



Women's Reservation Bill fails by 28 votes: 298 in favor, 230 against; Modi government fails to pass a bill for the first time

New Delhi (GNS): The 131st Constitutional Amendment Bill related to the Women's Reservation Bill has been defeated in Parliament. A total of 298 votes were cast in favor of the bill and 230 against it. In the Lok Sabha, 489 MPs participated in the voting. To pass the bill, a two-thirds majority was required. Two-thirds of 489 is 326. Since the bill did not reach this number, it fell short by 28 votes and was not passed. This is the first time in 11 years of governance that the Modi government has failed to pass a bill in the House. Earlier, Amit Shah delivered a one-hour speech, stating that if the bill fails, the opposition would be responsible. He said that if the opposition does not vote in favor, the bill will fall, and the women of the country are watching who is creating obstacles. There was a 21-hour discussion in the Lok Sabha on these amended bills. A total of 130 MPs expressed their views, including 56 women MPs. Shah said - Rahul should



learn from Priyanka how to speak. Shah said he was watching the speech of the Leader of the Opposition on TV and emphasized that it is their responsibility to maintain the dignity of the House. He criticized the use of unparliamentary language, gestures like winking, and behavior he called inappropriate. He said the country is listening to their language and accused them of disrespecting constitutional institutions. He also mentioned "flying kisses," winking, and leaving sessions to go abroad. He advised Rahul to learn from Priyanka on how to

learn from Priyanka how to speak. He added that even a squirrel that contributed to building Ram Setu is remembered, but the opposition is creating obstacles in a bill meant to give reservation to women. **Shah said - Opposition is opposing everything without thinking** Shah accused the opposition of opposing everything done by Prime Minister Modi without considering whether it is good or bad. He said it was expected that there would be no opposition to a bill benefiting women, but opposition still exists. He pointed out that the bill was passed unanimously in 2023, but now

Rahul said - The secret lies in the number 16



He presented a puzzle, saying that the number 16 holds the answer. Referring to April 16, he claimed the Prime Minister appeared tired and rushed while presenting the bill. He asked people to figure out the mystery of the number 16 and share it on social media.

Congress has backed away. According to him, the reason is that the bill is being introduced by Modi and he will get the credit.

Iran opens Strait of Hormuz allowing commercial ships to pass

Trump thanks India; India evacuates 2,358 people from Iran

Tel Aviv/Tehran/ Washington DC, (GNS):Iran has fully opened the Strait of Hormuz during the ceasefire. Foreign Minister Seyyed Abbas Araghchi stated in a post on X that all commercial vessels will be allowed to pass. This decision was made following the ceasefire in Lebanon.



He explained that the ships will travel through a safe route, pre-determined by Iran's Ports and Maritime Organization, to avoid any danger during the journey. Araghchi added that the safe passage of ships will be ensured during this period so that maritime trade is not affected.

In response, US President Donald Trump thanked Iran in a post on TruthSocial, expressing

Trump says Strait of Hormuz is open, but the blockade on Iran will continue.

Trump has said that even though the Strait of Hormuz has opened, the US naval blockade on Iran will continue and it will apply only to Iran. He said that this blockade will continue until the deal between America and Iran is completely over.

his happiness that the Strait of Hormuz has fully opened. 2,358 citizens from Iran. These people were evacuated from Iran to Armenia and Azerbaijan, from where they are being repatriated to India. Meanwhile, the Indian Foreign Ministry has stated that India has so far safely evacuated

Nepal begins largest corruption probe:

Assets of 7 former PMs, 3 presidents king under scrutiny, 100 ministers and officials also under scanner

Kathmandu (GNS): Nepal has launched its biggest-ever crackdown on corruption. Prime Minister Balen Shah's government has formed a five-member judicial panel to investigate the assets of people who held public office from 2006 to 2025-26.

The investigation also includes all seven prime ministers since 2005-06: Sushil Koirala, Pushpa Kamal Dahal, Madhav Kumar Nepal, Jhalanath Khanal, Baburam Bhattarai, KP Sharma Oli, and Sher Bahadur Deuba. Furthermore, the heads of the two interim governments, Khilraj Regmi and Sushila Karki, will also be under scrutiny. Former King Gyanendra Shah will also be included in this investiga-



Investigation of the assets of deceased leaders

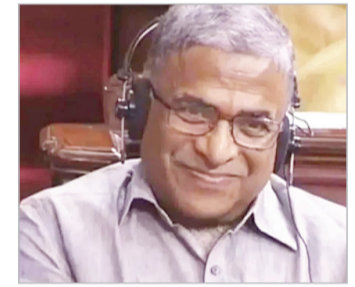
The investigation will cover the entire period since the end of the monarchy in Nepal. This means that almost the entire political leadership after 2006 is now under scrutiny. Significantly, this investigation could extend into the Shah government's own political circles. Reports suggest that current Speaker Dol Prasad Aryal, ministers Birajbhatt Shrestha and Shishir Khanal, and Ravi Lamichhane, the head of his own party, the Rashtriya Swatantra Party, could also be under scrutiny, given their previous public office.

tion. Three other presidents, Ram Baran Yadav, Vidya Devi Bhandari, and current President Ramchandra Paudel, will also be under investigation. This investigation is not limited to top politicians; it will also include ministers, more than 100 people holding constitutional positions, and senior bureaucrats.

Harivansh was elected unopposed as the Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha for the third time

The election was held in the presence of PM Narendra Modi; the opposition did not field any candidate

New Delhi (GNS): Consensus politics was once again on display in the Rajya Sabha, with Harivansh Narayan Singh elected unopposed as Deputy Chairman of the Upper House for the third consecutive term. This is historic, as it marks the first time a leader has been elected to this position for a third consecutive term without opposition.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi himself was present in the House on this important occasion, further enhancing the significance of this election. While there is

usually a confrontation between the ruling party and the opposition, this election displayed an atmosphere of consensus as the opposition did not field a candidate. No nominations were filed by the opposition by the deadline, making Harivansh Narayan Singh's election unopposed virtually certain. A total of five

motions were filed in his support, moved by leaders from various parties. These included the support of several senior leaders, including BJP President Jagat Prakash Nadda and Union Minister Nirmala Sitharaman. In accordance with parliamentary tradition, these resolutions were introduced in the House and passed by voice vote, after which the remaining resolutions were automatically rejected. This process was thus a formality, but its political significance is considered significant.

