



Modi said: the opposition should take credit for women's reservation



● Priyanka said – women recognize men who repeatedly seduce them, be careful

New Delhi(GNS): On Thursday, PM Modi said about the amendments related to the Women's Reservation Bill that whenever elections have come up in our country, anyone who has opposed this right for women has been dealt with the worst possible fate. They have never received forgiveness. He said, "Those who smell politics in this should consider

the consequences for themselves. This is the advantage; you'll avoid the losses that are already being incurred. Therefore, there's no need to politicize it. The opposition can take credit. If we want it, I'll get it published on advertisements at government expense."

Priyanka Gandhi said, "He (the PM) is saying he doesn't want the credit. I say that women recognize men who repeatedly seduce them. Be careful or you'll get caught." Akhilesh Yadav said, "Now the Bharatiya Janata Party is trying to make women a slogan. Those who did not include women in their organization, how can they protect their dignity?"

● Amit Shah said that there will be no reduction in seats in the southern states: Amit Shah said, "I will answer all questions regarding the

entire discussion tomorrow, but I still have some answers today to maintain clarity. The biggest narrative being created is that these three bills will diminish the influence of the southern states in the Lok Sabha. I am explaining the practical implications of the bills currently before the House. "There are 28 seats in the state of Karnataka. After the passage of this bill, the number of Karnataka will increase to 42 and the percentage will become 5.14. Andhra Pradesh currently has 25 seats, its percentage is 4.60%. After the bill is passed, the seats will increase to 38. Telangana has 17 seats, its percentage is 3.13%. Later it will increase to 26. Tamil Nadu has 39 MPs, its percentage is 7.18%. This will increase to 59 MPs. In the new

House, the percentage will become 7.23. Kerala has 20 MPs, which is 3.68% MPs. This will increase to 30 MPs.

● Priyanka asked – why are you not giving 33% reservation now?: Priyanka Gandhi said, "Why aren't women being given 33% reservation out of 543? If there's no fear of losing their positions, some people should sacrifice theirs so that women and OBCs can participate. Do this today. It will be a good deed, and the black mark will also be useful." "The nation's infrastructure cannot be compromised in the name of its women. There is a conspiracy to maintain power by weakening Parliament. This is in keeping with your status, position, and dignity.

A massive fire engulfed 200 huts in Ghaziabad, cylinders exploded



● Smoke visible from 10 km away, 22 vehicles extinguished the fire

Ghaziabad(GNS): A massive fire broke out in 200 slums in Ghaziabad around 12 noon on Thursday. Cylinders exploded continuously. The plume of smoke was visible from up to 10 kilometers away. Panic gripped the scene. People were seen fleeing with their household belongings and gas cylinders. Nearby buildings were evacuated as a precaution. Twenty-

two fire brigade vehicles brought the fire under control. The administration also called in fire engines from Noida. The fire broke out in Kanwani village, under the Indrapuram police station area. No injuries have been reported so far. District Magistrate Ravindra Kumar said that scrap dealers used to work in the area. People involved in this work live in slums. Ambulances are on site to deal with any untoward incident. Nearby hospitals have also been put on alert.

Lenskart's dress code controversy: Letter banning bindi and tilak and approving hijab goes viral, CEO Piyush Bansal says this is an outdated guideline

CEO Piyush Bansal says this is an outdated guideline



New Delhi(GNS): Lenskart has been embroiled in controversy over its dress code. An alleged policy document from the company has gone viral on social media. It prohibits employees from wearing bindis, tilaks, and sacred threads, while allowing hijabs and turbans with conditions.

The controversy escalated when activist Shefali Vaidya shared a screenshot of the incident on X. She asked the company's founder, "Piyush Bansal, can you clarify why hijabs are okay at Lenskart, but bindis and sacred threads are not?" Following this, people trolled Lenskart and questioned its policy.

Piyush Bansal said – the viral document is old and wrong

Punjab Police Lady ASI brutality
Granddaughter bound by hands and feet to gate in the sun, suspended by SSP; parents live abroad

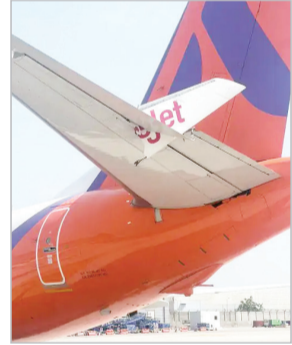
Faridkot(GNS): In Faridkot, a female ASI of the Punjab Police tied her 5-year-old granddaughter's hands and feet to the gate outside their home. She was tortured in the sun for hours. Angered by her refusal to obey, she did this to punish her. After a video of the incident went viral on social media, Faridkot SSP Dr. Pragya Jain immediately suspended ASI Sarabhjit Kaur. ASI Sarabhjit Kaur was posted as a female friend at Sadar Police Station. The matter was referred to the Child Welfare Committee (CWC) for further action, which has recommended that the district police register a case. Following the action in the case, a statement from the lady ASI also surfaced.

Akasa Air and SpiceJet planes collide at Delhi airport

Accident occurred in the parking area, both planes damaged but passengers safe

New Delhi(GNS): A SpiceJet plane collided with an Akasa Air plane at Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport at 2 pm on Thursday.

According to the information, Akasa Air flight number QP1406 from Delhi to Hyderabad was pushing back from the parking bay when a SpiceJet B737-700 aircraft coming from Leh to Delhi collided



with it while moving towards the gate from the taxiway. The SpiceJet plane's right winglet was broken in the accident. The

Akasa plane's left horizontal stabilizer was damaged. Following the incident, ground crews immediately evacuated all passengers from both planes safely. Following the incident, SpiceJet and Akasa planes have been grounded in Delhi, meaning they will not be used for future flights. The incident is being investigated.

