



INDIA'S LONGEST-SERVING HEAD OF AN ELECTED GOVERNMENT PM MODI SETS RECORD, COMPLETES 8,931 DAYS IN OFFICE

New Delhi(GNS): Prime Minister Narendra Modi has achieved a historic milestone in Indian politics by becoming the longest-serving head of an elected government in the country. With this, PM Modi has surpassed Pawan Kumar Chamling, who held office as Chief Minister of Sikkim for 8,930 days. He has now completed 8,931 days as head of government, combining his tenure as Chief Minister of Gujarat and as Prime Minister, thereby entering his 25th year in a leadership role. The milestone is being seen as a rare and significant achievement,

reflecting decades of uninterrupted public service and political leadership at the highest level. Over the course of his career, PM Modi has set several notable records, including being the longest-serving Chief Minister of Gujarat and the Prime Minister with the longest prior experience as a Chief Minister. He is also the first Prime Minister of India to have been born after Independence and has secured victories in three consecutive Lok Sabha elections - 2014, 2019, and 2024 - a feat that underscores his political longevity and sustained public mandate.



Narendra Modi first assumed office as Chief Minister of Gujarat on October 7, 2001, and continued in the role until May 21, 2014, leading the

state for more than 13 years before moving to national politics. He was sworn in as the 14th Prime Minister of India on May 26, 2014, becoming the first non-Congress leader to secure a full majority in the Lok Sabha. He later became the first non-Congress Prime Minister to complete two full terms in office and return for a third consecutive term. In addition to this milestone, PM Modi has crossed several other significant benchmarks this year, particularly in the digital domain. Earlier this month, he reached 30 million subscribers on his YouTube channel, strengthening his position as one of the most-followed global leaders on the platform.

With this, he currently leads among both serving and former heads of government in terms of subscriber base, remaining well ahead of other prominent international political figures. In February, PM Modi also crossed 100 million followers on Instagram, becoming the first serving world leader and politician to achieve the milestone on the platform. Since joining Instagram in 2014, his presence has steadily grown into one of the most active and widely followed accounts among global leaders, reflecting a sustained outreach strategy aimed at engaging audiences both within India and internationally.

Modi's high-level meeting on the situation in West Asia

Senior leaders including Shah, Nadda, Puri present; gas, oil, and energy situation discussed

New Delhi(GNS): Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired a high-level meeting to address the conflict situation in West Asia, sparked by the US-Israel war with Iran. The situation regarding petroleum, crude oil, gas, electricity, and fertilizers was reviewed. Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Health Minister JP Nadda, Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri, Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, Civil Aviation



Minister Ram Mohan Naidu, Railway and IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnav and other senior leaders were present in the meeting. The meeting focused on ensuring uninterrupted supply, logistics, and distribution of essential resources within the country, ensuring that the people of the country do not face any difficulties. A cargo ship carrying liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) arrived at Mangalore Port from Texas, USA. A ship carrying crude oil also arrived in India from Russia. In the past seven days, approximately five ships carrying gas and crude oil have reached India by sea.



DEVOTEES THROUGH TEMPLES ACROSS THE NATION ON THE FOURTH DAY OF CHAITRA NAVRATRI

New Delhi(GNS): Devotees lined up at temples across the country on Sunday to celebrate the fourth day of Chaitra Navratri, dedicated to the worship of Goddess Kushmanda. At New Delhi's Jhandewalan Temple, the temple priest told NEWS AGENCY, "Today marks the fourth day of Chaitra Navratri, dedicated to Maa Kushmanda. Devotees of Goddess Bhagwati (Kushmanda) have gathered here to seek her blessings. Those unable to visit the temple can worship the Goddess at home. It is all about faith and devotion." A devotee who came to offer prayers said, "I have been coming here for the past 20 years. It is by Maa Jhandewali's grace that so many devotees visit to offer prayers." Another visitor added that the arrangements in the temple were satisfactory. Delhi's Kalkaji Temple also saw worshippers arriving from early morning. A devotee said, "I come here during Navratri for all nine days. I usually visit on Saturdays,

but today is the most crowded since it is the fourth day of the festival and a Sunday." A trustee of the Kalkaji Temple told NEWS AGENCY, "All arrangements-volunteers, barricades, lighting, announcements, and CCTV-have been made by the Shri Kalkaji Mandir Parvandak Sudhaar Committee. Compared to the last time, the crowd is slightly smaller, possibly due to rain and weather conditions." In Madhya Pradesh's Dewas, a priest at Mata Tekri Temple told NEWS AGENCY, "Today is a very auspicious day as we worship Goddess Kushmanda. Whatever devotees pray for, all their wishes are granted by the Goddess on this day." He added, "Blood spots of Devi Sati fell at this place, which is why it came to be known as 'Rakt Peeth'." In Jammu and Kashmir's Katra, a large number of devotees continued to arrive at the 'Darshani Deodi' of the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine on the fourth day of Chaitra Navratri to offer prayers and seek blessings.

ECI PREPARES ALL POLLING STATIONS WITH AMFS AND VOTER ASSISTANCE FOR 2026 ELECTIONS



New Delhi(GNS): The Election Commission of India (ECI) has announced the schedule for the General Elections to the Legislative Assemblies of Assam, Kerala, Puducherry, Tamil Nadu, and West Bengal, along with bye-elections in six states, on March 15, 2026. In preparation, the Commission has directed the Chief Electoral Officers (CEOs) of the respective States and Union Territories to ensure that all 2,18,807 polling stations are equipped with Assured Minimum Facilities (AMFs) and voter assistance on polling day. The AMFs include drinking water, waiting areas with shade, toilets with water facilities, adequate lighting, ramps with proper gradients for persons with disabilities (PwD), standard voting compartments, and clear signage. In addition, benches will be placed at regular intervals along the queue to allow voters to sit while waiting for their turn. To enhance voter awareness, four standardized Voter Facilitation Posters (VFPs) will be prominently displayed at every polling station.

