



## Landmark verdict:



# SC allows first-ever passive euthanasia for 32-year-old man vegetative since 2013

**New Delhi (GNS):** The Supreme Court on Wednesday allowed the first ever passive euthanasia to end the life of a 32-year-old man in a vegetative state since 2013 after falling from a building.

A Bench of Justice JB Pardiwala and Justice KV Viswanatha passed the order on a petition filed by Ashok Rana seeking permission to end all life-sustaining treatment for his son Harish Rana.

The Bench — which had reserved its verdict on the issue on January 15 — passed the order for withdrawal of life support to Harish Rana in terms of its 2018 judgment in the Common Cause case (as modified in 2023) which recognised the fundamental right to die with dignity.

Two medical boards constituted by the court had already concluded that Harish Rana — the patient

— had no chance of recovery.

“When primary and secondary boards have certified withdrawal of life support, there is no need for the Court’s intervention. However, since this was the first instance, the reference to the court was felt,” the Bench said, adding withdrawal of life support must be done in a dignified manner. This is the first case of the top court’s directions in the Common Cause case being judicially applied to end the agony of a person in a vegetative state.

“AIIMS shall grant admission to the patient to its palliative care centre, so that the withdrawal of CAN (clinically administered nutrition) be given effect to. AIIMS shall give all facilities for shifting the applicant from residence to the palliative care centre. Ensure that his dignity his

preserved,” the top court ordered.

It said, “High Courts must direct Judicial Magistrates to receive intimation from medical boards regarding decision to withdraw medical treatment. Union of India shall ensure that Chief Medical Officers in all districts maintain a panel of Registered Medical Practitioners for nomination to the secondary medical boards,” the top court said.

“It’s a very sad report. We cannot keep this boy in this stage,” the Bench had said on December 18 last year after perusing a report containing Harish Rana’s medical history filed by a secondary medical board of doctors from the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) here.

Passive euthanasia is the intentional act of letting a patient die by withholding or withdrawing life support or the treatment necessary to keep him alive.

The primary medical board, after examining patient Harish Rana’s con-

dition, had stressed the negligible chance of his recovery.

The Bench had on December 11 noted that according to the report of the primary medical board the man was in a pathetic condition.

“He was found to be lying on a bed with a tracheostomy tube for respiration and gastrostomy for feeding. The photographs attached with the letter would indicate that he has suffered huge bed sores. The team of doctors is of the opinion that the chance of his recovery from the present state is negligible. Harish appears to be in this vegetative condition for the past (almost) 13 years,” it had said.

The Supreme Court had in 2018 issued guidelines on passive euthanasia which was simplified in 2023.

According to the 2023 guidelines, a primary and a secondary medical board will have to be formed for an expert opinion on the withdrawal of artificial life support for a patient in a

vegetative state.

After examining the findings of the primary board, the Bench had referred the case to a secondary board of doctors at AIIMS, New Delhi.

On November 26, 2025 the court asked the District Hospital, Noida to constitute a primary board to examine Harish Rana and submit a report in two weeks, saying his health condition had gone from bad to worse.

This was the second time that the petitioner had approached the top court seeking passive euthanasia for their son.

Taking note of the Union Health Ministry’s report suggesting that the patient be put in home care with assistance from the Uttar Pradesh Government and regular visits by doctors and a physiotherapist, the court had on November 8 last year said that if home care was not feasible, the patient should be shifted to the District Hospital, Noida, for ensuring the availability of proper medical care.

## Rahul unaware of development in India; Congress playing politics on West Asia issue: PM Modi

**New Delhi (GNS):** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday attacked Congress and its leader Rahul Gandhi, alleging that he is unaware of the development happening in the country and accused the grand old party of playing politics over the West Asia crisis.

At a BJP-led NDA rally here, Modi stated that Kerala’s pattern of alternating between LDF and UDF governments must end for the benefit of the state.

He urged the people of Kerala to give the BJP-led NDA a chance to serve them for the next five years as it comes with “Modi’s guarantees”.

The PM said that people were ready to move away from the LDF-UDF politics and asserted that the BJP’s wins in Thrissur Lok Sabha seat in 2024 and the Thiruvananthapuram Corporation recently will expand to entire Kerala.



Attacking Rahul Gandhi, Modi claimed that the Congress “Yuvaraj” (prince) doesn’t know about the development happening in the country as he was unaware that the youth and various companies in India, including Kerala, were into drone manufacturing.

Modi, in his speech, also said that the BJP will work for making Kerala a hub of AI and future technology.

Referring to the West Asia crisis, he claimed that the India of today does not leave its citizens stranded elsewhere and that the central government was working to ensure that all help is provided to Indians stuck in the Gulf region.

He also attacked the Congress in connection with the West Asia crisis, claiming that the opposition party was playing politics on the issue.

The PM further said that the Gulf countries were giving utmost care to Indians working there and he was grateful to them for that.

## US praises India’s role in global oil market stability

**New Delhi (GNS):** The United States on Wednesday acknowledged India’s role in helping maintain stability in global oil markets, even as New Delhi continues to purchase crude oil from Russia. US Ambassador to India Sergio Gor said India has been “a great partner” in ensuring that oil prices remain stable globally, underlining the importance of cooperation between the two countries in managing energy markets.

“India has been a great partner in maintaining stable oil prices around the world,” Gor said, noting that Washington recognises India’s ongoing purchases of Russian oil as part of broader efforts to ensure stability in supply and pricing. India is among the world’s largest consumers and refiners of crude oil, making its role critical in balancing global demand and supply. Gor said that given this position, collaboration between Washington and New Delhi remains essential for maintaining stability in the international energy market.

## LPG shortages nationwide, long lines outside agencies

**Cylinders distributed under police protection in UP and Bihar, black marketing in Rajasthan**

**New Delhi (GNS):** The US-Israel war with Iran has led to a nationwide shortage of LPG. Long lines have formed at gas stations to get cylinders. Due to the ban on supply of commercial gas cylinders in many states including Delhi, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan, food is not being cooked in hotels and restaurants.

