



US and Iran agree to a two-week ceasefire, Israel agrees, signs of peace in Hormuz, Islamabad prepares for talks

Washington/Tel Aviv/Lebanon(GNS): The US and Iran have agreed on a two-week ceasefire. This agreement on Iran's 10-point proposal came less than two hours before President Donald Trump's deadline. Trump, setting a Tuesday deadline, had warned Tehran to reopen the Strait of Hormuz or face the destruction of the entire civilization. Trump's announcement of agreement late Tuesday night



was a stark contrast to his extraordinary warning. This announcement came after mediation efforts by Pakistan's Army Chief Field Marshal Asim Munir and Prime Minister Shabbaz Sharif. According to reports from Gulf News, Al Jazeera, Tasnim, CBS News, and CNN, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi has confirmed that passage through the Strait of Hormuz will be permitted under Iranian military control for the next two weeks. Araqchi released a statement on his Instagram handle early Wednesday regarding the proposed ceasefire on behalf of Iran's Supreme National Security Council. It stated that this opportunity for peace has emerged following the US's 15-point proposal and Iran's 10-point proposal. The statement expressed gratitude to Pakistan's Prime Minister and military chief. It stated that safe passage through the Strait of Hormuz will be possible for a period of two weeks, in coordination with Iran's armed forces and taking into account technical limitations. It is noteworthy that Ayatollah Sayyed Ali Khamenei and several senior military commanders were killed in the US-Israeli military operation against Iran on February 28th. The ensuing conflict spread to the Gulf countries. Iran has tightened its vigil over the Strait of Hormuz, blocking shipping. This has created a global oil and gas crisis. Despite agreeing to a ceasefire, Iran has insisted that the talks in Islamabad will not signal the end of the conflict, but rather an extension of diplomatic efforts. This is a victory for America: White House Press Secretary Caroline Levitt described the US-Iran ceasefire agreement as a victory for America.

Fertilizer subsidy for farmers increased by 4,317 crore: DAP bags will be available for only 1,350
Two hydropower projects worth 40,000 crore approved

New Delhi, (GNS): The Union Cabinet, meeting, approved projects and proposals worth 1.74 lakh crore. These decisions include agriculture, energy, and urban transport.

1. Fertilizer subsidy of 41,534 crore for Kharif 2026

The Cabinet approved the NBS scheme for the 2026 Kharif season. The government will spend approximately 41,533 crore on phosphatic and potash fertilizers. This is approximately 4,317 crore more than last year's budget. The new rates will be effective from April 1 to September 30. The government's decision aims to protect farmers from fluctuations in raw material prices in the international market. DAP prices have risen sharply since the pandemic, but the government has kept the retail price for farmers stable at 1,350 per 50 kg bag.

2. 79,459 crore will be spent on the Rajasthan refinery project.

The government has approved the revised cost of the HPCL Rajasthan Refinery Project. The project will now cost 79,459 crore. Located in Pachpadra, Balotra district, Rajasthan, the refinery will have a 9 MMTPA capacity. Operations could begin in July.

3. Jaipur Metro Phase-2 will increase connectivity with an investment of 13,038 crore.

Phase 2 of the metro expansion in Rajasthan's capital, Jaipur, has been approved. This 13,038 crore project will build a 41-kilometer corridor from Prahladpura to Todi Mor. This will improve the transportation system in Jaipur and surrounding areas.

4. Two mega projects worth 40,000 crore for the hydropower

Uttarakhand: Snowfall in all four Dhams, hailstorms in Rajasthan; 3 active cyclones in MP
15 killed in UP storm in 7 days

New Delhi (GNS): The weather has changed due to the simultaneous activation of two Western Disturbances in the country. Snowfall is occurring in all four holy places of Uttarakhand: Kedarnath, Badrinath, Gangotri, and Yamunotri. Rain is falling in all districts of the state. Several districts in Rajasthan, including Sriganganagar, Hanumangarh, and Nagaur, witnessed torrential rain accompanied by hail. Several districts received more than an inch of rain. Meanwhile, in Bharatpur district, a cylinder exploded after lightning struck a house. The temperature dropped by 7 degrees due to the rain.

Hailstorms struck Meerut, Bareilly, and Shahjahanpur in the afternoon. Intermittent rain and strong winds are occurring today in 25 districts, including Lucknow, Gorakhpur, Gonda, Jaunpur, and Aligarh.

The government said the court cannot call religious tradition superstition: you are not an expert, the legislature will decide

The court said we have full right to review

New Delhi (GNS): The Supreme Court entered its second day of hearings on Wednesday in the case of discrimination against women in religious places. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta said, "A secular court cannot simply label a religious practice as superstition, as it lacks the expertise to determine that."

He said, "What may be considered religious to one community in Nagaland may seem like superstition to me. Our society is very diverse, with different people, religions, and beliefs. Therefore, it could be dan-



gerous for the court to issue such a verdict.

"More than 50 review petitions in the Supreme

Court The issue of discrimination against women at religious places has been pend-

ing in the country's courts for the past 26 years. In 2018, a five-judge bench, by a 4:1 majority, lifted the ban on women's entry into the temple. Several review petitions were subsequently filed. A nine-judge Constitution bench of the Supreme Court will hear more than 50 petitions from April 7 to April 22. Review petitioners and their supporters will present their arguments from April 7 to April 9, while those opposing the petition will present their arguments from April 14 to April 16.

BJP alleges mistreatment of Kolkata rape-murder victim's mother; attempted attack during campaign

Mamata Banerjee files nomination from Bhawanipur

Kolkata/Chennai (GNS): Ratna Debnath, the BJP candidate from West Bengal's Panihati constituency, alleged mistreatment on Wednesday. Ratna is the mother of the Kolkata

rape-murder victim. She said, "TMC goons tried to kill me while I was campaigning. I wasn't seriously hurt, but the workers accompanying me were injured."

The BJP alleges that some women began protesting, chanting "Jai Bangla." Some party workers were assaulted. However, the Trinamool Congress has denied all allegations.

