



Mamata Banerjee said the PM campaigned during his national address; she will complain to the Election Commission

Modi said those who oppose reservations should be punished with votes

Kolkata/Chennai(GNS): West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee accused Prime Minister Modi of "misusing" government machinery for political propaganda. Addressing an election rally in Tarakeswar, Hooghly district, Banerjee said Modi used his address to the nation regarding the women's reservation bill to promote the BJP. "We will file a complaint with the Election Commission," she said. Meanwhile, PM Modi, while addressing an election rally in Bishnupur, West Bengal, said, "The Trinamool government has betrayed the daughters of Bengal. Women will surely punish them in the upcoming assembly elections." He also said that the Mamata Banerjee government in Bengal does not want a large number of Bengal's daughters to become MPs. Therefore, it



did not allow the law related to reservation to be passed in Parliament. **Modi said - nothing changed in the 15 years of TMC government:**The PM said, "It's been 15 years since Trinamool's brutality began in Bengal. In these 15 years, our India has progressed from 3G to 5G. New cities have sprung up in many states. Metro has reached more than two dozen cities across the country."

India has hoisted the tricolor on the Moon's South Pole. In 15 years, India has become the world's third-largest startup ecosystem. But under this cruel TMC government, nothing has changed in these 15 years. **Mamata said - PM promoted BJP in his address to the nation:**Mamata Banerjee accused PM Modi of "misusing" government machinery for political propaganda. Addressing an election rally in Tarakeswar in Hooghly district, Mamata said Modi used his address to the nation regarding the women's reservation bill to promote the BJP. "We will file a complaint with the Election Commission," she said.

Election Commission takes strict action against misleading content on social media, directs action

New Delhi(GNS): The Election Commission has directed strict action against misleading content spread on social media during the assembly elections in five states and by-elections in eight constituencies. The Commission stated that all stakeholders must ensure responsible and ethical use of digital platforms in accordance with the provisions of the Information Technology Act, 2000, the IT Rules, 2021, and the Model Code of Conduct. According to the Election Commission, social media platforms must take action within three hours on any misleading, artificially generated, or manipulated content. Additionally, political parties, candidates, and campaign representatives must ensure that artificially generated or altered content is clearly marked as "artificially generated" or "digitally



modified," and its source is also disclosed. The Commission stated that social media content is being monitored during the ongoing assembly elections in Assam, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, and West Bengal. The relevant authorities are taking action against content that violates the code of conduct, impacts law and order, or spreads misleading information about the voting process. The Election Commission stated that since the announcement of the elections on March 15th, over 11,000 objectionable social media posts and URLs have been identified and action has been taken against them. These include removing content, filing FIRs, seeking clarifications, and rebuttals. Furthermore, the Commission reiterated the provisions of Section 126 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, stating that any form of election campaigning will be prohibited during the 48-hour silence period prior to the end of voting, and all media outlets must strictly adhere to this.

Militants kill two in Manipur; fire on moving vehicle

Investigation handed over to NIA; search operation underway



New Delhi(GNS): Two people, including a retired army man, were shot dead in Manipur's Ukhrul district around 2:30 pm on Saturday. SW Chinaoshang (46) and Yeruingam Vashum (42) were travelling from Imphal to Ukhrul when militants suddenly opened fire on their vehicle. A day before the incident, Chief Minister Yumnam Khemchand Singh had visited Ukhrul and appealed to the Kuki and Naga communities to maintain peace and dialogue. The investigation into the case has been handed over to the National Investigation Agency (NIA). Security forces have launched a search operation to find the attackers. Appeals have been made to all communities to maintain peace and not succumb to any provocation.

Temperatures reached 45°C in Wardha, Maharashtra, and Rajnandgaon, Chhattisgarh

Night heatwave alert for Chhattisgarh, Odisha, and Jharkhand, with temperatures exceeding 40°C for the third consecutive day

New Delhi(GNS): A severe heatwave has begun in the northwestern states and central India. On Saturday, temperatures reached 45°C in Rajnandgaon, Chhattisgarh, and Wardha, Maharashtra. The 10 hottest cities in the country on Saturday included Banda in Uttar Pradesh at 44.6°C, Adilabad in Telangana at 44.3°C, Nagpur-Amravati in Maharashtra at 44.2°C and Ratlam in Madhya Pradesh at 44°C. Temperatures exceeded 43°C in several cities in Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Telangana, and Chhattisgarh. This means temperatures have risen significantly even before May. The Meteorological Department has issued a heatwave alert for Chhattisgarh, Odisha, and Jharkhand tonight as well. In fact, temperatures in these states have exceeded 40°C for the third consecutive day. Coolers have been installed in Ranchi, Jharkhand, to protect zoo animals from the heat. Schools have been closed in nine districts of Odisha.

Tamil Nadu fireworks factory explosion kills 16

Incident in Virudhunagar, 6 injured, several buried under rubble; cracks also appear in nearby buildings



Virudhunagar(GNS): An explosion occurred at a fireworks factory in Tamil Nadu's Virudhunagar district on Sunday. According to the Fire and Rescue Department, 16 bodies have been recovered so far. Six people were taken to hospital with serious injuries, while several others are feared trapped under the debris. The explosion was so powerful that cracks have reportedly appeared in buildings surrounding the factory. Firefighters, police, and rescue teams are on the scene, clearing debris and rescuing trapped victims. The cause of the explosion is currently unclear.

