



Shah said, "Whoever takes up arms will have to pay the price"

Leftists misled tribals; poverty did not spread Naxalism, Naxalism did

New Delhi, (GNS): Home Minister Amit Shah said in the Lok Sabha on Monday that India has become Naxal-free, we can say so. During his one-and-a-half-hour speech, Shah said, "We had set a goal of making the country Naxal-free by March 31st. I will inform the nation once all the arrangements are in place." Shah said, "Those who reject the entire system and take up arms will have to pay the price. For years, innocent tribal people were kept in the



Naxalism in Parliament Shah has repeatedly eradicated from the country by March 31, government's deadline. will be completely 2026.

dark. Leftists misled tribal people to spread their ideology." Shah said, "For 60 years, Congress denied tribals access to homes, schools, or mobile towers, and now they're demanding an account. Look within yourself. Naxalism didn't spread in tribal areas because of poverty, but rather, poverty persisted for years because of Naxalism. Naxalism has ideological roots. It's not linked to poverty or development." The discussion on

3 Points from Shah's speech:

- Naxalism has been completely eradicated from Bastar: Naxalism has been almost completely eradicated from Bastar. A campaign has been launched to open schools in every village. Ration shops have been established in every village, and Primary Health Centers (PHCs) and Community Health Centers (CHCs) have been established in every tehsil and panchayat. People have been issued Aadhaar cards and ration cards. They are receiving five kilograms of grain.
- Question to those advocating Naxalism: I want to ask those advocating Naxalism why development hasn't reached the tribal people yet. The people of Bastar were left behind because the region was under the shadow of "red terror." Today, that shadow has been lifted, and Bastar is now on the path of development.
- Congress supported Naxalites: Congress was in power for 60 out of 70 years. Why didn't you bring about development? Today you are demanding an account. Indira Gandhi was under the influence of Maoist ideology. During her tenure, the movement that began in Naxalbari spread to 12 states, 17 percent of the land area and more than 10 percent of the population. Rahul Gandhi shared the stage with Naxalite supporters and supported the "pro-Hidma" slogan.

The government has assured that there is adequate availability of petrol, diesel, LPG and PNG in the country

New Delhi, (GNS): Amidst the ongoing crisis in West Asia, the government has assured citizens and industry of continued uninterrupted fuel supply. The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has clarified that despite the global situation, the country has adequate reserves of petrol, diesel, LPG, and natural gas. However, amid reports of the panic buying by consumers in some areas, the central government has taken



Salman. He said that during this conversation, views were exchanged regarding the ongoing conflict in West Asia. The Prime Minister

immediate measures at various levels to stabilize the country's energy market. Addressing an inter-ministerial press conference on Monday, Foreign Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is currently engaging with leaders of various countries around the world. In this context, on March 28, the Prime Minister held talks with Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince, Prince Mohammed bin

Mamata Banerjee accused of violating the model code of conduct, BJP complains to the commission

Kolkata, (GNS): The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has filed a formal complaint with the Election Commission against West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and some Trinamool Congress leaders for alleged violation of the model code of conduct. The party has alleged that some statements made during election rallies were an attempt to intimidate, provoke voters and influence the election process. In a letter sent by the BJP on Monday, it has been said that the speeches made by Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee in election rallies held at various places including North Bengal contained statements influencing voters and creating tension, which could pose a threat to free and fair elections.



Shabir Ahmed Lone, a member of Lashkar-e-Taiba, arrested in Delhi

He was preparing terrorist modules in Delhi and Tamil Nadu; he was also arrested in 2007

New Delhi, (GNS): Security agencies in Delhi on Monday arrested Shabir Ahmed Lone, a terrorist affiliated with Lashkar-e-Taiba (Let), from the Delhi border. According to police, preliminary investigations have revealed that he was carrying out anti-India activities from Bangladesh. According to police, Shabir was



preparing to recruit young people for terrorist activities in Delhi, Kolkata, and Tamil Nadu. This entire network was operating at the behest of Pakistan's intelligence agency, the ISI. Lone was also arrested by Delhi Police on terrorism charges in 2007. He fled to Bangladesh after being granted bail in 2019.

Nitish resigns as MLC, Minister Ashok Choudhary cries

Tejashwi claims BJP pressured him to resign; Nitin Naveen also resigns as MLA

Patna, (GNS): Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar resigned from the Bihar Legislative Council on Monday. His resignation was presented to the Council by Vijay Chaudhary and MLC Sanjay Gandhi. Minister Vijay Chaudhary said, "The Chief Minister has been elected to the Rajya Sabha. This is a constitutional process. MLC Sanjay Gandhi has submitted his resignation to Legislative Council Chairman Awadhesh Narayan Singh." Following Nitish Kumar's resignation, Minister Ashok Choudhary appeared emotional, sobbing. Leader of the Opposition Tejashwi Yadav said, "The BJP forced the Chief Minister to resign." Meanwhile, Bihar BJP President Sanjay Sarawagi has submitted the resignation of BJP National President Nitin Naveen to Assembly Speaker Dr. Prem Kumar. Nitin Naveen had submitted his resignation to the state president yesterday before leaving for Assam.



