



Iran war sparks LPG shortage, triggering panic over cooking gas supplies in India



New Delhi(GNS): India's hospitality sector is facing a growing crisis as shortages of commercial cooking gas threaten to disrupt operations at restaurants and hotels across the country.

The situation has been triggered by the escalating conflict in West Asia, which has affected energy supplies and shipping routes through the strategically vital Strait of Hormuz.

Industry bodies have warned that thousands of eateries could be forced to temporarily shut down if supplies of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) are not restored quickly. The government has stepped in by setting up a committee to review requests for LPG supply from

restaurants, hotels and other commercial users, while prioritising domestic cooking gas needs.

In Punjab, marriage season and industries hit

In Patiala, the situation has become particularly worrying during the peak wedding season, with families scrambling to arrange cooking gas for wedding feasts and celebrations. Marriage palace owners and caterers say the supply of commercial LPG cylinders has reportedly stopped since late Monday night following government instructions, catching many off guard. With more than 10,000 weddings still scheduled across the state, a prolonged shortage could affect elaborate food prepara-

Supply disruption after West Asia conflict

The ongoing war involving the United States and Israel against Iran has significantly disrupted energy shipments in the Gulf region. Shipping traffic through the Strait of Hormuz — one of the world's most important oil and gas routes — has slowed or halted due to security risks, reports Reuters.

The disruption has had a ripple effect on global energy markets. India, which is the world's second-largest importer of LPG, depends heavily on overseas supplies to meet its domestic and commercial demand. Nearly two-thirds of the country's LPG consumption is fulfilled through imports, much of it sourced from Gulf producers such as Saudi Arabia and Qatar.

India typically receives about 85-90 per cent of its LPG imports through the Strait of Hormuz. With shipments affected by the conflict, supplies have tightened, causing a sharp rise in prices and delays in deliveries to commercial users.

try was taken by surprise. "We learnt about the move only this morning.

India-EFTA trade deal completes two years, targets \$100 billion investment

New Delhi(GNS): Two years after the signing of the Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA) between India and the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) nations, the partnership has moved from negotiation to implementation with effect from 1 October 2025.

The agreement aims to boost trade, investment, services, technology collaboration and long-term industrial growth between India and group of advanced European economies.

The countries that come under EFTA are Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland.

Highlighting the broader trade strategy, PM Modi said India has built a strategic and purposeful network of Free Trade Agreements.



We now have FTAs with 38 partner nations, an unprecedented milestone in India's trade history. This gives our manufacturers and producers enough diversity and depth to sell our products across many markets.

"These FTAs have opened up the markets of major economies to India's manufactured products. For instance, the India-UK FTA and the India-EU FTA will eliminate tariffs on 99 per cent of our exports to these countries. Merchandise trade with both Australia and the UAE has doubled since the signing of FTAs with these countries," he added.

For MSMEs and start-ups, the agreement opens pathways for technology transfer, joint ventures and collaboration with niche technology firms from

processed foods and marine products.

At the same time, it improves access to specialised intermediate goods, advanced machinery, precision components and selected high-standard industrial products that can support production efficiency, product quality and integration with global supply chains.

Furthermore, the agreement includes an investment commitment of USD 100 billion over 15 years and facilitation of one million direct jobs. This investment dimension gives TEPA a wider economic role by linking trade opening to manufacturing capacity, technology partnerships, research and development, renewable energy, life sciences, engineering and digital transformation.

'Book withdrawn': NCERT's 'unconditional' apology after chapter on judiciary sparks row

New Delhi(GNS): The Director and Members of the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) tendered an "unconditional and unqualified apology" for the chapter IV in its now-withdrawn Class 8 Social Science textbook, "Exploring Society: India and Beyond" (Part II).

In a statement issued via X, NCERT stated that the entire book has been withdrawn, making it unavailable.

"The National Council of Educational Research and Training [NCERT] has recently published a social science textbook, "Exploring Society: India and Beyond," Grade 8 (Part II), which contained Chapter IV titled "The Role of Judiciary in our Society."

The Director and Members of NCERT hereby tender an unconditional and unqualified apology for the said Chapter IV. The entire book has been withdrawn and is not available," NCERT wrote in the post.

The council expressed regret for the inconvenience caused, reiterating its commitment to accuracy and sensitivity in educational materials.

"NCERT remains committed to maintaining the highest standards of accuracy, sensitivity, and responsibility in educa-



tional content," the post said.

The apology follows concerns raised regarding the chapter's portrayal of the judiciary in the chapter IV 'The Role of Judiciary in our Society; with a sub-chapter titled "Corruption in the judiciary".

Earlier, NCERT recalled the book following a blanket ban imposed by the Supreme Court of India on its publication and dissemination.

In a media advisory, NCERT requested that "any individual or organisation, who is in possession of the NCERT textbook Exploring Society: India and Beyond, Social Science Grade 8 Part 2, or any material related to it, may return it to the Head, Department of Education in Social Sciences (DESS) or Publication Division, NCERT, Sri Aurobindo Marg, New Delhi, at the earliest possible".

'Not even a litre of oil will go out... ', 11th day of Iran-Israel war

New Delhi(GNS): The US-Israeli war with Iran has now entered its 11th day. US President Donald Trump has made a bold statement that most of America's objectives have been achieved and the war will end soon. This is a significant change from his initial estimate, which stated that the operation would last five weeks.

An attack on the Strait of Hormuz or oil installations would result in death and destruction.

Trump warned that if Iran targets oil facilities in the Gulf or the Strait of Hormuz, Tehran will face death, fire, and destruction. He said the US would strike with 20 times more force in such a scenario.

oil price volatility

Following Trump's comments, the oil market saw significant volatility.



