



9 of family, including three kids, die in fire at house near Palam Metro Station



New Delhi(GNS): Nine of a family died in the fire that broke out in a multi-storey residential building near Shri Ram Chowk, close to the Palam Metro station in southwest Delhi on Wednesday morning. Nearly 30 fire tenders were rushed to the spot to douse the blaze and carry out rescue operations. The deceased include family head Rajendra's wife Laado and her first and third sons - Kamal, Parvesh as well as their daughter Himanshi; Kamal's wife Ashu and three daughters; fourth son Anil's wife and

daughter Deepika. Three of those trapped in the fire - Anil (32), fifth son Sachin (29) and two-year old Mitali - jumped off for safety and were injured. The five-storey building had a cloth and cosmetic showroom on the ground and first floor, while the family of the owner of the showroom, Rajender Kashyap, lived on the second and third floors. While Pravesh was aged 33, Kamal was 39, Ashu 35, Lado 70, Himanshi 22, Deepika 28 and three minor girls were 15, six and three, according to a news agency

news agency report. Those injured being treated for 25 per cent burn injuries at Safdarjung Hospital. Visuals from the scene showed thick plumes of black smoke billowing out of the building and rising into the sky, with flames engulfing parts of the structure as firefighters battled the blaze in the congested market area. Firefighters carried out intensive search and rescue operations, making their way through narrow lanes and smoke-filled interiors to evacuate those

Indore: House burns down during EV charging, 8 dead, 4 injured

Cylinders also explode, digital locks fail to open, leaving people trapped inside

Indore(GNS) A short circuit while charging a Tata Punch electric car caused a fire in Indore, engulfing a three-story building. Eight people, including rubber businessman Manoj Pugalia and his pregnant daughter-in-law Simran, were killed, while four others were injured. Six of the deceased were relatives of Manoj, who had arrived from Kishanganj, Bihar, on Tuesday. The incident occurred between 3:30 and 4 a.m. Wednesday in Greater Brijeshwari Colony, near Bengali Square. According to police, the fire engulfed the gas cylinders stored inside the house, causing them to explode one after another. The explosion was so powerful that a portion of the house collapsed. The digital locks on the house failed to open, preventing those sleeping inside from escaping. The fire team has been called to inspect the spot. The exact cause of the fire is yet to be ascertained. Further investigation is underway, police said. The area has been cordoned off and a forensic



Fire erupts as Bharat Petroleum tanker overturns on highway in Rajasthan's Jalore; one killed

Jalore,(GNS): One person was charred to death after a tanker transporting an inflammable substance overturned and burst into flames on a stretch of NH-48 in Rajasthan's Jalore district on Wednesday, police said. The incident took place near the Sinwara over-bridge on the Jaisalmer-Jamnagar highway stretch when the Bharat Petroleum tanker - travelling from

Barmer to Sanchole - overturned, causing the flammable substance to spill and ignite. Police said the fire spread over several metres on the highway, leading to disruption of traffic on one carriageway. While one person in the tanker was burnt alive, another managed to escape in time. Administrative officials and police teams from the local outpost rushed to the

spot after receiving information. A fire brigade team from Sanchole was pressed to douse the flames. Chittalwana SHO Bhanwar Lal said the nature of the flammable substance which the tanker was carrying is yet to be ascertained. The tanker, bearing a Gujarat registration number, belongs to Bharat Petroleum, he said, adding that further investigation is underway.

NIA arrests 6 Ukrainians, 1 US citizen for supporting insurgency in India
Ukraine demands their immediate release
New Delhi(GNS): On March 13, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) arrested seven foreign nationals from Delhi, Lucknow, and Kolkata. These included six Ukrainians and one US citizen.

According to the agency, these people were helping armed groups in Myanmar by providing them weapons and training and were also supporting extremist activities in India. Those arrested include US citizen Matthew Aaron Van Dyke, along with Ukrainians Hurba Petro, Taras Slyvyak, Ivan Sukmanovsky, Marian Stefankiv, Maksym Honcharuk and Viktor Kaminsky. All of them were apprehended at different locations. The NIA has registered a case against them under Section 18 of the Terrorist Conspiracy (Terrorism Act) and the BNS Act. Meanwhile, Ukraine has sent a protest letter to India demanding the release of its citizens.

Bomb threat in Gujarat Assembly premises

Email reads - will launch missile attack on Mundra Port, calls Modi-Shah-CM Hindu extremists

Ahmedabad(GNS): Several important locations in Gujarat have received bomb threats. Following the email on Wednesday morning, the Assembly in Gandhinagar was evacuated and checked. Security at the Mundra port was also alerted. The email also threatened bombings of schools in Ahmedabad. The email also threatens to blow up an LPG tanker docked at Mundra Port in Kutch district with a missile. It also describes Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, and state Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel as Gujarati Hindu extremists.

Iran-Israel war: Threat expanding east from Hormuz, warns Gurugram-based naval monitoring agency

New Delhi(GNS): Dynamics around the Strait of Hormuz continue to evolve and the threat is expanding eastwards, towards the Gulf of Oman, says an assessment done by the Indian Navy-hosted Information Fusion Centre-Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR) at Gurugram. The IFC-IOR is a multi-nation construct with several countries having their representatives on board. It has more than 20 countries



sharing data on commercial shipping to create a common picture. "Dynamics around the Strait of Hormuz continue to evolve as threat activity expands eastward," said the IFC-IOR in its update on Tuesday night. It cited six shipping incidents which were monitored East of the

Strait of Hormuz, particularly in the approaches to the Gulf of Oman, to say the threat is expanding. It would have sustained pressure on energy and commodity supply chains, with war risk insurance premiums remaining elevated. Separately, the Indian Navy has ramped up its deployment for escorting LPG and crude oil ships as they exit the vital Strait of Hormuz between Iran and Oman.