PM interacts with BJP booth workers in Assam, says development and infiltration key election issues

New Delhi, (GNS): Senior Bharatiya Janata Party leader and Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday interacted directly with BJP booth workers in Assam via the NaMo app. He urged them to work hard for a hat-trick victory for the BJP-NDA. He accused opposition parties of promoting infiltration, stating that this issue is directly linked to Assam's identity, security, and culture. Prime Minister Modi spoke to state BJP workers via the NaMo app on Monday as part of the "Mera Booth Sabse Mazboot" program. He said that the party puts in all its efforts to fulfill whatever responsibility it assigns. Party workers in the state are working tirelessly to ensure a hat-trick for the

BJP-NDA in Assam. The Prime Minister praised the workers who carried out the election campaign amid preparations for Bohag Bihu and other festivals. He said that Assam had long experienced instability, violence, and insurgency, but the BJP's double-engine government has ushered in a new era of peace, development, and security. In the last 10 years, 12 major peace agreements have been signed, shaping a new image for Assam. During the dialogue, activists from various districts shared their experiences. Pankaj Hazari from Sunitpur district said that before 2016, anarchy and insurgency were at their peak in Assam, but after the BJP government came to

power, there has been a significant change in the lives of farmers, businessmen, and teachers. The Prime Minister responded by saying that young voters aged 18-22 only know the peace of the past 10 years, so it is the responsibility of booth workers to remind them of the violence of the past and the policies of the Congress. BJP workers should organize bhajan evenings, heritage festivals, and discussions on schemes at the booth level to prevent the new generation from repeating past mistakes. Dhaneshwar from Tamalpur district elaborated on the changes brought about by the Bodoland Accord. He explained that he is not only a party worker but also a

businessman. And also tell the people of the state about the evils of the previous government. On this the Prime Minister said that today Bodoland has become an inspiration for the whole world, where earlier there used to be curfews and blasts, today peace and cultural tunes are echoing. He said that programs should be organized at the booth level to share the experiences of former militants and their mothers who have given up guns and taken up the pen. Make a list of the beneficiaries of the schemes of the Central and State Government and motivate them to vote by forming groups. Deepi Das of Nagaon district said she has been associated with the BJP for the past nine years to serve the people.

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Israel-Iran war to lead to global economic depression?

Sanat Jain

The economies of the world are in crisis due to inflation and unemployment.

Due to the ongoing war between the US, Israel, and Iran, countries around the world are facing a major economic recession. This recession will have a devastating impact, beyond imagination. This month-long war has disrupted the global supply of crude oil and gas. Following the blockade of Hormuz by Iran, the crisis is worsening for all countries. Inflation is rising, and the energy crisis is impacting trade and industrial production, leading to a rapid increase in unemployment. The continuously rising prices of crude oil and gas are disrupting the economies of all countries. This is also affecting government revenues. The general public

is being severely affected by inflation and unemployment. Due to inflation, ordinary people are unable to purchase essential necessities. The Indian government has expressed concern about the economy for the first time. It is believed that the Indian government will have to revise its budget. Instead of ending, the war is intensifying. Its adverse effects are being felt in countries around the world. Crude oil supplies have plummeted to just 10%, disrupting the entire global economy. The economic situation of countries around the world is spiraling out of control. This is being felt in the stock market and banking system. Cities are particularly vulnerable. Crises of petrol, diesel, gas, and electricity are affecting all sectors. The war-mongering of US President Donald Trump and Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu is

impacting countries worldwide. Upon his second term as president, Donald Trump unleashed a wave of unrest in the world through tariff wars, impacting inflation and the economy. Trump's policies have also led to a rapid increase in inflation and unemployment in the US. Protests against Donald Trump are taking place in more than 3,300 locations across the US, with nearly 9 million people taking to the streets. The American public is angry with Trump, and even lawmakers from Donald Trump's party are disgruntled. Even after this, the way Donald Trump is provoking war, making various statements daily, the whole world is seeing him as a psycho and a crazy leader. Trump's arrogance is making the situation even more dire. Hundreds of countries, including Russia, China, Iran, North Korea, have

stood against America in this war. North Korea has successfully tested a missile engine capable of hitting America. The war is affecting all countries. The dollar currency is facing global challenges. For the past month, the movement of goods across the world has been disrupted. Food crises are being witnessed in many countries. The United States, the world's most powerful nation, currently appears to be the weakest, both internationally and internally. The Iran war has exposed the US and Israel's attempts to bully the world by creating a bogey of military equipment and military systems. Iran has destroyed the US and Israel's expensive military equipment and security systems. Iran, challenging all these claims, has destroyed US military bases in Israel and Arab countries, leaving the US and

Israel's dominance on the verge of collapse. Countries not involved in this war are also struggling on multiple fronts. Inflation and unemployment are also increasing in these countries, along with the economic crisis. Given the global economic crisis, economic experts believe that a global depression is imminent. The economic downturn will completely shatter the current state of the economy. Following the global trade agreement, countries around the world experienced economic growth through development, market economy, and debt. Currently, all countries are burdened with significant debt. The economies of all countries are under significant pressure. This war has only added to the woes. The energy crisis and losses suffered by all countries in just one month will be irreparable.