Harivansh Narayan Singh was first elected Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha in 2018 and was re-elected for a second term in 2020. His return to the position for a third term reflects his experience and widespread acceptance. He was recently re-nominated as a Rajya Sabha member. President Draupadi Murmu nominated him to the Upper House in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution. The seat had previously fallen vacant following the retirement of former Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi.

SC-ST communities in Telangana are three times more backward than the general category

135 out of 242 in the state are extremely backward; survey of 3.55 lakh people

New Delhi (GNS): According to a caste-based survey conducted last year in Telangana, Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) people are three times more backward than the general category. Meanwhile, OBCs are



2.7 times more backward. The backwardness index score for SCs is 96, for STs 95, and for OBCs 86. The rule states that the higher the score, the greater the backwardness. This means that these castes in Telangana are very

backward in social, economic, and educational status. The general category has a score of 31, which is better. There are 242 castes in the state. Of these, 135 castes, or 67% of the population, are very backward.

President Donald Trump congratulates Taranjit Singh Sandhu on becoming the Lieutenant Governor of Delhi

New Delhi (GNS): Amidst the ongoing political turmoil around the world, US President Donald Trump has heartily congratulated Taranjit Singh Sandhu on being appointed the new Lieutenant Governor of Delhi. Trump praised former Ambassador Taranjit Singh Sandhu's significant contribution in taking the bilateral relations between India and the US to new heights and wished him success in his new administra-

tion. In a message shared on social media, Donald Trump wrote that the selection of Taranjit Sandhu as the new Lieutenant Governor of Delhi is a commendable step. Describing Sandhu as a highly experienced and skilled diplomat, he said that as India's ambassador to the United States, he played a major role in strengthening relations between the two countries. Trump expressed hope that



under Sandhu's leadership, Delhi will progress and the nation's capital will benefit from his global experience. It is noteworthy that Taranjit

Singh Sandhu took the oath of office and secrecy as the Lieutenant Governor of Delhi on March 11th. Chief Justice of the Delhi High Court, Devendra Kumar Upadhyay, administered the oath, accompanied by Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, several Union ministers, and dignitaries. Upon assuming office, Sandhu made it clear that he would work across political boundaries to address the capital's challenges.

President Draupadi Murmu to inaugurate several key projects in Rourkela on April 21

Bhubaneswar (GNS): President Draupadi Murmu will inaugurate several key projects related to urban management and science-based infrastructure during her visit to Rourkela, Odisha, on April 21. The state government has intensified preparations for President Draupadi Murmu's upcoming visit to Rourkela on April 21. In this regard, a high-level review meeting was held at the Public Service Building under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary Anu Garg, attended by senior officials from various departments.

The Chief Secretary directed officials to ensure that all arrangements for the President's visit are flawless and smooth. She directed the concerned departments to regularly monitor the preparations in coordination with each other.

Indian satellites endangered 18 times in space: ISRO diverted and avoided debris

● 1.5 lakh alerts issued in 2025

New Delhi (GNS): According to ISRO's "Indian Space Situational Awareness Report-2025," India had to exercise extreme caution last year to protect its satellites. In 2025, more than 150,000 alerts were issued for ISRO satellites.

These alerts came from the US Space Command, which were analyzed by Indian scientists along with more accurate orbital data. These data clearly indicate that low-Earth orbit (LEO) is now dangerously crowded.

To avoid the dangers of collisions with space debris, ISRO has conducted 18 collision avoidance maneuvers. Fourteen times, these maneuvers were performed for LEO satellites and four times for geostationary satellites (GEO). These maneuvers involve altering the satellite's speed and altitude to avoid potential collisions.

Concern: 16 orbit maneuvers for Chandrayaan-2 in 2025

ISRO also had to change its orbit maneuver planning 84 times to account for future risks. Chandrayaan-2's orbiter was repositioned twice in deep space to avoid a collision with NASA's Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter. Chandrayaan-2 alone underwent 16 orbit maneuvers in 2025.

ISRO conducted collision avoidance analysis before lift-off for all five of its launches in 2025. In one case, the launch of the LVM3-M6 mission had to be delayed by 41 seconds to ensure distance from debris.

India's next step into space is just around the corner!

Dr. Mayank Chaturvedi

India's space journey is now entering a new era, where its dreams are no longer limited to satellite launches or the Moon and Mars; the goal is to establish a permanent home in space. The 'Indian Space Station' (BAS) proposed by the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) embodies this ambition.

India's space journey has now reached a crucial juncture, where it is poised to move beyond satellite launches and lunar missions into human space exploration. Therefore, India is rapidly moving towards its next phase: an indigenous space station. According to A. Pakiraj, Director of the ISRO Propulsion Complex, India wants to leverage Russia's decades-old experience for this purpose. There

is immense potential for cooperation between the two countries, particularly in critical subsystems such as control systems, power supply, communication, and tracking. This cooperation certainly signals a strategic and long-term partnership in science.

One might ask, why seek Russia's cooperation? The simple answer is that the history of space cooperation between India and Russia is rich and trustworthy. India's first satellite, Aryabhata, was launched in 1975 with Soviet assistance. Subsequently, the Soviet Union (now Russia) played a key role in sending Rakesh Sharma into space in 1984. This was a proud moment in India's space history.

Furthermore, Russia's cooperation in the development of cryogenic engine technology has been

crucial for India. Russia also played a crucial role in the training of Indian astronauts (Vyomyaanis) for the ongoing Gaganyaan mission. This long-standing cooperation can now enter a new dimension through the International Space Station project.

According to ISRO's current plan, the Indian Space Station will be ready by 2035. It will be located at an altitude of approximately 450 kilometers above the Earth and will have an inclination of 51.6 degrees. This structure will be largely similar to Russia's proposed Russian Orbital Station (ROS). Because this altitude and inclination are considered suitable for scientific research, Earth observation, and space experiments.

The most positive aspect of this success is that the construction of the Indian Space Station will place

India among the select few countries that have their own independent manned space stations. Currently, only China has an active manned space station, while the International Space Station is planned to be decommissioned by 2030-31. Consequently, the need for new space stations and opportunities for cooperation are rapidly increasing globally.

It is also worth mentioning that ISRO's Gaganyaan mission is India's first human spaceflight project, under which Indian astronauts will be sent to low Earth orbit. The successful completion of this mission will further accelerate the Indian Space Station project. Gaganyaan will lay the foundation for the Indian Space Station, where India will gain experience with human life support systems, long-term space habitats, and scientific

experiments. It is certainly a matter of pride for every Indian that India's space achievements have proven their credibility globally. The historic success of Chandrayaan-3 made India the first country to land on the Moon's south pole. Prior to this, Mangalyaan made India the first country to reach Mars' orbit on its first attempt.

