



Eid al-Fitr celebrated in the capital:

A large crowd gathered at the Jama Masjid spreading the message of brotherhood

New Delhi(GNS): The festival of Eid al-Fitr is being celebrated with great joy and traditional dignity in the capital, Delhi, along with other parts of the country. The historic Jama Masjid was thronged with worshippers since Saturday morning. Thousands gathered to offer prayers together, praying for peace, tranquility, and prosperity in the country. From children to the elderly, dressed in new clothes, every face glowed with joy. After the prayers, people embraced each other and wished each other Eid Mubarak, presenting a vibrant picture of the shared brotherhood of Indian culture. Amidst this festive fervor, the administration is fully prepared for security arrangements. The capital has been placed on high alert, with unprecedented security arrangements being made, especially in areas like Dwarka and Uttam Nagar in southwest Delhi. It is worth noting that tensions arose in these areas after the death of a young man in a dispute between two families on



March 4th. Against this backdrop, the police are unwilling to take any chances. More than 100 police pickets have been set up in Dwarka and Uttam Nagar to maintain law and order. Troops have been deployed in sensitive streets, major intersections, and on rooftops. Additional security forces have been deployed at the Uttam Nagar East Metro Station and the surrounding commercial areas to ensure that worshippers and passers-by do not face any inconvenience. As directed by the Office of the Inspector General of Police, drone cameras are also being used to monitor mosques and Eidgahs. Police in plainclothes are also deployed among the crowds. Intensive vehicle checking and foot patrolling are being conducted to send a stern message to unruly elements. Furthermore, the administration is closely monitoring social media platforms to thwart any attempts to disrupt the atmosphere through inflammatory content or rumors.

Winter returns in March in seven states, including MP and Rajasthan

Temperatures drop to 10°C, fog prevails; alerts for hail, rain, and thunderstorms in Bengal and Odisha



New Delhi(GNS):The first fortnight of March was dry, with heat waves sweeping across many states, and temperatures reaching 42 degrees Celsius. However, the weather changed in the second fortnight due to the activation of a western disturbance.

Several systems have formed across the country, causing snowfall in the mountains and rain and hail in the plains, causing temperatures to drop to 20 degrees.

According to the Meteorological Department, fog enveloped Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh, Delhi, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh since Saturday morning. Temperatures also dropped to 10°C. Heavy rain, thunderstorms, and hailstorms have also been warned for the

eastern, central, and northeastern parts of the country on Saturday. Orange alerts for heavy rain and hail have been issued for Odisha, Bengal, and Sikkim. Thunderstorms with gusts up to 80 kmph are expected in parts of West Bengal, including the Gangetic plains. Winds in Odisha could reach 70 kmph. Rain and hail are also possible. Meanwhile, scattered rains are also expected in southern states and parts of Maharashtra, while hot and humid weather may prevail in Kerala, coastal Karnataka and Goa. There is no heatwave or heat wave alert for the next 7 days.

PM Modi speaks to Iranian President Pezeshkian, condemns attacks on critical infrastructure



New Delhi(GNS): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday spoke to Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, condemning recent attacks on critical infrastructure in West Asia and warning that such actions threaten regional stability and disrupt global supply chains. The conversation comes amid escalating tensions in the region, with India stepping up high-level diplomatic outreach to the security situation.

West Asia crisis:

Migrant workers, restaurants, dhabas to get extra 20% commercial LPG from Monday



New Delhi(GNS): Amid the escalating West Asia conflict, the Centre on Saturday announced allotment of extra 20% commercial LPG to states to certain priority segments, including migrant workers, restaurants, dhabas and subsidised canteens. This will be over and

Conditions states must follow for extra LPG allocation

- Extra allocation of 20% shall be given on priority to the following sectors: Restaurants, dhabas, hotels, industrial canteen, food processing/dairy, subsidised canteens /outlets run by state governments or local bodies for food, community kitchens, 5 kg FTL for migrant labourers along with measures to ensure no diversion.
All commercial and industrial LPG consumers shall have to register with Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) before they can be eligible to be allotted any commercial LPG from the overall 50% allocation. OMCs shall register such customers and keep a record of the sector they operate in the end-use of LPG and annual weight requirement of LPG of that customer in respective database(s).
All commercial and industrial LPG consumers shall have to apply for PNG with the gas distribution entity in their city as applicable and take all actions that will take them to a state of readiness for receiving PNG before they can be eligible to be allotted any commercial LPG from the overall 50% allocation.

another 20% is being allotted to the states that would take the overall allocation to 50% of the pre-crisis level.

Millet Mahotsav & Natural Farmer Market 2026. Grand organisation of Millet Products Exhibition through various stalls along with the sale of natural agricultural produce. Protective shield for a healthy body - Millets. Nutrition-Rich: Rich in protein, fiber, iron, & vitamins. Excellent for Health: Good for managing diabetes, supporting heart health, & improving digestion. Weight Management: Controls hunger & boosts energy levels. Environment Friendly: Requires less water to grow. Ancient and Nutritious: The best grain for a healthy life. 21-22 March, 2026. From 09:00 AM to 10:00 PM. Sabarmati Riverfront, NR, Vallabh Sadan, Ahmedabad. Launch in Ahmedabad, as well as organized in 16 Municipal Corporations. A priceless treasure of Gujarati tradition, The elixir of health- 'Shree Anna'. Our priority is to promote natural farming and increase the use of 'Shree Anna' (Millets) to ensure the excellent health of citizens and the economic prosperity of farmers. The 'Millet Mahotsav' will serve as a strong bridge for empowering farmers & building a healthy society. - Shri Harsh Sanghavi, Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister of Gujarat.

