



13 dead as bus catches fire after accident in Andhra Pradesh

Markapuram(GNS): 13 people were killed and 22 injured after a private travel bus collided with a tipper and caught fire here in Markapuram district on Thursday, police said.

While earlier estimates from District Superintendent of Police V Harshavardhan Raju suggested 14 fatalities, an official release from the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) later confirmed 13 deaths.

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu expressed profound shock and grief over the road accident near Rayavaram in Markapuram district.

A total of 35 passengers were on board the bus at the time of the



accident, of whom 13 lost their lives while 22 injured passengers are currently undergoing treatment. Among the injured, three are reported to be in critical condition," the release said.

The bus struck the tipper's diesel tank, triggering an inferno. Officials said rescue operations are ongoing while a command and

control room has been set up at Markapuram deputy collector's office to assist families.

The private travel bus was heading to Kaligiri in Nellore district from Jagtial in Telangana when the accident occurred between 5.30 am and 6 am.

The truck overturned and the front of the bus was completely sheared off by the force of the collision.

According to officials, the bus driver reportedly stated that the steering wheel got stuck, and authorities are verifying this claim. Preliminary assessment suggested that the bus moved into the opposite lane before the crash.



24 dead after bus plunges into river in Bangladesh, search on for missing

(Salvage vessel) Hamza retrieved the bus with its cranes," fire service official Sohel Rana told reporters at the scene.

He added that the divers earlier recovered bodies of two women in their late 50s or early 60s and found the others as the bus was salvaged at around Wednesday midnight after six hours of efforts amid rough weather.

Fire service and coastguard divers continued their search for the missing people with military and police assistance, according to Rana.

According to Rajbari district administration officials, Prime Minister Tarique Rahman called them for updates on the salvage campaign and ordered an investigation into the accident.

Police and witnesses earlier said about 11 passengers managed to swim ashore or were rescued, but most others remained missing.

"When the bus was heading towards the ferry from the pontoon, another smaller utility ferry hit the pontoon. It plunged into the river as the bus driver lost control of the steering," the terminal's supervisor Monir Hossain said.

At least 24 people were killed and several others remain missing after a bus plunged into a river in Bangladesh while attempting to board a transport ferry, officials said on Thursday.

They estimate that the Dhaka-bound bus was carrying around 40 passengers, including several children, most of whom were returning to the capital after their Eid holidays. According to local fire service officials, 24 bodies have been recovered. Twenty-two bodies were recovered from inside the bus, including 11 women, six men and five children.

Rahul Gandhi said, "A nurse from Kerala cared for my mother overnight"

He said at the rally, "Nurses are the identity of this place; there are 500,000 nurses in the state; elections are on April 9th."

New Delhi(GNS): At a rally, Rahul Gandhi mentioned the Kerala nurse caring for Sonia Gandhi, calling her the state's identity. Rahul was originally scheduled to visit Kozhikode on Wednesday, but was unable to do so due to Sonia Gandhi's hospitalization. He addressed the crowd virtually.

Rahul said, "I was sleeping on a small couch in my mother's room at the hospital. Like every son, I was very worried about my mother's health. However, the nurse from Kerala took great care of my mother, which brought her relief."

In Kerala alone, there are approximately 500,000 registered nurses in the state. More than 1 million nurses from Kerala



work nationwide, and the number abroad is over 2 million. It is being said that Rahul Gandhi's mention of nurses was an attempt to reach out to this community. Kerala is set to hold a single-phase assembly election on April 9th.

Bengal SIR: 1.3 million names deleted from first supplementary list

340 voters, including the BLO, are missing from a booth in Basirhat North

Kolkata, Agency: The Election Commission in Kolkata on Wednesday said that out of 32 lakh names that came under scrutiny during SIR (Special Intensive Revision) in West Bengal, 13 lakh names have been removed from the voter list.

On Monday, the Commission released the first supplementary list of these voters, who were "under adjudication," meaning the Commission was verifying their documents. According to the Commission, more than 6 million names were under adjudication. Of these, 3.2 million still pending cases have been resolved, while approximately 2.8 million are still pending investigation. Meanwhile, tension has erupted in the Basirhat



North assembly constituency following the release of the first supplementary list. The names of all 340 voters at booth number 5 in Boro Gobra village are missing from the voter list.

All the voters were marked as "under adjudication." Surprisingly, the name of the booth level officer (BLO) of this same booth, Mohammad Shafiqul Alam, is also not on the voter list. Local people say that Alam's father's name was registered in the SR (Special Revision) of 2002, despite this his name being removed raises many questions.

Shankaracharya's arrest stayed until chargesheet is filed

High Court verdict in case of sexual exploitation of novices, barred from giving interview

New Delhi(GNS): The Allahabad High Court on Wednesday granted bail to Shankaracharya Swami Avimuktেশ्वरानанда Saraswati. The court ruled that he will not be arrested until a charge sheet is filed. The High Court bench headed by Justice Jitendra Kumar Sinha delivered the verdict at 3:45 pm. The Allahabad High Court has imposed conditions while granting bail to Shankaracharya Avimuktेश्वरानанда. The most important condition is that both parties (Shankaracharya and Ashutosh) will refrain from making statements to the media or giving interviews. Shankaracharya is also prohibited from traveling abroad, requiring permission from the High Court. If these bail conditions are violated, the other party can file for bail cancellation.



During the verdict, Shankaracharya's lawyers asked, "Your Honor, please also address the issue of someone taking children on a tour, or someone making statements during a tour. This should also be stopped." The court said that this should not be violated. Shankaracharya said, "Such decisions boost courage." Swami Avimuktेश्वरानанда said, "Sometimes it seems like the law is a trap. Some people have taken hold of it. They can trap anyone at will. When such decisions are made, people gain courage. It's not that those who use it as a trap are always unsuccessful. Such people have faith in justice and the judicial process."