On Monday morning, oil prices reached \$120 per barrel, marking their biggest single-day gain in six years. They later fell below \$90. Iran had previously mocked the US for the surge in oil prices, calling the operation Operation Epic Mistake.

Iran's attacks have eased, but missiles were fired again.

The intensity of Iranian attacks has sharply decreased. This morning, after a nine-hour hiatus, Iran again fired missiles toward Israel. In the

past few days, Iran launched numerous ballistic missile and drone attacks against Israel, Gulf countries, and US targets, but the pace is now slowing.

Iran's new supreme leader US President Trump has expressed disappointment with the election of Iran's new Supreme Leader, Mojtaba Khamenei, 56, the son of former Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. Ali Khamenei was killed in the initial US-Israeli strikes of the war. Mojtaba's appointment is seen as a strong message to Iran.

Britain and NATO preparations

The UK Ministry of Defence is preparing a second ship for deployment to the eastern Mediterranean. RFA Lyme Bay will now join HMS Dragon, which is already deployed.

26 leaders elected unopposed ahead of Rajya Sabha elections

Sharad Pawar, Ramdas Athawale, Vinod Tawde, Abhishek Manu Singhvi among them; contest on 11 seats

New Delhi(GNS):In the Rajya Sabha elections for 37 seats across 10 states, 26 candidates from seven states have been elected unopposed. These include prominent names like NCP (Sharad) chief Sharad Pawar, Congress' Abhishek Manu Singhvi, and Union Minister Ramdas Athawale. Opposition parties did not field candidates in several states, allowing these leaders to reach the Rajya Sabha without a vote. However, contests are certain for 11 seats in Bihar, Odisha, and Haryana. Elections will be held in these states due to additional candidates contesting.

Now 14 candidates are in the fray for 11 seats

After the last date for withdrawal of nominations, elections will be held on March 16 for 5 seats in Bihar, 4 seats in Odisha and 2 seats in Haryana.

In these elections, there is a possibility of Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and BJP President Nitin Navin reaching the Rajya Sabha.

A total of 40 candidates filed nominations for 37 seats across 10 states. Now, 14 candidates are in the fray for 11 seats, with one contest each in Bihar, Odisha, and Haryana.

No-confidence motion against Speaker Birla Gogoi says Rahul was interrupted 20 times

Rijiju responds: It would have been better to make Priyanka the Leader of the Opposition

Kiren Rijiju said — we are proud that Speaker Om Birla is

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju said that some people consider themselves above the Constitution. They consider themselves more knowledgeable.

Rahul Gandhi had said that I am not allowed to speak in this House.

There are many senior leaders in the Congress. Why haven't they explained this to Rahul Gandhi? Speaking in the House requires the Speaker's permission. You can't speak without it. If you consider yourself superior to the Speaker, that's wrong. We are proud to be members of the Lok Sabha, whose Speaker is Om Birla. A friendship group of 64 countries has been formed, and Om Birla is its chairperson. It's under PM Modi's guidance. The opposition has made personal comments. The 18th Lok Sabha has over 93% productivity.



The Supreme Court directed the Center to develop an error-free policy for serious harm caused by the COVID vaccine

New Delhi(GNS): The Supreme Court on Tuesday refused to constitute an expert panel to examine the side effects following Covid-19 vaccination.

The Supreme Court directed the central government to formulate a no-fault compensation policy for those who experience serious adverse events following COVID-19 vaccination.

It also ordered the public release of data on side effects from time to time.

A bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta heard a petition seeking compensation for the families of those who died due to alleged side effects after receiving the vaccine. It is alleged that two women died in 2021 after receiving the first dose of Covishield.



3 important comments of the court

- Given the current system, there is no need for the court to form a separate committee to investigate side effects after vaccination.
- The court has also clarified that this decision does not mean that a person cannot take recourse to law.
- The court said that making a compensation policy would not be construed as an admission of fault or legal responsibility by the Government of India or any other authority.

LPG crisis in India creates panic across the country

Sanat Jain

The effects of the Iran-Israel war are now being felt on a large scale in India. The situation has become extremely chaotic due to the restrictions imposed by petroleum companies on the supply of cooking gas. The supply of commercial gas cylinders to hotel and restaurant operators has been cut off, forcing thousands of restaurants across the country to face closure. With the wedding season approaching, the impact is being felt across the country. Petroleum companies have increased the price of gas cylinders, and gas delivery is also being handled arbitrarily. In light of this, the central government has hastily implemented the ESMA. It is clear that the sudden crisis in India regarding cooking gas has put everyone

from the general public to small businesses in trouble. Due to the restrictions on commercial and domestic LPG cylinders and the resulting disruptions in supply, hotels, restaurants, and small food businesses in many cities across the country have been forced to close. Hotels and restaurants across the country have announced temporary closures, threatening the employment of millions and the jobs of millions more. People are unable to find tea, water, snacks, or even meals at their businesses. Commercial gas cylinders are used by millions of small and large businesses across the country, employing millions of people. From small roadside vendors selling tea, poha, vada-pav, kulcha-bhature to large restaurants, everyone relies on LPG gas. Disruptions in the supply of gas cylinders

occur, and strict restrictions are imposed on bookings, directly and indirectly impacting millions of people. In many cities, long queues are forming outside gas stations to purchase cylinders. In some places, the law and order situation has deteriorated, creating an atmosphere of unease.