These missions not only demonstrated India's scientific capabilities but also set a global model for low-cost, high-quality space programs. This same expertise will play a crucial role in the Indian Space Station project. It is also important to note that ISRO has made significant progress in its launch vehicles. GSLV Mk III (now LVM3) is India's most powerful launch vehicle, which will be used in the Gaganyaan mission.

Editorial

The consequences of the Iran-US war

"Democracy in Disgrace - Democracy Loses to Religious Dictatorship?"

Going to war and breaking a ceasefire over uranium enrichment—how justified?

There are three major systems of governance in the world—democracy (democracy), monarchy (monarchy), and dictatorship. In the current global landscape, the United States and Israel present themselves as purveyors of democratic values, while Iran's system of governance differs from these three, a unique "theocratic republic."

Iran's system of governance: A unique blend.

Iran operates under the principle of Vilayat-e-Faqih, under which the supreme leader is elected not directly by the people but by an assembly of experts. This system is a hybrid of democracy and dictatorship, clearly reflecting "democracy from above, tight dictatorial control from within."

The 1979 Islamic Revolution ended the monarchy of Mohammad Reza Pahlavi and established a theocratic regime. Today, Iran is a nation where religion and politics have become "two sides of the same coin." Pahlavi currently lives in exile in the United States.

Defeat of democracy?

The Iran-US-Israel conflict, which began on February 28, 2026, has raised many questions. The US, which considers itself the "flag-bearer" of democracy, "turned the tables" by launching a surprise attack (at the behest of Israel or at its behest) during the final stages of negotiations to reach an agreement on the nuclear program. Conversely, the attacks on civilian targets, resulting in the deaths of innocent people, and the brutal massacre of 168 schoolchildren (February 26, 2026) appear to be a "stain" on democratic and humanitarian values. Iran, on the other hand, adopted a strategy of "killing the snake without breaking the stick," maintaining a balance between restraint and retaliation. Undeterred by Trump's provocative statements, Iran participated in the Islamabad peace talks with a gentle but firm commitment to its sovereignty and integrity.

The Women's Reservation Bill is no longer limited to women's empowerment, but has become a debate of North versus South, population versus representation, and power versus balance



Fierce debate in special Parliament session - Women's reservation vs. delimitation - Opposition not opposed to women's reservation but opposed linking it with delimitation? The opposition fears a further lopsided power balance in Parliament after delimitation; the political battle shifts to North versus South—the entire world watches.

Advocate Kishan Sanmukhdas Bhavani

Globally, India's parliamentary politics is at a crucial juncture. While the historic effort to provide 33 percent reservation to women is visible, the potential shift in the political power balance through delimitation has sparked widespread controversy. Three key bills were introduced in the special session of Parliament: (1) The Constitutional Amendment Bill, 2026, relating to women's reservation; (2) The Delimitation Bill, 2026; (3) The Union Territories (Amendment) Bill, 2026. While the Law Minister introduced the Constitutional Amendment and Delimitation Bills, the Union Home Minister introduced the specific amendment bill relating to Union Territories. I, Advocate Kishan Sanmukhdas Bhavanani, Gondia, Maharashtra, believe that the constitutional amendments relating to women's reservation, the Delimitation Bill, and the Union Territories amendments have not only intensified political debate but also raised serious questions about the country's federal structure, representation, and regional balance. The issue is no longer limited to women's empowerment, but has transformed into a debate about North versus South, population versus representation, and power versus balance. Of the three bills introduced by the government on the first day of the special Parliament session on April 16, 2026, the Women's Reservation and Delimitation Bills received the most attention. The Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill, 2026, proposes to increase the Lok Sabha seats to 850, with 815 seats reserved for states and 35 for union territories. Additionally, approximately 272 seats are planned to be reserved for women. The opposition was unwilling to put the three bills to a voice vote, forcing a vote. During the vote, the government received the support of 251 MPs, while 185 opposed. This clearly indicates that this issue in Parliament has become a matter of not just policy, but of deep political and regional divisions. The demand for a division instead of a voice vote made the dispute more formal and serious.

Friends, if we consider the issue of women's reservation versus delimitation, where does the real controversy

lie? To understand this, it's important to understand that the opposition isn't opposing women's reservation per se, but rather, its primary objection stems from the fact that it's linked to delimitation. The opposition argues that women's reservation should be implemented immediately, not delayed by linking it to the census and delimitation process. Indeed, the Nari Shakti Vandan Act, passed in 2023, required the implementation of a new census, followed by delimitation, to determine new seats. This is where the root of the controversy lies. The opposition considers this a delaying tactic, while the government calls it a crucial and necessary part of structural reform.

Friends, if we specifically consider the mathematics of delimitation: the question of population-based representation, the primary purpose of delimitation is to reorganize constituencies based on population. However, in India, seat allocation based on the 1971 census was long held in abeyance, so that states that promoted family planning would not be disadvantaged. In 1976, it was decided that delimitation would not occur until 2026. Now, as the delimitation process is about to begin after 2026, the biggest question is whether seats will be redistributed based on population. If this happens, the more populous states of North India, such as Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and Madhya Pradesh, will receive more seats, while the seats of South Indian states with relatively low population growth, such as Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and Karnataka, may decrease. This is where the issue transforms from a national debate to a regional conflict. South Indian states argue that they have achieved success in population control, improved performance in education and health, and are now being punished by underrepresentation. Southern political parties, particularly the DMK and the Congress, have described this as a threat to the federal structure. They believe this will weaken the South's voice in Parliament and reduce its influence on national policies. This situation could destabilize India's federal balance.

Friends, if we consider the ruling party's approach: equitable growth and balance, the government's position differs. The government states that the number of seats in all states

will be increased proportionately, without reducing any state's current representation. In his address to Parliament, the Prime Minister clarified that this step was taken to bring women into the political mainstream and make democracy more inclusive. The government also claims that the Delimitation Commission will operate impartially and will not discriminate against any state. According to him, this will be done not solely on the basis of population, but with broad representation and administrative convenience in mind.

Friends, if we consider the political apprehension: Is this a political coup? The opposition alleges that this entire move is part of a political strategy to increase seats in states where the ruling party has greater influence. Given the BJP's strong hold in Hindi-speaking North Indian states, the opposition fears that the balance of power in Parliament could become even more lopsided after delimitation. This apprehension is not only political but also structural, as the distribution of seats in Parliament directly impacts policymaking and resource allocation.