LPG consumption fell 17% in the first week of March: petrol sold 13% and diesel 8% more

57% of restaurants increased prices due to higher commercial cylinder prices

New Delhi(GNS): Liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) consumption across the country fell by 17% in the first week of March. This impact was due to the ongoing war in West Asia. According to data from three state-owned companies with 90% market share, LPG consumption decreased compared to last year. LPG consumption in March was 1.147 million tonnes, compared to 1.387 million tonnes in the same



period last year. Consumption in March was 26.3% lower than in the first fortnight of February. On the other hand, demand for petrol and diesel increased. Petrol sales increased by 13.2% to 1.5 million tonnes, and diesel sales increased by 8.2% to 3.384 million tonnes. Meanwhile, according to a LocalCircles survey, the shortage of commercial gas has led to higher food

prices across the country. Due to the increased cost, 57% of restaurants and 54% of street vendors have increased the prices of their products in a week. Government monitors LPG supply, conducts 12,000 raids. The central government stated that there is no shortage of domestic LPG.

Supplies are normal. Strict action is underway against black marketing and hoarding. More than 12,000 raids have been conducted across the country so far. More than 15,000 cylinders have been seized. States have been directed to take strict action under the Essential Commodities Act. To ease pressure on LPG supplies, hotels, restaurants, and other commercial consumers in urban areas are being encouraged to switch to PNG.

Assam Congress leader Pradyut Bordoloi joins BJP, says he felt humiliated

EC transfers 13 IAS officers in Bengal

Guwahati, Agency: Ahead of the Assam Assembly elections, Congress MP Pradyut Bordoloi joined the BJP on Wednesday. He had resigned from the Congress party on Tuesday. He joined the BJP in the presence of Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma. He said, "I felt suffocated in the Congress party. I was being insulted." Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said the party will contest 89 of the 126 assembly seats. Of the remaining 37, the Asom Gana Parishad (AGP) will contest 26 seats, and the Bodoland People's Front (BPF) 11.



Russia is ready to provide cheap oil to Pakistan,

Saying it should negotiate on its own; Pakistan has only 11 days of oil reserves

New Delhi(GNS): Russian Ambassador to Pakistan Albert Khorev has said that Russia is ready to provide cheap oil to Pakistan, but no official demand has been made by Pakistan yet. He said that if Pakistan takes the initiative, Russia could supply oil to Pakistan at a lower price. According to reports, Russian crude oil costs around \$70 to \$76 per barrel, while the same price in the international market ranges from \$95 to \$105 per barrel.

Meanwhile, Pakistan's petroleum secretary told a parliamentary committee that the country currently has only 11 days of crude oil reserves. Petrol is currently available at PKR 321 (Pakistani Rupees) and diesel at PKR 335 per liter. Pakistan is in talks with Iran to bring oil from the Strait of Hormuz. The Pakistani government is negotiating with Iran to obtain permission to import oil through the Strait of Hormuz. If approved, four Pakistani ships could

import oil through this route. Officials have also warned that the country could face a severe gas shortage after April 14th, as LNG supplies have also been affected. About 70% of Pakistan's oil comes from the Middle East, but the war has disrupted shipping routes and supply chains. Oil prices have also risen sharply. The price of diesel has risen from \$88 to \$187, and petrol from \$74 to \$130. While oil used to arrive in 4-



5 days, it now takes about 12 days to arrive via the Red Sea. Gas supply from Qatar to Pakistan stopped

Officials also reported that gas supplies from Qatar have virtually stopped. Only two of the eight LNG cargoes scheduled for

March arrived, while more than half of the cargoes may not arrive in April. This could lead to a reduction in gas supplies, and the government is considering saving gas for domestic use. To address the situation, the Pakistani government has decided to provide subsidies totaling 23 billion Pakistani rupees to approximately 30 million motorcycle and rickshaw drivers. This money will be provided from government savings generated through austerity policies. The govern-

ment is monitoring oil stocks daily. The Finance Minister stated that the country's oil supply is currently stable and that people do not need to hoard petrol unnecessarily. The government also warned that strict action will be taken against anyone attempting to hoard. Russia supplied oil to Pakistan in 2023. Russia also supplied oil to Pakistan in 2023. The first ship arrived in Karachi in June 2023. At that time, the deal did not prove as profitable as expected.

Pakistani refineries faced difficulties processing Russian oil, as it produced less petrol and diesel and more furnace oil. Furthermore, the longer distance from Russia increased shipping costs. Pakistan's ports cannot handle large ships directly, so the oil had to be transferred to smaller vessels midway, further increasing costs. Furthermore, Pakistan had to make payments in Chinese yuan, a currency already short of foreign exchange.

Bullet train project takes wings

Binod Kumar Singh

Bullet train: The speed of modern India, a new direction for urban development

India is experiencing a period where the definition of development is no longer limited to roads, bridges, and buildings, but has transformed into a holistic experience of speed, coordination, and convenience. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Mission Mode and Ashwini Vaishnav's vision have emerged as the most powerful symbols of this changing mindset. A clear proof of this is that the Bullet Train project has taken off. It is well known that the country's much-anticipated Bullet

Train project, which is not just a high-speed rail service, is poised to become the foundation of modern urban lifestyles. The approach with which Bullet Train stations are being developed represents a new concept. Stations will no longer be merely the starting and ending point of a journey; instead, they will integrate with the city's transportation system, becoming a vital part of the modern urban network. This concept of Multi-Modal Integration (MMI) will allow passengers to seamlessly transition from one mode of transport to another without any disruption. Under this plan, extensive development of the station complex and surrounding

areas is underway. The effort to systematically integrate buses, taxis, private vehicles, and other public transportation into one location is a revolutionary step toward addressing the long-standing transportation chaos in Indian cities. This will not only make travel easier but will also significantly contribute to time savings, reduced fuel consumption, and environmental protection. Sources say the design of the station plaza presents a unique blend of modern urban aesthetics and efficiency. Wide and safe sidewalks, well-organized pickup and drop-off zones, ample parking, advanced signage, modern street lighting, and CCTV-based security

will all combine to provide passengers with a safe, convenient, and world-class experience. Furthermore, efforts to make these areas green and environmentally friendly through landscaping and tree planting are commendable.