There is a need to be aware about water conservation

Sanjay Goswami

Water is the basis of life. It is described in the scriptures as salil, todak, kumta, etc. Describing the general properties of water, it is written that it destroys fatigue, provides strength, satiates, is pleasing to the heart, contains unexpressed juice, is always beneficial, is cool, light, the cause of clean juice, and is life-giving like nectar. It destroys fainting, vomiting, constipation, sleeplessness, and indigestion.

It is the lifeblood of living beings, and the entire universe is filled with water. Despite being prohibited for illnesses, it should be completely ignored. The Harita

Samhita states that thirst is extremely dangerous because it instantly destroys life. Therefore, those suffering from thirst should be provided with water to sustain life, otherwise, thirst chokes the mouth and is life-destroying. Drinking water should never be abandoned, and it should be kept in mind that drinking too much water hinders proper digestion, and not drinking water also disrupts digestion. Therefore, to advance a person, one should drink small amounts of water frequently. However, moderate drinking is said to be beneficial for those suffering from loss of appetite, bronchitis, indigestion, stomach ailments, wrestling, eye

diseases, Dhara Brahmin, and diabetes. Approximately one-quarter of India's total land area is affected by water erosion. Water erosion alone erodes approximately 6,100 tons of topsoil annually, with a nutrient content estimated to be worth over ₹1,200 crore. Agricultural lands affected by water erosion can be protected and regenerated by planting grass species such as doob, anjan, and munj. These grass species are typically perennial and hardy. Their roots help prevent soil erosion by binding soil clods. The continuous growth of grasses increases soil organic matter, improving soil structure and increasing its fertility. Water erosion is the primary

cause of soil loss in high and medium-slope lands. Water erosion occurs when water produced by excessive rainfall carries away soil through runoff. Water erosion: The loss of soil by water is called water erosion.

Factors Affecting Water Erosion: Rivers are the most important factors of water erosion. Glaciers are found in snow-covered or high mountain regions. Wind is often active in deserts, where it flows freely in the absence of vegetation or other physical obstacles. Flowing water is one of the main factors that carry away soil particles. Soil erosion by water occurs through raindrops, waves, or ice. Water strikes

the soil at speeds of up to 35 km/h. Larger drops and gusts of wind strike the soil surface with even greater speed. The primary function of rivers is to erode the earth's surface. Rivers always transport rocks along their path by wearing and cutting them. River erosion depends on the river's slope and velocity, as well as the river's sediment load. When horizontal layers of soil are blown or carried away by strong winds or heavy rainfall, this type of erosion is called sheet erosion. Sheet erosion occurs primarily in vegetated areas and areas with alluvial soil. On sloping land, water erosion often creates long, narrow channels.

Editorial

Honoring talent or expanding relationships?

The tradition of felicitation ceremonies for candidates selected for prestigious services like the IAS and IPS has grown rapidly across the country in recent years. From small towns to metropolitan cities, social organizations, educational organizations, political groups, and various forums organize events to honor these successful young people. Grand pandals, decorated chairs on the stage, guests adorned with garlands and shawls, and cameras capturing every moment—all this creates a festive atmosphere. At first glance, this tradition appears extremely positive and inspiring. After all, these are the young people who have succeeded in the country's toughest examinations through years of hard work, self-control, and persistent perseverance.

The primary purpose of such events should be to inspire society—especially among young people striving to achieve their dreams. When a student sees a successful candidate being honored on stage, they develop a hope that they too can one day reach that level. From this perspective, these events can serve as a means of infusing positive energy into society. However, parallel to this brighter side, another aspect is emerging that requires serious reflection. Gradually, the nature of these ceremonies seems to be changing. In many places, these awards ceremonies are becoming more about the organizers, chief guests, and their spheres of influence than merely a "celebration of talent." Instead of being a mere "celebration of talent," they are becoming a "display of connections" and a "display of socio-political power." The stage is now filled with more discussion about the organizers, chief guests, and their spheres of influence than about the selected candidates. This trend not only undermines the original purpose of these events but also sends a false message to society—that success is not just a matter of hard work and ability, but also of connections and influence. This perception can impact the morale of millions of young people who are striving toward their goals despite limited resources. Here another important question arises—are we only honoring those who have reached the final step of success, or are we also caring about those who are struggling to climb that ladder?

Even today, in a vast and diverse country like India, millions of students are brimming with talent, but a lack of resources prevents them from realizing their full potential.



Finland has once again become the happiest country in the world. Let me inform the readers that Finland has become the happiest country in the world for the 9th consecutive time. India has been ranked 116th in the World Happiness Report-2026 released on Thursday, March 19, 2026. It is worth noting that the World Happiness Report-2026 has been prepared by the Wellbeing Research Centre of Oxford University. It is also worth noting that this report is a collaborative effort, in which organizations like Gallup and United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network also participate and through the joint efforts of all these, this report is prepared by analyzing the happiness, life satisfaction and socio-economic factors of people at the global level.



Social media and declining happiness: What does the World Happiness Report 2026 say?

Sunil Kumar Mahala

Excessive social media use and reel scrolling is leading to a decline in happiness levels:-

The report warns that excessive social media use and reel scrolling are leading to a decline in the mental health and happiness levels of today's youth. The report states that mental stress and loneliness are increasing among young people today. However, if we consider the key factors of happiness, social support, trust, independence, generosity, and life satisfaction are considered the main pillars, while connection with family, friends, and society (social connectedness) is considered the greatest source of happiness. Indeed, today's need is to adopt a balanced lifestyle. In this regard, the recently released report emphasizes the importance of striking a balance between digital and real life. Simply put, the report recommends a digital detox. In essence, the report advises young people to periodically distance themselves from social media, or rather, to put it simply, "Less virtual world, more real connection is the path to lasting happiness."