Madhya Pradesh: Caterers say this is an emergency-like situation. Hotels and restaurants are facing the greatest crisis due to the disruption in the supply of commercial gas cylinders. Meanwhile, long lines have formed outside gas agencies to purchase domestic cooking gas.

## Opposition should not teach Om Birla decorum', says Amit Shah on no-confidence motion against Speaker

**New Delhi (GNS):** During the Lok Sabha debate on the motion to remove Speaker Om Birla from his post, BJP MP Ravi Shankar Prasad leveled several allegations against Rahul Gandhi and the opposition. Rahul Gandhi responded by saying, “Whenever we try to speak, we are interrupted.” He added, “This discussion is about democracy and the role of the Speaker. My name was invoked on several occasions. I was constantly prevented from speaking.”

Rahul said, “My last time speaking, I raised the issue of compromise on behalf of the Prime Minister. The House represents the country. For the first time, the Leader of the Opposition was not allowed to



speak. The Prime Minister is he kept smiling.”

Home Minister Amit Shah said, “It is regrettable to bring a no-confidence motion against the Speaker, because the Speaker does not belong to any one party, he belongs to everyone. The Speaker has the right to stop and reprimand anyone for violating the rules.”

**Shah said there were several mistakes in the opposition's notice, which the Speaker corrected.**

Amit Shah said, in the notice of the motion against the Speaker, 2025 was written instead of 2026. When it was brought to the notice of the opposition, they withdrew the notice. In the second notice, only Gaurav Gogoi’s real signature was there. All the opposition MPs had xerox signatures. In such a situation, the notice can be rejected. But they do not have that much seriousness that the notice should be brought as per the rules. Still, the Speaker’s office gave the opposition a chance that there are mistakes. Correct them. This talks about seriousness in the House.

## Air India Express flight loses wheel during landing

**Nose gear breaks; hard landing in Thailand, 133 people on board**

**Bangkok (GNS):** An Air India Express flight from Hyderabad to Phuket was involved in a landing accident in Thailand on Wednesday afternoon. The nose gear of the aircraft broke off and the front wheel became detached as it touched down on the runway.

According to Thai newspaper The Nation, the runway had to be closed for some time after the incident, although all 133 passengers on board the plane were evacuated safely and no injuries were reported. The flight arrived in Phuket ahead of schedule. The plane’s scheduled landing time was 11:40 am, but it landed at 11:24 am. It is reported that the plane landed too quickly, damaging its front landing gear.



## To secure the future, water conservation must be made an integral part of life: President

**New Delhi (GNS):** President Draupadi Murmu said that water conservation is a basic necessity but is also linked to our culture, traditions, livelihoods, and community life. She said that for a long time, people in villages, especially women and children, had to travel long distances to fetch drinking water. Providing clean drinking water was not just a matter of convenience but also involved time, health, and dignity. To address these challenges, the Central Government launched the Jal Jeevan Mission, through which villagers now have access to clean and safe drinking water in their homes.

The President stated that when the entire society, along with the government, shares responsibility for a resource, its conservation becomes more effective and sustainable. Community ownership plays a crucial role in water management and conservation. He expressed confidence that harnessing the potential of women through self-help groups will prove extremely useful in ensuring water security.

The President emphasized the need for multi-pronged and coordinated efforts to strengthen water security. In coordination with the Swachh Bharat Mission, greywater management is being promoted in rural areas. Additionally, work is being done in collaboration with the Central Ground Water Board and other organizations for water conservation. He said that campaigns like “Catch the Rain” and “Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari” are playing a vital role in promoting rainwater harvesting. Such coordinated efforts will ensure the country’s water security.

The President said that awareness about water management and conservation among the younger generation will strengthen the country’s water security in the future. He expressed confidence that the “Jal Mahotsav” will become a medium for a mass movement for India’s water security.

## Directive against the team that authored the controversial NCERT chapter

**Supreme Court orders Centre to ban Prof. Michel, who wrote “Corruption in the Judiciary”**

**New Delhi (GNS):** The Supreme Court is preparing to remove the team that prepared the sub-chapter titled ‘Corruption in the Judiciary’ in the NCERT Class 8 Social Science book.

The court has directed the central government, all state governments and public funded institutions to remove Professor Michel Danino, chairperson of the NCERT social science curriculum, from the curriculum. Additionally, his two other associate members, Diwakar and Alok Prasanna Kumar, should not be involved in any way in the curriculum development process. Furthermore, all three should be excluded from the process of finalizing the next generation textbooks. Professor Michel Danino, along with his two colleagues — Diwakar and Alok Prasanna Kumar, had prepared the sub-chapter ‘Corruption in Judiciary’ in Part-2 of the Class 8 NCERT Social Science book.

Also barred from serving in a public funded institution

A bench headed by Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant ordered the removal of Professor Michel Danino and his team from the process of preparing and incorporating the chapter into the curriculum, and also ordered their suspension from serving in any such public-funded institution.



## Obscene content, social media, and culture: Whose responsibility is it?

Dr. Priyanka Saurabh

The digital age has profoundly transformed the structure of our society, our ways of thinking, and our ways of expressing ourselves. Today, through mobile phones and the internet, anyone can reach millions of people in a matter of seconds. Social media platforms have democratized expression—where previously, opportunities for entertainment and fame were limited to a limited few, now everyone has a platform to showcase their talent. But with this new opportunity has also emerged many new challenges. One of the most significant is the debate surrounding content that some sections of society consider “vulgar” or “indecent.”

Over the past few years, social media has seen a rapid rise in videos that, in the name of dance, acting, or entertainment, showcase

gestures and performances that many consider to be contrary to cultural values. These videos often garner millions of views, likes, and shares, further expanding their reach. In this race for popularity, content quality and social responsibility are often overlooked.

