



Parliament Budget session : No shortage of petrol, diesel kerosene, ATF or fuel oil, Hardeep Puri tells Lok Sabha

New Delhi(GNS): Lok Sabha witnessed a showdown between Speaker Om Birla and Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi during the session on Thursday (March 12, 2026). Mr. Gandhi, speaking during the discussion on the Supplementary Demands for Grants, mentioned Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri's alleged links with sexual offender Jeffrey Epstein and alleged that Mr. Puri's daughter "received" money from billionaire George Soros..

Meanwhile, the Rajya Sabha discussed the working of the Ministry of Rural Development but the House then took up Special Mentions without



the Minister's reply. Deputy Chairman answer "subsequently" without mentioning the timeline. The House

Nirmala Sitharaman condemns Opposition for raising State issue

Pradyut Bordoloi of the Congress, speaking during the discussion on Supplementary Demands for Grants, slams Assam Government for the State's public debts. Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman raises to say that she was ready to reply for the member's point but says the Opposition shouldn't object when she speaks about other States too.

then adjourned for the day.
No shortage of petrol, diesel, kerosene, ATF or fuel oil: Hardeep Puri

Mr. Puri says that the crude oil supply position of India is secured. "Before the crisis, approximately 45% of India's crude imports transited through the Hormuz route. Thanks to the honourable Prime Minister's outstanding diplomatic

outreach and goodwill, India has secured good volume that exceeds what the disrupted Strait of Hormuz could've delivered in the same period. Non-Hormuz sourcing has risen to approximately 70% of crude imports. India sources crude from 40 countries as against 27 in 2006 and 2007," Mr. Puri says. "There is no shortage of petrol, diesel, kerosene, ATF or Fuel oil. The

availability of petrol, diesel, aviation turbine fuel, kerosene and fuel oil is fully assured.. supply chains for these products are functioning normally," he says. All this while, Opposition is sloganeering and protesting against Mr. Puri's remarks. Chants of "Epstein, Epstein" could be heard in the House. Mr. Puri further details other measures and says this is not the time for "rumour-mongering".

'Bengal loves those who love Bengal', CM Mamata's message to the new Governor

Kolkata(GNS):Former top Intelligence Bureau (IB) officer and former Tamil Nadu Governor R.N. Ravi was sworn in as the 22nd Governor of West Bengal on Thursday. Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's first message to him during a conversation after the swearing-in ceremony was that "Bengal loves those who love Bengal."



This short message was given along with the rose. After the swearing-in ceremony was over, the Chief Minister welcomed the new Governor by putting a piece of his robe around his neck. During that conversation, the Chief Minister gave this short message to Ravi. The Chief Minister told the Governor, "Bengal and Bengalis respect people of all linguistic backgrounds. Everyone lives in peace in Bengal. But the special thing is that Bengal loves

those who love Bengal. This is the speciality of the Bengali people." The Governor was heard replying to the Chief Minister, "It is true that West Bengal is the intellectual and cultural capital of India."

Political analysts believe that with this statement, "Bengal loves those who love Bengal," the Chief Minister has sent a subtle message to the new Governor. A city-based political analyst said, "The message is that a good relationship between the State Secretariat and the

Governor's House will only be possible if the Governor's House does not take any action that is against the interests of the state or the state government. This message is also important because under the current Trinamool Congress regime, there has been a long-standing tension between the Governor's House and the State Secretariat. This tension began during the tenure of Jagdeep Dhankhar, who later became the Vice President of India, and continued during the tenure of C.V. Anand Bose, who preceded Ravi."

PM Modi holds cabinet meeting:Instructions to monitor rumour mongers, sources make big claim

New Delhi(GNS): The Indian government is closely monitoring the tense situation in West Asia arising from the conflict between Iran and the US and Israel. Prime Minister Narendra Modi held a cabinet meeting in this regard. Media reports, citing sources, said PM Modi has instructed cabinet ministers to keep a close watch on rumors. Reports quoting sources claimed that PM Modi described India's preparedness to deal with the crisis as very strong. He said, "Ministers should prominently share their views on social media to educate the public. They should also respond to the opposition's questions in a concrete manner." sources claimed that Prime Minister Modi told the ministers, "The current situation in West Asia could impact the entire world."

Supreme Court's major decision:

Petition seeking 1 crore fee for 'saving' former CJI dismissed

New Delhi(GNS): The Supreme Court on Thursday dismissed a petition filed by a lawyer seeking payment of 1 crore in fees and expenses from the central government for filing six cases to defend then-Chief Justice Dipak Misra in 2018. During the hearing, a bench comprising Chief Justice Surya Kant, Justice Joymalaya Bagchi, and Justice Vipul M. Pancholi termed the petition as completely misconceived.

The Allahabad High Court bench also dismissed the petition. The matter arose during the hearing of a petition filed by Lucknow-based lawyer Ashok



Pandey, who challenged an order of the Lucknow bench of the Allahabad High Court in March last year. The high court also dismissed the lawyer's petition seeking direction to the central

government to pay him 1 crore in fees and expenses for six cases he had filed. 2018. He said that holding a press conference against the Chief Justice by the judges was against the rules.

Lawyer's claim and the bench's response

Lawyer Ashok Pandey told the apex court that he had filed these six cases to defend the then Chief Justice Mishra. He also said that the litigation in these cases had cost Rs 2 lakh and he had taken money for this from his daughter. To this, the Chief Justice asked, "After making various allegations against the judges, why are you using the word 'Honourable' now?" The lawyer also referred to a press conference held by the then four senior-most judges of the apex court in January

Gas shortage, 900 cylinder available for 1800 Commercial cylinders are being charged 4,000

New Delhi(GNS):The US-Israel war with Iran has led to a nationwide shortage of LPG. Long lines are seen outside gas agencies. Cylinder black marketing is also taking place. In many cities of Bihar, a domestic cylinder costing 1000 is being charged up to 1800. Meanwhile, in Madhya Pradesh, a commercial cylinder costing 1900 is being sold for 4000. Meanwhile, due to the supply restrictions on commercial gas cylinders, hotels and restaurants have switched to induction cooking. This has also increased the demand for induction cookers in the market. Sachin Gupta, president of the Jayanti Bazaar Association in Jaipur, said that 2,500 to 3,000 induction cookers used to be sold in Jaipur every month. Demand for them has now increased by 50%.