Ships carrying LPG from the US and crude oil from Russia arrive in India: Five ships carrying gas and crude oil have arrived in India

All 22 ships in the Persian Gulf are safe.
New Delhi(GNS): A cargo ship carrying liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) from Texas, USA, arrived at Mangalore Port on Sunday. Another ship carrying crude oil from Russia arrived in India. In the past seven days, approximately five ships carrying gas and crude oil have arrived in India by sea. Previously, on March 18, the crude oil tanker "Jag Ladki" arrived at Adani Ports in Gujarat. Two other LPG carriers, MT Shivalik and MT Nanda Devi, carrying approximately 92,712 metric tons of gas, arrived in India on March 16 and 17. However, all three ships transited via the Strait of Hormuz. Around 22 Indian ships are still stranded in the Persian Gulf. However, all of them are safe. The Strait of Hormuz in the Persian Gulf is one of the world's most important shipping routes. Approximately 20% of the world's oil supply flows through it.



CJI said: AI should help strengthen the judiciary

Handle data-records, identify patterns but should not interfere in the work of delivering judgments. Handle data-records, identify patterns but should not interfere in the work of delivering judgments.
New Delhi(GNS): attended the Supreme Court Bar Association's National Convention-2026 in Bengaluru, where a seminar was held on 'Artificial Intelligence - Prevention and Resolution of Disputes'. Important points of CJI's statement on AI... While delivering verdicts, judges should rely on their reasoning, experience and analytical ability. AI should only serve as a tool, a means, while the direction should always be determined by human intelligence. The Chief Justice

Top 10 temples have assets worth 9 lakh crore Tirupati Balaji is the world's third richest shrine Padmanabhaswamy Temple has the most treasure

New Delhi(GNS): India's top 10 richest temples have assets worth over 9 lakh crore. According to the Global Wealth Index 2026, the Tirupati Balaji Temple is the third richest religious site in the world, with movable and immovable assets worth 3.38 lakh crore. According to data from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank, the Tirupati Temple's total wealth exceeds the GDP of 100 small countries, including Cyprus, Iceland, and Estonia. The temple receives donations on average between 1 crore and 5 crore on both regular and special occasions. This year, on March 17th, dona-



tions totaled 4.88 crore on a single day. Similarly, the Padmanabhaswamy Temple in Kerala is the richest in ancient treasures. 99% of its wealth is in the form of "ancient treasures," including gold statues, coins, and diamonds. Its market value today is over 2 lakh crore. It is protected by

the government and the Supreme Court. Tirupati property rises 35% in 2 years. The total wealth of the top three religious places has increased significantly since March 2024. However, gold is the primary reason for this. At that time, gold was around 65,000 per 10 grams. Today, it is 1.50 lakh. Thus, the Tirupati Temple's wealth has increased by 35% in these two years, the Padmanabhaswamy Temple's by 100%, and the Jagannath Puri Temple's by nearly 50%. However, cash donations to these temples have increased by only 10 to 12%.

Raut said: Modi ji, pack up your bags and leave. You are incapable of running the country

The rupee is falling, and the PM is busy campaigning
New Delhi(GNS): Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Sanjay Raut said on Sunday that PM Modi is no longer capable of leading the country. The rupee is continuously falling, there is war today, but there was no war yesterday. The rupee began to fall right after PM Modi became Prime Minister. The PM is still busy campaigning and doesn't care about the rupee. I have only one thing to say to him: "Modi ji, now pack up your bags and leave." At a press conference in Delhi, the Shiv Sena MP said, "Look at the state of the rupee now. It's just about to hit a century. This time, cross 100. Tell me, where is Modi? He's in West Bengal, preparing to impose President's Rule to defeat Mamata Banerjee." Modi and Shah are trying to "play games" in West Bengal, and the value of the rupee is falling. Modi said that when the value of the rupee falls, the country's respect also declines. What is falling now? A day earlier, Rahul had said - this is a sign of coming inflation. Congress MP Rahul Gandhi targeted the central government over the fall of rupee against the dollar and the increase in the price of industrial fuel. Rahul wrote in the X post, "The rupee weakening against the dollar and moving towards 100 and the sharp increase in the prices of industrial fuel, these are not just figures, but clear signs of the coming inflation."

History and significance of the three Martyrs' Days of India dedicated to remembering the brave sons, freedom fighters and revolutionaries

Kantilal Mandot

Martyrs' Day is celebrated across the country every year on March 23rd. This day is dedicated to remembering the brave sons, freedom fighters, and revolutionaries who sacrificed their lives for India's independence. Martyrs' Day is celebrated not only in memory of Bhagat Singh, Rajguru, and Sukhdev, but also in honor of all those brave men who, through their sacrifices, paved the way for our country's independence. This day reminds us of their valor, courage, and sacrifice and awakens the spirit of patriotism in every heart. The history of Martyrs' Day is deeply inter-

twined with India's arduous struggle for independence. The British ruled India for nearly two hundred years and controlled the lives of its citizens. However, when India's sons raised their voices for independence, they unleashed a wave of rebellion against British rule. This rebellion wasn't limited to a select few; people from every class and every home jumped into the freedom struggle. During this period, young revolutionaries like Bhagat Singh, Rajguru, and Sukhdev raised their voices against British rule and spread the flames of revolution throughout the country.

In 1928, Bhagat Singh and his comrades assassinated the British

police officer responsible for the lathi-charged death of Lala Lajpat Rai. This incident became a topic of discussion across the country and energized the freedom movement. Subsequently, in 1929, Bhagat Singh and his comrades threw a bomb in the Central Assembly, raising the slogan "Inquilab Zindabad!" Their intention was not to harm anyone, but to awaken the public against British rule. Even in court, they conveyed a message of patriotism, spreading the message of their bravery and courage throughout India.

March 23, 1931, became an immortal saga in Indian history when the British government

hanged Bhagat Singh, Rajguru, and Sukhdev in Lahore Jail. Bhagat Singh was only 23 years old at the time, but his courage and determination were unmatched by any great leader. His sacrifice shook the entire nation and gave a new direction to the freedom movement. This day teaches us that freedom is achieved not only through collective effort, but also through individual courage and dedication.