The government claims that there is sufficient gas stock in the country and that there is no crisis. The opposition demanded a discussion in Parliament, which the government refused to accept. Within 24 hours, the ground situation tells a different story. Complaints about gas cylinder supplies have begun to surface in many places, causing panic among the public. Black marketing of gas supplies has begun. Experts say that in such a significant crisis, policy decisions on a sensitive issue

like energy supply must be made thoughtfully. While Parliament is in session, a detailed discussion on this serious crisis is essential. The impact of the sudden restrictions or supply changes is not limited to business; its impact is being felt across the social and economic sectors. Hotels and small food businesses are closing due to the lack of LPG. This is affecting the livelihoods of millions of laborers, employees, and small businesses. Cooking in urban areas will become extremely difficult for ordinary families. Electricity supply in India is in a poor state, causing the energy crisis to severely impact every family in the country. It is the government's responsibility to present the current situation to Parliament and the public with transparency. It should take the country's public into confidence.

Ensure the smooth supply of LPG, petrol, and diesel. The availability of petrol, diesel, and cooking gas should remain constant. Small businesses and their affiliates should not face difficulties. To ensure this, there should be no disruptions in the supply of LPG, petrol, and diesel. Their prices should be controlled. Small businesses play a vital role in the country's economy. In this situation, if a government policy or order begins to impact the survival of the general public, it becomes necessary to seriously consider and make a decision. The Central Government implemented the ESMA on March 10, 2026, for a period of six months for refineries, gas supply companies, and dealers. It includes special provisions to maintain supplies to refineries and oil companies.

Editorial

Smoking and every puff of cigarette: A silent pact with death

Every year, on the second Wednesday of March, an awareness campaign against smoking is launched worldwide. Its primary objective is to prevent people from the deadly addiction of bidis and cigarettes and to educate them on a healthy lifestyle. Today's world is highly competitive, where workloads and mental stress often lead people to resort to addiction. Smoking, especially among young people, is becoming a fashion statement and a means of showing off, which is a matter of serious concern. Often, people pick up a cigarette for the first time under pressure from friends or simply out of curiosity, but one never realizes when that one puff becomes a compulsion. The nicotine in cigarettes creates the illusion of momentary peace of mind, while in reality, it slowly poisons the body.

According to medical science, tobacco consumption poses the highest risk of lung cancer, as its toxic smoke directly causes inflammation and infection in the respiratory tract. Smoking has been found to be the primary cause of fatal diseases, not just lung disease, but also heart disease, stroke, and high blood pressure. Smoking not only affects internal organs but also robs a person of their external beauty and self-confidence. Darkening of the lips, yellowing of the teeth, and premature wrinkles are obvious signs. The most tragic aspect is passive smoking, which causes illness even among those who never smoke. When someone smokes in a public place, office, or indoors, the smoke lingers in the air, poisoning the breath of children, pregnant women, and the elderly. Smoking indoors is like compromising the health of one's own family, which can lead to asthma and serious respiratory illnesses in children. The government has imposed a legal ban on smoking in public places and its dangers are constantly highlighted through advertisements, but real change is possible not only through law but also through the strong will of the individual.

If you want to break the shackles of smoking, first make a sincere promise to yourself and set a specific date to quit. Remove items like lighters, matches, and ashtrays from your surroundings that remind you of your addiction.



Special on the death anniversary of Chhatrapati Sambhaji Rao
The sacred day of March 11th is not merely a date on the calendar, but the day of the great departure of that radiant sun of Indian pride, who nurtured the nation's identity with his last drop of blood. The life of the righteous Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj is like a blazing flame that reduced Aurangzeb's arrogance to ashes and provided the foundation of the Hindu Empire with the strength of a thunderbolt.



Sambhaji Rao: A life philosophy dedicated to Indian sovereignty and Sanatan

Dr. Raghavendra Sharma

After Shivaji Maharaj's ascension, when clouds of crisis loomed large and the Mughal Empire's vulture-like gaze was eager to devour South India, Shambhu Raja stood alone against that catastrophic storm and wrote a saga of bravery that even today sends shivers down the spines of cowards. His struggle was not merely to protect the kingdom's borders, but a great sacrifice to preserve eternal culture and self-respect. During his brief but extremely brilliant reign of nine years, he defeated enemies like the Mughals, Siddis, Portuguese and the British together and proved that a lion cub never knows how to bow down.

Sambhaji Maharaj's life was tested by adversity that would have broken an ordinary man, but he shone like a gem. On one hand, Aurangzeb came to conquer the South with all his might, immense wealth, and a vast army, while on the other, a network of traitors and conspirators lurked within Swaraj. He had to fight a simultaneous battle amidst betrayal by his own people and brutal attacks by his enemies. Despite financial hardship, sieges of forts, and constant military campaigns, he did not let a single fort

fall to the Mughals. Sambhaji Maharaj struck with lightning speed on the battlefield, cutting off the Mughals' supplies, forcing even a cruel ruler like Aurangzeb to wander for years. That final chapter of his life is the pinnacle of bravery in human history. When he was captured for treachery at Sangameshwar, Aurangzeb resorted to inhuman torture to humiliate him and force him to convert. His eyes were gouged out, his tongue was cut out, and his skin was flayed, yet this great man's lips spoke only of "Namoh Namah Shivaya" and his devotion to his religion. He embraced death, but he never allowed his self-respect or the religion of his ancestors to be compromised. His martyrdom ignited a flame across Maharashtra that ultimately brought an end to the Mughal Empire.