Editorial

'From Vardhaman to Lord Mahavira: An endless journey of compassion and self-conquest

This golden morning brings with it a profound and sacred message. Today, March 31st, marks the birth anniversary of Lord Mahavira. This day is not merely a date, but a golden opportunity to introspect, reminding us of the great man who renounced the comforts of palaces like a straw. The sacred land of Vaishali in Bihar, where Prince Vardhaman was born, still bears witness to the sacrifice that transformed a prince into Mahavira. When he renounced royal splendor at the young age of thirty, he sought not a kingdom but the truth that would liberate humanity from the cycle of birth and death. The enlightenment he attained after twelve years of rigorous penance and silent meditation proved to be a lifeline not only for Jainism but for all humanity. Mahavira's most revolutionary message was "live and let live." As simple as it sounds, it's equally challenging to implement. His philosophy is founded on non-violence, which isn't limited to physical harm; hurting someone's feelings or harboring negative thoughts is also a form of violence. Today, when the world lives under the shadow of war and hatred, Mahavira's teachings feel like a balm. He preached the mantra of "Aparigraha," which means limiting one's needs, as unnecessary accumulation is the root of suffering. In today's hectic life, the fewer possessions and desires we accumulate, the calmer and lighter our minds will be. His principle of "Anekantavada" (Anekantavada) is crucial for today's society, teaching us that there can be many perspectives on the same truth.

If we learn to respect the opinions of others, half of society's conflicts will disappear. Mahavira completely rejected caste and class discrimination, teaching that the life of an ant is as valuable as that of an emperor. He gave women equal rights in spiritual practice and preached in a common language like Prakrit, so that his message could reach the hearts of ordinary people. He did not seek to be a miracle worker, but a guide who taught that every soul possesses the power to become divine. Today, as we celebrate his birth anniversary, we must ask ourselves whether we are truly striving to follow his path.



Mahavir Jayanti 2026 Special on Tuesday, March 31, 2026) Mahavir Jayanti 2026 is being celebrated on Tuesday, March 31, 2026. This festival marks the 2624th birth anniversary of Lord Mahavira, the 24th Tirthankara of Jainism. Lord Mahavira was the twenty-fourth and last Tirthankara of Jainism. According to Jain philosophy, all Tirthankaras were born as humans but achieved perfection or enlightenment through meditation and self-realization. He is the God of Jains.



Lord Mahavira, the guide of non-violence, truth and non-possession

Sanjay Goswami

Tirthankaras are also known as Arihants or Jinas. Lord Mahavira was the twenty-fourth and last Tirthankara of Jainism of this era. According to Jain philosophy, all Tirthankaras were humans but achieved perfection or enlightenment through meditation and self-realization. He is the God of Jains. The concept of God as creator, protector, and destroyer of the world does not exist in Jainism. Furthermore, the idea of God being reborn as a human to destroy demons is also not accepted in Jainism. Lord Mahavira was born on the thirteenth day of the waxing moon in the month of Chaitra, in the Indian state of Bihar in 599 BC. This day falls in the month of April according to the English calendar. His birthday is celebrated as Mahavir Jayanti. Mahavira was a prince and his parents named him Vardhamana. As the son of a king, he had access to worldly comforts and services. However, at the age of thirty, he left his family and royal household, renounced worldly possessions, and became a monk to seek a solution to end pain, suffering, and suffering. Mahavira spent the next twelve and a half years in deep silence and meditation to control his desires, emotions, and attachments. He meticulously avoided harming or disturbing other living beings, including animals, birds, and plants. He even went without food for long periods. He remained calm and composed despite all unbearable hardships, hence the name Mahavira, which means very brave and courageous. During this time, his spiritual

