



# GARVI GUJARAT

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## The Supreme Court said that Vande Mataram is not mandatory at public events

**New Delhi(GNS):** The Supreme Court on Wednesday dismissed a petition challenging the Home Ministry's circular mandating the singing of the national song "Vande Mataram." The court ruled that the directive is not mandatory for public places and public events. The petition challenging the circular was filed prematurely.

The matter was before a

bench comprising CJI Surya Kant, Justice Joymalya Bagchi and Justice Vipul M Pancholi. The bench observed that the Home Ministry's advisory does not prescribe any punishment for not singing Vande Mataram. The bench said, "These guidelines are merely a protocol and are not mandatory. We will consider these matters when punitive action is taken against the petitioner, or when singing

is made mandatory for him." Petitioner claims - will be forced to sing along under the pretext of giving advice

The court was hearing a petition filed by Muhammad Saeed Noori. The CJI said, "Show us the notice compelling you to play the national anthem. You run a school, we don't even know if it is recognized or not."

His lawyer responded,



"Anyone who refuses to sing Vande Mataram or stand up for the national anthem is always under a heavy burden. People can be forced to sing along under the pretext of giving advice."

Justice Bagchi replied, "This is just a point of view, and people may disagree with it. If any action is taken against you, or a notice is issued, you can approach the court again."

## Gujarat becomes the second state to pass the UCC bill

**The bill passed with a majority in the Assembly, after the Congress walked out of the**

**Gandhinagar(GNS):** The Gujarat Assembly passed the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) bill on Tuesday night. Gujarat became the second state in the country to pass the UCC bill. Uttarakhnad has previously implemented the UCC.

Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel introduced the Uniform Civil Code Bill in the Assembly. Congress staged a walkout during the vote on the bill. The bill was passed by a majority.

This bill provides for



equal sharing of property between parents, children, and spouses in the absence of a will. The same rules will now apply to all in matters of marriage, inheritance, and other civil matters.Gujarat

## Emphasis on PNG and CNG supply, India has sufficient fuel reserves

**New Delhi(GNS):** Amid the ongoing crisis in West Asia, the government on Wednesday declared the supply situation of petroleum products in the country as normal. India has adequate fuel reserves. Refineries are operating at full capacity and approximately 260 million tonnes of oil is available.

Sujata Sharma, Joint Secretary (Marketing and Oil Refinery), Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, said that in the last 25 days, 2.5 lakh new PNG connections were provided, while 2.2 lakh consumers switched from LPG to PNG and 2.5 lakh new applications were received. Sharma said that LPG supply remains stable. There has been no shortage, with over 92% of bookings being done online, and despite the increased



booking levels, deliveries are proceeding normally.

She stated that the allocation of commercial LPG has been increased by 50%, prioritizing sectors such as hotels, dhabas, community kitchens, and migrant workers. Approximately 22,000 tons of LPG have been supplied and 30,000 small cylinders have been distributed. Additional kerosene has also been

allocated as an alternative fuel in several states. Similarly, CNG, used for transportation, is being made available to 100% of consumers, while several companies have announced incentives such as free gas up to 500 or security deposit waivers.

Addressing reporters, Sujata Sharma stated that action against black marketing has been intensified. Approximately 2,700 locations have been raided, and 2,000 cylinders have been seized. She added that the government is appealing to citizens to rely only on official information and not to panic. The government is assuring them of adequate supplies. Sharma said that letters have also been written to state governments, offering them 10% commercial gas and

additional LPG.He added that an order has been issued in Delhi itself, waiving road restoration charges and allowing 24X7 pipeline work. The Joint Secretary of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas stated that on Wednesday, the Government of India issued another gazette notification to promote PNG connections. The main objective is to simplify the application fees and approval timeline for PNG connections in all states.Sujata Sharma said, "We have the capacity to refine approximately 260 million tons of crude oil annually. In the past two days, we have seen long lines outside retail outlets and petrol pumps in many areas, and people have been panic-buying. We have adequate stocks of petrol and diesel available."

## Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said that nation-building is a continuous process; it does not happen overnight

*The opposition left the banks in a dire state*

**New Delhi(GNS):** The Finance Bill 2026 was discussed in the Lok Sabha . Union Minister Nirmala Sitharaman introduced the bill. She said nation-building is a continuous process and does not happen overnight.

Commenting on the opposition, he said, "The COVID crisis also had a limited impact on the Indian economy. The opposition is talking today, but they left behind double balance sheets. They left banks in dire straits. Today, when our banks are doing well, they are criticizing."

Sitharaman said that during his tenure, inflation remained in double digits for 22 consecutive months, which is a record. We are paying the interest on the loans taken today.



Reforms are not being carried out out of compulsion, but with clarity, commitment, and conviction. Under PM Modi's leadership, India is riding

the 'reform express.'

Sitharaman said - the opposition only asks questions, it is not present to hear the answers.The Finance Minister reprimanded the opposition for not being present in the House when the bill was introduced. He said that when the opposition asks questions, they should be present to hear the answers.The bill aims to implement the government's financial proposals for the coming fiscal year. After discussion, it is expected to be introduced for passage.The Finance Minister is expected to introduce the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment) Bill, 2025. The bill aims to further amend the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016.

## Karnataka policy limits children's screen time to one hour

**Internet shuts down after 7 p.m.; draft released for students in grades 9-12**

**New Delhi(GNS):** The Karnataka government on Tuesday released a draft policy regarding digital use for students in grades 9 to 12. It recommends limiting screen time for entertainment and academics to one hour per day. It also recommends shutting down the internet after 7 p.m.The draft recommends keeping students away from screens for an hour before bedtime. A "child plan" for mobile phones has been suggested, including audio-only options and a provision for shutting down the internet after a set time. It also calls for developing age-appropriate devices and operating systems. According to the government, approximately 25% of adolescents are addicted to the internet, leading to problems like sleep deprivation, anxiety, and distraction. This policy has been introduced to address



this issue.