Ashutosh Maharaj will approach the Supreme Court for Shankaracharya's arrest. Ashutosh Maharaj's spokesperson, Reena N. Singh, said, "The High Court has granted bail to Avimuktेश्वरानанда. Despite this, our fight for justice will continue. We are dissatisfied with this order. We will approach the Supreme Court for justice. We are committed to protecting the religion."

Attempt to take over party after Ajit Pawar's death: Nephew Rohit claims three leaders, including Praful Patel, wrote to EC

Mumbai(GNS): NCP (SP) MLA Rohit Pawar claimed that after the death of Ajit Pawar, three leaders including Praful Patel had tried to take over the NCP (Ajit Pawar).

Rohit Pawar said that on February 16th, 18 days after Ajit Pawar's death, Praful Patel, Sunil Tatkare, and Brijmohan Srivastava sent a letter to the Election Commission. The letter stated that changes had been



made to the party constitution. All powers should now be given to the working president. Praful Patel was the National Working President of the NCP and was the party chief at the time of Ajit Pawar's death.

Ajit Pawar's nephew, Rohit, made these remarks at a press conference on Wednesday. He also showed relevant documents and demanded a criminal investigation into the matter.

Hotels and restaurants will not be able to add LPG charges separately to their bills

The government said - if this is done, action will be taken; there was a case of charging a 5% gas-crisis charge

New Delhi, (GNS): Hotels and restaurants will no longer be able to charge customers an "LPG charge." The central government has stated that restaurants will only be able to add government taxes to their food bills in addition to the price. Amid the LPG crisis, the Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) has said that hotels and restaurants will have to include all their input costs



in the prices given in the menu.

If a restaurant adds a separate charge to the bill citing rising gas prices or any other operational expenses, it will be considered a violation of the rules.

Arrested Baba suspected of 5 human sacrifices

He used to blackmail women by making obscene videos of them

Maharashtra (GNS): Ashok Kharat, who calls himself "Captain" and a "cosmology expert" in Nashik, Maharashtra, is under investigation on charges of sexual exploitation, blackmailing, and fraud. The investigation has revealed his network, assets, and high-profile connections. Police have found evidence of five human sacrifices, which are being forensically investigated to confirm.

The SIT raids recovered over 100 incriminating videos, 8 lakh in cash, a pistol, and a large amount of property-related documents. Five bullets from the pistol are

missing, further fueling suspicions of human sacrifice. Eight cases have been registered against him so far under charges of rape, blackmail, and the anti-superstition law. Actually, the police had arrested 67-year-old Ashok Kharat on March 18 on charges of repeatedly raping and blackmailing a 35-year-old woman. Accused of blackmailing by making obscene videos It is alleged that Kharat lured women under the guise of "purification" and tantric rituals. He targeted those suffering from illness, family disputes, or those who desired children. He would



film them with spycams and later detained his former office assistant, Neeraj Jadhav. He is accused of accessing CCTV footage on a laptop and creating pornographic clips.

Police have seized two laptops and over 50 property documents. Forensic examination of the videos is being conducted to identify the victims and the network. Claims to have visited 154 countries, visited Turkey 15 times Kharat described himself as a captain in the Australian Merchant Navy and a cosmology expert. He claimed to have traveled to 154 countries and spoke 12 foreign languages. He had visited Turkey 15 times in the past five years.

In the line of survivors

Suresh Seth

The government claims it has solved the problem of unemployment. It has solved it through the short-cut culture of compassion, or the distribution of freebies. It's a different matter that with the growth of this culture, the culture of work has vanished. Work indices show that Indians, the most in Asia, prefer rest to work. Even though India raises the loudest slogan of "Rest is

Haram," you can still see idle people lying under fruitful plum trees. They lie there motionless, waiting for a plum to fall on their chests. When a plum falls, they say to a passerby, "Brother, pick this plum from my chest and put it in my mouth." The passerby picks it up and puts it in his mouth, eventually becoming known as a power broker. Afterward, the only task left for you is to prove that you're still alive and worthy of eating the plums

dripping from these berries. If you fail to do so, your name is struck off the list of eligible candidates, and someone else takes your place. Availability of alternatives is not a problem here. The population is huge; if you look for one, you'll find thousands. This finding of thousands instead of one is the biggest problem. Therefore, these days, the dead are being searched among the living, meaning all lists are being revised.

Voter lists are being revised in every state. Next, the MNREGA lists will be scrutinized. Yes, the same voter lists whose scrutiny is being heavily criticized by opposition parties, who claim that the names of their supporters are removed from these lists so that the ruling party can never slip away from the seat of power after winning. The seats are secured in the names of those in power. When they are about to leave, their grandchildren

will seize these seats and raise slogans against the nepotism of society and politics. You know that there are exceptions to every rule. As an exception to this rule, relatives of the chair holders appear. Even those who remain unlucky will surely enjoy the privilege of becoming chairman of some corporation. But to live a happy life, you must periodically prove that you're still alive, and be prepared to stand in the ration queue. It's also

worth noting that you're still alive from time to time, sometimes by working 125 days a year under the renamed MNREGA or by earning a salary under the campaign to become a hard worker. If you don't understand the point this way, listen. The most entertaining and heroic of these is the campaign to prove oneself alive. From the government's voter revision list to numerous other places, one has to shout "I am alive."

