



SEBI to probe resignation of former HDFC Bank chairman



New Delhi (GNS): The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has initiated an investigation into the resignation of former HDFC Bank Chairman Atanu Chakraborty. This action is being taken based on the suspicion of possible violation of rules related to directors of listed companies. It is being reported that Chakraborty had described the functioning of the bank in his resignation as contrary to values and ethics. Amidst the matter, the bank board has reappointed Sunita Maheshwari as an independent director for three years. SEBI is now conducting a detailed review of the entire matter.

1 Million devotees arrived in Ayodhya

Ram Lalla was anointed with Panchamrit and adorned with a gold-studded yellow robe



Ayodhya(GNS): On Friday, Ram Navami in Ayodhya, at 12 noon, during the Abhijit Muhurta, Lord Ram was anointed with Surya Tilak. Blue rays fell on the Lord's forehead for nine minutes. This is the second Surya Tilak for Ram Lalla after the Pran-Pratishtha. PM Modi watched it live on TV. Ram Lalla was born with the Surya Tilak. During this time, 14 priests were present in the sanctum sanctorum. They performed special puja and aarti.

After the Surya Tilak, the temple doors were closed for a short while. Ram Lalla was offered 56 types of food. A 65-foot-long system (structure) was created from 20 Ashtadhatu pipes for the Surya Tilak. The rays were directed to the sanctum sanctorum and onto Ram Lalla's forehead through four lenses and four mirrors. The sanctum sanctorum has been decorated with flowers. At 5:30 a.m., Ram Lalla was dressed in yellow robes. Aarti was then performed.

devotees will be able to have darshan of Ram Lalla for three more hours than usual. Darshan will be available from 5 a.m. to 11 p.m., a total of 18 hours. Previously, darshan was available from 6:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. According to the Ram Janmabhoomi Trust, long lines have formed at the temple complex. Crowds are concentrated on the Ram Path, Bhakti Path, and Janmabhoomi Path. Around 1 million people have arrived to visit Ram Lalla.

A pickup truck collided with a roadside trailer in Kaushambi, killing several devotees

5 women and 3 children among the dead

Kaushambi(GNS): In Kaushambi, a pickup truck carrying devotees collided with a trailer. Eight people were killed in the accident, including five women and three children. More than 10 others are undergoing treatment at the district hospital. All of them were returning home to Fatehpur after undergoing tansure in Prayagraj. The accident was so severe that people were thrown from the pickup and fell onto the road. The injured lay writhing in pain on the road. Bystanders began rescue operations and informed the police. The accident occurred around 4 pm on Friday evening near Dorma on the National Highway.



PM Modi's meeting with Chief Ministers on the Iran war

They urged them to work together and maintain strong preparedness

The government said there would be no nationwide lockdown

New Delhi(GNS): Prime Minister Narendra Modi held a meeting with state chief ministers on Friday regarding the Iran war. He urged all states to work together as Team India and strengthen their preparations.



In a meeting held via video conferencing, the Prime Minister reviewed the states' preparedness and plans. He said the government's priorities are the economy, energy, and the safety of citizens.

The Prime Minister urged the government to maintain a proper supply chain, crack down on hoarders and black marketers, and monitor the stock and distribution of fertilizers.

Earlier, the government had stated that there would be no nationwide lockdown. Three ministers, including Union Minister Kiren Rijiju, dismissed reports of a lockdown as false.

Chief Ministers welcome reduction in excise duty on oil
The Chief Ministers praised the central government's decisions and

welcomed the reduction of excise duty on oil and the increase in LPG. They stated that the states have adequate supplies of petrol, diesel, and LPG and the situation is fully under control.

The PM held a meeting with the Chief Ministers for the first time on this issue, in which Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Home Minister Amit Shah were also present. The meeting was attended by several chief ministers including N Chandrababu Naidu of Andhra Pradesh, Yogi Adityanath of Uttar Pradesh, Revanth Reddy of Telangana, Bhagwant Mann of Punjab, Bhupendra Patel of Gujarat, Omar Abdullah of Jammu and Kashmir, Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu of Himachal Pradesh and Pema Khandu of Arunachal Pradesh.

Bomb blast plot in Rajasthan, recce arrested

Pakistani don was giving orders, made videos for blasts in other states as well.

Sri Ganganagar, (GNS): Police have arrested a suspect in a bomb blast plot in Rajasthan. The suspect also conducted recce and filmed videos in Delhi, Haryana, and Punjab on orders from Pakistani don Shahzad Bhatti. He also shared this information with Bhatti via social media. The accused, Akashdeep, is a resident of Chak Kera village in Sri Ganganagar. He was arrested in his village on the evening of March 26th.

Balen Shah becomes Nepal's youngest Prime Minister; delivers first message via rap

First PM from the Madhesi region



Kathmandu(GNS): Balendra (Balen) Shah was sworn in as Prime Minister of Nepal on Friday. At 35, Balen became the country's youngest prime minister. Hours before taking the oath of office, he released his first message in the form of a rap song, addressing corruption, systemic change, and youth. He said in his song that unity is their biggest strength and this time history is being made. Balen's party, the Rashtriya Swatantra Party (RSP), won the election on March 5. Acting Prime Minister Sushila Karki said the country's future now rests with the youth and that the new government is expected to eradicate corruption. The formation of the new government's cabinet has also begun. Sudhan Gurung has been appointed Home Minister, responsible for the country's internal security and law and order. Shishir Khanal has been appointed Foreign Minister, handling Nepal's diplomacy and international relations.