Four big things about the new policy on digital use...

Changes in schools: Digital well-being and online safety will become part of the curriculum. Cyberbullying, privacy, and responsible online behavior will be taught. Each school will implement a digital usage policy. Digital detox days and tech-free

periods will be introduced. Diaries will replace WhatsApp for student communication. There will be a focus on mental health - counselling in schools will be strengthened, teachers will be trained to recognise the signs of digital addiction and children can be referred to specialists if needed.Teachers and parents will have defined

roles: teachers will monitor and guide children's digital behavior. Parents will establish screen time at home, establish no-phone zones, and lead by example.

Guidelines will be made on the use of AI - Schools will set rules on the use of AI, control its use in homework and develop systems to prevent cheating.

**MADHAVPUR FAIR, 2026**  
Celebrating the Spirit of 'Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat'

**Divine Wedding Festival of Shri Krishna and Devi Rukmini**

The Madhavpur Fair is a vibrant expression of India's living legacy. This festival symbolises devotion, tradition, and unity, brought alive through enchanting folk dances and cultural performances.

**Inauguration By**

**Shri Bhupendrabhai Patel**  
Hon'ble Chief Minister, Gujarat

Date: 27 March 2026 | Time: 6:00 PM onwards | Madhavpur Ghed, District Porbandar

**Festival Highlights**

Grand cultural performances by artists from North-Eastern states and Gujarat under the theme "Vikas Bhi, Virasat Bhi - Samridhii Se Sanskriti."

Stalls Showcasing Handicrafts from the Northeast along with Authentic Gujarati Cuisine and Handicrafts

Sand Art Exhibition and Sports Activities

**Programme Details**

Wedding Procession  
Date: 27-29 March 2026 (Friday to Sunday)  
Time: 9:00 PM onwards

Mameru and Wedding Ceremony  
Date: 30 March 2026 (Monday)

Grand Welcome of Devi Rukmini and Shri Krishna in Dwarka  
Date: 31 March 2026 (Tuesday)

"The Madhavpur Fair, celebrating the divine union of Shri Krishna and Devi Rukmini, is a glorious symbol of India's cultural unity. It beautifully weaves our diverse traditions into an integral thread of national integration."

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

**Tourism Corporation of Gujarat Limited (TCGL)**  
Udyog Bhavan, Block No. 16, 4th Floor, Sector 11, Gandhinagar - 382011

# The trumpet of development on the track of reform in Indian Railways

Binod Kumar Singh

Indian Railways, known as the lifeline of India, is undergoing a transformation where its role is no longer limited to transportation. It has now become a powerful medium for the country's economic growth, social connectivity, and cultural integration. The vision articulated by Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnav at the beginning of the year made it clear that transforming Indian Railways from its traditional structure into a modern, efficient, and passenger-centric system is now a priority. This transformation is not limited to mere announcements, but is rapidly taking shape on the ground. Eight major reforms

announced at a recent press conference held at Rail Bhavan have given this transformation a clear direction. These reforms are not limited to any one area, but encompass the railway's operations, structure, service, and philosophy. This is why the face of Indian Railways is undergoing a profound transformation. The introduction of modern trains has given this transformation its most visible form. Trains like the Amrit Bharat, Vande Bharat Express, and Vande Bharat Sleeper have elevated the travel experience to new heights. These trains offer a balanced blend of speed, comfort, and technological excellence. The Namo Bharat Train is reinvigorating regional connectivity, bridging the distance between smaller cities and metro-

politan cities. The Bullet Train project is an ambitious effort to establish India among the global leaders in high-speed rail networks. Station redevelopment is another important component of this transformation. Many railway stations across the country are now equipped with modern facilities, providing passengers with an organized, clean, and convenient environment. Features like improved waiting rooms, digital information systems, escalators, and elevators are becoming commonplace. Railway stations are no longer merely travel stops but are becoming centers of experience. Amid these sweeping changes, eight reforms announced emerge as the foundation for the future of Indian Railways. The first reform

concerns the complete digitization and simplification of the ticketing system. Efforts are being made to make ticket booking transparent and seamless by eliminating complexities. Mobile and online platforms are being made more accessible and user-friendly, enabling passengers of all classes to obtain tickets without difficulty. The second reform is the strengthening of security mechanisms. Modern surveillance systems, CCTV networks, and technology-based security measures are being expanded on railway premises and trains. This will increase passenger confidence in safety and establish the railways as a safer mode of travel. The third reform focuses on punctuality and operational efficiency. To reduce train delays, emphasis is being

placed on signaling system modernization, track upgrades, and improved operational management. These initiatives will play a crucial role in strengthening the railway's reliability.

The fourth reform relates to the rejuvenation of stations, under which they are being developed with modern facilities and better management. This will provide a streamlined and respectable travel experience to the passengers. The fifth reform is to improve the catering and sanitation system. A strict monitoring mechanism is being developed regarding the quality of food and sanitation, so that passengers can get safe and satisfactory services. The sixth reform is the expansion of modern trains and increasing their speed.