President Draupadi Murmu will visit Himachal on April 27

Visit to Shimla, Atal Tunnel and Palampur scheduled, will return to Delhi on May 2, will stay at the Retreat

Shimla(GNS): President Draupadi Murmu is arriving in Himachal Pradesh on a six-day visit, starting April 27. According to the schedule released by the President's Secretariat, she will visit Shimla, the Atal Tunnel, and Palampur University. On April 27, the President will travel from Delhi to Chandigarh and then directly to Shimla's Kalyani helipad. She will arrive in Shimla at



approximately 12:15 pm and will stay at the Retreat (Chharabra), the presi-

dential residence. Will visit Atal Tunnel on 29th April. On the morning of April 28, she will attend the inauguration ceremony at the Rashtrapati Bhavan. On April 29, the President will travel from Shimla to the Atal Tunnel, Rohtang, where she will hold a meeting with Border Roads Organization (BRO) officials. She will then return to the Retreat at Chharabra in the evening.



BJP will cross 'double century' in West Bengal: Himanta Biswa Sarma

Siliguri(GNS): The BJP will cross the 'double century', i.e., win more than 200 seats in West Bengal. If voted to power, it will implement the Uniform Civil Code (UCC). Assam Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma said this while addressing a public rally at the Batasi PSA ground in Kharibari in support of Bharatiya Janata Party

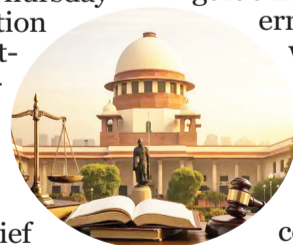
(BJP) candidate Durga Murmu from the Phansidewa Assembly constituency. Taking aim at the state's ruling Trinamool Congress government, he said that due to his busy schedule with the Assam elections, he could not come earlier, but has come here to campaign on the party's instructions as soon as the elections are over.

Supreme Court dismisses petition seeking compulsory voting

● CJI says awareness is needed, we cannot force anyone

New Delhi(GNS): The Supreme Court on Thursday refused to hear a petition seeking compulsory voting in the country, saying such an order falls within the scope of policy and cannot be issued by the judiciary. A bench of Chief Justice Surya Kant, Justice Joymalya Bagchi and Justice Vipul M Pancholi said that the court cannot hear petitions seeking punitive action against those

who deliberately do not vote and making voting compulsory. The bench asked PIL petitioner Ajay Goyal to approach the concerned parties with his grievances. The petitioner had also demanded that guidelines be issued to stop government facilities for those who deliberately stay away from voting. The CJI said, "Democracy thrives on public awareness rather than legal coercion. In a country that operates under the rule of law and believes in democracy, where we have demonstrated over 75 years how much we trust and believe in it, everyone is expected to vote."



Comedian picked up by police from Prayagraj

Mocked Pawan Kalyan's three marriages, also commented on niece's divorce



Prayagraj(GNS): Pawan Kalyan's niece, South Indian stand-up comedian Anudeep Katikala has been arrested in Prayagraj. Andhra Pradesh police arrived in Prayagraj on Tuesday and took Anudeep away. Anudeep had come to visit his family. According to his family, the police took him by train to Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh. Anudeep is accused of mocking actor Pawan Kalyan's three marriages in one of his stand-up videos. He also made comments about Telugu actress and Kakinada district.

Supreme Court says Bengal should prepare supplementary voter list

Those deemed voters by the tribunal by April 21st will be able to cast their votes on the 23rd

New Delhi(GNS): The Supreme Court on Thursday (April 16) directed the Election Commission to issue a supplementary voter list in West Bengal, including voters whose appeals have been decided by a tribunal. The court stated that those whose appeals are pending will not be allowed to vote.

In Bengal, the names of 90.83 lakh voters were deleted in the Special Intensive Revision (SIR). Tribunals have been set up on the orders of the Supreme Court to hear the appeals of these voters. Voting for the Bengal Assembly elections will be held in two phases on April 23 and April 29. Voters in the first phase



will be able to cast their votes if their appeals are decided by April 21. Voters in the second phase will be able to cast their votes if their appeals are decided by April 27. As soon as the

Tribunal orders the addition of names, the Electoral Registration Officer shall immediately amend the list. A bench of CJI Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi was hearing petitions challenging the SIR process, which has resulted in deletion of a large number of names from the voter list.

The farmer's hard work will be protected only by avoiding the deception spread in the name of faith

Dr. Satyavan Saurabh

In the villages of North India, wheat harvesting is not just a season, but a celebration of life. It's the time when a farmer's months of hard work, sunburnt hands, cold nights of vigilance, and a battle with uncertain weather finally pay off. The golden ears of corn swaying in the fields are not just a scene of an ordinary harvest, but a symbol of hope, struggle, and self-respect. When this crop is harvested and piled up in the courtyard of the house, it's not just grain—it's security for the entire year, the foundation for children's education, support during illness, and strength to fight the uncertainties of the future. The women of the house collect, clean, dry, and carefully store the grain, knowing that these grains will strengthen the

foundation of the home in the years to come.

But alongside this golden and contented scene, a shadow descends upon the village streets, slowly diminishing this joy. This shadow is that of the so-called babas and swindlers who wander about with bags, waiting for this season. As soon as grain arrives in homes, these individuals suddenly appear in villages. Their clothing, their appearance, and their speech are all designed to make them appear worthy of reverence. A tilak on the forehead, a turban or cap on the head, colorful clothes, and a bag in hand—all this creates an image that easily captivates the average villager. They go from house to house, standing at the doorsteps, offering sweet blessings—"God bless," "May Mother Goddess bless"—and expect some

grain or money in return.

The tradition of charity and service has been prevalent in villages for centuries. This tradition is not only religious but also social, strengthening the spirit of mutual cooperation and coexistence. Women, in particular, play a vital role in maintaining this tradition. They stand at the doorsteps of their homes, welcoming visitors and donating as much as they can. For them, this is not just a social duty, but a part of their faith. But this faith can sometimes become a weakness when some people take advantage of it.