A large segment of society believes that this type of content has a particularly damaging impact on young people and teenagers. When they see others achieving immense fame and financial gain by creating videos that last only a few seconds, they may develop a desire to do the same. Sometimes this inspiration is channeled into a creative direction—creating content related to music, art, dance, or education. However, in many cases, this motivation turns into a mere pursuit of virality, where any means are used to gain attention.

It's also been observed that

trends and algorithms have a significant impact on social media. Content that is viewed and shared more often spreads faster. Therefore, if viewers repeatedly watch the same types of videos that they themselves consider “vulgar,” they are inadvertently perpetuating that trend. Therefore, blaming only the content creators isn't a complete solution to this problem. Viewers are also a vital part of this digital ecosystem.

On the other hand, there is also the argument that art and entertainment have their own freedoms. There are many forms of dance, acting, and expression, and each person views them differently. What one person finds inappropriate may be merely a form of entertainment or art to another. This is why this topic sparks heated debate in society. Some consider it a part of freedom of expression, while

others see it as an erosion of social and cultural values.

This raises an important question—should any kind of popularity be considered a benchmark for success? Social media has greatly accelerated the process of achieving fame. Previously, it took years for an artist to gain recognition; today, a viral video can make someone a star overnight. But this instant fame is often not lasting, and its social impact can be complex. Many young people may fall into the trap of believing that only controversial or attention-grabbing content is the path to success. As a result, they chase instant popularity instead of developing their talents. This trend not only impacts personal growth but also impacts the quality of entertainment in society.

Culture isn't the product of a single individual or generation. Culture is shaped by centuries of

experience, traditions, and social values. It's constantly changing—as each era brings with it new ideas and new forms. But it's essential to maintain a balance between change and excess. When entertainment becomes solely about sensationalism or attention, it's natural for society to worry about whether we're drifting away from our values.

In this context, the role of family, education, and society also becomes crucial. It's crucial to teach children and young people that not everything they see on the internet is worthy of emulation. Digital literacy—that is, understanding how the online world works—has become a crucial necessity today. If young people understand how algorithms work, how views and likes are generated, and what types of content can influence them, they will be able to make more informed decisions.

### Editorial

## Iran – India's friend or foe?

The war between the US, Israel, and Iran is ongoing. A debate has erupted within the country over whether to support or oppose Iran. Meanwhile, a section of the society is expressing their grief by holding a picture of Iran's deceased former leader, Ali Khamenei. India, in turn, visited the Iranian embassy a few days later to pay its respects and express its condolences. Simply explaining India-Iran relations, it would be more appropriate to say that Iran is neither India's enemy nor a military ally in the traditional sense. Rather, the relationship between the two countries has developed into a strategic partnership based on mutual interests, history, and diplomacy. Iran is not India's enemy, but it is also not a traditional military ally. External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar also made it clear in Parliament that the government is monitoring every move to control the current situation. However, the government has not yet stated how it will address the inflation caused by this war. Currently, commercial gas prices have been curbed. If there was no crisis on domestic gas, what would the government be doing?

If we examine the historical and cultural ties, we find that India and Iran's relations date back thousands of years. Trade, culture, and language have been exchanged between the two regions since ancient times. The influence of the Persian language is also visible in the administrative and cultural traditions of medieval India. We must not forget that conflicts did occur in history, such as the 1739 invasion of India by the Iranian ruler Nader Shah and the defeat of the Mughals in the Battle of Karnal. However, in modern times, relations between the two countries have been primarily based on cooperation and diplomacy.

If we talk about partnership in energy and trade

India is a major energy consumer, and Iran has been a significant source of oil and gas. Iran is considered crucial to India's energy security. In this context, India has invested in the development of Iran's Chabahar Port, which provides India access to Afghanistan and Central Asia and allows it to bypass Pakistan.



It is important to maintain a balance between electoral politics, constitutional institutions and the federal structure. Protocols in a democracy are not merely formal rules but are a means of maintaining the dignity and order of institutions. Election season and a new chapter in constitutional conflict – Respecting constitutional norms and institutions, despite political differences, is the key to strengthening democracy.



## The President-Chief Minister clash in West Bengal—is it a question of constitutional dignity or a strategy of electoral politics?

Advocate Kishan Sanmukhdas Bhavanani

Globally, West Bengal politics appears to be at a crossroads where constitutional norms, protocol, politics, and electoral strategies collide. The countdown to the 2026 assembly elections has begun, and the controversy surrounding the President's visit to North Bengal has become a topic of national debate. At the heart of this controversy is a political conflict between the West Bengal Chief Minister and the Indian Prime Minister. While the central government and the ruling party are linking this to the dignity of the presidency and respect for the Constitution, the West Bengal Chief Minister is calling it a pre-election political strategy and an attempt by the central government to corner the state government. I, Advocate Kishan Sanmukhdas Bhavanani, Gondia, Maharashtra, believe that this controversy is not limited to mere protocol or formalities; it is also highlighting the complexities of center-state relations, constitutional norms, and electoral politics. In a democracy, protocols are not merely formal rules; they are a means of maintaining the dignity and order of institutions. The protocols set for the President, Prime Minister, and other constitutional positions are designed to maintain discipline and respect in the governance system. Failure to follow these protocols could lead to institutional imbalances. With the West Bengal Assembly elections likely

to be announced in the coming months, this controversy could become a major campaign issue. The ruling party may present it as an issue of constitutional respect and tribal pride, while the ruling party in West Bengal will attempt to mobilize its supporters by portraying it as a political conspiracy by the central government. The media has also played a significant role in this entire controversy. This incident has sparked a heated debate on various news media and social media platforms, with some considering it an insult to the President, while others are calling it a political controversy. In a democracy, the media is an important medium to influence public opinion and its role becomes even more important in such cases.