Friends, if we consider the question of census: decisions without data? Another important issue is whether a census should be conducted before delimitation. The opposition argues that conducting delimitation without a new census is unreasonable, as it will not accurately represent the actual population. The government has amended the definition of population in the Constitution, providing that delimitation will be based on the census approved by Parliament. This provides the government with some flexibility, but it also raises questions about transparency.

Friends, let's discuss the expansion of the Lok Sabha: representation or complexity? To understand this, increasing the number of Lok Sabha seats from 543 to 850 is a major step. It will make the world's largest democratic institution even larger. This will increase representation, but it could also make the decision-making process more complex. Looking back at history, Lok Sabha seats have been increased from time to time, but this expansion is unprecedented. This change is significant not only politically but also from an administrative and constitutional perspective.

World Heritage Day: A pledge to save the priceless heritage of civilization

Sunil Kumar Mahala

World Heritage Day is celebrated every year on April 18th. It is also known as World Heritage Day, World Heritage Day, and officially as International Day for Monuments and Sites. This day aims to raise awareness about the preservation of humanity's shared cultural and natural heritage. World Heritage Sites are places recognized for their exceptional universal significance to humanity and inscribed on the World Heritage List to be preserved for future generations. These sites are protected under the UNESCO World Heritage Convention of 1972, a significant international agreement accepted by UNESCO member states. However, let me remind readers that the main objective of this day is to raise public

awareness about the preservation of historical monuments, cultural sites, archaeological remains, natural resources, and invaluable heritage associated with human civilization around the world. In fact, heritage sites are not just buildings made of stone; they are living symbols of our culture, tradition, art, knowledge, struggle, history, and collective identity.

It is noteworthy that this day originated in 1982 at a meeting held in Tunisia by the International Council on Monuments and Sites, where a proposal was made to celebrate it internationally on April 18th. Subsequently, in 1983, UNESCO's 22nd General Assembly formally recognized it. Since then, this day has been celebrated worldwide on April 18th every year. World Heritage Sites can be special places, buildings,

fortresses, cities, forests, mountains, lakes, deserts, or natural areas that are considered to be of exceptional importance to humanity. UNESCO evaluates a site against rigorous standards before including it on the World Heritage List. Currently, there are 10 selection criteria, at least one of which must be met. These include aspects such as historical significance, architecture, cultural influence, natural beauty, biodiversity, and scientific importance. There are three main types of World Heritage: first, cultural heritage, which includes monuments, temples, mosques, churches, forts, sculptures, ancient cities, architecture, language, music, dance, and traditions; second, natural heritage, which includes mountains, rivers, oceans, forests, wildlife, biodiversity; and third, mixed heritage,

which encompasses both cultural and natural features. It is also worth noting that UNESCO recognizes not only permanent structures or natural sites, but also intangible cultural heritage. India's yoga tradition and the Kumbh Mela are prime examples of this. Italy has the highest number of UNESCO World Heritage Sites globally, followed by China. India is also among the leading countries in terms of World Heritage Sites. UNESCO also maintains a special list, World Heritage in Danger, which includes sites threatened by war, pollution, natural disasters, encroachment, overtourism, climate change, or neglect. If a site fails to meet conservation standards or its original form is seriously altered, it may be removed from the list. For example, the Arabian Oryx Sanctuary in Oman and the Dresden Elbe Valley in Germany have

already been removed from the list. It is worth noting that as of October 2024, there were approximately 1,223 World Heritage Sites in 196 countries worldwide, including 952 cultural, 231 natural, and 40 mixed sites. This day holds special significance in an ancient and multicultural country like India. By April 2025, India had 43 World Heritage Sites (34 cultural, 7 natural, and 2 mixed) and 62 sites on the tentative list. India's major heritage sites include the Taj Mahal, Agra Fort, Fatehpur Sikri, Ajanta-Ellora Caves, Elephanta Caves, Khajuraho Group, Sanchi Stupa, Mahabodhi Temple, Hampi, Mahabalipuram, Jantar Mantar, Qutub Minar, Red Fort, Konark Sun Temple, Nalanda, Bhimbetka, Sundarbans National Park, Kaziranga National Park, Western Ghats, and Kanchenjunga National Park.

Ahead of peak summer, Delhi L-G reviews fire preparedness

New Delhi, (GNS): L-G Taranjit Singh Sandhu on Thursday reviewed the functioning of the Delhi Fire Service and proposed amendments to the Delhi Fire Service Rules, 2010, with a focus on strengthening emergency response systems ahead of the peak summer season.

Chairing a high-level meeting attended by senior officials, including the Chief Secretary and top Fire Department officers, the L-G examined the department's infrastructure



roadmap, manpower augmentation plans and operational preparedness. With temperature set to rise,

he directed heightened vigilance and closely reviewed the Summer Action Plan to tackle fire-related emergencies in the

coming months. A key highlight of the meeting was the push for seamless integration of fire, ambulance and PCR services under a common emergency call number.

Reviewing proposed amendments to the fire safety rules, Sandhu emphasised the need for a citizen-centric approach. The L-G also flagged structural gaps within the department, expressing concern over vacant posts and directing that they be filled on a priority with a clear timeline submitted to his office.

Delhi to set up hi-tech labs in four ITIs

New Delhi, (GNS): Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Thursday announced the launch of state-of-the-art laboratories in four Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) across the Capital, aimed at aligning vocational training with industry requirements and enhancing employability among



nology, welding and electric vehicles (EVs). A dedicated power electronics lab will be set up at ITI-Jahangirpuri, offering training in industrial automation, electrical control systems and renewable energy. Equipped with modern tools such as programmable logic controller (PLC) kits, variable frequency drive (VFD) trainers and solar PV systems, the facility is expected to train around 480 students across multiple trades and function as a centre of excellence in power engineering.

The initiative will see the establishment of new advanced labs and upgrade of existing facilities in key institutes, covering sectors such as power electronics, automotive tech-

Assembly security upgrade on anvil

New Delhi, (GNS): Following a series of bomb threats and a recent security breach at Delhi Assembly, the security cover for speaker Vijender Gupta has been upgraded to the Z category. Several measures are being planned to upgrade the security of the assembly complex too.



entry gate to facilitate mandatory, rigorous checks for all individuals and luggage entering the complex. A CRPF Quick Response Team, along with a vehicle, has been stationed on site to neutralise any potential threat immediately," said an official. The security upgrade reflects a zero-tolerance approach to threats against democratic institutions. "The safety of constitutional heads and the integrity of the assembly premises remain paramount," said the official.