The second Martyrs' Day in India is celebrated on January 30th, commemorating the martyrdom of Mahatma Gandhi, the Father of the Nation. Gandhi was assassinated on this day in 1948 at Birla Bhavan in New Delhi. Following the path of

truth and non-violence, Gandhi played a crucial role in India's independence. He proved that a major battle can be won without taking up arms. His life was a symbol of sacrifice, simplicity, and morality.

The significance of January 30th extends beyond remembering a great leader; it also provides an opportunity for introspection. On this day, a two-minute silence is observed across the country to pay tribute to Gandhiji. This day compels us to reflect on whether we are following the principles of truth, non-violence, and honesty in our lives. Gandhiji's ideas are as relevant today as they were during the freedom struggle.

Editorial

Renewal vs change: on the poll scene in Tamil Nadu

In a country where the Hindutva right wing has held not just an ascendant but a hegemonic position across States, Tamil Nadu remains one of the striking exceptions. It is probably the only State where the BJP is a marginal player despite a favourable religious demographic that has helped its politics elsewhere. This owes much to the political idiom of social justice and Tamil identity that has limited political competition to the two Dravidian parties for decades, with national forces reduced to junior partners. The Dravidian-dominated party system has been sustained due to these parties' capability to combine welfare with development, even as competitive welfarism has entrenched caste-based patronage networks and corruption that drives political variables. As he seeks re-election for the DMK, Chief Minister M.K. Stalin will bank on the idea that his party's "Dravidian Model" has been beneficial. In the last five years, Tamil Nadu has managed impressive GSDP growth rates — the country's highest (11.19%) among major States in 2024-25 — and become an industrial powerhouse. The DMK will also seek to capitalise on the popularity of its welfare measures, especially the cash transfer to poor women scheme. Yet, beneath this macro picture lie issues that the Opposition will harp on: corruption at various levels of governance has fuelled discontent beyond sections that have not benefited from welfare.

Former Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami, now the undisputed leader of the AIADMK after years of factional intrigue following the death of J. Jayalalithaa, leads the Opposition charge in alliance with the BJP and the PMK alongside others. The alliance does not bill itself as an ideological coalition unlike the DMK-led alliance, and also carries internal contradictions such as incorporating the AIADMK-breakaway, the AMMK. But its strategy is to let the concentrated votes of the PMK (in the north), the BJP (in the south and western belt) and the AMMK (pockets in the delta and southern regions) accrue to itself. Mr. Palaniswami must also manage the BJP's ambition to expand its share among contested seats lest the party eat into the AIADMK's base.



Bhagat Singh was a great revolutionary of the Indian freedom struggle, a symbol of unparalleled courage and unwavering patriotism. He lived only 23 years, but the deeds he accomplished at this young age will continue to inspire his countrymen for centuries. Bhagat Singh was born on September 28, 1907, in Banga village, Lyallpur district, Punjab (now in Pakistan). His father's name was Sardar Kishan Singh and his mother's name was Vidyavati. His family was steeped in patriotism, which fostered a sense of patriotism in him from childhood.



Sardar Bhagat Singh, the spring energy of the Indian freedom struggle

Surendra Sharma

Bhagat Singh's uncles, Ajit Singh and Swaran Singh, were also involved in the freedom movement. This led Bhagat Singh to understand the atrocities of the British from a young age. The Jallianwala Bagh massacre of 1919 had a profound impact on his life. After this incident, he resolved to dedicate his life to liberating the country. Bhagat Singh received his early education in Lahore. He was a bright student and had a special interest in history and politics. He also participated in the Non-Cooperation Movement led by Mahatma Gandhi, but when the movement was withdrawn after the Chauri Chaura incident in 1922, he was disappointed and decided to adopt a revolutionary path. Bhagat Singh worked with several revolutionary organizations. He was a prominent member of the Hindustan Socialist Republican Association. His aim was not only to drive the British out of India but also to establish a socialist and just society.

In 1928, when the British government sent the Simon Commission to India, protests erupted across the country. During this protest, Lala Lajpat Rai was lathi-charged on the orders of British police officer James A. Scott, resulting in his death. To avenge this incident, Bhagat Singh and his comrades assassinated police officer John Saunders.

Bhagat Singh, along with his companion Batukeshwar Dutt, then threw a bomb at the Central Assembly in Delhi on April 8, 1929. Their aim was not to kill anyone, but to send a message to the

British that Indians would no longer remain silent. After throwing the bomb, they shouted "Inquilab Zindabad" and got themselves arrested.

While in prison, Bhagat Singh went on a hunger strike to defend prisoners' rights. He demanded that Indian prisoners be treated the same as British prisoners. His strike lasted for several days, and voices of support arose across the country.

The friendship of Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev, and Rajguru is considered one of the most inspiring and historic friendships of the Indian freedom struggle. This friendship was not merely a personal one, but a shared goal (national independence). The three met during revolutionary activities. They were all active members of the Hindustan Socialist Republican Association. While working in the organization, their ideas, objectives, and patriotic spirit became deeply connected. Gradually, this relationship blossomed into a true friendship.

All three young men believed that peaceful means alone would not drive the British out of India. They saw a revolutionary path as essential. Their passion for greater things for their country, their rebellion against injustice, and their intense desire for freedom—all these strengthened their friendship.

Bhagat Singh was a man of ideas, a writer and a visionary leader, while Sukhdev was an organizer and a revolutionary with a strategic mind, whereas Rajguru was a courageous and fearless warrior.

The three men's distinct personalities complement-

ed each other. Following the death of Lala Lajpat Rai in 1928, the three of them hatched a plan to avenge the assassination of British officer John Saunders. This incident is a prime example of their friendship and solidarity, where they jointly accomplished a significant mission.

