



Government revokes NSA against Sonam Wangchuk;
Released from Jodhpur jail after 170 days; detained after Leh violence



New Delhi(GNS):The Centre on Saturday lifted the National Security Act (NSA) imposed on Ladakh-based social activist and engineer Sonam Wangchuk. The government said the order came into effect immediately. According to the Home Ministry, Sonam has completed almost half of his detention period under the NSA Act.

Then, at around 10 a.m., Sonam's wife, Geetanjali, arrived at Jodhpur jail. The paperwork was then completed. He then left the jail with his wife in a private car at 1:15 p.m.

In fact, the Leh violence occurred on September 24, 2025, during Sonam's hunger strike. Two days later, on September 26, Wangchuk was detained under the National Security Act (NSA). He was immediately transferred to Jodhpur. He has been in Jodhpur jail for 170 days. Now, he will be released.

The NSA empowers the government to detain individuals who pose a threat to national security or public order. Under this provision, a person can be detained for a maximum of 12 months.

North Korea tests ballistic projectile amid tensions in the Middle East

Pyongyang(GNS): North Korea has once again raised concerns about regional security by firing a suspected ballistic projectile on Saturday. This launch came at a time when just a few days ago Kim Jong Un had supervised the test of a cruise projectile from his new warship. This move is being considered a significant development amid the increasing military tension in the Asia-Pacific region. According to Japan's Coast Guard, the suspected ballistic projectile fired fell into the sea. Japan's public broadcaster quoted an unidentified Defense Ministry official as saying that the projectile fell in the sea area outside the country's exclusive economic zone.

This projectile test comes at a time when the US and South Korea are conducting annual joint military exercises from March 9 to March 19. North Korea has long opposed these exercises, calling them preparations for war against it. Pyongyang recently demanded that the US recognize it as a nuclear-armed nation. This demand was raised during the ruling Workers' Party's first congress in five years, which also discussed the country's security and nuclear policy.

The ruthless government of Bengal will come to an end: Modi

Kolkata(GNS): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday launched a scathing attack on West Bengal's ruling All India Trinamool Congress government, saying that it has now become clear in the hearts of the people of the state that Bengal's "ruthless government" will end. He said that an atmosphere of change has been created in the state and no one can stop it.

The Prime Minister made this statement while addressing a Bharatiya Janata Party rally at Kolkata's Brigade Parade Ground. He began his address by greeting the crowd in Bengali. He said, "My dear brothers and sisters of West Bengal, I extend my heartfelt greetings to you



from the bottom of my heart."

The Prime Minister said that the huge crowd gathered at the Brigade Parade Ground is a testament to what Bengal is thinking today. He said that the enthusiasm and zeal of the people clearly shows that the desire for

ground against British rule became a revolution across the country, ultimately ending British oppression and plunder.

The Prime Minister said that today, once again, the trumpet of the "revolution of a new Bengal" has been sounded from this very ground. Change in Bengal is now written on the walls and engraved in the hearts of the people. He said that now the "jungle raj" in Bengal will end and the rule of law will be established in the state. He said that from every corner of the state, a voice is rising - "Chai BJP Sarkar, Abki Baar." The Prime Minister alleged that the TMC had insulted the rally attendees by calling them "thieves."

Modi said : Congress misled the youth of Assam, pushed them towards terrorism

Guwahati(GNS):PM Modi said in Silchar on the second day of his Assam visit that during its rule, the Congress party misled the youth of Assam, pushing them towards violence and terrorism. But today, the state is a sea of opportunities.

The PM pointed out that the Congress party kept Assam under the "divide and rule" policy. Today, Assam is open to the world. Assam is becoming a key player in India's semiconductor sector. The state has opened up avenues for government jobs.

In his speech, the PM said that Congress had forgotten the Northeast, but the BJP's double-engine government has connected it in a way that is being discussed everywhere. Today, the Northeast is becoming a bridge connecting South Asia.

Earlier, Modi inaugurated projects worth 23,550 crore in Silchar. He said Silchar is the gateway to the Barak Valley. But the Congress party had kept the Northeast away from Delhi and from its heart.

During the Budget session, MPs will have to spend their weekends working in Parliament

New Delhi(GNS): The Union Budget for 2026-27 was presented on a Sunday this year, as February 1st fell on a Sunday. It appears that MPs may have to spend the weekend in Parliament at the end of the Budget Session as well. This year's Budget Session began on January 28th and will continue until April 2nd. According to reports, the government intends to complete parliamentary work that will be missed during the second half of the Budget Session due to various festivals by convening Parliament on Saturdays and Sundays. People familiar with the matter say the central government has proposed this because upcoming festivals like Gudi Padwa, Ugadi, Eid, and Ram Navami will be holidays. Therefore, this time loss can be compensated by convening the session on Saturdays and Sundays later in the week. The second part of the



budget session began on March 9 and will continue until April 2. Those familiar with the central government's proposal say that this is why it has been proposed to declare March 28 and 29 as working days to make up for lost time and maximize the budget session. The person concerned also said that several hours in the Lok Sabha were wasted in repeated disruptions and protests...then a no-confidence

motion was introduced against the Speaker...all this consumed time that was meant for parliamentary work. Parliament normally meets five days a week, from Monday to Friday. The General Budget for 2026-27 was presented on Sunday, and a special session was held for it. February 1, 2020, was also a Saturday, and the budget was presented that day. February 29, 1992, was also presented on a Saturday.

BSP had to be formed due to Congress' policies: Mayawati

Lucknow(GNS): Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) national president and former Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh Mayawati said that if Congress had been dedicated to the mission of Baba Saheb Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar and Kanshi Ram and had worked with true intentions and policies to implement the sacred egalitarian and welfare objectives of the Constitution, Kanshi Ram ji would never have needed to establish BSP. The BSP chief said in a statement on Saturday that despite being in power at the Centre for a long time, Congress did not honour Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar with the Bharat Ratna. On Kanshi Ram's death, the then Congress government at the Centre did not declare national mourning, nor did the Samajwadi Party government declare even a day of state mourning. Furthermore, the names of educational, medical institutions and districts named after these great men were also changed. Why was the bill to continue reservation in promotions torn up in Parliament?

The BSP chief said that similarly, numerous organizations and parties formed by the Dalit community are constantly trying to capitalize on their name, playing into the hands of other parties. Now, all these parties are constantly trying to weaken the BSP by using various tactics.