CM Stalin expressed grief
Tamil Nadu CM MK Stalin wrote on Twitter: "The news of the loss of many lives in this accident is deeply saddening. I express my deepest condolences to the families of the deceased." The Chief Minister has directed ministers to immediately go to the scene. He has also spoken with the District Collector to provide all necessary assistance and coordinate efforts.

Bus falls into 200-foot-deep ravine two women killed; 31 injured

Pulled out by rope made from clothes; vehicle was running without insurance or fitness

Ajmer(GNS):In Ajmer, a bus carrying passengers plunged 200 feet into a ravine. Two women were killed and 31 others were injured. The Pushkar-bound bus was carrying 33 passengers. They were on their way to Pisangan (Ajmer) to pay their respects. During this time, the bus went out of control in the Pushkar Valley. The accident occurred around 12 noon on Sunday, about 3 kilometers east of Pushkar. Passersby fashioned a rope out of clothing and pulled the injured out of the ravine. All passengers were first taken to the government hospital in Pushkar. From there, they were referred to JLN Hospital in Ajmer.

Model Harsha Richharia takes sanyas in Ujjain

will now be known as Swami Harshanand Giri, renounces past life with Pind Daan

Ujjain(GNS): Social media influencer, content creator, and model Harsha Richharia took sanyas (renunciation) on Sunday, Akshaya Tritiya. She was initiated into sanyas by Mahamandaleshwar Swami Sumnanand Giri Maharaj, head of the Panchayati Niranjani Akhara, at the Mouni Tirtha Ashram in Ujjain. According to the tradition of renunciation, he was given the ritual of renunciation of the Shikha and Danda. He also underwent the rituals of Tarpan, Pind Daan, and Shraddha, which symbolize the renunciation of the previous life and the beginning of a new spiritual life. After religious rituals, Harsha Richharia embraced renunciation and was given the new name Swami Harshananda Giri. Speaking on the occasion, Swami Harshananda Giri said that this is a new chapter in her life. Under Gurudev's guidance, she has embraced the path of renunciation and has resolved to dedicate her life to the service of religion, culture,



The Supreme Court issued nationwide road safety guidelines

Expressways should not become danger corridors; heavy vehicles should not be parked on these roads

New Delhi(GNS): The Supreme Court has issued several guidelines across the country to improve road safety. These guidelines include prohibiting parking of heavy vehicles on roads like expressways. The court stated that expressways should not become danger corridors due to administrative sluggishness or infrastructure deficiencies. A bench of Justices JK Maheshwari and AS Chandurkar directed the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, National



Highways Authority of India (NHAI) and states and union territories to make the roads safe. The bench pointed out that national highways constitute only 2% of India's total road length, but account for nearly 30% of the total road accident deaths. These directions came to light on April 13, when the court was hearing a case filed following the deaths of 34 people in a series of road accidents in Phalodi, Rajasthan, and Rangareddy, Telangana, on November 2 and 3, 2025.

COVID-19: Supreme Court's decision is a balm for wounds

Mustaali Bohra

Amid the ongoing war between Israel, the United States, and Iran, important news was overshadowed. This news is related to the Supreme Court's decision regarding COVID-19. Just a few days ago, while hearing petitions, the Supreme Court directed the central government to formulate a "policy for compensation without fixing blame" in cases of serious side effects following COVID-19 vaccination. The Supreme Court stated that when a vaccination program is run as a state-run public health initiative, the government cannot shirk its responsibility to families who allege death or serious side effects following vaccination. The court also noted that government data itself acknowledges that some deaths have occurred following

COVID-19 vaccination, so affected families cannot be left without any relief. A Supreme Court bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta stated that Article 21 of the Constitution (right to life) cannot be viewed solely from the perspective of fault or negligence. The Supreme Court directed the central government to formulate a "no-fault compensation policy" for serious adverse events following COVID-19 vaccination. The order was issued while hearing several petitions, including Rachna Gangu vs. Union of India, filed by families alleging death or serious health problems following vaccination. The court stated that the vaccination program during the pandemic was part of the state's constitutional responsibility and saved many lives. However, if government data shows that some people have died

or suffered serious side effects, the state cannot completely absolve itself of the consequences. The petitioners cited international research that suggested that the AstraZeneca platform (of which Covishield is the Indian version) had led to cases of rare blood clotting problems, and that insufficient information about these risks had been made public. The Supreme Court noted that scientifically proving the cause of harm in large-scale vaccination programs is often complex. In such a situation, legal remedies based solely on proving negligence are insufficient, as this places a heavy burden on affected families and can lead to inconsistent outcomes. The court also noted that several countries, such as the UK, Australia, and Japan, have no-fault compensation schemes for vaccine-related side