Bomb threat at Maharashtra Assembly turns out to be false; investigation finds nothing suspicious

Mumbai(GNS): A threat email threatened to bomb the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly building in Mumbai on Thursday. The email threatened to blow up the building while the budget session was underway. Security agencies and police were immediately alerted upon receiving the message.

As a precautionary measure, employees and others were evacuated from the complex in South Mumbai. Police immediately deployed tight security. A bomb squad and a dog squad arrived at the scene. Security personnel conducted a thorough search of the entire building. After a thorough search, no bombs or suspicious objects were found. After completing the investigation, the police clarified that the threat was completely false. Someone sent this fake email as a prank. Police are now working to identify the person who sent it. With the help of the cyber cell, they are tracing the IP address of the email and the sender's whereabouts.

Farooq Abdullah said, God saved me: The attacker shot me in the head from a few inches away but I was saved by the security personnel

Srinagar(GNS):National Conference President and former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Farooq Abdullah was shot by a man on Wednesday night. The attacker fired from a few inches away, striking him in the head. Fortunately, security personnel managed to get the attacker's hands up and he was spared the bullet.



According to officials, Farooq was in Jammu attending a wedding ceremony. He was accompanied by state Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Chaudhary.

Meanwhile, the attacker, Kamal, told police that he had been wanting to kill Farooq Abdullah for the past 20 years. Farooq had sent the attacker to five-day police remand. Meanwhile, Union Home Minister Amit Shah spoke to Farooq Abdullah over the phone after the firing incident in Jammu and enquired about his well-being. The accused had said that this was his life's purpose. However, the next morning after the incident, he said, "I made a mistake. I regret it now." Police sources say he was slightly intoxicated at the time of the incident. While being taken for a medical examination on Thursday, Jamwal said, "I didn't fire the shot at anyone's behest. I fired the shot on my own volition."

Investigators initially believed the accused was drunk when he allegedly

opened fire. Police sources said the accused appeared remorseful the next day and made statements that contradicted his earlier claims.

The accused has made many different statements during interrogation. Therefore, he has been questioned by several different officers in turn to uncover his true motive.

Police are also investigating his 20-year-old background.

The attacker first said this was his intention, then said – it was a mistake.

Kamal Singh Jamwal, accused of attacking National Conference President Farooq Abdullah, has changed his statement several times during interrogation. On the night after the incident, he claimed that he had wanted to kill Farooq Abdullah for the past 20 years.



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Meaning of no-confidence motion against the Speaker of the Lok Sabha

Sanat Jain

Recently, Members of Parliament from all political parties discussed and expressed their views on the no-confidence motion moved by opposition parties against Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla. This sparked a serious debate regarding the functioning of the Indian Parliament and parliamentary traditions. The post of Deputy Speaker of the Lok Sabha has been vacant for the past seven years, drawing sharp reactions from opposition members. The Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition are considered leaders of the ruling party and the opposition. The manner in which the Leader of the Opposition was not allowed to speak, members are repeatedly interrupted while speaking, and MPs are prevented from expressing their views by citing various rules.

Bills are being passed without discussion and due process, and the continuous reduction of session duration prevents members from expressing their views in Parliament. This has been a source of resentment among Parliament members for several years. The manner in which the ruling party obstructed opposition members from speaking, and the Chair's differential treatment of the ruling party and the opposition led to the no-confidence motion. The position of the Speaker of the Lok Sabha is considered extremely important in the Constitution and parliamentary democracy. The Speaker of the Lok Sabha is the guardian of all members. He does not belong to the government or any party. This position ensures that the proceedings of the House are conducted in a fair and balanced manner. All members have

the right to express their views. The opinions of all parties should be taken into account in any law and rule that is being enacted. This responsibility rests with the Speaker of the Lok Sabha. Members of Parliament can freely express their views on any subject in the House. If something is against the rules, the Speaker also has the power to remove it, but he can stop it before it can be spoken. This has been seen many times in the last 12 years. This has become the biggest cause of extreme distrust. The ruling party is in the majority, while the opposition is in the minority. In such situations, it has been traditional for the Speaker to play a crucial role in mediating and using his authority to make the right decision in the House. For the past few years, pressure from the ruling party has been visible on the Chair. Therefore, a no-

confidence motion against the Speaker is not just a question of one person, but also a matter of the functioning of Parliament, democratic dialogue, and accountability. Members of Parliament are not given the opportunity to express their views freely in the House. They are interrupted while speaking. Sensex members are suspended en masse. Members stated that the Speaker should maintain an equal approach with MPs from all parties and the Leader of the Opposition. In the current circumstances, the Speaker has been accused of giving more opportunities and protection to the ruling party. Members of the ruling party have dismissed these allegations as baseless. Members of the ruling party stated that the Speaker has taken necessary steps to ensure the dignity of the House, smooth functioning of the House,

and no disruptions in the House. The ruling party alleged that the Speaker has been forced to take harsh decisions due to the opposition's constant sloganeering and uproar.

In Indian parliamentary tradition, the Speaker of the Lok Sabha is considered a symbol of impartiality. His role is crucial in the passage of laws by Parliament. The Indian Constitution keeps the Speaker's position separate from party politics. If questions arise about the Speaker's impartiality, it is a worrying sign for the democratic system. This dispute cannot be resolved merely through accusations and counter-accusations. What is needed is a balance between the dignity of Parliament, the freedom of expression of members, and the quality of legislative work.

Editorial

A new rail revolution is heralded from Tiruchirappalli

The historic step towards connecting South, Deccan, and Eastern India was not limited to rail services. On this occasion, he also inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for various development projects worth over ₹5,650 crore. These included several important schemes related to railways, energy, petroleum infrastructure, rural road connectivity, and industrial development.