Sambhaji Maharaj established an ideal in Indian history that teaches us that sacrificing one's life for the nation is not a sign of defeat, but a path to immortality. He proved that when faced with a choice between principles and life, sacrificing one's life for principles is the best. His philosophy teaches us that no matter how powerful an enemy is, if one has strong determination and unwavering faith in Dharma, he can be

forced to surrender. He was not only a warrior but also a great scholar of Sanskrit and a people-loving ruler. He taught that the combination of knowledge and valor is the true strength of a nation. Today's Indian citizens need to learn the serious lesson from his life: betrayal and division within a country are more dangerous than any external invader. History bears witness that if Sambhaji Maharaj had not been betrayed by his own people, the picture of India would have been different.

To ensure that such circumstances never arise again, and we never have to sacrifice another brave warrior, every Indian needs to make strong resolutions and take precautions. Most important is unwavering commitment to national unity and integrity. We must tear down the walls of caste, sect, and regionalism that hollow us out from within and allow outside forces to interfere. History's greatest lesson is that whenever we have been divided, we have been plundered and oppressed. In today's age, it is essential to recognize ideological warfare and disguised enemies. We must strengthen our security and strategic capabilities to such an extent that the enemy thinks twice before even considering an

attack against us. A true tribute to Sambhaji Maharaj is to abandon inferiority complexes toward our own religion and culture and to connect with our roots with pride. As citizens, we must remain vigilant so that our personal self-interest does not overtake the interests of the nation. We must root out the termites of corruption and treachery from society. May the blood of Sambhaji Maharaj instill within us the consciousness that every particle of Indian soil is sacred and we must always be ready to protect it. The day we collectively resolve to put the nation first, no Aurangzeb will dare to look at this sacred land. On March 11th, let us pay homage to that great martyr, awaken the patriotism within us, and build a strong India that once again becomes the world's leader for its valor and knowledge. The sacrifice of the virtuous Sambhaji Maharaj will not go in vain if we learn from his struggle and dedicate ourselves to the nation. Jai Shivaji, Jai Shambhuraje!

(The author is the focal point of many social service and voluntary organizations. Currently, he is the coordinator of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Mann Ki Baat in Madhya Pradesh. He has created many literatures focusing on various subjects.)

BK Gulzar Dadi was the divine face of the Brahma Kumaris!

Dr. Shrigopal Narsan

While Rajyogini Gulzar Dadi served as the divine face of the Brahma Kumaris for many years, she also served as the Chief Administrator of the Brahma Kumaris, elevating the organization to the pinnacle of spirituality. Her spiritual name was Hriday Mohini, and she was also known as Gulzar Dadi. She served as the Chief Administrative Head of the Brahma Kumaris, or Prajapita Brahma Kumari Ishwariya Vishwavidyalaya, from April 2020 to March 10, 2021. Gulzar Dadi joined the organization at the age of eight, at the time of its inception in 1936. She joined the organization through a boarding school called Om Niwas. This institution was founded by Dada Lekhraj,

also known as Brahma Baba, to impart spiritual and moral education to children. From then on, Gulzar Dadi remained dedicated to the organization until she passed away at the age of 92. Gulzar Dadi, whose worldly name was Shobha, was born in 1929 in Hyderabad, Sindh, during the time of undivided India. Shobha had eight siblings. Their mother willingly surrendered them to Shiv Baba's yagya (fire sacrifice) because she had always desired that one of her children should pursue spirituality. Filled with the spiritual intoxication of being a child of God, Shobha's early life was filled with joy and happiness. In those days, the Murlis, or divine words, spoke only of heaven. These were the initial spiritual teachings given by Shiv Baba's grandfather, Lekhraj, or Brahma Baba. Shobha had no

knowledge of the Vedas. Yet, listening to Shiv Baba's divine words, she began to experience deep divine love and spiritual bliss. In 1940, during yoga, she experienced visions of the Golden Age. Brahma Baba and Mama also did not see these visions, but Shobha and some of the younger children began to see visions of the New Age. They shared what they saw with everyone. After living in Karachi from 1939 to 1950, she moved to Mount Abu with Brahma Baba in 1950. By then, Shobha, also known as Gulzar Dadi, had matured physically and spiritually, and Baba sent her to serve throughout India. Dadi Gulzar established several centers of the organization, most of them around Delhi. She managed Mamma's services, while Brahma Baba oversaw the work at Madhuban. Here, Dadi Gulzar pro-

vided spiritual services. In 1960, with the help of scientific equipment, spiritual services spread throughout India. By telephone, Brahma Baba spoke to all the children, including Dadi Gulzar, and gave necessary instructions. Letters continued to be written. Dadi Gulzar spent most of her time serving in Bombay and Delhi. Everyone respected Dadi Gulzar greatly for her sweetness and love. Baba has even mentioned in his Murlis that Dadi Gulzar was very service-oriented in the Delhi region. Dadi Gulzar visited many Eastern and Western countries including Australia, Japan, New Zealand, Philippines, Hong Kong, Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, United States of America, Brazil, Mexico, Canada, England, Germany, France, Holland, Poland, Africa, etc. and

spread the fragrance of spirituality there. She taught spirituality, philosophy, Raja Yoga. She delivered numerous lectures abroad, mastering subjects like the Art of Living. She was clear in her thoughts, rich in experience, and simple in her speech, which led many to receive the message of God through her.

When Brahma Baba became invisible on January 18, 1969, he began meeting spiritual children through Dadi Gulzar, and she also became the medium for delivering the Murlis. From 1969 to 2015, Dadi Gulzar regularly visited Brahma Kumaris service centers and gave lectures on self-transformation during the sacred time of the Confluence Age. Dadi Gulzar delivered Shiv Baba's message at VIP gatherings in simple yet heartfelt words.