Editorial

Go here or Go there

How can we even manage the state's heap of priorities, both inside and outside the House? It feels as if we're just passing time or pushing it. We're aboard a boat with no destination. Politics dictates we go this way and we'll end up that way. Himachal's Jogindernagar-Pathankot railway line is lamenting its plight. MPs are telling us that one day the tracks will be widened, but the reality is that the journey from Pathankot doesn't reach Jogindernagar. Who stopped the Kangra Valley railway? Who is making empty promises in Parliament? It's surprising that trains aren't running where the tracks are, while political visionaries are saying, "Look there, tomorrow there's a spectacle." The Shimla-Kangra and Pathankot-Mandi four-lane roads are in a similar state. It's unclear when the Jasoor and Malan flyovers will give up their stubbornness. The pillars of stubborn development are visible in many places. The four-lane from Kangra doesn't even reach the tunnel. Major bridges and tunnels have been built, but the journey remains uninterrupted. Meanwhile, a tender for the Pinjore-Baddi-Nalagarh four-lane highway remains unfinished despite repeated complaints. Within the state, many buildings remain unfinished, while others, despite being completed, are desolate. Yet, the process continues. Every year, the Central University campus in Dharamshala's Jadrangal holds its own funeral procession, but no one cries. Neither the Congress nor the B.J.P. Many leaders have changed, governments have changed, but the political landscape remains flawless.

Inclusive budget under financial pressure

To increase its revenue, the government will also have to fight legal battles with neighboring states to recover compensation for its water, forests, the Shanan Hydroelectric Project, the BBMB, and the displacement of its people. Ultimately, this budget is an attempt to strike a balance, where efforts are made to enforce fiscal discipline while social welfare schemes are continued... Himachal Pradesh's budget for the financial year 2026-27 comes at a time when the state is grappling with the challenge of balancing severe financial pressures, dwindling resources, and rising social expectations.

Anuj Acharya

Considering the overall size and financial situation, the provision of ₹54,928 crore indicates that the state intends to maintain the pace of development despite limited resources. This budget conveys the message of "self-reliant Himachal" and "system change" amidst severe financial challenges. Although the budget size has decreased from last year due to the discontinuation of the central grant (Revenue Deficit Grant), the primary focus remains on poor families, agriculture, health, and infrastructure. However, a revenue deficit of ₹6,577 crore and a fiscal deficit of approximately ₹9,698 crore also make it clear that the economic situation remains under pressure. Out of every ₹100 spent, ₹27 goes to salaries, ₹21 to pensions, and ₹13 to interest payments, indicating that a significant portion of the state's income is being spent on employees, pensioners, and interest payments on loans, limiting the scope for capital investment. Due to this financial pressure, the



most celebrated and bold decision taken by the government was the suspension of 30 to 50 percent of the salaries of high-level officials and public representatives for six months. This move symbolically conveys a message of sacrifice and responsibility, especially since Group C and D employees have been excluded. However, it is also worth noting that this moratorium is temporary, not a cut. Financial benefits, dearness allowances, and arrears for employees and pensioners are still pending. On the other hand, the strongest aspect of this budget is its inclusive welfare approach. The increase in honorariums for Anganwadi workers, Asha workers, Mid-Day

Meal workers, and other low-income workers will directly increase cash flow in the rural economy. Similarly, the provision of 300 units of free electricity, a monthly assistance of ₹1,500, and pucca houses for 100,000 extremely poor families presents a targeted welfare model. However, given the strong economic condition of Himachalis, any subsidy no longer seems justified. The budget also clearly prioritizes agriculture and the rural economy. The promotion of natural farming, the increase in the support price of milk by ₹10 per liter, and the increase in the MSP of wheat, maize, turmeric, and ginger are positive efforts to increase farmers' income. At a time

when, as of March 2026, the number of registered unemployed youth in Himachal Pradesh has reached nearly 700,000, providing industrial training to 10,000 youth, recruiting for new police personnel, and creating positions in the health sector are small steps toward increasing employment opportunities. Several notable initiatives in the budget also address women's empowerment, such as a stamp duty concession on property purchases, a monthly assistance of ₹1,500, and loans of up to ₹3 lakh for self-employment. These steps could help increase women's economic participation. Maintained investment in the health and education sectors is a positive sign. The establishment of modern facilities, new labs, and equipment in medical colleges can be expected to improve the quality of healthcare. The decision to fully fund the education of children from poor and underprivileged backgrounds at institutions like IITs and IIMs is expected to promote social mobility.

Practice of Compassion

The Gita also teaches that ego is the greatest obstacle. A person who constantly wants to speak, considers himself the most knowledgeable, wants people to listen to him, respect his knowledge, but he cannot listen, he cannot even hear anyone's suffering. Ayon also wants to speak, but he is not sharing his knowledge. Ayon is not in ego, but in sorrow. Ayon's customers speak, so they cannot hear. The horse does not speak, so he hears. This symbol is very profound. It shows that compassion is not a product of intellect, but of emotion. When Ayon tells his horse about his suffering, the scene depicts an old man and his horse, and silence flows in between. This silence is also the core tone of the Gita. Ayon Potapov symbolizes every human being who has discovered that the world does not stop for their grief.

Guru Pramod Nirvana

Indian philosophy teaches us that if we can sit with someone's suffering, perhaps we can become the greatest support in their life... Russian writer Anton Chekhov's story "Mirror," meaning "Suffering," is considered one of the world's most famous stories. The main character is an old horse-carriage driver named Ion Potapov, devastated by the loss of his son. He drives customers on a snowy night and tries to tell them about his son's death, desperately wanting to share his grief with someone, but no one listens; instead, they discuss their own sorrows. This attitude so disturbs him that he finally turns to his horse, tells him his sorrow, and cuddles up to him to soothe his heart. This isn't just a story; it's a situation we all experience at one time or another. Sometimes, grief becomes so profound in a person's life that they seek support, all they want is someone to listen. Ion Potapov embodies that very state. His grief doesn't seek philosophy, doesn't seek a solution; it