Indian Railways is not just a set of metal trains running on tracks. It is the greatest bridge between India's economy, society, and cultural connections. In this vast country, where geographical distances often create distances between people, markets, and opportunities, the rail system serves as a lifeline connecting them. Whenever a new rail service is launched, it not only expands a transportation facility but also opens new possibilities in the lives of millions. The historic city of Tiruchirappalli in Tamil Nadu witnessed such a significant moment today when Prime Minister Narendra Modi flagged off two Amrit Bharat Expresses, two express trains, and a passenger train. Additionally, another passenger train service was launched from Ernakulam, Kerala. With the launch of these rail services, a new chapter in connectivity between South India, the Deccan, and Eastern India has opened. The significance of the Prime Minister's visit was not limited to rail services alone. On this occasion, he also inaugurated, dedicated, and laid the foundation stone for various development projects worth over ₹5,650 crore. These projects include several important schemes related to railways, energy, petroleum infrastructure, rural road connectivity, and industrial development. This entire program indicates that the development of modern India can no longer be limited to metropolitan areas; it must reach every region of the country equally. Addressing the event, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that Indian Railways is not just a means of transportation, but a vital axis of the country's progress and social cohesion. He emphasized that in recent years, initiatives such as comprehensive modernization of the railways, introduction of new trains, station redevelopment, and electrification of railway lines have provided improved passenger convenience.



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A new rail revolution is heralded from Tiruchirappalli

Binod Kumar Singh

Every new rail service launches, it not only expands a transportation facility but also opens new possibilities in the lives of millions. The historic city of Tiruchirappalli in Tamil Nadu witnessed such a significant moment today when Prime Minister Narendra Modi flagged off two Amrit Bharat Expresses, two express trains, and a passenger train. Additionally, another passenger train service was launched from Ernakulam, Kerala. With the launch of these rail services, a new chapter in connectivity has opened between South India, the Deccan, and Eastern India. The significance of the Prime Minister's visit was not limited to rail services alone. On this occasion, he also inaugurated, dedicated, and laid the foundation stone for various development projects worth over ₹5,650 crore. These projects include several important schemes related to railways, energy, petroleum infrastructure, rural road connectivity, and industrial development. This entire program indicates that modern India's development can no longer be limited to metropolitan areas; it must reach every region of the country equally. Addressing the event, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that Indian Railways is not just a means of transportation, but a vital axis of the country's progress and social cohesion. He emphasized that in recent years, initiatives such as comprehensive modernization of the railways, introduction of new trains, station redevelopment, and electrification of railway lines have provided improved passen-

ger convenience. According to him, the dream of a developed India will be realized only when even the smallest cities and towns are connected to a strong transportation network.

In this context, the launch of the Podanur-Dhanbad Amrit Bharat Express marks a significant milestone. Coimbatore, the industrial city of South India, has long been considered one of the country's major manufacturing hubs. A vast array of textiles, machine tools, pump manufacturing, and small-medium industries have earned the city the status of South India's industrial capital. The constant hum of its factories is not only a sign of the local economy but also the heartbeat of India's industrial ecosystem. Yet, a long-standing irony was that, despite being such a major industrial hub, Coimbatore lacked direct rail connectivity to the mineral and energy sectors of Eastern India. This situation has now changed. The Amrit Bharat Express, running from Podanur to Dhanbad, for the first time connects this industrial region of South India directly with the coal and steel regions of Jharkhand. Podanur Junction, Coimbatore's second major railway hub, is the originating station for this new train. Shortly thereafter, it reaches Coimbatore Junction, providing passengers with two major stations to avail of this service. Previously, passengers traveling from Coimbatore or Tiruppur to Jharkhand and eastern India had to change trains at Chennai, Vijayawada, or other major junctions. This made the journey long, complicated, and tiring. The new Amrit Bharat

Express simplifies and facilitates this process.

The train passes through important stations such as Salem, Renigunta, Vijayawada, Jharsuguda, and Ranchi along its route. Thus, this rail service not only connects two cities but also establishes a new economic bridge between the industrial corridor of South India and the energy belt of Eastern India.

Coimbatore and Tiruppur aren't just known for their industries. The region is also a major hub for millions of migrant workers from various states across the country. Thousands of young people from Jharkhand, Bihar, Odisha, and West Bengal come here in search of employment and work in looms, factories, and construction sites. Their labor keeps the region's industrial machinery constantly moving. Returning home was often a difficult decision for these workers. The distance of over two thousand kilometers, the compulsion to change trains multiple times, crowded platforms, and uncertain travel times all made the journey, already emotionally taxing, even more challenging. The Amrit Bharat Express makes this journey home easier and more convenient for them. The Amrit Bharat Express has been specially designed keeping in mind the needs of ordinary travelers. It is a fully non-AC, economical, and non-dynamic fare system train. It aims to provide better travel convenience to those for whom rail is the most reliable and accessible mode of transport. Modern sleeper and general coaches, improved seating arrangements, cleanliness, and faster speeds—all of these amenities are now available to

passengers previously only available on premium trains. Special coaches for disabled passengers are also part of the service, making travel more inclusive. Another important rail service for South India has been launched in the form of the Nagarcoil-Chalappalli Amrit Bharat Express. Located near Kanyakumari, India's southernmost tip, Nagarcoil has long been a major hub for pilgrims, fishermen, and marine communities. Yet, the region remained relatively remote from the major economic centers of the Deccan. The journey from Nagarcoil to Hyderabad was often long and complicated, requiring multiple train changes. The new Amrit Bharat Express reduces this distance, establishing direct connectivity between several districts in Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, and Telangana. This rail service opens up new possibilities for students, workers, businessmen, and pilgrims. Additionally, new rail services, such as the Rameswaram-Mangaluru Express and the Tirunelveli-Mangaluru Express, connect the coastal regions of Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and Karnataka. Rameswaram is one of the holiest pilgrimage sites in Hinduism, and millions of devotees visit the Ramanathaswamy Temple every year. The new rail service will make travel more convenient for pilgrims. Mangaluru, on the other hand, is an important port city in Karnataka, offering numerous business and educational opportunities. These new trains will provide better connectivity for students, businessmen, and professionals.