Liquor policy case: Delhi high court says factual discrepancies cited by trial court while discharging Arvind Kejriwal seem erroneous

New Delhi, (GNS): The Delhi HC on Monday said that a special court's observations made against witnesses and approvers in the liquor policy case while discharging ex-CM Arvind Kejriwal, Manish Sisodia, and others appear "prima facie erroneous".

Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma, admitting the CBI's revision plea, has sought responses from the 23 accused discharged in the case. The court has also stayed the special court judge's sharp criticism of the CBI's lead investigating officer in the liquor policy case.



Justice Sharma said she is "of the opinion that certain factual discrepancies pointed out in the impugned order, the observations made by the trial court regarding statements of the witnesses and the approvers, at the stage of charge itself, prima facie appear erroneous, and need consideration when viewed in the background of

well-settled law on charge and conspiracy, as to whether such observations could have been made at the stage of charge itself." The HC has also summoned the trial-court records of the case and postponed the ED's money-laundering case, connected to the liquor policy case, pending before the same trial court till CBI revision plea is decided.

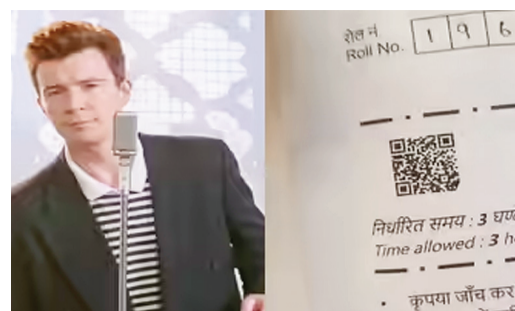
Posting the CBI's plea for further hearing on March 16, Justice Sharma pointed out that despite advance notice, none of the 23 persons (or their lawyers) appeared. On the strictures passed by the special judge against CBI's lead investigator, the high court observed that "...the reasons given

for passing such remarks including, concluding that the investigating officer has abused his official position to conduct unfair investigation, are prima facie foundationally misconceived, especially when made at the stage of charge itself."

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, representing the CBI, argued that since all the accused persons were discharged and observations were also made with regard to the case filed by ED, the HC should ensure that the case filed under the provisions of PMLA, 2002 was not affected by virtue of this order. In its 5 page order, Justice Sharma recorded the stand of CBI that the trial court ignored crucial and admissible evidence at the stage of charge itself, ignoring that it was to only take a prima facie view of evidence collected at the stage of charge, and instead conducted a full-fledged trial.

'Rickrolling' in board exam? CBSE Class 12 maths paper QR code 'leads' to Rick Astley song, sparks viral buzz

New Delhi, (GNS):A QR code reportedly printed on the Central Board of Secondary Education's (CBSE) Class 12 mathematics question paper has triggered a wave of online speculation after students claimed that scanning it led to the music video of "Never Gonna Give You Up" by British singer Rick Astley, a classic internet prank known as "rickrolling".



The mathematics board examination was held on March 9 from 10.30am to 1.30pm. Soon after the test, images of the question paper began circulating on social media, with several students alleging that the QR code printed on it redirected them to the 1987 hit song's video on YouTube. QR codes are typically included on board exam papers

for authentication and security verification. However, according to claims shared by students online, scanning the code instead opened the music video associated with the long-running internet joke in which unsuspecting users are tricked into clicking a link that leads to the song.

Videos and screenshots posted 'X' quickly went viral. In one widely shared clip, a student scans the QR code from the paper and shows that it leads to the music video.

Panel flags 'lack of cooperation' on deemed forest protection



New Delhi, (GNS): The special empowered committee headed by retired Justice Najmi Waziri, constituted on the orders of Delhi High Court for the protection and demarcation of deemed forests, has observed in its latest meeting that "the forest department, which is supposed to carry out the entire exercise, is not aware of what it is supposed to do". The committee, in its minutes of the meeting dated Jan 7, which was released on March 5, observed that it has been almost 21 months and no report has been filed by the forest department despite 16 meetings. A committee was formed in Jan 2024 following an order of the high court, which stated on Dec 15, 2023, that the deemed and protected forest areas needed to be protected and it was the responsibility of the committee to do so. The court said the committee would ensure concrete steps were taken for the protection, preservation, reclamation and enhancement of forests (protected and deemed).

In April 2024, the court requested a retired judge of the high court to head the committee to ensure the cooperation of all departments. However, almost a year later, the forest department in July 2025 challenged the order requesting retired Justice Waziri to head this committee, in the high court, which is still sub judice.

In its latest meeting, the committee observed that forest rangers were sent to the meeting in lieu of the members of the committee, namely the chief conservator of forests and the deputy conservator of forests. The committee noted that the PWD submitted data to the forest department in June 2024, and the forest department was to verify forest area plantation along the road. "It has not done the same so far. No reason was given.... No report has been submitted despite the lapse of almost 20 months," the committee noted, as per the minutes of the meeting. It added that there has been consistent recalcitrance and non-cooperation by the forest department in the functioning of this committee.

School dreams & family hopes, all crushed in matter of minutes

New Delhi, (GNS): A day before a DTC bus crushed him to death on the Nangloi-Najafgarh Road, 32-year-old Ravi Kant Kumar was busy mapping out his daughter's future. Sitting with his family in their rented home in Nangloi, the transport businessman had discussed plans for his six-year-old daughter's education.