If we look at the progress of this project, it becomes clear that this is not just a plan confined to paper, but a reality rapidly taking shape on the ground. The steel structure and roof sheeting work at Surat Bullet Train Station has been completed and now the finishing work is progressing rapidly. The progress of flooring, cladding and other interior works in the platform and concourse

area indicates that the station will soon be seen in its final form.

Construction work at Bilimora station is also progressing at a remarkable pace. Rail and platform level slab casting has been completed and structural steel work has also been finished. Now it is being equipped with modern facilities through architectural finishing and MEP works. The progress at Anand station is particularly noteworthy. Not only has the slab casting and roof structure work been completed here, but lifts and escalators have also been installed. This shows the seriousness with which this project is being implemented, giving priority to passenger convenience.

Editorial

The world's grandfather Trump is in deep trouble

After US President Donald Trump assumed office for the second time, his arrogance reached its peak. He wanted to portray himself as the messiah of peace. He did everything he could to be recognized as a world leader. As US President, he appeared more like a gangster than a politician. Immediately upon assuming office, he attempted to end the ongoing war between Ukraine and Russia. He sided with Israel in the conflict between Israel and Hamas. He attempted to completely annex Gaza and establish an American colony there. He used the presidency to expand his family's business interests worldwide. He wanted to become US President for a third time, and to achieve this, he tried to project his power worldwide. First, he intimidated countries worldwide through tariffs. He tried to influence the global economy by portraying America as a bully, but due to his arrogance and arrogance, every move backfired. Today, Donald Trump is floundering, trapped in a web of his own making, but there's no guarantee he'll be able to live like a normal person. He never imagined how costly his friendship with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu would be. Drunk with power, Donald Trump now appears to be struggling to save his own position. In fact, at Israel's instigation, he attacked Iran. He attempted to take over Iran like Venezuela. He plotted a rebellion there. But it's said that when the end comes, wisdom is the first to fail. This seems to be what happened to Trump. Iran's Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Khamenei, was threatened into leaving power and later assassinated. An attack on a school killed over 180 innocent girls. It seems that the cup of sin for Donald Trump and Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu has reached its limit. Israel also killed a large number of innocent women and children in Palestine. Food was denied access to the sick and helpless. Children, the elderly, and women receiving treatment in hospitals were attacked and killed. These same sins are now threatening the existence of both leaders. America has been completely isolated in the Iran war. All allies have abandoned Donald Trump. Donald Trump is threatening NATO and European countries, but no effect is yet visible.



Rare confluence - a global example of religious harmony Gudi Padwa, Chaitra Navratri, Chetrichand, Eid-ul-Fitr and Ram Navami - a rare confluence that strengthens India's secularism and brings alive the concept of Sarvadharm a Samabhava. When festivals like Gudi Padwa, Navratri, Chetrichandra, Eid and Ram Navami are celebrated together, the message goes to the entire world that unity is possible despite diversity.



A vibrant celebration of unity in diversity - Gudi Padwa Chaitra Navratri, Chetrichandra, Eid-ul-Fitr and Ram Navami

Advocate Kishan Sanmukhdas Bhavani

India, known globally for centuries as a land of spirituality, cultural diversity, and religious coexistence, presents a remarkable and inspiring spectacle in March 2026. This is a time when major festivals of different religions and communities are being celebrated almost within the same week, a rare confluence that not only strengthens India's secularism but also brings to life the concept of "Sarvadharm a Samabhava," which is the soul of the Indian Constitution and social fabric. This period, between March 19 and March 27, 2026, is not merely a calendar coincidence but a celebration of India's social consciousness, cultural richness, and mutual respect. During this period, major festivals like Gudi Padwa, Chaitra Navratri, Chetri Chand, Eid-ul-Fitr, and Ram Navami will be celebrated one after another. I, Advocate Kishan Sanmukhdas Bhavani, believe that this is a powerful example of unity in diversity, which can be presented to the world as a cultural model. Can.

Friends, if we consider the first festival to arrive, Gudi Padwa: A Symbol of New Year, Victory, and Cultural Renaissance, Gudi Padwa, celebrated on March 19, 2026, is a highly significant festival in Maharashtra and surrounding regions. This day falls on the Pratipada Tithi (first day of the bright fortnight) of the Chaitra month and marks the beginning of the Hindu New Year. On this day, a "Gudi" is installed outside homes, symbolizing victory, prosperity, and auspiciousness. The Gudi consists of neem leaves, mango

leaves, garlands, and an inverted copper pot. This tradition is not only rooted in religious beliefs, but also commemorates historical victories, especially those of King Shalivahana. Taking an oil bath in the morning, wearing new clothes, and partaking of traditional dishes like "Puran Poli" make this festival even more special. This festival is not only a religious ritual, but also symbolizes the arrival of spring, the restart of the agricultural cycle, and social rejuvenation. Gudi Padwa reflects the positive energy of Indian society, where each new year begins with new hopes and opportunities. Chaitra Navratri: A festival of power, meditation, and spiritual discipline.