From Jallianwala Bagh to Caxton Hall: The immortal saga of Shaheed-e-Azam Udham Singh

Sunil Kumar Mahala

Shaheed-e-Azam Sardar Udham Singh is one of the beacons of the Indian freedom struggle, whose name symbolizes courage and unwavering determination. In other words, Udham Singh (Ram Mohammad Singh Azad) was one of the great revolutionaries of the Indian freedom struggle. His childhood name was Sher Singh, and he was born on December 26, 1899, in Sunam, District Sangrur, Punjab. His father's name was Sardar Tahil Singh, who worked as a railway overseer (chowkidar), and his mother's name was Narayan Kaur. Let me inform readers that his parents died when he was a child, and it is said that he was raised in an orphanage in Amritsar. According to available information, without the support of his parents, he and his elder brother (Mukta Singh) were forced to seek refuge in the Central Khalsa Orphanage in Amritsar.

It is also noteworthy that he completed his schooling at the orphanage and passed his matriculation examination there in 1918. The horrific Jallianwala Bagh massacre, which took place on April 13, 1919, in Amritsar, changed the course of Udham Singh's life. He was in Amritsar at the time, and is said to have been giving water to the injured. This brutal incident left a deep impact on his mind, and he resolved to avenge the massacre. He held the then Lieutenant Governor of Punjab, Michael O'Dwyer, responsible for this incident.

Jallianwala Bagh Massacre Background:-

In fact, in 1919, the British government passed the Rowlatt Act of 1919 (also known as the Black Act). This law empowered the government to arrest any person without trial. This unjust law sparked nationwide protests. During this protest, popular Amritsar leaders Saifuddin Kitchlew and Satyapal were

arrested, and a peaceful gathering was held in Jallianwala Bagh, Amritsar, on April 13, 1919, to demand their release and protest the Rowlatt Act.

Vaisakhi day and huge crowd:

April 13, 1919, was the festival of Baisakhi. Therefore, approximately 10,000 men, women, and children gathered at Jallianwala Bagh. Many had come for the political meeting, while others had simply visited for the fair. It should also be noted that at that time, Jallianwala Bagh was not a well-organized garden; rather, it was a large, empty field surrounded by houses, with only one narrow entrance, surrounded by high walls and buildings. When British officer Reginald Dyer received information about this large gathering, he arrived with approximately 90 soldiers. It is said that he also had two armored vehicles equipped with machine guns with him, but they were unable to enter due to the narrow path to the garden.

Shelling and horrific massacre:-

Without warning, General Dyer ordered the soldiers to open fire on the crowd. The soldiers fired continuously for about 10 minutes, firing approximately 1650 rounds. The firing continued until the ammunition was almost exhausted. Since the soldiers had blocked all the roads, people could not escape and hundreds fell there. To save their lives, many people jumped into a well located in the garden. Later, more than 100 bodies were recovered from that well. Today, this place is famous as Shaheedee Kuan and has been preserved as a memorial.

Death toll and inhuman repression:

There are varying figures regarding the number of casualties in the Jallianwala Bagh massacre. According to British official records, 379 people were killed and approximately 200 were injured. The Amritsar Deputy Commissioner's office list lists 484 mar-

tyrs, while the Jallianwala Bagh list lists 388 martyrs. Indian unofficial figures indicate that over 1,000 people were killed and approximately 2,000 were injured. According to British records, the dead included 337 men, 41 minor boys, and a six-week-old infant. It is said that a curfew was imposed throughout Amritsar after the incident, and the injured were not even allowed to be taken to the hospital. As a result, many people died in agony overnight. Following the massacre, martial law was imposed in Amritsar, and strict restrictions were imposed on public movement and communication. In fact, Dyer imposed several draconian orders in the city. The most notorious of these was the "Crawling Order," which required Indians passing through a street where an English woman had been attacked to crawl on their bellies. In addition, in many places, people were publicly flogged.

Bulking up or breaking bad? Excess protein powder hitting your kidneys

New Delhi (GNS): Doctors in the city are raising an alarm over a growing number of cases of young gym-goers suffering kidney damage due to unsupervised use of protein supplements.

Nephrologists say the trend is worrying as many of them are otherwise healthy people who begin consuming high doses of protein powders, without medical supervision, often upon suggestion of unaware trainers.

This comes as a stark reminder on World Kidney Day, when health experts stress the importance of protecting the kidney and avoiding lifestyle choices that can damage the vital organ.

A recent case highlights the severity of the problem. A 20-year-old college student from south Delhi, whose parents are doctors, was admitted to PSRI Hospital after developing severe swelling in his face and legs, a clinical warning sign of kidney distress. Sharing the case study with Media, doctors

pointed out that he had no prior medical issues, but diagnostic blood and urine tests revealed significant protein leakage from his kidneys.

Doctors traced the damage to a period of six to eight months last year, during which he had consumed protein powders while training at a gym. Though he stopped taking the supplements later, nephrologists say the damage to his renal filtration system had already been done.

While in some cases, such damage can be controlled with treatment and lifestyle changes, medical experts warn that in others, it can be irreversible and a patient may have to live with the condition for life. PSRI Hospital treats five to seven such patients on an average every month. Many of them are young adults influenced by fitness trends and want to bulk up quickly. "Protein powders can be damaging when taken without professional medical guidance," said Dr Ravi

Bansal, director of nephrology and kidney transplant medicine at the hospital. "Unless clinically indicated for specific metabolic needs, individuals should avoid exceeding a protein intake of 1.2 gm/kg of body weight to prevent undue glomerular stress. It is critical to verify the purity of all supplements, as poor-quality formulations are frequently linked to systemic allergic reactions and unintended toxicities. Ultimately, natural dietary proteins remain superior to artificial substitutes, offering a balanced amino acid profile and better bioavailability without the hidden risks of unregulated additives," Bansal added.