effects, providing financial assistance to affected individuals without lengthy legal proceedings. It should be noted that in a counter-affidavit filed in court in 2022, the central government stated that vaccination was voluntary and that people had made their own decisions based on knowledge of the risks, and therefore, the government was not obligated to provide compensation. According to the government, people had made their own decisions based on knowledge of the potential risks. Readers will recall that whenever news of deaths due to adverse effects of the COVID vaccine surfaced, the government often attributed the deaths to gymnastics or dance. Or, sometimes, the deceased had a pre-existing medical condition, such as heart disease. Or the death was said to be

due to TB or some similar disease. Readers should be informed that the Department of Pathology and Forensic Medicine at AIIMS, Delhi, conducted the study from May 2023 to April 2024. This study was published in the Indian Journal of Medical Research. It examined sudden deaths, excluding those caused by murder, suicide, and drug abuse. Over 150 cases of deaths among people aged 19-45 and 46-65 were examined. The study found that two-thirds of deaths among young people were due to heart disease. Atherosclerotic coronary artery disease, meaning blockage of more than 70 percent of the heart's arteries, was found in the majority of these deaths. Respiratory diseases, such as pneumonia and tuberculosis, were found in one-third of young deaths.

Editorial

The new weapon of hate politics: Pet pigs

Some Hindu families in Delhi's Trinagar area have devised a new way of worship. One advantage is that it annoys and distresses their Muslim neighbors.

Some families in this area are keeping pigs in cages in their homes these days and posting posters of deities with pig-like faces adorned with jewelry on the outer walls. This is happening in settlements near Muslim settlements. The caged pigs are given names like Abdul, Rehman, or something similar, and whenever a Muslim passes by, they are loudly called by these names. Alongside this is a decorated, bejeweled image of Lord Varaha, considered the third incarnation of Vishnu. Some say this trend began a year ago, while others say it's only a few months old. Muslims' dislike for pigs is well-known. Clearly, this is a new way to provoke Muslims. Such tactics are often used to drive a wedge of hatred between communities.

We don't know which fertile and hate-filled mind devised this idea, nor do we know whether this is confined to one slum in Delhi or is happening elsewhere. But there is a real danger that this latest tool of social division will be used in new areas and will become a new weapon in the arsenal of those who spread hatred and violence through it.

Islamophobia has become a global trend since 9/11. The American media fueled it with phrases like "Islamic terrorism." It's interesting and eye-opening that something similar happened in New York in front of Mayor Zohran Mamdani's home. Last month, MAGA supporters roasted a pig in front of Mamdani's office. But the most interesting thing about these incidents is that they are based on ignorance and misunderstanding. Hindus and Christians can eat as much pork as they want and keep pigs as pets - Muslims have no problem with this.

Over the past few years, the use of pigs to vitiate the atmosphere has diminished somewhat. Cows remained the primary issue. Pigs were used by communal forces during the freedom struggle. At that time, both cows and pigs were used extensively to incite violence. We remember Govind Nihalani's serial "Tamas," based on a book by Bhisam Sahni.

Changing Voters, Changing Politics - Democratic Struggle, Policy Uncertainty and Public Psychology

Advocate Kishan Sanmudas Bhavani

Comprehensive global analysis of parliamentary events for April 16-17, 2026 Today's citizen and voter also raises questions on the evaluation of the government's actions, the policy intentions behind them, time-scheduling and procedural transparency. The public is now focusing not only on "what happened" but also on "how and why" it happened. This changing mindset is posing a new challenge to the credibility of political parties.

In the global digital age, the behaviour of the Indian voter is no longer merely emotional or traditional, but has become highly analytical and outcome-driven. Today's citizen not only evaluates the government's actions but also questions the policy intent, timing, and procedural transparency behind them. This is why if a government does ten good things and one decision goes against public expectations, the impact of that one decision can outweigh the remaining achievements. The parliamentary events of April 16-17, 2026, have highlighted this new political consciousness, where the public is assessing not just the results but also the legitimacy and transparency of the process. I, Advocate Kishan Sanmukhdas Bhavani, Gondia, Maharashtra, believe that the two days of 16-17 April 2026 were recorded as a turning point in the Indian parliamentary history. On one hand, a notification was issued to implement the Nari Shakti Vandan Act 2023, which had already become an Act after the President's signature, at midnight on 16 April 2026. On the other hand, an attempt was made to pass three important bills by combining them together by suspending Rule 66 under the parliamentary procedure. A total of 528 MPs voted in the Lok Sabha, in which 298 votes were cast in favor and 230 against, but the two-thirds majority was not achieved.

The bill was defeated by a vote of 54. This was not merely a legislative failure, but rather a symbol of a deeper conflict between political strategy, constitutional process, and ideological differences.

Friends, if we consider the question swirling in the public's mind: transparency versus political strategy, this development has raised several important questions. If Presidential approval was already granted in 2023, why wasn't it implemented immediately? When there was broad opposition consensus on the issue of women's reservation, why was it linked to contentious issues like delimitation and increasing the number of seats?

These questions indicate that the public is now focusing not just on "what happened," but also on "how and why." This shifting mindset is precisely posing a new challenge to the credibility of political parties.