A handful of wheat donated by one household may seem like a small thing. The giver might think it won't make much difference. But when this process is repeated throughout the village, these small handfuls add up to a large pile.

Grain collected from hundreds of households throughout the day adds up to a large amount by evening. This grain is then often sold in the market, and complaints arise that the proceeds are used for drugs, gambling, or other inappropriate activities rather than for essential needs. Thus, the grain that the farmer cultivated with his hard work and sweat gradually ends up in hands that are not respected.

This isn't just about financial loss, it's also about a breakdown in trust. When someone exploits someone's hard work by invoking religion and faith, they not only steal resources but also undermine social values. Even more worrying is when some people resort to intimidation if donations are not made. "If you don't donate, there will be disaster," "There will be

unrest in the home"—such words not only promote superstition but also create unnecessary fear in people's minds. This fear particularly affects women and the elderly, who are already deeply rooted in religious beliefs.

However, there's another aspect to this whole picture that can't be ignored. There are people in society who are truly in need—the elderly, the disabled, or those without any means of subsistence. For them, begging isn't a choice, but a compulsion. Their faces reflect not pretense, but the reality of struggle and exhaustion. Therefore, it's unfair to treat every person carrying a bag with the same eyes. This is where both discretion and sensitivity are required. The solution to the problem lies not in mere protest, but in understanding.

Editorial

Devious menace: On predatory loan apps

In the case of Nithin Raj, the first-year dental student in Kannur who died last week after falling from atop a five-storey building, the police have identified harassment over a loan that he secured via an app as a contributing factor. His death is the third high-profile suicide linked to loan apps in Kerala within four months. Since January, over 35 complaints related to these apps have been registered in Thiruvananthapuram Rural alone. In Raj's case, parallel investigations are also probing allegations of caste-based discrimination at his college and the National Commission for Scheduled Castes has sought a report from the State police in under a week. Once installed, these apps extract contact lists, photo galleries, and GPS data from the user's device and export them to servers often located in North India or overseas. If repayment is delayed, recovery agents steadily ramp up harassment, including repeated abusive calls to the borrower, harassing persons listed as references on the loan application, and inflicting reputational damage. Kerala in particular has high smartphone penetration and digital literacy, but not necessarily financial literacy, and a large student population with urgent small-credit needs. Despite the RBI's Digital Lending Guidelines, predatory apps lend without regulated status, fabricate Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) partnerships, route funds through opaque gateways, conceal fees and disburse deductions, and provide no grievance mechanism.

The apps are able to operate because while the RBI regulates financial entities, the harmful entity operates in the app and data layers. As a first step, smartphone makers must consider an OS-level sandbox in which any app categorised as "financial" is technically barred from accessing contacts, photos, etc., even if the user grants permission. The apps' call centres are also often traced to other States or countries, beyond the reach of local police. Second, India needs to enact legislation with prison sentences and heavy fines for illegal digital lending.

The face of Parliament will change after the Women's Reservation Bill

Saurabh Varshney



A special session of Parliament is scheduled to be held on April 16th. This session marks the beginning of a new phase in India's democratic system. Passed after much anticipation and extensive political debate, the Women's Reservation Bill—officially known as the Nari Shakti Vandan Act—paves the way for historic changes in the structure of the country's Parliament and legislative assemblies. This bill ensures 33 percent reservation for women in the Lok Sabha and state legislative assemblies, marking a decisive step towards achieving gender balance in Indian politics.



To date, women's participation in the Indian Parliament has been limited. While influential women leaders like Indira Gandhi, Sushma Swaraj, and Mamata Banerjee have made a strong presence felt, women remain underrepresented in absolute numbers. This reservation bill is not only an attempt to increase numbers, but also to incorporate women's perspectives and sensibilities into policymaking.

The implementation of this bill could significantly transform the face of Parliament. With the participation of a greater number of women MPs, issues such as social justice, education, health, women's safety, and nutrition are likely to be discussed more seriously. This could lead to policies that are more inclusive and closer to ground realities.

However, this change will also bring some challenges. Political parties will need to make concerted efforts to cultivate and empower qualified women candidates. Reservations alone are not the only way to achieve true empowerment; a shift in social mindsets and political training are equally essential.

Furthermore, the delimitation process will be crucial for implementing the reservation system, which could impact the implementation of this law. Therefore, the possibility that its effective implementation may take time cannot be ruled out. Nevertheless, it would not be wrong to say that the Women's Reservation Bill is a milestone towards making Indian democracy more representative, balanced, and responsive. It will not only transform the face of Parliament but also reorient political thinking and priorities. This bill not only addresses women's rights but also lays the foundation for building a strong, inclusive, and just India.

The central government recently attempted to allay concerns, particularly in southern Indian states, about the proposed delimitation process to implement 33% women's reservation in legislative assemblies by 2029. This issue is not merely political, but also concerns the federal structure, the balance of repre-

sentation, and democratic trust. The purpose of women's reservation is to promote gender equality in politics. For a long time, women's participation in Parliament and legislative assemblies has been relatively low. In such a scenario, the provision of 33% reservation is considered a historic step. However, the question of delimitation raises several complexities.

Delimitation means redrawing constituencies based on population. The delimitation process, expected after 2026, will be based on current population figures. This is where concerns arise for the states of South India. These states have performed relatively well in population control, while some states in North India have experienced high population growth. Therefore, there are fears that the seats in the southern states may decrease after delimitation, weakening their political power.

The central government maintains that women's reservation and delimitation are two separate processes, and that no state will be treated unfairly. The government has assured that any decision will be made keeping in mind the principles of balance and justice. But the question is: will assurances alone allay the concerns of the states?

It's also important to understand why the provision linking women's reservation to delimitation was introduced. One reason was to ensure a balanced and equitable distribution of reserved seats during the re-delimitation process. But this very provision is now causing political controversy.