The strongest aspect of their friendship was unwavering trust. They never abandoned each other. Even when they were arrested, they never made any statements against their comrades. They cheerfully accepted death penalty for their cause. On March 23, 1931, all three were hanged together. This day is celebrated today as "Martyrs' Day." Their martyrdom proved that their friendship was not limited to life, but remained unbroken until death. The friendship of Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev, and Rajguru continues to inspire youth even today.

Bhagat Singh's court statement is considered crucial in the history of the Indian independence movement. He delivered it in court in 1929, after throwing a bomb at the Central Assembly in Delhi. In this statement, he clarified the reasoning, purpose, and revolutionary ideology behind his actions.

Bhagat Singh and his companion Batukeshwar Dutt said in court: "We threw the bomb, but our intention was not to kill anyone. We only wanted to make the deaf government listen."

He clarified that the bomb was deliberately thrown in a place where no one would be killed. His intention was not to spread violence, but to raise his voice against the atrocities

of British rule.

Bhagat Singh explained the meaning of the slogan "Inquilab Zindabad" in the court and said that it does not only mean change of power but also the elimination of injustice, exploitation and inequality in the society.

He said: "By revolution we do not mean bloodshed, but rather a complete change in the present system of society."

According to him, the aim of the revolution was to create a just and equality based society.

Bhagat Singh strongly criticized the British government in court, stating that British rule was exploiting Indians and suppressing the rights of the people.

He said that he could have fled, but he deliberately surrendered so that he could use the court as a platform to convey his views to the entire country.

Bhagat Singh's statement was not just a legal defense, but it was also a message to the youth to raise their voice against injustice and remain dedicated to the country.

Bhagat Singh's statement sparked a new awakening across the country. His ideas spread rapidly, and he became a role model for the youth. The court's platform became a medium for him to convey his revolutionary ideology to the public. The relationship between Bhagat Singh and Bhagwati Charan Bohra symbolizes deep friendship, ideological unity, and revolutionary cooperation in the Indian independence struggle.

Together, they not only fought against British rule but also shaped an organized revolutionary movement.

Did India suffer a loss of Rs 15 to 20 lakh crore in the Iran, US-Israel war?

Sanat Jain

The war is ongoing between the United States, Israel, and Iran. However, its significant impact on India has already begun. According to economic experts, India is expected to suffer a loss of 15 to 20 lakh crore rupees. Concerns are growing at both political and economic levels about how the Indian government will manage its economy. Global crude oil prices have begun to rise rapidly. Before the war began, crude oil prices were \$65 per barrel, which have now risen to \$100 to \$120 per barrel. Similarly, the rupee, which was hovering between 91 and 92 against the dollar, has crossed 93. There are talks of it soon reaching 100. India imports approximately 85%

of its oil and gas. The impact of rising crude oil and gas prices will be greater in India than in other countries due to the dollar and transportation costs. The rise in oil prices and the fall in the rupee's value against the dollar will result in an additional loss of approximately 60,000 crore rupees for India. Whenever crude oil prices rise, the rupee depreciates against the dollar. This impacts the prices of electronics, machinery, medicines, chemicals, and fertilizers. The government is forced to import fertilizers at higher prices. Subsidies and price increases will increase the cost of all commodities in the country. Government expenditure is expected to increase by 4 to 5 lakh crore rupees due to rising inflation. India will be the most

affected by this war. India's export business will be affected by the rising dollar rate. Exports of rice, spices, textiles, meat, fruits, vegetables, and seafood from India to other countries may decline. If exports decline by 2 to 5 percent, the Indian economy is estimated to suffer a loss of at least 90 thousand crore rupees and a maximum of 2 lakh crore rupees. Rising inflation in India will reduce the purchasing power of ordinary people, and the cost of all commodities will increase due to increased transportation costs, which is bound to impact GDP. Economic experts predict a GDP decline of 0.5 to 2 percent. This will prove to be a huge setback for India. Economic experts are predicting a loss of between Rs 1 lakh crore and Rs 4 lakh crore due

to the decline in GDP. Economic experts believe that the way the Iran, US-Israel war is directly and indirectly affecting India, India's economy is bound to face an economic pressure of more than Rs 15 to 20 lakh crore. This war has shaken countries all over the world. This war, the oil and energy crisis is affecting countries around the world. This is why the war is affecting India the most. India had reduced oil and natural gas imports from Russia and Iran. Under US pressure, it left Iran in 2019. It also reduced oil imports from Russia in 2025. India currently pays 100% of its oil and natural gas imports in dollars. When oil and natural gas were imported from Iran, payments were made in Indian rupees. Iran, in turn, purchased food and other essential goods from India

using rupees. Now, the situation has completely changed. Under pressure from the US and Israel, India's trade with Iran has ceased. India's oil and gas imports are taking two to three months to process. Transportation and insurance costs are four times higher. India is also having to invest more capital. Economic experts are considering these circumstances. This war is indirectly having a significant economic impact on India. The Indian government will have to consider this challenge very seriously. The government will need to fight a new battle to control the cost of alternative energy sources, import crude oil and gas at low prices, and coordinate the economic situation. As inflation rises, unemployment will increase, causing problems for the general public.

Delhi CM meets PM Modi, discusses national capital's development

New Delhi, (GNS): Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta met Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday and discussed the national capital's all-around development.

"I had the privilege of a heartfelt meeting with the Honourable Prime Minister Narendra Modi during which I received his invaluable guidance. His visionary leadership



and special affection for Delhi always fill us with fresh energy and inspiration," Gupta said in a post on X.

The BJP leader said that during the meeting, detailed discussions on Delhi's all-around development were held, including strengthening infrastructure, and commitment to

fulfilling the people's aspirations.

"With the able guidance and continuous support of the prime minister, we are fully committed to taking Delhi to new heights of progress, prosperity, and good governance," she added.

Gupta also thanked the prime minister for his constant inspiration and for giving his valuable time.

Delhi tunes into sur and sangeet under the stars



New Delhi, (GNS): For over two decades, SPIC MACAY has been taking Indian classical music beyond conventional auditoriums and into public spaces through its community outreach initiatives across the country. One of its most popular initiatives, the Music in the Park series, is part of this larger vision.