## Editorial

### PM's address, 'Trumpy ceasefire'

In a statement in the Lok Sabha, Prime Minister Modi recognized the crisis and conflict in West Asia as a serious and unprecedented challenge, similar to the COVID-19 pandemic. He called for national unity and encouraged the nation to "challenge" this economic, security, and humanitarian challenge. The Prime Minister also reassured the nation and shared information that while previously importing from 27 countries, he now imports various goods from 41. The country has a strategic reserve of 5.3 million metric tons of crude oil. Work is underway to increase this to 6.5 million metric tons. Now, we blend petrol with 20 percent ethanol, thus requiring 45 million barrels less oil imports. This initiative has been successful. Nearly 100% electrification of the railways has been achieved, resulting in negligible diesel and coal consumption. The country has ample food grain reserves and adequate fertilizer supplies for Kharif sowing. Six urea plants have been established in the country, producing 7.6 million metric tons of urea. 2.2 million solar pumps have been provided to farmers. The country has sufficient electricity generation capacity, and 1,500 megawatts of hydropower is being added. 250 gigawatts of alternative energy is being generated. On a humanitarian level, 375,000 Indians were brought back from Iran after the war began. Nearly 1,000 Indians have returned safely from Iran. We have also been successful in bringing back 700 medical students. Indian embassies are working 24 hours a day and are in touch with Indians. However, this is a summary of Prime Minister Modi's statement in Parliament. It was his responsibility to tell the country the truth. We consider this not just an "address to the nation" but a global message. The Prime Minister has repeatedly appealed for an immediate end to tensions and wars in the interest of humanity. India has always advocated for restraint, dialogue, peace, stability, and diplomacy. Just two to two and a half hours after the Prime Minister's statement, US President Trump abruptly declared a unilateral five-day ceasefire, claiming that the talks with Iran had been fruitful and positive.



**Chaitra Navratri, the occasion of the worship of Goddess Durga, involves a special puja for the goddess and the ritual of adorning her with sixteen adornments. While shopping for the Ashtami/Navami rituals, I came across the beautiful bangles being decorated for Goddess Durga.**



## Bangles: A symbol of courage, not cowardice – From Goddess to us

Nimisha Singh

These bright red, sparkling glass bangles appeared before me, as if directly part of the goddess's adornment. Whenever I see or wear bangles, a debate about linguistic civility always rages in my mind. A recent news report, in which the Lucknow upper caste front placed bangles and bindis in front of the homes of BJP leaders in protest against UGC regulations, once again deeply disturbed me and compelled me to think and write about how deeply rooted symbolic violence and gender bias are in our society.

Patriarchal thinking has a tendency to limit women's freedom and power. Therefore, the male-dominated perspective has assumed that masculinity lies solely in toughness, and softness is weakness. This practice continues unabated even today. Whether it's ideological differences or personal conflicts, news of men being gifted bangles keeps coming up. It's as if the absence of bangles is an invitation to war. Since childhood, we've been taught that bangles are a symbol of women's adornment, good fortune, and prosperity, but we're not told that bangles often become both an inspiration and a challenge to masculinity. I don't understand why bangles are thrown to prove a patriarchal viewpoint. What do bangles symbolize? Weakness? Cowardice? Since childhood, we've been hearing these dialogues: "We're not wearing bangles," or "We should stay home wearing bangles like women." The funny

thing is, no one even objects to this use of bangles. Why would it? If you think about it, it will happen. Just think, by giving bangles to your opponent, you insult not her but women's power. Goddess Kali and Durga also wear bangles, so is there any greater form of power than them? Bangles are worn by every girl who dreams of new dreams and, with great strength, leaves her parents' home to embrace a new home and strangers. Bangles are also worn by those who nurture a life for nine months and, after overcoming extreme pain, bring a new life into the world. Bangles were also worn by those who wrote epics. We must have all seen the bangles on the hands of NASA's female scientists during the Chandrayaan 2 test. I also saw bangles on the hands of that mother working at the brick kiln in the hot afternoon, with a child tied to her waist. She did not appear weak to me at all. Today, I have a question for every man who uses bangles inappropriately in their language. What side of us have you all seen that our adornment has been turned into a symbol of weakness or negativity? Sometimes, I can't even fathom the idea that if we want to insult someone, we should tell them that they are like women, because woman means weak. Woman means worthless. This mentality and such misogynistic comments have been prevalent for centuries, and we continue to perpetuate them. Despite all this, if someone says that this isn't true, that this isn't an insult to women, I would definitely want to know from them,

how is it not? Bangles are our women's adornment. Whatever the reason, whether mythological, religious, or cultural, the truth is that we women wear them for the well-being of our husbands. Sometimes they prick our hands. Sometimes they break and even hurt, but we wear them anyway. When I was little, I often saw my mother's bangles break and bleed while washing dishes. I asked her repeatedly, "Why do you wear them? Take them off." She would turn red with anger and say, "Don't ask such questions again." Now I understand why women are honored with adjectives like tolerance and sacrifice. Wearing bangles isn't as easy as you men think. Bangles aren't just bangles; preserving them is also very important. It's difficult. We women constitute half the country's population. Powerful, independent, and capable. We possess numerous abilities and qualities that can make us excellent in any field. However, in some societies and situations, women still lack a true place in society. Gender biases, perpetuated by a male-dominated society, continue to try to keep them vulnerable. For centuries, women have been ingrained with the notion of being weak and powerless. However, this perspective is changing significantly, and people are now recognizing that women can play a vital role in society. It's also undeniable that the day women stop considering themselves weak, society will likely stop thinking so too. From Kiran Bedi to Kalpana Chawla, from Lakshmi Bai to Indra

Gandhi, society never considered them weak because these women never considered themselves weak. It would be wrong to hold men solely responsible for such actions. On numerous occasions, it has been observed that seeing a man retreat, women themselves sent their bangles, challenging or rejecting him. What can be said about women who are insulting their own symbols of good fortune in this way? Despite being an ornament for both men and women, bangles often become a "call to battle." Using these colorful, tinkling symbols of good fortune, imbued with health astrology and religious faith, and belonging to historical gods and goddesses, in this manner only demonstrates your naiveté and foolishness. If you must gift bangles, give them only to someone you love deeply. What greater example could there be than Lord Krishna himself enacting the Manihari Leela in Braj, revealing the immense love between Krishna and Radha, in which Krishna disguises himself as a Manihari to meet Radha and calls out, "Ko Churiyan Leuji Churiyan?" In some societies and situations, women still lack a true place in society.