LPG crisis deepens in Madhya Pradesh, 50,000 hotels and restaurants face closure

Bhopal, (GNS): The LPG crisis is continuously deepening in Madhya Pradesh. Due to disruption in the supply of commercial gas cylinders for the last five days, around 50 thousand hotels and restaurants across the state are on the verge of closure.

From the capital Bhopal to Chhindwara, Indore and Gwalior, there is a scramble for gas. In some places, long queues are being formed at gas warehouses, while in others, cylinders are being distributed under police surveillance. In many places, hotels and food outlets are cooking food using wood, coal or diesel furnaces.

There are demonstrations with long queues at various places to get gas cylinders. However, the number of hotels and restaurants facing closure in the state's metropolitan cities and other districts has surpassed 50,000.

The gas crisis is also affecting Gandhi Medical College in Bhopal. The college campus's 16 hostel messes, the JDA canteen, and the centralized patient kitchen have only two days' worth of gas stock. Commercial cylinder bookings are facing a 25-day waiting period. Resident doctors say that if supplies aren't restored soon, they may have to report for duty on empty stomachs, potentially impacting health-care services.

Meanwhile, hundreds of people were seen queuing with empty cylinders at the gas agency located at the city's TT Nagar Dussehra Ground since early morning. A massive crowd of consumers gathered at 6 a.m. on Saturday. By 11:30 a.m., more than 200 people were seen waiting for their turn with empty cylinders. A truckload of cylin-



ders arrived at 12 noon, sparking a scramble to get one. This led to altercations between consumers and agency officials. Many had to return empty-handed even after waiting for hours.

Raisen: People took to the streets after not

receiving gas cylinders. In Raisen, anger erupted after consumers who had been queuing since morning at the gas agency on Sagar Road blocked the road after waiting for hours for cylinders. A large number of women joined the protest. One woman reported that she had neither morning tea nor food for the children. Upon receiving the information, SDM Manish Sharma arrived at the scene and reprimanded the agency operator, forcing the shutters to be opened and distribution to begin.

Chhindwara: Cylinder distribution under police supervision. Gas storage facilities in Chhindwara are witnessing a large crowd of consumers. Due to the ongoing dispute, the administration is having to distribute cylinders in the presence of police. The gas shortage is also affecting the city's Indian Coffee House, where breakfast is now being prepared on traditional stoves.

Data center power demand in India will grow by 800%

3.56 GW will be needed by 2031-32, driven by the increasing use of AI and digital services

New Delhi(GNS):Power demand from data centers is projected to grow rapidly due to the increasing use of artificial intelligence (AI) and digital services in the country. Power demand from data centers could reach 13.56 GW by 2031-32.

Data center capacity in the country is currently growing rapidly. It was 375 MW in 2020

and is projected to reach nearly 1,500 MW by 2025. Electricity demand is projected to increase by 800% over the next seven years. According to the government, 38,231 GPUs have been made available through 14 service providers and data centers to promote AI development. These are being provided to startups, research institutions, and educa-



tional institutions at an average subsidized rate of 65 rupees per hour.

Minister of State for Electronics and IT Jitin Prasada told the Rajya Sabha on Friday that the country's major data centers are located in Mumbai, Navi Mumbai, Hyderabad, Bengaluru, Noida and Jamnagar. 65% of Indians have used AI

The use of AI is growing rapidly in India. According to a Microsoft 2024-25 report,

approximately 65% of Indians have used generative AI (such as a chatbot or AI app) at least once. India has a population of approximately 1.4 billion people, and approximately 65% of these people, or approximately 900-950 million people, have

used AI tools in some form or another.

AI app downloads have grown rapidly in India, with Indians downloading approximately 0.6 billion (600 million) AI apps in 2025. People are using AI for learning, question-answering, translation, improving work productivity, and creating content.

Claims and announcements do not strengthen the economy

Sanat Jain

The government consistently makes lofty claims about the strength and rapid growth of the Indian economy. However, recent economic indicators present a different picture. The Indian stock market has been in a steady decline. Bank deposits are dwindling. People are withdrawing funds and investing in gold and silver. A steady decline in exports, a decrease in foreign exchange inflows, a sharp decline in the stock market, and rising inflation have raised serious concerns about the economic situation. In the past three months, the major Indian stock market indices, the BSE Sensex and Nifty

50, have fallen by nearly 10,000 points. This has created panic among investors. Foreign investors have withdrawn from the stock market. Financial institutions have suffered heavy losses due to the stock market decline. The country's major banks, insurance companies, and mutual funds, especially the Life Insurance Corporation of India, have significant investments in the stock market and the corporate sector. The market collapse has caused significant losses for these institutions, which is expected to increase pressure on their financial situation.

Meanwhile, rising crude oil and natural gas prices have placed an additional burden on

the Indian economy. India imports a significant portion of its energy needs. Therefore, rising global prices, coupled with inflation and a widening current account deficit, are increasingly concerning for the Indian economy. A decline in export trade and a decrease in foreign exchange remittances from Indian diaspora have also made the situation even more challenging. If this situation continues, employment opportunities could be severely impacted. Unemployment and inflation could both rise, which would have the greatest impact on India's GDP. Given these circumstances, the Indian government has announced the creation of a ₹1 lakh crore emergency eco-

nomical management fund, indicating that the Indian government and financial institutions are aware of the potential economic crisis.

The most worrying aspect is that if the losses of financial institutions and banks increase due to the stock market decline, the impact could also reach ordinary depositors. According to economists, the economic crisis is not limited to financial figures, but also affects economic, social, and political stability. At such a time, the Indian government needs serious, long-term efforts to implement transparent economic policies, encourage investment, increase exports, and create employment. Claims and

announcements contrary to the actual situation do not strengthen the economy. To achieve this, the government must make concrete and credible economic decisions at the policy level. The government must focus on promoting industry and employment, maintaining public confidence in banks and financial institutions. Along with holding government officials accountable for the economy, opposition parties must be taken into confidence regarding the current situation. If this does not happen, India may face many other difficulties. The conflict and distrust between the government and the opposition is further fueling concerns about the Indian economy.

Editorial

Work is worship labour is religion

Folk goddesses and folk gods hold special significance in Indian culture. They are a source of inspiration not just for one community but for the entire Indian society. One such great folk goddess is the ardent devotee, Maa Karma. Karma Bai's birth anniversary is celebrated across the country on the Ekadashi of the Krishna Paksha (dark fortnight) of Chaitra month.