This year marks the 22nd year of the Music in the Park series at Nehru Park, and the season featured performances by renowned artists including Rakesh Chaurasia, Ulhas Kashalkar, Sanjay Subrahmanyam and N. Rajam. The concerts were well received by music lovers, reaffirming the

enduring appeal of classical music presented in open, accessible public spaces and continuing the legacy of bringing classical music closer to the public. The edition was hosted in collaboration with NDMC.

Launched in September 2004 in Delhi, the series was conceived to celebrate India's composite cultural heritage while also creating awareness about the importance of a peaceful and clean environment. By bringing classical music to open public spaces, the initiative aimed to make the art form more accessible and encourage people to experience music in a relaxed, community setting.

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

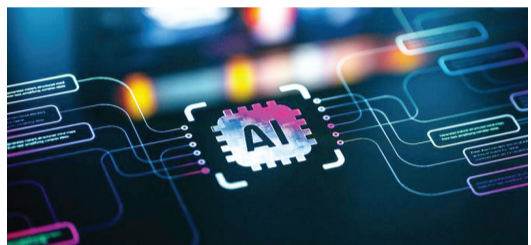
New Delhi, (GNS): Students of Delhi University's School of Open Learning (SOL) on Friday held a protest outside the venue of a job mela, organised by DU, alleging discriminatory treatment after an internal circular categorically barred them from participating in it.

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.

Signalling the '6G' era: IIT-Delhi bags patent for smart radio system



New Delhi, (GNS): In a significant step towards future-ready communication, the Indraprastha Institute of Information Technology (IIIT), New Delhi, secured a patent for its cutting-edge smart radio system, designed to transform wireless connectivity in complex environments.

The patented innovation introduces an advanced Reconfigurable Intelligent Surfaces (RIS) framework that enables flexible beamforming and ensures seamless connectivity, even in non line of sight conditions where traditional networks often struggle. What makes the development stand out is its real-world readiness. The working of the system has already been presented at the Indian Mobile Congress-2024, showcasing how RIS-enabled communication can move beyond theory into practical deployment.

Professor Vivek Ashok Bohara said, "The patent is a reflection of our strong commitment to advance research in next-generation wireless technologies. Since the world is moving towards 6G and beyond, such innovations will prove to be highly crucial in adapting to intelligent and flexible communication environments."

With industries progressing toward 6G and smart digital ecosystems, the milestone places the institute at the forefront of innovation, reinforcing its role as a hub for advanced research in intelligent radio systems. With this patent, IIIT Delhi not only strengthens India's position in global telecom research but also signals a future where connectivity is smarter, faster and more adaptive than before.

MCD likely to hold town vending panel elections by July

New Delhi, (GNS): Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) is aiming to conduct elections for town vending committees (TVC) by July, a key step towards creating designated vending zones across the city. Officials said the civic body has completed the re-survey of pending street vendors in its jurisdiction and is in the process of issuing certificates of vending (CoV). In Phase I, 62,333 certificates were issued till Dec 31, 2021. However, as not all vendors were covered, Delhi govt directed a re-survey. In the second phase, around 22,000 additional vendors have been identified.

"We expect to conduct the elections within four months. The town vending committees will identify vending zones, regulate street vendors, assign legal vending spaces, and balance vendors' rights with pedestrian movement and public safety," an official said. According to MCD, around 27 committees will be formed across the city. Each committee will have 12 vendor representatives, while the remaining members will include experts, representatives of RWAs, market associations and voluntary organisations.

Only vendors holding valid CoVs will be eligible to vote in the elections, for which MCD will prepare voter lists. The civic body has 250 wards across 12 zones, and as per norms, at least one committee is to be formed for every eight wards in each zone.

The committees will also have the authority to relocate vendors from congestion-prone areas, create designated vending and no-vending zones, and address issues such as traffic disruption.

West Asia conflict: Govt hikes commercial LPG quota, relief for eateries

New Delhi, (GNS): In a move aimed at benefiting the food and hospitality industry, govt on Saturday announced a 20% additional quota of commercial LPG cylinders, taking the overall allocation to 50% of pre-conflict levels.

The ministry of petroleum and natural gas said the additional allocation will be prioritised for restaurants, dhabas, hotels, industrial canteens, food processing and dairy units, subsidised canteens and outlets run by state govts and local bodies, and community kitchens. It will also strengthen the distribution of 5kg portable cylinders for migrant workers. The allocation will be available from Monday.

Govt said entities availing commercial LPG cylinders will have to register with oil marketing companies, detailing end use of the gas, and must also register for piped gas connections to be eligible for the additional allocation.

Hotel associations have



estimated that nearly 30% of hotels and restaurants had to shut due to the shortage of LPG supplies, while many others reduced operating hours, cut down menus and restricted kitchen activity to conserve available stocks.

Though govt maintained on Saturday that LPG supply remained a matter of concern amid geopolitical conditions, the decision to increase commercial allocation suggests the overall situation may have improved slightly. Till Thursday, 13,700 new piped gas connections had been issued over nearly a fortnight, while more than 7,300 consumers shifted from LPG to

PNG since the beginning of the week. Following supply disruptions due to the military conflict in West Asia, govt had initially halted the sale of commercial cylinders and prioritised domestic LPG, besides ensuring supplies to hospitals and educational institutions. It later allowed 20% of the average monthly requirement for commercial and industrial users, leaving it to states to decide distribution priorities. On March 18, the ministry issued another order allowing an additional 10% allocation to states, subject to reforms and faster expansion of PNG infrastructure. Over 20 states and UTs have since issued

orders to allocate non-domestic LPG in line with the guidelines.

India imports nearly half of its LPG requirement, with about 90% sourced from West Asia. Apart from a deal with the US, it is also tapping countries such as Russia, Japan and Norway for supplies.

In a letter to chief secretaries of states and UTs, petroleum secretary Neeraj Mittal said all commercial and industrial LPG consumers must register with oil marketing companies to be eligible for allocation from the overall 50% quota. "OMCs shall register such customers and keep a record of the sector they operate in, the end-use of LPG and the annual weight requirement... of that customer in the respective database(s)," Mittal said.