Supreme Court changes rules, now only CJI will hear major cases

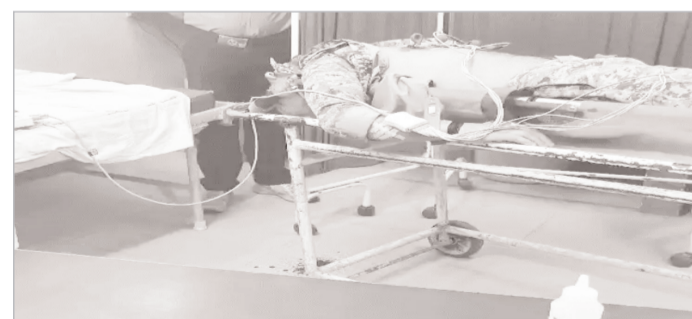
New Delhi (GNS): The Supreme Court has issued an important directive regarding the urgent hearing process. Under the new rule, urgent matters that cannot await regular listing can now be mentioned only before the Chief Justice. This rule will remain in effect even if the Chief Justice is busy presiding over a Constitution Bench. This move by the Court aims to bring clarity to the judicial process and ensure a centralized system for urgent matters. An official circular issued on April 6 clarifies that urgent matters are now permitted to be mentioned only before Court No. 1 (the Chief Justice's court). The circular emphasizes that even if the Chief

Justice is part of a special bench or a Constitution bench, lawyers will not be permitted to appear before any other bench for such matters. This directive is issued in reference to a previous circular dated November 29, 2025, to address any confusion in the listing process. Amid this administrative change, the Chief Justice recently shared his views on strengthening judicial infrastructure. During an event at the Telangana High Court, he stated that judicial complexes are expanding across the country and that all state governments are now recognizing that strengthening the judicial infrastructure is not just an option but an urgent task.

A forest guard was crushed to death by a tractor belonging to a BJP leader

- The divisional minister and vice president in Morena are partners;
- video shows the accused fleeing after selling sand after the murder.

Morena (GNS): In Morena, a forest guard was crushed to death by a tractor-trolley driver illegally transporting sand. The incident occurred around 6 a.m. on Wednesday near



the Ranpur village intersection in the Dimni police station area. Police said a six-member forest department team was out on a routine patrol. They spotted a tractor-trolley loaded

with sand approaching. When the team signaled for the vehicle to stop, the driver, Vinod Kori, attempted to flee with the tractor-trolley loaded with sand. When forest guard

Harkesh Gurjar stepped forward to stop him, Vinod crushed him. He then fled with the tractor-trolley. CCTV cameras at a nearby petrol pump captured images of the accused, Vinod Kori. Collector Lokesh Kumar Jangid, Superintendent of Police Samir Saurabh, and DFO Harishchandra Baghel arrived at the scene and spoke with eyewitnesses. Police have registered a murder case against an unknown suspect.

Survey: 23 out of 29 countries are worried about the future:

65% of Indians believe the country is on the right track - Ipsos



New Delhi (GNS): This year has seen significant disruptions around the world, including the ongoing conflict in West Asia. Challenges to global economies have increased. People around the world are worried about the future, and pessimism is growing.

Meanwhile, a glimmer of hope remains in India and some countries in Southeast Asia. Global research firm

Ipsos has released a report for March 2026. The report is titled "What Worries the World," meaning what worries the world most.

The majority of people in 23 of the 29 countries surveyed in the report have a negative outlook on their future, but countries like India, Singapore, Malaysia, South Korea, and Thailand stand out from this trend. In India, 65% of those surveyed

believe the country is moving in the right direction. The global average is only 39%. The survey also includes citizens' opinions on key national issues that directly affect their daily lives. Many surveyed believe that increasing pressure on oil and gas supplies could pose a challenge in the future.

Crime, violence, and unemployment are the

biggest concerns.

Global concerns include crime, violence, unemployment, inflation, poverty and social inequality, and financial and political corruption. Similar concerns are evident in India, but the order of priorities is different. Besides inflation, unemployment, education, crime, and violence, financial and political corruption are the top concerns for Indians.

When will rail travel concessions for senior citizens resume?

Nirmal Rani

During the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020, many countries around the world took a variety of unprecedented decisions. These decisions were often aimed at preventing the spread of the pandemic as much as possible. During this time, even air traffic across the world came to a halt. Lockdowns were imposed in many countries, shutting down factories, all forms of transportation, businesses, industries, and markets. India was one of the countries where a complete lockdown was imposed. Prime Minister Narendra Modi himself announced the first phase of the nationwide lockdown on the night of March 24, 2020. This first phase of the complete lockdown, which came into effect at midnight on March 25, 2020, was initially

intended to last only 21 days, but was later extended in several phases. During this complete lockdown, all transportation facilities in the country, including railways, were completely suspended. After the impact of the pandemic subsided, Indian Railways planned to resume passenger trains in a phased manner from May 12. Under this scheme, 15 special trains initially connected New Delhi Railway Station with major cities in Assam, Bengal, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Jammu, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, and Tripura. These services were later gradually expanded. The Indian government took advantage of this opportunity and completely abolished the partial discount on train tickets for senior citizens. When repealing the discount, the

government argued that it was being done to "prevent unnecessary travel." However, even six years later, when train services across the country have almost returned to normal, this discount has not been reinstated. It is noteworthy that at that time, the Prime Minister had said that such a huge disaster brought a signal, a message, and an opportunity for India. India has turned disaster into an opportunity. The Railway Department, seeing opportunity in this disaster, took several decisions under the guise of the Corona period that may have been beneficial to the government but certainly not beneficial to rail passengers. For example, by declaring many passenger trains as express trains, stoppages were reduced in some places, fares were increased in others. Many trains were permanently cancelled, and

routes were changed. Some of these changes made during the COVID-19 pandemic were implemented as before, but some remain unchanged even after the pandemic has ended. For example, the partial discount on train tickets for senior citizens during the COVID-19 pandemic was completely abolished. The question is, when the reasoning given for ending this exemption was "to prevent unnecessary travel," why hasn't it been reinstated to date? Now, not only are almost all pre-COVID-19 trains operating, but many new trains have also started running. It's worth noting that Indian Railways offered various levels of concessions to a total of 53 categories, including students, persons with disabilities, patients, freedom fighters, and war widows. Senior citizens were also included in these

categories. The ticket concession for senior citizens was introduced in various phases in 1985. In August 2001, it was made voluntary, meaning senior citizens could avail of the concession if they wished. However, it was mandatory for those availing the concession to carry some form of proof of age, such as an Aadhaar card, PAN card, or passport, with them during their travel. The elderly enjoyed this privilege for 35 years, but the Modi government, which boasts of being a public benefactor, abolished it under the guise of the COVID-19 pandemic. The same government that cited "preventing unnecessary travel" as the reason for ending the exemption is now considering it a "financial burden." The government argues that the railways are already running at a significant loss.