Show devotion like Karma, Murar will eat Khichdi. Forsaking the fifty-six offerings, he will come to the devotee's door. Mother Karma would wake up every morning and first prepare Khichdi for Lord Murar, or Lord Jagannath. She was such an innocent and emotional devotee that she had no knowledge of rituals or mantras. She would simply call out to the Lord and say, "Lord, come and offer the offering." Her devotion was so intense that Lord Jagannath (Shri Krishna) himself would come to her house in the form of a child and eat Khichdi with great relish. Once, a learned saint saw Karma Bai preparing Khichdi and feeding it to the Lord without bathing or observing the rules of purity. He scolded Karma Bai and said, "You crazy girl! God does not like such offerings. First bathe, purify yourself, recite mantras, and then offer the offering."

The next day, Karma Bai bathed in fear, took time with the rituals, and was late in preparing the khichdi. Meanwhile, at the Puri temple, when it was time to offer the deity food, the priests saw particles of khichdi on the face of the deity's idol, and a satisfied smile on the deity's lips. After this, the deity appeared in the temple priest's dream and said, "I like the khichdi of Karma's love, not your dry rules. She came late, so I went to her to eat."

Even today, during the divine Jagannath Rath Yatra in Puri, the Lord's chariot stops in front of Maa Karma's temple and moves forward only after eating her khichdi. This incident proved that God loves true love and devotion, not pomp and show. This story of Maa Karma continues to teach people that even small acts done with faith and sincerity are dear to God. The Sahu/Tailik community worships Maa Karma as their family deity, but her ideals are equally inspiring and revered by the entire Hindu community.



No one can cheat consumers or provide inferior services, no one can deceive consumers, no shopkeeper or service provider can sell substandard goods or provide poor service by falsely claiming falsehoods. To achieve this, everyone must be vigilant. The Consumer Commission is a temple of justice where you can easily seek justice. The Government of India issued a notification regarding the Consumer Protection Act, 1986, as amended in 2019, on July 15, 2020. The amended law became effective on July 20, 2020. This amended law is freeing consumers from exploitation and injustice. The changes made to this law have initiated a new initiative in the field of providing justice to consumers. Under the Consumer Protection Amendment Act, 2019, consumers can file their complaints in the consumer court from anywhere.



Consumer Commission is a platform to wipe the tears of the suffering consumers

Dr. Shrigopal Narsan
Advocate

This law makes several important changes in the interest of consumers, as well as attempts to improve old regulations. The new law includes measures such as the establishment of a central regulator, heavy penalties for misleading advertisements, and strict guidelines for e-commerce firms and companies selling electronic devices. Consumers can now file complaints from anywhere, whether they reside or purchased goods or services. Courts often grant date after date, wearing out the litigants' shoes. There's a saying about civil courts that the grandfather files a claim and the grandson receives justice. There's a pressing need to break this myth today. However, this task of providing speedy and easy justice, rather than granting date after date, is being handled by the country's consumer courts, which have now transformed into commissions, providing speedy justice to consumers. We can say that consumer thinking has also changed over time. Now, consumers no longer simply regret a purchase that turns out to be defective, but instead complain to the shopkeeper and have the defective product replaced. To get the product replaced, the consumer even knocks the doors of the Consumer Commission. Similarly, if any deficiency is found in any service purchased, the consumer starts protesting against the injustice done to him and starts going to various forums for justice.

Consumer courts have been established at the district, state, and national levels to hear consumer complaints, which have been recognized as commissions. Under the new law, the

jurisdiction of consumer courts has been changed. District courts have greater access than state and national consumer courts. Therefore, district consumer courts will now be able to hear cases involving up to ₹50 lakh. Previously, the district commission had the authority to hear cases worth ₹1 crore, which has now been reduced to ₹50 lakh.

Now, consumers can file their complaints from anywhere. Previously, consumers could only file complaints where the seller provided services or at a branch or office. Given the increasing prevalence of e-commerce, i.e., online shopping, this is a positive step in the consumer's interest. Furthermore, the law allows consumers to participate in hearings through video conferencing. This will save consumers both money and time and ensure faster access to justice. A review of the history of consumer law reveals that in 1966, a group of industrialists led by JRD Tata established the Fair Practices Association in Mumbai for consumer protection, and its branches were established in some major cities. This can be considered the first attempt by the consumer movement to protect consumer interests in India. The Grahak Panchayat, a voluntary organization, was founded by B.M. Joshi in Pune in 1974. Over time, consumer welfare organizations were formed in many states. Thus, the consumer movement continued to grow in the country and on 24 December 1986, on the initiative of the then Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, the Consumer Protection Bill was passed by the Parliament and after being signed by the President, it came into force as the Consumer Protection Act

across the country. Important amendments were later made in this Act in the years 1993, 2002 and now in 2019. After these extensive amendments, it has become a simple and easy Act. Under Section 72, provision has been made for imprisonment and penalty for non-compliance of orders passed by consumer courts under this Act.

The new law defines the liability of both the product and the selling company. If a consumer suffers harm due to a manufacturing defect or poor service, the manufacturing company must pay compensation. For example, if a consumer is injured due to a manufacturing defect and a pressure cooker explodes, the company must pay compensation for that accident. Previously, consumers received only the cost of the cooker. Consumers had to approach civil courts for compensation, which often took years to resolve the case. Previously, companies used to unethically seek court dates, but this will no longer be the case. Consumers should receive justice within a 90-day timeframe. However, this often takes longer. Previously, a case had to be filed in the consumer forum where the consumer purchased the product. Now, regardless of where the consumer purchased the product, if there is a defect, they can file a complaint in the consumer court nearest their home or workplace. This new law will have the greatest impact on e-commerce businesses. Service providers will also be covered under this law. Product liability will now rest not only with the manufacturer but also with service providers and sellers. This means that e-commerce sites cannot shirk responsibility by calling themselves

aggregators. All laws governing direct sales will apply to e-commerce companies. Platforms like Amazon, Flipkart, and Snapdeal will now be required to disclose seller details, including their address, website, and email address. E-commerce firms will be responsible for ensuring that counterfeit products are not sold. If this occurs, the company could face penalties, as complaints of counterfeit products being sold on e-commerce platforms have been reported.

The law proposes the creation of a central regulator, the Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA). It will oversee matters related to consumer rights, unfair trade practices, misleading advertising, and the sale of counterfeit products, and can take action against them if necessary.

