



PM Modi Calls For Peace, Assures Energy Security Amid West Asia Crisis

New Delhi(GNS): After addressing the Lok Sabha yesterday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday addressed the Rajya Sabha on the escalating conflict in West Asia, highlighting its far-reaching impact on global energy markets, trade routes, and the safety of Indian citizens abroad, while reaffirming India's commitment to diplomacy and preparedness.

Noting that the war has entered its fourth week, the Prime Minister said the crisis has triggered a severe global energy disruption and posed significant challenges for India. "More than three weeks have passed since this war began in West Asia, This war has created a serious energy crisis across the entire world," he said.

Expressing concern over disruptions in key maritime routes, he pointed to the strategic importance of the Strait

of Hormuz, where several ships, including those with Indian crew members, remain stranded. "Many ships from around the world are stranded in the Strait of Hormuz, a very large number of Indian crew members are among them, This is also a major cause of concern for India," he stated.

Calling for collective global action, the Prime Minister urged Parliament to send a strong message of peace. "In such a critical situation, it is essential that a united voice of peace and dialogue goes out to the entire world from this Upper House of India's Parliament," he said.

Highlighting the government's diplomatic outreach, PM Modi said India is in constant communication with key stakeholders. "Since the start of the war, I have held two rounds of phone conversations with the heads of state of most countries in West Asia," he noted, adding,



"We are in constant touch with all the Gulf countries, We are also in contact with Iran, Israel, and the United States."

"Our goal is to restore peace in the region through dialogue and diplomacy," he emphasised, adding, "We have also discussed de-escalation and the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz with them."

Reiterating India's firm stance on international norms, the

and work in the Gulf countries, The safety of their lives and livelihoods is also a very big concern for India."

The Prime Minister also underlined efforts to ensure safe passage of Indian vessels amid ongoing hostilities. "India is making continuous efforts, through diplomacy, to ensure the safe passage of Indian ships even in this atmosphere of war," he said. "Since the war began, the movement of ships through the Strait of Hormuz has become very challenging, But despite these adverse circumstances, our government is trying to find way forward through dialogue and diplomacy." On energy security, PM Modi assured that the government is taking all necessary steps to maintain supplies. "The effort is to ensure that oil and gas supplies reach India from wherever possible, The country is witnessing the results of every such effort," he

said. He further added, "In the past few days, ships carrying crude oil and LPG have arrived in India from many countries around the world, Our efforts in this direction will continue, indicating sustained efforts to stabilise supply chains."

The Prime Minister stressed that India remains committed to protecting its citizens, maintaining economic stability, and working with global partners to de-escalate tensions. He also called for cooperation between the Centre and states, urging vigilance against hoarding and ensuring uninterrupted supply of essential commodities.

Concluding his address, PM Modi emphasised resilience and preparedness in the face of uncertainty, assuring citizens that the government remains vigilant and committed to safeguarding national interests during the evolving crisis.

The Supreme Court said that women officers are entitled to a permanent commission in the army

Denying this was discrimination

• Those whose service ended will also receive a pension

New Delhi(GNS): The Supreme Court on Tuesday ordered full pension to Short Service Commission (SSC) women officers in the Indian Army, Navy, and Air Force. In cases where women officers had already left service due to non-receipt of



Permanent Commission (PC), it granted them one-time relief by deeming them to have completed 20 years of service and

granting them pension and other benefits. The court stated that women officers were denied permanent commissions due

to systemic discrimination within the armed forces. The denial of permanent commissions to women was not due to a lack of merit, but rather a result of systemic discrimination. The entire matter involved petitions filed by female officers appointed under the SSC, who sought PC. The tenure of an officer appointed under the SSC is 10 years, extendable by up to four years. After this, a permanent commission is granted based on merit.

Sangh chief inaugurated the newly constructed Jeevandeep Ashram in Vrindavan

Mathura(GNS): Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh chief Dr Mohan Bhagwat on Tuesday inaugurated the newly constructed Jeevandeep Ashram, established by Swami Yatidranand Maharaj, at Rukmini Vihar in Vrindavan. Dr Bhagwat gave the mantra to fight the ups and downs and difficulties in life.



Apart from Swami Yatidranand Maharaj, many dignitaries including Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav and Cabinet Minister Laxman Chaudhary were present at the inauguration program of Jeevandeep Ashram. Addressing the inauguration ceremony, Dr Mohan Bhagwat said that one should not be afraid of the ups and

downs and difficulties in life, but should fight them. "We have to fight the blows of life, not give in." Describing ashrams as centers of religious education, he said that these places not only provide spiritual knowledge but also help to energize the physical body, strengthen it, and radiantly. Dr. Mohan expressed concern over the tension and strife prevalent in the world. Specifically referring to the ongoing war in West Asia, he said that such

strife is causing only harm. He condemned acts of revenge and promoted a message of peace and harmony. The RSS chief also emphasized the role of society in preventing religious conversions. He said that this is not only the responsibility of the law, but also of society. He stressed the need to stop infiltration and be vigilant against foreigners who come to the country without permission and seek employment.

Today farmers are taking three crops in a year... hence their income has increased manifold.