only seeks sharing. But the world is accustomed to hearing solutions, not to hearing sorrows. Today's society is preoccupied with its own sorrows, its own selfish interests, and its own petty egos. There's no room for anyone else's grief. When Ayon mentions his son's death, the other person begins to share their own life's problems. This isn't just a story; it's a reflection of human nature. Ayon's grief isn't unbearable because his son died, but because he can't share it with anyone. Grief is lightened by sharing, but when there's no one to share it with, it becomes a burden. We often forget that what humans need first and foremost isn't a solution, but sympathy. The horse doesn't answer, doesn't offer advice, it simply remains present. This presence brings Ayon solace. There's no wisdom, no sermons, only silence, and that silence becomes medicine. This story isn't about grief, but about indifference. Ayon isn't crying, isn't screaming; he simply wants to say that his son is dead. But the world doesn't stop to listen. Everyone is

preoccupied with their own drama. It's a psychological truth that a person can only listen when they are empty within. How can someone filled with sorrow themselves make room for the sorrow of others? Therefore, no one listens to Ayon. In the end, he speaks to the horse, because the horse's mind is empty. This story suggests that communication occurs not through words, but through presence. The horse doesn't understand, yet it listens. The human claims to understand, but cannot. This is the irony. From a philosophical perspective, this story highlights the state of human existence where a person is alone even while living in society. Ayon's loneliness isn't physical, it's existential. He's among people, but not in relationships. In modern society, communication has become one-sided. Everyone wants to speak, but no one wants to listen. Listening to someone's grief is a state of compassion, not the intellect. Here, we operate with our hearts, not our minds. Psychology says that the most essential stage of grief

is to give words to the sorrow. Ayon tries again and again, but fails. This increases his grief. When he talks to the horse, his mind experiences emotional relief for the first time. This makes it clear that it's not important who is listening, but that someone is listening. Indian philosophy doesn't consider grief a problem; it considers it a state. This is why we don't offer immediate answers to grief; we sit with it. Chekhov's story sharply highlights this difference. Whoever Ayon tells about his son's death, instead of listening, tells him their own story. There is no dialogue here, but a competition to see whose suffering is greater. In the Indian view, this is a game of ego, leaving no room for compassion. The wisdom of the Gita tells us that a person's balance is broken when they become confined to their own experiences. The ability to enter into another's experience is compassion, which restores balance. Compassion is not sentimentality; it is the maturity of consciousness. Ayon lacks compassion, so his suffering grows heavier.

Suffering itself is not heavy; carrying it alone makes it so heavy. The Gita teaches us to remain in the situation rather than preaching in times of suffering. This is why silence is so important in Indian philosophy. Silence is not emptiness; silence is complete acceptance. When a person is suffering, they don't need arguments, they don't need advice; they need the feeling that their suffering is valid, that they are seen. Listening means creating space within themselves. The person who listens, temporarily sets aside their ego. This is the most rare thing in society. The Gita also teaches that ego is the greatest obstacle. A person who constantly wants to speak, considers himself the most knowledgeable, wants people to listen to him, respect his knowledge, but he cannot listen, he cannot even hear anyone's suffering. Ayon also wants to speak, but he is not sharing his knowledge. Ayon is not in ego, he is in sorrow. Ayon's customers speak, so they cannot hear. The horse does not speak, so he hears. This symbol is very profound.

Opposition skips Budget debate; minister Sood flags 'non-serious' approach in Assembly

New Delhi, (GNS): Delhi has recorded its lowest-ever inflation rate, as well as the lowest in the country, dropping to 1.13 per cent by December 2025, Education Minister Ashish Sood said in the Assembly on Wednesday during the discussion on the 2026-27 Budget. Attributing the decline to the current government's fiscal management and policy interventions, he said the sustained reduction in inflation reflects improved governance and targeted measures aimed at easing the burden on the common man.

Citing the Economic Survey, Sood said inflation in the Capital has steadily declined over the past few years - from 4.61 per cent in 2022 to 2.81 per cent in 2023 and 2.59 per cent in 2024, before reaching the current low.

Calling the Rs 1.03-lakh crore Budget a "redefining governance" exercise, Sood said it is not mere-



ly a financial statement but a roadmap for building a "developed Delhi" under Chief Minister Rekha Gupta. He said the government has prioritised governance, stability and long-term planning over "headline management".

The minister also launched a

sharp attack on the Opposition for its absence during the debate, calling it "unfortunate" and reflective of its "non-serious approach". He said earlier Assemblies had seen strong participation from Opposition leaders who engaged in detailed policy discussions, unlike the current scenario where members were "avoiding accountability".

Highlighting key features, Sood underscored that the Budget proposes a record capital expenditure of over Rs 32,000 crore, up from Rs 28,115 crore in 2025-26 and significantly higher than Rs 15,000 crore in 2024-25. "This is not just spending, but investment in Delhi's future," he said, adding that higher capital outlay would strengthen infrastructure, boost employment and accelerate growth. He said Delhi's tax revenue has witnessed steady growth - from Rs 55,000 crore in

2023-24 to Rs 58,750 crore in 2024-25 and Rs 68,700 crore in 2025-26, indicating improved financial management and greater self-reliance. The minister also claimed that the city's debt burden has reduced from Rs 40,323 crore in 2023-24 to Rs 23,557 crore in 2025-26.

Sood said the government has avoided populist measures despite upcoming civic polls, choosing instead to focus on structural reforms and fiscal prudence. "No economy can run on borrowings alone; strengthening revenue and expenditure discipline is essential," he said.

Among major allocations, the Budget earmarks Rs 19,148 crore for education, with a focus on expanding access and improving quality through smart classrooms, digital infrastructure and new school buildings.

Delhi Police bust multi-state cyber fraud racket

New Delhi, (GNS): Police have busted multiple inter-state syndicates involved in "digital arrest", fake IPO, and online trading scams and exposed fraud worth approximately Rs 10.6 crore across



89 complaints, leading to the arrest of six men. The syndicates primarily targeted unsuspecting citizens, including elderly victims, using methods of deception, fear and inducement.