Uttar Pradesh Taking Off to New Heights



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Grand Inauguration of Noida International Airport (Phase I)

by **Narendra Modi** Prime Minister

Uttar Pradesh Powering India's Aviation Future

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- Multi-Modal Transport Hub with seamless integration across road, rail, metro and regional transit systems
- Expansion of passenger handling capacity up to 7 crore annually by Phase 4
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- Architecturally inspired by the rich cultural heritage of Uttar Pradesh, featuring haveli-style design elements and a multi-level terminal blending the divinity of the ghats of Varanasi and Haridwar
- Envisioned as a major international gateway for the NCR region
- Interiors enhanced with handicrafts and textiles from states across India

In the august presence of

Anandiben Patel Governor, Uttar Pradesh	Yogi Adityanath Chief Minister, Uttar Pradesh	Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu Minister, Civil Aviation, Government of India
Pankaj Chaudhary Minister of State, Finance, Government of India	Keshav Prasad Maurya Deputy Chief Minister, Uttar Pradesh	Brajesh Pathak Deputy Chief Minister, Uttar Pradesh
Brajesh Singh Minister of State, Public Works Department, Uttar Pradesh	Dr. Mahesh Sharma MP, Gautam Buddha Nagar	Surendra Singh Nagar Member, Rajya Sabha
Amit Chaudhary Chairman, District Panchayat, Gautam Buddha Nagar	Pankaj Singh MLA, Noida	Tejpal Singh Nagar MLA, Dadri
Lakshmi Raj Singh MLA, Sikandrabad	Shrikant Sharma MLA, Mathura	Minakshi Singh MLA, Khurja
Rajesh Chaudhary MLA, Mant	Jaiveer Singh MLA, Barauli	Narendra Singh Bhati MLC
Surender Diler MLA, Khair	Shrichand Sharma MLC	

and other dignitaries

Date: 28th March, 2026 | Time: 11:30 AM | Venue: Jewar, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh



April 1st Prize

Puran Sarma

He was simple and immature. He had a habit of always being lost in thought. He was always filled with literary service. As he grew older, he had become known in the literary world as a "great poet." On April 1st, I came to his house and said, "Congratulations, great poet! Happy April 1st to you." He said, almost shyly, "Thank you, thank you, Sharma. I didn't even know

it was April 1st. I won't let you go without a sweet." I said, "I'll definitely eat sweets from you today. There's news that the Academy has made the historic decision to honor you as a distinguished literary figure. Please accept my congratulations on that too." He was overwhelmed and, delirious with joy, said, "Wow, Sharma, you've truly satisfied my soul today. Didn't I say I'd definitely

receive the literary award sooner or later? Today, on the 1st, you've brought me this good news. Wait, I'll bring you sweets." I knew I could receive this honour any time, so I had already ordered sweets. He went to get the sweets. When he returned, the tray was full of sweets and the tea cups were smoking. A storm had erupted inside him like a storm in the tea cup. His mouth started watering as soon as he

saw the sweets. He said superficially - 'What have you done? Why did you bring so many sweets? You were bound to be honoured.' He said - 'Sharma, eat your fill, you have told me such news that my heart is filled with joy.' Saying this, he slipped a piece of sweet into my mouth. After this, I pounced on the sweets. While eating them, I felt a pang of guilt, thinking I hadn't done the right thing. But

the next moment, as I thought of April Fool's Day, I remembered my right to joke. My mind said, "Everyone has the legal right to fool someone on April 1st. So, if I've made the great poet happy with the news of him being awarded the Distinguished Literary Award, what's wrong with that?" After gorging on the sweets and belching, I said, "The decision is right, great poet! But it's late." He said,

"Better late than never, Sharma. It's been a shame, Sharma. I couldn't hold my head high because, despite writing twenty-five books, I haven't been honored by the Academy. Today, my entire work has been evaluated. I say, keep going. One day, your turn will come." I agree that there is politics in the academy, but some decisions are also fair. This is what has happened in my case.

Editorial

The significance of the all-party meeting

What is the meaning and significance of an all-party meeting in which neither Prime Minister Modi nor Leader of the Opposition (Lok Sabha) Rahul Gandhi are present? The crisis is global after the Iran war, many countries have declared a state of emergency, sanctions are being imposed, and India is also affected. So, who will answer on behalf of the government in such a situation? The ruling party and the opposition should have vigorously discussed all issues at the all-party meeting, but the Trinamool Congress boycotted the meeting because its political battle is with the BJP. This meeting was not a BJP meeting, it was called by the Indian government. Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi was also absent, even though he was in Delhi. It is possible that he did not attend due to his mother Sonia Gandhi's ill health, but he should have been informed. The Leader of the Opposition is considered a "shadow prime minister" in a democracy. However, since 2019, all-party meetings have been held on issues such as One Nation, One Election, the COVID-19 pandemic, the Galwan conflict, the Manipur tensions and violence, and Operation Sindoor, but Prime Minister Modi did not attend a single one. Why? Is the Prime Minister 'above' and more important than the existing system and parliamentary system? Defense Minister Rajnath Singh is undoubtedly a highly experienced politician and minister.

Fake sports equipment found in schools in the state himachal pradesh

At this stage, if Himachal Pradesh had purchased high-quality sports equipment instead of sub-standard ones, then it would have provided quality sports facilities, allowing athletes who quit sports due to a lack of training facilities to continue playing at home. If those who migrate for sports facilities are able to complete their training programs within their own state, why would they leave? The Himachal Education Department's supply of counterfeit sports equipment to schools is being widely criticized.