Union Minister Chauhan said that farmers did not get electricity during the previous governments.

New Delhi (GNS): During Question Hour in the Lok Sabha, Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan presented the Modi government's position on the issue of doubling farmers' income. He claimed that the income of many farmers in the country has not only doubled, but has increased manifold. Chouhan stated that farmers' income has not only doubled, but has increased two-threefold, and in some cases, even eightfold.

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A scientific discussion on saving water!

Dr. Shrigopal Narsan

World Water Day was recently celebrated around the world. The Global Science Academy has galvanized international efforts to conserve water by linking public health, gender justice, and civilizational values with ocean law. The digital proceedings of the 5+5 Ocean Decade Conference were also launched on this occasion. This event is being called a major transformational shift in India and South Asia's maritime strategy.

This technical discussion was held during the cultural reflection following Eid and the holy festival of Navratri. The program tran-

scended traditional economic discourse and underscored the interconnectedness between public health and human security in the Maritime Law 2026. Chairing the discussion session, Dr. Anil Pratap Singh, Founding Director of Global Science Academy and Bureau Head of Munsif TV, defined water not just as a resource but as a fundamental civilizational value. Citing verses from the Rigveda and the thoughts of Mahatma Gandhi, Dr. Singh emphasized that the implementation of the BBNJ Agreement must be based on equity. He said, "Public health must be embedded within maritime law. Coastal governance cannot ignore the ground

realities of disease, displacement, and exploitation. Today, we are moving beyond principles to ensure that the voices of marginalized people—from ocean widows to fishing communities—are recorded in the global record." The program highlighted six key functional frameworks that will shape the Academy's advocacy in the future.

Dr. Shilpa Nandi and Dr. Satarupa Pal highlighted the socio-economic invisibility of women lost in the legal gaps of maritime tragedies and their vulnerability to trafficking. Dr. Tulika Chakraborty and Dr. Patrali Sinha discussed the serious gaps in HIV/STI care and reproductive health among mar-

ginalized fishing communities and suggested solutions to address them. Dr. Somiran Das and Dr. Somnath Bhattacharya emphasized community-driven and culturally acceptable solutions for sustainable governance.

While research by Dr. Satarupa Pal and Dr. Shilpa Nandi warned of the health and safety risks inherent in unregulated coastal tourism.

Dr. Alok Rai and Dr. Somiran Das linked national security surveillance to the active fight against human trafficking and illegal fishing networks. Dr. Avneesh Jolly from Winnipeg, Canada, shared perspectives from the Global North in the session. He explained how

the Manitoba model of integrating indigenous knowledge and public health into water governance could be a guide for South Asian systems. Dr. R.K. Anthwal, former editor-in-chief of Invention Intelligence, was formally introduced as the managing editor of the Academy's upcoming digital journal, GSA Science Communication. The findings of this technical discussion were integrated into the final digital proceedings, which were scheduled to appear in a trilingual series (Hindi, English, and Urdu). This event marks an important step towards the launch of a global journal themed for World Environment Day 2026.

Editorial

Democratization of technology and a new era of creation

The rapid pace at which India's digital landscape is changing on the global horizon not only bodes well for technological progress but also signals a broader socio-economic transformation. At the heart of this revolutionary change is a vision that advocates for technology to reach the masses, not just the limited privileged. Realizing this vision, three new initiatives launched by Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnav appear to be shaping the digital aspirations of a new India. At today's event, he clearly stated that the government's objective is to make technology accessible, affordable, and accessible to all, so that every citizen of the country can participate in the digital revolution. He reiterated Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of democratizing technology. According to him, these initiatives will not only increase access to technology but will also simplify and empower the lives of ordinary people. The Minister highlighted the MYWAVES platform as a powerful platform where every citizen of the country can express their creativity. He noted that today's India no longer wants to be merely a consumer of content, but is also moving towards global leadership in content creation. He called on creators to share stories from their regions, cultures, and traditions with the world through these platforms, thereby recognising India's diversity and richness. Speaking on the National AI Skilling Initiative, Ashwini Vaishnav stated that this program has been designed keeping in mind the needs of the future. Approximately 15,000 youth will be trained free of charge to prepare them for future technologies. In his words, "This initiative will not only provide youth with skills but also enable them to compete globally." This statement indicates that the government views AI not just as a technology, but as an opportunity. Speaking at today's event, Sanjay Jaju, Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, also highlighted the scope and impact of these initiatives, stating that these three initiatives reflect a common policy direction.



The intensifying arms race and the destabilizing global order pose one of the greatest challenges facing human civilization today. The world has reached a turning point where wars are no longer just border conflicts, but their impact is reaching the entire global economy, energy systems, the environment, the ecological balance, food security, and social stability.



Intensifying arms race and destabilizing world order

Lalit Garg

Several developments, such as the rising tensions in West Asia, a new round of attacks between Iran and Israel, the strategic role of the United States, the Russia-Ukraine war, and the China-Taiwan tensions, together indicate that the world is once again returning to an arms race and the politics of power balance. This situation is not only political or strategic, but also a sign of a humanitarian crisis, because when the world spends more on weapons, areas like development, education, health, and the environment are left behind.