Having moved from Bihar to Delhi years ago, Ravi had worked tirelessly to establish himself after the death of his parents. "His dream was to secure enough money to move his daughter from a local playschool into a good private school. He wanted her to have the education he never had," his brother Shashi Kant told Media, standing inside the Sanjay Gandhi Memorial Hospital's mortuary.

Ravi's dream died on Monday when his Scooty was crushed by the speeding DTC bus that dragged the businessman for 100 metres. Ravi was

the sole breadwinner. His family now faces an uncertain future. "We had just celebrated his daughter's sixth birthday. His wife and daughter are now left with no one," Shashi said. Among the dead was also 39-year-old Kamal Jeet, a salesman who was the backbone for his elderly parents. He was heading to work at his elder brother's company when the bus hit him. His father, Jitender, said Kamal

was not just a provider, but a carer whose aspirations to earn more were driven by a sense of duty towards his ageing parents.

In another hospital, 20-year-old Ruby was admitted. She was critically injured. A sales worker and a college student enrolled in IGNOU, Ruby was the source of stability for her family. She earned a modest Rs 13,000 a month that covered the rent and other

expenses that her father, an e-rickshaw driver, could not meet alone.

With 17 stitches on her head and barely able to speak, her recovery is now a race against financial ruin. Her mother, Savitri, said: "Her salary is our family's only stable income, which has now been effectively cut off."

Aman, also injured, was riding the bike on which Ruby was the pillion rider. "After the bus hit us, the bike fell on us. A car was coming from behind. I somehow managed to pull her out before she was crushed," Aman said.

Amit, a bus driver who said he was nowhere near the spot, became a target of mob vandalism that followed the accident. The injured driver lay next to Ruby in hospital. His shirt was splattered with blood. "I was not near the bus that was involved. Suddenly, an angry group dragged me out of my bus. One man hit me on the head with a helmet."

New support centre for mothers of sick newborns at AIIMS

New Delhi, (GNS): Mothers whose babies are admitted to the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) at AIIMS will soon receive dedicated support under a new initiative aimed at easing the emotional and practical challenges faced during critical newborn care.

The programme, called Mother's Nest, was launched through a partnership between HCL Foundation, AIIMS New Delhi and non-profit organisation Doctors For You. Under the project, mothers staying with babies admitted to the NICU will receive assistance aimed at improving their well-being and helping them cope during the stressful hospital stay.

Amid Middle East crisis, oil companies raise domestic LPG refill waiting period from 21 to 25 days

New Delhi, (GNS): Oil marketing companies have increased the minimum waiting period for booking a domestic LPG refill from 21 days to 25 days to prevent hoarding and artificial scarcity of cylinders.

Just last week, oil companies had increased the minimum booking period to 21 days from the earlier 15 days.

The move comes in the wake of disruptions in import of LPG from conflict-hit West Asia which passes through the Strait of Hormuz. While tapping the US, Algeria, Norway, and Canada for LPG supplies, govt on Monday issued fresh orders, asking oil refiners to ramp up production of cooking gas for domestic consumers. There are over 33.1 crore LPG consumers in country.

Officials said an average household uses six-seven



domestic cooking gas cylinders of 14.2kg in a year and typically does not require a refill for nearly 50-55 days. While maintaining that oil companies have adequate stocks, officials said the move is aimed at discouraging panic booking of cylinders by consumers.

The military conflict in West Asia has impacted energy supplies. India imports nearly 90% of its crude oil, while more than 60% of LPG and over 50% of LNG requirements are met through

imports, most of which come from the Gulf region.

In an order on Monday, govt asked oil refiners, including petrochemical complexes, to maximise production of C3 and C4 streams such as propane, butane, propylene and butenes being produced, recovered, fractionated or otherwise available with them, and utilise them for the LPG pool to be supplied to state-run Indian Oil, Hindustan Petroleum and Bharat Petroleum.

Sharjeel Imam Granted 10-Day Interim Bail To Attend Brother's Wedding

New Delhi, (GNS):A Delhi court on Monday, granted 10 days of interim bail to Sharjeel Imam, who is an accused in the 2020 Delhi riots case, to attend his brother's wedding. Additional sessions judge Sameer Bajpai granted the relief from March 20-30. He has to furnish a personal bond of Rs 50,000 with two sureties and comply with certain conditions. The relief has come months after Supreme Court in Jan refused to grant bail to Imam and co-accused Umar Khalid in the Delhi riots conspiracy case.

Imam, in jail since Jan 2020, was booked in several cases related to protests against the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and the National Register of Citizens (NRC). He has secured bail in other mat-

ters, but remains incarcerated in the Delhi riots conspiracy case, in which police invoked the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA).

He sought interim relief for six weeks to attend the wedding that is later this month. Ceremonies spanning about a week will be held in Bihar and Lucknow. "He was in continuous incarceration for more than five years and five months," the defence said.

Pointing to Imam as the "sole sibling of the groom", the defence said that there was no one in the family to take care of the wedding arrangements. It also added that Imam's younger brother was the "primary caregiver of their ailing mother", and that the accused wished to spend some time with her.

With day and night temps at least 5C above normal, Delhi braces for long summer haul



New Delhi, (GNS): Delhiites witnessed unusual early summer-like conditions, with both

day and night temperatures remaining at least five degrees Celsius above normal. The city

recorded the warmest morning of the season as the minimum temperature on Monday rose to

19 degrees Celsius, which is five degrees above the seasonal average. The maximum temperature remained above 35 degrees Celsius for the third consecutive day.

The day temperature is predicted to stay between 36 and 38 degrees Celsius on Wednesday. However, the Met department forecast that the day and night temperatures are likely to show a marginal dip from March 12 onwards.