Bhupinder Singh

How can scientists and athletes emerge if the labs and sports equipment are fake? Every year, the Sports Department and the Directorate of Education purchase sports equipment worth crores of rupees through JAM and other means and distribute them to the District Youth Services and Sports Department offices and educational institutions in Himachal Pradesh, but these are of extremely low quality. This column has repeatedly warned the government to curb this procurement and ensure that the state's student athletes receive high-quality sports equipment so that Himachal Pradesh's athletes can excel at the national and international levels and bring glory to Himachal Pradesh. Today, the international level of sports has risen significantly. With their outstanding performances, athletes are making their country proud across the world. For this remarkable sporting performance, it is crucial



to have high-level coaches and talented athletes, along with quality sports kits and high-tech sports equipment. In the medical field, numerous devices have been developed with the help of technology to treat various ailments. Similarly, in the sports world, modern sports equipment, developed with the help of advanced technology, plays a significant role in today's superhuman athletic results. As civilization progresses, we are becoming more health-conscious. Humans rely on some sport to stay fit. Therefore, when millions, if not billions, of people partici-

pate, they also need sports equipment. Sports have emerged as a major industry worldwide. In our country, the sports equipment industry generates billions of rupees in revenue annually. The market for sports kits and equipment offers the best and the worst quality products. When sports equipment is purchased at the government level, the price is for high-quality or medium-quality goods, and the materials are of inferior quality. Thus, the high-quality price is set and the remaining funds are pocketed. Traders and procurement officials collude to pocket the majority of

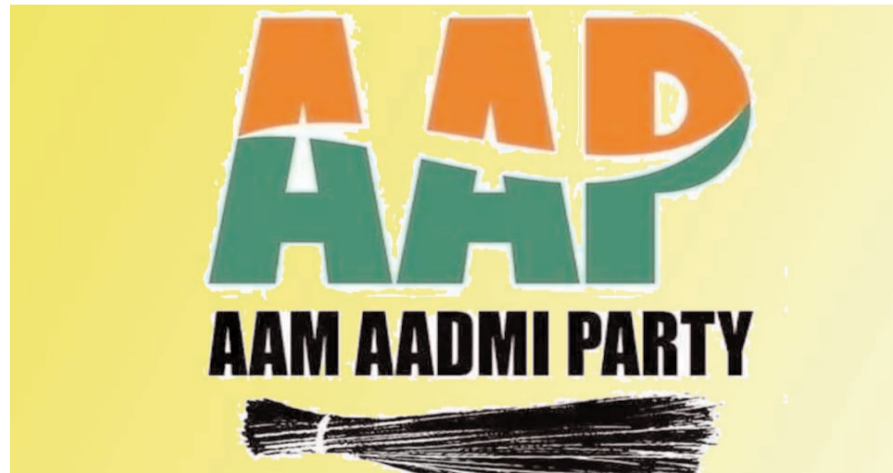
the proceeds. We have warned against this issue many times, but the thick-skinned people seem to be unmoved. Those purchasing equipment should show some honesty to save Himachal's sports from ruin. While most sports equipment in the state's colleges is purchased by the college administration itself, some equipment was previously purchased under the Directorate of Education's Materials and Supplies program and is now being purchased through JAM. Sports equipment purchased under the Materials and Supplies program has been of extremely poor quality. Poor-quality badminton rackets and shuttles are a topic of discussion in Education Department schools these days. High jump and kabaddi mats, boxing rings, and other substandard sports equipment can still be seen. Gyms purchased under this scheme become junk within a few months, let alone a year.

Insensitivity of Aam Aadmi Party

He decided to leave this world on his own and committed suicide by consuming poison. Clearly, power had fallen into the hands of those for whom power has become a means of filling their coffers, not of service. These coffers, too, were filled with arrogance and public intimidation. This could be considered a new form of ransom. This time, the ransom demanded was a contract in his father's name. When the ransom was not met, he was not murdered, but instead told to commit suicide. This is a brutal and inhumane act. But what followed exposed the Aam Aadmi Party completely. Before his death, Gaganjit Singh made a video and posted it on social media, blaming Minister Lal Jeet Singh Bhullar for his suicide.

Kuldeep Chand Agnihotri

A recent example of how cruel and insensitive politics can be is the case of Lal Jeet Singh Bhullar, a minister in Punjab. Dr. Gagandeep Singh Randhawa worked as a district manager in the State Warehousing Corporation, a department Bhullar headed. The Food Corporation of India (FCI) constructs warehouses for food storage. A representative of the state government is a member of the committees involved in issuing tenders, forming committees, and even awarding them. After the tender is awarded, the construction work is overseen by state government agencies, making it crucial to keep the state government involved in the entire process. Dr. Gagandeep Singh served in this role. Now, the real story begins after that. Gagandeep Singh's family members allege that from the very first day, the minister, Lal Jeet Singh Bhullar, insisted that the tender should be awarded to his father, no matter what. Gagandeep Singh cited rules and his limited role in the process.



He even informed his superiors. But no one listened, and given the atmosphere that had developed, perhaps no one had the courage to listen. It is alleged that Lal Jeet Singh Bhullar had no interest in understanding the rules and procedures; his sole focus was on securing contracts for his father by any means necessary. He could only see the fish's eye. When matters boil down to the fish's eye, rules and regulations become useless. Gaganjit Singh Bhullar could not go beyond the rules, nor was it within his jurisdiction. This was becoming a case similar to a powerful man ordering an employee to pluck mangoes from a neighbor's orchard,

and the employee refusing to comply.