DCP (outer north) Hareshwar V Swami said, "In one case involving a digital arrest scam, an elderly couple was allegedly held under psychological pressure for nearly a week by fraudsters posing as TRAI and CBI officials. The victims were coerced into transferring Rs 20 lakh. During the probe, Rs 18.5 lakh was traced to a bank account

operated by an accused, Shashikant Kumar, who was arrested from Ranchi. The account was linked to 35 complaints involving nearly Rs 2 crore." In another

case related to a fake IPO scheme, a victim was cheated of Rs 7.79 lakh through a fraudulent investment platform operated via a fake mobile application. Khalid Tyagi, was arrested from Roorkee after evading arrest and attempting to flee abroad. His account was linked to 25 complaints involving over Rs 4 crore. A third case involved, Sachin Mittal, was arrested from Shahdara for cheating victims by promising high returns on fake trading platforms. The account linked to him was connected to 24 complaints worth over Rs 1 crore.

'Was told to slow down':

Speeding Jaipur-Delhi private bus overturns near Jhandewalan leaves 2 dead, 21 injured

New Delhi, (GNS): A speeding private bus on the last leg of its Jaipur-Delhi trip crashed on its side near Jhandewalan Temple in central Delhi, killing two passengers and injuring 21.

The bus rammed the boundary wall of a park and crashed into an electric pole before overturning on Wednesday around 1 am. Injured passengers said the driver was speeding and refused to slow down despite requests.

"The Rajasthan-registered tourist sleeper, with a capacity of around 70, was travelling from Jaipur to Sadar Bazar in Delhi, with about 30 passengers on board. Some had boarded earlier, leaving Jatin Kumar 23 when the bus overturned,"



police said.

Police suspect the 26-year-old driver may have dozed off or was speeding. All 23 injured were taken to city hospitals and two of them - Mahesh Kumar (22) of Chhattisgarh and Shehbaz Alam (30) of UP - died during treatment.

Poonam Singh, who was returning with her husband and seven-year-old son from a vacation in Rajasthan, said the bus was in poor condition, and the driver continued to speed despite passengers' warnings.

Similarly, Aman Kashyap, an engineering student return-

ing home to Noida from Rajasthan, also alleged rash driving. The passengers also suspect that the driver may have been intoxicated.

Some passengers tried to get off earlier but were dissuaded by the driver, who insisted on continuing, saying he had somewhere to be, said Mukesh, a passenger.

A passing earthmover was used to lift the bus and rescue those trapped. All injured passengers were taken to hospitals: 12 to Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital (two later died), 10 critical to Ganga Ram Hospital, and one to Lady Hardinge Medical College. The driver, Pankaj Kumar, has been detained and is receiving medical treatment.

Crime branch busts pirated books racket

New Delhi, (GNS): Delhi Police crime branch has busted a pirated books racket and arrested a 67-year-old man for allegedly printing and distributing copies of books belonging to Penguin Random House India Pvt. Ltd., police said.

Acting on a complaint lodged on March 14, police teams conducted raids in Rohini's Sector-16, recovering 8,593 pirated books. A subsequent raid at a nearby location resulted in the seizure of 11,544 additional copies, bringing the total recovery to over 20,000 books.



Delhi to mandatorily tests liquor samples for quality checks

New Delhi, (GNS): In a bid to ensure quality, the excise dept has asked all wholesale licenses to mandatorily submit samples of all registered brands of Indian Made Foreign Liquor (IMFL) on a quarterly basis to govt's excise control laboratory, where they would undergo testing.

The move is aimed at preventing sub-standard supply and safeguarding consumer interests, an official said. Authorities have warned that failure to comply with the directive could lead to action. "It is reiterated that all L-1 licensees are hereby directed to submit the sample of each brand approved by the excise department for 2025-26 in the excise lab for testing without fail," stated an excise circular issued on March 23. According to official figures, in 2024-25, Delhi had 1,579 registered brands. As many as 24,316 samples have been tested, suggesting that each brand undergoes multiple rounds of quality checks throughout the year, in line with periodic compliance requirements.

"This shows that there is an extensive monitoring mechanism to ensure consistency, safety and adherence to prescribed standards across all approved IMFL brands," said the official.

The excise policy 2020-21 is currently in force in Delhi. It was extended last month till March 2027 as Delhi govt is yet to frame a new excise policy. On Monday, Delhi Assembly's Public Accounts Committee flagged a loss of about Rs 2,002 crore to the exchequer due to the now-scraped 2021-22 excise policy, calling it a "flawed" move that failed in implementation.

FIR against a judge possible only after chief justice's nod, Delhi high court tells litigant

New Delhi, (GNS): Delhi High Court on Wednesday questioned a litigant for filing a petition to seek permission to register an FIR against a judicial officer over alleged forgery in an order.

A bench of Chief Justice DK Upadhyaya and Justice Tejas Karia reminded the petitioner and his counsel that an FIR can only be filed after the high court chief justice examines and gives the nod on the administrative side jurisdiction, and not by way of court proceedings.

The court underlined that a Supreme Court ruling mandates that an FIR against a sitting judge can be filed only after taking approval from the chief justice on the administrative side. It re-iterated that it can neither be sought nor granted in response to a writ petition.

The high court also clarified that filing a complaint and seeking permission for an FIR are two separate things. Even if a complaint is pending, approval is needed to lodge an FIR for which a representation can be made, which is decided by the chief justice. The bench was hearing a plea in which the counsel of the petitioner alleged that a judge of the district judiciary had "concocted" an order of April 2024 to favour the opposite side, and despite repeated objections, refused to stop hearing the case. After pointing out that such a petition can't be used for giving permission to lodge an FIR, the high court objected to the litigant uploading a video of the trial court hearing on YouTube and warned him not to share court proceedings on social media.

HIV+ patient from Ethiopia with renal disease gets new life

New Delhi, (GNS): Doctors at a Delhi hospital have successfully performed a complex living donor kidney transplant on a 43-year-old HIV-positive patient from Ethiopia, suffering from end-stage renal disease.