A solution requires maintaining dialogue and trust between the center and the states. A model should be developed that achieves the goal of women's empowerment while maintaining regional balance. It is possible that delimitation should include other criteria, not just population, to ensure equitable representation. Women's reservation is a social and democratic necessity, but the process of implementing it should not create a sense of inequality for any region or state. This is the time to demonstrate political maturity and foresight so

that the country can move forward towards an inclusive and balanced democracy.

Women's Reservation: A Social and Democratic Necessity

In a vast and diverse democracy like India, women's participation is not just a right, but an essential requirement for social justice and inclusive development. For too long, men have dominated politics and policymaking, preventing many women's issues from receiving the necessary priority. Therefore, women's reservation is not just a question of representation, but also of equality and empowerment. Women represent half of the country's population, yet their participation in Parliament and state assemblies remains limited. Since the implementation of reservation at the Panchayat level, it has become clear that when women are given opportunities, they not only provide effective leadership but also bring about positive change in areas such as education, health, and social welfare. It is time to implement this experience at higher levels of politics. Women's reservation can be an effective means to address social inequalities. Gender discrimination still exists at many levels in Indian society, hindering women's progress. The reservation policy provides them with a powerful platform where they can raise their voices and protect their rights. The success of democracy depends on adequate representation of all sections of society. If half the population is excluded from the decision-making process, democracy remains incomplete. Women's reservation is an important step towards addressing this incompleteness. However, it also faces some challenges, such as the will of political parties, effective implementation of reservation, and ensuring genuine empowerment. Despite these challenges, the importance of women's reservation remains undiminished. It is a step that can propel India towards a more just, inclusive, and empowered democracy. Women's reservation is essential not only for women but for the development of the entire society. It not only promotes equality but also strengthens the roots of democracy.

The Hormuz Crisis 2026 : The US Blockade, the Chinese Challenge, and a Turning Point in the Global Balance of Power – An Explosive Crisis in a Changing Global Landscape

Advocate Kishan Sanmukhdas Bhavani

The Hormuz blockade has become not just a display of military power, but a symbol of international law, energy security, and the struggle for supremacy between superpowers.

Rising tensions between the US and China in Hormuz signal a new Cold War - Modi-Trump talks offer opportunities for India to further strengthen its role on the global stage.

Globally, the events that unfolded in West Asia on April 15, 2026, have once again brought global politics to a crossroads of instability. The US blockade of the Strait of Hormuz, the activity of Chinese

tankers, tensions between Iran and the US, and failed diplomatic talks in Islamabad have combined to create a crisis that has global implications, not just regional ones. This situation has become a symbol of international law, energy security, and the struggle for supremacy between superpowers, not just a display of military power. This entire development has made it clear that 21st-century politics is no longer driven by dialogue alone, but by balance of power and strategic pressure.

Advocate Kis Sanmukhdas Bhavani, Gondia, Maharashtra, believes that the 40-minute conversation between the Indian Prime Minister and the US President on April 14, 2026, high-

lights India's crucial role in this crisis. India, which is dependent on energy imports, could be directly affected by this situation. The talks covered issues such as energy security, regional stability, and strategic partnerships. India has always pursued a balancing approach and, even in this crisis, can strive for a diplomatic solution. This is also an opportunity for India to further strengthen its role on the global stage.

Friends, if we consider the geopolitical significance of Hormuz, its control over the energy lifeline, the Strait of Hormuz is the most important route for the world's energy supply, transporting approximately 20 percent of global

oil and gas daily. This strait connects the Persian Gulf to the Gulf of Oman, with Iran and Oman located on either side. Control over this region means influence over the global energy market, and this is why countries like the United States, China, and Iran maintain a strategic presence there. Any blockade or military activity in Hormuz directly impacts oil prices, global trade, and economic stability, making this region a central hub of world politics.

Friends, if we consider the US blockade: strategic pressure or international dispute, the US implemented the blockade to pressure Iranian ports through the United States Navy, involving over 10,000

troops, numerous warships, and dozens of aircraft. The blockade was intended to weaken Iran economically and strategically due to its nuclear program and regional activities. However, this move has raised serious questions about international law, as a unilateral blockade of any international waterway is not considered legal. European countries also did not support this move, weakening the US's diplomatic position and making it clear that this move was fraught with not only strategic but also political risks.

Friends, if we consider Trump's strategy: a mix of success and failure, it is difficult to call the blockade strategy implemented by Trump a complete success or failure.

War 'close to over': Trump as Pakistan Army Chief Asim Munir reaches Tehran to push mediation

New Delhi, (GNS): US President Donald Trump on Wednesday claimed the conflict with Iran was "very close to over", even as Pakistan intensified backchannel diplomacy with a high-level delegation, led by Army Chief Asim Munir, reaching Tehran to push for a renewed ceasefire framework.

In remarks to Fox Business, Trump asserted that Iran had been "hit very hard" and warned that US forces could "take out every one of their



bridges and power plants in one hour" if negotiations failed. "I think they want to make a deal very badly," he

extend the fragile US-Iran truce, set to expire on April 22. Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmail Baghaei confirmed that message exchanges between Tehran and Washington were continuing through Pakistan, with "multiple messages" already conveyed since the last round of talks. Baghaei said a Pakistani delegation was expected in Tehran to "discuss the views of both sides", indicating a move towards structured negotiations.

Sure of numbers, govt to move Bills in Parliament today, calls them 'balanced, just'

New Delhi, (GNS): The fraught issue of 33 per cent reservation for women in the Lok Sabha and state assemblies will come up for discussion in Parliament once more on Thursday, with the government set to move for implementing the quota from the 2029 election cycle. The government is confident of the numbers it needs to pass the Bills.



called from Thursday to pilot three draft legislations, the government assured an agitated Opposition of fair play and balance.

"The proposed Bills are absolutely balanced, well-thought-of and will take care of the aspiration of every state. There is no scope for any criticism whatsoever. I have reached out to all parties on the matter.