Nordic countries dominate the World Happiness Report 2026:-

However, I would like to inform readers that the Nordic countries (Finland, Denmark, Iceland, and Sweden) dominated the World Happiness Report 2026, maintaining their top positions. According to the report, countries like Iceland (2nd), Denmark (3rd), Sweden (5th), and Norway (6th) remain in the top 10. I would also like to inform readers that this year's biggest surprise was Costa Rica, which rose to 4th place. This is the highest ranking for any Latin American country to date. Afghanistan (147th) ranked lowest, followed by Sierra Leone and Malawi. It is

also noteworthy that for the second consecutive year, no major

English-speaking country (e.g., the US at 23rd and the UK at 29th) made it to the top 10. The recently released World Happiness Report is based primarily on six factors: GDP per capita, social support, healthy life expectancy, freedom to make life decisions, generosity, and perception of corruption. In fact, countries with better healthcare, social security, and less inequality have been found to be happier. The report has revealed that economic prosperity is not everything. Simply put, it is not just income, but the quality and balance of life that determine happiness. It would not be wrong to say that today's fast-paced, hectic lifestyle (urban lifestyle) is continuously increasing the distance between people and people feel loneliness, which is a cause of unhappiness. According to the information, the level of happiness has decreased especially in the age group of 15-30, the reason for which has been said to be digital dependence and social comparison.

The life satisfaction of the elderly is higher than that of the young:

In many countries, the elderly have been found to have higher life satisfaction than the young, as older people are less digitally dependent and social. In other words, in most parts of the world, young people are happier than older people, but in countries like the United States, Canada, and Australia, this situation is reversed—young people are now less happy than their elders. Asian countries have a mixed performance in the report. It is noteworthy that many Asian countries, including India, have been ranked medium or low, although social structures are considered strong. It is noteworthy that India's ranking has improved slightly, reach-

ing 116th place. In 2025, India was ranked 118th. Meanwhile, among neighboring countries, Pakistan (104) and war-torn countries like Israel (8) and Iran (97) also rank higher than India. Despite the war, Israel remains in the top 10 (8th). According to the report, India has underperformed on parameters such as GDP per capita, social support and healthy life expectancy (average 58.2 years). Helping others, charity and trust in society have all been found to be important factors in increasing happiness, while in many places the level of satisfaction in rural life has been found to be higher than in cities.

What are the main causes/factors of unhappiness?

However, it would not be wrong to say that many countries in the world are not completely happy today, and there are many deep and interconnected reasons behind this. Indeed, economic progress alone does not guarantee happiness; social, psychological, and environmental factors are equally important. The primary reason is economic inequality. In many countries, the gap between rich and poor is constantly widening, leading to dissatisfaction and insecurity in society. Unemployment and inflation are also making people's lives difficult, making everyday life stressful. Another major reason is the decline in mental health. In today's digital age, excessive social media use, comparison, and loneliness are affecting people's happiness. Anxiety, depression, and dissatisfaction are increasing, especially among young people. The third reason is war and political instability. Conflict, terrorism, and power struggles continue in many parts of the world, making people's lives insecure and fearful. Lasting happiness is impossible without peace. Furthermore, the environmental crisis has also

become a major challenge. It would not be wrong to say that today, climate change, pollution, water scarcity, and natural disasters are increasing people's concerns about their future. Furthermore, a decline in social connections is also a significant factor. Distance from family and society, increasing personal busyness, and an egocentric lifestyle have weakened emotional bonds between people. Therefore, it can be said that the lack of happiness in the world today is not due to a single cause, but rather the combined impact of many complex circumstances. Unless countries focus on mental health, social balance, and environmental protection along with economic development, achieving true and lasting happiness will remain difficult. In conclusion, I would say that the World Happiness Report 2026 makes it clear that economic prosperity alone cannot be the measure of a nation's well-being. While Finland, by ranking first for the ninth consecutive year, has set an example for the world with its model of social security and personal freedom, the rise of countries like Costa Rica shows that connection to nature and community support are essential for life satisfaction. Regarding India, despite its modest improvement in ranking 116th, a positive sign, major changes are still needed in basic infrastructure such as healthy life expectancy and social support. The most worrying aspect of the report is the mental state of young people, where their happiness levels have declined due to the increasing influence of social media and digital isolation. Ultimately, the report cautions policymakers that future plans should not focus solely on GDP (Gross Domestic Product), but should also enhance citizens' mental health, generosity, and mutual trust.

The banking system is based on trust

Sanat Jain

India's largest private sector bank, HDFC Bank, is currently facing serious scrutiny. A 9% decline in a single day has shaken the Indian banking system. The sudden resignation of HDFC Bank Chairman Atanu Chakraborty, citing ethical concerns, has not only shaken the stock market but also the trust of investors and depositors in savings and fixed deposits. The loss of nearly ₹1 lakh crore in just one day signals the bank's credibility is eroding. Trust in banking is a bank's most significant asset. HDFC Bank's position in the Indian banking system has been shattered in one stroke. This is bound to

impact both India's nationalized and private banks. Given this dire situation, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has had to intervene to address the situation. The Reserve Bank has assured investors and customers that the bank's financial position is strong and there is no need to panic. The question is whether everything is alright within the bank. In such a situation, how did the issue of the bank's chairman resigning on "moral grounds" become so significant? An experienced administrator had to resign before the end of his term? This bank, built under Deepak Parekh's leadership, has always been known for high corporate governance and transparency in business practices.