Today, every country is purchasing weapons, strengthening its military, and increasing its military budget in the name of security. This has become a race in which no country wants to lag behind. But the irony is that the more weapons are proliferating, the more insecure the world becomes. This security mindset is actually a result of insecurity. As one country increases its weapons, another does too, creating an atmosphere of distrust. This distrust prepares the ground for war. Experts predict that in the coming years, global military spending will increase exponentially, and this money will be spent on preparing for destruction rather than human development. This situation does not bode well for human civilization. The crisis in West Asia currently poses the greatest threat to the world. Increasing attacks between Iran and Israel, tensions over the security of sea routes, and

the direct or indirect involvement of major countries have brought the region to the brink of war. Rejecting US President Donald Trump's warning to open the sea routes, Iran has launched a new round of attacks on Israel, further aggravating the crisis. If this conflict continues for long, its impact will not be limited to this region only, but will affect the entire world, because this region is the centre of the world's energy supply.

A large part of the global economy depends on oil and gas, and West Asia is the largest oil-producing region. If war escalates there or sea routes are disrupted, oil prices will rise sharply. As oil becomes more expensive, petrol and diesel will become more expensive, so will transportation, production costs, and ultimately, everything will become more expensive. This could trigger a global inflationary cycle. Rising inflation will affect the poor and middle class the most. Furthermore, the global economy could also slide into recession. Many countries are already grappling with economic crises, and if the energy crisis worsens, the situation will become even more serious. Countries like India cannot remain untouched by this situation, as India imports a significant portion of its energy needs. Anticipating this threat, the Indian government has begun preparations to maintain the availability of energy supplies, petrol, diesel, gas, and fertilizers. Prime Minister Narendra Modi held an emergency meeting with ministers to discuss strategies to maintain

uninterrupted energy supply and address potential crises. Preparations by the Central Government alone will not be sufficient; State Governments will also have to understand this situation and take steps towards energy conservation, supply management and ensuring availability of essential commodities.

The biggest concern in this entire scenario is that the world is preparing for war rather than preventing it. Starting a war is easy, but stopping it is much more difficult. History bears witness to many wars that began for a few days but continued for years, impacting the entire world. Even today, if the war in West Asia spreads, it will not be limited to just two or three countries; with the involvement of major nations, it could become a global conflict. Therefore, it is essential that the world's major nations step forward and initiate a ceasefire and find a path to dialogue. America's role is crucial in this entire crisis. If America wishes, it can pressure Israel, initiate talks with Iran, and take steps towards a ceasefire through the United Nations. Diplomacy is always preferable to war, because war ultimately harms everyone. In war, soldiers die, civilians die, cities are destroyed, economies collapse, and future generations suffer its consequences. Therefore, today the world needs a race for peace, not an arms race.

The biggest harm of the arms race is that it hinders development. There are many countries in the world where people still struggle with poverty,

hunger, disease, and illiteracy, yet instead of increasing spending on education and health, governments are increasing spending on weapons. This is a form of injustice to humanity. If even a small portion of the global military budget were spent on education and health, poverty and hunger could be largely eliminated. But unfortunately, global politics still revolves around the balance of power and military dominance. Today, the need is for world leadership to understand that true power lies not in weapons, but in economy, science, education, and human development. A country that provides a better life to its citizens is a truly powerful nation. War and weapons bring only destruction, not development. Therefore, the world must decide whether to create a world of weapons or a world of humanity.

If wars do not stop under current circumstances and the arms race continues to escalate, the world may face numerous crises such as inflation, unemployment, economic recession, energy crisis, and social instability in the coming years. This situation will be dangerous for all humanity. Therefore, the time has come for all countries of the world to rise above their narrow national interests and consider global interests, and instead of war, adopt the path of peace, cooperation, and coexistence. The future of human civilization can be secured not by weapons, but by peace, dialogue, and cooperation. This is the greatest need of the hour and humanity's greatest responsibility.

A world burning in the fire of ego and the future of humanity buried in the ashes of war

Kantilal Mandot

The geopolitical landscape of West Asia is once again at a turning point, where every next step could only serve to further escalate tensions. Recent developments, including Donald Trump's warnings, Iran's aggressive response, and attacks on Israel, have made it clear that this conflict is no longer a limited regional confrontation but is posing a serious threat to global stability. The dispute over the Strait of Hormuz has become the epicenter of this crisis. This route is considered the hub of the world's energy supply system. Any disruption there not only disrupts the oil market but also threatens the global economy. When the United States issued a 48-hour ultimatum demanding the opening of this route, it was not

merely a diplomatic statement but also a display of force.

On the other hand, Iran's warning of retaliatory strikes and its clear intention to target vital infrastructure across the region if its energy installations are attacked has made the conflict even more dangerous. Specifically, the mention of targets like desalination plants and fuel depots suggests that this conflict could have a direct impact on civilian lives in the future. A crisis in a basic necessity like water could push any region into a humanitarian disaster.

The most worrying aspect of this entire development is that both sides appear to be adamant in their respective positions. The US has relied on its global power to exert pressure, while Iran has attempted

to demonstrate its unwillingness to back down at any cost. This confrontation has become a symbol not only of military power but also of political arrogance.