Editorial

How can workers overcome the energy crisis?

Today, as the country grapples with the challenge of an energy crisis, its most profound impact is being felt by a segment of society that is already economically vulnerable—the working class. Expensive electricity, rising fuel prices, and uncertain employment have made the daily lives of workers even more difficult. In such a situation, the question of how workers can overcome this crisis and how the government and society can help them becomes crucial. The energy crisis is not limited to power shortages; it is also linked to coal supply, international oil prices, and policy weaknesses. When industrial costs rise, the first impact is on workers' wages and employment. Many small industries are on the verge of closure, which is accelerating labor migration.

The migration of workers from cities to villages amid the energy crisis has raised deep concerns. The growing energy crisis in the country has not only affected industries and the economy, but is also having the greatest impact on the common working class. Employment opportunities in cities are steadily shrinking due to power shortages, expensive energy, and declining industrial production. In such circumstances, the migration of workers from cities to villages appears to be accelerating again. The energy crisis has directly impacted factories and small industries. Many industries have either closed or are operating at limited capacity. This has severely impacted the incomes of daily wage laborers and those working in the unorganized sector. When work is not available in cities, workers have no option but to return to their villages.

This situation reminds us of the large-scale migration that occurred during the COVID-19 lockdown, when millions of workers returned from cities to their villages. While the current crisis is not as sudden, its effects are gradually becoming just as severe. Workers are not guaranteed employment after returning to their villages. Agriculture is already dependent on limited resources and cannot provide adequate opportunities for everyone. Consequently, rural unemployment and poverty are at risk of increasing, which could further deepen social and economic imbalances.



Iran and the United States have agreed to a two-week ceasefire. President Donald Trump announced this on behalf of the United States. Iran also officially announced this. Following the ceasefire, attacks ceased immediately. Iran issued official orders for this. Iran presented a proposal with 10 conditions for the ceasefire. After China's persuasion of both sides, a 15-day ceasefire was declared. Upon its announcement, its positive results were felt in countries around the world, including India.



15-day ceasefire between Iran and America with conditions

Sanat Jain

A new ray of hope has emerged. Both sides will seriously consider and strive for a permanent end to the war and peace. For this, it was necessary for both sides to come together on a common platform. Pakistan's efforts to facilitate dialogue between the three parties have been fruitful. US President Donald Trump cited Pakistan's Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif and Pakistan's military chief Asim Munir in this decision. Donald Trump stated that Iran must reopen the State of Hormuz. Donald Trump claimed that the US has achieved its goal. The US is now in a position to make a decisive decision with Tehran. Any agreement reached will be for long-term peace. Top Iranian officials will travel to Pakistan for talks, and the US Vice President will participate. This decision brought a sigh of relief to countries around the world. The energy crisis and the threat of war have temporarily eased the situation. This had a significant impact in India. The stock market jumped 2,800 points. International crude oil prices fell sharply. The US's threat to destroy Iran in this war raised the possibility of China, Russia, and North Korea becoming involved. For the past year, US President Donald Trump has been exerting pressure on Iran through tariffs. The Venezuelan President and his wife were abducted and held hostage in the US. Iran was attacked immediately afterward, angering countries around the world. Opposition to Donald Trump has begun within the US. Violating international rules, President Donald Trump attacked Iran without Congress's approval. According to US law, the President could take such action only for 45 days. Before that, he was required to obtain Congress's permission. Given all these circumstances, Donald Trump had no other option. The war had been going on for more than a month. In the war, not only Iran but Israel also suffered heavy losses. Iran destroyed almost all the Gulf countries where the US had military bases. The credibility that America had maintained in the world, in this war, they are almost exhausted. In

such a situation, Donald Trump wanted to exit the war as quickly as possible. Pakistan took the initiative. China, by demonstrating its strategic and economic power, has brought both the US and Iran together. The ceasefire has brought relief to the entire world. Israel played a major role in this war between the US and Iran. The information provided to America by Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu and Mossad, who were working on the idea of ??Greater Israel, was inaccurate. In his enthusiasm, Donald Trump jumped into this war, making it difficult for him to retain his presidency. Furthermore, he is facing challenges from his own party regarding the upcoming US elections in November. Donald Trump is known for his aggressive nature and attacks his opponents. The way Donald Trump has been exposed to the world in the past year has significantly tarnished the image of the US President. America has begun to face numerous challenges from countries around the world. The dollar is being challenged. NATO and European countries have virtually abandoned the US. In such a situation, the US needed a ceasefire more than Iran. Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu was the biggest obstacle to this. The damage caused by Iran's attacks on Tel Aviv and various parts of Israel has now caused Israel to lose its composure. Israel has a history of not sticking to its word for long. If anyone tries to sabotage this ceasefire, it will be Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu. If there is no attack in these 15 days, there will be no problem in creating an environment for a decisive agreement. Iran has realized its strength. For the past 47 years, sanctions have been imposed on it. After this war, it will now have to be treated equally in negotiations. This war has shattered everyone's ego. All parties have suffered heavy losses. Countries around the world have suffered heavy losses in this war. The supply of crude oil, gas, food grains, and other goods has been disrupted worldwide. Countries around the world wanted a solution to this issue as soon as possible. What has happened is very good. Iran is fully alert this time.