Gender biases established by a male-dominated society continue to try to keep them vulnerable. For centuries, women have been ingrained with the notion of being weak and powerless. However, this perspective is changing significantly, and people are now recognizing that women can play an important role in society.

## Impact of the Iran war on India? Rupee tumbles, GDP slows, inflation surges

Sanat Jain

Israel and the United States simultaneously attacked Iran. The expected impact of this war on Iran is being felt. The consequences of the war on the United States and Israel are also becoming apparent. India appears to be caught between these two sides. The report released by the global investment firm Goldman Sachs on India's economy is worrying. It clearly warns of a decline in India's GDP and rising inflation. The biggest disruption to the Indian economy is the rupee's fall against the dollar. The prices of crude oil, gas, and other goods India imports are continuously rising. The rising prices of petrol, diesel, and gas will impact everything. Due to this, a rapid increase in inflation in India is expected. India's needs are

met by imports of food, crude oil, chemical fertilizers, and daily-use electronic equipment. India's imports are continuously increasing. Imports of crude oil, gas, and other goods have increased compared to previous years. Approximately 85% of crude oil and gas is imported. Since most payments for imported goods are made in dollars, this is having a significant impact on India. The fall of the Indian rupee is being felt in currencies other than the dollar. The report states that the Reserve Bank of India will be forced to increase interest rates. The rupee's decline against the dollar could reach up to four percent. India's revenue and current account deficit could increase by another two percent. Crude oil and gas prices in the international market are expected to

reach a minimum of \$105 and a maximum of \$120 per barrel. This was the highest during the tenure of former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh. In the last 10 years, crude oil prices have never exceeded \$60 to \$70 per barrel. Expensive oil imports into India will exacerbate the foreign exchange crisis, increase the fiscal deficit, and simultaneously, lead to a sharp increase in inflation. The report predicts a decline of approximately one to one and a half percent in the economy. This is going to have a major impact on the agricultural sector as well. There was a recent struggle over fertilizers. With the new crisis that has emerged, the fertilizer crisis will also increase rapidly, which is sure to impact agricultural production. India's export trade has declined in the last four months, leading to

international changes that are negatively impacting India's economy. The government never imagined that the US and Israeli attack on Iran would be so devastating for India. Given the current situation, the government has become more alert and serious. Given the evolving situation, no one understands how to deal with it. India has been blindly dependent on the US and Israel for the past few years. India's trade deficit with China is continuously increasing. India has become isolated in the current situation. Indian businessmen have significant investments in Dubai. The impact of this war is being felt on a large scale in Dubai. Over 9 million Indians used to work in Gulf countries. Those who sent money to India in foreign currency. Due to the war, the foreign currency that India

received every month from the Gulf countries was a significant contributor to India's foreign exchange reserves. The foreign currency sent to India by Indian diaspora has been steadily declining, leading to a growing crisis in India's foreign exchange reserves.

Countries within the BRICS organization want to break free from the hegemony of the dollar. Russia, China, North Korea, and other countries have directly opposed Trump's hegemony. By violating global trade agreements and imposing arbitrary tariffs, the US has turned countries around the world into its enemies. In this situation, countries around the world are uniting against the dollar. The dollar had a monopoly in international trade. Most countries around the world want to get out of the dollar.

# Delhi budget: Rs 230 crore to set up new courts, additional rooms

**New Delhi, (GNS):** Chief minister Rekha Gupta on Tuesday announced in the budget a series of initiatives to strengthen court infrastructure, while outlining changes in allocation for the legal affairs department.

"In a move towards delivering an efficient, competent, and accessible judiciary, our govt has taken significant steps to strengthen court infrastructure,"



she said. Rs 230 crore has been proposed for the construction of court buildings and courtrooms. The allocation to the department of law, justice and legislative affairs stands at Rs 51,36,000 in 2026-27, down from Rs 92,66,000 last year.

Govt has proposed courtrooms and complexes at Shastrī Park, Karkardooma, Rohini, and Rouse Avenue. A family court will be made in Rohini.

# Harish Rana, India's first passive euthanasia case, cremated in Delhi

**New Delhi, (GNS):** The cremation of Harish Rana in Delhi on Wednesday marked a quiet end to a case that had stirred complex questions about life, dignity and medical ethics in India.

Rana, first person in the country to be granted passive euthanasia, died on Tuesday at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences after spending more than 13 years in a coma.

His last rites were performed at a cremation ground in south Delhi's Green Park, with family members and spiritual volunteers in attendance.

Rana had been in a vegetative state since 2013, when he fell from a fourth-floor balcony while studying engineering at Panjab University. Doctors later concluded that his condition was irreversible.

Earlier this month, the Supreme Court of India allowed the withdrawal of life-sustaining treatment in his case, mark-



ing a rare application of passive euthanasia in India.

The court clarified that while medical interventions such as feeding tubes could be stopped, palliative care must continue to ensure a natural death with dignity. Days before his death, Rana had been shifted from his home in Ghaziabad to the palliative care unit at AIIMS Delhi.

Back in his neighbourhood, residents recalled the family's long struggle. "It is so sad. The family did everything they could for him all these years," one neighbour said.