History bears witness that whenever superpowers have made decisions driven by their arrogance, the result has been widespread destruction. Whether it was during the Cold War or past conflicts in the Middle East, the common people have always paid the heaviest price. The same situation appears to be repeating itself today.

Iran's missile attacks on Israeli cities and the subsequent damage have proven that no side can be completely safe in a war. Despite modern technology and advanced weapons, the impact of attacks reaches directly into civilian areas.

Hospitals, water plants, power systems, and communications systems—everything comes under fire.

Another important aspect of this conflict is the global response. The G-7 countries' condemnation of Iran's attacks and Saudi Arabia's expulsion of Iranian officials indicate that polarization is intensifying internationally. It is now easier than ever for a small incident to escalate into a major war.

The US stance doesn't appear to be limited to Iran. Its policies toward countries like Cuba and Venezuela indicate that it is willing to adopt aggressive tactics to maintain its global influence. The decades-old hostility with Cuba and the sanctions imposed on it are examples of how political differences can make life difficult for

ordinary citizens.

The most pressing question here is: Is a display of force truly the solution? Can military action bring lasting peace? History's answer is clear—no. War has never been a solution, but rather a means of compounding problems. The approach of countries like India becomes crucial in this context. Under Narendra Modi's leadership, India has strived to pursue a neutral and balanced foreign policy. This policy is not only strategically important but also sends a positive message for global peace. India has always prioritized dialogue and diplomacy, which are essential in today's times. At a time when the world's major nations are embroiled in the politics of balance of power, India's approach offers an alternative path.

'Kheer ceremony' marks start of Delhi Assembly Budget session

New Delhi, (GNS): The Budget session of the Delhi Legislative Assembly began on Monday with a ceremonial 'Kheer Ceremony', a tradition recently introduced by the BJP-led government, as Chief Minister Rekha Gupta outlined her administration's vision of a 'Developed Delhi, Green Delhi'.

The ceremony, held ahead of the presentation of the Budget to be tabled on Tuesday, marked a symbolic start to proceedings. Officials said the practice, introduced during the previous session by the present government, draws inspiration from a similar tradition followed at the Centre and had not been part of earlier Assembly Budget sessions in Delhi. The event saw participation from a cross-section of society, including farmers, students, teachers, doctors, members of the transgender community, women



drivers and media representatives. Farmers also honoured the Chief Minister with a traditional turban. Several Cabinet Ministers, including Parvesh Verma, Ashish Sood, Manjinder Singh Sirsa, Ravindra Indraj Singh and Kapil Mishra, along with MLAs and senior officials, were present. Addressing the

gathering, Gupta said the upcoming Budget would mark a new phase in Delhi's development, focusing on improving infrastructure and overall quality of life. Priority areas would include education, healthcare, cleanliness, pollution control and the creation of a greener urban ecosystem.

Emphasising that the government's vision goes beyond slogans, she said efforts over the past year had been directed at changing the city's trajectory, while the upcoming Budget would focus on delivering visible improvements on the ground.

During the Assembly session, the Chief Minister also highlighted the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, stating that his emphasis on transparency, accountability and dedication to public service continues to guide governance and nation-building efforts.

Teen stabbed to death near temple in Delhi's Subhash Vihar;



New Delhi, (GNS): An 18-year-old boy was allegedly stabbed to death in the early hours of Tuesday in northeast Delhi's Subhash Vihar.

The victim, identified as Mohammad Asif, a resident of Subhash Mohalla, was found critically injured near a temple in Subhash Vihar, North Gonda.

Police said they received information about the stabbing following which a team from Bhajanpura police station rushed to the spot. By the time officers arrived, Asif had already been taken to JPC Hospital by his family. He later succumbed to his

injuries during treatment.

A forensic team inspected the crime scene and collected evidence, while the body has been sent to GTB Hospital for post-mortem examination.

A case has been registered under Section 103 (murder) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita at Bhajanpura police station.

Multiple teams have been deployed to identify and apprehend the accused, police added.

"I am not aware of the entire incident. He might have gotten into conflict, the killers might be someone in his known. He was stabbed.



More than 3.6 lakh users on Namu Bharat app

New Delhi, (GNS): With the growing popularity of Namu Bharat services, the number of users adopting the app has also witnessed a steady rise. As of Feb, more than 3.6 lakh users are availing a range of services on the app, from digital QR ticketing to real-time train tracking, making it a one-stop solution for smart and hassle-free travel. "Through the app, passengers can conveniently purchase digital QR tickets for both Namu Bharat and Meerut Metro without standing in queues at ticket counters. In the last three months alone, over 6.7 lakh digital tickets have been sold via the app. Cumulatively, more than 24.7 lakh digital tickets have been booked through the platform till Feb this year," said an official of National Capital Region Transport Corporation.

For lost belongings, the app includes a 'Lost and Found' feature, allowing passengers to register complaints and check items recovered by Namu Bharat staff. Passengers can identify their belongings from the list of recovered items available on the app and claim them by contacting the Lost and Found Centre at Ghaziabad Namu Bharat Station after completing the prescribed verification process.