"In coordination with security agencies, the Delhi Assembly premises is undergoing a rigorous security fortification to ensure the safety of all members and staff. Automated boom barriers are being installed at every

stationed on site to neutralise any potential threat immediately," said an official. The security upgrade reflects a zero-tolerance approach to threats against democratic institutions. "The safety of constitutional heads and the integrity of the assembly premises remain paramount," said the official.

1,511 unauthorised DDA colonies to be regularised, with riders

New Delhi, (GNS): Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has issued a notification listing 1,511 colonies, out of 1,731 identified unauthorised ones, where plot owners can apply for regularisation of properties.

The gazette notification, uploaded on the DDA website and approved on April 8, includes colonies such as Prem Nagar, Noor Nagar, Kotta Vihar, Harijan Basti in Masoodpur, Hari Enclave and Balbir Nagar in Kirari

Suleman Nagar, Vashu Vihar in Holambi Kalan and the Aruna Asaf Ali Road stretch parallel to village Kishan Garh, among others.

Ownership rights will not be granted to 69 unauthorised colonies that are termed as "affluent" as well as those properties that were made in reserved or notified forests, areas protected under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958, and Zone-O, which is the Yamuna flood-

plain. In a separate gazette notification, DDA has explained the amendments to National Capital Territory of Delhi (Recognition of Property Rights of Residents in Unauthorised Colonies) Regulations, 2019, that will be used for regularisation of plots that also house convenience shops, or similar scenarios.

"We recognise that many residents of unauthorised colonies belong to lower-income groups and run small convenience stores for a liveli-

hood. Therefore, such mixed-use properties will not be penalised, though certain conditions must be met," a DDA official said.

According to the revised rules, plots with access from roads having a minimum right of way of six metres may have a convenience shop with built-up area up to 20 square metres. Where the road width is less than six metres, the permissible built-up area for such shops will be limited to 10 square metres.

Delhi to add 200 e-buses on Apr 17

New Delhi, (GNS): The Delhi Government will roll out a series of major public transport initiatives on Friday, including the induction of 200 new electric buses, launch of an inter-state e-bus service to Rohtak and inauguration of key infrastructure projects aimed at strengthening sustainable mobility.



Gate and Peeragarhi Chowk, covering key stops such as Tikri Border, Bahadurgarh and Sampla, under the reciprocal transport agreement between Delhi and neighbouring states. Alongside service expansion, a new bus terminal at Madanpur Khadar near Kalindi Kunj Metro station and a modern administrative block at the East Vinod Nagar depot will be inaugurated to improve passenger amenities and operational efficiency.

Alongside service expansion, a new bus terminal at Madanpur Khadar near Kalindi Kunj Metro station and a modern administrative block at the East Vinod Nagar depot will be inaugurated to improve passenger amenities and operational efficiency.

Announcing the move, Transport Minister Pankaj Kumar Singh said the addition of 200 zero-emission buses to the Delhi Transport Corporation fleet will take the total number of buses to around 6,300, including over 4,500 electric buses.

In a push to improve regional connectivity, a new electric bus service between Delhi and Rohtak will also be launched. The route will operate via ISBT Kashmere

Delimitation bill: Since 1951, Hindi belt's Lok Sabha share has fallen more than South's

New Delhi, (GNS): Amid the recurring debate over whether northern states could gain at the expense of the South in any future Lok Sabha expansion, the historical record tells a more complicated story. Between 1951 and 1977, when parliamentary seats were periodically reallocated after Census exercises, both the Hindi belt and the southern states saw their share of Lok Sabha seats decline. But the Hindi belt's share fell by far more - 3.1 percentage points, against a 1.2-point decline for the South.

The main reason was not a gain for the South over the North, or vice versa, but the growing representation of Union Territories and the rising share of western and eastern states. The comparison



also needs to be read with caution: India's map looked very different in 1951, before the linguistic reorganisation of states. By 1956, states were more or less in their present form, but several UTs either had little or no Lok Sabha representation at the time.



Patient threatens to jump from 5th floor at Delhi hospital, rescue operation under way

New Delhi, (GNS): A patient admitted to a private hospital in Delhi's Anand Vihar climbed onto the ledge of a fifth-floor balcony and threatened to jump on Friday morning, Delhi Fire Service (DFS) officials said.

Visuals from the scene showed the man perched on the ledge, while a crowd gathered below. A person was also seen attempting to talk to the patient from a nearby window. It was not immediately known why the man was threatening to jump.

"A call was received at 8.40 am, following which a fire tender was rushed to the spot," a DFS official said. He said the hospital staff, along with bystanders, tried to persuade the man to come down, but he did not relent. Efforts to safely bring down the patient are under way, the officials said.

LG visits Swabhiman Apartments, orders quick fix to residents' grievances

New Delhi, (GNS): Lieutenant governor Taranjit Singh Sandhu on Thursday visited Swabhiman Apartments, a Delhi Development Authority (DDA) housing project at Jailorwala Bagh in Ashok Vihar, and interacted with residents to gather first-hand feedback on living conditions, civic amenities and maintenance issues.

The visit was undertaken in the spirit of citizen-centric governance. Following the interaction, the LG directed the departments concerned to address residents' concerns on priority to ensure a safe, clean and well-maintained living environment.

Swabhiman Apartments is among the flagship housing projects being implemented under the Prime Minister's vision of "Jahan Jhuggi, Wahin Makan", aimed at rehabilitating residents of jhuggi-jhopri clusters through in-situ redevelopment.

"During the visit, residents expressed gratitude to the Prime Minister for enabling them to move from informal settlements into permanent homes with improved civic amenities. However, they also flagged concerns such as seepage in some flats, poor garbage management, irregular functioning of lifts in a few towers, and problems caused by miscreants in the area," an official said.

Taking immediate cognisance of the issues, the LG directed the DDA, district administration and Delhi Police to resolve them on priority. He stressed that Swabhiman Apartments represented transformative infrastructure and that poor maintenance must not be allowed to undermine such landmark initiatives.

GRAP-I curbs in Delhi-NCR as air quality turns 'poor'

New Delhi, (GNS): The Commission for Air Quality Management on Thursday (CAQM) invoked Stage-I of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) across Delhi and National Capital Region after the city's air quality slipped into the "poor" category. Delhi's Air Quality Index (AQI) was recorded at 226, prompting the enforcement of anti-pollution measures under GRAP Stage-I, which comes into force when AQI levels range between 201 and 300. The panel attributed the decline in air quality to unfavourable meteorological conditions and an increasing pollution trend over the past few days. Citing forecasts by the India Meteorological Department, the CAQM said air quality in Delhi and surrounding areas is likely to remain in the "poor" category over the next two days, necessitating immediate preventive action.