Following the passage of the Consumer Protection Act 2019, companies will now be more responsible for ensuring that their product advertisements are not misleading and that their products meet their claims. The new legal framework has slightly reduced the financial powers of the State Consumer Commission. Previously, the State Commission had the power to hear consumer complaints up to ₹10 crore (approximately \$10 million), which has now been reduced to ₹2 crore (approximately \$20 million). In addition to the Consumer Commission, consumers can also seek justice through the District Permanent Lok Adalats, the Electricity Grievance Redressal Forum, the Ombudsman, and the courts for complaints against the electricity department.

Ethics and rights of consumption in the maze of marketism

Dilip Kumar Pathak

The eternal law of nature rests on balance, and the wheels of the modern economy are driven by the frantic race for consumption. World Consumer Rights Day, celebrated every year on March 15th, is not merely a formal date on the calendar, but a reminder of the fundamental and bitter truth: the market exists because of the consumer's breath, not the consumer's because of the market. As we stand at the threshold of this sophisticated and complex digital age of 2026, the definition and boundaries of a consumer are no longer limited to the purchase of material goods. Today, our privacy, our personal data, our likes and dislikes, and even our precious time have become the most

important commodities in the market. Therefore, the question of protecting consumer rights is no longer merely economic, but a deeply existential one. In this vast and elusive maze of the market, the consumer has been given the title of king, but in practice, they often appear to be a helpless traveler trapped in a web of lack of information and misleading advertisements. When US President John F. Kennedy first proclaimed consumer rights to the world on March 15, 1962, his primary goal was to create a transparent and just system. India has also marked a milestone in this direction, entrusting us with powerful laws like the Consumer Protection Act 2019, which provides us with unprecedented legal protection, information, choice, and redress. However,

history bears witness that the power of law is only meaningful and effective when a culture of awareness has taken root within society.

Nowadays, the dazzling glitz of e-commerce and the cunning of artificial intelligence have transformed the entire geography of the market. Forcing consumers to make unwanted choices against their will through dark patterns or controlling their mindsets through complex algorithms is a new and invisible form of slavery. When advertisements with misleading claims feature prominent figures and celebrities, the trust of the common man is easily shaken. We must deeply understand that a vigilant and prudent consumer not only protects their hard-earned money but also forces the entire market system to

be accountable and ethical. Asking for a proper bill at the time of purchase is not just about obtaining a piece of paper, but a powerful assertion of one's civil rights. Education, empathy, and continuous dialogue are the means to root out subtle consumer exploitation. Consumer rights should not be considered merely part of a dry curriculum in our schools, colleges, and educational institutions, but must be inculcated in the new generation as an essential life skill. The government has brought modern tools like the e-filing portal and the national helpline 1915 to our doorsteps, but their benefits can only be realized if we completely abandon the fatalistic mindset of "it's okay." In today's world, consumer protection is no longer limited to the quality of

goods or their fair price; it also deeply encompasses our collective responsibility towards the environment.

We must now move resolutely toward a culture of sustainable consumption so that the Earth's natural resources are preserved for generations to come. Often, we suppress our voices for small gains, but our silence only empowers unscrupulous forces. The true resolution of Consumer Rights Day should not be merely a symbolic one-day celebration, but should become part of our everyday, sustainable behavior and consciousness. Unless there is a beautiful harmony of transparency, human values, and ethics in the marketplace, this high flight of progress will remain incomplete and directionless.

India Inc yet to build capabilities for net-zero shift: IMT-UNGCNI study

New Delhi(GNS): A new study on India's sustainability transition found that while the corporate sector is increasingly embracing sustainability, it still lacks the skills and organisational capacity needed to translate climate commitments into real action. The report, 'Building India's Net Zero Capability: Industry Readiness and Skills', prepared by IMT Ghaziabad in collaboration with the United Nations Global Compact Network India (UNGCNI), was launched here by Atish Chattopadhyay, Director IMT, and Ratnesh Jha, Executive Director UNGCNI, on Friday.

The first-of-its-kind study examines how ready Indian businesses are to meet sustainability and net-zero goals, which further transcends to Sustainable Development Goals.

"The modern industrial sys-



tem, built on coal, oil and gas, powered growth and improved living standards for over a century. But it now presents a major challenge: how can we continue to grow and prosper without damaging the planet's ecosystems that sustain life," said Atish Chattopadhyay in the context of India as a major energy importer.

Based on a survey of 113 organisations across sectors such as manufacturing, finance, technology, logistics and retail, the

study found a widening gap between intent and execution capabilities.

India aims to achieve net zero emissions by 2070. The study flagged major capacity gaps to ascertain what motivates firms to adapt, embed sustainability practices, and build capability to move from compliance to execution. It asserted that while sustainability is gaining traction within India Inc and leadership intent is often strong, operational

readiness remains uneven.

Many companies began integrating environmental, social and governance (ESG) practices, particularly around energy use, emissions management and supply-chain oversight. However, fragmented responsibilities, limited data systems and skill shortages continue to slow progress.

The survey highlighted regulation as a major trigger, with about 51% of firms citing regulatory requirements as a key driver. At the same time, around 68% said internal leadership vision is pushing companies to adopt sustainability strategies. Yet, it found that organisational capacity remains limited. Over half the surveyed companies reported having "fewer than 5 professionals dedicated to sustainability or ESG roles, and nearly 1 in 10 said they had no dedicated personnel at all".

First-year IIT-Delhi student dies by suicide on campus; no note found

New Delhi(GNS): A first-year B.Tech student of IIT-Delhi is suspected to have died by suicide on the campus on Thursday. According to police, preliminary investigation suggests depression may have led to the incident. No suicide note was recovered from the spot.

Cops at Kishangarh police station received information about the incident around 8.35am Thursday. On reaching the spot, they discovered the body of the student in his room at New Vindhyachal Apartments on the campus. A doctor at IIT-Delhi Hospital examined him and declared him brought dead.

Preliminary inquiry revealed the student, aged 19, resided in the apartment with his mother, who had gone to her native place in Rajasthan on March 10. She last spoke with him over the phone on March 11, around 11pm. The following morning, when he did not respond to her



calls, another resident opened the room with the help of security staff and discovered the youth had taken the extreme step.

Crime and FSL teams inspected the scene. The student's father, whose statement was recorded by police, expressed no suspicion of foul play. The body was sent to Safdarjung Hospital for a post-mortem examination and later handed over to the family.

Following the incident, the security officer of IIT-Delhi, citing a Supreme Court judgment from March 24, 2025, submitted a written complaint requesting registration of an FIR and a detailed investigation.