Friends, if we consider another festival on the same day, Chaitra Navratri, begins on March 19, 2026, along with Gudi Padwa, and will continue until March 27. This nine-day festival is a time to worship the nine forms of Goddess Durga. During this time, devotees fast, perform puja, and practice self-restraint. This year, Goddess Durga will arrive riding a palanquin (palanquin), which is considered an auspicious sign. The auspicious time for Ghatasthapana is scheduled between 6:52 and 7:43 am on March 19. This time symbolizes the awakening of spiritual energy and the beginning of new resolutions. Chaitra Navratri is not only a symbol of religious faith, but also a message of self-purification, discipline, and positivity. This festival teaches us the importance of balance and self-control in life.

Friends, if we consider Chetri Chand, a celebration of the Sindhi community's cultural identity and faith, then Chetri Chand, celebrated on March 20, 2026,

is a major festival for the Sindhi community, marking the beginning of their New Year. This day is dedicated to Lord Jhulelal, who is worshipped as the water god. "Cheti Chand" means "Moon of Chaitra," symbolizing new beginnings and hope. On this day, the Sindhi community organizes processions, performs hymns, and celebrates collectively. This festival is not merely a religious ritual, but also a symbol of Sindhi culture, traditions, and social unity. It demonstrates that every community in India contributes to national unity while maintaining its distinct identity. Two days after the water god's voice, responding to the outcry against the Sindhi community, delivered a divine voice during the Shukla Paksha (bright fortnight) of Chaitra, Devki and Tarachand of Nasarpur (Pakistan's Indus Valley) were blessed with a son, named Uday Chand. Uday means "rising" in Hindi. Later, this young boy became a protector of Hindu Sindhi society, bringing an end to the evil of Mir Shah. True to his name, Uday Chand dispelled the darkness and brought light to the lives of Sindhi's Hindus. Friends, if we consider the message of Eid al-Fitr: Gratitude, Compassion, and Brotherhood, a beloved festival of our Muslim brothers, in March 2026, Eid al-Fitr will be celebrated on March 20 or 21, depending on the sighting of the moon. This festival marks the end of the holy month of Ramadan. Eid is an occasion to express gratitude to Allah, help the needy, and strengthen social brotherhood. On this day, special prayers are offered, "Fitra" (charity) is given, and people embrace each other and say "Eid Mubarak." The distribution of vermicelli and

other sweets is a special hallmark of this festival. This festival teaches us that happiness is complete only when shared with others. Eid al-Fitr symbolizes India's Ganga-Jamuni culture, where people of different religions participate in each other's festivals and foster mutual love.

Friends, if we talk about Ram Navami: Celebrating Ideal Life Values, then Ram Navami, celebrated on March 27, 2026, is celebrated with devotion and enthusiasm throughout India as the birth anniversary of Lord Shri Ram. This celebration is especially grand in Ayodhya, where devotees from India and abroad arrive. On this day, worship, processions, chariot processions, and grand tableaux are organized in temples. Lord Ram is worshipped as "Maryada Purushottam," a symbol of truth, righteousness, and justice. Ram Navami teaches us how essential morality, restraint, and devotion to duty are for living an ideal life. This festival accurately reinforces the values of Indian culture. Friends, if we talk about Sarvadharm a Samabhava: Understanding the Soul of Indian Society, then this week of March 2026 is not just a time of festivals for India, but it is a celebration of its soul, Sarvadharm a Samabhava. This is the principle that all religions are equal and should be respected. The Constitution of India also embraces this spirit of secularism, where the state does not give priority to any one religion but provides equal opportunities and respect to all. When festivals like Gudi Padwa, Navratri, Chetri Chand, Eid, and Ram Navami are celebrated together, it sends a message to the entire world that unity is possible despite diversity.

Cooking gas crisis: Why spit in such a way that it comes back into your mouth?

Nirmal Rani

Amid the ongoing war between the US, Israel, and Iran, the entire world is concerned about the supply of crude oil and gas. As soon as the war broke out, its impact became clearly visible in India. Shipping through the Iranian-controlled Strait of Hormuz has been halted due to the US-Israel-Iran conflict. It is worth noting that India imports 60 to 90% of its LPG gas and crude oil from the Middle East through this route. Due to the blockage in the Strait of Hormuz, the government has virtually stopped the supply of commercial cylinders, prioritizing domestic gas consumption. Additionally, the price of domestic cylinders has been increased by 60%, while that of

commercial cylinders has been increased by 115%. During this period, queues of people were seen everywhere for cooking gas. Reports of black marketing were also heard from some places. Fears of a gas shortage have spread panic among the public. This has particularly affected the commercial sector, as approximately 90% of hotels and restaurants rely on commercial LPG cylinders. The National Restaurant Association of India described this as a crisis that threatens a sector with a turnover of 5.7 trillion and 8 million jobs. Many hotels and restaurants across the country have cut menus, eliminating roti, dosa, puri, fried items, tea, coffee, and hot drinks. Instead, only rice and dal, sandwiches, and cold drinks are being served. For example, thousands of small

restaurants in Tamil Nadu, including Bengaluru and Chennai, have closed completely or partially. According to the Bengaluru Hotel Association, this crisis has resulted in an average revenue loss of 25-30 percent. Bhopal was hardest hit, with 40 percent of business affected. Many restaurants have even closed their shops. Some hotels and restaurants have switched to induction or electric ovens. Due to the sudden increase in demand for induction ovens, there have been reports of induction ovens and stoves being out of stock in many places.