powers fully developed, and he finally realized true understanding, wisdom, power, and bliss. This realization is known as Kevala Jnana, or complete enlightenment. Mahavira spent the next thirty years traveling barefoot throughout India, preaching to people the eternal truth he had realized. The ultimate goal of his teachings is how one can attain complete freedom from the cycle of birth, life, pain, suffering, and death, and achieve a state of eternal bliss. This is also known as liberation, nirvana, complete freedom, or moksha. Mahavira explained that, eternally, every living being (soul) is bound by the atoms of karma due to its ignorance. These karmas then continuously accumulate through our good and bad actions. Under the influence of karma, the soul becomes accustomed to seeking pleasure in things and objects. This is the deep root of selfish, violent thoughts, actions, anger, hatred, greed, and other such evils. This further accumulates karma. Mahavira taught that right belief (samyak darshan), right knowledge (samyak jnana), and right conduct (samyak chatra) together constitute the true path to liberation from one's karmas. Central to right conduct for Jains are the Five Great Vows: Non-violence (non-harming) (satya) (speaking only the truth that does not harm) (asetya) (not stealing) (not taking what is not properly offered) (chastity) (purity) (brahmacharya) (non-indulgence in sensual pleasures) (aparigraha) (complete detachment from people, places, and material possessions) Jains consider these vows

central to their lives. These vows cannot be fully implemented without accepting non-absolutism (anekantavada) and the principle of relativity (syadvada). Sadhus and Sanyasis strictly and completely observe these vows, while laypeople adapt them to suit their lifestyles. According to Mahavira, both men and women are equal in terms of spiritual progress. The allure of renunciation and liberation also attracted women. Many women followed Mahavira's path and left the world in search of ultimate truth and happiness. Thus, if the principles of Jainism are properly understood and sincerely followed, they will bring contentment, inner happiness, and bliss in this life. This will elevate the soul to a higher spiritual level in future rebirths, ultimately achieving complete enlightenment, reaching its final destination of eternal bliss, and ending the cycle of birth and death. Mahavira attracted all kinds of people—rich and poor, kings and commoners, men and women, princes and priests, touchable and untouchable. He divided his followers into four groups: sadhus, sadhvis, shravakas, and shravikas. This group is known as the Jain Sangha. Lord Mahavira's teachings were written down in the Agam Sutras by his close disciples. These Agam Sutras were passed down orally to future generations. Over time, many Agam Sutras have been lost, destroyed, and some have been altered. About a thousand years later, the Agam Sutras were recorded on palm leaves (a leafy paper used in those days to preserve records for posterity). Svetambara Jains

consider these Sutras to be the true form of his teachings, while Digambara Jains do not consider them authentic. At the age of 72 (527 BC), Lord Mahavira attained nirvana, and his pure soul left his body, achieving complete liberation. He became a siddha, a pure consciousness, a liberated soul, eternally in a state of complete bliss. On the night of his nirvana, people celebrated the Festival of Lights (Diwali) in his honor. This is the last day of the Hindu and Jain calendar year, known as Diwali Day. Jainism existed before Mahavira, and his teachings were based on the teachings of those who came before him. Thus, unlike Buddha, Mahavira was more a reformer and propagator of an existing religious system than the founder of a new religion. He followed the well-established sect of his predecessor, Tirthankara Parshvanatha. However, Mahavira reformulated the principles of Jainism's philosophy to suit his own times. A few centuries after Mahavira's nirvana, the Jain religious order (Sangha) became increasingly complex. Disagreements arose over some minor issues, though these did not affect the core principles of Mahavira's teachings. Later generations saw the difficulties of the custom coming. This almost elevated Mahavira and other Tirthankaras to the throne of Hindu pantheon. Highlights of Lord Mahavira's teachings: Mahavira simplified and naturalized religion, free from the complexities of elaborate rituals. His teachings reflected the inner beauty and harmony of the soul.

Bhitauli' is a unique tradition of Kumaon

Prayag Pandey

The Kumaon region has unique social traditions, customs, and beliefs. Nature has a profound influence on folk life here. Most of the traditions and customs are based on nature. Folk festivals in Kumaon are celebrated according to the seasons. There is a tradition of celebrating different folk festivals in different seasons.

Spring is called the king of seasons. The arrival of spring marks the departure of the cold season. Nature's beauty is enhanced during spring. A new consciousness awakens in nature. The entire atmosphere is filled with joy. Trees and plants that had been devoid of greenery during the cold season begin to blossom, revealing shades

of greenery and pink. The spring of youth begins to blossom throughout nature. Happiness pervades nature. Mustard begins to bloom. The process of juicy kaafal fruit fruit begins. Rhododendron flowers are eager to spread their captivating charm. When trees and plants are laden with colorful flowers and fruits, understand that spring has arrived. In Kumaon's folk culture, spring signifies the season of honoring daughters and sisters, who are considered embodiments of the goddess.

Seeing this rejuvenation of nature fills the human heart with joy and happiness. In this joyous season, people begin to miss their loved ones. Special occasions and festivals haunt everyone, but spring sudden-

ly refreshes forgotten memories. Spring awakens a strong desire to meet loved ones. To fulfill this desire, a very intimate and emotional tradition called Bhitauli is performed in the Kumaon region during spring.

When spring arrives, a variety of fruits and flowers, including rhododendron and mustard, bloom, the melodious sounds of the kapuwa and other birds are heard, and nature is filled with joy, then understand that the month of Bhitauli has arrived in Kumaon. With the arrival of the month of Bhitauli, or Chaitra, married daughters and sisters begin waiting for their fathers and brothers at their in-laws' homes.