Dr (Prof) Sanjay Agarwal, former head of nephrology, AIIMS, New Delhi, said that people often begin high-protein diets without understanding their renal health. "Our kidneys have a functional reserve. If the reserve is low or borderline, long-term excessive protein can cause kidney damage," Agarwal said.

At 36.8°Celsius, hottest day in Delhi; rain on March 15 to bring relief



New Delhi, (GNS): A day after a seasonal haze, Delhi saw the warmest day of the year when the maximum temperature at Safdarjung, the city's base station, climbed to 36.8 degrees Celsius.

The maximum temperature on Wednesday was also the highest in the first half of March (before Mar 15) at least since 2011 or at least 15 years. This was eight degrees above the season's normal.

The city also saw four consecutive days of maximum temperatures above 35 degrees till

Tuesday, when the temperature recorded was 35.5 degrees Celsius. This was seven degrees above normal. The temperature rose further because of the clear skies and warmer winds on Wednesday.

Ayanagar and the Ridge area were the warmest at 37.4 degrees Celsius, followed by Lodhi Road at 37.1 degrees Celsius. Prior to Wednesday, the highest temperature recorded was 35.7 degrees Celsius on March 7. Last year on March 26, the maximum had risen to 38.9 degrees Celsius.

Cancer deaths in Delhi rise 13pc in 4 yrs: Health Ministry tells Rajya Sabha

New Delhi, (GNS): The national capital has recorded a nearly 13 per cent rise in cancer-related deaths over the past four years, according to data shared by the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in the Rajya Sabha. Replying to a question during the ongoing parliamentary session, Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare Prataprao Jadhav presented state and Union Territory-wise data on cancer incidence and mortality.

According to the figures, cancer deaths in Delhi increased from 14,494 in 2021 to 16,312 in 2025. The mortality numbers rose steadily during the period, reaching 14,917 in 2022, 15,386 in 2023 and 15,842 in 2024 before climbing further in 2025.

Cancer incidence in the Capital has also shown a consistent rise. The number of cases increased from 25,969 in 2021 to 29,238 in 2025. The data shows 26,735 cases in 2022, 27,561 in 2023 and 28,387 in 2024. Responding to a question on possible causes behind the disease, the minister cited findings shared by the Indian Council of Medical Research. According to a review published in 2025, the contamination of water sources by pollutants such as industrial waste, pesticides, heavy metals and pharmaceutical residues is emerging as a significant public health concern.

The review analysed current scientific evidence and highlighted an association between contaminated water and certain types of cancers, including rectal and colorectal cancers.

The Union government also informed Parliament about measures being taken to strengthen cancer care infrastructure across the country. Under the "Strengthening of tertiary care cancer facilities" scheme, 19 state cancer institutes and 20 tertiary care cancer centres have been approved nationwide to improve access to specialised treatment.

The government also highlighted that treatment for major non-communicable diseases, including cancer, is covered under the Ayushman Bharat - Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana, which provides health coverage of up to Rs 5 lakh per family annually for secondary and tertiary hospitalisation at empanelled public and private hospitals.

The minister said initiatives such as the Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana and AMRIT pharmacies are helping improve access to affordable cancer medicines, implants and other essential treatment components, reducing out-of-pocket expenditure for patients.

Illegal arms seizures shot up 8% last year

New Delhi, (GNS): Amid multiple incidents of shootings reported in recent times, Delhi Police has stepped up its crackdown on illegal firearms sellers, with seizures going up by 8% last year. A total of 1,897 firearms were seized in 2025, up from 1,750 in 2024, officers said.

Police attributed the rise largely to a series of coordinated enforcement operations carried out throughout the year, targeting illegal arms networks. Investigators said many of the seized weapons were illegally manufactured in areas such as Munger, Lakhisarai and Khagaria in Bihar and Sendhwa, Dhar, Burhanpur and Khargone in Madhya Pradesh, which had long been associated with such activities. The number of people arrested with illegal weapons under Arms Act have also gone up - 4,196 people last year against 4,074 in 2024.

A senior officer said tracking gun-runners had become increasingly complex due to their evolving communication methods and movement patterns. Many traffickers communicate through social media platforms, online gaming



networks and messaging applications, allowing them to coordinate transactions discreetly and avoid leaving digital trails. "Even when we obtain their phone numbers, they often try to outsmart investigators. They may leave the traced phone number at home and carry a different number while travelling to buy or deliver weapons," the officer said.

Traffickers also frequently alter their travel routes and switch modes of transport, moving between buses, trains, private vehicles and motorcycles, to evade surveillance and make it harder to track their movements,

police added.

Another officer said several arrests were made after people displayed weapons on social media platforms, which helped investigators identify and track them.

Data shows an 11.5% increase in the recovery of country-made pistols - 1,580 such weapons were seized last year against 1,417 in 2024.

Officers said country-made pistols were cheaper and easier to manufacture than factory-made firearms, making them more common in criminal activity. "A good-quality country-made pistol costs around Rs 10,000, while standard factory-made pistols usually start from Rs 35,000. These weapons do not require heavy infrastructure to manufacture; even a small workshop or a single room is enough," the officer said, adding that low production cost and minimal equipment requirement contribute to their widespread availability. According to the data, 317 other firearms were also seized last year against 333 in 2024.

Devsh Chandra Srivastava, special

commissioner of police (crime & PMMC), said police had launched operations such as Kavach and Aaghat to dismantle illegal firearms syndicates and curb their circulation.

"We are not only arresting traffickers but are also targeting the main sources of weapon supply," he said, adding that the focus of the operations is to break the entire supply chain behind the illegal arms trade. "We are also monitoring social media platforms for the display of weapons, violating the laws."

Last year, police also launched initiatives to crack down on the online glorification of weapons, which has become increasingly common among youths. Many young people post such content to gain rapid social media validation and increase their follower count, while others do so for thrill-seeking or to project a sense of dominance. Peer pressure often plays a role, pushing youths to imitate risky behaviour they see online. Popular culture, music trends, and influencer or gangster-style imagery further influence these actions, making the portrayal of weapons seem fashionable or aspirational.