Delhi Police bust pirated NCERT books racket, arrest DU graduate

New Delhi(GNS): The Crime Branch of Delhi Police has arrested a Delhi University graduate and seized a massive consignment of pirated educational material during a raid at a godown in Shahbad Daultpur village, in outer Delhi, officials said on Friday. A total of 5,011 counterfeit textbooks of the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) were recovered from the premises, the police added.

The accused, identified as Arvind Kumar, was apprehended after a tip-off prompted authorities to investigate the storage and distribution of fake educational books circulating in the national capital region. Officials said the raid was conducted on March 12 following specific intelligence that a large stockpile of pirated NCERT books, catering to students from Classes 1 to 12, had been hoarded in the godown for commercial sale.

During the search operation, police found thousands of textbooks in both Hindi and English stacked neatly inside the warehouse. Representatives from NCERT were called to inspect the seized material and confirmed that the books were counterfeit. Following verification, the entire stock of 5,011 books was confiscated, and Kumar was taken into custody on the spot. A formal case has been registered, and further investigations are underway to identify other individuals involved in the production, storage, and distribution of the pirated textbooks.

Police sources revealed that Kumar, originally from Bihar, had moved to Delhi in 2003, where his father worked as a newspaper hawkker. Kumar later graduated from Hansraj College, University of Delhi, and pursued a master's degree through Indira Gandhi National Open University.

Officials noted that after failing to secure a government job through competitive examinations, Kumar allegedly turned to the business of selling pirated NCERT textbooks in 2022. Police records indicate that he is a repeat offender, having previously been booked in two separate cases related to the sale of counterfeit books in Delhi. Authorities have warned parents and students to purchase educational material only from authorized sources and emphasized that counterfeit books not only infringe copyright laws but also jeopardize students' learning by providing inaccurate content.



SC panel recommends retaining 38 deer at Hauz Khas deer park and translocating remaining to Rajasthan

New Delhi(GNS):The Supreme Court-appointed Central Empowered Committee (CEC) has recommended that only 38 deer should be retained in the deer park at Hauz Khas, given the space available. The remaining animals, now over 350, should be translocated to Rajasthan in a phased manner. It also suggested that the Central Zoo Authority (CZA) restore the park's status as a mini zoo, and several habitat enrichment measures must be undertaken too.

After the recommendations of the CEC, Supreme Court will take the final call. In a report dated March 6, the CEC said the enclosure can sustainably and humanely accommodate 38 spotted deer, with an optimal sex ratio of 15 males to 23 females. It observed that 261 deer had already been



shifted to Ramgarh Vishdhari Tiger Reserve and Mukundara Hills Tiger Reserve in Rajasthan between 2023 and 2025.

The CEC observed that the current deer population at the park is substantially in excess of the scientifically assessed

capacity, giving rise to serious concerns of animal welfare, habitat sustainability, and long-term population management.

"For assessing the carrying capacity of the deer enclosure, the CEC examined the Guidelines for Establishment

and Scientific Management of Zoos in India, 2008. It prescribes a minimum outdoor enclosure area of 1,500 sq metres per pair of spotted deer.... Treating approximately 70% of the gross enclosure area as net usable open space, the existing enclosure at AN Jha Deer Park, measuring about 10.26 acres (around 41,500 sq metres), provides an estimated usable area of about 29,000 sq metres," the report said.

The CEC also flagged signs of ecological stress within the enclosure, noting overgrazing, soil compaction and deterioration of ground vegetation. It recommended the planting of native grass, restoring of water bodies and lakes within the park, repairing of damaged fencing and night shelters.

"Conservation science and contemporary wildlife man-

agement recognise translocation and prey augmentation as legitimate and widely accepted tools, particularly where such interventions are directed towards restoration of ecological balance," the report said. The committee said that in the absence of individual identification measures such as ear tags, collars, or other permanent markings at the time of release, the precise survival rate of the translocated deer could not be ascertained.

The park, which was set up in 1968 with just six deer brought from Uttarakhand, saw its population expand significantly over the decades. In 2023, CZA withdrew its mini zoo recognition and approved the translocation of nearly 600 deer, a decision that was subsequently challenged in Supreme Court.

MCD to continue with existing toll agency as city prepares for ANPR rollout

New Delhi(GNS): Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) on Friday approved a six-month extension for the agency managing toll collection at 156 plazas across the capital, with the current contract set to end on April 9.

The extension will remain in force until a fresh tender is finalised or the six-month period lapses, whichever comes first, and the civic body will continue with the existing annual revenue arrangement of around Rs 864 crore.

Supreme Court had earlier suggested that MCD consider removing nine toll plazas located on national highways entering Delhi to help reduce traffic congestion.

Based on a report from the Commission for Air Quality Management, the apex court also asked MCD to explain why immediate steps should



not be taken to install and fully operationalise a barrier-free Multi-Lane Free Flow (MLFF) system integrated with RFID and Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) at all toll points by Oct this year to ease congestion at Delhi's border entry points. The court added that if MCD failed to meet the MLFF deadline, it could be directed to restrict toll collection at the nine plazas only to vehicles liable to pay environment compensation charges

during the peak winter months. MCD officials said the civic body is already working on it and plans to introduce ANPR systems across 156 toll points. Once implemented, vehicles will not have to stop at plazas, as cameras will scan number plates and deduct toll amounts from FASTag accounts linked to the vehicle registration number. The request for proposal for installing the system has been issued, officials said.

Bank ordered to pay Delhi-based company for refusing to deposit Rs 3.2 crore during demonetisation

New Delhi(GNS): In 2016, Axis Bank refused to allow a Delhi-based company to deposit Rs 3.2 crore in cash during demonetisation. The National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission has now ordered the bank to pay the amount with 6% interest to the company as its cash turned into "worthless paper" when the deadline passed and suffered "irreversible loss".

The bank defended its decision on the ground that the deposit was suspicious, but the commission said the bank unilaterally branding the complainant, Procure Logistics Services Private Limited, as a high-risk account and denying deposit of cash in their own KYC-compliant account during the critical time window violated govt policies and RBI notifications. Even assuming that the OP Bank entertained any doubt or suspicion, the lawful course open to it was to accept the deposits, bring the funds within the formal banking channel and thereafter facilitate post-transaction reporting and investigation by the designated authorities," a bench of J Rajendra and A K Mendiratta said in its order. "...This deprivation was not the result of any adjudication by a competent authority but flowed solely from the unilateral action of the Bank, despite the complainant's readiness and willingness to comply with all regulatory requirements.