DU makes prior approval mandatory for protests



New Delhi, (GNS): The University of Delhi (DU) has made prior permission mandatory for any protest, march, or similar activity within its premises, requiring organisers to seek approval from both university authorities and the local police at least 72 hours in advance.

In a notice issued by the Proctor's Office on Monday, the university said that "any violations of these directions will attract disciplinary action against organisers, which may include rustication, expulsion, and initiation of police proceedings and/ or other measures deemed appropriate by the competent authority."

In a significant restriction, the notice states that outsiders, including individuals not enrolled in DU, will not be allowed to participate in such activities on campus.

The development comes after DU's month long blanket ban on protests across its campuses ended on March 17.

Organisers must submit a physical application to the Proctor's Office as well as to the concerned local police authorities at least 72 hours before the proposed event. The application must include details such as the organiser's name, institutional affiliation, contact information, nature and duration of the programme, list of speakers, logistics involved, and expected number of participants.

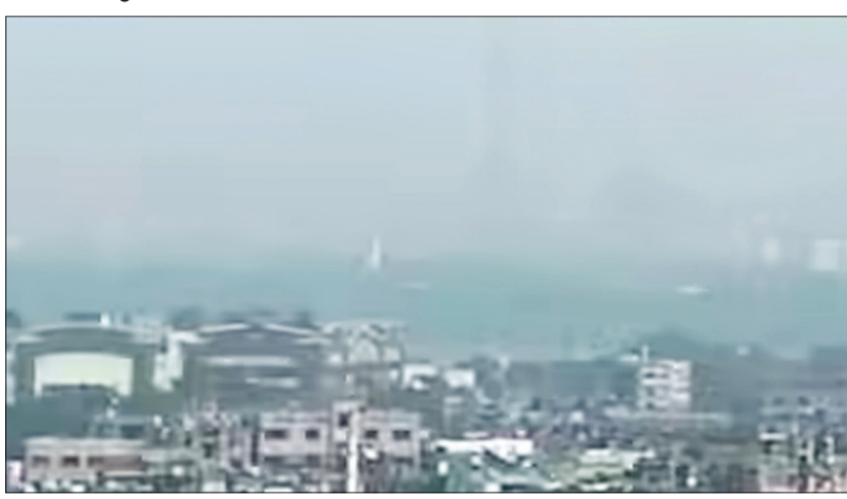
The university has also clarified that no electronic communication - including emails, social media posts, posters, or WhatsApp messages - will be considered as official intimation or permission.

Better air quality, no winter stubble burning in Delhi: Eco Survey

New Delhi, (GNS): The number of days with AQI below 201 increased from 159 in 2018 to 200 in 2025, according to the latest Economic Survey report. The report also stated that no stubble burning took place in Delhi in the winter season 2025-26.

The Consortium for Research on Agroecosystem Monitoring and Modelling from Space (CREAMS) laboratory, situated at Indian Agricultural Research Institute, which follows the standard protocol 2021 notified by the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) in NCR and adjoining areas, said that satellites detected five paddy residue burning events in Delhi.

"No case of stubble burning in Delhi has taken place in the present paddy harvesting season because of intense monitoring and awareness generated among paddy cultivators by the development department.



All (five) burning incidents reported by CREAMS in Oct and Nov 2025 within Delhi territory have been physically verified, and none of them constitute stubble or paddy residue burning," stated the report.

As per CPCB data, the number of days when AQI was below 201 was 163 in 2022, 206 in 2023, 209 in 2024 and 200 in 2025. However, number of days when AQI surpassed

over 700 air and water polluting units in conforming areas were sealed by Delhi Pollution Control Committee and more than 300 air and water polluting units in non-conforming areas by MCD. Out of a total of 2,049 industries in Delhi, 1,890 are running on PNG while 67 run on approved LPG. The remaining 92 industries have been moved out of Delhi. On the Yamuna, the report noted 10 cumees of water is being released by Haryana at Hathnikund during the lean season. However, most of it evaporates or percolates before it reaches Wazirabad and, therefore, it is highly inadequate to meet the dilution requirement to achieve the desired water quality. "The Yamuna, the reason for Delhi's existence, has suffered heavily from pollution, which is due to the flow of untreated or partially treated sewage and industrial effluents," said the report.

Court summons discharged accused in Rs 1-cr extortion case

New Delhi, (GNS): In a new twist to the ongoing extortion case involving the Lawrence Bishnoi gang, a Delhi court has issued fresh notices to all accused who were previously discharged, summoning them.

The investigation stems from two interconnected criminal cases originally registered at the Sunlight Colony police station, which were later transferred to the Crime Branch due to the involvement of high-profile interstate gangsters and sophisticated logistical networks. The first case concerns a shooting incident on 23 April 2023, where five rounds were fired at the residence of businessman Ramandeep Singh in an attempt to intimidate him.