Meeting chaired by LG in favour of 36 new fire stations

New Delhi, (GNS): Adding over 36 new fire stations to Delhi's existing 71 - the last one was opened in 2011 - to cater to its growing population is among a raft of plans in the works to strengthen the city's fire-safety mechanism. The other plans, which were discussed at a meeting chaired by LG Taranjit Singh Sandhu on Thursday, are the integration of fire, ambulance and PCR services on a common emergency call number and increasing the number of fire subdivisions from 18 to 39 for increased operational flexibility.

The LG reviewed the functioning of Delhi Fire Service



and directed officials to take lessons from the recent blaze in Palam and similar accidents and modernise firefighting equipment and technology so that such tragedies are not repeated, sources said. "It was flagged in the meeting that Delhi currently has only 71 fire stations,

while a 2011 study noted that at least 107 were needed to effectively cover the expanding city," a fire department official said. Stressing that the exact current requirement must be reassessed scientifically, the LG directed officials to conduct a fresh study while factoring in population growth, urban density and the increase in the number of high-rise buildings to expand the capital's firefighting capability and ensure faster emergency response, the official added.

The LG said that a plan of action should be submitted to this effect at the earliest.

Another official said that

not a single fire station has been opened in the city since 2012 and called the 15-year stagnation a "serious lapse" in critical firefighting infrastructure planning.

In a post on X, Sandhu said his review focused on modernisation, infrastructure upgrades and strengthening personnel capacity to enhance Delhi's emergency response system. "While examining the proposed amendments to the Delhi Fire Service Rules, 2010, (I) emphasised the need for broad-based consultations with residents, businessmen and traders to ensure the framework is inclusive, practical and effective.

'Sleeveless kurta' barred? DU student claims she was stopped from felicitating minister at SRCC 'Nari Shakti' event

New Delhi, (GNS): A Delhi University student has alleged that she was prevented from felicitating Union minister Mansukh Mandaviya at an event on women's empowerment because she was wearing a sleeveless kurta. Videos of the student's claims have been widely shared on social media.

The student, from Daulat Ram College, said she had been invited to participate as the "Minister of Women and Child Development" in a mock parliament, organised at Shri Ram College of Commerce (SRCC) in collaboration with the ministry of youth affairs and sports on April 12. The theme of the event was "Nari Shakti: Viksit Bharat Ki Awaaz".

According to the student, she had received an official communication from the ministry, along with other women participants, inviting her to take part in the programme. The invitation, seen by Media, was sent via WhatsApp, and included details of the venue and date. It stated that "the script will be provided by the

ministry of youth affairs and sports. You are required to prepare accordingly". The message was attributed to Nisha Kumari, identified as district youth officer, Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat).

According to the student, participants were initially asked to attend the programme in traditional attire, such as a sari. However, subsequent messages show participants seeking clarification on the dress code, pointing out that many were travelling by Metro and some from Uttar Pradesh did not have saris. In response, the official indicated that kurtis would be allowed. The student alleged that she was scheduled to deliver a speech, present a draft resolution and felicitate the Union minister. However, she claimed she was stopped during a rehearsal and replaced by another participant for the felicitation segment. "During the run-through, a female ministry official

WESTERN RAILWAY
VARIIOUS WORK
 Divisional Railway Manager (WA), Western Railway, 6th floor, Engg. Deptt., Mumbai Central, Mumbai-400008. Invites Sr. No:1. E-Tender Notice No: BCT/26-27/12 dt.13/04/2026. Work and Location: Santacruz to Virar. Pre-monsoon cleaning and maintaining cleanliness of valley gutter Platform COP for a period of 120 days under the jurisdiction of SSE(W-II)-Borivali for year 2026. Approx. Cost of Work: ₹ 12,39,239.82. EMD: ₹ 24,800/-, Sr. No:2. E-Tender Notice No: BCT/26-27/16 dt.13/04/2026. Work and Location: Mumbai Central Division. Improvements to indicator tiles, direction tiles for Divyangjan passengers surrounding surfaces at stations in Santacruz to Virar section. Approx. Cost of Work: ₹ 2,90,46,901.06. EMD: ₹ 5,80,900/-, Date and Time of Submission of both Tenders: Till 05.05.2026, 15:00 Hrs. Date & Time of Opening of both Tenders: On 05.05.2026 at 15:30 Hrs. For further details please visit our website www.irps.gov.in 1311 Like us on: facebook.com/WesternRly

WESTERN RAILWAY
MAINTENANCE WORK
 Senior Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer(CO), 2nd Floor, Divisional Railway Manager's Office, Mumbai Central, Mumbai-400 008, invites E-Tender No: WR-MMCTStn-STTD-31-2025R1 Dtd. 13/04/2026. Name of Work: Churchgate-Virar: 1) Replacement of TV VDU installed at stations & other locations on age cum condition basis, 2) LED based digital display to cover all booking windows front space to provide digitalized information for passengers & other information along with train arrival/departure, fare etc at stations & 3) Provision of Out Door Passenger Information display system for major station along with six years Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract (CAMC) after 1 year warranty. Cost of Work: ₹ 15,75,61,431.89. Bid Security: ₹ 31,51,200/-. Date & Time for Closure for Submission of E-Tender Documents: Till 05.05.2026, 15:00 Hrs. Date & Time for Opening of E-Tender: After 15:30 hrs. on 05.05.2026. The tender can be viewed at website: http://www.irps.gov.in 1309 Like us on: facebook.com/WesternRly

stopped me and said I could not go on stage to felicitate the minister because I was wearing a sleeveless kurta. I was replaced by another girl.

I objected, pointing to other girls who were wearing sleeveless blouses, but they said it was not 'modest' for felicitating the minister," she alleged, adding, "I later went on to deliver my speech and present the draft resolution in the same outfit, without any objection." Calling the incident "discriminatory", the student said, "A woman has an equal right of representing herself in public spaces, and clothing is a part of one's identity. My sleeveless outfit, which did not violate any stated dress code, is being criticised. This reflects the hypocrisy embedded in our society, where even in the name of 'nari shakti', women's choices are policed."

Delhi govt to set up high-tech labs in 7 cricket stadiums yet to share ground-water compliance data, NGT told

four ITIs to boost job-ready skills

New Delhi, (GNS): In a push to skill development, chief minister Rekha Gupta on Thursday announced that Delhi govt will set up high-tech laboratories in four Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) and upgrade existing facilities to better align vocational training with industry needs and boost job creation.