The reason was clear. If he was caught picking mangoes from a neighbor's orchard tomorrow, he would be punished, not the owner who had threatened him and sent him to the neighbor's orchard. Gagandeep Singh Randhawa's family members say that the minister was insistent on getting the contract for his father, and Gagandeep Singh Randhawa was unwilling to do this unfair thing. Clearly, power prevents a person from remaining human. His behavior becomes unbearable. It has been said, "Prabhuta paahi kahi mad nahi" (One who is

not intoxicated by power) means who is not a victim of the intoxication of power? Gagandeep Singh's family alleges that the minister began threatening Gagandeep, verbally and practically, about the consequences of not giving the contract to his father. The family members also allege that he even threatened that if his father did not get the contract, he would lose all his livelihood. The minister wanted the district manager to perform tasks that were beyond his jurisdiction. Gagandeep Singh's wife says that the minister not only summoned her husband and assaulted him, but also threatened him with unimaginable consequences if the work wasn't done. Dr. Gagandeep Randhawa was unable to withstand this undue pressure. He likely anticipated that even if he remained alive, the power-obsessed minister would make his life miserable. He decided to take his own life and committed suicide by consuming poison. Clearly, power had fallen into the hands of those for whom power had become not a means of service but a means of filling their cof-

fers. The coffers were also emptied by publicly threatening and intimidating with an egoistic mindset. This could be considered a new method of demanding ransom. This time, the ransom was demanded in the father's name. When the ransom was not paid, he was not murdered, but instead was told to commit suicide. This is a very cruel and inhumane act. But what followed completely exposed the Aam Aadmi Party. Before his death, Gaganjit Singh made a video and posted it on social media, blaming Minister Lal Jeet Singh Bhullar for his suicide. But the police remained silent even after this. The family had to stage a protest to get an FIR registered against the alleged perpetrators. Only then did the Punjab government file the FIR. After filing the FIR, the Punjab government went back to sleep. Gagandeep Singh's family had to stage another protest demanding the arrest of the minister and his father. However, the Aam Aadmi Party government was unwilling to do so, and the matter dragged on.

Delhi sees warm day as Met forecasts patchy rain and temperature fall, issues yellow alert for Sunday

NEW DELHI, (GNS): City saw a warm afternoon with a spike in the maximum temperature, while the overcast sky towards late afternoon led to respite by evening, even as the Met expected patchy rain on Thursday and Friday.

No area, however, received rain by late Thursday evening, with Met extending the forecast for light to very light rain and gusty winds for Friday as well. A yellow alert for rain and thunderstorms has been issued for Sunday under the influence of a western disturbance.

On Thursday, the maximum temperature at the base station Safdarjung was recorded at 34.8 degrees Celsius, three notches above normal, against 33.5 degrees Celsius a day earlier. The minimum temperature was recorded at 19.2 degrees Celsius, two notches above normal, against 16.4 degrees Celsius a day



earlier.

According to India Meteorological Department (IMD), the maximum and minimum temperatures on Friday are likely to hover around 29-31 degrees and 19-21 degrees Celsius, respectively.

IMD expects the temperature to be above normal for another 24 hours and subsequently fall.

"Another western disturbance is likely to affect northwest India from the night of March 28. Rise

in maximum temperature by 1-2°C during the next 24 hours, fall by 3-4°C during the subsequent 24 hours, and rise by 2-3°C on March 28 and 29 and fall by 2-3°C thereafter. They will be above normal during the next 24 hours and below normal on March 27, 30 and 31, and normal on the rest of the days over Delhi. A spell of very light rain accompanied by thunderstorm and gusty winds speed 20-30 kmph gusting 40 kmph during morning to

forenoon, and another spell of very light rain accompanied by lightning and gusty winds speed 20-30 kmph gusting 40 kmph during afternoon to evening on March 27," stated IMD.

It added that very light to light rain accompanied by thunderstorms and gusty winds 30-40 kmph during morning hours, and another spell of very light to light rain accompanied by thunderstorms/lightning and gusty winds 30-40 kmph during forenoon to afternoon on March 29. Subsequently, on March 30, there is a possibility of very light to light rain.

Meanwhile, the air quality remained moderate. On Thursday, the 24-hour air quality index (AQI) at 4 pm, on a scale of 0 to 500, was 186 against 185 a day earlier - both moderate. As per the forecast, the AQI is likely to stay within the moderate category over the next seven days.

Can make rotis at home and run state as CM

NEW DELHI, (GNS): Turning the "roti" jibe back at her critics, Delhi chief minister Rekha Gupta on Thursday lashed out saying that making rotis is not an insult to women - and added that she can run a govt while also efficiently managing household work.

Responding to an opposition leader's sexist remark that she should "go home and make rotis", Gupta said at the Times Now Summit 2026: "Is making rotis a bad thing? Your mother must have made rotis all her life and fed you - that's probably why you have such a long tongue today. Even as chief minister, I can make rotis - and I can also use the rolling pin on a few people. Shifting to governance, Gupta said Delhi had made substantial progress on long-pending civic issues. She claimed the city's three landfill sites at Bhalswa, Okhla and Ghazipur had been "almost



reduced to half" over the past year due to ongoing biomining and increased machinery deployment. For years, the garbage mountains have been a major problem for Delhi. But in this one year, the way biomining work is going on day and night, the increase in machinery today, when we look at it, they are almost reduced to half," Gupta said, adding that work at the sites is progressing at a "good speed".

Old walls, New Worlds: Mehrauli reading room pairs books with history



NEW DELHI, (GNS): Pushing reading culture in the city, a structure inside Mehrauli Archaeological Park, beyond Metcalfe Boathouse, has recently been repurposed as a reading room. Stocked with books on Indian history, Delhi's heritage, and a wide mix of fiction and non-fiction, the space is designed to keep young people engaged. Complete with board games and comics for children, the room has evolved into a cultural hub - inviting literature, conversations, and quiet reflection to coexist.

Reading outdoors is lovely, but a dedicated reading room is a great initiative!

Regular visitors have welcomed the initiative. Subang Thapa, 22, who works in Gurgaon, says, "I visit the park often, especially on weekends, and this is a great addition. The café beside it has a beautiful view.