Friends, if we consider this entire episode as a crisis of policy continuity from the perspective of global investors, India's economic reputation and outlook. International investors and institutional investors, when investing in any country, not only look at economic data, but also attach equal importance to political stability and policy continuity. When a major constitutional amendment bill fails in Parliament, it signals that the government lacks sufficient numbers or political consensus. In this context, institutions like the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank also view such developments seriously. This impacts a country's risk profile (risk perception), which can have an immediate impact on foreign capital inflows. Stock Market Psychology: Uncertainty is based on the immediate impact of uncertainty; the stock market is fundamentally based on expectations and confidence. When major government bills fail, uncertainty increases among investors. This can result in short-term declines or volatility. Especially when the market is already in a downtrend, such political events further exacerbate investor concerns. Foreign institutional investors often temporarily reduce their investments in such situations, which can accelerate a very sharp decline in the market. Friends, if we consider the credibility of political decisions, then the government's midnight imposition of legislation, suspending parliamentary rules, and combining multiple bills all leave limited options for the opposition. While this may be effective from a strategic perspective, it could also raise questions about the government's policy transparency and credibility. Global investors view such signals as "policy risk," which can impact long-term investment decisions.

Friends, if we consider the connection between women's empowerment and economic development, it's clearly evident on the ground

that political empowerment promotes social and economic development. Increasing women's representation leads to improvements in education, health, and social welfare, which in turn accelerates overall economic growth.

Friends, if we look at the female labor force participation rate in India, it has increased, but it is still significantly lower than that of men. If this gap is narrowed, economic growth could increase significantly. According to the World Bank, improving female labor force participation to 50 percent could increase India's GDP growth rate by approximately 1 percentage point per year. In the context of an economy currently estimated at approximately \$4 trillion, this translates to an additional economic value of approximately \$40 billion. This data demonstrates that women's empowerment is not only a matter of social justice, but also a sound economic strategy. Friends, if we talk about political instability and understanding investor confidence, India has moved towards Vision 2047, the fall of the bill on April 17, 2026 can be seen as a warning signal for foreign investors. Generally, investors prefer stable and strong governments, where policy decisions can be implemented quickly and clearly. However, if the government continues other economic reforms, this negative impact may be limited in the long run.

Friends, if we consider the topic of "Quick-Commerce vs. Traditional Economy: The New Economic Conflict," India's economy is currently experiencing an interesting conflict: on one hand, a rapidly growing startup ecosystem, and on the other, a traditional grocery and retail network. Platforms like Zepto, Blinkit, and Swiggy Instamart have created intense competition in the market. The All India Consumer Products Distributors Federation has expressed concerns about these companies, saying their aggressive pricing strategies are harming traditional businesses. The risk for IPOs and investors is that if loss-making companies launch IPOs at high valuations, it could pose risks for retail investors.

Is BJP sure to win the elections in four states?

Sanat Jain

NDA will win on the women reservation narrative

The central government and the BJP have effectively trapped the opposition. Given the situation, following the defeat of the Delimitation Bill in Parliament, the BJP has created the issue of women's reservation for the Tamil Nadu and West Bengal elections. Given the BJP's attacks on the All India Alliance and the Congress during the election campaign, it can be said that the BJP has successfully created the narrative it wanted to win the four state assembly elections with a clear majority. Voting for the 294-member West Bengal Assembly will take place on April 23 and 29. Voting for the 234 seats in Tamil Nadu is scheduled for April 23. Voting has already taken

place in Assam, Kerala, and Puducherry on April 9. As part of a well-planned strategy, the BJP convened a three-day special session of Parliament to amend the Delimitation Bill. Instead of promoting the Delimitation Bill as a Women's Reservation Bill, the government has promoted it as a Women's Reservation Bill. They knew the opposition would not accept the delimitation bill and that it would not be passed in the Lok Sabha. Following this, a well-planned narrative would be created to win elections in Tamil Nadu and West Bengal on the issue of women's reservation, drawing support from female voters. The BJP is working under this same strategy. Previously, the narrative the BJP had created on the issue of triple talaq, in the name of female voters, secured a signifi-

cant number of Muslim women's votes in Muslim-majority areas of Uttar Pradesh and other states. The BJP claimed that Muslim women would vote for the BJP. The BJP also developed a similar narrative in the assembly elections in Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Haryana, and Bihar. Despite massive grassroots opposition, the BJP achieved unexpected victories in all these states. The BJP achieved victory by building on this narrative in each state. The Election Commission also played a major role in this. This time, the BJP has been continuously working on the West Bengal and Tamil Nadu elections for the past year. The Central Election Commission initiated the SIR game a few months before the assembly elections. A large number of votes are added and deleted in SIR. In

Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, and Rajasthan, the voter count was increased after polling and before counting, but SIR was not conducted in those states at that time. The number of voters did increase significantly before the counting. After the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, the Election Commission has introduced a new SIR strategy. A large number of voters were deleted in Bihar. Now, the same game has been played in West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, and other states. SIR was not conducted in Assam. West Bengal and Tamil Nadu were the BJP's targets this time. The BJP's political maneuvering, which involved calling a special session of Parliament just before the elections and linking the Delimitation Bill to the Women's Reservation Bill, has led to the TMC, Congress, and DMK being targeted

after the Delimitation Bill was defeated and linked to the Women's Reservation Bill. This discussion has since begun. This time, the narrative is the Women's Reservation Bill. The BJP has devised a strategy to promote its victory in four states by linking it to women. Assam already has a BJP government, and Kerala has a Communist government. There are speculations that a Congress government will be formed here this time. In Tamil Nadu, the BJP has formed an alliance with the Anna DMK. The BJP is claiming victory for the NDA alliance in Tamil Nadu. Mamata Banerjee is completely cornered in West Bengal. This time, the BJP has received overwhelming support from women in the West Bengal elections. Based on this, they have already begun building a winning atmosphere.