Game Of Shades: How Motorists Are Bypassing Law At The Click Of A Button

New Delhi, (GNS): With temperatures rising and the scorching summer sun making commute on Delhi roads uncomfortable, many motorists are increasingly turning to shades and tinted window films in their vehicles. What's new this year is the use of remote-operated electronic tints. These 'smart films', which are dominating markets as well as Instagram reels, are finding a lot of buyers among those looking to bypass the law with a digital



flourish - at the click of a button, the windows transition from pitch-black to fully transparent. From high-end SUVs to

compact hatchbacks, vehicles across the city are being fitted with such films and magnetic sunshades, creating a widespread challenge for traffic enforcement.

Manufacturers are marketing this technology to evade police and surveillance, allowing drivers to maintain a 'VIP look' in shady lanes while flicking the switch to a legal degree of transparency the moment they spot a traffic picket.

A traffic cop said the use of tinted or 'smart' films and sun-blocking shades is a punishable offence under the Motor Vehicles Act. Current rules mandate 70% visibility for front and rear windshields and 50% for side windows, and prohibit any external film or removable shade that obstructs the view inside the vehicle. On Wednesday, Delhi Police said 4,831 challans have been issued so far this year for the use of tinted glass in vehicles.

Delhi Police Foils Gang War, Arrests 9 Shooters of Gogi & Tillu Gangs in Crackdown

New Delhi, (GNS): Delhi Police swooped down on shooters of the Gogi and Tillu Tappurja gangs, arresting nine of them and seizing arms and ammunition in a preventive crackdown which averted a gangwar in the capital.



According to special CP (law and order) Ravindra Singh Yadav, the intelligence-led raids, comprising 430 personnel from three districts, targeted 28 gang hideouts throughout Tuesday night across Delhi, Sonapat and Bahadurgarh.

Codenamed Op Shashtra, the raids kicked off after 24 teams in Rohini, Outer North and North West districts collected intelligence that made the larger operation possible. The police

were on their toes since the Tajpuria gang did two back-to-back killings of Gogi gang members. Police mounted surveillance and used a human intelligence network to keep tabs on the gangs. They got inputs that the shooters were about to carry out revenge attacks.

Among the significant arrests was that of gangster Amit Mann, a listed "bad character" of Prem Nagar who managed a gang of nearly a dozen members and sourced weapons from Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh.

Mann, who has eight criminal cases including murder and robbery, was found in possession of four

sophisticated pistols made in Italy and Korea. The other arrests included Ravi, alias Chanu Baba, of the Tillu gang in the Outer North district, and Baba, alias Inderjeet, a 24-year-old wanted in an attempted murder case in northwest Delhi.

The scale of recoveries after the raids highlights the heavily armed nature of the syndicates. Police seized six sophisticated pistols made outside India, four country-made pistols, 52 live cartridges of various calibers, and three button-actuated knives. The operation led to the recovery of 12 mobile phones and a fleet of vehicles used in criminal activities, including a Maruti Brezza, nine motorcycles and four scooters.

ED attaches Rs 160-cr assets in Bengal coal scam, I-PAC link under lens

New Delhi, (GNS): The Directorate of Enforcement (ED) has attached assets worth Rs 160 crore in connection with its ongoing probe into the alleged large-scale illegal coal mining and pilferage case in the leasehold areas of Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL).

The case has links to political consultancy firm I-PAC, which has Trinamool Congress (TMC) among its clients. The firm's director, Vinesh Chandel, was arrested by the ED on April 13 in connection with the case. Earlier, in January, the ED had raided the firm's office in Kolkata and the residence of its director, Pratik Jain.

The ED's money laundering probe is based on a CBI FIR filed in 2020, alleging illegal mining at Eastern Coalfields Ltd's mines in Kunustoria and Kajora in West Bengal. The agency has alleged



that I-PAC was among the entities linked to hawala transactions.

According to ED sources, the investigation has revealed that the illegal mining operations were carried out by a syndicate led by Anup Majee, also known as "Lala".

They added that certain beneficiary companies in West Bengal knowingly purchased illegally excavated coal in cash, thereby aiding the concealment and projection of proceeds of crime as legitimate.



Resurrected from rubbles, last drawings of kids that war snatched

New Delhi, (GNS): Roghayeg Salari, probably around five, had written her name in Persian across the top of a page that day - each letter in a different colour. Below it, faint traces of something she had erased still showed through. Her photograph, displayed beside this page at the Iranian embassy in Delhi, shows a young girl in a white hijab. This may have been among the last things Roghayeg did before a missile struck her school in southern Iran's Minab on Feb 28 and took her life and that of 155 others, mostly children.

On another page, two uneven hearts lean into each other. Inside one, a child has written in Persian, "I love my mother. When I go to school, I miss her." The other reads, "I love my father and he drops me to school."

Twenty-eight such sheets, recovered from the debris of the Shajareh Tayyebah girls' elementary school, show simple, familiar images - a house under an open sky, birds, a school bus, a rainbow, a candle. Next to them are photographs of the children who drew them.

Scanned copies of these drawings, recovered by Red Crescent rescue teams, have been brought to India and put on display by the embassy to draw the world's attention to the innocent lives lost in the war. Titled 'Minab Children Still Draw the Sun', the exhibition opens with a poster filled with the kind of figures kids draw - a bright sun, an aeroplane, a car and a smiling figure. Inside, the walls hold scanned and restored versions of drawings - some torn, some smudged, all preserved just enough to be seen - pulled out of school bags that were buried in the debris.

There is a brown fish with blue wings, marked with a star by a teacher. A fairy sits on a wand. Small, uneven sketches, the kind found in any classroom, now carry a different weight. Alongside them are rows of small, colourless photographs - resembling passport-sized images submitted for school forms - of the children who perished.