To address this crisis, the government is reportedly increasing refinery production by 25 percent. Temporary permission has also been granted to supply kerosene and coal to some states. If this situ-

ation continues, the restaurant industry faces the threat of widespread closures and unemployment. In this time of crisis, many leaders, from Parliament to the streets, are recalling Prime Minister Narendra Modi's insightful speech at a 2018 World Biofuel Day event in Bengaluru, in which he recounted the story of a tea vendor who made tea using sewage gas. While discussing the potential of biofuels, he recounted the story of a tea vendor who used sewage gas to make tea. He explained that in a small town, a tea stall operated near a drain. The drain emitted a foul odor and gas, so he wondered why not use the gas. He turned a pot upside down, drilled a hole in it, inserted a pipe, and channeled the sewage gas through the pipe to his stove. He then began making tea using the

gas. Modi called it a simple technology and cited the potential of biofuels.

This very statement of Modi is not only being recalled by opposition leaders and youth across the country, but videos of people trying unsuccessfully to make tea using this same formula are also going viral from hundreds of locations across the country. Aam Aadmi Party MP Sanjay Singh even attempted to light a gas stove in Sultanpur by inserting a pipe into a drain, but the stove failed to light. He said, "Modi ji says make tea with sewer gas, but this crisis has been brought about by the Modi government itself." Some people sarcastically stated that many people, inspired and influenced by the Prime Minister's wisdom, are trying to make tea with sewer gas.

JNU urges police action against students for 'violating bail conditions'

New Delhi, (GNS): The Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) administration has written to police seeking action against rusticated JNUSU office-bearers and other students who are out on bail in connection with earlier protests, alleging that they have violated bail conditions by participating in fresh demonstrations. Police did not comment on the development.

Fourteen students, including JNUSU office-bearers, were granted bail by a Delhi court in Feb following their arrest in connection with a protest against the vice-chancellor that allegedly turned violent. They were released from Tihar Jail on bail on March 1 under several conditions, including restrictions on participation in protests.

In its communication to the station house officer (SHO) of



Vasant Kunj (North), the university said the students had breached the bail condition that barred them from participating in any protests. It alleged that despite being declared out-of-bounds for a year, the students continued to participate in protests on the university premises.

The administration claimed that the students had reinstated an encampment on campus, which had earlier been removed by the university.

Citing this as a violation of bail conditions, the university named several students and urged police intervention. "As the local police

authority responsible for ensuring compliance with the conditions of bail imposed by the court, you are requested to take appropriate action to ensure that the individuals concerned strictly adhere to the bail conditions," the chief security officer wrote.

Earlier, the university suspended 21 security personnel for allegedly failing to prevent the students from setting up the encampment.

The JNUSU criticised the move, calling it an attempt to "crush the students' movement". The union said: "The VC has written to Vasant Kunj police station falsely claiming that students, including office-bearers among the 'JNU 14', violated bail conditions. It is concerning that a peaceful march on International Working Women's Day has been cited as a violation."

Several feared trapped as massive fire engulfs residential building in Delhi's Palam

New Delhi, (GNS): Several people were reported trapped after a major fire broke out in a residential building in Southwest Delhi's Palam area on Wednesday morning.

According to the fire department, a distress call was received at around 7 am regarding a blaze near the Palam Metro Station. Despite continuous efforts, the flames continued to rage for nearly three hours, making firefighting operations extremely challenging.

Claims emerged that at least nine people, believed to be members of the same family, were trapped inside the building at the time of the incident.

However, a senior police officer said the exact number of



people trapped or rescued could not be confirmed immediately, as rescue operations were still ongoing and teams were working to safely evacuate anyone inside.

Visuals from the scene showed thick plumes of smoke billowing from the building, indicating the intensity of the fire. Firefighters were seen using hydraulic lifts and other specialised equipment to reach the upper floors and douse the flames.

Proposal for audible signals at traffic lights

New Delhi, (GNS): Delhi Legislative Assembly speaker Vijender Gupta has urged lieutenant governor Taranjit Singh Sandhu to install audible pedestrian signals at traffic intersections across the capital to enhance safety for visually impaired persons and elderly pedestrians.

In a letter to LG, Gupta highlighted concerns about the lack of accessible pedestrian infrastructure and cited research from Dr Rajendra Prasad Centre for Ophthalmic Sciences at All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS). According to the study, nearly 60 lakh Delhi residents suffer from some form of vision impairment, with 20-30% experiencing significantly blurred vision. This suggests that 12-18 lakh people may be living with low vision, facing heightened risks on busy city roads.

The letter noted that several countries - including Japan, Singapore, UK, US, Canada, Australia and Brazil - have already deployed audible pedestrian signals, which use beeps or ticking sounds to guide the visually impaired. Gupta argued that implementing similar systems at major crossings in Delhi would improve accessibility, reduce accidents and make the city's roads more inclusive for all.

NDMC launches 24x7 water supply pilot project at Vinay Marg



New Delhi, (GNS): New Delhi Municipal Council launched a 24x7 water supply pilot project at Vinay Marg on Tuesday for uninterrupted drinking water supply to residents.

The project covers around 550 connections, most of which are at govt quarters maintained by the Central Public Works Department. As part of the initiative, NDMC plans to minimise water loss by identifying and plugging leaks, upgrading the distribution network, and optimising supply management.

A key feature of the project is the installation of a SCADA - supervisory control and data acquisition - system, which will enable real-time monitoring and control of the water supply network.

NDMC vice-chairman Kuljeet Singh Chahal said that under the Prime Minister's Har Ghar Jal initiative, NDMC is implementing this pilot to modernise the supply system. A consultant was appointed earlier, and the plan was developed based on its recommendations.

"Under this project, modern VFD-based motor pump sets will be installed at the Vinay Marg boosting station. Additionally, IT-enabled instrumentation, automation systems and data analytics will be introduced to enhance monitoring, transparency and accountability in water supply operations," he said.