'Will blow up building, Vidhan Sabha Metro Station'

Delhi assembly gets bomb threat email ahead of budget presentation

New Delhi, (GNS): A bomb threat email sent to the office of Delhi Assembly Speaker Vijender Gupta on Tuesday warned that the assembly building and the Delhi Metro's Vidhan Sabha station would be blown up, officials said. According to the Speaker's office, the first threat arrived at the Assembly's official email address at 7.28 am, followed by a second email directed to the Speaker at 7.49 am - just twenty-one minutes later. Both messages claimed that a bomb would explode at the Delhi assembly at 1.11 pm, and at a Delhi Metro station at 9.11 pm. The emails also made references to the Khalistan Referendum. A sniffer dog squad was later deployed at the Delhi Assembly complex as part of intensified security checks following the threat.

Authorities confirmed that



the emails were sent from a Gmail account, and security personnel conducted thorough searches of the premises. No explosive devices were reported to have been found. The message also named several high-profile leaders, including

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union home minister Amit Shah, external affairs minister Subrahmanyan Jaishankar, chief minister Rekha Gupta and minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa and Lt governor Taranjit Singh Sandhu.

'Existential threat': Transgender community unites against Bill

New Delhi, (GNS): Kabir Maan identifies as a transman. On Monday, at a packed press conference, he held up his Transgender ID and certificate - issued as per the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019 - to share how the proposed amendments to the law will make it difficult for his community to get these documents.

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ADDITIONAL E-AUCTION SALE PROGRAM DURING THE MARCH 2026 FOR P.WAY AND OTHER VARIOUS SCRAP			
E-Auction Sale Notification No. S III / Auction Programme-1 / MARCH-2026 dated 06/02/2026. The following additional E-auction program for disposal of P.Way Scrap Material will also be held in MARCH 2026 in addition to existing for following division:			
Division	Additional E-Auction program for March 2026	Divisional Officer in charge	Contact No.
Vadodara	30.03.2026	Sr. Divisional Materials Manager - Vadodara	02652641592 / 09724091750
All other terms and conditions will remain unchanged.			
Please visit Western Railway Website of material management Department i.e. www.indianrailways.gov.in as well as www.ireps.gov.in e-auction portal for further information.			
(No. SIII/Auction Programme-2/MARCH 2026 Dt. 23/03/2026)			

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04827	Bhagat Ki Kothi - Bandra Terminus	Saturday	11.07.2026
09706	Bandra Terminus - Jaipur	Monday	13.07.2026
09705	Jaipur - Bandra Terminus	Sunday	12.07.2026
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Arvind Kejriwal's bungalow facelift cost Rs 33.6cr, 342% above estimate, says CAG report

Rs 18.8cr spent on 'ornamental' items

New Delhi, (GNS): Renovation work at former Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal's then official residence (6, Flagstaff Road), was completed with Rs 33.6 crore, 342% above the estimated cost, said a CAG report tabled in the assembly on Monday.

The Comptroller and Auditor General report for 2022, tabled in the assembly by CM Rekha Gupta, also mentioned that out of the total 33.6 crore, an amount of Rs 18.8 crore was spent on "superior specifications, artistic, antique and ornamental" items.

The 6, Flagstaff Road bungalow was where Kejriwal lived as CM from 2015 to 2024. After allegations of corruption, BJP termed the house "Sheesh Mahal" to hit out at alleged corruption of AAP and its national convener.



PWD used 1-yr-old rates, raised them by 50% "Sheesh Mahal" became one of the main issues of BJP ahead of the election in Feb 2025 that led to upstaging AAP and removing it from power in Delhi after a decade.

According to the findings, Public Works Department (PWD) adopted restricted tendering in

multiple stages of the project without adequate justification. In the case of consultancy services, no basis was made available for the selection of three firms invited for bidding. Additionally, while calculating the justified cost, PWD used one-year-old rates and increased them by 50%, resulting in higher estimated costs.

During execution, five contractors were shortlisted on the grounds of financial capacity and experience in similar works in VIP areas. However, scrutiny revealed that only one contractor met the stated criteria, raising concerns over the arbitrariness of the selection process.

The scope of work also saw significant changes during execution. The built-up area increased from 1,397 sq m to 1,905 sq m a rise of 36%. Alongside this, several items of superior specifications, artistic and antique elements, and ornamental works were introduced, it read. The report notes that Rs 18.8 crore was incurred on such extra items, executed beyond prescribed limits, without recorded justification. To accommodate these additions, preliminary estimates were revised four times.

66 lakh old vehicles deregistered in Delhi, but on-road numbers surge

New Delhi, (GNS):

Delhi govt has deregistered over 66.2 lakh old vehicles in the city till March 19, 2026, following the ban on diesel vehicles older than 10 years and petrol vehicles older than 15 years, according to the Economic Survey 2025-26. The move, aligned with NGT directions,



has significantly reshaped the vehicle population in the national capital, according to senior officials.

The survey states that the large-scale deregistration was carried out as these vehicles had crossed their permissible age limits and were considered major contributors to vehicular pollution. Despite this massive removal of old vehicles, the overall number of motor vehicles in Delhi continues to rise.

As of March 19, 2026, the total number of motor vehicles on Delhi's roads stood at 87.6

lakh, registering a growth of 7.9% compared to nearly 81.2 lakh in 2024-25. This indicates that while older vehicles are being phased out, new registrations continue to outpace removals, reflecting sustained demand for personal mobility, said an official.