The HDFC model has been viewed as an exemplary and ethical institution not only in the country but globally. Consequently, current events directly question that legacy and trust. This crisis isn't a technical or operational failure; it's also a crisis of ethical and management credibility in the bank and the company. The foundation of the banking system rests on trust. Millions of people deposit their life savings in banks because they believe their money will be completely safe and will be promptly returned when needed. When top-level officials within the same institution raise ethical concerns, this situation shakes the confidence of investors and depositors. The chairman's res-

ignation is a reaction to the panic among stock market investors and the concern among bank depositors. However, the bank has quickly addressed the situation by appointing Keki Mistry as interim chairman following the resignation. This appointment alone will not restore the confidence of stock market investors and depositors. A transparent investigation, clear accountability, and concrete corrective measures will be required. This incident serves as a significant warning to the entire banking sector. Ethical values have been overlooked in the pursuit of rapid profits and the pursuit of bank expansion. The consequences could prove disastrous for the company.

HDFC Bank's biggest challenge now is restoring its credibility. Millions of poor and middle-class people deposit their money with the bank. The bank has to pay interest to depositors. For this, the bank also finances the deposits. If depositors' trust is broken and they all line up to withdraw their money simultaneously, even God cannot save the bank. Vigilance is crucial for the Reserve Bank and all banks in the future. All banks must maintain credibility with stock market investors and depositors by maintaining transparency about their financial position. HDFC Bank's situation is being seen as the biggest crisis of trust in the history of Indian banking.

SOL students 'excluded' from Delhi University job mela, protest 'discrimination'

New Delhi, (GNS): Students of Delhi University's School of Open Learning (SOL) on Friday held a protest outside the venue of a job mela, organised by DU, alleging discriminatory treatment after an internal circular categorically barred them from participating in it.

Later, SOL principal, Ajay Jaiswal, and the dean of students' welfare, Ranjan Tripathi, met the protesters and allowed them to participate in the programme, the students said. Media reached out to the officials, but there was no response from them.

"The administration assured that SOL students would not be barred from such programmes in the future," Krantikari Yuva Sangathan (KYS), under whose banner the protest was held, said



in a statement. The job mela is held annually on the campus for DU students. However, SOL students said they were denied entry, even as DU alumni were allowed to participate.

Several students gathered outside the gate, raising slogans and carrying placards that read "Stop discrimination against SOL students" and "Equal rights for all

DU students".

SOL is a branch of Delhi University that provides a flexible and affordable alternative to regular colleges, catering largely to working students.

Calling the move "educational apartheid", students said this was not an isolated instance, alleging that SOL students are also barred from participating in DU events, including college fests and other campus activities. Citing an earlier instance, the students' organisation pointed to a 2019 logo design competition by the Women's Studies Development Centre from which SOL students were excluded.

Students also flagged a range of issues, alleging systemic neglect. "From being made to sit for exams in under-construction

basements and tents, to abrupt changes in exam schedules and long queues for study material, SOL students have been at the receiving end of DU's open apathy and discrimination," KYS said in a statement.

They added that such exclusion disproportionately affects SOL students, many of whom come from economically weaker backgrounds and depend on such platforms for job opportunities.

SOL also conducts separate job fairs, which students alleged are "substandard" and offer limited opportunities. In Jan, Media reported that only one student in 1 secured a job through such drives, with placements largely in BPOs and lower-profile roles.

At that time, SOL director Payal Mago said the campus was in talks with DU to integrate its placement process with the university's central placement system.

Delhi CM holds pre-budget meeting with transgender community



New Delhi, (GNS): Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Friday interacted with members of the transgender community and sought their suggestions for the upcoming annual budget to be tabled in the assembly next week.

In an X post, Gupta said she held a meaningful dialogue with members of the third gender community at the Delhi Secretariat. They welcomed the Delhi government's decision to issue them Pink smart cards for free bus rides, she said.

"They also shared suggestions and expectations. These suggestions will be incorporated into the upcoming budget, moving towards building an inclusive and developed Delhi," she said.

The chief minister has been holding a series of meetings with various sections of the society, including working women, gig workers, labourers, farmers, teachers, students, medical professionals and others ahead of the budget presentation on March 24.

NDMC waives road restoration charges to speed PNG rollout

New Delhi, (GNS): Amid an ongoing LPG supply crunch, the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) has announced a waiver of road restoration charges for the laying of pipelines by Indraprastha Gas Limited (IGL) to provide Piped Natural Gas (PNG) connections across its jurisdiction for a period of three months. The council has also directed that permissions for road cutting related to IGL's pipeline work be granted within 24 hours of receiving a complete application. Officials have been instructed to ensure the immediate commencement of work to eliminate procedural delays and improve inter-departmental coordination.

"In the larger public interest, NDMC has issued this circular to facilitate the speedy expansion of PNG connections by IGL. The decision aims to ensure expeditious execution of pipeline works so that residents and establishments can receive PNG connections without unnecessary delay," the council said in a circular issued on Friday. Officials said the move is expected to promote the use of cleaner and more convenient fuel while accelerating infrastructure development.

IGL has been directed to prioritise the work by deploying adequate manpower and resources, and to ensure that all excavated stretches are properly filled in and secured promptly to avoid inconvenience to the public. NDMC's road divisions have also been instructed to restore affected road stretches within a fixed timeframe.

"All concerned officials have been directed to ensure strict compliance with these instructions," officials said.

Shooter with gang link arrested from Punjab over extortion bid, firing

New Delhi, (GNS): Delhi Police special cell has busted an extortion racket and arrested a 26-year-old shooter who used latitude and longitude coordinates to target a Jagatpuri resident last year. The accused, Jaswinder Singh alias Jassi, is a key operative of the Punjab-based Gurjant Janta gang and was evading arrest for nearly a year after a firing incident in east Delhi's Jagatpuri.