The minimum temperature in the city rose by two degrees Celsius, touching 19 degrees Celsius. "As a western

disturbance started impacting the western Himalayan region, it led to the formation of clouds during the early morning hours in the region, leading to an increase in the minimum temperature," said RK Jenamani, senior scientist, India Meteorological

Department. The Met department predicted that the minimum temperature is likely to remain between 18 and 20 degrees Celsius on Tuesday. It may, however, dip to around 16 to 18 degrees Celsius by March 12. Despite overcast skies in parts of the city for

some time, the maximum temperature on Monday was recorded at 35.3 degrees Celsius, seven degrees above normal.

WESTERN RAILWAY
IMPROVEMENT TO APPROACH ROAD AT VARIOUS STATIONS

Divisional Railway Manager (WA), Western Railway Mumbai Central, Mumbai-400 008. Invites E-Tender Notice No: BCT/25-26/334 dt. 06.03.2026 Work and Location: Need based repair on day to day basis by outsourcing for a period of 02 year for Kandivli, Borivli & Dahisar Railway colony. Approx. Cost of Work: ₹ 2,06,95,331.08. EMD: ₹ 2,53,500/-. Sr. No: 2. E-Tender Notice No: BCT/25-26/335 dt.06.03.2026. Work and Location: (1) Bandra Terminus - Repairs to Boundary wall on East side of BDTs Coaching Depot. (2) Mumbai Central: Repairs to broken unsafe boundary wall on East (Track side) for safety reasons. Approx. Cost of Work: ₹ 3,26,85,421.89. EMD: ₹ 3,13,400/-. Date and Time of Submission of both Tenders: Till 31.03.2026, 15:00 hrs. Date & Time of Opening of both Tenders: On 31.03.2026 at 15:30 hrs. For further details please visit our website www.irps.gov.in Manual offer will not be considered. 1201

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WESTERN RAILWAY
REPAIRS WORK

Divisional Railway Manager (WA), Western Railway, 6th floor, Engg. Deptt., Mumbai Central, Mumbai-400 008. Invites Sr. No: 1. E-Tender Notice No: BCT/25-26/334 dt. 06.03.2026 Work and Location: Need based repair on day to day basis by outsourcing for a period of 02 year for Kandivli, Borivli & Dahisar Railway colony. Approx. Cost of Work: ₹ 2,06,95,331.08. EMD: ₹ 2,53,500/-. Sr. No: 2. E-Tender Notice No: BCT/25-26/335 dt.06.03.2026. Work and Location: (1) Bandra Terminus - Repairs to Boundary wall on East side of BDTs Coaching Depot. (2) Mumbai Central: Repairs to broken unsafe boundary wall on East (Track side) for safety reasons. Approx. Cost of Work: ₹ 3,26,85,421.89. EMD: ₹ 3,13,400/-. Date and Time of Submission of both Tenders: Till 31.03.2026, 15:00 hrs. Date & Time of Opening of both Tenders: On 31.03.2026 at 15:30 hrs. For further details please visit our website www.irps.gov.in 1205

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Change of Name

I HAVE CHANGED MY NAME FROM PRANSHU DHERANI TO PRANSHU DILEEPKUMAR MAHESHWARI, 27, HEMENDRA PARK SOCIETY, VATVA ISANPUR ROAD, ISANPUR-382443, AHMEDABAD, GUJARAT, INDIA

Delhi CM Rekha Gupta meets family of Uttam Nagar murder victim; 7 more held

New Delhi,(GNS): Police have arrested seven more people, including the woman who was allegedly at the centre of the incident that led to the murder of 26-year-old Tarun Butolia in Uttam Nagar on Holi. Fourteen people have been arrested till now, police said.

The accused, all relatives, were identified as Sayra alias Kali (40), Sarifan (50), Salma (36), Suhail (21), Sameer Chauhan (20), Firoj (22) and Ismile (50). According to an officer, Sayra was the woman who was accidentally splashed with a water balloon during Holi on March 4.

Investigators said Sayra called several relatives and others to the spot. Tek Chand, the victim's uncle, alleged that Sayra had used derogatory language while abusing his



family. He claimed that the women were instigating relatives during the assault. The victim's brother, Tushar, alleged that they had attacked his parents.

Enhanced compensation for 29-yr-old gives hope to 'acid ingestion' survivors

New Delhi,(GNS):

Imagine watching others eat your favourite dishes like biryani, chhole bhature and pani puri when you cannot take even a bite. Imagine wanting to travel just two hours to your home town but being unable to sit through the journey. Imagine living with a constant sense of nausea with no relief forthcoming. For 29-year-old Ruman, all these have been part of her life for the past seven years.

Not that it's much solace but after years of legal struggle, in a rare acknowledgement of her pain and trauma, Ruman has possibly become the first known survivor of forceful 'acid ingestion' across India to be awarded an enhanced compensation



of Rs 5 lakh. In 2024, she had received an initial compensation of just Rs 3 lakh. She married in 2016 and moved from UP's Bulandshahr to Mustafabad in northeast Delhi to live with her husband and his parents. She was excited, hoping that the new chapter would bring fulfilment and stability in her life. Instead, things started going south. "Right from the beginning, my in-laws started demanding dowry," she says. "On weekends, my husband would come home drunk and beat me up." When a distressed Ruman called up her parents, they asked her to hold on, hoping the situation would improve with time. To calm things down, they even arranged an additional Rs 1 lakh for her in-laws.