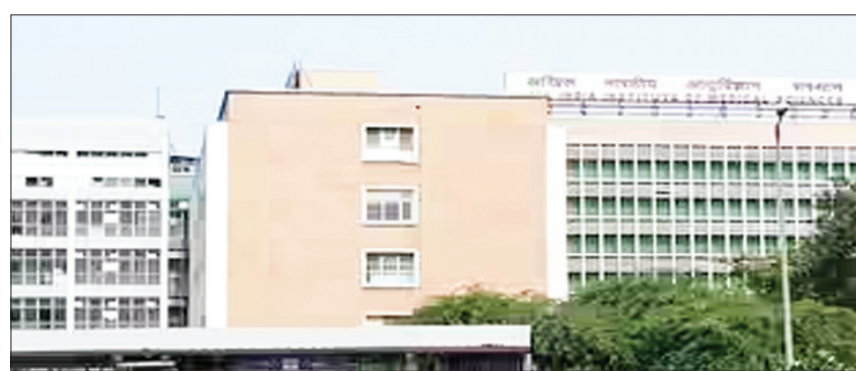
Essential electrical improvements will be carried out in the existing pipeline network. The project was approved at a cost of about Rs 1.4 crore and would be done within five months. NDMC will begin within next month the process of appointing a consultant for preparing a study and a design to implement 24x7 water supply across its jurisdiction.

Govt to hire consultant for identifying flagship tourist hub in capital

New Delhi, (GNS): Delhi govt plans to identify a flagship tourist hub among the city's major tourism destinations under the Centre's 'One State: One Global Destination' initiative. The initiative is part of a broader strategy to develop over 50 high-quality destinations nationwide in line with the Viksit Bharat vision.

Delhi govt has floated a request for proposal (RFP) to hire a consultant to conduct surveys. Based on the information gathered, the consultant will prepare an initial concept plan or sketch design, which will be discussed with Delhi govt, DTTDC's board of directors and other stakeholders and then refined until a final concept is agreed upon.

Once the concept is approved, the consultant will develop a detailed project report (DPR). "The DPR will outline the site's tourism potential, project feasibility, preliminary designs and cost



estimates, covering components such as civil works, electrical systems, landscaping, land development and mechanical works. It will require multiple statutory approvals from agencies like MCD, NDMC and the Delhi fire department," said an official.

After the DPR is prepared, presentations will be made before the central govt with advanced tools like 3D designs and walkthroughs to secure approvals and stakeholder alignment. After completion,

occupancy certificates will be obtained and final "as-built" documentation submitted. Consultants will also assist in tendering, contractor selection and execution, ensuring adherence to timelines and cost limits.

The project, announced in Union Budget 2025-26, seeks to create at least one world-class tourism destination in every state and Union Territory. The roadmap was firm up at a recent state tourism ministers' meet in Udaipur, where the Union

tourism ministry emphasised private investment and performance-linked incentives to drive the initiative.

An official said Delhi govt will soon finalise the location for the proposed project, which will be executed through DTTDC.

The initiative rests on two pillars - destination development and destination management. A key feature is a performance-linked incentive-based "destination maturity model" to reward states that meet global standards in infrastructure, sustainability and visitor experience. The Centre expects the initiative to boost tourism, create jobs and enhance India's competitiveness as a global travel destination while showcasing the unique cultural and heritage strengths of each state.

40-yr-old man fatally stabbed in robbery bid

New Delhi, (GNS): A 40-year-old man was stabbed to death in a suspected robbery attempt in Sultanpuri in Outer Delhi early Tuesday.

According to police, Rajinder Singh had stepped out around 3am to a nearby park when he was allegedly confronted by a group of assailants. Police said the attackers tried to rob him and stabbed him multiple times when he resisted.

Despite his injuries, Singh managed to make his way close to his home before collapsing. His family took him to a hospital, where he died during treatment. Police have registered a murder case and detained two men. Two juveniles have also been apprehended. One of the accused, Raj, suffered injuries during the assault and is undergoing treatment at Safdarjung Hospital under police custody.

Delhi bridge collapse: Declared unsafe, 33-year-old FOB closed for public use since July with restrictions imposed

New Delhi, (GNS): Delhi govt has formed a three-member committee to investigate the bridge collapse in north Delhi's Roop Nagar and submit a report within 48 hours, minister Parvath Verma said on Tuesday.

The Public Works Department minister has also ordered a safety audit of all similar foot overbridges across the city. The 60-foot FOB over the Najafgarh drain collapsed earlier in the day, killing a woman.

Officials said the bridge near Mother Dairy in Roop Nagar was constructed around 33 years ago and had significantly deteriorated over time. It was inspected in March 2025 and was found to be structurally unsafe, they pointed out. Acting on this assessment, authorities closed the FOB for public use in July 2025 and put in place neces-



sary restrictions, they claimed. However, despite these measures, it was still being used by some people, they alleged.

Preliminary assessment suggests that the collapse may have occurred due to structural deterioration of the bridge, said officials. "We have constituted a committee to examine all aspects, including the condition of the structure and the circumstances leading to the collapse. Responsibility will be fixed based on the findings and necessary action will follow," Verma said. On Tuesday morning, police received a PCR call about the incident. The woman was sitting near one end of the bridge and was a beggar, said officials. The area has been fully cordoned off to prevent any further incident, they added.

Delhi Congress president Devender Yadav said people were dying in accidents every other day in the city, either due to bridge collapse or falling into drains, accidents due to waterlogging and potholes on the roads, and other governance failures.