Given the weapons it possesses, and the effective use it has made of them in this war, it seems unlikely that the US and Israel will play tricks with Iran. With the decline in crude oil prices, uninterrupted gas supplies will resume. Overall, this ceasefire is being welcomed by all countries. Even superpowers like Russia and China were indirectly trying to end the war. If a permanent solution is found through dialogue, it will be the greatest achievement of peaceful efforts for the world. That wasn't true. Donald Trump, overzealously, jumped into this war, making it difficult for him to retain his presidency. Furthermore, he is facing challenges from his own party regarding the upcoming US elections in November. It is Donald Trump's nature to aggressively attack his opponents. The way Donald Trump has been exposed globally over the past year has severely tarnished the image of the US president. America is facing numerous challenges from countries around the world. The dollar is being challenged. NATO and European countries have virtually abandoned America. In such a situation, America needed a ceasefire more than Iran. Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu was the biggest obstacle. The damage Iran has caused by attacking Tel Aviv and various parts of Israel has now caused Israel to relent. Israel has a history of not sticking to its guns for long. If anyone tries to sabotage this ceasefire, it will be Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu. If there is no attack in these 15 days, there is no problem in creating an environment for a decisive agreement. Iran has demonstrated its strength. For the past 47 years, it has been subjected to continuous sanctions. After this war, it will now have to be treated equally in negotiations. This war has shattered everyone's ego. All parties have suffered heavy losses in the war. Countries around the world have suffered heavy losses. The supply of crude oil, gas, food grains, and other goods has been disrupted worldwide. Countries around the world wanted a solution to this issue as soon as possible. What has happened is very good. Iran is fully alert this time.

The Sathankulam Custodial Death Case in Tamil Nadu – Abuse of Power, Violation of Human Rights

Advocate Kishan Sanmukhdas Bhavani

- April 6, 2026 Madurai Court sentences 9 policemen to death - International analysis of a landmark judgment on justice, order and human dignity

Pandemic, lockdown and the dark side of power – when rights became instruments of oppression – Satyamev Jayate, the triumph of justice

Sathankulam Case – Indian police system urgently needs reform, greater accountability, mandatory CCTV cameras in custody, establishment of independent investigative agencies and emphasis on human rights.

In 2020, as the world grappled with the unprecedented crisis of the COVID-19 pandemic, governments implemented strict lockdown meas-

ures to protect citizens. India was no exception. Deserted streets, closed markets, and stalled industries were commonplace across the country. But amid this public health crisis, another, less visible crisis was brewing: the abuse of power and human rights violations. In many places, the police and administration were given extensive powers intended to maintain law and order, but in some cases, these powers became instruments of oppression. Against this backdrop, a case of custodial death in Sattankulam, Tamil Nadu, emerged, raising serious questions about justice and human rights not only in India but internationally as well. I, Advocate Kishan Sanmukhdas Bhavani, Gondia, Maharashtra, believe that the role of the judiciary in this custodial death case proved to be the last pillar of democracy. The judiciary's role in

this case was extremely important. The court, considering this case to be the rarest of rare, not only imposed a strict punishment but also made it clear that everyone is equal before the law, whether they are ordinary citizens or police officers. This decision reflects the independence and commitment of the judiciary. Such decisions strengthen faith in democracy and send the message that no one is above the law. We often hear about custodial deaths in print, electronic, and digital media, so now is the need for police reform: the time has come to demand systemic change. The Sathankulam case has highlighted the need for reform in the Indian police system. Experts believe that several steps are needed to make the police more accountable, such as mandating CCTV cameras in custody, establishing independent

investigative agencies, and emphasizing human rights in police training. Furthermore, issues such as workload, lack of resources, and political interference within the police force must be addressed. Until these structural problems are addressed, the likelihood of such cases recurring remains high.

Friends, if we consider the Sathankulam incident: From a common violation to an extraordinary tragedy, a seemingly ordinary incident in Sathankulam, Tamil Nadu, took a horrific turn on June 19, 2020. Mobile shop owner P. Jayaraj (59) and his son J. Bennicks (31) were accused of violating lockdown rules by keeping their shop open. Police detained them and took them to the police station. Typically, such cases are released with a fine or warning, but in this case, the police action proved unusually harsh and

inhumane. According to family members and eyewitnesses, the two were brutally beaten at the police station throughout the night. They suffered severe injuries, bleeding, and were subjected to relentless torture. This was not merely an act of law enforcement, but an extreme example of the abuse of power. They were later remanded to judicial custody, but their condition was so dire that within a few days, Bennicks died on June 22nd and Jayaraj died on June 23rd.

Friends, if we consider the police's initial defense and the subsequent exposure of the truth, after the incident, the police initially claimed that both men died due to health problems. This was a common tactic often employed in cases of custodial deaths. However, this time the circumstances were different.

Centre notifies Transit Oriented Development policy for Delhi

New Delhi (GNS): The Centre today formally notified the Transit Oriented Development (TOD) policy for Delhi, setting the stage for the transformation of the urban landscape of the Capital.

The notification, issued by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs under the Delhi Development Act, 1957, amends the Master Plan for Delhi-2021 and lays down a comprehensive framework for compact, mixed-use development within a 500-metre radius of Metro corridors, railway stations, Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) stations and High Speed Rail (HSR) terminals across the city.

The policy, long awaited by urban planners, real estate developers and housing advocates alike, seeks to leverage expanding public transport network to optimise land use, reduce dependence on private vehicles and create walkable, self-sufficient neighbourhoods



around transit hubs.

Officials said the idea is to help people live, work and shop close to where they catch their trains - a concept that has transformed Tokyo, Singapore, Hong Kong and such cities.

A TOD Zone has been defined as a 500-metre wide corridor on either side of the centreline of existing and planned metro routes, as well as a 500-metre radius around regional and interstate mass transit stations

including RRTS, railway stations and high-speed rail terminals. Any plot that falls fully or at least 50 per cent within this zone and has a minimum area of 2,000 square metres is eligible to participate in the TOD scheme. Participation in the policy is voluntary.