In earlier times, girls in the mountains were married off in

childhood. At that time, there were no means of transportation or communication in the mountains. Meeting one's daughters and sisters was difficult. Parents and brothers were always haunted by the memories of their daughters and sisters. With the arrival of spring, the memories of their married daughters and sisters became even more intense. So, the tradition of meeting one's daughters and sisters, inquiring about their well-being, and honoring them, was born called Bhitauli.

Auspicious events are not typically held in the mountains during the month of Chaitra, but it is considered the month of Bhitauli. In Kumaon, there is an ancient tradition of giving Bhitauli to married daughters and sisters during this

month. Bhitauli means gifts, visits, honor, and a keen curiosity to know about the well-being of daughters and sisters.

The brother or father goes to the in-laws' house of the daughter or sister to give Bhitauli. A basket of Bhitauli was taken beforehand, which is called Chapri in the local language. There is a tradition of gifting clothes, various types of local dishes, sweets and cash as per capacity to the beloved daughter or sister in Bhitauli. The daughters and sisters used to distribute the dishes and sweets brought from their parents' house as Bhitauli in their in-laws' house. As soon as the month of Chaitra begins, married daughters and sisters start waiting for Bhitauli impatiently.

Delhi continues to struggle with single-use plastic ban compliance

New Delhi, (GNS): Three years after enforcing a nationwide ban on select single-use plastic (SUP) items, the capital continues to struggle with compliance. A new study has revealed widespread violations across the city. According to a report by environmental group Toxics Link, titled Revisiting Single Use Plastic Ban, that highlights major gaps in enforcement and calls for urgent nationwide action to strengthen implementation, banned plastic products were found in 86% of surveyed locations in Delhi, raising serious concerns about enforcement and behavioural change.

The study, conducted between April and Aug 2025 across 140 sites in Delhi, paints a stark picture of the ground reality.

From bustling street markets to transport hubs and religious



sites, SUP items such as carry bags, plastic cutlery, cups and straws remain deeply entrenched in daily commerce.

The findings reflect a broader national trend, with an average 84% non-compliance across four major cities, Bhubaneswar, Guwahati, Mumbai and

Delhi. The Centre's SUP ban, announced on July 1, 2022, prohibited the manufacture, sale and use of 19 low-utility, high-litter plastic items. The move was aimed at curbing plastic pollution, which has severe environmental and health consequences, including microplastic contamination and ecosystem damage.

The Delhi findings suggest that policy intent has not translated into practice.

In the capital, compliance varied sharply across sectors. Organised retail spaces such as malls showed near-total adherence. However, the informal sector - such as street vendors, food stalls, juice sellers and weekly markets -- recorded nearly 100% lack of compliance. This divide highlights a structural enforcement gap as smaller vendors often operate beyond the consis-

tent reach of regulatory checks.

The persistence of SUPs is not due to a lack of alternatives. Items such as paper cups and plates, newspaper wrappers, wooden cutlery, steel utensils, aluminium foil containers, bagasse plates, cloth bags and thicker reusable plastic bags above 120 microns are available in many locations. Yet, adoption remains limited. Vendors cited higher costs and strong consumer demand for plastic carry bags as major barriers. In fact, a significant proportion of vendors reported that customers still expect free plastic bags, reinforcing continued use.

"The continued presence of banned plastic items in the majority of locations suggests that enforcement remains inconsistent," said Ravi Agarwal, director of Toxics Link.

Delhi fire: 4 jump from first floor, 4 rescued as blaze erupts in residential building

New Delhi, (GNS): Four members of a family were rescued by firefighters while four others, including women and a child, jumped from the first floor to save themselves after a fire broke out in a residential building in north-east Delhi's Dayalpur on Sunday.



According to Delhi Fire Service, a call regarding the fire was received at around 3.50am. The blaze is suspected to have started in the parking area on the ground floor, where two scooters and a motorcycle caught fire. The resulting smoke rapidly spread to the upper floors of the building, which comprises a ground floor and five storeys and is built over an area of approximately 50 square yards. Before the arrival of fire tenders, four persons - Nikhat (22), Rashida (50), Soni (25) and a two-year-old child, Ashif - jumped from the first floor in an attempt to escape the smoke.

They were taken to Jag Pravech Chand Hospital, where they received first aid for minor injuries and were later discharged.

Meanwhile, Delhi Fire Service personnel carried out rescue operations and safely evacuated four occupants - Sued (12), Duved (10), Aarifa (28) and Farah (14) - from the upper floors, including the second, third and fourth floors.

The fire was brought under control by 6.20am. DFS officials said that the fire was mainly near the staircase and it was the smoke that trapped the residents above.