Friends, if we consider the President's visit to North Bengal and the origins of the controversy, the entire controversy began when the Honorable President arrived in Siliguri, West Bengal, to attend the Ninth International Santhal Conference as the Chief Guest. This event was organized by the International Santhal Council, a private organization. Originally, the conference was planned to be held in the Bidhannagar area of Darjeeling district, where a large number of Santhal tribal community members were expected to attend. However, citing security, crowd management, and other administrative reasons, the venue was later changed to Goshainpur near Bagdogra Airport. The President herself

expressed dissatisfaction with this change, stating that the new venue was too small, preventing thousands of Santhal community members from attending the event. This displeasure of the President gradually escalated into a political controversy.

Friends, if we consider the issue of protocol and the President's displeasure, in his address, the President expressed surprise that neither the Chief Minister nor any senior minister of the state government was present to welcome him. He also stated that he personally had no objection to this, but that the protocol prescribed for the office of President must be followed. He also referred to the Chief Minister as his younger sister and questioned whether he was angry with her. This statement by the President further heated up the political atmosphere, as it was the first time the President had publicly questioned the adherence to protocol at an event. Following this statement, the ruling party made an issue of constitutional dignity and leveled serious allegations against the state government.

Friends, if we consider the reaction of the Prime Minister and the ruling party, the Prime Minister also responded to this issue, stating that this was not only an insult to the President but also an insult to India's Constitution and democratic traditions. He also stated that Draupadi Murmu herself comes from the tribal community and is dedicated to their development, and the disruption of her program

and the lack of proper support from the state government were extremely unfortunate. BJP leaders linked this to tribal identity, saying that the West Bengal government did not take the President's program seriously. This issue was also politically significant for the ruling party, as the tribal community is considered a significant vote bank in Bengal. Friends, if we consider the West Bengal Chief Minister's counterattack and political accusations, she categorically rejected all these allegations, stating that the event was not organized by the state government but by a private organization. According to her, the state administration had already informed the President's Secretariat that the organizers' preparations were inadequate and they lacked the capacity to handle such a large gathering. She also said that if the President attends an event once a year, she can personally attend the reception, but if events are held repeatedly before elections, it is not possible to attend every time. She accused the ruling party of using the President's position for political gain. This statement by Mamata Banerjee was considered extremely politically sharp, as she even went so far as to imply that the President is acting under the influence of the ruling party's policies and directives. Friends, if we consider this issue from the perspective of a new dimension of center-state conflict, then this dispute gradually began to escalate into a confrontation between the central and state governments.

## A call for world peace amidst global war hysteria

Lalit Garg

After World War II, the world attempted to create a system in which power could be controlled through rules and institutions. For nearly eight decades, this global order persisted in one form or another, despite numerous ups and downs. International institutions, multilateral agreements, diplomatic dialogue, and shared norms—all aimed to protect the world from the “matsya-nyaya” (the practice of the powerful swallowing the weak). This vision led to the establishment of the United Nations, the World Trade Organization, the World Health Organization, UNESCO, and numerous international forums. These institutions did not completely idealize world politics, but they at least ensured that a veneer of rules and

morality remained alongside power. However, today this system is facing an unprecedented crisis.

A new trend is rapidly emerging in global politics, prioritizing unilateral action, military power, and a mindset of quick gains over cooperation, dialogue, and multilateralism. America's policies, particularly under Donald Trump's leadership, have accelerated this trend. The country, once a key architect and protector of the global rules-based order, now appears to be distancing itself from numerous international agreements and institutions. This was evident during Trump's first term when the United States began withdrawing from institutions like the Paris Climate Agreements, the Iran Nuclear Deal, the World Health Organization, and UNESCO. These actions conveyed the message that if

an agreement affects immediate national interests, it is best to abandon it. This deeply undermined the spirit of global cooperation that has been the cornerstone of the international system for decades.

Today, the situation has become even more complex. In many parts of the world, war and conflict have become accepted as normal occurrences. The four-year-long Russo-Ukrainian War and the two-year-long Gaza War are the most tragic and ironic examples of this. These conflicts have endangered the lives of millions, reduced cities to ruins, and destabilized the global economy. The greatest irony of war is that it leads to no lasting solution. Even those who claim victory ultimately live with destruction and suffering. History bears witness that war has never brought glory to humanity; it

has only led to devastation, fear, and instability. War causes massive environmental damage, depletes economic resources, increases inflation, reduces employment opportunities, and deepens the sense of insecurity and distrust in society.

The biggest concern facing the world today is that war and violence are gradually becoming normalized. Often, the purpose of war becomes less about real solutions, but rather image-building, a display of power, or a distraction from internal crises in domestic politics. In such circumstances, both global morality and international law are weakened. If powerful countries themselves begin to break the rules, the credibility of the entire system is threatened. Double standards are also visible on the issue of human rights. One country is criticized, while similar actions

in other countries are silenced. This transforms human rights into a tool for geopolitical debate rather than a universal value. If the global community truly wants to protect humanity, it must adopt uniform standards for every country. In these circumstances, the question becomes crucial: is the world once again heading towards an era where “might is right” will become the rule of international politics? If this happens, it will pose a serious threat not only to small countries but to human civilization as a whole.

India's historical perspective is crucial in this context. Since independence, India has championed a policy of sovereignty, non-interference, and multilateral cooperation. India believes that solutions to global problems are possible only through collective efforts.

# “Nuclear Power and AI Can Make India a \$30 Trillion Economy”: Kushagra Bajaj

Mumbai, 10 th March. Kushagra Bajaj, Chairman of the Bajaj Group, a leading industrial conglomerate, said that nuclear power and artificial intelligence could emerge as two of the most important industries for India's long-term economic growth, significantly contributing to the country's transformation from a \$5 trillion economy to a \$30 trillion economy in the coming decades.