## Govt supports gig workers' ride, but delivery doubt persists

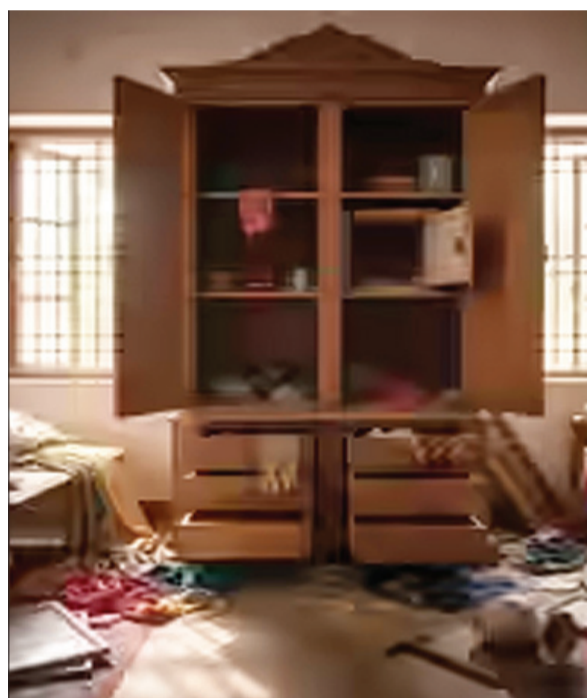
**New Delhi, (GNS):** A consultation held four days before Tuesday's Delhi budget has led to a couple of measures for gig workers, the lakhs of men and women who deliver restaurant orders, groceries, medicines, drive cabs and do all kinds of work attached to service delivery apps. Chief minister Rekha Gupta's govt plans to set up restrooms in collaboration with existing Atal canteens and has also proposed a state-level gig workers' welfare board. The announcement signals a long-awaited recognition of the contribution of 13 lakh gig workers in Delhi. However, the announcements have brought to the fore questions on implementation, particularly of the restrooms.

The Gig and Platform Service Workers' Union (GIPSWU) welcomed the move. For the first time, workers may get an opportunity to register themselves, paving the way for access to social security and institutional support through the proposed board.

# Gold trader robbed of Rs 1.5 crore in Seelampur

**New Delhi, (GNS):** A gold trader was robbed of jewellery and other valuables worth nearly Rs 1.5 crore by a group of men in north-east Delhi's Seelampur on Monday evening, in what police suspect was a premeditated robbery disguised as a road rage incident. No arrests have been made so far. The incident took place around 8.30 pm near Welcome Metro Station, close to the office of the deputy commissioner of police (Northeast).

Police said the complaint was filed by Pratham Bansal, 24, a Shahdara resident who is engaged in the gold trade at Koocha Mahajani in Chandni Chowk. Bansal told investigators that he and his father were returning home on a scooter when two men on



another two-wheeler allegedly rammed into them from behind and picked an argument.

Moments later, two more men arrived in an SUV and

joined the confrontation. The group then reportedly took away valuables, including a gold chain, a gold bar and the scooter, before fleeing in the SUV, police said.

A wireless alert was issued with details of the suspect vehicle, which bore a Uttar Pradesh registration number. The SUV was later located near the Bhopura border, but the occupants abandoned it and fled by the time police reached the spot. Speaking to Media, Bansal said it was a routine day and that he was carrying around 1 kg of gold jewellery, which was to be delivered to another trader the next morning.

"Two men on a scooter deliberately blocked our way and turned aggressive. Before

I could make sense of what was happening, an SUV stopped and several more men got down. They claimed to be police personnel and tried to force me to go with them. I suspected something was wrong and resisted," he said. Growing suspicious, Bansal refused to comply and began resisting. In a desperate attempt to escape, he struck at least one of the assailants with his helmet and managed to break free before fleeing to seek help.

By then, however, the attackers had already seized the gold jewellery and escaped. Bansal believes the robbery was meticulously planned, suggesting the gang may have had prior knowledge of his movements and the valuables he was carrying that evening. Police have registered a case under relevant sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, including robbery and common intention.

## Minor among seven held for road rage case in south Delhi

**New Delhi, (GNS):** After a video surfaced showing a violent road rage incident in south Delhi's Sangam Vihar, six people, including a woman, have been arrested. A family was travelling from Faridabad to Kalkaji when the accused allegedly assaulted and vandalised their car.

According to police, the occupants of the car diverted their route due to ongoing repair work and entered G Block of Sangam Vihar. The altercation reportedly began over the right of way with a motorcyclist. The rider, along with five to six associates, allegedly attacked the vehicle, causing damage.



## 2 dead, 21 injured after sleeper bus overturns near Delhi's Karol Bagh

**New Delhi, (GNS):** Two people were killed and 21 others injured when a private bus traveling from Jaipur, Rajasthan, lost control and overturned near the Jhandewalan Temple in Delhi's Karol Bagh area on Wednesday night.

The Delhi Fire Department received an emergency call at 1.08am reporting the accident near Hanuman Mandir Chowk, where the vehicle, carrying approximately 25 passengers, flipped over during the final leg of its journey.

Rescue operations were initiated as two fire service vehicles were rushed to the spot to extract those trapped inside the wreckage. The aftermath of the crash presented a grim scene, with video footage showing a mangled bus surrounded by shattered glass, broken seats, and detached wheels strewn across the road. Those injured in the accident were shifted to various nearby hospitals for medical treatment, while the bodies of the deceased were sent for post-mortem examination. The Delhi Police have cordoned off the area and are currently investigating the circumstances that led to the driver losing control.



## 2 nabbed for providing bank accounts to cyber fraudsters

**New Delhi, (GNS):** The police arrested two persons for allegedly providing bank accounts to cyber fraudsters involved in duping people on the pretext of investment.

The police said on September 8 last year, a complaint was received at the Cyber South police station, Gurugram, regarding a fraud of approximately Rs 1.09 crore by promising high returns on investments. Based on the complaint, a case was registered under relevant sections of the BNS.

During investigation, the police arrested two persons on Monday. The accused were identified as Amarjeet (36), a resident of Gagsina in Karnal district, and Amit Kumar (34), a resident of Sargathal in Sonapat district, Haryana.

"During interrogation, it was revealed that the accused created a firm, became partners and opened a bank account. They made that bank account available to cyber fraudsters. The account had received Rs 29 lakh from the proceeds of the fraud. The accused then sold this account to other individuals for Rs 1 lakh. We are questioning the accused," said Priyanshu Dewan, ACP (Cyber).