AIIMS-Delhi old OPD canteen trims menu amid gas cylinder crisis

New Delhi, (GNS): For two weeks now, old OPD canteen at the country's largest Central Government tertiary hospital, AIIMS, New Delhi, has been battling an acute commercial LPG supply crunch amid the West Asia crisis. Though the canteen manager wrote to Indian Oil Corporation for LPG supplies with due recommendations from AIIMS officials, the facility has not been getting its pre-warmtime supply of four cylinders a day.

The facility, widely known as old OPD canteen, is run privately by JS Hospitality. The government has prioritised hospitals for commercial LPG supplies, but the canteen has not received its regular LPG supply for a week now.

During a visit to the canteen, which serves around 500-600 people daily, includ-



ing patients, attendants and hospital staff, manager Puran Shah said the canteen doesn't have an LNG pipeline. It is dependent on commercial cylinders for cooking. The canteen needs four cylinders daily to meet cooking needs.

"There was no LPG supply last week, affecting operations severely," Shah said. The canteen has a commercial connection from Indian Oil distributor, Guruji Indian Gas Service,

in Mundka. Shah said they tried to contact delivery person, but to no avail.

To continue operations, the canteen earlier procured cylinders through informal channels at inflated prices ranging between Rs 3,000 and Rs 5,000 per refill. Now even this channel is closed as there are no cylinders, says Shah.

The canteen has now shifted to alternative cooking methods such as induction cooktops and electric kettles and cylinders sourced from some other facilities at AIIMS.

The canteen has also trimmed its menu. It has temporarily removed certain items, including sambar vada and samosas, from the menu.

During the visit, empty LPG cylinders were found stacked in the canteen's backyard, indicating the extent of the supply disruption.

Budget: Traders ask for conversion of industrial areas in city to freehold

New Delhi, (GNS): Trader associations have written to chief minister Rekha Gupta with 11 suggestions to be incorporated in the upcoming Delhi budget, which may be tabled on March 24.

Among the major demands is the conversion of industrial areas such as Bawana, Bhorgarh, Jehilmil, and Badli from leasehold to freehold. Traders have also sought rationalisation of circle rates to better align them with market realities and reduce transaction-related challenges.

"Keeping in mind the problems of market associations and factory owners across 56 industrial areas, we have sent a demand letter to CM Rekha Gupta. There are discrepancies in circle rates at several places which should be rectified.



Minimum wages in Delhi are much higher than neighbouring states, making it difficult to find labour," said Brijesh Goyal, chairman of the Chamber of Trade and Industry.

Members also highlighted that electricity rates in Delhi's industrial areas should be rationalised. They further demanded a separate warehouse policy for better management and maintenance of warehouses.

Inside Delhi Metro's only museum at Supreme Court station

A journey showing how city keeps moving

New Delhi, (GNS): Amid the rush of commuters and the rumble of arriving trains, commuters are taken on a different journey at the Supreme Court Metro Station, offering a peek at how Delhi Metro keeps the city moving. Tucked inside the metro station, the city's lone metro museum traces the over-two-decade long journey of Delhi Metro through tunnels, trains and engineering challenges. Spread over 12,000 sq ft in its first phase, the space doubles as an educational and recreational hub.

The main draw is a full-scale train simulator that recreates a metro driver's



cabin, allowing visitors to experience what it feels like to operate a train. Another highlight is a working model of a running train, detailing underground and elevated sections, including bridges and viaducts.

Twelve-year-old Anushka Sud, who recently visited the museum, said the experience made her rethink what goes into building such a vast system. "It felt like I was actually driving a train beneath the city, with tunnels and bridges

coming alive before me. The simulator made the experience thrilling, and the models helped me understand how everything works."

Other highlights include a Digital Augmented Reality display, an interactive touch-screen route map, an interactive video screen, touch-screen quizzes about metro construction and a mock metro tunnel of 28x12 ft to provide an educational playground for students.

"Working models of Tunnel Boring Machines (TBMs) and Launching Girders give a hands-on look at how the city's underground and elevated tracks were built. In real life, these "mechanical moles" weigh over 400 tonnes and

can dig through solid rock," said a DMRC official.

A section of the museum documents how Delhi Metro's Phase I was completed nearly three years ahead of schedule, a rare achievement in large infrastructure projects worldwide. Another gallery honours E Sreedharan, the project's chief architect.

Since its opening on Dec 17 last year, the museum has attracted around 15,000 visitors (data till Feb 10, 2026). The museum has higher footfalls at weekends, with a surge of 2.5% to 3%, than on other days. "For just Rs 10, any visitor can now journey through the past, present and future of the Delhi Metro," said the official.

Delhi Approves Payment of 3,700 Cr Dues for Peripheral Expressways

New Delhi, (GNS): In a move aimed at easing traffic congestion and improving air quality, the Delhi cabinet has approved payment of the govt's pending share for the Eastern and Western Peripheral Expressways. "The project suffered due to the previous govt's lack of urgency and its political differences with the Centre. There were deliberate delays in clearing dues, which ultimately worked against Delhi's interests," said chief minister Rekha Gupta.

The cabinet cleared a proposal by the Public Works Department to release the outstanding amount in a phased manner. As part of the plan, Rs 500 crore will be released in the financial year 2025-26 from revised budget estimates to the Union govt or the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI). The remaining Rs



3,203.3 crore will be paid in instalments in subsequent years, subject to budgetary provisions.

The Eastern Peripheral Expressway (EPE) and Western Peripheral Expressway (WPE) together form a 270-km 'smart ring road' around Delhi. Each is about 135 km long with six lanes, designed to divert heavy and

commercial vehicles that do not need to enter the city. Officials said this has reduced pressure on Delhi's roads, limited the entry of diesel vehicles and contributed to lower pollution levels.