Mr. Bajaj made this statement while speaking at the "Mega Networking Meet - 2026" organized by the Family Managed Business Hub at Jai Hind College, Mumbai, where he, along with his daughter and the Bajaj

Group's first women leader, Ms. Anandamayi Bajaj, interacted with students, faculty, and alumni entrepreneurs and shared tips for career success. Mr. Bajaj stated that nuclear power and artificial intelligence will play a key role in shaping India's economic future. He stated, "We are entering the nuclear power business, and I believe AI presents a huge opportunity for young people as it has the potential to significantly increase productivity, innovation, and energy security, as India continues its march towards becoming a \$30 trillion economy." He also emphasized the importance of values and discipline in sustaining family enterprises



Chief Guest and Chairman of Bajaj Group Kushagra Bajaj lighting the lamp at an event held at Jai Hind College in Mumbai and in the second photo, he is seen interacting, alongwith his daughter, Ms. Anandamayi Bajaj. In the third photo, Mrs. Vasavadatta Bajaj receiving a memento from Dr. Vijay Dabholkar, Principal of Jai Hind College.

across generations. He stated that consistency, hard work, reading, and the ability to think deeply are essential for maintaining and growing a family business responsibly. He emphasized that business families should raise the next generation with strong discipline and a sense of responsibility, so that they understand what it

takes to build and sustain an enterprise. Sharing her perspective on leadership and learning, Ms. Anandamayi Bajaj, a fifth-generation young leader of the Bajaj Group, spoke about the value of global exposure and continuous learning in shaping strategic thinking. She said that stepping out of one's comfort zone changes



one's perspective on the world. She said that studying abroad broadened her perspective and helped her become more open to different ideas and experiences. She also emphasized the importance of professionalizing family businesses so that the next generation can learn from experienced industrial leaders and profes-

sionals. She explained that professionalizing a family business provides a significant opportunity to learn from experienced leaders and experts within the organization. Being open to those perspectives and learning from the ground is essential for making informed strategic decisions and developing critical understanding.

Also present in the audience for this event was Mrs. Vasavadatta Bajaj, whose powerful personality epitomizes the family bond within the Bajaj family. Her presence truly demonstrated how important a woman is in any family, fulfilling her multiple roles as a wife, mother, and support system. The evening concluded with a captivating

conversation between speakers, students, and alumni founders, emphasizing the growing importance of collaboration between family businesses, start-ups, and academic institutions in shaping India's entrepreneurial ecosystem.

The Bajaj Group, founded by visionary industrialist Mr. Jammalal Bajaj, is one of India's most renowned business houses, with interests in sugar, energy, ethanol, and consumer products. Guided by a legacy of entrepreneurship, ethical business practices and nation-building, the Group continues to thrive while remaining true to its founding values.

## 2,187 Entries From India, Abroad For Film Festival

New Delhi, (GNS): International Film Festival Delhi (IFFD), to be held from March 25 to 31, has received 2,187 entries from India and abroad. The event aims at bringing global cinema, Bollywood stars and regional films together while positioning the city as a major cultural and cinematic hub. The festival will be anchored at Bharat Mandapam, while additional screenings will be held at multiplexes and other locations across the city. Open-air projector screenings are also planned at select public locations to make cinema accessible to a wider audience.

"The entries include 1,151 international non-feature films and 668 Indian non-feature films, along with 221 international feature films and 147 Indian feature films," said an official. The submissions will be reviewed by a selection committee comprising film industry experts to shortlist the final set of movies. The entries came from over 100 countries, he added.

According to officials, IFFD will feature around 30% international films, 40% Hindi cinema and 30% regional Indian films, ensuring a diverse cinematic mix. Specially curated sections are planned for patriotic, spiritual and children's cinema. All screenings will be for free, though viewers will need to register in advance through online platforms.

"The gala screenings will mark first-time screenings of standout films. They will be the flagship moments of the festival, bringing together creators and audiences in celebration of cinematic achievement," said an official.

The festival will also feature a series of high-profile events such as a red-carpet gala attended by top film personalities and an awards distribution ceremony recognizing notable film personalities who have roots in the city. "At least three top Bollywood actors are expected to perform at the opening ceremony, while the closing ceremony will feature musical performances and special presentations. The names will be officially announced soon," said an official. The awards may include the Champion of Cinema (Lifetime Achievement) award and National Film Personality of the Year, along with curated showcases of award-winning films.

Officials said the event would also have a number of industry-focused platforms, such as masterclasses and workshops on filmmaking, VFX and sound design, celebrity talks and actor spotlights, script labs and pitching forums for emerging filmmakers. A Film Bazaar will facilitate co-production and distribution opportunities, while a film-tech expo will showcase innovations on AR, VR, gaming and OTT platforms.

# Anant Ambani honoured by Awards as Vantara work has earned international acclaim

Marking one year since its inauguration by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Vantara reflects on an extraordinary journey during which it has not only rescued wildlife but also provided advanced medical care and scientific conservation support. Established by Anant Ambani, Vantara has rescued and rehabilitated thousands of wild animals across diverse species, including big cats, reptiles, primates, birds, and other mammals. Over the past year, Vantara's veterinary teams have conducted complex surgical procedures and successfully reintroduced many animals into their natural habitats, while others have been rescued, treated, rehabilitated, and



released back into the wild. In Jamnagar District, RIL world larger petroleum refinery at one place, same way, near reliance foundation's

are also doing nation wide welfare activities, more over Vantara is situated with all weather friendly atmosphere, and became world largest, animal



including wild life, rehabilitation centre, credit goes to Anant Mukeshbhai

Ambani, by his noble affection and planning makes Vantara "Heaven" for needy animals of the world.

In its first year of operations, Anant Ambani received the prestigious Global Human Award in recognition of his significant global contribution to wildlife conservation and sustainability, highlighting a commitment to compassionate, science-based conservation. With memberships in EEARAZA and SEAZA, Global Humane Conservation Certification, and the Prani Mitra Award 2005, Vantara work has earned international acclaim.