With sunlight streaming in, it's the perfect weekend spot." Auralia, who visits the park frequently with her family, echoes the sentiment. "It's peaceful and quiet. My daughter studies amid nature while I work. Reading outdoors while basking in the sun is lovely, but a designated room filled with books is a great initiative." Enveloped by the scent of nature and the sound of chirping birds, away from the city's noise, the area feels secluded and offers picturesque spots for photographers, birders and nature lovers, alike. Curated for all age groups From authors such as William Dalrymple, Chetan Bhagat, Sidney Sheldon, and Zahir Dehvi to subjects ranging from Indian art, architecture and archaeology to physics, Akbar-Birbal and Tenali Raman, the collection offers contrast and variety. Activity books and comics for children are also themed around Delhi's heritage sites, making the space accessible across age groups. Many monuments are neglected because the public sees them as the state's responsibility, rather than something they have a stake in. These structures were once lived spaces, built as memory sites for the people who inhabited them. When you bring them back into use, you reconnect those threads and remind people that history is lived, not just built Amit Pasricha, a photographer 'Aisi jagah baith ke book padhne mein purane zamane ki vibe aati hai' Visiting the reading room for the first time, Dipanshu Narwal, 25, says, "Aisi jagah baith ke book padhne mein purane zamane ki vibe aati hai. Mujhe historical places mein ek apnapan sa lagta hai. As a reader, just seeing books in a historical park feels great." He picked up one of the many titles on Delhi's history.

Not Mumbai's rival, but its own story: Delhi makes a creative pitch at global film fest

NEW DELHI, (GNS): Delhi's first International Film Festival (IFFD) opened with a quiet but deliberate assertion - Delhi will chart its own path on the global cinema map rather than compete with established film hubs like Mumbai. That distinction, filmmaker and IFFD director Rakeysh Om Prakash Mehra stressed, is precisely the point.

As thousands of cinephiles streamed into venues across the city, Mehra said Delhi would script its own cinematic identity - one shaped by its layers of history, politics and lived memory - rather than compete with India's established film hub.

The inaugural edition of the IFFD 2026, a week-long event that runs till March 31, was inaugurated by chief minister

Rekha Gupta on Wednesday, who described the city as a rising "creative capital" with a distinctive storytelling energy.

Speaking to Media, Mehra, known for 'Rang De Basanti', said: "Delhi has one of the oldest living histories, and that reflects in its stories." The festival prioritises participation and diversity over competition, with entries from India and abroad, he added.

Mehra said the aim is not to rival other film destinations but to build a platform rooted in Delhi's legacy. Calling the festival a beginning, he said IFFD will "100 per cent" be held annually and will grow gradually, much like major global festivals that took decades to evolve. IFFD, he said, may take about seven years to become an important



stop on the cinema circuit.

He added that organising the first edition came with no major challenges, crediting Delhi govt and coordinated work across departments for smooth execution. The festi-

val, he said, is a long-standing idea that finally found institutional backing.

Mehra also argued that the continued labelling of films as "women-centric" misses the point in 2026, noting that

women-led narratives already feature strongly across contemporary cinema.

A key highlight is a panel titled "Women in Cinema: Voice, Power, and the Future of Storytelling", featuring leading women filmmakers and creative professionals. The discussion will examine the evolving roles of women on and behind the screen, and explore how to build a more inclusive film ecosystem. IFFD, earlier this month, had partnered with Women in Film India, led by Academy Award-winning producer Guneet Monga. As part of this initiative, a programme titled "Her Lens" has been launched to bring women storytellers and women-centric narratives to the global stage.

Is Delhi moving away from buses? numbers suggest so

NEW DELHI, (GNS): Ridership on buses operated by Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) and the cluster scheme, which are among the cheapest modes of commute in the city, has declined sharply since 2019-20, though the overall fleet has expanded, according to data from Economic Survey 2025-26. In 2019-20, DTC and cluster buses together carried over 51 lakh passengers daily. By 2024-25, this fell to about 40.8 lakh, a decline of nearly 20%. The drop is evident across both systems. DTC's daily ridership went down from 33.4 lakh to 25.6 lakh, marking a fall of over 23%. Similarly, cluster buses saw their ridership decline from 17.71 lakh to 15.3 lakh, a drop of about 14%.

In contrast, their combined



fleet size marginally increased from 6,672 to 6,966 buses over the same period. While the number of DTC buses rose from 3,762 in 2019-20 to 3,819 in 2024-25, cluster buses registered a sharper rise - from 2,910 to 3,147.

Transport experts point out



that the trend is counterintuitive, considering Delhi's growth in population and govt policy interventions aimed at boosting ridership. Delhi govt also introduced free bus travel for women from 2019, a move expected to significantly increase the ridership.

LPG hoarding and refilling racket busted in Ranhola, 459 empty cylinders seized

NEW DELHI, (GNS): Delhi Police crime branch has busted an illegal LPG hoarding and refilling racket in Ranhola, seizing 459 empty cylinders, including 284 Indane and 175 Bharat Gas units, police said on Thursday.

Acting on intelligence, a police team carried out coordinated raids at multiple locations in the area, uncovering the unauthorised storage and misuse of LPG cylinders. The operation was conducted amid concerns over a perceived shortage of cooking gas, even as authorities have maintained that supply remains adequate.

Police said the raid was carried out at an LPG agency on Nilothi Road, where the owner, Susheel Kumar Singhal, was allegedly found actively engaged in hoarding cylinders.

According to investigators, Singhal, who runs HP Balaji

Gas Agency, exploited his position to accumulate a large stock of commercial LPG cylinders without authorisation. "The accused deliberately withheld cylinders from the regular distribution system to create artificial scarcity and sell them in the open market at inflated prices," DCP (crime) Harsh Indora said, adding that the stock was kept under the guise of routine business inventory to avoid detection. A food supply officer was called to the spot to initiate action as per procedure, and the seized cylinders were later handed over to a representative of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited on superdari. Following the raid, a case has been registered under provisions of Essential Commodities Act and Section 61(2) (Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita at the Crime Branch police station.