Generous FAR, mixed-use: The most consequential aspect of the policy is the Floor Area Ratio (FAR) it permits - far higher than conventional Delhi

norms. A base FAR of 400 will be allowed on the payment of TOD charges, to be notified separately. The maximum permissible FAR is capped at 500, with FAR beyond 400 available only on the payment of additional FAR charges to the Delhi Development Authority (DDA), which will be the nodal authority for the policy. Minimum FAR utilisation has been set at 400. So developers cannot under-utilise the density potential of TOD plots. The policy mandates a specific mix of uses within each TOD plot. At least 65 per cent of the total permissible FAR must be reserved for residential dwelling units smaller than 100 square metres of built-up area, including guest houses and studio apartments. This will boost affordable and mid-segment housing near transit hubs. A minimum of 10 per cent of FAR must be used for neighbourhood commercial establishments, social facilities and amenities.

The remaining 25 per cent may be used flexibly for larger residential units, office space, guest houses or studio apartments.

Eligibility and access: A TOD plot must be accessible from a road with a minimum right-of-way of 18 metres. Where such a road does not currently exist, TOD schemes may still be considered if a proposed continuous 18-metre road connects the plot to an existing road of that width. In such cases, the land required for road widening will be reserved outside the TOD scheme area, and FAR benefits will be provided to developers who surrender land for this purpose.

Ground coverage, green space, parking: Maximum ground coverage on a TOD plot shall not exceed 40 per cent. For plots between 2,000 and 10,000 square metres, front setbacks of 9 metres and back and side setbacks of 6 metres each are prescribed. For larger plots exceed-

ing 10,000 square metres, front setbacks rise to 15 metres and back and side setbacks to 12 metres each. A minimum of 10 per cent of the amalgamated plot area must be developed as green space, with a permissible variation of plus or minus 2 per cent at the discretion of the TOD Committee. Policy prescribes one equivalent car space per 100 square metres of FAR area. For mixed-use schemes on plots larger than 1 hectare, at least 30 per cent of all parking facilities must be designated as public parking.

60-day deemed approval: A dedicated TOD fund will be established and an online portal will be set up for the policy. A high-powered TOD Committee will be constituted under Vice-Chairman of the DDA as chair. This committee will approve TOD proposals before they are sanctioned through MCD's Online Building Plan Sanction Portal (OBPS).

Addiction, allure, and espionage

Why 'low-cost Headleys' are latest security nightmare

New Delhi (GNS): Hazy and aching from withdrawal, a 16-year-old in Ghaziabad woke up with a singular focus: his next toke of smack. Having traded school for a lighter and foil months ago, his day didn't start with chores, but with the desperate calculations of how to scrounge or steal enough money to feed his addiction. But that morning, the math changed.

Through a contact for a Meerut-based man named Suhel Malik, the boy received an offer that transcended petty theft. He was recruited into the "elite shadows" of the "Lawrence Bishnoi" gang. Enticed, the boy traded his heroin high for the kick of the underworld without realising it was merely a ruse and he was joining an ISI-run module in reality. The money fuelled his addiction and bought the bike he'd always craved.

But this transition from a street-level addict to a tool of international espionage, however, marked a chilling evolution in how Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) now conducts business on Indian soil. In the past, the architecture of terror was a high-budget, meticulously planned affair. The gold standard for this was David Coleman Headley, the Pakistani-American operative who spent years laying the groundwork for the 26/11 Mumbai attacks.

The ISI spent millions of dollars on his training, hotel stays, multiple international trips, and the establishment of a front company with Tahawwur Rana in Mumbai just to provide him with cover while he filmed potential targets.

Delhi records coolest April day in 3 years

maximum temperature 7 degrees below normal

New Delhi (GNS): Very light rain on Tuesday brought down the maximum temperature to 28.8 degrees Celsius, six degrees below normal, making it the coolest April day in three years. The rain was accompanied by gusty winds, the maximum speed for which at Palam was 56 kmph around 1.30 pm. No flight was diverted or cancelled but according to FlightRadar24, a live tracking website, over 400 flights were delayed.

Similar meteorological conditions, including light rain along with gusty winds up to 50 kmph, are likely to continue on Wednesday. However, temperatures are expected to rise again from Thursday onwards and may touch 37 degrees Celsius by April 12. The steady very light rain under the influence of a western disturbance during the day led to a cooling effect as the maximum temperature dipped below 30 degrees Celsius, as against 33.3 degrees Celsius the previous day. The last time the city recorded a lower maximum temperature in April was 28.7 degrees Celsius on April 30, 2023.

Safdarjung, the city's base station, got 0.4mm till 8.30 am and another 3 mm between 8.30 am and 5.30 pm. Palam, meanwhile, logged 1.4mm till 8.30 am and 2.1mm from 8.30 am to 5.30 pm. Lodhi Road logged 1mm and 3mm respectively till 8.30 am and 5.30 pm. The minimum temperature was 20.1 degrees Celsius.

"A similar weather pattern is expected on Wednesday and a yellow alert is in place. However, after the influence of a western disturbance is over, clear skies are likely to return. A fall in maximum temperature by 4-6 degrees Celsius is expected during the next two days and gradual rise is predicted by 6-8 degrees Celsius thereafter," said a Met official.

Lawrence Gang Claims Responsibility for Murder of Gangster Bhanu Rana in California

New Delhi (GNS): The Lawrence Bishnoi group has claimed responsibility for the murder of gangster Bhanu Pratap, alias Bhanu Rana, in California. Rana was a wanted as he had a history of criminal operations across Delhi and Haryana. Originally from Karnal in Haryana, Rana was a long-time associate of Lawrence but had apparently parted ways early last year.

He was detained in Georgia in Nov 2025. His extradition from the US was being sought, given his alleged involvement in killings, extortion, possession and trafficking of weapons and other crimes in Haryana, Punjab and Delhi.

His name had surfaced during the investigation of a grenade attack in Punjab. A



confirmation from California police about the murder is awaited.

Rana was detained around the same time his close aide, Surya Pratap, alias Noni Rana, was apprehended in the US, and another aide, Venkatesh Garg, was detained in Georgia.