Fire breaks out at Mansa Ram Park shanties in southwest Delhi; several jhuggis gutted, no casualties

New Delhi, (GNS): A fire broke out at the Mansa Ram Park shanties near the Matiala fish market in southwest Delhi's Uttam Nagar on Wednesday night, gutting several jhuggis in the early hours of Thursday. No casualties were reported, police said.

According to police, a PCR call about a major blaze at the shanty cluster in Mansa Ram Park was received at Bindapur police station around 11.57pm on Wednesday. Police teams rushed to the spot and evacuated residents from the huts as the fire spread rapidly through the settlement.

Delhi Fire Service (DFS) was alerted and around 28 fire tenders were pressed into service to douse the flames. Officials said the firefighting operation continued for several hours before the blaze was finally brought under control



around 3am on Thursday.

Authorities said several shanties were damaged or destroyed in the fire.

Police also noted that a fire had broken out at the same location earlier this month. On Mar 7, police had received a PCR call regarding a blaze at the site, which was extinguished with the help of eight fire tenders. No injuries were reported in that incident either. A case was registered

at Bindapur police station under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita in connection with the earlier fire.

The land where the shanties stand is privately owned, though its ownership is currently under dispute, police said, adding that there had been multiple complaints in the past about illegal garbage dumping at the site and instances of waste being set on fire.

SC asks Centre to frame law on euthanasia, says legislative vacuum is not in public interest

New Delhi, (GNS): Highlighting legislative inaction on the crucial issue of passive euthanasia despite the "pious hope" expressed by it eight years ago to frame a law, Supreme Court again on Wednesday urged the Centre to bring legislation addressing the practice of euthanasia and/or the withdrawal of medical treatment as it is related to right to life with dignity.

A bench of Justices J B Pardiwala and K V Viswanathan said that a law had not been framed despite two law commission reports and several private members' bills being introduced in Parliament, but there was no sustained legislative deliberation on the issue. It said that



court's intervention to frame guidelines was never intended to supplant legislative wisdom, but only to operate as a temporary constitutional bridge until Parliament discharges its role.

"There are moments when legislative inaction speaks more loudly than legislative action, and the absence of regulation with regard to the issue at hand presents one such instance.

Political leaders congratulate L-G Sandhu

New Delhi, (GNS): Political leaders across party lines on Wednesday congratulated Taranjit Singh Sandhu on assuming charge as the Lieutenant Governor of Delhi, expressing hope that his experience and leadership would contribute to the development and governance of the national capital.

Praveen Khandelwal, MP from Chandni Chowk, extended his best wishes to the newly appointed Lieutenant Governor and described him as an experienced and visionary administrator with a distinguished diplomatic career.

Khandelwal said Sandhu's administrative acumen, global exposure and deep policy



understanding would help take Delhi to new heights of development and good governance. He expressed confidence that under Sandhu's leadership, the city would move towards becoming a

more organised, safe, clean and citizen-friendly Capital.

Khandelwal also appreciated the contributions of former L-G VK Saxena, saying his tenure was marked by proactive leadership and a

development-oriented approach. He said initiatives related to infrastructure development, administrative reforms and expansion of public facilities gained momentum during Saxena's tenure.

Devender Yadav, president of the Delhi Pradesh Congress Committee, also welcomed Sandhu's appointment and said the people of Delhi expect him to play a proactive role in improving infrastructure and governance in the city.

Yadav said the Congress, as a responsible opposition, has consistently raised issues concerning residents and hoped the new L-G would focus on addressing infra-

structure gaps and administrative challenges.

He also criticised the Delhi Government led by Rekha Gupta, alleging that several election promises, including financial assistance to women and subsidised cooking gas cylinders, have not been implemented.

Yadav expressed hope that the new L-G would use his administrative experience to strengthen governance and address the concerns of residents in the national capital.

Meanwhile, Naresh Kumar, senior spokesperson of the Delhi Pradesh Congress Committee, also congratulated Sandhu and conveyed his best wishes for a successful tenure.

Row over JNU VC's remark escalates

New Delhi, (GNS): As the row over alleged casteist remarks made by Jawaharlal Nehru University vice-chancellor Santishree Dhulipudi Pandit continues, JNU Students' Union on Wednesday announced the results of a campus referendum seeking her removal, claiming that 2,181 students had voted in favour of her ouster. The referendum, however, has been questioned by a section of students and faculty members, who say the union has no statutory authority to conduct a vote seeking the removal of a VC.

The exercise, conducted on March 10 across different schools of the university, saw 2,409 students cast their votes, of whom 207 voted for the continuation of the VC, while 21 ballots were declared invalid, JNUSU said. The university has around 9,000 students across multiple disciplines. The union said the exercise was aimed at "democratically ascertaining the opinion of the student community" on whether Dhulipudi Pandit should continue in office in light of her alleged remarks and what it described as administrative irregularities.

Sandhu Takes Oath, Says Delhi's My Karmabhoomi

New Delhi, (GNS): As former diplomat Taranjit Singh Sandhu took the oath of office as Delhi's new Lieutenant Governor on Wednesday, union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman and minister of external affairs S Jaishankar sat in the first row - a common alma mater linking them. All three studied at the School of International Studies at Jawaharlal Nehru University.

US Ambassador to India Sergio Gor, High Commissioner of Australia to India Philip Green, High Commissioner of Bangladesh to India M Riaz Hamidullah were also present.

D K Upadhyaya, Chief Justice of Delhi High Court, administered the oath at Lok Niwas, where chief minister Rekha Gupta, members of the Delhi govt cabinet, MLAs and senior govt officials were in attendance.

Sandhu (63), a 1988-batch Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer and former Ambassador of India to the United States, said he will work with all stakeholders in



Delhi to find solutions to problems. "Delhi has also been my karmabhoomi (workplace). I studied here, completing my college and university," he added.