The patient had been living with HIV for over a decade and developed end-stage kidney disease three years ago, requiring regular dialysis. In search of advanced treatment, he travelled to India, where he was evaluated by a multidisciplinary transplant team at Max Hospital Patparganj.

After pre-transplant assessment, the patient's 33-year-old wife was found to be a suitable donor. Compatibility testing confirmed matching blood groups and a negative cross-match, allowing doctors to proceed with the transplant.

Kidney transplantation in HIV-positive individuals has



historically posed challenges due to infection risks and the complexities of managing immune suppression. However, recent advances in antiretroviral therapy and transplant protocols have made such procedures safe in carefully selected patients.

Before surgery, the patient underwent an evaluation to ensure his HIV was well-controlled, with a stable immune profile and an undetectable viral load.

The surgery was led by Dr. Paresch Jain, senior director of urology, robotic surgery and renal transplant, along with

Dr. Ravi Kumar Singh, senior consultant in nephrology and transplant medicine.

"In this case, careful pre-transplant evaluation, precise surgical execution and postoperative monitoring were critical to ensuring a successful outcome. This procedure reflects how advances in transplant science and surgical expertise are enabling us to safely expand access to life-saving transplants for patients who were once considered high-risk," said Dr. Paresch Jain. Dr. Ravi Kumar Singh emphasised the evolving outlook for such patients: "HIV is no longer a barrier to organ transplantation when managed appropriately."

As per doctors, the patient is recovering well. He has been taken off dialysis and is gradually resuming normal daily activities, while continuing on a carefully monitored regimen of immunosuppressive and antiretroviral therapy.

Why your IGNOU degree may be rendered invalid

New Delhi, (GNS): Renuka, a 42-year-old school teacher from Bhopal's Ujjain and a mother of two, was looking to pursue an MA in psychology alongside her job to upgrade her qualifications.

Like many working professionals, she turned to IGNOU for its flexibility - and paid around Rs 9,000 as first-year fees. What she did not know was that the course she applied for had already been barred in distance mode under national norms last year. However, the university continues to admit students to the programme, despite it being discontinued for online and distance learning under UGC directions issued in line with the National Commission for Allied and Healthcare Professions (NCAHP) Act, 2021, which mandates in-person clinical and practical training

for such courses. Her case has brought to light an apparent violation of regulatory norms, potentially leaving thousands of applicants in a fix as

they may have enrolled in a programme that could ultimately be deemed invalid. Around 17,000 students have applied for the MA psychology course this year, according to officials.

Having taken admission in July last year (after the ban), Renuka said she has been attending online classes since Sept, receiving regular communication from the study-centre. "I have already completed assignments and they have even shared the exam schedule for this June," she said.

"I found out through a news report that such courses have been barred in online mode. There are around 190 students in my class. We tried asking the regional centre, but its officials said they had no such information. We also emailed IGNOU, but got no response," she said, adding, "Now I don't know whether to even submit my assignments if the degree itself may not be valid." Last year, UGC directed institutions to halt fresh enrolments in healthcare-

related courses requiring clinical and practical training in online and distance modes from the July-Aug 2025 academic cycle - including psychology, nutrition, microbiology and biotechnology - warning that degrees obtained in violation of these norms would be rendered invalid.

According to the university's official admission brochure, applications continue to be invited for these programmes despite the restrictions. The brochure carries a disclaimer stating that under the NCAHP Act, allied and healthcare qualifications are recognised only if obtained through regular mode, and advises applicants to go through the provisions before taking admission and make an "informed decision".

This year, IGNOU has continued to invite applications to other programmes in disciplines where online and distance offerings are restricted by regulators, including courses in areas like medicine, agriculture and horticulture.

WESTERN RAILWAY			
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ADDITIONAL E-AUCTION SALE PROGRAM DURING MARCH 2026 FOR PWAY 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 to 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.
Mumbai Central	30.03.2026	Sr. Divisional Materials Manager - Mumbai Central	02223094142 09004499061
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Delhi's first-ever International Film Fest opens to packed halls

New Delhi, (GNS): The inaugural edition of the International Film Festival of Delhi (IFFD) 2026 opened to a full house at Bharat Mandapam on Wednesday evening, marking a high-energy start to what is being pitched as one of the Capital's largest cinematic gatherings.

Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, along with senior ministers and leading figures from the film industry, inaugurated the festival. The opening night witnessed a huge turnout from across the country's film fraternity, with actors, filmmakers and producers walking the red carpet.

The ceremony began with a tribute marking 150 years of "Vande Mataram", setting a cultural tone for the evening. A special audio-visual presentation tracing the journey of Indian cinema and the vision behind the IFFD was also showcased, followed by cultural performances, gala premieres and live acts celebrating the diversity of Indian filmmaking.



Several distinguished artists were felicitated during the event. Lifetime Achievement Awards were conferred on Sharmila Tagore, Dharmendra and Nandamuri Balakrishna in recognition of their contributions to Indian cinema.

The ceremony concluded with the screening of opening film "Sirat", directed by Oliver Laxe, setting an international tone for the festival's first edition.

Addressing the gathering, Gupta described the occasion as a "historic moment" for Delhi, saying the city is carving a strong identity on the global cinematic platform. She said Delhi had long been a hub of art, culture and creativity, and the film festival was a natural extension of that legacy.

"Cinema is not just about films, but a celebration of dreams, emotions and stories that connect society," she said, adding that it transcends language and geography to build deeper human connections.

Highlighting Delhi's growing stature, the Chief Minister said the festival marks the Capital's emergence alongside established film hubs such as Mumbai, Pune and Goa. Hosting international filmmakers at a world-class venue like Bharat Mandapam reflects the city's diversity and cultural vibrancy, she added.