Garg and Noni had joined hands with Lawrence through UK-based gangster Kapil

Sangwan, a common friend. They were all operating from the US soil and extorting money from businessmen there and in India. The Lawrence Bishnoi group claimed Rana's murder through a social media post. The post, written in a mix of Hindi and Punjabi, asserted that the killing was carried out by "Sarpanch Europe," Sahil Duhan from Hisar, and members of Lawrence's group.

The author of the post labelled Rana a "traitor" and claimed that they had predicted his death in a post exactly a year ago. The message issued a chilling warning, stating that Lawrence has ordered the elimination of anyone working against the country, regardless of where they hide globally.

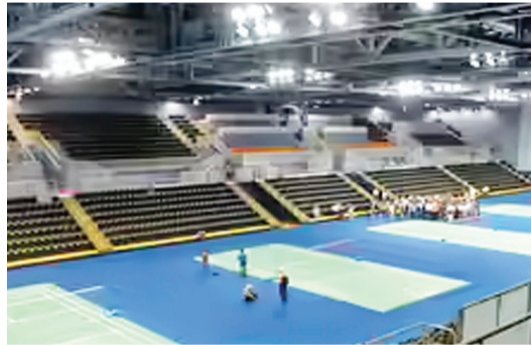
The message warns that rivals will be buried "ten-foot-deep" just like Bhanu Rana, such that his body will never be found. In a notable internal development within the gang, the post also disavowed Goldy Dhillon, stating he no longer has any connection to the group.

The post alleges that Dhillon has turned into a drug trafficker and an informant. It advises others to stay away from him.

Sports complexes meant for sports, don't dilute purpose with b'day parties, late night events: Delhi HC:

New Delhi, (GNS): The primary

objective of sports complexes is to promote sporting activities, and this cannot be diluted by excessive commercialisation, Delhi High Court has observed while agreeing to examine a plea highlighting the growing use of sports arenas for private and commercial events across the city. During a hearing on Monday, Justice Jasmeeet Singh underlined the need to strike a balance between permitting limited commercial activities and protecting the interests of sportspersons and members who visit facilities such as Siri Fort Sports Complex (SFSC) and Jawaharlal Nehru (JLN) Stadium for sporting purposes.



The court was hearing a petition filed by a permanent member of SFSC, seeking judicial intervention against private functions and large gatherings being held in a portion of the complex that has been leased out by Delhi Development Authority (DDA) to a private entity. The petitioner alleged that such events were disrupting regular sports activities and violating the norms governing the complex.

South Delhi hit-and-run death:

Teen and his mother held; here's how accused tried to conceal evidence

New Delhi (GNS): A 19-year-old first-year law student and his 50-year-old mother were on Tuesday arrested in connection with last week's hit-and-run in south Delhi's Greater Kailash-I that left a 41-year-old domestic help and cook dead.

The incident took place on March 31 when Surendra Das, after buying bread from a nearby market, was returning on his motorcycle to the GK B-block house where he worked. He was allegedly hit by a speeding car, after which the driver fled.

The accused driver, Ruhan Chadha, is a resident of a nearby block in GK. His mother, Niharika Chadha, runs a boutique from home and is the registered owner of the vehicle, a silver Maruti



Ciaz. "She allegedly concealed evidence, attempted to have the vehicle repaired and harboured her son after the crash despite knowledge of the accident," said DCP (South) Anant Mittal.

A case under BNS sections 106(1) (causing death by negligence) and 281 (rash driving or riding on a public way) against Ruhan, and sections

238 (causing disappearance of evidence of offence or giving false information to screen offender) and 249 (harbouring offender) against Niharika has been registered at Greater Kailash police station. Another police officer said Ruhan was on a drive around the locality with a female friend at the time of the incident.

No more 'distance', IGNOU now 'closest' learning system: VP

New Delhi (GNS): Vice-President C P Radhakrishnan on Tuesday said that Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) stands as a pillar of India's open and distance learning ecosystem. "I feel it is the 'closest' learning system now, no more 'distance'," he added.

Speaking as the chief guest at the university's 39th convocation, which was held at Baba Saheb Ambedkar Convention Centre in Maidan Garhi, he said the institution has played a transformative role in expanding access to higher education for those who could not pursue it earlier due to constraints of time, money and resources.



Lieutenant governor Taranjit Singh Sandhu attended the event as the guest of honour. As many as 3,24,844 degrees, diplomas and certificates were conferred through DigiLocker.

Highlighting IGNOU's outreach, the Vice-President said the university's greatest achievement lies in connect-

ing with learners from rural India. "Countless lives have been changed in meaningful ways and it is getting much closer to them through regional centres. Among the learners, 58% came from the rural areas. This results in national development," he said.

Radhakrishnan said that

the Covid-19 pandemic underscored the importance of flexible learning systems. "It taught us to rapidly embrace online learning technologies and that is why we are able to make this possible today. At a time when traditional universities were forced to shut down, IGNOU was relatively better prepared because of its distance learning model," he added.

The Vice-President also applauded the strong representation of women among the graduates, noting that nearly 60% were women. "IGNOU's journey since 1985 has been truly remarkable. It has extended learning opportunities to all sections, includ-

ing working individuals, students in remote and rural areas, financially disadvantaged learners, and women," he said. Sandhu said IGNOU has, for decades, broken barriers of distance, time and circumstance to reach millions of learners across the country. "The scale and inclusiveness are its greatest strengths. Now, as you step out, you're entering a world that is changing very fast. These changes address real-world challenges, addressing employment and driving technology advancements. This gives an opportunity to think beyond traditional career pathways and explore innovation-driven roles."

Promenade plan near Yuga Yugeen Bharat Museum metro stn sent for revision

New Delhi(GNS): A proposal for a promenade and underground plaza linked to the upcoming Yuga Yugeen Bharat Museum metro station on Pandit Pant Marg has been sent back for revision, with the Delhi Urban Arts Commission (DUAC) flagging a series of design and planning concerns.

The proposal, submitted by Central Public Works Department (CPWD), was examined at the formal stage. While the commission appreciated the overall intent and found the underground plaza to be well-conceived, it noted that the design of the promenade requires significant changes.