Delhi CM conducts surprise inspection of Metro Phase-4 works

New Delhi, (GNS): Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Saturday carried out a surprise inspection of the ongoing Phase-4 construction work of the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation at RK Ashram Marg Metro station, directing officials to strictly adhere to timelines while maintaining high standards of quality and safety.

During the visit, the Chief Minister reviewed the progress of the project and said the RK Ashram Marg station was being developed as a major interchange hub connecting the Blue Line with the Magenta Line. The station forms a crucial part of the 28.92-km Line-8 corridor from Janakpuri West to RK Ashram Marg.

Gupta said portions of Phase-4, including stretches between Janakpuri West and Krishna Park Extension, and Deepali Chowk to Majlis Park, have already been opened, while work on the remaining



sections is progressing rapidly. The corridor is expected to pass through densely populated areas of West, North and Central Delhi, helping reduce travel time, decongest roads and lower pollution levels.

Highlighting the engineering chal-

lenges, she noted that the project includes nearly 7 km of twin tunnels and six underground stations, including Derawal Nagar, Ghanta Ghar, Pulbangash, Sadar Bazar, Nabi Karim and RK Ashram Marg, constructed under complex conditions. She

praised the execution of technically demanding tasks such as tunnelling beneath active railway lines near Sabzi Mandi and constructing an underground station in the congested Sadar Bazar area without disrupting daily life.

The Chief Minister said advanced technologies and stringent safety protocols are being used to tackle difficult geological conditions, including hard rock and waterlogged soil, ensuring minimal disruption to surface traffic.

Emphasising the strategic importance of the project, Gupta said the Magenta Line will be extended from RK Ashram Marg to Inderlok via Indraprastha to strengthen connectivity to key areas, including the Central Vista. The extension will comprise a 9.91-km stretch from RK Ashram Marg to Indraprastha and an 11.9-km stretch from Indraprastha to Inderlok.

Five arrested for one crore heist

New Delhi, (GNS): Five people, including a woman, have been arrested in connection with a burglary case involving jewellery worth around Rs 1 crore in east Delhi's Madhu Vihar area. A house was broken into at Arya Nagar Apartments; the complainant had locked the house on March 31 and returned the next day to find the locks broken. Gold, diamond and silver jewellery worth about Rs 1 crore, along with nearly Rs 12 lakh in cash, were found missing.

DCP (east) Rajee Kumar said, "Two teams were formed to investigate the case. CCTV footage from the area and adjoining stretches was examined, and the movement of suspects was tracked over several kilometres. Based on technical inputs and local information, the two accused were first arrested on April 8. Another accused was held on April 10, following which two more, including a goldsmith who allegedly received stolen property, were apprehended."

The accused have been identified as Babloo (36), who works in a factory, Rampal (38), who works as a painter, Vishal (34), who helps load tempos, a housewife, Pinky (35) and the goldsmith, Ravi Soni (31). Some of the jewellery and cash were seized along with tools used in the burglary.



Minister inaugurates link road

New Delhi, (GNS): Delhi Minister for Social Welfare and MLA from Bawana, Ravinder Indraj Singh on Saturday inaugurated a newly constructed link road connecting Sultanpur Dabas to Hanuman Mandir on Kanjhawala Road, aimed at improving connectivity and easing commute in the area. The newly developed stretch is expected to benefit local residents as well as daily commuters by providing a direct and smoother route, reducing travel time and improving traffic flow in the outer Delhi region.

Sultanpur Dabas, a village in the Bawana Assembly constituency, had long awaited infrastructural upgrades, with residents stating that the area had seen limited development over the past two decades despite repeated assurances by successive governments. According to locals, development work has picked up pace in recent years, with projects worth around Rs 20 crore undertaken in the area, leading to visible improvements in infrastructure and living conditions. Residents expressed satisfaction over the completion of the road, saying it has brought much-needed relief and better connectivity, and marked a significant step towards development in the village. Speaking at the inauguration, Singh said such initiatives are aligned with the broader vision of building a "Viksit Delhi, Harit Delhi".

Child shouldn't bear cost of parental discord, says court dismissing plea against maintenance order

New Delhi, (GNS): Holding that a father's financial capacity must translate into a life of dignity and opportunity for his child, a Delhi court dismissed a husband's appeal challenging a Rs 50,000 monthly ad-interim maintenance order.

Observing that "a child does not choose the discord of her parents, yet bears its deepest consequences," additional sessions judge Anuj Agrawal ruled that the duty to provide persists regardless of the mother's financial independence. The appeal, filed by Gaurav Agarwal, was rejected, with the court finding the awarded amount reasonable and justified.