"The elected govt and all stakeholders have a responsibility to work for the city's development. The Prime Minister has a vision for India, and Delhi is the capital. We are aware of the challenges, which will keep on increasing. However, there are challenges in other places and around the world as well. It is our responsibility to turn challenges into opportunities. Everyone,

irrespective of party affiliation, must work together to find solutions to various problems of Delhi. We have to strengthen the hands of the govt," the new LG said. CM Gupta expressed confidence that the pace of development in the city will continue under him. "I welcome the LG... and believe that under his leadership, development work in the city will accelerate and we will find solutions to all issues. Delhi govt will work according to your direction and under your guidance," she said.

Sandhu succeeds V K Saxena,

who served as LG for nearly four years. Sandhu's appointment was announced by President Droupadi Murmu as part of a broader reshuffle of governors and LGs across several states and Union territories.

As chairman of Delhi Development Authority (DDA), Sandhu will have the challenge of implementing the Master Plan of Delhi 2041 after its notification by the ministry. The plan has been waiting for approval from the Centre for a long time.

Sandhu had graduated with a BA degree from St Stephen's College, Delhi, before completing his MA in international relations from Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU). In a diplomatic career spanning more than three decades, he held several key assignments. He worked at the permanent mission of India to United Nations from 2005 to 2009, at the Indian mission in Washington DC multiple times before serving as the ambassador to US from 2020 to 2024.

Cantt Board launches app to ensure cleanliness

New Delhi, (GNS)

The Delhi Cantonment Board (DCB) has launched "Swachhata monitoring & automated reporting tool" (SMART) for enhanced effectiveness and transparency in the monitoring of sanitation and civic services across the area. This innovative digital solution addresses the challenges faced by the DCB due to manual reporting, delayed data collection and fragmented monitoring. SMART automates data collection, streamlines reporting and strengthens performance monitoring.

Real-time monitoring enables real-time tracking of works carried out by staff across sanitation, horticulture, civil, and electrical departments. Automated reporting reduces manual effort by generating accurate and timely reports for



informed decision making.

The tool features a four-tier monitoring system ensuring timely submission, verification and review of all departmental works. To further enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the SMART software, AI-enabled analytical capabilities are being integrated into the system as a pilot initiative. These capabilities will enable SMART to minimise human intervention, analyse operational data, identify recurring issues and support proactive decision making.

PNG supply also hit; some restaurants suspend operations, others may follow

New Delhi, (GNS): The ripple effects of the disruption in LPG supply owing to the war in West Asia have begun to impact Delhi's restaurant sector, with at least 12 eateries shutting operations on Wednesday, citing a scarcity of commercial LPG cylinders.

Restaurant owners say the limited stock available over the past few days has begun to dry up, forcing these establishments to temporarily suspend operations. "Cylinders are not available even in the grey market," said Anurag Katriar, founder of Indigo Hospitality.

He said he had been coordinating with the owners of these restaurants. "They will take a day or two and come up with different arrangements - like moving to induction-based cooking if they are able to - before reopening," he said.

Hoteliers have also expressed concern that even PNG, which had kept Delhi in a slightly better position compared to other cities, is now facing constraints. "IGL, which supplies PNG, has issued an advisory of a 20% cut in supply, so a major number of restaurants may be forced to shut down," said Amit Bagga, co-founder of Daryaganj Hospitality. "Supplies to all industrial and commercial customers are being restricted to 80% of their average consumption for the last six months with effect from 6am on 11th March," a communication by Ambience mall in Vasant Kunj, quoting IGL advisory, read.

"It is recommended that outlets keep electrical cooking appliances as a backup to ensure continuity of operations in case of any temporary interruption in supply of PNG," it told its tenants. Officials at IGL said the advisory was issued according to govt notification to ensure supply to priority sectors. Meher Tandon, owner of Kashmir Chur Chur Naan, a restaurant in Paharganj that has shut shop, told Media: "We had supply only for today. From tomorrow, we won't be able to open because we currently have zero stock and zero supply, with no backup."

Tandon said his restaurant typically requires three to four cylinders a day, but over the past few days had been managing with just one cylinder. Industry representatives said the crisis could have wider implications if supplies are not restored soon. "Many restaurants have moved to truncated menus around the country. Others may be completely out of LPG by the weekend. Supplies are dwindling and depleting rapidly," said Zorawar Kalra, vice-president of NRAI, which represents over 5 lakh restaurants in India.

Jewar airport connectivity set to transform Faridabad real estate

New Delhi, (GNS): The upcoming Faridabad-Jewar Airport Greenfield Expressway is emerging as one of the biggest infrastructure projects expected to reshape the real estate landscape of the National Capital Region (NCR). With recent approvals for enhanced elevated sections and faster execution, the corridor is set to significantly improve connectivity between Faridabad and the upcoming Noida International Airport at Jewar.

The expressway will reduce travel time to nearly 25-30 minutes once operational. The improved connectivity is already driving investor interest and pushing up property demand in areas located along the corridor, particularly Sectors 64, 65, 98 and 110.

Real estate analysts note that Faridabad, which saw moderate property appreciation of around 8-10% annually, is now witnessing stronger growth potential due to the



airport corridor.

The transformation is expected to be most visible in Greater Faridabad (Neharpar) and the southern sectors near Ballabhgarh. Infrastructure upgrades and the newly approved 11-km elevated stretch will bypass local congestion and provide faster access to the Delhi-Mumbai Expressway network.

Mohit Malhotra, Founder and CEO of NeoLiv, said

improved airport connectivity will significantly influence homebuyer preferences in the region. "Jewar Airport connectivity is reshaping how homebuyers view NCR. Faridabad is emerging as a strong choice for families seeking larger homes, green surroundings and premium communities while still remaining well connected to commercial hubs," he said.

Manik Malik, CEO and President of BPTP, said large

infrastructure projects like the airport corridor play a crucial role in driving regional growth. "Better connectivity between Faridabad and the upcoming international airport will strengthen mobility across NCR and support residential as well as economic development by linking population centres with key business hubs," he said.