QR code drive to track out-of-school kids hits roadblock

New Delhi, (GNS): A QR code-based initiative launched by Samagra Shiksha Delhi was designed to simplify and accelerate the identification and enrolment of out-of-school children. The concept was straightforward and impactful. By scanning a QR code placed on posters, walls or digital platforms, any individual, be it a concerned citizen, teacher, or volunteer, could directly report details of a child not attending school. This information would then be transmitted to relevant authorities, triggering a structured response to bring the child back into the formal education system. In its initial phase, the initiative demonstrated considerable promise, successfully completing a couple of cycles of data collection and generating meaningful public participation.

However, the programme soon faced a significant hurdle that stalled its progress. Officials revealed that the directorate of education's (DoE) website remained non-functional for nearly two months due to ongoing revamp work.

Since the entire reporting and tracking mechanism depended on this digital infrastructure, the outage brought operations to a near standstill. "As the website was down and everything is recorded on it, this led to a halt in the progress of the project," an official said. The interruption raised concerns about the system's sustainability and reliability, especially given that Samagra Shiksha efforts typically help reintegrate over 10,000 children into the education system each year through various methods. Officials emphasised that the QR code initiative is a crucial extension of these efforts and needs to be streamlined for greater impact. DoE officials said the website is now operational again, equipped with enhanced features following the upgrade. With the technical issues addressed, authorities are now working to revive the project, which was launched in May last year. The renewed focus is on overcoming earlier challenges and restoring momentum to ensure that no child is left out of school due to systemic delays.

The system remains simple and accessible. Once a QR code is scanned, users are directed to an online form where they can put in essential details like a child's location, approximate age, possible reasons for being out of school, such as child labour or begging, and their own contact information. Upon submission, the report is automatically shared with Samagra Shiksha officials, enabling a swift response. Following this, authorities visit the reported location to verify the information, assess the child's circumstances and intervene.

Nirbhaya Fund powers CCTV cover, pink e-autos at Namoo Bharat stations

New Delhi, (GNS): The National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC), which is executing the Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut RRTS corridor, is installing 250 CCTV cameras and LED streetlights outside Namoo Bharat stations using the Nirbhaya Fund to ensure safer access. It will also procure pink e-autos operated by women to strengthen last-mile connectivity.

NCRTC, which received Rs 5 crore from the Nirbhaya Fund in the current financial year, has also launched a gender sensitisation campaign titled 'Aakankshaon Ke Pankh'. The campaign was formally launched at the Sarai Kale Khan Namoo Bharat station on Tuesday and aims to raise awareness on women's safety while highlighting measures undertaken across the Namoo Bharat system to provide a secure travel environment.

An NCRTC official said that



CCTV cameras are already installed inside trains and station premises. "Of the 250 CCTV cameras planned outside stations, installation has been completed at some locations, including Sarai Kale Khan in Delhi and stations in Meerut such as Begumpul, Brahmpuri, Meerut North and Rithani," the official said, adding, LED streetlights have been installed outside all stations along the Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut corridor to reduce blind spots. For last-

mile connectivity, the Nirbhaya Fund will be used to deploy pink e-autos driven by women from Namoo Bharat stations. Currently, similar services are operational at several metro stations.

Other measures include an SOS feature on the 'Namoo Bharat Connect' mobile app, a dedicated women's safety helpline and awareness initiatives through films, nukkad natak, workshops and community engagement activities. A 'Gratitude Wall' was inaugu-

rated at the Sarai Kale Khan station, inviting commuters to share handwritten notes recognising women who have influenced their lives. The wall will remain at the station for the coming months to encourage public participation, the official said.

Speaking at the campaign launch, NCRTC managing director Shalabh Goel said the five-year initiative aims to build awareness and encourage social participation to ensure a safe and reliable commute for women across the Namoo Bharat system.

PWD plans feasibility study for 900-meter road beneath metro viaduct in south Delhi

New Delhi, (GNS): A proposed road link beneath a metro viaduct in south Delhi could significantly improve last-mile connectivity in a densely populated and often congested part of the city. The Public Works Department (PWD) has initiated the process to construct a road connecting Maa Anandmayee Marg to Harkesh Nagar metro station, a stretch that serves both residential areas and key transit routes.

According to project documents, the proposal involves preparing a detailed project report (DPR) for a nearly 900-metre road to be built beneath the metro viaduct.

While relatively short, the stretch is strategically important. Maa Anandmayee Marg is a major arterial road linking south Delhi to Faridabad, while Harkesh Nagar metro station on the violet line serves as a crucial access point for daily commuters from nearby areas such as Okhla, Tughlakabad and surrounding industrial zones.

ICMR-NIN completes world's largest nutrition, biomarker survey

New Delhi, (GNS): The Indian Council of Medical Research - National Institute of Nutrition (ICMR-NIN) has completed one of the world's largest nutrition and biomarker surveys, covering 2.6 lakh individuals across 183 districts and generating nationally representative data on diet, physical activity, anaemia and overall nutritional status.