The investigation revealed a sophisticated criminal conspiracy orchestrated from abroad. In March 2025, a Jagatpuri resident received international extortion threats demanding Rs 4 crore. When the target refused to pay, the gang's handler, identified as Gaurav, allegedly provided Jassi with the geographic coordinates of the target's house. Jassi, a resident of Ambala, traveled to the capital via public transport, stole a motorcycle for the hit, and arrived at the house using the Google coordinates. He fired two rounds at the target's gate before fleeing to Punjab.

The cell tracked Jassi's movements through a complex web of CCTV footage and technical intelligence. After the shooting, the accused sought refuge in the guest house of a religious place in Amritsar for eight months to escape the police dragnet. "Acting on a tip-off, a team tracked him to a hideout in Punjab's Kharar where he was apprehended during a surprise raid on March 16," said DCP Narra Chaitanya.

According to police, Jassi's descent into crime began in 2022 following local quarrels in Ambala, which led him to seek the protection of the Janta gang.

The interrogation has revealed a trend where street-level criminals are being guided through digital mapping by international handlers. The accused remains in custody as police continue to probe the wider network and the source of the illegal weapons used in the attack.

L&DO seals news agency's office hours after HC rejects its plea against eviction

New Delhi, (GNS): News agency UNI's office in central Delhi was sealed hours after Delhi High Court on Friday dismissed its plea against the eviction order issued by the land and development office (L&DO), which is under the Union ministry of housing and urban affairs (MoHUA).

In its 98-page order, the court noted that for 45 years the news agency failed to fulfil the only condition under which land at No. 9, Rafi Marg, New Delhi, was allotted to it. "Indeed, the facts of the present case reveal a situation where valuable public land has effectively been held hostage by a licensee who has failed to perform its obligations for decades," Justice Sachin Datta said. "Such conduct strikes at the very foundation of the allotment framework governing public land. The cancellation of the allotment was, therefore, fully justified and legally inevitable," the judge



said.

In court, UNI blamed govt agencies for delay in granting it permission to construct an office, and claimed it asked co-owner, Press Council of India, to construct it, but it didn't do so. It also told the court that after undergoing the corporate insolvency resolution process, the successful resolution plan by The Statesman Ltd was

accepted by NCLT.

The court also took a dim view of the delay by the land-owning agency in taking action. "The L&DO/Ministry of Urban Development is also directed to ensure that conditional allotments of public land are enforced with due diligence, promptitude, and institutional rigour, so that any breach or non-adherence

to the conditions of the licence does not remain unattended to for inordinately long periods," it said.

"Public authorities entrusted with the management of valuable public assets must remain vigilant to ensure that such land is utilised strictly in accordance with the purpose for which it is allotted and that deviations are addressed in a timely manner," the court added. The bench said it "simply cannot countenance a situation where prime public land continues to be occupied for decades together, without fulfilment of the conditions of licence." The court said that since 1979, the sole condition was that UNI construct an office complex on the land, but that was never done. "What is, however, indisputably clear is that, despite the passage of several decades, there has been a complete and abject failure to achieve the very purpose underlying the allot-

ment/licence: that the petitioner was required to construct, at its own cost and expense, a multi-storied office complex over the land in question," the court said.

"The petitioner was expressly obligated to use the land solely for the purpose of constructing the office complex to accommodate its own office and the offices of various news media organisations," it added.

A senior Delhi Police officer said that a team was sent to provide security to the agency as it carried out the order. UNI, however, claimed on social media that its staff was forcibly evicted, female journalists were manhandled by police and some police personnel were intoxicated. Police denied all the claims. |

The ministry's land and development office has barred anyone from entering the office without its permission.

Kitchen shift by night, crime shift by day

5-star hotel chef arrested for burglary in Delhi; used master key to open locks

New Delhi, (GNS): vTwenty-two-year-old Nilesh lived a double life - working as a South Indian food chef at a five-star hotel in Dwarka by night, pouring and swirling batter, and plotting burglaries during the day.

On Feb 15, he clocked in as usual at the hotel. The workload was less that night, so he snuck out during early morning hours. His target had been carefully chosen - a house in Ambedkar Basti in southwest Delhi's RK Puram Sector 1 whose occupants he knew to be out of town. Using a specially designed master key to open the Chinese locks, Nilesh crept in, unnoticed by neighbours, stealing Rs 3.5 lakh in cash and valuables, including gold and silver jewellery. The theft came to light after the family returned on Feb 18 from a wedding in Rajasthan to find their home ransacked. There was no sign of a forced entry. The owner of the house approached police and lodged a complaint, based on which a case was registered.

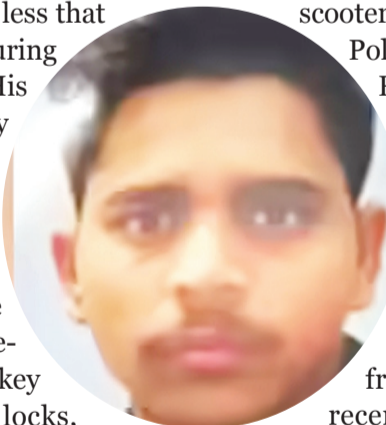
"Footage from a CCTV camera in the

area showed a man lingering at the gate, briefly struggling before unlocking it, entering, and exiting after 30 minutes with stolen valuables," said DCP (southwest) Amit Goel.

A team was formed to identify and trace the suspect, who was seen fleeing on a scooter, his face covered with a shawl. Police tracked his route till Ring Road, which led them to the five-star hotel in Dwarka, and to Nilesh. When questioned, he initially told cops that he was busy with night shifts at the hotel, where he had been working for the past three years.