One of the exhibition panels reads: "These are drawings that have been brought out from beneath the rubble of a school in Minab... Pages that were recovered through the efforts of the Red Crescent rescue teams, and have been restored only to the extent that they can be seen." It adds, "The world depicted in them is still simple, bright and trustworthy - but the world outside did not remain so." In the background, a song plays on a loop, accompanied by visuals of the destroyed school building. It tells the story of a father searching through the rubble for his daughter, only to find her lifeless body - a narrative that mirrors the intense grief shrouding the hall at the embassy.

Delhi Police Freezes 5 Crore Assets of History-Sheeter and Wife in Organised Crime Case

New Delhi, (GNS): Delhi Police has frozen properties worth over Rs 5 crore belonging to a history-sheets and his wife in northwest Delhi.

Police said a case was registered under organised crime provisions against Jitender and his wife, Jyoti, for their alleged involvement in organised criminal activities. Police traced a financial trail of illicit funds and identified two high-value SUVs and 10 immovable properties, including buildings and residential floors, linked to the couple.

DCP (North-West) Akanksha Yadav said the probe was conducted by a team led by inspector Jeetendra Tiwari and sub-inspector Ravi Saini. An application for seizure and freezing of assets was moved before the Rohini court.

Parents try to save toddler, but all three killed in northwest Delhi jhuggi blaze

New Delhi, (GNS): A couple and their two-year-old daughter were killed when a fire engulfed a cluster of jhuggies in northwest Delhi's Budh Vihar in the early hours of Wednesday.

Delhi Fire Services got a distress call around 1.35 am about the blaze that had engulfed multiple shanties. Seven fire tenders rushed to the spot, and firefighters battled the flames for nearly three hours before it could be brought under control around 4.35 am.

DFS officials said the fire burnt five jhuggies housing eight residents. Five people



managed to escape in time, the family of three got trapped inside.

The deceased were identified as Mohammad Musibur (27), his wife Munara (24), and their daughter Maymuna (2). Officials said the blaze, fuelled by plastic waste and

scrap inside and around the jhuggies, spread quickly. Families and neighbours said the trio were trapped inside as they had bolted the door from within - a step they took to keep their child safe. The plastic sheet roofing of the jhuggi is suspected to have collapsed during the blaze, further blocking any escape.

"At first I thought they had all escaped. We saw people running out of their shacks as the flames began to engulf the place, but only when we saw them throwing out Maymuna we

realised they were still stuck inside. They tried to save Maymuna... through a small opening in their wall made of cloth and sheets, but she couldn't survive," Munara's mother, Marufa (45), told media.

Other residents too said the couple had tried to save their child by throwing her out of the burning jhuggi, hoping she would escape the flames. However, scrap material that was already on fire and molten plastic fell around her. She did not survive. Inside, her parents were burnt alive.

Distance from conflict does not ensure immunity: Indian Navy Chief on West Asia war

New Delhi, (GNS): Instability in West Asia and the linked disruptions to maritime traffic are a reminder that distance from a conflict does not ensure immunity from its consequences, said Navy Chief Admiral DK Tripathi on Wednesday. He was addressing the top brass of the Navy at the Commanders' Conference and added "concurrent conflicts and increased capabilities create a highly contested space for the Navy on a day-to-day basis".



ing energy security. Navy played a major role in the safe transit of merchant ships moving out of the Persian Gulf.

Highlighting the impact of the ongoing conflict, both economic and military, Admiral Tripathi said it was also about

shaping of perception of the conflict building narratives, and not just operational outcomes.

The Navy Chief stressed various aspects have caused the maritime security environment to reach an inflection

point. The three day conference (April 14-16) has the senior naval leadership and the Navy Chief commended the force for safeguarding India's maritime interests including energy security, amidst ongoing conflict in West Asia.

The Chief of the Defence Staff, General Anil Chauhan, addressed and interacted with the Naval Commanders on matters pertaining to changing geo-political orders, and urged the Navy to plan for rapidly evolving character of war, including economic and technological factors. The conference discussed operational highlights including salient issues pertaining to jointness,

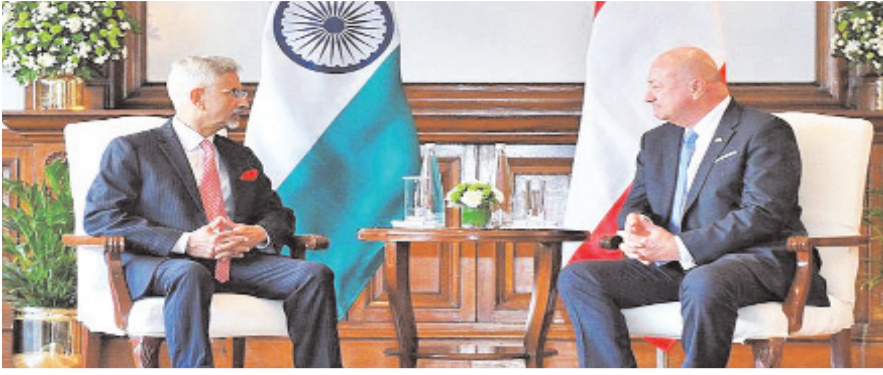
capability enhancement, maintenance, training, foreign cooperation and indigenisation.

The Navy Chief highlighted the achievements of the Navy in its journey towards becoming a combat-ready, credible, cohesive, and future-ready force. Admiral Tripathi highlighted there has been a significant increase in the operational deployment of naval platforms over the past five to ten years. He highlighted upgradation and augmentation of war-fighting capabilities in the surface, sub-surface, and air domains, supported by major infrastructural development, robust maintenance practices.

Attacks on merchant ships 'completely unacceptable': Jaishankar

New Delhi, (GNS): Amid escalating tensions in West Asia and disruptions to global energy flows, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Wednesday termed attacks on merchant shipping "completely unacceptable", underscoring India's firm commitment to ensuring safe and unimpeded maritime transit. Participating in the 'AZEC Plus' virtual meeting convened by Japan, Jaishankar highlighted the growing risks to global supply chains, particularly in energy markets, and called for coordinated international efforts to safeguard critical sea lanes.