WESTERN RAILWAY

VARIOUS WORK

Divisional Railway Manager(WA), Western Railway, 6th floor, Engrg. Dept., Mumbai Central, Mumbai - 400008.

Invites Sr. No.: 1. E-Tender Notice No: BCT/25-26/338, dt. 10.03.2026. Work and location: Lower Parel - Modernization and improvement to Lower Parel Workshop Store (Composite Tender). Approx. cost of work: ₹ 3,49,79,544.79. EMD: ₹ 3,24,900/- Sr. No.: 2. E-Tender Notice No: BCT/25-26/339, dt. 10.03.2026. Work and location: Churchgate - Virar section: Providing 50 bed RPF barrack (Composite Tender). Approx. cost of work: ₹ 1,87,13,036.62. EMD: ₹ 2,43,600/- Date & Time of Submission for both tenders: Till 07.04.2026, 15:00 Hrs. Date & Time of Opening for both tenders: On 07.04.2026 at 15:30 Hrs. For further details please visit our website www.irps.gov.in 1214 Like us on: [facebook.com/WesternRly](https://www.facebook.com/WesternRly)

WESTERN RAILWAY

SIGNALLING WORK

Senior Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer (South), 2nd Floor, Divisional Railway Manager's Office, Mumbai Central, Mumbai-400 008, invites E-Tender No.: SG_217_2_313_WA, Dated: 10.03.2026. Name of Work: Churchgate-Virar section: Signalling work in connection with Augmentation of platforms to accommodate 15 CAR EMU at Vile Parle, Khar Road, Santacruz and Bandra Stations of Down and UP Local Lines (Slow Lines) of Mumbai Division Western Railway. Approx. Cost of Work: ₹ 5,48,76,189.70. EMD: ₹ 4,24,400/- Time & Date for closure for submission of E-Tender: Till 02.04.2026, 15:00 Hrs. Time & Date for opening of E-Tender: On 02.04.2026 at 15:30 Hrs. For further details please visit our website www.irps.gov.in 1216 Like us on: [facebook.com/WesternRly](https://www.facebook.com/WesternRly)

Where time surrenders to shade of trees and greenery of parks

New Delhi(GNS): Step into Jor Bagh and the city's chaos pauses at its gates. Streets lined with trees stretch ahead, most houses face lush parks, and the neighbourhood seems infused with a stillness locals proudly call its biggest luxury. "Jor Bagh is all about this sense of calm," most of them say when asked what defines this upscale south Delhi residential area.

Developed in the immediate decades after Independence, mainly during the 1950s and 1960s as the capital expanded beyond Lutyens' Delhi, Jor Bagh quickly grew into one of the city's most presti-

gious addresses. Located close to Lodhi-era monuments and sprawling gardens, the colony's name is believed to have come from a nearby historical tomb complex linked to that period.

Planned as a low-density residential neighbourhood, Jor Bagh soon became home to senior bureaucrats, diplomats, politicians and professionals. Over time, several old bungalows have made way for modern low-rise apartments, but the wide roads, green cover and quiet residential feel have largely survived the inevitable transition.

For Jor Bagh RWA President, Anmol Khanna,



the story of Jor Bagh is also a deeply personal one. He arrived here more than 35 years ago when he was still in his second year of college, and has watched the neighbourhood evolve from a quiet government enclave into one of Delhi's most sought-after addresses. Jor Bagh has around 233

houses, and many families have been living here for over 70 years. Like them, much of the yesteryear charm, Khanna says, still holds today. "There's still greenery all around."

"There is a sense of calmness in our colony. When you enter, the first thing you notice is the greenery. I shifted here over 35 years ago, when I was in my second year of college. Jor Bagh has 233 houses, and the area was largely home to families residing here for over 70years. The cleanliness was remarkable. There were far fewer cars on the road and everything felt well managed and amazing neighbourhood feeling,"

Khanna said.

"Fast forward to today, it is still one of the best places to live. You enter and see greenery all around. Most houses face parks, and that view is what people value the most. The calmness inside the colony still remains. Of course, parking has become a problem as the number of cars has increased. On cleanliness too, Jor Bagh RWA pioneering to be zero-waste neighbourhood in Lutyens Delhi. What has truly stayed the same is the social cohesion - residents were united then and they still come together for festivals and functions. But yes, with the builder-floor concept

coming in, the load on infrastructure has increased significantly," he added further.

Despite its laidback feel, the colony sits at the heart of the capital and is highly accessible. Major roads like Aurobindo Marg and Lodhi Road connect it quickly to central and south Delhi, while Jor Bagh metro station takes one easily to Yellow Line landmarks, such as Connaught Place, Hauz Khas and Gurgaon. Residents say this rare combination of quiet residential living and strong connectivity is one of the reasons the neighbourhood continues to be in high demand.

Fighting for environment our duty: MC Mehta

New Delhi(GNS): When environmental lawyer MC Mehta filed a petition in Supreme Court raising concerns about hazardous industries in Delhi in 1984, environmental issues were not considered "pressing" to the judicial system. As the case was listed after a few months, Mehta told Media, it reflected that environmental matters were not viewed as "immediate emergencies". "Though water and air acts were present on paper, nobody used to give weight to environmental matters then."

However, within days of the petition being filed, a gas leak occurred at a chemical unit in the city, spreading panic among residents in the neighbourhood. The incident pushed Mehta to approach senior judges of Supreme Court on the same day, carrying the original writ petition that warned about the risks. The judges immediately took note of the urgency, the matter was heard immediately and notices were issued. What followed



became one of the most consequential environmental cases in the country - the Oleum Gas Leak Case. Supreme Court established "absolute liability" for hazardous industries in this landmark case.

For Mehta, this case was only the beginning. He later filed a series of cases targeting pollution in the Ganga and its tributaries, vehicular emissions in Delhi, contamination of groundwater in Rajasthan's Bichhri and a ban on mining in Aravali.

His writ petition on the Delhi vehicular pollution case, filed in 1985, triggered a series of judicial

orders. This case, which was disposed of on Thursday, became a cornerstone in Delhi's long battle for cleaner air. "The court has given many orders with full reasoning - it's just their enforcement. If 90% enforcement happens, it would cause massive improvement in pollution. Trees are being felled, rivers are polluted and waste mountains have grown," said 79-year-old Mehta.