The court also noted that the law not only steps in to resolve disputes between parties, but also ensures that "the child is not deprived of dignity, security, and opportunity." "The financial capacity of the father cannot remain a mere abstraction; it must translate into a life of reasonable comfort and development for the child who is his progeny," the court observed.

The case arose from Gaurav Agarwal's challenge to a Feb 2026 order directing him to pay Rs 50,000 per month as ad-interim maintenance for his minor child. He argued that the amount was "excessive," citing his former spouse's financial independence and his own liabilities, while also raising issues such as inflated expenses and other disputes. The court, however, held that the impugned order was a purely "ad-interim arrangement" passed at a preliminary stage to ensure the immediate sustenance of the child, with the main application for interim maintenance still pending. At this stage, it noted, only a prima facie assessment of financial capacity and the child's immediate needs is required, and not a detailed examination of contested facts.

Ex-Union minister Vijay Goel calls for citizen-led action on stray dogs

New Delhi, (GNS): Raising concerns over the growing stray dog menace in the Capital, former Union minister Vijay Goel on Saturday urged residents to actively report cases through the MCD 311 App, pitching it as part of a citizen-led campaign to address dog bites, safety concerns and civic disorder.

In a post on social media platform X, Goel said, "No longer silent on the growing problem of stray dogs in Delhi - solutions are essential now. Raise your voice against dog bites, public safety and disorder through public participation. File a complaint on the MCD 311 App; if no action



is taken within 72 hours, let us know. This public campaign is for your safety and resolution." The appeal triggered mixed reactions online, with several users questioning the effectiveness of grievance

redressal mechanisms and the pace of action on complaints.

One user wrote, "If you complain about this, you get a resolution after 3 months, and even that is not 100% guaranteed. You're the nonsense. Go check the ratings, Goyal Sahab."

Another user highlighted safety concerns in residential areas, stating, "Satsang road Nihal Vihar - there are so many dogs in every street, mostly lying on the road and barking and fighting among themselves. I request the authorities to send them away. I also fear being bitten."

A third user criticised the approach, saying, "'Stray dog menace' is just a cover for administrative failure. If you cared, you'd talk about ABC programmes, shelters, and vaccinations - not hashtags. Accountability matters. What have you actually delivered?"

Another comment read, "What are the ABC centres in Delhi doing? You have a budget for the welfare of these dogs. What has your government done to ensure proper centres are made? Dogs are not the problem, corrupt officials are."

Goel, who has been vocal on the issue, has also interacted with residents from areas such as Vishwas Nagar, encourag-

ing them to file complaints through the app and warning that inaction could lead to a larger public movement.

Meanwhile, concerns persist over the response of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi to the issue. Despite submitting an affidavit before the Supreme Court of India, outlining measures to tackle the stray dog population, progress on implementation has remained slow.

Key initiatives, including installation of boards at designated dog-feeding points across the city, are yet to be fully completed, even as residents continue to flag safety concerns and rising instances of dog bites.

Serving CBI joint director guilty of abuse of power during 2000 raid

New Delhi, (GNS): Holding that the accused acted "mala fide" and in "sheer violation of the powers bestowed upon them by law" to "frustrate and nullify" a tribunal order, a court has convicted Ramneesh Geer, currently a CBI joint director, and VK Pandey, a retired inspector, of assault, criminal trespass and mischief during a pre-dawn raid in 2000.

Judicial magistrate first class Shashank Nandan Bhatt said, "This court has no hesitation in holding that the entire search and arrest proceedings conducted by the accused persons on 19.10.2000 were mala fide and conducted in abuse of power vested upon them by law with the sole objective of nullifying the order dated 28.09.2000." He further noted that their actions were a



"deliberate attempt aimed at denying the complainant the fruits" of a Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) order.

Ashok Aggarwal, a 1985-batch IRS officer, had alleged sustained interference while probing sensitive FERA matters involving influential people and made multiple representations to the then revenue secretary. A complaint was later filed against him, in which he was summoned several times and cooperated with the investigation. The court found that when CAT ordered a review of his suspension on Sept 28, 2000, the officials held a meeting and planned his arrest the very next morning instead of complying with the order.

According to the prosecu-

tion, around 5am, a CBI team reached Aggarwal's residence, assaulted the guard, jumped the boundary wall and broke open the main door. Family members were confined to a room while he was dragged from his bedroom, manhandled on his right arm before being taken away to an undisclosed location and later to DDU Hospital. The court noted that such conduct amounted to forcible entry and unlawful restraint. The court also noted Delhi High Court had, in 2016, held that the accused were not entitled to protection under Section 197 CrPC, a finding upheld by Supreme Court in March 2023. Affirming this position, the trial court held that acts committed in abuse of power and with mala fide intent couldn't be treated as discharge of official duty.

Shock grips Tara Apartments after brutal double murder in neighbourhood dispute

New Delhi, (GNS): A day after the double murder at Tara Apartments in south Delhi, its residents remained in shock. With police personnel deployed outside the homes of the two families involved, the complex bore a different look on Saturday - something that residents never expected to see there.