LG pushes for global standards in nursing education

NEW DELHI, (GNS): Lieutenant governor Taranjit Singh Sandhu has called for aligning nursing and healthcare education at Hindu Rao Hospital and other such institutions with international standards to tap into the growing global demand for healthcare providers, especially in ageing economies.

Sources said the LG has offered to help establish international linkages and access to global best practices so that nursing students can acquire skills that match global standards. "By aligning our nursing training with global standards and best practices, we can equip our health professionals with

international expertise, enable them to gain work experience abroad based on global needs, and bring back advanced healthcare skills to India," the LG said in a post on X after visiting the MCD-run Hindu Rao Hospital and Medical College on Wednesday. The hospital has a nursing college.

The LG suggested that with foreign partners' funding, training could be organised with the assurance from Indian institutions to provide the trained workforce to the partners abroad. Sandhu is a retired diplomat and served as India's ambassador in Washington, besides holding several key diplomatic posi-



tions in different countries.

During his hospital visit, he emphasised the need to upgrade the nursing curriculum to meet the requirements of an international clientele and suggested that nursing colleges in Delhi and across India explore tie-ups with foreign institutions and train

some of their students. He has asked for the nursing curriculum at Hindu Rao's nursing college to be aligned with the requirements and standards of a global clientele.

The LG underlined that while many advanced countries were increasingly ageing, India had an advantage

of a large youth population, which should be suitably skilled and trained to make them employable. This demand has created a supply gap in some countries, leading to an opportunity for countries that have trained youths.

"A tie-up with colleges and institutions abroad would result in our nursing and paramedical students getting trained in languages, skills and practices as per the requirements abroad and generate huge employment. These youths could serve abroad for a fixed tenure and come back, experienced, to get employed here," said the source.

Transgender Community Fears The Worst

New Delhi, (GNS): In school, Pratyay (29), a transwoman and research scholar, learned what it meant to be punished for not fitting in. In an all-boys school in West Bengal, she was once locked in a toilet for nearly three hours by her peers. When she complained, she was told it was because she was "too feminine."

Years later, in 2019, teaching English and social science in a govt school, the pressure to conform continued. "I had to dress like a male. My manager didn't know," she says. Acceptance came only in the classroom. "They were very supportive. With them, I felt seen."

"Sex is not gender, and gender is not just biology," she adds. That same year, after the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019, she got official recognition. "After 2019, I got my ID as a transgender person. But whether it will remain valid, I have no clue."

"That law helped us spread



awareness, feel included in society, schools, and jobs. Now it feels like all of that could go. My identity is in the hands of the govt," she says.

Pratyay is among thousands of transgender persons in India facing uncertainty, now that the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Amendment Bill, 2026, has been passed in Parliament.

Twelve years ago, Supreme Court, in the landmark NALSA v.

Union of India judgment, recognised transgender identity and affirmed that self-determination of gender is central to personal autonomy. The Bill, passed on March 25, redefines "transgender person," raising fears that it could undermine the right to self-identification. This has raised concerns in the community. Opposing the amended law, students, activists and members of the transgender community gathered at Jantar Mantar.

Sitting cross-legged on a bright red carpet under the harsh March sun, they carefully traced bold red letters across chart paper: "TRANS PEOPLE HAVE ALWAYS EXISTED AND ALWAYS WILL." Around them, half-finished posters read "We are not a diagnosis" and "Dignity, not scrutiny." The protest grew through the deliberate act of asserting identities that many fear the law is trying to erase. Within hours, the space became a sea of colour and resistance.

Prerna (27), a queer PhD scholar at Ambedkar University, uses the term "queer" both to describe herself and to push back against the idea of being "normal". Her work in sexuality education is deeply personal. She moved out after the CAA-NRC protests, seeking space to be herself. "It was during the protests that I realised my parents and aligned with different sides politically." While things are slowly improving, coming out still feels daunting.

Delhi high court grants bail in rape case over delay in lodging FIR

New Delhi, (GNS): Delhi High Court has granted bail to a 57-year-old man accused of rape by his former college classmate, taking note of a delay of over two and a half years in lodging the FIR.

The high court also flagged inconsistencies in the complainant's accounts before police and granted bail to the accused, Khem Kumar, subject to furnishing a bail bond of Rs 40,000 and one surety of the like amount, with additional conditions.

The woman, also in her 50s alleged that Kumar - her classmate from college - raped her in May 2023 on the pretext of marriage. However, an FIR was only registered last year in Dec where she alleged the accused raped her at an accommodation he had arranged for her.

"The first instance of sexual relations having been established was more than two and a half years prior to the FIR being

registered. The petitioner and the prosecutrix are both mature and educated persons," the court noted in a recent order. It also noted that the woman failed to mention the incident of rape in a separate complaint she had filed against the accused.

"The contents of the complaint made by her to the SHO, Dwarka, Sector-9, on 14.05.2023, prima facie appear to be inconsistent with the allegations now made," it pointed out as the court added that she did not disclose about filing a complaint before a different police station the previous day where another case was registered having no allegation of sexual assault.

"On the basis of the aforesaid factors, and having regard to the fact that the charge sheet has already been filed, I am of the view that it is not appropriate to deprive the petitioner of his liberty pending trial," the court noted.

Delhi CM Rekha Gupta flags 'Sheesh Mahal' video



New Delhi, (GNS): Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Thursday reacted sharply to a video released by PWD Minister Parvesh Verma on the controversial former Chief Minister's residence, saying the people of Delhi should see for themselves what she described as the "reality" behind the so-called 'Sheesh Mahal'.

"You have been waiting for 'Sheesh Mahal' for a long time. Therefore, 'Sheesh Mahal' is for all of you. Look at the achievements of Arvind Kejriwal. He built this 'Sheesh Mahal' with public money. The way he crossed all limits of corruption is now before the people of Delhi. The people of Delhi should see what the criminals of Delhi have done," Gupta said.