Won't raze homes in Uttam Nagar without notice: MCD to HC

New Delhi, (GNS): Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) on Tuesday told Delhi High Court that it will not carry out any demolition at the homes of individuals allegedly involved in a Holi day clash in Uttam Nagar without issuing prior notice.

The assurance was given before Justice Amit Bansal during the hearing of petitions filed by Jarina, mother of accused Imran, and Shahnaz, whose children were questioned by police. Both feared that their houses might be razed without due process. Recording the civic body's statement, the court closed the petitions.

"Senior advocate Sanjay Poddar submits that MCD



shall not take action against unauthorised constructions without issuing notice to the petitioners, and that any action will be in accordance with the Supreme Court's

judgment on demolitions," the court noted.

Earlier, the petitioners' counsel told the court they feared the civic agency would demolish their homes with-

Temperatures set to cool as rain expected over next three days

New Delhi, (GNS): The city is likely to get rain from Wednesday night to Friday, which would cause the temperature to drop. Though there are chances of very light rain or a drizzle on Wednesday night, India Meteorological Department has issued a yellow alert for Thursday and Friday, forecasting multiple spells of light rain, accompanied by thunderstorms and gusty winds of up to 50 kmph.

The maximum temperature on Tuesday was 31.6 degrees Celsius, which is near normal for this time of the year. It was 32.2 degrees Celsius a day earlier. The maximum is forecast to stay between 32-34 degrees Celsius on Wednesday, but it is likely to dip by 3-4 degrees by Friday.

"The city is likely to witness rain under the influence of a western disturbance. The day temperatures are likely to dip



to around 29-31 degrees Celsius by Thursday and further to 27-29 degrees Celsius by Friday, as overcast skies and rain are expected to provide a cooling effect," a Met official said.

Delhi had been recording above-normal temperatures in March, but rain on Sunday provided relief. The mercury was above 35 degrees Celsius for six consecutive days from March 7-12, with the season's high of 36.8 degrees Celsius on March 11.

out following legal procedure. MCD clarified that its assurance applied only to the specific residential premises mentioned in the case, not to any other properties.

Last week, the high court had granted interim protection from demolition for a week and asked the petitioners to file a fresh plea outlining their concerns. The case stems from a March 4 clash between two neighbouring families with a long-standing dispute in Uttam Nagar that resulted in the death of a 26-year-old man. Several people, including a minor, have been apprehended.

On March 8, MCD demolished part of the house belonging to accused

Umardeep's family, stating it encroached on a drain. In earlier hearings, the civic body submitted that the demolition was part of an encroachment removal drive and was not selective, and that no prior notice was required for clearing structures built over public drains, had argued in her previous petition that the demolition created fear in the locality and raised concerns that her home could also be razed without following due process. The petitions contended that demolitions cannot be used as punitive action in criminal cases and must be preceded by a show-cause notice and an opportunity to be heard.

Why Lawrence Gang's MP Foothold Has Delhi On Alert 'Janakpuri sewer line work to be over by April 30';

New Delhi, (GNS): The Lawrence Bishnoi gang has officially marked its presence in Madhya Pradesh following a shooting in Khargone's Bheelgaon. The group claimed responsibility via social media, asserting that the target was a middleman exploiting local farmers through fraudulent documentation. However, the development has triggered an alert in Delhi's law enforcement units. The entry signals a strategic move to control the "source" of the illegal arms trade in Delhi and other parts of north India using his "Robinhood play", sources said. Khargone is widely recognised as the primary manufacturing hub for 7.65mm semi-automatic pistols. These weapons are the staple of the Delhi underworld,



with nearly 80% of recovered firearms in the city traced to this MP district. The crime branch and the special cell in Delhi are closely watching the developments, sources confirmed. The group posted, "We, Hari



Boxer and Aarzo Bishnoi, take responsibility for the firing incident at Dilip's house in Bhilgav, Khargone, MP. This person has exploited our farmer brothers, creating fake IDs in their names and looting money. This is a

warning to you - improve while you still have time. Next time, the bullet will hit you or someone close to you. Consider this our first and last warning. Don't ignore it, or you'll face the consequences." The gang also revealed that several others in MP were on their radar. "We've called others too; fall in line or face the repercussions," the post warned. According to investigators, the syndicate's entry into MP was facilitated by alliances with the local crime groups, including the Durlabh Kashyap gang. Originally from Ujjain, Kashyap had entered the world of crime at the age of 18. He had made himself famous by posting threatening and bullying posts on social media and later formed a gang.

New Delhi, (GNS): Delhi Jal Board has told National Green Tribunal (NGT) that out of 1,140 metres of sewer lines to be laid in Janakpuri's A Block, it has replaced around 450 metres, and the remaining work will be done by April 30. The lines are being laid to resolve the issue of contaminated drinking water. The residents' welfare association of A-1 Block, Janakpuri, filed an application before NGT last year, claiming that their drinking water was contaminated with sewage. Water samples from the A-1 Block, collected at least thrice by Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) at various times from June to July, found the presence of both coliform and E Coli, indicating water contamination. In a report dated March 3, DJB said: "The overall progress of work, as on date, stands at 40%. The progress of the work was adversely affected during the period from Nov 2025 to Jan 2026 due to the imposition of restrictions under the Graded Response Action Plan's Stage III and IV."



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'Presence of cops at spot doubtful', court acquits two men in riots case

New Delhi, (GNS): A Delhi court flagged discrepancies between police records and witness testimonies and acquitted two accused in a Northeast Delhi riots case. It observed that the presence of two police officials at the scene was doubtful as their movements did not align with their daily diary entries, which showed that they left the police station separately for different duties. Judge Parveen Kumar noted gaps in the prosecution's version and said it would be "highly unsafe to rely on the testimonies of witnesses". He granted the benefit of doubt to Prem Prakash and Manish of New Usmanpur.