One of the key concerns relates to the provision of two travelators along the nearly 100-metre-long passage. Each travelator, proposed on either side for ingress and egress, would be accompanied by continuous railings. DUAC observed that this arrangement could pose safety risks, be difficult to maintain and limit its effectiveness. It recommended removing both travelators to ensure an unobstructed pedestrian pathway.

The commission also examined the experience of using the long ramp, which is about 92 metres in length and intended primarily for pedestrian movement. Noting that the continuous stretch may affect usability, it suggested introducing design interventions to break the monotony. These include providing intermediate landings or level bands every 5 to 10 metres. Such spaces could serve as resting points, informal seating areas or activity zones, improving both comfort and functionality, it pointed out.

Duplicate registrations plague EWS admissions

New Delhi(GNS): Duplicate registrations have plagued admissions under the Economically Weaker Section (EWS) category in Delhi over the past few years. Several cases of the same candidate appearing multiple times under different registration IDs have come to the fore. Data accessed by Media shows that key details such as name, date of birth, father's name and address often remain identical, indicating it is the same individual. However, separate entries exist in the system, sometimes leading to multiple school allotments for one candidate. Sources said that since 2018, thousands of such cases have come to light each year following internal checks. Media has accessed a sample of 52 such cases from the 2024-25 session. Beyond duplication, sources pointed to other irregular patterns. In some cases, a specific keyword "mew" appeared in applications. "About 90% of those with that keyword in front of their names were selected. There have also been instances where a single certificate or phone number was used for dozens of applications," sources said.

On being contacted, Delhi education minister Ashish Sood confirmed that such anomalies had been detected. "We have found many kinds of discrepancies. We have initiated an inquiry into this and are considering roping in CBI," he said.

He added, "During 2024-25, a total of 2,40,084 applications were received for admissions under EWS/DG/CWSN categories. Of them, more than 1 lakh applications were found to be multiple or duplicate entries, which were approximately 75% higher than the number of genuine applications. This gives an estimate of how many such cases may have existed each year. Seats were being given to ineligible candidates for lakhs of rupees.

Barapullah III: How Delhi lost a decade

New Delhi(GNS): A project meant to save minutes for commuters has wasted years instead - exposing how poor planning, piecemeal clearances and serial delays make public costs far greater than what official files show

The stop-start journey of Delhi's 10th road bridge over the Yamuna shows how big public projects often go wrong: not because of one dramatic setback, but because one lapse leads to another - first over land, then permissions, then engineering, and finally accountability. Here is how each of those delays unfolded.

The first failure - Building on land not fully acquired: The most striking reason for the delay is also the most basic. Less than a year after construction began, a group of people from Nangli Razapur village - located be-



tween Nizamuddin bridge and DND, adjoining Smriti Van - turned up at the site demanding that work be stopped because it was being carried out on land they owned. This came as a surprise even to officials involved in the project.

The dispute over roughly 8.5 acres of land took nearly seven years, from 2016 to 2023, to resolve, primarily because of back and forth over compensation. The land had been classified as 'riverine' for which the government-notified rate is Rs

17 lakh per acre. The landowners demanded 17 times more - Rs 3 crore per acre. A year into the dispute, Ambedkar University was asked to conduct a social impact assessment to gauge the project's impact on local communities. All this while the work on a crucial 700 metres of alignment and a key pillar couldn't begin. Finally, in 2024 the compensation of Rs 17.6 lakh per acre was accepted as the market value and paid. Then came the surprises that should not have been surprises: Nearly a

decade after the project was approved, project officials in 2023 identified nearly 300 trees along the alignment that needed to be transplanted, pruned or felled. The trees were on a piece of land acquired years after the construction began. This meant fresh permissions, additional compliance - and more waiting. The Delhi Preservation of Trees Act and approvals from the Supreme Court-appointed Central Empowered Committee came into play. A new survey showed that only 85 trees needed to be cut; the rest could be transplanted or pruned without affecting the alignment. In July 2025, the approvals came for around 170 trees.

A similar pattern appears across other issues: things that should have been known at the planning stage surfaced after construction was under way.

2 Delhi Police officers suspended in Vidhan Sabha security breach



New Delhi(GNS): As police further investigation in the security breach case at Delhi Vidhan Sabha, Delhi Police on Tuesday suspended two of its cops, officials said.

Based on prima facie findings, an assistant sub-inspector (ASI) and a sub-inspector (SI) were put on suspension in connection with the incident, an official said. A further detailed investigation into the matter is going on, the police officer added. The two police officers who faced the action were posted with the security unit of the Delhi Police. The Security Unit of Delhi Police is a specialized wing responsible for protecting high-risk individuals and sensitive locations.

Mohsina Kidwai, Congress veteran and former Union minister, passes away at 94

New Delhi(GNS): Veteran Congress leader and former Union minister Mohsina Kidwai passed away at the age of 94, her family confirmed on Tuesday, according to news agency Media.

A senior Congress figure with a career spanning decades, Kidwai was known not just for her political acumen but also for her deep-rooted association with the Nehru-Gandhi family. Her journey in public life reflected a rare blend of political resilience, personal conviction and cultural depth.

Born into a conservative Muslim zamindar family, Kidwai had not initially envisioned a career in politics. She once recalled that she "dreamt of becoming a musician", but her life took a decisive turn after her marriage into a politically active family. Her father-in-law, freedom fighter Jamulur-Rehman Kidwai, played a key role in introducing her to



the political world.

A defining early moment came in 1954, when as a young bride she visited Teen Murti House and met Jawaharlal Nehru and Indira Gandhi. That interaction, she would later say, planted the seeds of a long political journey and a close association with the Nehru-Gandhi family.

At the age of 28, Kidwai won her first election from Barabanki - a milestone that set the course for her decades-long political career. Over the years, she held several key portfolios, including railways, civil aviation and urban development, earning a reputation as a steady and dependable

administrator.

Despite being considered media-shy, Kidwai was deeply connected with grassroots politics. She remained actively involved in party affairs, working closely with Sonia Gandhi and playing a role in organisational matters across states such as Punjab, Assam and Chandigarh.