A closer look at the composition of vehicles shows that two-wheelers dominate Delhi's roads. Motorcycles and scooters account for nearly 68% of the total registered vehicles, making them the most common mode of transport in Delhi.

'Major public health problem': 40% Delhiites carry tuberculosis germs, says eco survey

New Delhi, (GNS): Tuberculosis (TB) continues to pose a significant public health challenge in Delhi, with nearly 40% of its population infected with its germs, making them vulnerable to the disease if their immunity weakens, according to Delhi Economic Survey 2025-26.

"Tuberculosis is the most pressing health problem in our country as it traps people in a vicious cycle of poverty and disease, inhibiting economic and social growth of the community at large. It still remains a major public health problem in Delhi. Forty per cent of our population in Delhi is... vulnerable to the disease..." the survey states, adding that scanning centres and campaigns like TB Mukh Bharat are important in its mitigation.

The report also highlights persistent health risks in general and ongoing efforts to strengthen healthcare infra-



structure in Delhi.

It notes that the capital's emergency response system, Centralised Accident and Trauma Services (CATS), currently operates 330 ambulances, with plans to expand the fleet to 1,000. In 2025 (till Nov), CATS responded to over 5 lakh calls and successfully

ferried more than 4.25 lakh patients.

Delhi's healthcare capacity has seen gradual improvement over the years, according to the survey. The number of hospital beds per 1,000 people has increased from 2.73 in 2015-16 to 2.84 in 2025-26, factoring in both public and

private facilities. At present, 11 hospitals are under construction, while 13 existing ones are being remodelled. These upgrades are expected to add around 5,452 beds upon completion.

Govt hospital capacity in the city has grown, with beds under the health and family welfare department increasing from 12,464 in 2020 to 15,659 by Dec 2025.

That said, private hospitals continue to dominate the city's healthcare capacity, accounting for 53.4% of total beds. Govt facilities under the Delhi administration contribute 24.5%, those operated by the Centre 15.9%, and those under local bodies like MCD about 6%. Public health spending has declined slightly, the survey states. Expenditure on health as a share of Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) fell to 0.68% in 2023-24 from 0.83% in the previous year.

The survey reports relatively controlled trends of communicable diseases. As of Dec 6, 2025, Delhi recorded 168 chikungunya cases with no deaths, 1,399 dengue cases with two deaths and 719 malaria cases without fatalities. In terms of HIV/AIDS, the capital has an estimated adult prevalence rate of 0.3%, with over 59,000 people living with HIV. Around 2,590 new infections and 927 related deaths were reported in 2024-25. Between April and Oct 2025, over 8.2 lakh individuals were screened, leading to the detection of 3,274 cases.

Delhi govt has strengthened human resources in healthcare, recruiting 926 nursing officers, 141 paramedical staff and 127 specialists, while creating 4,478 new healthcare posts. Additionally, it is enforcing strict measures against substandard drugs, with 15 out of 397 tested samples failing quality standards.



Tech education intake more than doubled in 6 yrs

New Delhi, (GNS): Technical education intake in institutes across the capital more than doubled between 2019 and 2025, says the Economic Survey 2025-26.

The intake rose from 8394 in 2019-20 to 19773 in 2025-26 marking a 2.35 time growth. Overall the survey says Delhi is accelerating its educational reforms with a strong financial and policy push. Last budget allocated 19% to the sector, earmarking Rs 1,044.33 crore specifically for higher and technical education.

The Economic Survey says the government's strategy has focused on expanding access, improving quality, and aligning education with future skills, in line with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, and Sustainable Development Goal 4. In higher education, Delhi has 214 institutions, with total enrolment at 11.40 lakh in 2024-25. Women account for 50.96% of students, reflecting steady progress in gender parity. Infrastructure expansion is underway across major universities, including Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University and Dr BR Ambedkar University, while new projects such as the proposed Edu-City in Narela aim to create a major hub for research and innovation. Technical education has also seen significant growth. While the number of institutes has been rationalised to 58 through mergers, intake capacity has more than doubled in six years.

Institutions like Delhi Skill and Entrepreneurship University (DSEU), Delhi Technological University (DTU), and Netaji Subhas University of Technology (NSUT) are key contributors. The government is also promoting innovation through 11 incubation centres supporting 449 startups and centres of excellence in emerging fields such as artificial intelligence, robotics and electric mobility.

At the school level, reforms under the NEP 2020 are reshaping the system. From 2026-27, a new foundational structure will introduce three years of pre-primary education before Class I, with the minimum entry age set at six years by 2028-29.

'Muslims are not allowed in my vehicle'

Delhi man claims ride denied due to religion; cabbie suspended from platform

New Delhi, (GNS): A short audio clip of a Delhi commuter alleging he was denied a cab ride because of his religion has set off a storm online, reigniting concerns over discrimination in everyday services.

The clip, shared on March 21 on X by a user named A Zain on Eid, captures a tense exchange between the passenger and a Rapido driver. What begins as a confused back-and-forth quickly turns confrontational. The passenger is heard asking if the refusal is because he is Muslim. The driver's response is blunt and unmistakable: "Muslims are not allowed in my vehicle."