The expressways have also eased congestion on key corridors such as Ring Road, Outer Ring Road and national highways

including NH-44 and NH-48, leading to time and fuel savings for commuters. They connect major hubs in Haryana - Kundli, Manesar and Palwal - and Uttar Pradesh - Ghaziabad, Gautam Buddh Nagar and Baghpat - making them critical to logistics and trade in north India.

Operational since 2018, the EPE and WPE are considered India's first 'smart and green' expressways, with features such as solar power generation and drip irrigation for roadside plantations. "The decision will resolve long-pending inter-governmental financial issues and improve coordination with the Centre on future infrastructure projects," Gupta said, adding that the expressways have helped cut travel time and improve air quality by keeping heavy vehicles out of the capital.

Reimagining prisons via stories of 'second chances'



New Delhi, (GNS): On Saturday not far from Parliament, the Dr Ambedkar International Centre at Janpath became the space for, "Reimagining Prisons", bringing alive stories and voices that seek to question and reframe how both the jail and the jailed are seen. Narrations of rejection, change and second chances and the constant battle with stigma were shared by former undertrials and convicts who recounted their journeys in TEDx style talks and 'human library' sessions at a day-long programme - "India Prison Voices" organised by TYCIA Foundation

(Turn Your Concern Into Action) as part of their 'Project Second Chance'.

Senior officials from prisons joined in sharing best practices from their states - gender education in prison schools in Uttarakhand to the incarcerated running restaurants in Maharashtra's open prisons and cooperatives for livelihood in UP. The sprawling atrium of the venue resonated with one key question - "What does a prison hold beyond its wall?" The answer came in the form of an array of storyboards of the reformed, many of them having spent years in jail charged with the most heinous of crimes.

Delhi Police busts gang logistics hub, seize arms, cash and bulletproof SUV

New Delhi, (GNS): In a major crackdown on the supporting infrastructure of organised gangs in Delhi's outskirts, police have dismantled a significant logistical and financial nerve centre of the crime syndicates functioning around Tajpur Kalan, Alipur and other neighbouring areas.

The week-long operation, carried out between March 14 and March 21, was conducted in two phases under the supervision of special commissioner (Law & Order) Ravindra Singh Yadav. Seven alleged operatives were arrested, and cash worth several lakhs, illegal arms and ammunition, a bulletproof vehicle and mobile phones were seized. Police also attached properties valued at several crores of rupees. The most significant breakthrough occurred in Tajpur Kalan, the ancestral stronghold of the late Sunil Tajpuria, where a raiding team from Alipur police station intercepted a history-sheeter and active Tiltu gang member, Pardeep alias Schwag. The seizure from Pardeep's premises reveals a criminal enterprise that has evolved far beyond simple street violence. Recovered from the site was a black Mahindra Scorpio (DL8CAY93xx) modified with sophisticated bulletproof shielding - a clear indication that gang members are bracing for the high-intensity "tit-for-tat" retaliations typical of the Gogi-Tiltu rivalry.

Beyond physical armour, the gang's financial machinery was laid bare. Police seized nearly Rs 20 lakh in cash, nearly two kilograms of gold and silver, 13 expensive wristwatches, and two laptops used specifically for managing large-scale betting operations. With 27 mobile phones recovered, investigators believe this cell acted as a clearing house for "protection money" and gambling debts, which are the primary funding sources for the gang's procurement of high-end weaponry.

The seizure of seven keypad phones during the crackdown was an indication that, to dodge police surveillance, "low-tech" remained a preferred tool for gangs. Unlike smartphones, these devices lack GPS tracking, complex operating systems, and integrated cloud accounts, making them harder for authorities to monitor.

The profile of the arrested individuals confirms a strategic recruitment pattern. Pardeep, the mastermind with seven previous criminal involvements, including robbery and rioting, utilised "muscle" from outside Delhi to insulate local operations. Associates Vikash Sindhu and Sahil, both from Karnal, Haryana, served as the primary enforcers. Their role was to utilise the seized firearms to threaten and recover betting proceeds from debtors.

Delhi's Uttam Nagar shares Eid wishes & sevaiyan across barricades; residents shower rose petals on security personnel

New Delhi, (GNS): At first light on Eid morning, Uttam Nagar had an unusual stillness. Barricades cut across lanes, police and paramilitary personnel stood at every entry point, and access was tightly controlled.

By 6.30am, the Eidgah filled with worshippers. Prayers were offered under tight security, reflecting both the caution and calm after recent tension following the lynching of 26-year-old Tarun Butolia on Holi. Drones circled overhead and in surrounding areas.

As namaz concluded and the devout streamed out, a spontaneous gesture broke the tension briefly. They showered rose petals on Delhi Police personnel and paramilitary forces, thanking them profusely for ensuring safety in the neighbourhood. That



included identity checks at barricades and a complete ban on entry of outsiders.

Across several barricaded points, families passed boxes of sweets, packets of food, and greetings to relatives they could not meet.

Inside homes, the familiar rhythm of Eid slowly returned - sevaiyan was cooked in kitchens, doors were left ajar for neighbours.

Essence of festival unchanged, say Uttam Nagar

locals For many, the heavy security presence had initially caused unease. Farhan (24), who runs a salon in B Block and had come to offer prayers at the Eidgah, said, "Initially, all of us had security concerns. But from that day until Eid, security has only been stepped up. We offered prayers peacefully. Our elders advised us to stay calm and not get influenced, especially by social media. There was so much hate circulating that we even

thought of opting out. But on the ground, Delhi Police supported us."

Alongside police and paramilitary, members of the community played a visible role in ensuring order. Mohammad Suhail, in his 20s, said: "We were instructed to help the large number of people coming for prayers."

Between the Eidgah and the Badi Masjid, tight ropes and steel barricades channelled hundreds of devotees into a narrow corridor. The path led directly past the partially demolished house of the lynching accused, where a scarred structure still stood amid the debris. Many worshippers slowed their pace to stare at the site before CRPF officers signalled for the line to keep moving.