Report By --- Bharat G. Bhogayata - Journalist - Jmr & A "bad

## “DRM Trophy” Cricket Tournament became exciting right from Inauguration

28 Exciting Matches Among 11 Departmental Teams

In the Rajkot Railway Division of Western Railway is itself becomes attracting. The inter-departmental cricket tournament “DRM Trophy 2026” was inaugurated under the aegis of the Rajkot Division Sports Association with the objective of promoting mutual coordination, sportsmanship, and better health among railway employees. The tournament was inaugurated by the Chief Guest, Shri Giriraj Kumar Meena, Divisional Railway Manager (DRM), Rajkot and President of the Rajkot Division Sports Association. On this occasion, Shri R.C. Meena, Senior Divisional Safety Officer and Secretary of the Rajkot Division Sports Association, was present as the Guest of Honour. The cricket tournament will up to 22 March 2026 at the Railway Cricket Stadium, Rajkot. A total of 11 teams from various departments of the



Rajkot Railway Division — Commercial, Mechanical, Engineering, Operating, Signal & Telecommunication, Personnel, Railway Protection Force (RPF), Electrical, TRD (Electrification), and Accounts — are participating in the competition. Altogether 28 matches will be played during the tournament. This year, along with cricket, competitions in Table Tennis, Badminton, Chess, Football, and Athletics have also been included under the DRM Trophy. Teams from various railway departments will participate in these events, and the overall winner

of the DRM Trophy will be decided on the basis of points earned across all competitions. The first match of the tournament was played between the Mechanical Department and the Signal Department teams. The Mechanical team won the toss and chose to field first. Batting first, the Mechanical team scored 111 runs for the loss of 9 wickets in 15 overs. Chasing the target, the Signal team put up an impressive performance and scored 112 runs for the loss of 5 wickets in 12.5 overs, thereby winning the match by 5 wickets. The semi-final matches will be played on 21 March, while the final match will be held on 22 March 2026. On this occasion, several officers, employees, and sports enthusiasts of the division were present in large numbers and encouraged the players, added by Public Relations Officer Western Railway, Rajkot Division.

## DDA to restore river floodplain near Baansera

New Delhi, (GNS): Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has begun taking over land currently used by the Public Works Department (PWD) as a casting yard next to Baansera and aims to have the entire site vacated within this year. The authority plans to revamp the area, opposite the Sarai Kale Khan ISBT, in line with the Yamuna floodplain norms, restore its ecological character, and develop it into a sustainable public space near the river. The process of levelling a portion of land next to the Ring Road is under way.

"PWD is vacating the site in portions. As soon as the land next to Ring Road was cleared, we started levelling the area," an official said. PWD did not comment on the matter.

The initiative forms part of DDA's action plan to restore and develop a 163-hectare stretch of the floodplain under



the Kalindi Aviral Extension project. The stretch will cover the floodplains from NH-9 to the Sundial near Barapullah, officials said. "Spread along the western bank of the Yamuna, the project aims at ecological restoration, landscape enhancement and improved public access to the floodplain. The authority has earmarked Rs 28.3 crore for the project, which is scheduled to be executed over the next six months," an official said.

# Capital Concern: Ozone Lead Pollutant On 16 Days This Feb

New Delhi, (GNS): Ground-level ozone, considered largely a summer pollutant, is now emerging as a year-round concern in the city. An analysis of Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) data shows that ozone was the lead pollutant in the daily Air Quality Index (AQI) on 16 of the 28 days this Feb, eight days in March so far and twice this Jan.



In comparison, it was the main pollutant on nine days in Feb 2025 and two days in Feb 2024, 2021 and 2020, and once in Feb 2022. It wasn't the dominant pollutant in Feb 2023.

While ozone typically peaks during the summer months, especially between April and June, this data suggests that elevated levels are now being

recorded in other months as well. For example, in Oct 2025, which was the coolest in three years with a mean maximum temperature of 31.7 degrees Celsius, ozone was the lead pollutant for 11 days.

Anumita Roychowdhury, executive director (research and advocacy) of Centre for Science

and Environment, said ozone pollution is escalating into a year-round public health concern. "Once a seasonal problem triggered by summer sunlight, toxic ozone levels now persist across all seasons due to high and continuous emissions of gases. Without urgent action to drastically cut gaseous pollutants

from vehicles and industries, this highly reactive gas will increase public health risk," she said. A review of hourly ozone data for the month of Feb indicates a worrying trend. The levels of the gas exceeded 101 micrograms per cubic metre for 29 hours in Feb 2026 and 18 hours in Feb 2025. In contrast, the hourly concentration did not cross the 100 micrograms per cubic metre mark in any Feb between 2020 and 2024 even once, according to data analysed by Envirocatalysts, a think tank.

Though the national hourly standard for ozone is 180 micrograms per cubic metre, experts said the number of hours showing elevated levels this year is significantly higher than in previous years.

Sunil Dahiya, founder and lead analyst at Envirocatalysts, said the average temperatures in Feb in previous years were almost similar, but the ozone levels peaked this Feb.

"It means that primary precursors like oxides of nitrogen (NOx) and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) are driving ozone levels, as there is no direct correlation between ozone and temperatures. We have also seen that the gas has started turning into a main pollutant during the winter months and pre-summer months, which was not the case a few years ago," said Dahiya. He added that this needs to be tackled in a systematic manner, with a focus on reducing the emission load of all pollutants. While ground-level ozone pollution has

started rising in other months, it continues to remain consistently high across the Delhi-NCR region during summer. The eight-hour concentration exceeded 100 micrograms per cubic metre on each of the 92 days between March 1 and May 31, 2025, revealed a study conducted by Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) last year.

Unlike primary pollutants, ozone is not emitted directly from any source. Ground-level ozone forms through complex chemical reactions between NOx and VOCs, which are emitted from vehicles, power plants, factories and other combustion sources. In the presence of sunlight, these pollutants undergo cyclic reactions that generate ozone at the surface level.

# Kuch bada karunga: Family, friends recall Uttam Nagar man's dedication

**New Delhi, (GNS):** Visual after visual on his social media pages showed Tarun Butolia's dedication towards fitness and combat sports. Over eight years, the 26-year-old transformed his body, taking pride in his progress and posting high-energy edits on Instagram, deadlifting nearly 100 kg and executing chest presses. His social media posts trace his journey from a scrawny teenager to a well-built man.