## Delhi budget: More firepower to fight blaze with a 27% budgetary hike

**New Delhi, (GNS):** The budgetary allocation for Delhi Fire Service has been increased by over 27% - from Rs 530 crore in 2025-26 to Rs 674 crore in 2026-27.

In her budget speech, chief minister Rekha Gupta noted that Delhi witnesses numerous blazes every year, many of which devastate entire families. Controlling fires in the capital's narrow lanes, single-entry households, congested shanties and unauthorised colonies is extremely difficult, she said.

To make Delhi a safer city, she emphasised the need to upgrade the department's infrastructure and equipment. "In 2025-26, sincere efforts were made in this direction, with the addition of 24 quick response vehicles (QRVs) and modern machinery," she said.

Tuesday's budget proposes to set up new fire stations,



deploy 26 additional QRVs, modernise machinery and buy state-of-the-art equipment. The department plans to procure turntable ladders and Bronto Skylift platforms to enhance its firefighting capabilities, particularly in high-rise and hard-to-reach areas.

An amount of Rs 50 crore has been allocated for the construction of new fire stations. Currently, Delhi has 71 stations. As part of this initiative, a formal proposal for the construction of eight fire stations

and a new building at the Delhi Fire Service headquarters has already been submitted to Delhi govt for its approval.

A senior DFS officer stressed the importance of quick response vehicles in battling blazes in congested areas. "Our fire-fighting approach in the city's narrow lanes will improve, and the response times will be significantly better," he said.

Each vehicle is equipped with a 100-litre water tank, a 25-litre foam water tank with high-pressure pumps, and carries three to four firefighters for initial operations.

Delhi Fire Service responded to a total of 18,670 fire calls last year; 76 people lost their lives and 565 were injured in these blazes. Between Jan 1 and March 15 this year, it handled 2,716 cases, which claimed 13 lives and resulted in 111 injuries.

# DDA moots major land-use changes to most populated NW, South districts of Delhi

**New Delhi, (GNS):** The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has officially issued a public notice proposing significant modifications to the Master Plan-2021 and Zonal Development Plans for several key sectors in the Capital's most populated North West and South districts.

Issued under Section 11-A of the DD Act, 1957, the notice says that the Central Government intends to zone various land parcels in Zone P-I (Narela), Zone M (Rohini), and Zone J from residential, commercial and utility designations to recreational use.

While Narela and Rohini fall in North West district, Zone J in Delhi is a major planning zone covering South Delhi-II,

spanning nearly 15,178 to 22,979 hectares according to the DDA master plans. It covers 30 villages and census towns, bounded by the Mehrauli-Badarpur road (North), NH-8 (West), and Delhi's boundary (South/East).

The latest shift aims to enhance the green cover and public amenities within these rapidly developing urban pockets. Amendments to the Master Plan-2021 combine large-scale rezoning with a detailed 'Transit Oriented Development' (TOD) framework that seeks to reorganise land around mobility corridors.

At the heart of the changes lies a clear redistribution of land functions. Across Narela, Rohini and Zone J, multiple

parcels earlier marked for residential, commercial, and utility purposes are proposed to be converted into recreational spaces. The numbers underline the scale. In Narela, this includes 11 acres in Tikri-Khurd and 15 acres in Bawana, along with over 20 acres near UER-II in Alipur. In Rohini's Sector-32, 2.16 acres are proposed for conversion, while more than 32 acres in Maidan Garhi and Satbari will be opened up for recreational use. A smaller but precise intervention is the conversion of a 752.51 square metre facility center near the Mother Dairy Plant into a green space integrated with surrounding parks.

Yet, the notification does not treat green expansion in

## Opposition MPs protest in Parliament House complex over 'LPG supply crunch'

**New Delhi, (GNS):** Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, NCP(SP)'s Supriya Sule, SP's Dharmendra Yadav, CPI-ML's Sudama Prasad, DMK's T Sumathy, JMM's Mahua Maji, among others, participated in the protest near the Makar Dwar of Parliament.

With a huge banner stating 'Empty Cylinders, Empty Promises', the MPs raised slogans against the government. The reported LPG crunch comes amid the conflict in West Asia, following which the government has prioritised the allocation of domestically produced natural gas for LPG production, compressed natural gas (CNG) and piped cooking gas



sectors. The government has stepped up efforts to streamline gas distribution and ease supply pressures, directing faster processing of city gas projects while increasing allocations of commercial LPG to key sectors amid a challenging geopolitical environment.

at 400, extendable up to 500, with additional charges applicable beyond the base threshold. The composition of land use is equally specific. At least 65% of the permissible FAR must be allocated to smaller residential units under 100 square metres, while 10% is reserved for neighbourhood commercial and social infrastructure.

Environmental considerations are embedded within these norms. A minimum of 10% of any developed plot must be kept as green area, with only minor variation allowed. Ground coverage is capped at 40%, and parking, accessibility and public interface requirements are standardised to support dense but liveable spaces.

# Teacher who received the best writer award

The annual convention of the Gujarat State Children's Literature Academy was held at Gujarat Vishwakosh Bhavan on 22 February 2026. In it, the best books were selected from the children's literature books published in the year 2023-2024 and their authors were awarded. In which, Shri Niketaben Vyas, who has gained fame as a modern children's writer, has been honored with the Kusumbha Bhupendrabhai Dave Best Writer Award with a shield and cash prize for her comic children's story book 'Ganguna Parakramo'.