The initiative will focus on emerging sectors such as power electronics, electric vehicles (EVs), advanced automotive systems, welding and virtual reality (VR)-based simulation to enhance youth employability. "These modern labs will strengthen technical skills and expose trainees to real-world



industrial practices, opening avenues for employment and self-employment," the CM said. A state-of-the-art power electronics lab will be set up at ITI Jahangirpuri to provide hands-on training in industrial

automation, renewable energy systems and electrical control technologies. The facility is expected to train around 480 students across trades including electrician, electronics mechanic and motor vehicle technician.

At ITI Jail Road in Hari Nagar, the welding lab will be upgraded with MIG and TIG welding systems, plasma cutting machines and simulation-based training tools. Nearly 200 trainees are expected to benefit from exposure to modern fabrication techniques and improved safety practices.

Automotive labs at ITI Arab

Ki Sarai in Nizamuddin will be modernised with advanced technology, including VR simulators for driving, welding and painting. New modules on systems such as ABS and airbags will help trainees learn diagnostics of modern vehicles, benefiting over 200 students.

An EV lab will also be established at HJB ITI in Mayur Vihar, focusing on battery management systems, electric motors and charging infrastructure. The facility aims to train around 180 students in next-generation automotive technologies, supporting Delhi's shift towards green mobility.

An official said the initiative aligns with the Centre's Skill India mission and is expected to strengthen industry linkages and job readiness across the capital's ITI network.

New Delhi, (GNS): Central Groundwater Authority (CGWA) has informed National Green Tribunal (NGT) that seven cricket stadiums, including Delhi's Arun Jaitley Stadium, were yet to share compliance data on the utilisation of groundwater and its recharge.

In Jan, 12 cricket stadiums across the country did not share details of the same, with NGT subsequently imposing a fine of Rs 5,000 each. In its latest report, CGWA said while five stadiums had shared data, seven had not yet responded.

"It is submitted that in compliance with directions of NGT, responses have only been received from five stadiums or cricket associations - namely Saurashtra Cricket Association, Himachal Pradesh Cricket Association, Green Park Stadium, Madhya Pradesh Cricket Association and Maharashtra Cricket Association," stated the report. It added the

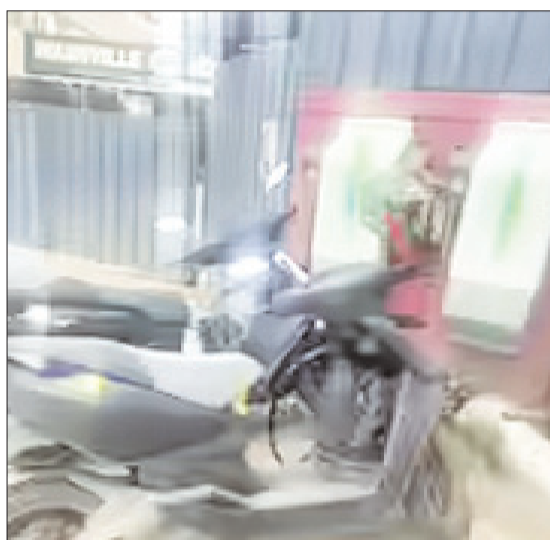


details included data on monthly and yearly usage of the water for irrigating the ground, and the proportion of sewage treatment plant-treated water and fresh water.

NGT is hearing a plea filed in 2021 against the use of groundwater for the maintenance of cricket playgrounds without availing the alternative of using STP-treated water and installing rainwater harvesting systems for storing and recharging groundwater. The plea raised the issue of cricket matches organised for commercial and entertainment purposes without concern for water conservation.

Discoms push charging network for EV expansion in city

New Delhi, (GNS): The power discoms are rapidly scaling up the city's electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure, with BSES facilitating the installation of 1,600 charging points and battery-swapping stations and Tata Power-DDL of 1,641 in 2025-26 - the highest in a single year. The cumulative network of BSES has now crossed 6,500 EV charging points across more than 3,400 locations in south, west, east and central Delhi, while Tata Power-DDL, which supplies power in north and northwest Delhi, has energised 3,783 points so far.



An official of Tata Power-DDL said key demand hubs included Rohini, Pitampura,

Civil Lines, Model Town and Shalimar Bagh. "We plan to facilitate 3,000 more charging stations in the coming year, boosting Delhi's EV ecosystem," he added.

Within the BSES areas, nearly half of the charging points are private, largely driven by residential demand, while the public and captive charging infrastructure is also expanding steadily. The total EV charging load in these areas has surged from 24MW in 2018-19 to over 227MW, and is projected to touch 375MW in the

next two years.

Power minister Ashish Sood said Delhi govt had placed the draft EV policy in the public domain and was actively strengthening the entire EV ecosystem. "Adequate budgetary provisions have been made and there will be no shortage of funds in driving this transition," he said. "Our focus is to facilitate EV users by ensuring seamless access to charging infrastructure and reliable services. We are committed to fast-tracking Delhi's shift to clean and sustainable mobility by rapidly expanding EV charging points and battery-swapping stations," he added. "At the same time, efforts are underway to

upgrade the power transmission and distribution network to meet the rising demand."

Sood said the significant addition of charging infrastructure by discoms over the past year reflected govt's sustained push to eliminate range anxiety. "Through this scale-up, in close collaboration with discoms, we aim to build a robust ecosystem that supports growing EV adoption, reduces pollution and positions Delhi as a leader in electric mobility," he emphasised. Electric vehicles now account for 14-15% of new vehicle registrations in the city, significantly higher than the national average of about 8%.



DMRC worker killed as loader overturns at site in Delhi

New Delhi, (GNS): A 23-year-old worker engaged in a drain-cleaning project under the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation died after the backhoe loader he was operating overturned near Dayal Singh College in South Delhi, with the police citing possible safety lapses at the site.

The incident took place on Wednesday, when a PCR call was received at the Lodhi Colony police station about an accident during drain cleaning work, the police said.

On reaching the spot, the police found that the operator, Abhishek, a resident of Etah in Uttar Pradesh, had sustained critical injuries after being trapped under the machine. He was rushed to the AIIMS Trauma Centre, where he was declared brought dead, an official said.

According to a statement issued by the DMRC, the operator, employed with contractors M/s KR Anand, was hauling debris at Sunheri Nallah when he failed to apply the brake in time. The machine crossed a cut-out and its front wheel slipped into the opening, causing it to tilt and overturn.

The police, however, said preliminary inquiry indicated that the machine lost balance while pushing heavy stones into a drain around 16 feet deep. The edge of the drain was unstable and not reinforced, and safety measures at the site were found to be inadequate, contributing to the accident.