The FIR, registered on March 1, 2020, stemmed from a complaint by Mohd Athar who alleged that multiple shops were vandalised on Feb 25, 2020. CCTV footage and witness accounts identified the duo as part of a mob that allegedly looted and vandalised about 8-10 shops in Usmanpur, including the complainant's shop. The defence challenged the evidence. The defence counsel argued that the accused were falsely implicated. It pointed out that the case rested on two police witnesses whose own daily diary entries suggested they could not have been at the spot. It said that constable Vikas left for Brahampuri that day. The defence stressed there was "no explanation how and when" the two police officials met at the site. The court found merit in these submissions. It questioned why "no additional force was sent", despite claims that a mob of 30-40 rioters was at the spot. The judge also observed that constable Vikas, despite his assertions, "wasn't visible in any of the video footage... shown to him during the trial... between 9:30 am to 4:30 pm". Further, the court emphasised the lack of clarity on how the two constables came together during the incident, and at what time. This assumed significance as records showed they were not assigned joint duty; rather, constable Vikas "was specifically assigned to Shiv Mandir, Brahampuri" that day.

The judge also compared Vikas's testimony in another riots case from New Usmanpur, disposed of by the same court in Jan, noting his claim that he took an injured constable to hospital and returned to Azizia Masjid around 4-5 pm. The court said if he was present there at that time, "he could not have been" at Mansingh Road too.

Animal swap: Delhi Zoo to get tiger, send white tigress to Patna to strengthen breeding

New Delhi, (GNS): The National Zoological Park will receive a tiger from Patna Zoo, and will send a white tigress along with several other species under an animal exchange scheme aimed at promoting breeding, an official said. Delhi Zoo Director Sanjeet Kumar told PTI that the exchange has been designed to address both breeding requirements and the need to diversify species within the zoo. He said the zoo will receive four gharials, four grey wolves - two males and two females - and two barn owls from Patna Zoo in March. In return, the zoo will send a group of animals that includes Sangai deer, a tigress, painted storks, white pelicans, and black bucks.

Explaining the rationale behind the exchange, Kumar said the zoo currently has only one female wolf, which limits the scope for a sustainable breeding programme. "The main objective of this exchange is to develop a healthy breeding environment and also to add more species to our collection," he said.

Kumar said that NZP currently houses 13 tigers and cubs. Of these, seven are Royal Bengal tigers, and six are white tigers.

He said the number of female tigers is higher, while most of the males are old, as at present, there are only four male tigers.

Eyeing wider reach, Delhi to add 50 AC buses on 17 inter-state routes

New Delhi, (GNS): In a bid to strengthen interstate connectivity, Delhi govt plans to deploy 50 environment-friendly AC buses across 17 routes. The initiative is aimed at expanding access to neighbouring states and enhancing options for passengers.

According to officials, Delhi Transport Corporation will engage 12-metre AC buses for interstate operations. These buses will run on benchmark rates prescribed by the Association of State Road Transport Undertakings, ensuring standardised and regulated fares across routes. The move comes as part of a broader expansion of interstate transport services. DTC has already commenced operations of electric buses on key routes connecting the national capital to nearby towns, including services to Baraut in Uttar Pradesh and Sonapat, Dharuhera and Panipat in Haryana. Officials said these routes have improved last-mile connectivity and provided a reliable alternative for daily commuters travelling between Delhi and adjoining regions.

MCD approves borewell maintenance to save parks from drying up in summer

New Delhi, (GNS): Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) has approved annual maintenance and full-scale operation of borewells installed across its green spaces to save city parks from drying up during the scorching summer. Around 3,500 borewells are installed in parks under the horticulture department. Funds are being sanctioned zone-wise to the electrical department for repair and maintenance so that all borewells function before peak summer kicks in.

Civic officials added that the move is aimed at maintaining greenery while balancing water availability during the high-demand summer period.

MCD has over 15,229 parks, many of which are irrigated with water from borewells. At several places, pipelines have been laid to supply water from borewells to neighbouring parks. The civic body has a fleet of 32 tankers to supply water to parks where there are no borewells.

"We have already allocated budgets to four zones, among them west and Civil Lines, for the maintenance of borewells. We expect to allocate budget for other zones in a week and are expecting allocation of tenders for all 12 zones by the end of this month. The zones have also been asked to submit requirements for new motors or other equipment if these are broken, stolen or non-functional," an official said.

Strengthening Urban Development For Greater Convenience and Better Living

Allocation of ₹33,504 Crore for Urban Development

- To ease the burden on major cities, **Sanand, Kaloi, Bardoli, Savli and Hirasar will be developed as Satellite Towns**, connected to the regional transit system
- Provision of **₹150 Crore** to establish **Namo central library** in Gandhinagar and **digital libraries** in other mega cities
- Provision of **₹16,116 Crore** to Strengthen Urban Infrastructure under **Swarnim Jayanti Mukhya Mantri Shaheri Vikas Yojana**
- Jeevan Dhara Yojana: **Clean drinking water for 32 cities**
- Wire Free City Mission:** City power lines to go underground
- Allocation of **₹500 crore** to make **Ahmedabad an Olympic Ready City** and **develop SVP Sports Enclave**
- ₹2,217 Crore** Allocated for **Gujarat Metro Rail Project**, Including Ahmedabad and Surat Metro Expansion
- Provision of **₹1,420 Crore** to Support Housing for the Poor under **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban)**

"The state government is committed to enhancing urban facilities and well-being. This historic budget will make Gujarat's cities the role model for a 'Viksit Bharat'."

- **Shri Harsh Sanghavi**, Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister, Gujarat