Later, however, police confronted him with proof of his recent financial transactions and technical surveillance, including CCTV camera footage where he was seen wearing the same shawl at the hotel that had been reported stolen from the house.

Nilesh was finally arrested on Wednesday. "The burglary took place between 2am and 3am. Nilesh knew the younger brother of the complainant, so he was aware that the family was leaving for a wedding on Feb 14 and there would be no one home that time," said a police officer.



NDMC waives road restoration charges

New Delhi, (GNS): The New Delhi Municipal Council has waived road restoration charges for laying pipelines for Piped Natural Gas (PNG) connections within its jurisdiction for a period of three months, in a move aimed at accelerating access to cleaner fuel. The decision, announced through a circular on Friday, is intended to facilitate faster execution of pipeline works by Indraprastha Gas Limited and ensure that residents and commercial establish-

ments get PNG connections without delays. According to NDMC officials, the waiver has been introduced in view of the prevailing circumstances and in larger public interest, with a focus on promoting cleaner and more convenient fuel options across the Capital. To further streamline the process, the NDMC has directed that permissions for road cutting required for pipeline laying be granted within 24 hours of receiving complete applications.

Security ring & ID checks: Nervy Eid for Uttam Nagar after youth lynching; residents vow to stay put amid uneasy silence

New Delhi, (GNS): The narrow lanes of Hastals village, usually vibrant with the overlapping buzz of Navratri hymns and Eid preparations, are shrouded in uneasy silence this time.

Following the lynching of 26-year-old Tarun Butolia during Holi - it happened after his cousin accidentally splashed water on a woman from another community - the neighbourhood in southwest Delhi's Uttam Nagar has turned into a high-security zone, with Delhi Police and CRPF personnel stationed at the entry and exit of nearly every lane leading to his house in A Block.

The security ring extends to B and C Blocks as well. Barricades have been put up, and entry and exit are strictly regulated, even in narrow lanes barely wide enough to accommodate the barricades.

On Friday, Media saw

cops checking identity cards and verifying the addresses of anyone trying to enter the area. Only residents of the village were allowed, while others were turned away. Vehicle movement was also restricted, adding to further inconvenience, villagers said. Authorities have installed several CCTV cameras - around eight to 10 - in just the lane in which Tarun used to live and more in adjoining stretches. Surveillance extends even to outer roads of the village. A senior police officer told Media that four to five companies of paramilitary forces and around 450 Delhi Police personnel have been deployed to prevent any untoward incident. A request has also been sent for mounted cops. The contrast with the previous years is stark. Locals said Navratri would typically see tents pitched across lanes, women hosting day-long keertan, and children gathering to play manjira and small dhols. With Eid festivities also beginning, the neighbourhood would usually be bustling. This year, however, the streets of Hastals are largely deserted.

CHENGH OF NEW NAME-SURNAME

THE GUJARAT GOVERNMENT GAZETTE PART-II
Dt. 11-03-2026 (1888)

Separate paging is given to each part of the supplement to the Central Gazette and Central section in order that it may be filed as a separate compilation
Government Accepts No Responsibility As To The Authority Of The Contents Of The Notice Since They Are Based Entirely On The Application/Affidavit Of The Concerned Persons Without Verification Of Documents.

VOL. LXVII WEDNESDAY, 11th MARCH, 2026
PHALGUNA 20, 1947 (No. 1888)

PART-II Miscellaneous Notices and Advertisements

The name has been changed from Bhatt Rudradatt Abhaysinh (old name) to Brahmhatt Rudradatt Abhaysinh (new name) which has been registered under Gazette Registration number 26032312

Address : 10, Aaradhana Park Society, Jawahar Chok, Sabarmati, Ahmedabad-380005, Gujarat, India.

WESTERN RAILWAY				
MATERIAL MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT				
VARIOUS MATERIALS SUPPLY				
E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE No. S/14/2026 Date 16.03.2026				
S.N.	Tender No	Short Description of item	Quantity	T.O.D.
92	22261428	Finger Contact and Flexible Shunt Assly	878 Nos	14-Apr-26
93	22265004	Supply, Installation and Commissioning of 24 VDC Twin Beam LED Head Light	220 Nos	13-Apr-26
94	04263622	Fire Retardant Fabric, Width 120 +/- 2 Cms	18355 Mtr	13-Apr-26

CORRIGENDUM
Please read the quantity as "1755 Set" for the tender notice no S-13-2026 dated: 11.03.2026 at Sr.No. 88
Regarding detailed notice EMD, Purchase restrictions and detailed tender conditions, please visit website www.ireps.gov.in and www.indianrailways.gov.in 1238
Like us on: [facebook.com/WesternRly](https://www.facebook.com/WesternRly) Follow us on: [X.com/WesternRly](https://www.x.com/WesternRly)

Delhi on high alert ahead of Eid celebrations; security tightened in Dwarka amid Uttam Nagar tension

New Delhi, (GNS): With Eid-ul-Fitr just a day away, security has been heightened across Delhi's Dwarka district, as neighboring Uttam Nagar in West Delhi remains tense following the March 4 killing.

Police have set up over 100 pickets, with personnel stationed on rooftops and at key junctions to monitor movement in sensitive areas.

Security has been further tightened around Uttam Nagar East metro station, following directions from the Delhi High Court, to ensure preparedness amid concerns of unrest during the festival.

A senior police officer said that elaborate arrangements have been made to ensure that Eid celebrations proceed peacefully.

"We have made detailed deployment plans and are ready to respond swiftly to any situa-



tion," the officer said. According to police, additional forces have been deployed in Hastsal village, where the March 4 killing occurred, and in surrounding areas, with joint deployment of Delhi Police and central armed forces at strategic locations.