2 sharpshooters of Bawana gang arrested in Delhi

New Delhi, (GNS): The Delhi Police on Wednesday claimed to have arrested two sharpshooters linked to the Neeraj Bawana-Naveen Bali gang and recovered illegal firearms and ammunition from their possession, an official said. The accused, identified as Satender (28) and Tarun, alias Tori (30), were apprehended on Monday.

"Acting on a tip-off about the movement of armed gang members, a police team laid a trap in the Narela Industrial Area and intercepted the duo," a senior police officer said.

During the operation, officers recovered five illegal firearms, including two .32 bore pistols, one 9 mm pistol and two country-made weapons, along with eight live cartridges, from them. The police said both accused were active members of the Neeraj Bawana-Naveen Bali gang and allegedly planning to execute a major crime in outer-



north Delhi.

Satender has been previously involved in several criminal cases, including attempt to murder, kidnapping and offences under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act.

Tarun, a bad character of the Bawana police station, has a history of cases related to robbery, theft and Arms Act violation. "Tarun had been associated with the gang since 2017, and was earlier arrested by the special cell in 2020 following an exchange of fire," the officer said. During interrogation, the accused disclosed that they had procured the weapons from Haryana on the instructions of gang handlers and were awaiting further directions.

'Not one, but two Sheesh Mahals': CAG report dominates Delhi assembly business

New Delhi, (GNS): The CAG report on the renovation of former CM Arvind Kejriwal's official residence at 6, Flagstaff Road dominated Delhi Assembly proceedings on Wednesday, with chief minister Rekha Gupta terming it a "document of moral decline" and calling for strict action against those found guilty. The House unanimously approved her proposal to refer the matter to the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) for further investigation.

The CAG report tabled Monday had stated the residence - often called 'Sheesh Mahal' by BJP as a dig at AAP -- was completed with Rs 33.6 crore, 342% above the estimated cost.

PWD minister Parvesh Verma started the discussion in the House, stating "Sheesh Mahal is not one, but two" and claiming an additional structure over nearly 4,000 square yards was being built along-



side the main residence and remained incomplete. About Rs 25 crore had already been spent on it, with the total expected to go up to Rs 60 crore, he said. The discussion took place when no AAP MLA was present inside the assembly. The party has boycotted the budget session.

Citing the report, Verma said the initial tender was Rs 7.9 crore and was increased in multiple stages. The same

contractor continued to get the work, he added, alleging the tender process was structured accordingly. He said during the pandemic, the project was given priority and files related to it were marked "most urgent".

Targeting AAP and Kejriwal, he said commitments made earlier regarding govt facilities were not followed. He also stated that trees were cut and existing

structures at the site were demolished. Gupta also attacked AAP, saying those who built a 'Sheesh Mahal' in Delhi have now moved into what she described as a 'Sheesh Mahal-2' in Punjab. She accused Kejriwal of behaving like an "emperor", claiming he saw himself as a ruler while treating the people of Delhi as subjects.

CM alleged at a time when Delhi needed investment in roads, flyovers and core infrastructure, the AAP-led govt was focused on creating 'world-class' interiors for official residences. "The promise of simplicity remained only a slogan, while the reality reflected a culture of extravagance," she said.

Gupta alleged the residence was neither opened to the public nor used for public hearings, adding that ordinary citizens had no access.

Responding to BJP's comments on the so-called Sheesh

Mahal, an AAP functionary said, "During the period when the official residence of the Delhi CM was being renovated, the PM's residence was also being built.

Yet, every detail of the CM's residence is in the public domain, while every detail of the PM's residence has been kept secret. How is this justified? When will this country have an honest discussion about its expenditure."

He added: "We are ready for a fair debate. But there cannot be a selective debate targeting only one residence. We have been saying this for the last two years, and we are reiterating it now."

AAP further said that "those planning to buy a VVIP boat for Rs 6.2 crore - a reference to reports on Delhi govt's initiating the process to procure two air-conditioned boats for the Yamuna's inspection - cannot question a Rs 30-crore CM residence".



'Shehanshah-e-Alam', 'Rehman Dakait': Barb

New Delhi, (GNS): Barbs flew in the Delhi Assembly as Chief Minister Rekha Gupta and PWD Minister Parvesh Verma attacked former CM Arvind Kejriwal for splurging public money on renovating his official bungalow pejoratively called Sheesh Mahal by the BJP.

"Shehanshah-e-Alam" and "Rehman Dakait" set the tone for a charged discussion in the Delhi Assembly as Verma opened the discussion on the CAG report into the controversial "Sheesh Mahal", presenting a detailed account of alleged expenditure and irregularities linked to Kejriwal. While Chief Minister Rekha Gupta described Kejriwal as seeing himself as a "Shehanshah-e-Alam," Verma's borrowed from super hit flick "Dhuranhar" to use "Rehman Dakait" reference and alleged "Kejriwal was the dacoit whom Dhurandars of Delhi have defeated". Public money was looted while people were suffering...these were not just decisions of governance," he said.

Opening with a poetic remark, Verma said, "I kept saving my home from termites, but a few worms of power devoured the entire city," before alleging that promises of simplicity were abandoned within weeks of assuming office, with a bungalow allotted at Flagstaff Road in under 20 days.

Citing the CAG findings, Verma said the cost of the residence escalated sharply from Rs 8 crore to Rs 62 crore. He further claimed that while the Government of India had provided Rs 787.91 crore for Covid relief, a portion remained under-utilised even as expenditure on the residence surged. Drawing a comparison with the pandemic, he said, "When Delhi was struggling for oxygen and hospital beds, one file alone was marked 'Most Urgent' - that of the CM house," adding that no similar urgency was shown for sewer lines, drainage systems or healthcare infrastructure. He argued that the amount spent on the house could have funded critical healthcare, claiming that at an estimated Rs 15,000 per ICU bed, the same amount could have created over 2,300 ICU beds during the crisis.