In a statement on Monday, a Rapido spokesperson said the driver has been suspended from the platform.

Zain's 16-second audio recording was posted with the caption: "Eid Mubarak! Such a nice way to receive this Eid



wish...". In the now-viral clip, the passenger is heard questioning the driver after being denied the ride: "Why are you saying I am not allowed? Because I am a Muslim?" The driver responds bluntly, "Yes, Muslims are not allowed in my vehicle. This is not your dad's vehicle."

The audio also captures parts of the initial exchange, with one voice saying, "Hello, I am trying to explain, but you are not able to understand," followed by, "What did you say? You tell me." The driver then adds, "Musalman allowed nahi hai meri car mein."

The clip, which includes vehicle details from the app, quickly gained traction online, with many demanding strict action against the driver.

Replying to the post, the company said, "Hi, we are deeply sorry to hear about the disturbing behaviour you encountered. Such actions are completely unacceptable, and we take incidents like this very seriously. Your safety is our top priority, and we are committed to ensuring a respectful and secure experience for all our passengers..."

On Monday, a spokesperson from Rapido said: "At Rapido, we have a zero-tolerance policy towards any form of misconduct or refusal of service without a valid reason. We remain committed to providing an inclusive platform and do not support or tolerate discrimination of any kind, including on the basis of religion."

Women-centric schemes childcare scaled

New Delhi, (GNS):

The government has expanded a range of women-centric initiatives spanning childcare, safety, mobility and economic empowerment, according to findings highlighted in the 2025-26 Economic Survey.

A highlight is the rollout of PALNA - Anganwadi-cum-Crèche Centres (AWCCs), a component of Mission Shakti under the Ministry of Women and Child Development. The scheme aims to support working mothers by providing safe childcare facilities.

Delhi has operationalised 502 AWCCs across all districts, marking a significant expansion of childcare infrastructure. These centres were formally dedicated on September 18, 2025, by Union Minister of Women and Child Development and Chief Minister. Equipped



with cradles, toys, mattresses and learning materials, the centres are designed to provide a safe and stimulating environment for children. Regular monitoring by field officials and capacity-building support from organisations such as Mobile Crèches have further strengthened service delivery.

As per the survey, 86 buses are operating on 27 routes under the night bus service, while 30 "ladies special" buses run on 30 routes during peak hours. To enhance safety, 2,983 bus marshals (home guards) have been deployed in DTC and cluster buses.

Delhi Ladli enrolment drops 67% since launch, recovery remains uneven

New Delhi, (GNS): Since its launch in 2008, enrolment under the Delhi Ladli Scheme has declined sharply. The number of beneficiaries has dropped by 67.3%, from 1,25,337 in 2008 to 40,873 in 2025-26 (till Feb). A similar trend is visible in stage-wise claims, or "renewals", which have also reduced over time.

The scheme was introduced to empower the girl child by promoting education, improving the sex ratio and addressing issues such as female foeticide. Eligibility requires the girl to be born in Delhi, with the family residing in the city for at least three years and having an annual income below Rs 1 lakh. Enrolment is allowed at several stages, including birth, school



admissions in classes I, VI, and IX, after Class X, and at Class XII. Financial assistance is provided through investments made in the girl's name, with funds released at key milestones and disbursed at maturity along with

returns. SBI Life Insurance Company Ltd manages the funds under the 'SBI Life Dhanrashi' policy, following an MoU signed with Delhi govt in 2008. At maturity, the amount is transferred directly to the beneficiary's bank

account.

Year-wise data shows the scheme performed strongest in its initial years, with enrolment rising from about 1.3 lakh in 2008-09 to a peak of nearly 1.4 lakh in 2009-10. This momentum was short-lived, with numbers falling to just over 1 lakh in 2011-12 and further to about 89,000 by 2013-14, a drop of nearly 36% from the peak.

The decline steepened later, with enrolments falling to about 60,800 in 2018-19 and 46,660 in 2019-20, marking an overall drop of nearly 66% from 2009-10 levels. A modest recovery followed after 2020, with enrolments rising to over 61,500 in 2020-21 and stabilising in the low 60,000s over the next two years. The

upward trend continued in 2023-24, when enrolments crossed 72,000, a year-on-year increase of about 12%.

However, the recovery has been uneven. Enrolment has not crossed one lakh since 2010-11, and the overall decline from its peak remains at 67.3%. For 2025-26, enrolment stands at around 40,800 till Feb, indicating incomplete data for the current year.

Ekrumul Haque of NGO Mission Taleem flagged persistent implementation gaps. "The process is complicated. Applicants are often turned away from online submission and asked to visit offices. There's little accountability in schools, no fixed timelines, and awareness is

very low," he said.

Weak govt outreach leaves NGOs to bridge the gap, he added. "People keep receipts but don't know what happens next or when they'll get benefits. There's no clarity or support, especially for private school students. The scheme should be open year-round, with online submissions encouraged."

Officials from the department of women and child development said 2025-26 was a transition year, as the scheme is being modified and upgraded with better incentives to promote girls' higher education. "It is now being replaced with the Lakhpati Bitiya Yojana, which will be effective from the next financial year," an official said.