Days after he was beaten to death near his home in Uttam Nagar, allegedly by neighbours over a disagreement on Holi, his family and friends remembered his dedication and confidence. The police have arrested 14 people in the case.

Forced to discontinue his Bachelors in Computer Application course in the second year at a college in Bahadurgarh



during the Covid pandemic, Butolia took up part-time work to save money.

His uncle, Tek Chand said the disruption forced him to rethink his plans and he enrolled in a digital marketing course. "He wanted to start a business," Tek Chand said. Another relative, Vinod Kumar, recalled that Tarun had once shared his plans of estab-

lishing a digital marketing venture within the next two years. "The last thing I remember him telling me was 'kuch bada karunga' (I will do something big). He was full of life and spoke with confidence about his plans," he said. Family members also said Butolia was deeply spiritual. They said he frequently travelled to Kedarnath, Rishikesh, Ayodhya

and Varanasi, often spending time at Assi Ghat. He also visited the Hanuman Temple in Connaught Place every Tuesday. According to relatives, he had been planning another trip to Uttarakhand soon.

On Tuesday, local residents and some religious leaders gathered in Uttam Nagar to hold a protest demanding justice for Butolia and calling for strict action against the accused.

On Monday, Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) office bearers held a meeting with Butolia's family and other residents. VHP Delhi Prant Mantri, Surrender Gupta, said after the meeting that the financial condition of the family was discussed and it was decided that the local community would provide financial assistance as well as other forms of aid to help the family cope.

## 2 injured in house fire in south Delhi



**New Delhi, (GNS):** Two people, including a three-year-old child, sustained burn injuries after a fire broke out in a residential building in south Delhi's Chirag Delhi area early Wednesday morning, officials said. According to the Delhi Fire Service, a call regarding the fire was received at 5.45 am from Hanuman Road, Chirag Delhi.

Fire tenders were immediately dispatched to the spot. The blaze was brought under control and a "stop message" was

issued at 7.50 am, officials said.

According to the fire officer's report, the fire broke out on the fourth floor of a building comprising a basement, four floors, and a partially constructed fifth floor.

Two people sustained minor burn injuries in the incident. Rakesh (55) suffered around 5 per cent burn injuries, while Kywansh (3) sustained burns to his hair. The child was rushed to the AIIMS Trauma Centre for treatment.

## Two men found dead inside parked car

**New Delhi, (GNS):** Two men were found dead inside a parked car near a roadside drain in outer north Delhi on Tuesday. The bodies were found after police got information about two persons lying inside the vehicle. The area under the Narela Industrial Area police station.

The police team that went to the spot found a white car with its windows shut. "The vehicle was not locked. On checking the car, officers found two men inside, and a foul smell emanating from the vehicle, suggesting that the bodies had been there for a while," a senior police officer said. "Three liquor pouches were found in the car, two of which were sealed and one was open." During enquiries and while examining the CCTV footage, police learnt that the vehicle had been parked at the spot since around 2pm the previous day, and no one had been seen entering or leaving it afterwards. The crime team was called to inspect the scene and the bodies were later shifted to a hospital for a post-mortem.

The deceased were identified as Vikas (42), a driver and resident of Ambedkar Colony in Khera Khurd, who was in the driver's seat, and Bijender (36), a plumber of the same locality, who was in the back seat. Police said that the car is owned by one Rakesh Kumar (49), also of Ambedkar Colony, but who originally hails from Shahjahanpur in Uttar Pradesh. No visible injury marks were found on the bodies. The cause can be confirmed after the post-mortem examination, police said.

## Tender floated to measure sewage entering Yamuna from major drains, DJB tells NGT

**New Delhi, (GNS):** Delhi Jal Board (DJB) has informed National Green Tribunal (NGT) that to accurately assess the volume of sewage entering the Yamuna, it floated a tender to install flow-measurement systems on major drains that discharge into the river. In a status report dated Feb 2, DJB said the proposed systems would help authorities measure the exact quantity of wastewater flowing through key drains across the city. The data is expected to assist agencies in planning interception and treatment measures aimed at reducing the discharge of untreated sewage into the Yamuna.

According to the board, installing flow meters will allow officials to quantify sewage loads in major drains and identify priority areas where infrastructure interventions are required. "That measurement... is an essential component of effective interception and treatment," DJB stated. The move is part of broader efforts by city authorities to curb pollution in the Yamuna, which continues to receive large volumes of untreated wastewater from multiple sources.

However, DJB also told NGT that a significant portion of sewage entering these drains originated from informal settlements and JJ clusters where sewer networks were not yet laid. The board stated that the delays in connecting these clusters to the sewer system were to be addressed by Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board (DUSIB), responsible for developing basic infrastructure in these areas.

DJB stated that of the 10 drains emerging from JJ clusters within Barapullah Drainage Basin, two - Shri Ram Camp and Madras Camp - were successfully trapped into the sewer network. A survey was conducted by DJB and DUSIB for the remaining eight JJ cluster drains. It said DUSIB had expressed its inability to provide sewerage from the JJ clusters at a single discharge point for further trapping into the DJB sewer network.

## An EV charging point rendered useless due to heaps of garbage

**New Delhi, (GNS):** Every morning, Vishal Rajpal steps out for a walk to Sapna Park near his house. But as he approaches Raja Dheer Sen Marg, an inevitable stench hits him. He instinctively pulls a handkerchief over his nose and hurries past heaps of garbage.

This stretch on the busy road in East of Kailash, an upscale residential neighbourhood in south Delhi, has tested the patience of locals for years now. What was once a dhalao - an open walled concrete structure used a local garbage collection point - until 2022 has turned into an open dumping ground. When an EV charging station was installed at the spot in 2024, residents hoped the problem would finally end. But the reality on the ground has not changed a bit.

The stretch connects several internal lanes and provides locals access to nearby markets, schools, parks and resi-



dential blocks. With houses, small shops and everyday services lining the road, it records steady movement of residents, delivery vehicles and traffic throughout the day.