Her remarks came after Verma shared a video titled "Dhurandhar 3 - Delhi ke sabse bade Rehman Dakait ki kahani", presenting what he termed a factual account of the bungalow at 6 Flagstaff Road, associated with former Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal. The property has been at the centre of political controversy and is popularly referred to as 'Sheesh Mahal'.

As part of the exercise, Verma conducted an on-ground walkthrough of the premises, documenting interiors and key features. He said the initiative was aimed at bringing transparency and allowing the public to assess the scale of expenditure.

"Delhi was promised politics of simplicity and honesty. People were told there would be no big bungalow, no lavish lifestyle. What is visible here today is completely different from those promises," Verma said.

Walking through the house, the minister highlighted several high-value installations, including a modular kitchen estimated at around Rs 1.5 crore, chandeliers worth up to Rs 88 lakh, curtains costing nearly Rs 95 lakh, and TV units valued up to Rs 28 lakh. The bungalow also features a jacuzzi, sauna room, imported marble, designer fittings and advanced automation systems.

He further claimed that around 50 air-conditioners were installed across the property, with an estimated monthly electricity cost of Rs 5 lakh. "Nearly 50 ACs in one bungalow, all maintained on public money. The people of Delhi deserve to know how their hard-earned money is being spent," he said.

Verma also questioned the timing of the project, alleging that key approvals and construction took place during the Covid-19 pandemic. "When Delhi was struggling for oxygen and hospital beds, prioritising such work raises serious questions about governance," he said.

Referring to broader concerns, the minister claimed that additional expansion plans could have cost nearly Rs 60 crore more, which, he said, has now been prevented. He also contrasted the expenditure with civic gaps in areas like Sangam Vihar, Nangloi and Jahangirpuri. Emphasising accountability, Verma said the issue was not political but about public funds. "If this bungalow had been built using personal money, it would have been a private matter. But when taxpayers' money is involved, every rupee must be justified," he said, adding that the video was released to place facts before the public.

LPG supply improves partially at AIIMS-Delhi old OPD canteen

New Delhi, (GNS): The old OPD canteen at the All-India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi, which had been struggling with an acute LPG supply shortage, has seen a partial improvement in fuel availability over the last three days, according to the canteen manager Puran Shah.

The canteen, which serves nearly 500 to 600 people daily, including patients and attendants, had earlier been forced to cut down its menu and shift to alternative cooking methods due to the lack of commercial LPG cylinders. Now, there are early signs of relief, though the situation remains far from normal.

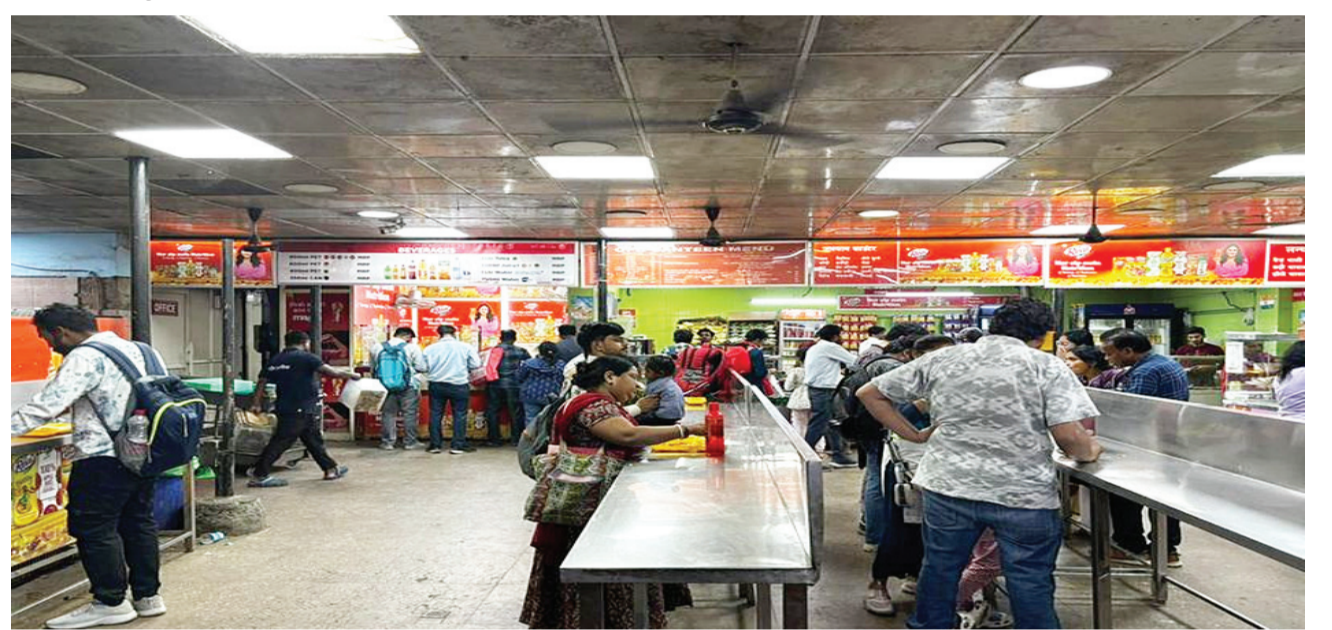
During a recent visit to the canteen, The Tribune correspondent found that the canteen was serving cooked meals in lunch. Also, the staff confirmed that the menu has been significantly improved as the supply of LPG got better.

Shah said the supply has improved, allowing the canteen to procure 1-2 cylinders daily from market. "Things have got better from previous situation," he said, adding that operations are slowly stabilising. However, this remains below the required four cylinders a day needed for full-scale functioning.

Shah expressed cautious optimism about the future, linking the situation to US-Iran-Israel war. "I hope it ends soon so that the situation in the country becomes normal," he said.