Tarun (26) died after being injured in a clash between two neighboring families in JJ Colony during Holi. The altercation,

police said, was triggered when a water balloon thrown by a girl from one family accidentally hit a woman from the other.

The incident sparked protests by some groups, during which two vehicles linked to the accused were set on fire. So far, police have arrested 14 people, including two minors, in connection with the case.

Authorities said security has

been intensified around mosques, Eidgahs, and other public gathering spots where large crowds are expected. Regular area domination exercises, including foot patrols and vehicle checks, are being carried out to maintain order. Police have intensified monitoring of social media to track and curb the spread of inflammatory content, with several objectionable posts already flagged and acted upon.

Areas with mixed populations have been designated as sensitive and are under constant surveillance. In addition to ground deployment, police teams have been stationed at elevated points in select locations to enhance monitoring.

As part of outreach efforts, flag marches have been conducted in several localities and will continue during Eid to instil confidence among residents.

ED attaches Rs 5,046-cr PACL assets in Delhi, Punjab, in money laundering case

New Delhi, (GNS): The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has attached 126 immovable properties worth Rs 5,046.91 crore in Punjab and Delhi in connection with its probe into an alleged financial fraud linked to PACL Limited.

The action was taken under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002, in a case involving a collective investment scheme that allegedly defrauded investors of over Rs 48,000 crore. The investigation stems from a 2014 CBI FIR registered following Supreme Court directions. The CBI later filed chargesheets against 33 accused, including individuals and companies.

According to the probe, the PACL and related entities mobilised funds from lakhs of investors on the pretext of sell-

ing and developing agricultural land. In most cases, land was not delivered and investor dues remained unpaid. The scheme allegedly involved multiple front entities and fraudulent documentation, including agreements and powers of attorney, to conceal the fraud.

Following the FIR, the Supreme Court in 2016 directed SEBI to set up a committee under former Chief Justice RM Lodha to liquidate PACL assets and make refunds to investors.

Subsequent investigations revealed continued illegal sale and misuse of properties, leading to additional FIRs across states. Searches uncovered incriminating materials, including blank sale deeds and signed cheque books.



Russian dance drama enchants Delhi

New Delhi, (GNS): Delhi witnessed a vibrant cultural evening as the Russian National ballet Kirov staged its Global Dance Overture last week at Kamani Theatre, celebrating cultural diversity through music, dance and elaborate costumes.

Delhi HC quashes look-out circular against NDTV founders Prannoy, Radhika Roy



New Delhi, (GNS): The Delhi High Court on Friday quashed the Look Out Circulars (LOCs) issued against former NDTV promoters Prannoy Roy and Radhika Roy in connection with two cases registered by the Central Bureau of Investigation.

Justice Sachin Datta directed that the LOCs be set aside, subject to the petitioners cooperating with the investigation. The High Court was informed that the LOCs had been issued at the instance of the CBI in relation to two FIRs dated June 2017 and August 2019. Of these, the 2017 case has since been closed by the agency, while the 2019 case remains under investigation and a chargesheet is yet to be filed.

The 2017 FIR was registered on a complaint by Sanjay Dutt, a director of M/s Quantum Security Private Limited, alleging that the Roys and their company RRRP Holdings had obtained a loan to acquire a 20 per cent stake in NDTV and, in that process, entered into a criminal conspiracy with officials of ICICI Bank. The CBI, however, subsequently filed a closure report in the case. In its report, the agency stated that ICICI Bank had reduced interest rates across 83 loan accounts during the financial years 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10, and that the reduction in the case of the Roys and NDTV was not an isolated instance. The High Court had accepted the closure report on January 23. In light of the closure of the 2017 case and the pendency of investigation in the 2019 FIR without a chargesheet, the court proceeded to set aside the LOCs, while making the relief conditional on continued cooperation by the petitioners with the investigating agency.

CM Rekha flags off 300 electric buses

New Delhi, (GNS): In a major push towards clean and modern public transport, Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Friday flagged off 300 new electric buses, launched an inter-state e-bus service between Nanaksar and Ghaziabad, and rolled out EV subsidies exceeding Rs 24 crore for over 12,000 beneficiaries.

The initiatives, launched from the Indraprastha Bus Depot, are aimed at strengthening Delhi's transition to sustainable and commuter-friendly mobility. The Chief Minister also laid the foundation stone for a new multi-storey office building of the Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) and re-launched the EV incentive portal to streamline subsidy distribution.

Addressing the gathering, Gupta said the government's focus is on building a transport system that is "clean, safe



and future-ready." She noted that the addition of zero-emission buses would help reduce pollution while improving daily commuting for residents. "We are also working towards clearing financial liabilities of previous governments, and

the DTC is steadily moving towards financial stability," she said.

Transport Minister Pankaj Kumar Singh said the rollout of new buses and services reflects the government's commitment to modernising

Delhi's transport network. "With these additions, the city's total bus fleet has crossed 6,100," he said.

The newly-inducted buses are low-floor, air-conditioned and equipped with CCTV cameras, panic buttons, real-time tracking systems and facilities for persons with disabilities. Officials said Delhi now has the largest electric bus fleet in the country, with plans to expand it further to around 14,000 buses by 2028-29.

To improve regional connectivity, a new e-bus service connecting Nanaksar in Delhi to Ghaziabad has also been introduced. Covering a distance of around 21 km, the route will link key areas, including Bhajanpura, Loni Road, Pasonda, Hindon Airport and Mohan Nagar. Initially, three buses will operate on a pilot basis, making 12 trips daily, with fares capped at Rs 53. In a significant relief

for EV buyers, the government disbursed over Rs 24 crore in subsidies to 12,877 beneficiaries through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT). Gupta said the move corrects delays under the previous system and ensures that incentives reach citizens directly and transparently. The revamped EV portal has also been reopened for new applications.

