of ganja and 12.7 gm of MDMA. The police also seized 16,000 quarters of illicit liquor, along with beer bottles and cans, registering 60 cases under the Delhi Excise Act. Cash worth Rs 84,740 was seized under the Public Gambling Act.

Property and street crime were also targeted, with six property offenders arrested and seizures of nine stolen motorcycles and 20 stolen or lost mobile phones. More than 2,500 police personnel were deployed across identified hotspots for area domination, warrant execution, surveillance of sensitive pockets and checks against illicit liquor and drug peddling. Senior officials said the operation reflected a clear shift towards prevention over reaction, with the aim of neutralising threats before they disrupt public order. The police have also put in place elaborate security and traffic arrangements for Holi day, including intensive patrolling, strategic barricading, joint checks with traffic police, breath analyser tests for drunken driving and deployment of women police personnel at key locations. The authorities reiterated zero-tolerance towards hooliganism, harassment, drunken misconduct and traffic violations.

# The human toll of negligence: Behind every death, a dream cut short

**New Delhi, (GNS):** Deaths attributed to negligence - whether in civic administration, corporate responsibility or regulatory oversight - have become a major public safety crisis.

Recent incidents in Noida, Indore, parts of Madhya Pradesh, Bengaluru and several other cities have spotlighted the deadly cost of ignored warnings, lax infrastructure safeguards and gaps in public health regulation.

**A night of missed safeguards:** In the early hours of a foggy winter night in January 2026, 27-year-old software engineer Yuvraj Mehta's life ended in a manner that has since become a powerful symbol of civic negligence in the NCR. While returning home to his residence in Sector 150, Mehta's SUV veered off the road and plunged into a water-filled excavation pit at a construction site lacking barricades, reflectors or warning

signs - a hazard that had allegedly existed for years.

According to the FIR lodged by Mehta's family, the pit was excavated for a commercial project nearly two years prior and left unattended, with no safety measures to protect road users. Local residents had repeatedly warned authorities about the danger.

Mehta managed to climb onto the roof of his sinking car, repeatedly flashed his phone's torch into the fog and even called his father to share his location. But rescue efforts were hampered by poor visibility and delayed support.

Fire Brigade, SDRF and NDRF teams took hours to respond fully, and by the time Mehta's body was recovered in the early morning, it was too late. Police registered a case under Sections 105 (culpable homicide), 106 (causing death



by negligence) and 125 (act endangering life) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) against the builders who owned the plot - MZ Wishtown Planners Pvt Ltd and Lotus Greens Construction Pvt Ltd. Authorities also cancelled the services of a junior engineer and issued show cause notices

to officials responsible for traffic and safety work in the area. The tragedy - and the painful delay before help arrived - has sparked wider civic anger.

Citizen activists, residents' groups, and social media campaigns have called the incident a "system failure" where infrastructure oversight, enforce-

ment of safety norms and rescue preparedness all fell short. Critics argue that barricading, reflective signage, better lighting and patrols could have prevented this loss of life.

Similar open trenches and hazards persist in neighbouring parts of the region, from Ghaziabad to other Noida sectors, where excavations and infrastructure works remain unbarricaded for extended periods, posing ongoing risk to the public.

**11 women among 19 killed in Nagpur factory blast:** At least 19 workers (11 women) were killed after a deadly explosion at SBL Energy Ltd's Kalmeshwar unit in Nagpur.

According to insiders, many of these women come from impoverished tribal communities and are recruited from agricultural work to perform some of the factory's most hazardous tasks, often with minimal training.

## Delhi govt extends excise policy till March 2027

**New Delhi, (GNS):** Delhi govt has extended the existing 2020-21 excise policy, which was set to expire on March 31 this year, up to March 31, 2027, to ensure continuity of the policy and prevent disruption in liquor supply in the capital as the new excise policy is yet to be approved by govt. This is the longest extension of the old excise policy. "It has been decided by the competent authority to renew all existing L-15/L-15F and L-16/L-16F licences for the period w.e.f. 01.04.2026 to 31.03.2027 on the payment of a licence fee and additional fee. All the licensees of L-15/L-15F and L-16/L-16F are hereby directed to submit their application for renewal of licence online w.e.f. 01.04.2026 to 31.03.2027," a circular, issued by the excise department on Feb 25, said.

Similar circulars were issued for renewal of L-17/L-17F, L-18/L-18F, L-19/L-19F



and L-20/L-20F licences, which are issued to restaurants, clubs, bars and hotels.