CBI to HC: Trial court ignored 'meticulous and scientific' probe

New Delhi,(GNS): CBI

on Monday claimed that the liquor policy case is "one of the biggest scams in the history of the national capital" as it urged Delhi High Court to set aside the discharge of all 23 accused, including former chief minister Arvind Kejriwal. Appearing for the agency, solicitor general Tushar Mehta dubbed the case a "national shame", contending that the trial court had ignored CBI's "meticulous" and "scientific investigation" in the matter.

The senior law officer blamed the special court for giving the benefit of an "acquittal without trial" to the accused in the case, saying it had "turned the criminal law on its head".

Mehta requested HC to decide on CBI's plea by fixing a time schedule for hearing. He claimed that meticulous evidence had been collected by the agency to show that a conspiracy was hatched and bribes taken for a manipulated liquor policy, yet there were portions in the trial court's discharge order that were "factually incorrect".

Echoing CBI's written submissions, the SG highlighted that the special court discarded key evidence,



such as statements of approvers and witnesses recorded before a magistrate under section 164 CrPC.

The agency said that the veracity of the testimony of witnesses and approvers could only be established during trial, but the court declared them unreliable or uncorroborated at the stage of framing of charge. It also contended that the special court departed from the settled legal principle that prosecution material must be taken as true at the stage of framing of charge.

"The discharge order repeatedly speaks of lack of 'independent corroboration' for approver statements, failing to consider that corroboration is not the requirement for framing charges and that the requirement of corroboration for

approver evidence applies at the stage of conviction, not at the stage of framing charges," the written submissions contend. CBI cited the alleged role of AAP's communication in charge, Vijay Nair, alleging that he had coordinated the accepting of bribes ranging from Rs 19 crore to Rs 100 crore in exchange for favours under the now-scrapped excise policy. Special judge Jitendra Singh last month cleared all the accused from the case lodged by CBI on Aug 17, 2022, concluding that the prosecution failed to cross the minimum threshold mandated by law at the stage of framing of charge. The court found that the material placed on record does not disclose even a prima facie case, much less any grave suspicion, against any of the accused persons.

Delhi road turns war zone: Mob fury, arson in Nangloi as DTC bus chasing another ploughs into vehicles, kills 2

New Delhi,(GNS): A speeding DTC cluster bus, while trying to overtake another, ploughed into several vehicles and caused the death of two persons in west Delhi's Nangloi on Monday morning. The series of accidents, during which a scooterist was dragged 100 metres by the bus, incensed commuters and locals, who set a bus on fire and damaged several others. The bus driver, who had fled, was later detained.




"A DTC cluster bus coming from the Najafgarh side rammed into a Scooty, a motorcycle, a hand rickshaw and pedestrians on the busy stretch," a senior police officer said. Two men - Ravi Kant Sharma (32) from Nihal Vihar who was riding the Scooty, and Kamal Jeet (39) from Shiv Ram Park who was on a motorcycle - died. Two others - Aman (23) and his friend Ruby (20), who was riding pillion on his bike - were injured.

Eyewitnesses and residents said the bus was being driven recklessly and was at a high speed on a narrow road. It was trying to overtake another bus when the crash happened. Sharma got trapped under a bus tyre and was hauled for nearly 100 metres before the bus stopped. Local people and family members of those who died said that the driver deserted the bus and fled. Passengers pulled out Ravi from under the bus and took him to a hospital.


When Media went to the spot, blood stains, tyre drag marks, shattered glass shards and broken vehicle parts marked the accident site near the Amanpur turn, a stretch lined with residential buildings, schools and small mechanic shops. Soon after the accident, about

500 people gathered at the site and vandalised the bus. They allegedly also set ablaze another DTC cluster bus, coming from the Nangloi side. The vandalism went on for nearly an hour. The mob shattered the windows of several buses. DTC officials said that at least five buses were damaged. Two FIRs were registered. One was against the detained driver, Deepak, for causing the fatal accident. The other was against unidentified persons who vandalised the buses. Local people blamed multiple factors for the crash, saying that rash driving by DTC drivers was common in the area. Poonam, a resident, said: "The road is already narrow, barely wide enough for two cars, yet buses often speed and try to overtake each other. There are hardly any consequences for them." Residents also pointed to the absence of traffic police personnel on the entire stretch from Rishal Garden to Shiv Ram Park and Najafgarh Chowk. According to them, the lack of their presence has emboldened the bus drivers.



Government of Gujarat

Budget provision of ₹24,022 crore for the Agriculture, Farmers Welfare and Co-operation Department



**Nurturing the World
Gujarat Government Committed to Agricultural Prosperity**

- Prioritising Agricultural Management**
- Provision of ₹9,324 crore for electricity assistance to farmers
 - Provision of ₹800 crore for tractor purchase assistance under agricultural mechanisation
 - Provision of ₹154 crore under Mukhyamantri Pak Sangrah Structure Yojana for the construction of small godowns

Provision for Modern Technology in Agriculture

Provision of ₹77 crore to promote the use of advanced drone technology and to increase the seed replacement rate

Special Provision for Agricultural Universities




Provision of ₹424 crore for various schemes in Animal Science, Dairy Science and Fisheries Science at Kamdhenu University

Provision for Encouraging Natural Farming

Provision of ₹392 crore for various natural farming activities

Infrastructure for the Fisheries

Provision of ₹300 crore for VAT relief assistance to fishermen on diesel purchase

"Centered on the economic empowerment of farmers and modern agriculture, this budget will make our 'Annadata's' more prosperous. Through the integration of new technology and natural farming, we will take Gujarat's agriculture sector to new heights."
- Shri Harsh Sanghavi, Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister, Gujarat