He said the job of enforcement agencies was to be strict. "The laws are strong, and if agencies become strong in enforcement, only then they can save human lives. People who breathe polluted air fall sick; they need treatment. How many hospitals will you build," said Mehta, whose first important environmental case was the Taj Trapezium Zone case filed in 1984, which made 292 industries to switch to natural gas or relocate.

Mehta said the setting up of environmental courts was initially proposed like consumer courts, but National Green Tribunal was

constituted, which has five benches in the country. "At least one environment court should be present in every district. India has over 600 districts, and how can just five benches serve the entire country?" wondered Mehta, adding there is lack of political will on environmental matters. He said when citizens collectively pressurised their local councillors or MLAs, only then it could lead to a visible change.

On Delhi's ridges and Aravali, Mehta said when the wind blew, they acted as buffers. "It should be considered as an installed oxygen supply. If you cut trees in them, from where will you get cylinders?" asked Mehta, who is still fighting environmental matters in courts and NGT.

Mehta feels that he has not done great work. "Article 51A lists Fundamental Duties, and among them is the duty of every citizen of India to protect the environment, rivers and have compassion for animal life. This is our duty."

HC pulls up police for delay in probe against Balyan

New Delhi(GNS): Delhi High Court on Friday hauled up the police for its delay in finishing the probe against Naresh Balyan, a former AAP MLA booked under the Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act. (MCOCA)

The court stressed that the investigation should be done swiftly as the accused had been in custody since 2024. It also sought to know by when police would file its chargesheet. The prosecution said the probe was unfinished. Balyan was accused of being a "facilitator" in an organised crime syndicate.

Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma said the police cannot conduct an investigation at such a slow pace while the accused remained incarcerated. It sought a status report on his bail plea. Balyan's counsel had earlier argued that there was "no shred of evidence" against him and the case was "completely frivolous". The FIR did



not even mention Balyan's name, the counsel said.

Delhi Police has opposed any relief, saying that, like the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, there was a bar on granting bail to an accused under the Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act (MCOCA) unless certain conditions were met, including reasonable grounds to show the accused did not commit the crime, which was not the case. Claiming there was a "continuous unlawful activity" to sustain invocation of MCOCA against Balyan, the special counsel for police said no relief should be given to him.

Delhi deploys amphibious excavators to clean big drains

New Delhi(GNS): Delhi govt on Friday deployed amphibious excavator machines to clean the Najafgarh and Pankha Road drains in an effort to clean the Yamuna. Chief minister Rekha Gupta and PWD minister Pravesh Verma flagged off the machines at Badusarai Bridge along the Najafgarh drain. The high-tech machines, equipped with long-boom and short-boom variants, are designed to carry out desilting, remove rubbish and clear water hyacinth from the drains.

"To make the Yamuna clean and pristine, the work of cleaning drains is under way in mission mode. Equipped with modern technology, the machines are capable of swiftly removing silt, rubbish and water hyacinth accumulated in drains and reservoirs, enabling faster and more effective cleaning than before. This will improve water flow, speed up drain cleaning, and provide significant help in reducing waterlogging. Relief will also be provided to surrounding areas," Gupta said. The Najafgarh drain is the largest in Delhi and carries nearly 75% of the city's silt.

Minister Verma said the modern machines will help remove years of accumulated silt, rubbish and water hyacinth effectively and improve water flow capacity. This will also help reduce the problem of waterlogging during the monsoon.

Delhi L-G Sandhu meets Police Commissioner Golchha

New Delhi(GNS): The Newly appointed Lieutenant-Governor of Delhi, Taranjit Singh Sandhu, on Friday held a meeting with Satish Golchha, Commissioner of Delhi Police, to review the law and order situation in the national capital. The meeting took place at Lok Niwas as part of a series of interactions that Sandhu has been holding with senior officials since assuming office earlier this week. After the meeting, Sandhu shared on social media platform X that the discussion covered several aspects of security in the capital. "Had a good discussion with Satish Golchha, Commissioner of Police, Delhi Police, at Lok Niwas. Reviewed challenges relating to security, law and order, cybercrime and emerging unconventional issues, and discussed responses including innovative approaches," he wrote.

Officials said Sandhu has been actively engaging with key departments since taking charge, holding detailed discussions with officers about the sectors they oversee and the services being delivered. On Thursday, his first day in office, the L-G met the Vice Chairman of the Delhi Development Authority to discuss sector-specific issues, challenges and initiatives aimed at improving access and transparency.

Old Delhi, anxiety rising as LPG cylinder queues grow, cops out at gas agencies

New Delhi(GNS): There was chaos across several parts of the city on Friday, particularly Old Delhi and adjoining areas, as residents scrambled for LPG cylinders. With tensions running high, police had to be deployed outside a few gas agencies.

Media witnessed long queues and frayed tempers for domestic-use cylinders outside an LPG agency office at Delhi Gate. Many said online booking servers were down and calls were not being picked up.

Radha Rani, 60, from Ajmeri Gate stood in line clutching her grandson, saying she'd returned empty-handed on three days. "My three sons work. My daughter-in-law had a baby 15 days ago, and I have been coming here three days in a row," she said, adding that the agency claims supply runs out by the time her number comes up.

Area residents said cylinders were earlier delivered



home. Now, they had to queue up outside agency offices and godowns, often forcing them to leave work. Police personnel, including three male officers and a woman constable, were present during peak crowding between 10.30am and noon. Soon after, however, distributors allegedly pulled down shutters.

Another person seeking a domestic cylinder, Jugal Kishore (56), said, "I am a government servant. My son

called to say they were demanding KYC for me, so I had to leave work and come here. They have never asked for this before." Others alleged that online booking servers had been blocked. One man dialled the agency number listed on the website and held up his phone to show Media how the call was disconnected after just two rings.

Among those making repeated trips to the Delhi Gate agency was Naved, 37,

"For five days I have been coming here just to get a receipt," he said. "A tea seller near the shop where I work in Chawri Bazar told me he got a cylinder in black for Rs 3,000. We are trying to get one for our homes but haven't succeeded." Outside the godown, about 1km away, several residents held up receipts and alleged that suppliers were selling cylinders in the black market to restaurant owners while locking the gates here.

Pasreena Khatoun (50) from Delhi Gate broke down while recounting her ordeal. "I have been trying to get a cylinder for eight days. Today I came at noon and they kept sending me from one place to another. My son and husband are no more. I bring my daughter with me every day," she said. Clutching their slips and showing messages received for online bookings, several people feared the dates allotted to them might become

invalid since they were asked to return the next day.