Media reported on Feb 21 that the govt was likely to extend the policy for a year.

Officials said that over 95% of hotels, clubs and restaurants have already renewed their licences following the circular. According to Delhi govt, there are 1,017 such licences issued in the capital. However, the circular for renewal of retail liquor store licences is yet to be issued. "The circular for the retail stores is likely to be issued after Holi. The exist-

ing retail licences are already valid till March 31, so there is no fear of liquor supply disruption," an official said.

Delhi has 714 retail liquor stores. These vendors are operated by govt corporations including Delhi State Industrial and Infrastructure Development Corporation (DSIIDC), Delhi Tourism and Transportation Development Corporation (DTTDC), Delhi Consumer's Cooperative Wholesale Store (DCCWS) and Delhi State Civil Supplies Corporation (DSCSC).

## Delhi Police on high alert for Holi

Over 15,000 personnel deployed, 134 intersections under watch

**New Delhi, (GNS):** The Delhi Police have put the city on high alert for Holi on Wednesday, deploying more than 15,000 personnel to enforce law and order and ensure road safety during the festival.

A senior police officer said teams have been stationed at 134 major intersections to catch drunken drivers. Serious violations could lead to suspension of driving licences for a minimum of three months.

The Delhi Traffic Police has implemented extensive measures to maintain public safety and smooth traffic flow. Special teams are positioned at key junctions and accident-prone stretches to monitor speeding, reckless and zig-zag riding, red-light jumping,

triple riding, riding without helmets, and performing stunts on two-wheelers.

The Supreme Court Committee on Road Safety has advised that offences such as drunken driving, red-light jumping, using a mobile phone while driving, dangerous driving, and speeding will result in licence seizure and a minimum three-month suspension. Vehicle owners will be held responsible if their vehicles are used by minors or unauthorised persons, police said.

# For families, reunions add colour to festivities at Delhi airport as stranded people return safely amid West Asia tensions

**New Delhi, (GNS):** For many families in Delhi, Holi and Eid will be an occasion to celebrate reunion. Families were reunited after days of anxious calls to relatives in West Asia as tensions there escalated.

Those who returned said the situation was tense but not scary or dangerous and everything was functioning normally. It was their families in India, constantly following the news, who were most worried.

At Delhi's IGI Airport, passengers from Dubai, Oman and Abu Dhabi trickled in on Tuesday after flights slowly resumed. "There is nothing safer than our motherland India," several returnees said, expressing relief at being back to celebrate Holi with families.



**Operations At IGI Hit For Fourth Day In A Row:** Among those waiting outside the arrival gates was 30-year-old Anshika, a Gurgaon resident, who had been anxiously waiting for her husband, who got stuck in Dubai while travelling to

London. The couple tied the knot on Feb 14 this year.

Her husband took the flight on Feb 28. When the situation escalated, he attempted to return as soon as possible so he travelled to Oman and from there flew to Delhi.

"This is our first Holi together as a married couple. I could not have asked for anything more than having my husband back home safely," she said with a smile. "We were constantly worried," Anshika said. "Every hour he would tell us that alarms were going on and security announcements were being made."

"For us," Anshika said, holding her husband's hand, "this Holi is not just about colours. It is about being together and being safe." Operations at Delhi Airport were impacted for the fourth consecutive day due to airspace closures.

At least 80 flights to and from Delhi were cancelled on Tuesday - 36 departures and 44 arrivals - while over 200 flights were delayed, including domestic

services. On Sunday, 104 flights were cancelled and 87 on Monday. Sources said more than 300 Gratis Temporary Entry Permits were issued by the Bureau of Immigration in recent days, allowing stranded international passengers to exit the airport.

To manage the rush and assist affected travellers, two additional information desks were set up in the international security holding area and departure forecourt. Quick Reaction Teams were deployed across check-in halls, boarding gates, and arrival areas.

Akash Saxena, a real estate businessman from Saket, who travelled from Dubai to Oman, described the atmosphere as tense but not chaotic. "It was scary when we heard the sounds,

but otherwise operations were functioning."

He said while daily life was not severely disrupted, the first time he heard a missile being intercepted shook him. "I was on a call with my mother at 8 in the morning when I heard the noise and later saw visuals of a missile being intercepted. That was the first time I felt scared," he said. He added that "the government was very supportive. Things were under control. Still, coming home is better for safety."

Noida resident Deepa, who had travelled to Dubai for tourism, said the initial day was tense. "People were a little scared, and our families in India were worried. We were not sure if our flight would take off or if we would reach home safely."