Her political life saw both highs and lows, often independent of the Congress party's electoral fortunes. Notably, she secured a sweeping electoral victory in the post-Emergency period - a time widely regarded as one of the Congress's most challenging phases.

Kidwai also shared close personal and professional ties with Indira Gandhi and later Rajiv Gandhi. She fondly recalled her last meeting with Indira Gandhi shortly before her assassination, a moment that left a deep emotional impact on her.

Auto driver arrested after pregnant Delhi Police constable injured in accident

New Delhi(GNS): An autorickshaw driver has been arrested after a pregnant Delhi Police constable sustained serious injuries in a road accident near Motilal Nehru College in South Campus, an official said on Wednesday.

According to police, a PCR call regarding the accident was received at the South Campus police station on April 2.

An investigating officer reached the spot and found a damaged autorickshaw, with a loading tempo stationed ahead on the roadside. "Both drivers - Vijender Singh, a resident of Jaitpur, and Aditya Kumar, a resident of Chhawla - were present at the scene, but no complainant was found," the officer said.

Police later received information about a medico-legal case (MLC) related to the incident from the AIIMS Trauma Centre. The



injured woman, identified as Dzuthotalu Rhakho, a resident of Munirka village, was declared unfit to give a statement at the time. On April 5, the constable, who is posted in the Security Unit of the Delhi Police, recorded her statement. She told police that she was travelling in an autorickshaw from the Security Lines to Munirka along with two colleagues when the accident occurred. According to her statement, a loading tempo ahead of the autorickshaw applied sudden brakes, following which the autorickshaw-allegedly being driven in a rash and negligent manner-collided with it.

Assembly gatecrash: Accused 'paid' Rs 2,000 to two taxi drivers for navigation

New Delhi(GNS): Investigation in the major security breach at the Delhi Legislative Assembly is revealing new details as the Delhi Police sources said the accused paid Rs 2,000 to two taxi driver for helping him navigate, while another crucial detail revealed that he was mentally disturbed after his nephew went missing.

Meanwhile, Delhi's Tis Hazar court on Tuesday sent the accused Sarabjit Singh (37), the man behind the wheels of the SUV that broke the gate of the Assembly, to eight-day police custody, as investigators pieced together details of his background, movements, and motivations. The police produced the accused, Sarabjit Singh, before Judicial Magistrate Kartik Taparia seeking 10 days' police custody but were



only granted eight days.

Additional Public Prosecutor Atul Shrivastava, representing the Delhi Police, argued that 10 days of police custody is necessary to conduct an in-depth investigation to unearth any conspiracy behind the security breach and to probe a potential "terror angle".

He said the police were yet to recover Singh's phone, which he allegedly threw

away. The defence counsel opposed the plea for police custody, arguing that Singh is mentally unstable and has been undergoing regular medical treatment for several months. According to the defence, Singh abruptly left home a fortnight ago to visit his sister in Chandigarh without telling anyone. His family was left in the dark about his movements during this period, the counsel said.

Mayor Raja Iqbal Singh, senior officials and MCD commissioner Sanjeev Khirwar attended the meeting. Gupta assured budget support to redevelop around 1,000 public Medialets and urinal blocks.

To modernise waste management, she ordered the development of waste-to-energy plants at Ghazipur, Narela, Okhla and Tehkhand on priority. Gupta called for stricter enforcement against littering, with stronger monitoring and penalties. While noting progress in construction and demolition waste management, she urged improved recycling and reuse through advanced technologies.

She further stressed improving road construction quality, suggesting larger, experienced firms be assigned zone-wise responsibilities.

'I have Maharaja's sword':

Assembly breach accused Sarabjit Singh showing extremely violent behaviour, say Delhi cops

New Delhi(GNS): Sarabjit Singh, who drove his vehicle into the Vidhan Sabha premises Monday, did so to draw attention to his missing nephew's case, he has told cops. He hoped that a high-ranking official there would address the matter. Police sources disclosed that Sarabjit, a farmer from Singhpur village in Pilibhit, initially intended to target Parliament.

Delhi Police, however, is not taking his claims at face value and has taken eight days remand to corroborate his statements. Pilibhit police said their preliminary enquiry found no offensive background or link to any extremist outfit. Sarabjit's brother,



er, Avtar Singh, told Media that he left home 3-4 days ago to look for his nephew, Harmandeep Singh, 21, a B.Tech student at Guru Teg Bahadur Institute of Technology, who went missing on April 1.

He said Delhi Police traced

Harmandeep's last location to Anandpur Sahib in Punjab, but despite searches by police and family members, he could not be found, and Sarabjit, who was close to his nephew, became increasingly distressed as the search made no progress.

Since his arrest, Sarabjit has exhibited extremely violent behaviour, according to cops, and reports from the police station indicate that he spent the night shouting and shaking the lockup grills. During interrogation, he made several erratic claims, including assertions that he possesses a "maharaja's sword". While his family claims he is mentally disturbed - even providing a medical prescription from Shahjahanpur as evidence - police are skeptical of this theory and are in the process of verifying the documents. No weapon was found on his person or inside his SUV at the time of the incident. To navigate the city,

Sarabjit paid two taxi drivers Rs 2,000 to act as guides, as he was unfamiliar with Delhi roads. After leaving the Vidhan Sabha, he reportedly asked the cabbies about the route to Parliament. While the cabbies are being quizzed, investigators say no evidence of their involvement in the plot has surfaced so far. Cops are currently analysing call detail records and internet protocol detail records to gain further clarity on his recent activities and contacts. The family said Sarabjit had mentioned to his family that he planned to meet the chief minister to seek help in locating his nephew.

Harmandeep's father

Harpreet Singh, Sarabjit's brother-in-law, told Media they last spoke to Harmandeep at 2pm on April 1, and he later spoke to his mother at 8.30pm the same day. Sarabjit Singh "He seemed normal in both calls, but later that day he went missing," Harpreet said. Harmandeep's flatmate returned on April 2 to find their Hari Nagar flat locked. Calls went unanswered, so he broke in and later informed the institute, which alerted the family. It later traced his last known location to Punjab. Due to Sarabjit's depression, the family had initially withheld this information, but he eventually learned about it online.