The survey, titled SAMPADA (Survey for Assessment of Markets of Population Health, Activity Diet and Anthropometry), was started in 2023 and completed in 2025. The data collected are currently being analysed.

The exercise is crucial for generating region-specific data on diet, nutrition, and health, and identifying hidden forms of malnutrition and micronutrient deficiencies.



This would help policymakers in making informed decisions and designing targeted interventions to address both undernutrition and the growing burden of non-communicable diseases in India.

The survey, spearheaded by ICMR-NIN, is first of its kind Diet and Biomarkers Survey of India (DABS-I), making it a landmark initiative. Officials

said that, unlike earlier dietary surveys that mainly relied on self-reported food consumption, DABS-I combines detailed dietary assessment with biological samples, like blood and urine biomarkers, to provide more accurate and scientific evidence of nutritional status.

"More than 81,000 households were surveyed. Unlike previous surveys which focussed on special age groups, physiological categories, or urban and rural population or some states, the SAMPADA study covered all age groups, physiological categories from all states and union territories," she said.

She added that anaemia presence was estimated using venous blood sampling, with 1.76 lakh blood samples collected. Dietary intake data were also analysed.

LG makes impromptu CP visit, interacts with public, stresses on people-centric governance



New Delhi, (GNS): Delhi lieutenant governor TS Sandhu on Sunday made an impromptu visit to Connaught Place, where he interacted with people from different walks of life, particularly youths and professionals. According to LG House officials, the visit was unplanned and aimed at engaging with people in an informal setting to understand their concerns and aspi-

erations. During the visit, Sandhu queued up at the popular Jain Chawal Wale outlet, where he bought kadhi chawal and ate alongside people there, while speaking to them about issues related to livelihood, career and civic challenges. He later walked to Keventer's for a milkshake, continuing his interactions with people who had gathered in the area from various parts of the city.

Delhi Waits for More Hospital Beds as 11 Projects On Pause

New Delhi, (GNS): Delhi's ambitious hospital expansion plan has hit a prolonged roadblock, with 11 major projects stalled since 2023, leaving over 10,000 beds stuck in the pipeline.

Large hospitals such as GTB, Raghbir Nagar and Shalimar Bagh - each with about 1,500 beds - have remained that way since July 2023, primarily due to pending approvals of revised cost estimates and funding constraints, details in the Economic Survey 2025-26 have shown.

Mid-sized hospitals in Madipur, Nangloi (Jwalapuri) and Sultanpuri, each with 500-700 beds, are facing similar delays. In some cases, projects have been held up since early 2023 due to pending decisions



on adding extra floors, while others were stalled for months in 2024 for the lack of budget allocation. Construction at Vikaspuri resumed only in Jan 2025 after funds were released following a nearly year-long halt. The projects were initiated

under AAP govt with the aim of significantly expanding public healthcare capacity. However, administrative bottlenecks, funding gaps, design revisions and inter-departmental approvals slowed progress. The capacity expansion is

needed because according to the recommendations of the World Health Organization (WHO), the recommended bed population ratio is 5 beds per a population of 1,000. However, the bed population ratio in Delhi in 2025-26 has remained at 2.84 which is much below the WHO norm. According to official data, several projects are nearing completion but remain idle. Siraspur hospital, with over 1,100 beds, has crossed 75% completion and is at the finishing stage, but is awaiting approval for furniture and equipment. Shalimar Bagh and Sultanpuri hospitals have largely completed structural and finishing work but are stuck pending revised estimates.

At Sarita Vihar, the project was redesigned from an ICU facility

into a mother-and-child hospital, delaying completion further. Technical challenges have also played a role. At Kirari, the project required a shift to pile foundation due to soil liquefaction risks, while at multiple sites, redesigns and scope changes have led to cost escalations and fresh approvals.

The delays come at a time when Delhi continues to face pressure on its healthcare infrastructure. While the number of medical institutions in the city has grown by nearly 13% since 2019-20 - driven by an increase in dispensaries, polyclinics and specialised centres - the number of hospitals has remained unchanged.

At present, Delhi govt provides healthcare services through 40

hospitals, 370 Aayushman Arogya Mandirs, 98 dispensaries, 48 polyclinics and several AYUSH facilities, along with mobile clinics and school health programmes.

However, officials acknowledge that major hospitals continue to bear the main patient load.

Land scarcity, multiplicity of agencies and shortage of experienced manpower have also been cited as challenges that have slowed the pace of new infrastructure. An official said govt is committed to completing long-pending projects. "In the budget, a total allocation of Rs 13,034 crore has been made for the health department which reflect govt's firm commitment to ensuring accessible, affordable healthcare.