In a moment of crisis, crowd joins cops in rescuing passengers after bus overturns in Delhi

New Delhi, (GNS): Early on Wednesday, constables Rohit Dahiya and Mohit Deswal were returning on a motorcycle from the Hanuman Murti temple area around 12.55am after a regular patrol when they found themselves witnessing a horrific accident. A speeding bus suddenly overturned with a deafening crash, sending a massive cloud of dust into the air. Within seconds, urgent cries for help started coming from passengers trapped inside the bus.

Without a moment's hesitation, the constables rushed to the site. Rohit told Media that within minutes, a crowd of 150-200 people, including commuters, locals and autorickshaw drivers, gathered at the scene.

"The impact of the crash was so severe that it shattered all the windowpanes of the bus. Three passengers were lying



near the broken windshield, and they were the first to be rescued," he said.

As the chaos unfolded, locals did not remain mere bystanders. They joined cops in the rescue operation and tried to lift the bus to free the trapped passengers, but it was far too heavy.

At that moment, Rohit's quick thinking kicked in.

"I suddenly noticed a JCB passing by and rushed to the driver to explain the situation. He was asked to lift the side of the bus that had overturned on the roadside. Using the JCB, the bus was carefully raised

and cement blocks were placed underneath to stabilise it. This allowed the injured passengers to be pulled out safely," Rohit recalled.

At least eight injured people - most of them trapped in their seats - were rescued in this manner. Mohit said they then climbed onto the bus, entered through the windows and evacuated more passengers who were unable to move. Both the officers, posted at Karol Bagh police station, said it was the first time in their careers they had witnessed such a terrifying accident. As the bus's emergency exit was not working, firefighters had to cut it open to check for anyone trapped inside the seats. Meanwhile, the constables alerted the police control room, and within a short time, about 50 personnel from three police stations arrived at the spot.

Murder on Holi: Supreme Court turns down CBI probe

New Delhi, (GNS): The Supreme Court on Wednesday refused to order a CBI probe into the murder of 26-year-old Tarun Butolia in a communal clash in Delhi's Uttam Nagar area on Holi and asked the petitioners to approach the Delhi Police Commissioner for safety and security for his family members.

"Every day CBI people come here and raise their hands and say their plate is full. The Delhi Police are a professional force. Why to demoralise them?" a three-judge Bench led by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant said, expressing difficulty in ordering a CBI probe into the case.

Tarun died on March 4 following serious injuries sustained in a clash between two neighbouring families that got triggered after a water balloon thrown by a girl from one com-



munity accidentally hit a woman from the other.

The top court asked petitioners seeking safety and security for Tarun's family to approach the Delhi Police Commissioner, saying some of the directions sought were essentially administrative in nature. "There is no gainsaying that the police authorities will evaluate the threat perception and will take remedial measures as may be required. If the petitioners' grievances are still not effectively addressed, liberty is granted to approach the (Delhi) High Court," it said.

Kingpin Shahbaz Ansari, accused in Sidhu Moose Wala killing, jumped parole last year

New Delhi, (GNS): High-profile fugitive arms dealer Shahbaz Ansari has not only emerged as the kingpin of the network busted by the crime branch, but also as a major supplier of high-end weapons to criminal gangs in Delhi-NCR and neighbouring states, making him the target of an international manhunt.

Shahbaz was arrested by National Investigation Agency (NIA) in the Sidhu Moose Wala murder case in 2022 but jumped bail last year and absconded.

He is now believed to be shuttling between Bangladesh and Dubai, working in tandem with ISI-linked entities and leveraging a family legacy of crime to fuel an international arms pipeline, said DCP (crime) Sanjeev Yadav.

Investigations into the recent dismantling of his cross-border module have revealed a sophisticated logistics chain linking Pakistan, Nepal and



Bangladesh to the heart of India's capital. Shahbaz's operations were rooted in Khurja, Bulandshahr, where his father,

Qurban, originally built an illegal arms empire under the legitimate cover of an electrical switch factory. Over the years, the family residence was transformed into a fortified hub equipped with high-definition CCTV systems to monitor police movements, sources said.

Following Qurban's death during the Covid-19 pandemic, the mantle of the illegal enterprise passed on to his sons, Shahbaz and Nadeem, and his brother Rehan. The family enterprise specialised in sourcing dismantled weapons from Pakistan before smuggling them to India via Nepal.

The extent of Shahbaz's reach and resourcefulness was confirmed by gangster Lawrence Bishnoi, who revealed that shooters in his syndicate purchased the AK-47 used to assassinate singer Sidhu Moose Wala from the Ansari gang for around Rs 8 lakh. This

revelation led NIA to conduct raids in Oct 2022, resulting in the arrest of Shahbaz's uncle and brother. Shahbaz was eventually apprehended on Dec 8, 2022. He was lodged in a Delhi jail, but immediately began a calculated campaign to secure his release by trying to misguide the judiciary. In early 2023, Shahbaz attempted to gain freedom by claiming that his wife was pregnant. He managed to secure a brief five-day interim bail but failed to get it extended after he refused to share his live location with NIA.

Later that year, he repeatedly moved applications citing his sister's wedding and the absence of male members in his family, arguments that were struck down when NIA proved that several other male relatives were present at his home.

In June 2025, he moved a plea in Patiala House Court, claiming his wife,

Gulfisha, required urgent "spine decompression surgery" at MMG District Hospital in Ghaziabad. His persistence finally paid off as he secured a one-month release.

However, within 48 hours of walking out of prison, Shahbaz's phone was found switched off, and he vanished without a trace. Subsequent investigations by NIA exposed a staggering level of manipulation.

The mobile number Shahbaz provided to the court belonged to an unsuspecting person in Assam, and the residence listed for his bail stay had been vacated days before his release. Further investigation at the hospital suggested a trail of forged medical records and altered registers, indicating a high level of coordination or collusion to facilitate his flight. Even Shahbaz's bail surety confessed to being bribed and misled about the gravity of his crimes.