"Global growth demands that energy markets are not constricted," he said, adding that as a major energy consumer, India would work with "like-minded



partners" to strengthen supply chain resilience.

The meeting comes against the backdrop of heightened instability around the Strait of Hormuz, a key artery for global oil shipments that has seen rising security concerns in recent weeks. Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi, who convened the meeting, stressed that Asian

economies were among the most vulnerable to disruptions in energy and resource flows through the Strait. She called for greater regional cooperation, noting that supply chain shocks in one region have cascading effects across interconnected global markets.

The 'AZEC Plus' framework brings together key Indo-Pacific

and Southeast Asian partners -- including Australia, Indonesia, Vietnam and Singapore -- along with India, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka, besides institutions such as the International Energy Agency, Asian Development Bank and Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia. The discussions focused on mitigating supply chain disruptions, particularly in energy, and reinforcing cooperative mechanisms to ensure stability in the face of geopolitical shocks.

India's strong pitch for maritime security and resilient supply chains signals its intent to play a more proactive role in shaping regional responses as tensions in West Asia threaten to spill over into global economic corridors.

Man killed for refusing matchbox, 3 arrested, minor held



New Delhi, (GNS): Three people have been arrested, and a minor has been apprehended for allegedly murdering a 39-year-old man after he refused to give them a matchbox in northeast Delhi's Welcome area.

The deceased, Aqeel Ahmad, was a resident of the JJ Colony in Welcome area. According to the police, information about a dead body lying near the Jafrabad metro station was received around 10.27 am on March 23 at the Welcome police station. The body was identified, and a case was registered. "Based on techni-

cal surveillance and manual inputs, the team traced and nabbed four people," said DCP (northeast) Ashish Kumar Mishra. Three of the accused, identified as Imran (19), Faizan (23), and Sahil (20), were arrested. A 17-year-old boy was also apprehended.

The accused told cops that they had committed the crime after they asked Ahmad for a matchbox and he refused. They had allegedly attacked him on the spot with a knife before fleeing from the spot.

Police have seized the knife used in the offence.



LPG distribution irregularities: 2k cylinders seized, 44 FIRs filed

New Delhi, (GNS): Over 540 raids have been carried out across Delhi as part of a crackdown on irregularities in LPG distribution, leading to seizure of more than 2,027 cylinders and registration of 44 FIRs.

The enforcement action has been carried jointly by the Delhi food supplies department and police in the past one month in the wake of shortage of cylinders due to the Iran-US conflict.

Authorities said the raids were conducted at multiple locations as part of an ongoing effort to keep the supply system transparent and ensure that essential commodities reach consumers without disruption.

Chief minister Rekha Gupta on Wednesday said that supplies of LPG, petrol and diesel in the capital were completely normal, stable and sufficient despite the prevailing global geopolitical situation. She said all gas agencies and bottling plants in Delhi had adequate stocks of LPG cylinders, and uninterrupted distribution was being ensured through multiple supply channels. At present, over 1.2 lakh LPG cylinders are being delivered daily, in line with regular demand, while the average delivery time continues to be 4-5 days.

Govt is closely monitoring the supply system to ensure that consumers do not face any inconvenience or shortage, Gupta said. "Meeting the needs of domestic LPG users remains a top priority. Consumers are being encouraged to book refills through digital platforms such as SMS, IVRS, WhatsApp and online portals," she added. To enhance transparency and safety, an OTP-based delivery authentication system has been implemented with over 90% of daily deliveries now being verified.

Close to 40 degrees Celsius, Delhi sees hottest day of the year, but no heatwave likely soon

New Delhi, (GNS): The mercury continued to rise in the city, with the maximum temperature touching 39.2 degrees Celsius, three degrees above normal, at base station Safdarjung on Wednesday. It was the hottest day of the year with the mercury surpassing Tuesday's high of 38.2 degrees Celsius. Though the mercury is expected to touch 42 degrees Celsius by Friday, India Meteorological Department (IMD) said heatwave conditions were unlikely during the next seven days. Heatwaves are mostly recorded from April to



the first week of June in Delhi. Last year, three heatwave days were reported in April.

At 40.7 degrees Celsius, Ridge in north Delhi was the

hottest station on Wednesday. The mercury settled at 39 degrees Celsius at Lodhi Road and Ayanagar, while it was 38.3 degrees at Palam. Officials

said that due to clear skies, the city had been receiving maximum hours of sunshine, causing the rise in the mercury. "A gradual rise is expected in maximum temperatures by 2-3 degrees during the next three days and fall by 1-2 degrees thereafter. The maximum temperatures are likely to be above normal to appreciably above normal during the next seven days," said a Met official.

IMD defines a heatwave day when the maximum is 4.5 degrees and more above normal temperature and the maximum is at least 40 degrees

Celsius. A heatwave is also considered if the maximum temperature touches 45 degrees Celsius or above. April 2022 was the most intense, with the city recording 11 heatwave days. The Met department said the day temperatures were likely to remain between 39 and 41 degrees Celsius on Thursday and 40-42 from Friday to Sunday. Temperatures above normal may cause moderate health concern for vulnerable people, including infants and elderly people with chronic diseases, it warned.

National Commission for Women takes cognisance of Nashik harassment case

New Delhi, (GNS): The National Commission for Women (NCW) has set up a fact-finding committee to probe the alleged sexual harassment cases at a Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) BPO unit in Maharashtra's Nashik.

The women rights body will visit the facility on April 18 to conduct an on-the-spot inquiry, examine the relevant circumstances, and assess the response of authorities. It will then submit a report within 10 working days, a statement by NCW said on Wednesday.

Nine FIRs have been registered in connection with the said allegations of harassment and religious coercion since March 25. The issue has now become a widespread concern on social media as well after the Nashik police confirmed the harassment with a 40-day undercover operation from



mid-February.