Located close to major roads linking the area to Greater Kailash and Nehru Place, it struggles to handle heavy traffic flowing towards Lala Lajpat Rai Marg, where

shops, vendors and rows of parked vehicles swallow up pedestrian space. The garbage piled along this stretch only adds to the clutter, shrinking the walkway further and turning an already cramped road into a messy, chaotic passage for pedestrians and vehicles alike. Approach the spot, and the stench assails you before the sight of the trash does.

There's a footpath, but it is almost swallowed by heaps of waste, including plastic bags, food scraps and litter. With the walkway blocked, one sees pedestrians, faces buried in handkerchiefs and dupatta, forced onto the road, quickly weaving through moving vehicles in order to escape the stretch.

"The dhalao was removed more than three years ago, but people's habits did not change and they continued to dump rubbish here," Rajpal, who has lived here for about 12 years, said. "At times, the waste spills over right up to the park entrance, and I have to walk a few hundred metres extra just to skirt it. There is a designated spot for the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) sanitation team, but it is rarely cleaned. The stench is so strong that you cannot walk from that side, and the opposite footpath is completely encroached," he added.

Even the installation of the EV charging station did not help much. "I own an EV, but I have never used the charging point here. It is difficult to find space, and standing there for an hour in that toxic environment is impossible. Sometimes, the rubbish piles up right in front of the charging station," he said.

"I live near the spot," said Karan Aggarwal, another local. "What is the point of building footpaths and roads if they end up being blocked because of civic negligence? The rubbish has been piling up here for nearly four years, and people are tired of complaining. One can't use the charging station. And we keep hopping between the footpath and the road. In monsoon, it only gets worse." The Public Works Department (PWD) owns this road, while the MCD is responsible for collecting the waste. Neither responded to Media's queries on the issue.

## Revenge murder? 29-year-old man shot near home in south Delhi

**New Delhi, (GNS):** In a suspected case of revenge murder, a 29-year-old man was allegedly shot near his family home in south Delhi's Ambedkar Nagar on Monday evening. Nikhil Naagar was going to his nearby chicken shop in Madangir around 8pm when the attack took place.

According to locals, two persons arrived near a temple on a motorcycle. While one of them stationed the bike at a short distance, the other approached Naagar and allegedly opened fire, shooting four-five rounds. Naagar was hit in the back of his neck and the attackers fled. Locals took him to a nearby hospital, where doctors declared him brought dead.

Naagar was an accused in a 2021 murder case in which a local, 19-year-old Kunal, was



allegedly stabbed to death near the same spot following a dispute over a common woman friend of Naagar's associate, Gaurav. The case is under trial.

His uncle, Rajesh Naagar (50), said, "After being released on bail around a year ago, he had shifted to a rented accommodation nearby and had taken up a job at a private company." After his father died in Jan due to a lung infec-

tion, he began spending more time at the family's chicken shop, the uncle added. Naagar had also lost his mother.

Family members suspect the involvement of three persons who wanted to take revenge for Kunal's death. The shooting appeared to be "pre-planned", his uncle said. Relatives and locals said one person might have carried out a reconnaissance earlier and identified him during the attack.

## MCD looking for location to develop pig slaughterhouse

**New Delhi, (GNS):** The Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) has initiated steps to make a technologically equipped slaughterhouse for pigs, which also includes a scientific waste disposal facility to prevent groundwater pollution. A meeting was recently held to identify a location, prepare the project plan, and ensure time-bound construction.

"We have some sites, earlier transferred by the DDA, and one of them will be used. There was a long-pending demand for developing the slaughterhouse as their slaughter is not allowed at the existing facility in Ghazipur," said Mayor Raja Iqbal Singh. In the absence of an authorised slaughterhouse for pigs,



the chances of illegal slaughter was high. Without a scientific system for disposing the waste, the remains are frequently mixed with garbage and eventually end up at landfill sites, posing potential health hazards. The only operational slaughterhouse in Ghazipur is used for goats, sheep and buffaloes.

## West Asia War Fuels Vendors' Concern

**New Delhi, (GNS):** The city's vast street food economy - sustained by tea stalls, momo vendors, dhabas, tandoor shops and roadside Chinese joints - is beginning to feel the heat of the war in West Asia. Concerns are growing over tightening supplies of commercial LPG cylinders as geopolitical tensions disrupt shipping routes and the Centre prioritises domestic cooking gas. The daily livelihoods of thousands of small vendors across the city rely heavily on LPG for cooking, and many say even a brief disruption in cylinder supply could affect their ability to keep the businesses running.

Unlike larger restaurants, most roadside eateries operate



with limited LPG stock and depend on frequent refills, making them particularly vulnerable to delay in supplies.

At a tea stall in Lajpat Nagar, R K Pathak who hails

from Gonda in Uttar Pradesh stood beside a small stove balanced on a 15-kg domestic LPG cylinder - an illegal but common workaround in the informal sector where com-

mercial cylinders are considered too expensive.

"Business slows down from the beginning of summer as more people have cold drinks instead of tea," Pathak said. "On top of that, if gas becomes dearer, we will be directly hit. We can't hike the price of tea. Who will buy it then?"

Pathak has only one cylinder left, which he estimates will last three to four days. "If prices keep rising, how will we manage? As it is, we have to pay govt officials to keep our stalls running," he said.

Across the city, vendors say that the informal use of domestic cylinders and purchases through unofficial channels are routine in the unorganised food sector. But

many say prices in the black market are already rising due to the war in West Asia.

Payal Kashyap, who runs a small street café, said LPG costs have been steadily climbing over the years. "Around 13 years ago, we used to get a cylinder for about Rs 315. Now, it is around Rs 1,500. Why do prices keep on increasing? Why don't they ever come down," she wondered. Her small kitchen consumes about four cylinders a month, depending on sales. "Cooking without gas isn't possible. Induction doesn't give the same taste. If restrictions tighten further, we'll have no option but to buy cylinders from the black market," she said.