Requesting anonymity, a neighbour, who lives in the building adjacent to the Soods and opposite the Siddiquis, said, "I moved here recently because this society is perceived as safe. Most residents are well-established and respectable." Other residents also pointed out that neighbourhood disputes and arguments were fairly uncommon in the locality.

Ghanshyam, a 53-year-old



guard, said, "I have been working here for 13 years and never seen anything like this. I heard people shouting and rushed there to find Karanji lying unconscious with a deep stab wound on the back of his head. His father was also bleeding and being brought down by the nephew." Another guard added that Rakesh was seated nearby until he was taken to hospital. The Soods live in block O, while the Siddiquis reside in block F, located diagonally opposite. The buildings in the society are arranged around a central garden patch with benches, with cars parked along the periphery.

Late night bingeing, poor sleep, long sitting? A liver warning for young Indians

New Delhi, (GNS): When 22-year-olds with no visible health issues start turning up with abnormal liver tests, doctors say it is a warning India can no longer ignore. On World Liver Day, specialists flagged a sharp rise in liver disease among young adults, driven largely by lifestyle-related metabolic disorders, calling it a fast-growing public health crisis.

Doctors say Metabolic Dysfunction-Associated Steatotic Liver Disease (MASLD) - earlier linked mainly to middle age - is now being increasingly diagnosed in people in their early 20s, fuelled by sedentary lifestyles, poor diet and rising metabolic risks. Highlighting the trend, Dr SK Sarin, director of the Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences (ILBS), said data clearly show a growing burden of fatty liver disease among young Indians. "This is a clear



and alarming trend backed by evidence," he said.

Citing a 2024 Delhi-based survey conducted across community health centres, Sarin said 56% of those screened were found to have fatty liver disease. "One in two people had fatty liver, including 11% who were lean and not obese, challenging the common belief that the disease affects only overweight individuals," he said. He added that obesity rates rise sharply with age - from around 3% in children under five to nearly 15% by the age of 12 - indicating that metabolic risk begins early.

Data from the SMILES (Stronger India through Million Health Educated Students) programme further underline the concern. Among over 43,000 participants aged 18-25, fatty liver, high blood pressure and sedentary behaviour were increasingly com-

mon, with nearly 40% reporting they did not even walk for 40 minutes a day.

Dr Sanjiv Saigal of Max Super Speciality Hospital, Saket, said MASLD results from fat accumulation in the liver in people with risk factors such as obesity, diabetes and abnormal cholesterol levels. "If unchecked, it can silently progress from simple fat deposition to inflammation, fibrosis, cirrhosis and even liver cancer," he said. Calling it a "perfect storm", Dr Bhusan Bhole of PSRI Hospital said genetic predisposition, unhealthy diets, physical inactivity and early-onset metabolic disorders were driving the rise. "At least one in four young Indian adults aged 18-35 now show signs of MASLD or elevated liver enzymes," he said, adding that Indians are especially vulnerable due to a tendency to accumulate visceral fat even at normal body weight - a condition referred to as "lean MASLD".

Police families society celebrates foundation day

New Delhi, (GNS): The Police Families Welfare Society (PFWS) celebrated its 54th foundation day at Adarsh Auditorium, Police Headquarters. It was attended by Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, and Rachna Golchha, president of the society.

The event witnessed cultural performances by members of Delhi Police families and students of DPPS School, Wazirabad.

A key highlight of the event was the unveiling of the 10th edition of the PFWS's annual magazine, Koshish Ek Asha, by the CM and the editorial core committee, followed by the launch of its digital edition. In her keynote address, CM Rekha Gupta appreciated the dedicated efforts of the PFWS under the leadership of



Rachna Golchha towards the welfare, empowerment, and holistic development of Delhi Police families.

She lauded the society for creating meaningful opportunities for women and children through education, skill development, healthcare and self-reliance initiatives. In her address, Rachna Golchha reaffirmed the PFWS's commitment to the holistic welfare and empowerment of Delhi Police families.

CM accuses Oppn of stalling women's reservation, leads march in Delhi

New Delhi, (GNS) : Wearing a black band, chief minister Rekha Gupta on Saturday staged a symbolic protest during a programme of women entrepreneurs to oppose the non-passage of the Women's Reservation Bill in Parliament.

Calling it a setback for gender representation, Gupta alleged that the Opposition had decided to keep women out of the Lok Sabha and state assemblies by denying them their rightful participation.

Later in the day, Gupta, along with Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva and hundreds of women BJP workers, marched in protest outside the residence of Leader of



Opposition Rahul Gandhi. Near the Sunehri Masjid roundabout, police intervened to stop protesters who were burning an effigy of Gandhi and dispersed the crowd.

Several leaders, including Sachdeva, Kamaljeet Sehrawat, Bansuri Swaraj and Yogita, along with other women leaders, were detained and taken to

Parliament Street police station.

Addressing the protest, Gupta alleged that Opposition parties collectively stated in Parliament that women should not be given reservation. "For the past 30 years, half the population has endured humiliation as the bill has repeatedly been introduced but either torn apart or opposed. The Opposition has conspired in various ways to prevent its passage," she said. Gupta further alleged that Opposition leaders feared women from ordinary households entering Parliament and state assemblies, which, she claimed, could threaten the positions held by women from their

own families.