The Chief Minister highlighted broader reforms, including modernisation of bus depots, redevelopment of ISBTs, strengthening of the Pollution Under Control (PUC) system and expansion of testing infrastructure.

The upcoming DTC office, spread across 1,800 square metres, will feature modern administrative facilities and energy-efficient design. Officials said the project will enhance operational efficiency while ensuring uninterrupted services during construction.

Spring, in full bloom: Rediscover Delhi with tree-gazing walks:

New Delhi, (GNS): Did you notice the red silk cotton flowers scattered across Lutyens' Delhi, and pause to look up at the striking crimson canopy of semal trees? If you find yourself slowing down to take in these fleeting moments of nature amid the city's rush, it might be time to try tree gazing. Take an unhurried walk this weekend - solo, with a buddy, or in a group - through Delhi's springscape.

"We don't just pass by trees - we stop, observe, and notice their textures"

The trees are Delhi's living heritage. Verhaen Khanna, founder of New Delhi Nature Society and an environment activist mapping Delhi's green zones suggests stepping out to observe the floral landscape of the city. He says, "The spring is the most exciting season for tree gazing in Delhi. When



we're on a tree walk, we don't just pass by - we stop, observe, and really engage with each tree. The best way to understand a tree is to stand under it. I encourage people to interact with the tree, touch the bark, notice textures, and even look at the ground. Often the fallen flowers lead you to a tree in bloom. In spring, many trees announce themselves this way, with their flowers, fragrance and colour drawing you in before you even look up. It's about slowing down and letting the tree reveal itself, its form, its story, and its place in

the city."

The tree walk at Sanjay Van made me realise how close we are to nature, even in Delhi - from trees and birds to insects, and animals like snakes we often see as problems. In spring, you truly see how trees support the entire ecosystem.

Himangi Bhardwaj, who attended a tree walk with author Neha Sinha

"The idea is to connect with nature in deeper, personal ways' On blending poetry with a spring tree walk, moderator Aparna Sanjay says, "At the heart of this poetry and tree walk is the idea of connecting with nature in deeper, more personal ways. Through SeasonWatch's Tree Festival, we encourage people to engage with their micro-ecology and notice phenology - the seasonal changes and life cycles of trees.

Internees take staff hostage at Narela detention centre

New Delhi, (GNS): In a breach of security at Lampur Detention Centre in Narela, a group of internees allegedly took prison staff and a doctor hostage, leading to a violent confrontation with the authorities. According to an FIR registered at the Narela police station, the incident took place around 11:30 am on March 16 when a doctor on duty, accompanied by two prison officials, entered Block No. 1 to conduct routine OPD services.

During the visit, a group of internees detained inside the block allegedly held them hostage. After receiving information, Satyaveer Singh, in-charge of the detention centre, along with his staff, rushed to the spot to control the situation. However, they too were allegedly taken hostage by the internees and prevented from leaving the block, the FIR mentioned.



Despite repeated attempts at communication, the internees reportedly refused to cooperate with the prison authorities and Foreigners Regional Registration Office (FRRO) staff. Considering the safety of those trapped inside, the Police Control Room (PCR) and local police were alerted, the FIR read.

Subsequently, senior officers, including the Station House Officer (SHO) of Narela, Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) of the Narela Division, and the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), reached the detention centre.

Ggn sex assault: 4-yr-old's parents in SC for CBI/SIT probe

New Delhi, (GNS): Parents of a four-year-old sexually assaulted girl moved Supreme Court on Friday seeking a CBI or SIT probe into the incident while accusing Gurgaon police of inaction in arresting the accused - a man and his housemaid - despite the child naming them before a magistrate.

In a dramatic manner, senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi narrated the harrowing incident and the helplessness of the parents in the face of the investigating officer showing lethargy in arresting the accused, securing the CCTV footage and the area of assault within a housing society. He said, "A four-year-old girl child was sexually assaulted in Gurgaon a month ago with the help of a housemaid by the perpetrator. The child was taken to hospital. She was produced before a magistrate for recording of her statement under Protection of Children from Sexual



Offences (Pocso) Act.

"The girl recounted her ordeal

before the magistrate and pointed out the place of assault in the housing soci-

ety and named the perpetrators. An investigating officer was appointed for the case who had earlier been suspended on charges of corruption in some other case.

Rohatgi added, "The place of assault is not secured, the CCTV footage is not seized, and no arrest has been made. The parents are running from pillar to post. The matter is getting delayed and not a thing has moved for three weeks. The parents came to me yesterday and I have prepared a petition under Article 32. It requires immediate attention of the SC, and a message should go (to police to take prompt action)."

CJI Kant asked, "What is the nature of direction you are seeking?" Rohatgi said, "For a proper investigation, remove Gurgaon police and transfer the case to CBI or set up a special investigation team as nothing has happened for the last three weeks. In

Gurgaon, such shocking incidents are happening."

When the CJI asked if he had approached the HC, Rohatgi said, "No. I have come to the SC directly as a message has to go from the highest court. The SC should issue notice and seek police response as to how CCTV footage was not taken into custody and how the accused were not arrested. This incident cries for SC's attention."

The bench of CJI Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and Vipul M Pancholi said, "Punjab and Haryana HC is very proactive in such cases. They take immediate cognizance of such matters. If only you had written a letter to the HC chief justice, he would have already taken cognizance." When Rohatgi said that to approach the HC, the parents would have to go to Chandigarh from Gurgaon, the bench agreed to list the petition for hearing on Monday.