"The reports indicate that an initial inquiry, triggered by a complaint relating to religious practices, has brought to light disturbing allegations involving sexual harassment, rape, and attempts at forced religious conversion of female employees by certain individuals in supervisory roles," the Commission said.

According to the police, they tracked the behaviours of the accused managers and team leaders, and by April 7, seven employees were arrested, while an HR manager is in police remand for allegedly

ignoring a victim's complaint email.

"Former Bombay High Court judge Sadhna Jadhav, former Haryana DGP BK Sinha, Supreme Court advocate Monika Arora and NCW senior coordinator Lilabati are part of the team visiting the facility," the statement said.

The Commission said the investigation will involve studying the circumstances leading to the incident and conducting inquiries at locations beyond the Nashik facility, if needed, in addition to the routine interactions with victims, police officials, and company representatives.

"The National Commission for Women remains committed to ensuring a safe and dignified working environment for women and will take all necessary steps based on the findings of the Committee," it said.

Hard to term faith of millions wrong: SC on Sabarimala row



New Delhi, (GNS): The Travancore Devaswom Board (TDB), which manages the Lord Ayyappa temple at Sabarimala in Kerala, on Wednesday told the Supreme Court that the exclusion of menstruating women aged 10 to 50 years does not violate the right to equality, as it satisfies the test of reasonable classification.

On the fourth day of hearings on petitions seeking a review of the court's 2018 verdict allowing entry of women in the 10-50 age group, senior advocate Abhishek Manu

Singhvi, appearing for the TDB, submitted before a nine-judge Constitution Bench led by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant that the restriction bears a rational nexus with the objective of preserving the celibate character of Lord Ayyappa.

Describing the deity as an eternal celibate, Singhvi argued that women of the specified age group would be "antithetical" to this unique manifestation. He added that devotees could visit numerous other Ayyappa temples, but Sabarimala alone represents the deity in the form of a Naishtika Brahmachari.

He underlined that the temple's practices are intrinsically linked to this identity, including the observance of a 40-day vratam by pilgrims, reflecting a tradition of strict penance and self-denial.

From Mehendi To Tragedy: Acid Scars Wedding Plans

New Delhi, (GNS): In a narrow lane in northeast Delhi's Indira Vihar, the curtains of two houses facing each other remained drawn on Wednesday. One belongs to a 21-year-old woman who was attacked with acid a day earlier. The other is the home of the 26-year-old alleged aggressor, who was reportedly in a relationship with the survivor's fiancé. Inside the home of the 21-year-old woman, outfits stitched for a joint wedding next Sunday - of her and her elder sister - lay scattered even as the former underwent treatment at hospital. "We spent a lot of our money on the weddings," the sister told media.

Recalling the incident, she said, "The acid went into her eyes and throat, causing internal injuries. She threw up a lot of blood. She was also attacked with a sharp object, and needed stitches on her face."

The survivor lives with her parents, four sisters, a brother, a sister-in-law and two nephews. The family makes belts for a living. The girls take up occasional tailoring work to



make ends meet.

The accused, known to the family for around 15 years, came over seeking help in applying mehendi for another wedding. At the corner of the house, now turned into a crime scene, muskmelons meant for the guest lay untouched.

The incident, reported by media on Wednesday, took place around 12.50 pm on Tuesday. According to the family, the neighbour first vis-

ited the house around 11.30 am and left, returning at 12.30 pm, in different clothes, with a bag containing two bottles. "She sat on the floor and drank an energy drink from one of the bottles," the survivor's younger sister said.

After about 20 minutes, the neighbour allegedly took out another bottle containing acid and hurled it at the bride-to-be. She then attacked her with a sharp object, the family

claimed. She tried to flee but was overpowered by the survivor's family and handed over to police. The younger sister, too, was injured while trying to intervene.

The survivor, a second-year MA political science student, recently quit her job as a teacher at a local private school. Her sister added, "I can't erase the haunting image of her screaming face from my mind." The family said the fumes and smell of the acid lingered long after the attack.

Across the lane, the accused's father said he was unaware of any alleged relationship of his daughter or of the survivor's upcoming wedding. "My daughter has been suffering from depression since she was eight. If she has done something wrong, she should be punished," he said.

The accused was studying through open learning to become a teacher. She was arrested and a case was registered under Section 124 (causing grievous hurt by use of acid) of BNS at Gokulpuri police station.

Man held for Rs 2 crore extortion targeting women through dating app

New Delhi, (GNS): A 35-year-old man from West Bengal was arrested for allegedly running a large-scale online racket involving romance scams, honey-traps and extortion, officials said on Wednesday.

The accused, identified as Anand Kumar, is alleged to have targeted more than 500 women across India by creating fake profiles on dating and matrimonial platforms.

The police said he had duped victims of approximately Rs 2 crore by posing as doctor, businessman, lawyer, film producer and other professions.

According to investigators, Kumar built emotional relationships with victims over time and lured them with promises of marriage, professional opportunities, or urgent financial needs such as medical emergencies and business losses. In several cases, he also allegedly collected private photos and videos and later threatened to make them public to extort money, an official said.

He added that the arrest was made following a complaint filed by a woman who was cheated of around Rs 7 lakh. She had initially connected with the accused on a dating applica-



tion, where he introduced himself as "Vaibhav Arora". After gaining her trust, he shifted communication to Instagram and WhatsApp using multiple numbers.

He later fabricated stories of financial distress and persuaded her to transfer money. When she demanded repayment, he stopped responding and falsely claimed that the person had died to evade contact, the official mentioned.

The police registered an e-FIR and launched a technical investigation, analysing digital footprints including IP logs, social media accounts, mobile numbers and financial transactions. Surveillance led the team to North 24 Parganas in West Bengal, where Kumar was apprehended after sustained tracking and coordinated raids, the police officer elaborated.