Govind, who has lived in C Block for years and runs a

shop in the area, said the essence of the festival remained unchanged. "Nothing is different this Eid except for the increased security. Like every year, we will visit our neighbours. The problem since the incident has been caused by outsiders. People here have always shared mutual respect," he said. Police remained vigilant and quickly removed a small group of protesters who had gathered near the metro station and started sloganeering. Around 95 people were detained. At Reyzay Sweet Corner near Badi Masjid, 38-year-old Mohammad Reyzay scanned the crowd while his five-year-old son greeted customers. Business, he said, had taken a hit. With the restrictions, footfall was lower than usual. "There have been no issues among people.

Road connecting Gurugram's Sector 85 to eway reopened

New Delhi, (GNS): Residents of Sector 85, Gurugram, have received long-pending relief with the opening of the 24 metre sector road that connects the neighborhood to the multi-utility corridor and Dwarka Expressway. The absence of a connecting road, forced thousands of families to rely on narrow, congested internal routes for daily travel. Industry and Commerce Minister, Rao Narbir Singh, inaugurated the re-opening of the 24-meter road at Godrej Air Society on Saturday.

The issue had remained unresolved for years until it was taken up in the District Public Grievance & Redressal Committee meeting chaired by the Chief Minister of Haryana Nayab Singh Saini. A breakthrough came when Godrej Properties purchased the private land parcel that had blocked the continuity of the road, with an intent to clear the obstruction and have the 24 metre road link opened for public use.



Minister Narbir Singh expressed, "I would like to express my gratitude to all the Haryana government officials and to Godrej Properties, who demonstrated promptness in resolving this issue and thanks to their tireless efforts that this long pending access issue has finally been opened."

Ajay Kumar, Deputy Commissioner, Gurugram said, "This issue was brought forward through the grievance committee, under the guidance of the CM and with the collective efforts of the team, a solution was found. I would like to thank

Godrej Properties, the local farmers, and everyone who contributed to resolving this issue."

Geetika Trehan, CEO - North Zone, Godrej Properties, said: "This government and administration-led initiative addresses a long-standing access challenge in Sector 85. Godrej Properties is pleased to have supported its execution. The new 24-metre road significantly improves connectivity, and enhances everyday safety and convenience for residents. With the road now functional, more than 7000 residents will benefit from direct access to the sector as originally planned."

UNI Case: 'Can't Hold Land Without Sticking To Norms'

New Delhi, (GNS): The govt's move to take possession of around Rs 410 crore worth of prime land in central Delhi from news agency UNI, after an allotment period of 46 years, following a Delhi High Court order has made it clear that an allottee cannot retain possession of land after failing to adhere to stipulated conditions under any pretext, a senior central govt official has said. He stressed that any "transfer of ownership or management of such land" to a private entity by "any means is unauthorised," as it is not permissible under the terms of allotment.

In this case, UNI, the original allottee of the land at 9, Rafi Marg, underwent Corporate Insolvency



Resolution Process (CIRP), and the National Company Law Tribunal, in Feb 2025, approved the resolution plan in favour of The Statesman Ltd. The new management of UNI had informed the court that it was now "willing and able" to raise funds for construction. But the court didn't accept this plea and ruled that this "cannot retroactively cure or excuse more than 45 years of persistent non-performance."

Mehfils, baithaks, supper clubs: Capital's curated evenings

New Delhi, (GNS): This isn't a lecture or a concert. It's a pause. A remembering. A shared quiet to relive Mirza Ghalib. Come sit with Ghalib for a while... read an invite for a recent mehfil. Another promised a pakora party of Delhi's edible trees, think shehtoot ke patte ke pakore with ber ki chutney. A home concert invitation reassured first-time listeners, 'If you've ever felt classical music wasn't for you, maybe you just hadn't been in the right room. The evening isn't about sitting quietly, it's about trying, asking, responding, and noticing.' The appetite for meaningful, immersive experiences is growing everywhere, and in Delhi, that appetite is finding an intimate expression. Beyond auditoriums



and large-scale festivals, homes, havelis and heritage monuments are emerging as thoughtful cultural stages. Here, the distance between artist and audience collapses.

Reviving the city's rhythm Delhi's weekend culture is

now expanding inward - into courtyards, terraces and drawing rooms. Abu Sufiyan, founder of Tales of City, shares that leading heritage walks led him to start curating gatherings. "The idea of curating events like Jahaanuma Mehfil in living havelis or

Dastarkhwan-e-Jahaanuma in cultural spaces and haveli terraces was to revive the city's older rhythms. In these gatherings, homes and heritage spaces become vessels of continuity, not relics. It restores the intimacy that is missing in a big festival."

"Traditionally, these gatherings took place inside homes and havelis, in courtyards, on takhts, under dim lamps, where music wasn't performed at people, it was shared with them," says Tanvi Singh Bhatia, co-founder of IBTIDA, which recreates the mehfil culture in heritage spaces such as Safdarjung Tomb or in private spaces. "The artist and the listener are in dialogue. There was nuance, silence, storytelling and emotional exchange. There is a beautiful

emotional choreography that takes place between the monument, artist, music and audience. The energies are inexplicable," she says.

Similarly, Sukanya Banerjee, founder of a home concert series, Upstairs With Us, points to the disappearance of traditional third spaces in the city. "Our lives are now largely lived indoors, and indoor lives are largely governed by algos. Our curation becomes the bridge from unknown to known. Instead of figuring things out via YouTube or Spotify, you're learning with guidance and in company. These curated evenings serve an important role of pulling people out of our echo-chambers and giving them access to the parts and communities that we

have lost to insularity," says Sukanya.

Atul Khanna, founder of Kathika Cultural Centre and Museum, which hosts baithaks, cultural experiences and candlelit musical experiences in the haveli courtyard, says, "Saving a haveli is like saving a life, and with cultural experiences, the haveli continues to thrive in the middle of Old Delhi. After navigating the lanes, especially in extreme weather, visitors can sit down for a cup of tea, relax, and watch or even participate in a programme of Indian music, dance or workshops. Recently, we've had many all-women groups coming in for their monthly catch-up and enjoy their brunch with cultural programmes."