HON'BLE PRIME MINISTER SHRI NARENDRA MODI TO INAUGURATE AND LAY THE FOUNDATION STONE FOR VARIOUS DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS WORTH OVER ₹19,800 CRORE



SPECIAL GUEST

SHRI BHUPENDRABHAI PATEL
HON'BLE CHIEF MINISTER, GUJARAT

GRACIOUS PRESENCE

SHRI HARSH SANGHAVI
HON'BLE DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER, GUJARAT

SHRI SHANKARBHAI CHAUDHARY
HON'BLE SPEAKER, GUJARAT LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

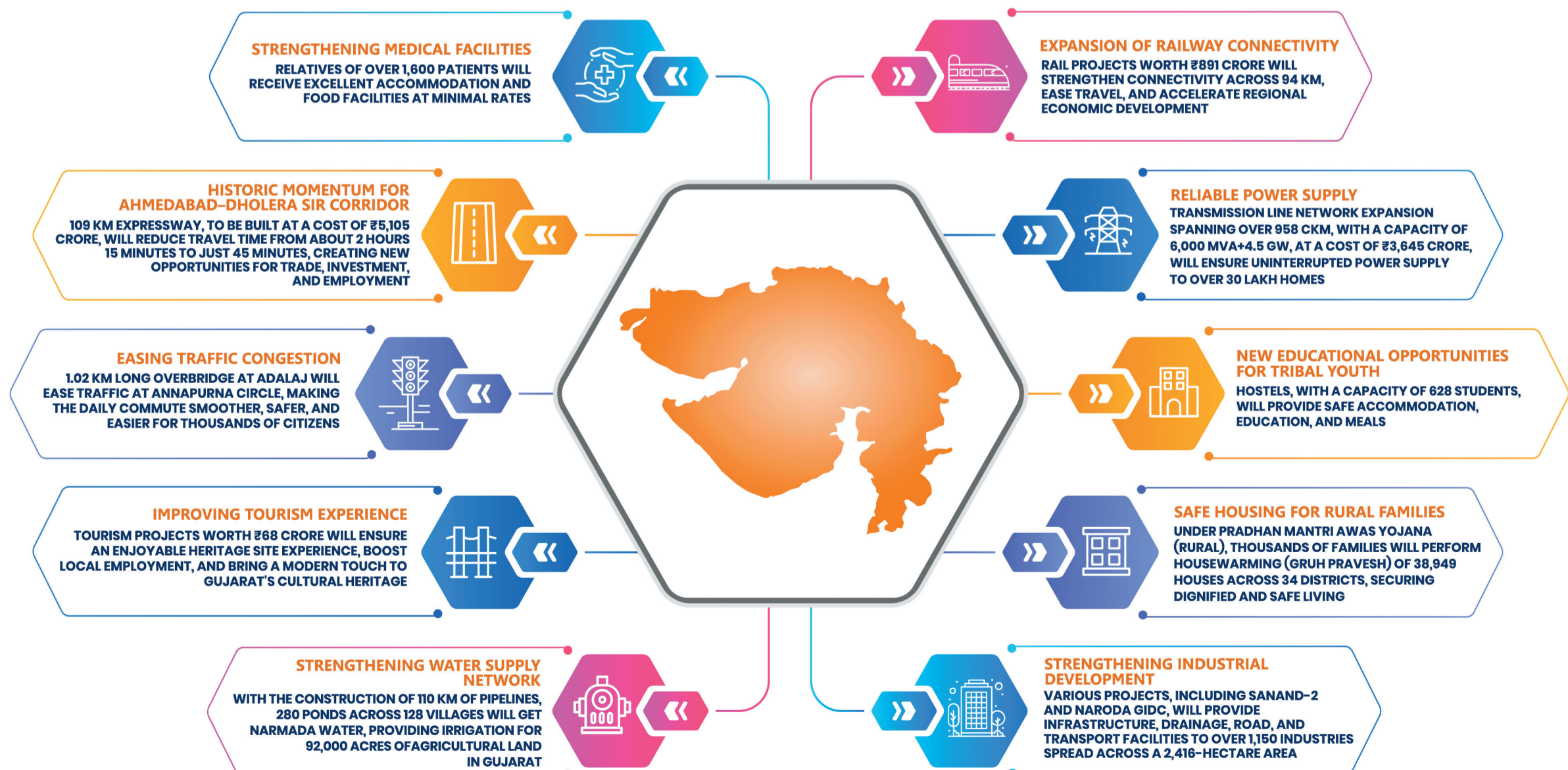
- 44 projects of the Urban Development and Urban Housing Department
- 6 projects of the Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways
- 3 projects each of the Ministry of Power and Ministry of Railways
- 5 projects of the Water Resources Department



- 3 projects of Gujarat Industrial Development Corporation (GIDC)
- 2 projects, each of the Departments of Health, Tourism, and Roads & Buildings
- Various Projects of the Departments of Water Supply & Tribal Development

DATE: MARCH 31, 2026 | TIME: 04:00 PM | VENUE: NANI, VAV-THARAD

MILESTONES OF PROGRESS



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