With reports of hoarding along with a spike in induction stove prices at local shops and stocks running dry at larger stores and online platforms, anxiety and anger among residents deepened. "I have four hungry children at home," said Feroz, 40, from Daryaganj. "Many local dhabas are saying they won't send food. What should I tell my wife and kids?" Distribution in some areas, however, appeared relatively stable. In south Delhi's Lajpat Nagar IV and Greater Kailash II, operations seemed largely normal with fewer people present, though locals in Lajpat Nagar said footfall was higher than usual. At Gole Market in central Delhi, minor crowding was seen, with people standing in queues. However, for many residents of Old Delhi, they are left with little choice but to return to the queues again tomorrow.

Traffic extortion: 2 more arrested, total reaches 20

New Delhi(GNS): The crime branch arrested two key figures, including one of the masterminds, in connection with an extortion racket targeting traffic police personnel. Besides stickers, the gang also used keyrings, which provided hassle-free movement of the vehicle without any documentation.

DCP Sanjeev Yadav said the accused were identified as 38-year-old Jai Bhagwan, a seasoned criminal with a history of murder and dacoity, and 26-year-old Shivam Sharma, a key associate who was nabbed in Uttar Pradesh's Farrukhabad. Police seized 282 fraudulent stickers, six mobile phones and a Swift Dzire car. The latest arrests brought the total number of arrests to 20.

Bhagwan, who stays in Rithala and is originally from Haryana, is alleged to be the leader of one syndicate and was previously involved in four criminal cases, including



extortion of police personnel. Sharma, a driver, allegedly acted as a primary distributor for another gang leader, Jeeshan Ali.

The gang ran a "parallel system" of traffic enforcement, which involved selling unauthorised "marka" stickers and keyrings to commercial vehicle owners for Rs 2,000 to Rs 5,000 per month, promising them immunity from police "challans" and illegal passage during restricted "no-entry" hours.

To protect their clients and bypass the law, the syndicate

also blackmailed traffic officers by filming them on duty and using edited versions of the footage to extort cooperation or force the release of seized vehicles.

To reinforce their control, the syndicate used digital extortion. Its members filmed traffic police personnel while they performed their duties or prosecuted offenders. These videos were strategically edited and uploaded on social media platforms to harass and blackmail officers, effectively forcing them to release the syndicate's "protected" vehicles without penalty.

The probe, however, remains silent on the role of traffic police personnel and senior officers. "Such an expansive and organised racket, operating openly on Delhi's roads, could not have functioned so effectively without the active collusion or systemic oversight of traffic personnel," said a senior officer.

A PIL that defined Delhi-NCR's green fight against bad air

New Delhi(GNS): More than four decades after a public interest litigation on air pollution was filed, Supreme Court on Thursday ended one of the most significant environmental cases in the country's legal history.

Filed by lawyer MC Mehta in 1985, when environmental regulation in the country was still in its early stages, the petition led the court over the years to issue a series of directions aimed at reducing pollution in Delhi-NCR.

His writ was initially on Delhi's vehicular pollution, but other pollution issues were included later. Among the most impactful measures were orders mandating the shift of the city's public transport fleet to CNG; directing the closure or relocation of thousands of polluting industries; phasing out leaded petrol; and banning the use of heavily polluting



fuels. It also led to the construction of Eastern and Western Peripheral Expressways to bypass non-Delhi-bound traffic and the imposition of the environment compensation charge.

The petition also sought Graded Response Action Plan, an emergency measure, and a comprehensive clean action plan for a long-term solution. It led to the formulation of Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority, which dealt with pollution in Delhi-NCR from 1998 to 2021.

From food streets to picnics, Delhiites take iftar outdoors

New Delhi(GNS): Breaking the fast during Ramzan has mostly meant visiting crowded markets and bustling food streets in Delhi. But this year, as the sun begins to set at Sunder Nursery, checkered picnic blankets are spread across the lawns while families and groups of friends unpack fruit chaat, dates, and homemade snacks. Between children running around and friends adjusting decor for photos, Delhiites are turning iftar into an intimate outdoor gathering, with picnic-style celebrations emerging as this Ramzan's popular social ritual.

'Iftar picnics can help promote our culture': Content creator Layba Ahmad, 26, recently organised an iftar picnic with her friends. "We



added a cute picnic bedsheet, a Ramzan Mubarak sign, moon cutout hangings, and warm lights. Since we're all content creators, we really focused on presentation. We wanted everything to look like a dreamy aesthetic. It honestly felt very Pinterest-y."

While social media is a major

factor driving this trend, emotional relevance remains important. "Picnics are for fun but going out during Ramzan to break our fasts together in public spaces can promote our culture and help us connect with others," shares Ilma Nabi, 21, who planned a picnic at Sunder Nursery with her cousins last

year and is planning another one soon.

Delhi romanticises these moments': Layba reiterates that social media has inspired this trend. "We'd seen so many iftar picnic ideas on Instagram and Pinterest. But places like Sunder Nursery and Lodhi Garden really set the mood. Delhi's green spaces make it so easy to romanticise simple moments like this."

Master's student Iqra Khan, 23, shares, "Sharing iftar with family and friends in the open air while watching the sun set in Sunder Nursery felt like a beautiful and meaningful experience." After planning for two weeks with her friends, content creator, Muskan Ali, 25, organised a potluck picnic at Baansera Park.

"The main idea was simply to have a girls' meet-up during Ramadan and break our fast together. We wanted to enjoy Delhi's open spaces, so Baansera Park felt like the perfect spot," she shares.

Jama Masjid remains a classic iftar outing haunt: For 23-year-old Kashifa Nadeem's family, an iftar at Jama Masjid is an annual tradition. "It is just about taking a day out with everyone together and breaking the fast with those who are observing Ramzan. Trying a new space would be like keeping the tradition alive but with a change of ambience," she says. Aasma Shakuli, 25, a Masters' student, shares her experience, "I recently went to Jama Masjid

for iftar with my family. We hadn't planned a picnic and had only brought some fruits, but people around us began sharing their food - chana, fried crisps, pakoras and more. Their kindness made the experience really special."

Celebrating the culture together: Ramzan is a time when Delhi's food streets and open spaces light up after sunset. The intention remains the same whether the format of celebration changes. "My friends and I found a spot under a tree facing the monument, spread out our mat with pizza, juice and snacks, and spent the afternoon there. With tea and snack sellers around, it was a really comfortable picnic and would be great for iftar," Aasma says.