In order to avoid similar disruptions in the future, the canteen has now applied for a piped natural gas connection with Indraprastha Gas Limited (IGL). Shah confirmed that a request has been made to ensure a steady interim supply of cylinders until the PNG connection is installed.

"We have applied for PNG,



and have been assured for supply of required cylinders till the PNG is installed here," he said.

The development comes alongside recent government measures aimed at stabilising LPG, PNG supply.

The authorities have direct-

ed city gas distribution companies to prioritise PNG connections for commercial establishments, while also increasing LPG allocation to states and Union Territories to 50 per cent of average monthly requirements. While these steps appear to have eased

immediate pressure, the canteen continues to operate below capacity. The gradual return of supply offers some relief, but full restoration of services will depend on consistent fuel availability and the timely installation of a PNG connection.

16-yr-old boy stabbed to death

New Delhi, (GNS): A 16-year-old boy was allegedly stabbed to death by three juveniles near his residence in northeast Delhi's Dayalpur area.

The incident took place at Gali No. 13, Nehru Vihar, on March 25. According to the police, the teenager was found lying unconscious with stab injuries. He was rushed to Jag Pravesh Chandra (JPC) Hospital, where doctors declared him dead on arrival. The body was later sent to Guru Teg Bahadur (GTB) Hospital for post-mortem examination.

A case under relevant sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) was registered at the Dayalpur police station and an investigation has been initiated.

During preliminary inquiry, it was found that the boy had been attacked by three juveniles. A forensic team exam-



ined the crime scene and collected evidence.

A police team, led by the Dayalpur SHO, identified and apprehended three juveniles in conflict with law (CCLs), aged between 13 and 17 years. The weapon of offence, a knife, was recovered at their instance.

During questioning, the juveniles allegedly told the police that the victim had been bullying one of them, which

led to the assault.

Family members of the deceased, however, refuted the claim. The boy's mother said the accused were known to him and had called him outside before the assault. "They first hugged him and then stabbed him multiple times. He never fought with anyone. He was killed for no reason," she said.

An eyewitness from the locality said the injured boy was found bleeding outside his house, following which people alerted the police and tried to assist him.

The victim's father has sought strict action and urged the authorities to treat the accused as adults. "I request the police to ensure justice and take the strongest possible action," he said.

The police said further investigation was underway to establish the sequence of events.

Delhi water bodies are found encroached dried up or untraceable

New Delhi, (GNS): Delhi State Wetland Authority (DSWA) in a fresh affidavit has said it has received information from land owning agencies regarding Delhi's waterbodies, which it was trying to identify and demarcate.

Multiple waterbodies under DDA, the revenue department, and the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) have been encroached upon or have completely dried up, DSWA said.

It said that in several cases, the waterbodies could simply not be traced or had considerable infrastructure built on it, thus making its revival difficult.

"It has been reported by DDA that several waterbodies are either fully or partially encroached and the land has been utilised for various developmental activities. In some cases, the joint inspection reports indicate that the sites are completely built-up and



the revival of the waterbodies is not feasible," the submission, dated March 9, said.

"In a few instances, the waterbodies could not be traced because of the absence of geo-coordinates or the lack of identifiable physical features. Thus, the status indicates that a significant portion of the waterbody has already been utilised for infrastructure," the submission adds.

NGT was hearing a plea on the preservation of waterbodies. In Feb last year, it directed DSWA to ascertain the area of each waterbody and compare it to revenue records to identify shrinkage.

Ashish Sood bats for harnessing city's tourism potential

New Delhi, (GNS): The Capital aims to reposition itself as a major tourism destination rather than merely a transit point, Education Minister Ashish Sood said on Thursday at the 2nd Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC) Aviation & Tourism Summit 2026 in New Delhi.

As chief guest at the ICC-organised summit, Sood stressed rethinking visitors' city experience from arrival. "The time has come to develop Delhi not just as a transit hub, but as a leading tourism city," he said.

The summit gathered policymakers, aviation leaders and tourism stakeholders to explore growth opportunities and sector strategies. ICC

Tourism Excellence Awards were presented during the event. Highlighting first impressions, the minister cited Indra Gandhi International Airport's role in shaping perceptions. Recently recognised for the eighth time as India and South Asia's best, it features "Delvibe" and DigiYatra to improve passenger experience.

Linking tourism growth with infrastructure, Sood referred to the Delhi Budget 2026-27 as a roadmap for building a more accessible and visually appealing capital. "The Delhi Budget 2026-27 reflects a vision of a developed capital defined by order, aesthetics, and opportunity," he said.



The Rs. 1.37 lakh crore budget places significant emphasis on capital expenditure, with Rs. 32,000 crore earmarked for infrastructure development, including roads, transport systems, and

public spaces. The government has also proposed redevelopment of 750 km of roads, alongside upgrades to footpaths, drainage, and green areas.

Efforts to ease congestion are underway, with work in progress on nine flyovers and corridors, including the near-complete Barapullah Phase-3 project. The government has also allocated Rs. 1,352 crore towards making the city dust free.

Tourism specific initiatives include a Rs. 50 crore "Branding Delhi" campaign aimed at promoting the capital globally. Heritage redevelopment projects, such as the restoration of the historic Town Hall in Chandni Chowk

and the proposed "Delhi House," are also part of the broader push to blend heritage with modern development.

Sood also flagged external challenges affecting the sector, including geopolitical tensions in the Gulf region and rising fuel costs impacting aviation and hospitality. However, he maintained that Delhi's economic growth, currently estimated at 8.53 per cent and rising domestic tourism would continue to support the sector.

He added that sustainability remains a key focus area, with a Rs 22,236 crore green budget, expansion of solar energy, and implementation of EV Policy 2.0.