The work was being carried out under a government project through the DMRC, which had assigned it to M/s K R Anand. The machine involved in the incident had been hired from M/s Milestone Earthcon Pvt Ltd, the police said.

A crime team inspected the site and a case was registered at the Lodhi Colony police station under relevant provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita.

Delhi family locks up cops in home helps sexual assault suspect escape



New Delhi, (GNS): In north Delhi's Sarai Rohilla, a routine inquiry in a sexual assault case allegedly turned into a coordinated domestic operation, facilitating the escape of a suspect.

After calling police to its fourth-floor residence, the family allegedly initiated a 'lock-in' sequence, trapping two police personnel behind locked gates. By the time back-

up reached the spot, the suspect had allegedly escaped through an upper-storey window, disappearing into the night.

The drama unfolded around 7:30pm on April 8. A sub-inspector and a head constable went to the accused's house on his son's plea that his father, a man facing allegations of sexual harassment and extortion, was too unwell

to come to the police station. The officers found the suspect waiting, flanked by his family that appeared too friendly, said police.

As the officers began their questioning, one son slipped away towards the main entrance, the heavy click of a lock signalling that the officers were trapped inside.

The suspect also suddenly claimed a desperate need to go to the washroom and the family insisted that he be allowed to go upstairs. Even as the sub-inspector signalled his colleague to follow the suspect, the man's wife managed to block his way.

Amid the chaos, the other son of the couple managed to whisk the suspect to the upper floor and locked the entrance to it, while the wife secured the gate to their floor.

SFI sweeps Ambedkar varsity student polls



New Delhi, (GNS): The Students' Federation of India (SFI) emerged as the dominant force in the Ambedkar University Delhi Student Council (AUDSC) elections - 2026, securing a clear majority across campuses and winning 21 seats.

As per the results, the SFI won 13 seats at the Kashmere Gate campus, gaining majority in the 25-member council. At the Karampura campus, it secured five out of the seven

seats it contested, while at the Lodhi Road campus, it won three out of four seats. Overall, the organisation outperformed rival student groups, including the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) and the All-India Students' Association (AISA).

With this victory, SFI has continued its winning streak at Ambedkar University, Delhi, maintaining its dominance in the student council elections since its inception in 2018.

Delhi govt schools outshine national average with 97.23% pass rate

New Delhi, (GNS): Delhi government schools have once again raised the bar in academic performance, recording an impressive 97.23 pass percentage in the CBSE Class X results 2026, comfortably surpassing the national average of 93.70%.

The results also mark a steady rise from last year's 94.64%, underlining consistent improvement across the system. Education Minister Ashish Sood congratulated students, teachers and parents, calling the achievement a reflection of sustained reforms and a strong academic ecosystem. "The number of schools achieving 100% results rose by 52% - from 300 to 457. Schools crossing the 90% mark grew by 75% - from 529 to 924, a system wide transformation," Sood said.

The scale of improvement has been significant. As many as 457 schools recorded a perfect 100% pass rate this year,



up sharply from 300 last year. Similarly, the number of schools with over 90% results jumped to 924, indicating a broad based surge in performance rather than isolated excellence.

Out of the 1,88,460 students who appeared for the exams, 1,83,246 successfully passed. In terms of high achievers, 26 students scored above 95%, while 540 students secured between 90% and 95%.

Another 5,202 students scored in the 80% to 90% bracket. Girls once again led the way, outperforming boys with a pass percentage of 97.37% compared to 97.09%.

"Our girls lead with 97.37% pass percentage, a matter of great pride for Delhi," Sood added. The government has also taken steps to support girls' education further, allocating Rs. 90 crore to provide bicycles free of cost to around

1.3 lakh Class IX girl students, ensuring that distance does not become a barrier to schooling. Behind the strong results lies a push towards modern infrastructure and digital learning. This year alone, 9,000 smart classrooms have been added, with a larger target of 21,000 in sight. The system is also supported by 175 computer labs and 125 digitised libraries, expanding access to technology-driven education.

Additionally, 75 CM SHRI Schools are emerging as model institutions, equipped with AI-powered language and career labs aimed at preparing students for future challenges beyond textbooks. With an education budget of Rs 19,148 crore, the Delhi Government continues to focus on building an inclusive and future-ready education system, one that delivers not just better results, but better opportunities for every student.

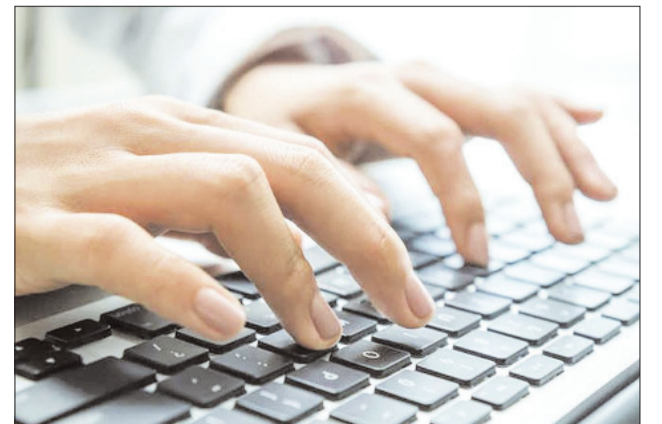
Former banker's viral video on 'toxic' work culture sparks debate

New Delhi, (GNS): A 24-year-old former banker and an IIT graduate, Chirag Madaan, has sparked a debate on workplace practices in the banking sector after a video explaining his resignation went viral on social media.

In the video, posted on March 10, Madaan said he quit his Rs 17-lakh per annum job citing a "toxic" work culture and intense sales pressure. "I left it because of two reasons - culture and mistakes," he said, adding that what was expected to be a "9-to-5" job often stretched to "9-to-7" with a six-day work week. "We don't even have time to have lunch... we are expected to eat in 15 minutes and get back to work," he said.

He also pointed to the pressure to meet steep targets. "Sales is the only job, they said... they expected us to bring Rs 10 crore deals every month," he said, adding that failure to meet targets created a stressful environment.

Madaan raised concerns over selling costly financial products. "You



are expected to sell trading apps at Rs 10,000 a year when platforms like Zerodha and Groww are available for free," he said. "I can't even convince myself on why the apps are good and why I should recommend these to a customer."

Highlighting ethical concerns, he added, "I wouldn't even recommend that to my father." The video has since gained traction online, triggering conversations around work-life balance, sales practices and employee well-being in the banking sector. Many users also commented on how they left their own jobs for similar reasons.