Shri Niketaben Vyas, who works as a writer and reviewer with the Gujarat State Textbook Board and Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan, has given educational books to children's literature - Gujarati Sikho Part 1, Gujarati Sikho Part 2, Chitravarta Series Part 1 to 10, Sachitra Pragya Reading book - through his unique method. Apart from this, she has made a unique contribution to the promotion of the mother tongue through books like Gangu's Prowess (hilarious children's story), Chiku and Saat Jadugarni (teenage adventure story), Sugandhawali Veenti (children's



story), Billi's Photo Printed Wrong (children's story), Bakana Gatkadan (hilarious satirical story), National Highway (suspense thriller novel). Her works are regularly published in many children's magazines such as Fulwadi, Bal Srishti, Bal World, Bal Bhaskar,



Jagmag etc.

Shri Niketaben Vyas, who has been honoured with the Sahitya Sadhana Award by the Honourable Education Minister of Gujarat State Shri Rivaba

Jadeja on 5 January 2026 for his literary contribution, is currently working as a teacher at Ellisbridge School No. 30, Nagar Primary Education Committee, Ahmedabad.

# Delhi pushes for EV infrastructure as Budget allocates Rs 200 crore

**New Delhi, (GNS):** The national capital is bracing for a clear and greener way as Rs 200 crore was allocated by Chief Minister Rekha Gupta during the presentation of Budget 2026-27 on Tuesday in which she announced an allocation of Rs 12,613 crore for transportation, including roads and bridges. This year the budget for transport department has increased by 38.45 percent from previous year's Rs 9,110 crore.

During her Budget speech, Chief Minister Rekha Gupta highlighted that out of Rs 12,613, Rs 8,374 has been allocated to the transport department while the remaining 4,239 crore has been allocated for the roads and bridges.

The CM also mentioned that the Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) aims to scale up the total fleet of buses to 7,500 by March 2027, including 5,800 electric buses, and in



future it aims to achieve a 100 percent electric fleet of approximately 12,000 buses by 2029.

Currently the bus carrier operates over 4,300 electric buses - the highest in the country and under the PM E-DRIVE initiative, an additional 6,130 electric buses will be introduced in a phased manner, the CM stated. The CM further highlighted that the Delhi Metro which serves as a lifeline for the commuters in the city and announced that a provision of Rs 2,885 crore has been made for the DMRC Phase-IV and Phase-V projects, ensuring sustained metro expansion.

## Kapur vs Kapur feud esca-

# Priya Kapur issues counter-notice to remove mother-in-law from RK family trust after Rani tried to oust her

**New Delhi, (GNS):** In a fresh twist in the Sunjay Kapur estate dispute, his wife Priya Kapur has issued notice for removal of her estranged mother-in-law Rani Kapur from the family trust.

The move comes days after Rani Kapur issued a notice to remove Priya from the RK family trust. "Your conduct is contrary to the terms of the trust deed and to your fiduciary duties as a trustee. As stated, you have sought a judicial declaration to dissolve the RK Family Trust, aiming to divest the trust of its entire corpus and revert all settled assets to yourself while seeking to void all prior trust actions. Such an attempt to extinguish the trust



for your personal gain is a complete breach of your fiduciary duties as a trustee," Priya Kapur said in a notice to her mother-in-law.

Two months ago, Rani Kapur had filed a civil suit in Delhi High Court challenging

the validity of the RK Family Trust, claiming personal ownership of the assets. She also opposed Priya Kapur's appointment to the board of Sona BLW Precision Forgings (Sona Comstar), alleging she was coerced into signing docu-

ments and was not aware of the full details at the time.

The RK Family Trust, at the centre of the Sunjay Kapur family dispute, derives much of its value from its indirect holding in auto components maker Sona Comstar. The trust holds 65% in Aureus Investment, which in turn owns about 28% promoter stake in Sona Comstar. With Sona Comstar's market capitalisation at around Rs 30,000 crore, Aureus' holding is valued at roughly Rs 8,000-8,500 crore, placing the trust's indirect stake at about Rs 5,000-5,500 crore.

The dispute over the validity and administration of the RK Family Trust is currently pending before the Delhi High

Court. The trust has four beneficiaries after the removal of Rani, namely, Priya Kapur, her son Azarias, and Sunjay Kapur's two children with actor Karisma Kapoor, Samaira and Kiaan.

Sunjay Kapur died in the UK last year resulting in a massive fight over assets, which also involves the Samaira and Kiaan. Earlier this year, Rani Kapur had moved the HC and alleged that a fraudulent family trust was created to take control of her estate. In the suit, Rani claimed she became aware of the irregularities only after her son's death in June 2025 and alleged that assets were transferred without her consent.



## Delhi budget: Rs 5,110 crore kept aside for Mahila Samridhi Yojana

**New Delhi, (GNS):** Like in last budget, around Rs 5,110 crore has been allocated for gov't's Mahila Samridhi Yojana, and chief minister Rekha Gupta has reiterated providing Rs 2,500 as monthly financial assistance to women.

The scheme was central to BJP's electoral campaign last year, and a similar allocation of Rs 5,000 crore was made then. However, the rollout did not take place. This year, the emphasis has clearly shifted from announcement to implementation.

At Rs 2,500 per month, each beneficiary will be entitled to Rs 30,000 annually. The allocation is expected to cover nearly 17 lakh women. "This year, we are committed to ensuring that women receive the benefits of this scheme," Gupta said in her budget speech.

To streamline implementation, govt has set up a verification committee to identify the eligible beneficiaries. "Very soon, we will launch a govt portal where women can apply for the scheme," the chief minister said. The portal is expected to handle applications, documentation and tracking, making the process more transparent.

Officials in the women and child development (WCD) department indicated that the rollout could take a few months, depending on how quickly systems are put in place. A senior official said the process would not be entirely new, pointing out that similar verification mechanisms already exist for pension schemes. "Most verification happens at the district level, so it should not pose a major challenge," the official said.

According to sources, the eligibility criteria are likely to include an annual income cap of Rs 2.5 lakh and an age bracket of 18 to 60 years. These conditions were discussed in a recent meeting chaired by the chief secretary. Officials added that a draft of the scheme has been prepared and will soon be placed before the cabinet for approval. The yojana's success will ultimately depend on how effectively it is implemented on the ground.