Sahil Agarwal, CEO of Nimbus Group, said airport-

led infrastructure often creates entirely new growth corridors. "The Faridabad-Jewar link effectively expands the region's economic geography. Improved airport connectivity is likely to attract logistics, hospitality and residential investments along this belt over time," he said.

The corridor's integration with the Eastern Peripheral Expressway, the Dedicated Freight Corridor, and the Delhi-Mumbai Expressway spur is also expected to transform the Faridabad-Palwal belt into a key logistics and warehousing hub.

With the Jewar airport expected to become one of India's largest aviation hubs, urban planners believe the expressway could trigger a major real estate transformation in Faridabad, driven by improved mobility, airport-led development and rising investor confidence across the NCR.

CBI arrests bitcoin scam key accused

New Delhi, (GNS): Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) arrested one of the alleged masterminds in connection with its probe into the Rs 1,000-crore GainBitcoin cryptocurrency scam. The accused, identified as Ayush Varshney, was the co-founder and chief technology officer of Darwin Labs Private Limited.

Varshney, who was absconding, was intercepted by immigration authorities at Mumbai airport on March 9 while attempting to flee the country. Following his interception based on a look-out circular (LOC), he was handed over to CBI and placed under arrest on March 10.

The investigation, which CBI took over following a Supreme Court mandate on Dec 13, 2023, centres on a massive Ponzi scheme operated by Variabletech Pte Ltd. The scheme allegedly induced thousands of victims to invest



in a fraudulent cryptocurrency platform under the guise of guaranteed high returns, only for those funds to be systematically misappropriated.

The legal proceedings against Varshney and other conspirators are being conducted under Sections 120B (criminal conspiracy), 406 (criminal breach of trust), and 420 (cheating) of the Indian Penal Code, along with Section 66 of the Information Technology Act.

According to the CBI, Darwin Labs Private Limited played a pivotal role in providing the technological backbone

for the entire fraudulent enterprise. Varshney, along with co-founders Sahil and Nikunj, the chief capital office of Vaomi AI, is accused of designing and deploying the "MCAP" token and its associated ERC-20 smart contract.

Furthermore, the agency alleges that Darwin Labs was responsible for developing the GBMinerscom mining pool, the Bitcoin Payment Gateway, the Coin Bank Bitcoin wallet, and the primary investor-facing website used to lure those who they cheated.

The arrest, CBI said, marked a significant step in its effort to consolidate various FIRs related to the GainBitcoin fraud into a single, comprehensive investigation. The agency that the probe remains active as it continues to trace the misappropriated assets and examine the roles of other associates involved in the technological and financial architecture of the scam.

SC: You're Letting Him Go With Dignity

New Delhi, (GNS):

"You are not giving up on your son. You are allowing him to leave with dignity. It reflects the depth of your selfless love and devotion towards him," Supreme Court told the parents, sharing their emotions on allowing passive euthanasia of their 32-year old son Harish Rana.

A bench of Justices J B Pardiwala and K V Viswanathan deeply appreciated the effort of the parents in taking care of their son for the last thirteen years and said its order would end the suffering of Harish. It said it is not as if their agony will be entirely wiped away by its order but the distress that they experience due to what Harish is undergoing will at least be over.

Quoting an ancient



Sanskrit shloka, Justice Viswanathan said: 'Between the funeral fire and the mental worry, it is the mental worry which is more devastating. While the funeral fire burns only the dead body, the mental worry burns the living one.'

"...a mention needs to be made of the love and affection by which the parents and the siblings have nursed Harish for the last more than 12 years. Harish has been in a vegetative state but the parents and siblings have left no stone unturned in ensuring best treatment for Harish.

Social audit of Delhi govt schools to identify gaps, ensure quality

New Delhi, (GNS): The Samagra Shiksha programme in Delhi has announced a social audit for the financial year 2025-26 to evaluate the functioning of govt schools and ensure transparency and quality in education. The initiative intends to cover around 60% of the govt schools in the city, engaging universities, colleges and technical institutes with a National Assessment and Accreditation Council rating of B+ or above to conduct the audit.

According to the notice issued by Samagra Shiksha Delhi, it will cover 1,536 out of 2,560 govt-run schools, including those run by Directorate of Education, Municipal Corporation of Delhi, New Delhi Municipal Council and Delhi Cantonment Board.



The exercise will independently assess how the scheme is being implemented at the ground level and identify gaps

that may not be visible through regular administrative monitoring, said officials. "The social audit will help evaluate the actu-

al implementation of Samagra Shiksha in schools and bring out field-level challenges. It is meant to strengthen transparency, accountability and community participation in the education system," an official associated with the programme said.

Samagra Shiksha, launched in 2018, is central govt's integrated school education scheme from pre-primary to Class XII, focusing on improving infrastructure, learning outcomes and equity in access to education.

A social audit is a participatory process where communities collectively monitor and evaluate govt programmes. For schools, it examines whether funds, entitlements and facilities promised under schemes are reaching students and being used effectively.

"Unlike a financial audit, a social audit also looks at issues such as equity, access and safety in schools," the official added.

The audit will review several aspects of school functioning, including infrastructure such as classrooms, toilets, drinking water and electricity, the availability of teaching-learning materials and the utilisation of funds. It will also verify student enrolment, retention and completion rates, and check whether entitlements guaranteed under Right to Education Act are being provided in a timely manner.

Another key focus will be student safety, including physical infrastructure safety, psychosocial wellbeing and cyber safety. It will emphasise a "zero tolerance" policy towards negligence affect-

ing student safety, particularly for girls and vulnerable groups.

The audit is also expected to strengthen the role of school management committees and local communities in overseeing its functioning. Officials said the process would involve interactions with teachers, parents, students and local representatives to understand their experiences and verify whether facilities and schemes are benefiting children. Participatory monitoring can help improve school development plans and ensure more responsive governance, said an official. According to the notification, Rs 373.7 lakh, around 0.5% of the state budget approved for Samagra Shiksha in 2025-26, has been earmarked for the audit.