## Delhi is world's most polluted capital city for 8th year, finds IQAir study

**New Delhi, (GNS):** New Delhi remained the world's most polluted capital city for the eighth consecutive year, according to the World Air Quality Report 2025, released on Tuesday by Swiss firm IQAir. The city recorded an annual PM2.5 concentration of 82.2 micrograms per cubic metre, nearly 16.4 times the WHO's safe limit of five micrograms per cubic metre. India's national ambient air quality standard for PM2.5 is 40 micrograms per cubic metre.

As in previous years, the report differentiated between the city of New Delhi and the wider National Capital Territory. On that basis, the entire Delhi recorded a higher annual PM2.5 level of 99.6 micrograms per cubic metre and was ranked the fourth most polluted city globally, after Loni in Ghaziabad



(112.5), Hotan in China (109.6) and Byrnhit on the Meghalaya-Assam border (101.6). Among capital cities, Dhaka ranked second with an average annual PM2.5 concentration of 68 micrograms per cubic metre in 2025.

In 2024, Delhi's annual PM2.5 average stood at 108.3 micrograms per cubic metre, while New Delhi recorded 91.8 micrograms per cubic metre, indicating a marginal improvement in 2025.

"While Delhi's annual aver-

age fell 8%, the city still saw sharp monthly spikes from seasonal smog and dust storms. A major April dust storm alone pushed PM2.5 up 15%. Winter pollution-driven by crop burning, temperature inversions, industry and construction continued to plague the Indo-Gangetic plain," the report said.

The report analysed air quality in 9,446 cities across 143 countries, finding several NCR cities among the world's most polluted: Ghaziabad ranked 7th (PM2.5 89.2 g/m<sup>3</sup>), Noida 18th (80.5), Greater Noida 21st (77.2) and Gurgaon 23rd (74.6).

Manoj Kumar, an analyst at the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air, said: "A significant share of particulate pollution is formed from gaseous pollutants.

## Delhi Crime Branch busts transnational arms racket linked to Pakistan, Bangladesh

**New Delhi, (GNS):** In a major breakthrough, the Delhi Police Crime Branch has busted an international arms trafficking network operating from the Walled City, arresting ten operatives and seizing 21 sophisticated firearms along with 200 live cartridges. The haul includes a Czech-made submachine gun and several semi-automatic pistols from global manufacturers such as Beretta, Walther, Taurus, and CZ. Investigators also recovered a PX-57 pistol, a high-end weapon typically associated with elite forces, raising concerns about the network's reach and intent. The operation, led by DCP Sanjeev Yadav, exposed a well-organ-



ised smuggling route spanning Pakistan, Nepal, and Bangladesh. According to police, weapons were trafficked from Pakistan, routed through the porous Indo-Nepal border, and brought into Delhi's Walled City, which served as the central distribution hub. From here, the network supplied arms to criminal gangs across Delhi-NCR and other states, effectively acting as a bridge between international suppliers and domestic organised crime groups.

# To boost civic infra and waste management, allocation for MCD hiked

**New Delhi, (GNS):** Delhi govt on Tuesday increased its budgetary support to Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) by 19.6%, signalling a strong push to strengthen civic infrastructure and urban services in the capital. An amount of Rs 11,266 crore has been earmarked for the civic body for FY 2026-27, up from Rs 10,537 crore in the ongoing fiscal. Additionally, a special provision of Rs 1,000 crore has been made for improving internal roads and repairing stretches in residential colonies, taking the overall increase to Rs 2,063 crore.

This marks the second consecutive year of enhanced allocation for MCD under BJP-led Delhi govt. In 2025-26, MCD received a 25% hike - an



increase of Rs 2,114 crore - compared to Rs 8,423 crore allocated in 2024-25.

Presenting the budget, chief minister Rekha Gupta said the

allocation reflects govt's commitment to strengthening urban governance. "The amount allocated to MCD is significantly higher compared to previous

years. We have also proposed financial assistance of Rs 146 crore for New Delhi Municipal Council and Delhi Cantonment Board. The vision of 'Viksit Delhi - Harit Delhi' will gain triple speed through the triple engine," she said.

An amount of Rs 204 crore has been allotted to MCD and Rs 300 crore to PWD for pollution-control measures. Overall allocation under the scheme will be Rs 2,300 crore, which will be disbursed over three to four years.

CM also announced separate allocations to boost waste management systems. These include increasing the daily capacity of waste processing facilities, establishing biogas plants, and mitigating pollution through the

procurement of mechanical road sweepers, litter pickers, anti-smog guns and water sprinklers. Highlighting govt's focus on tackling legacy waste, Gupta said, "The mountains of garbage in Delhi are not a problem of one day; they have been the result of years of insufficient waste disposal. But today, our govt has resolved to change this situation."

Efforts are underway to increase waste processing capacity from 7,000 metric tonnes to 15,000 metric tonnes per day, she added. To achieve this, govt plans to expand the waste-to-energy (WTE) plants at Narela, Okhla, Ghazipur and Tehkhand. Progress in biomin- ing of legacy waste has already been recorded, with reduction

levels of 16% at Ghazipur, 54% at Bhalaswa and 68% at Okhla, Gupta said.

Focusing on treating cattle waste, govt plans to process 1,500 tonnes of cow dung generated daily through biogas plants. Currently, a significant portion of such waste is dumped into drains, leading to sanitation and environmental concerns. Addressing the issue of stray animals, CM announced plans to establish shelters or dog homes where animals can be housed, fed and treated. Additionally, Rs 14 crore has been allocated for setting up 10 new gaushalas. "We are working for the welfare of all living beings, which is why projects have been planned for them too," Gupta said.