Sachdeva slammed the Congress, alleging that it could not see beyond its own families and worked to deprive the nation's women - half the population - of their rightful share by blocking the bill.

Earlier, Gupta wore a black band at a summit organised by the Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT), targeting what she termed the Opposition's "anti-women politics".

"As a woman chief minister, this is not merely political; it is about dignity and sensitivity," she said, adding that a crucial opportunity to give crores of women a role in decision-making has been taken away. Gupta said the arguments put forward by

parties opposing women's reservation lacked substance and reflected an anti-women mindset. The Congress, however, said the defeat of the constitutional amendment bill was linked to delimitation and not women's reservation. Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of deliberately linking women's quota to delimitation based on the 2011 census. The party has maintained that the Modi govt should implement the 2023 women's quota law, which it said had the support of all parties.

Delhi Congress president Devender Yadav said the party would protest outside the BJP headquarters on Sunday morning over the issue.

Bats in the bastions: A wild side of Tughlaqabad revealed

New Delhi, (GNS) : On World Heritage Day, the silent, timeworn walls of Tughlaqabad Fort came alive in an unusual way - not just with stories of a powerful dynasty, but with the flutter of wings hidden within its dark, cavernous chambers.

In a rare collaboration, wildlife researchers and historians came together for a heritage walk that blended medieval architecture with the lesser-known world of urban wildlife, offering participants a glimpse into the hidden lives of bats that inhabit the centuries-old monument.



The walk was organised by WWF-India, the Nature Conservation Foundation (NCF), the Centre for Wildlife Studies (CWS) and Bat

Conservation International, and was led by bat researcher Rohit Chakravarty, heritage activist Vikramjit Singh Roprai and naturalist Nikhil John.

As visitors moved through crumbling gateways and bastions, they heard accounts of the rise and fall of the Tughlaq dynasty. Inside the fort's cool, dimly lit chambers, however, they encountered species rarely seen in the city. Mouse-tailed bats - one of the 15 bat species found in Delhi - were spotted clinging to ceilings, while a lone naked-

rumped tomb bat added to the sense of discovery. Participants were guided in small groups, with ecologists using red-filtered torches to minimise disturbance, allowing them to observe a fragile ecosystem thriving in overlooked urban spaces.

For Chakravarty, the walk was aimed at both awareness and conservation. He highlighted bats as vital contributors to the ecosystem, serving as natural pest controllers and reducing dependence on chemical pesticides. "It is a unique amalgamation of heritage and ecology. These protected monuments are also important habitats, and people need to observe wildlife

with care and sensitivity," he said.

Roprai, meanwhile, drew attention to the fort's network of underground drains and tunnels -- many sealed during the British era, suggesting that these forgotten spaces may hold even more ecological secrets. The event followed International Bat Appreciation Day, marked a day earlier with the release of a fold-out publication on bat species in Delhi-NCR. A subsequent walk at Sunder Nursery introduced participants to bat detectors, allowing them to hear the otherwise inaudible sounds of nocturnal life.



'Stabbed repeatedly': Inside south Delhi double murder; chilling details emerge

New Delhi, (GNS) : On Friday evening, around 6pm, 62-year-old Rakesh Sood and his son, 27-year-old Karan, left their office in Kalkaji and headed home, as they did every day. Around 6.30pm, Karan dropped his father off at the entrance of their building in Alaknanda's Tara Apartments and drove ahead to park the car nearby, unaware of the violence about to unfold. Asad Siddiqui, a neighbour, allegedly lay in wait before launching a brutal attack on Rakesh, stabbing him repeatedly from behind. The assault triggered panic and drew Rakesh's 36-year-old nephew Rohit to the scene. As he tried to intervene, Rohit was also allegedly slashed and left with stab injuries on his upper arm.

Hearing the commotion, Karan rushed back to protect his father, but was overpowered and allegedly stabbed five to six times in the back of his head. Speaking to Media, the family said he was then allegedly hurled over the railing of the open staircase, crashing a few feet below and lying unconscious in a pool of blood. Rakesh, grievously injured, was brought down the staircase and made to sit as he bled, waiting for help to arrive.

According to the family, Karan had taken a high-interest loan from Siddiqui months ago without informing them. When he learnt about this, Rakesh had reportedly repaid the amount after negotiating the interest, which allegedly triggered a dispute, as Siddiqui was unhappy with the reduced payment. Sitting outside the AIIMS mortuary on Saturday, Rajesh Sood, Rakesh's 66-year-old elder brother, said, "Siddiqui operates as a financier, his mother is a lawyer." Another friend recalled that the two sides had a heated altercation five-six months ago, though the reason remained unclear to him.

LG urges people to opt healthier living

New Delhi, (GNS) : Lieutenant governor Taranjit Singh Sandhu Saturday urged citizens to adopt "one habit change" for making healthier living more achievable. Speaking on the occasion of World Liver Day at the Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences (ILBS), he said this year's theme, "Solid Habits, Strong Liver," reinforces the importance of consistent, choices daily in improving long-term liver health.

Highlighting the importance of early detection, the LG underlined the role of ILBS in strengthening specialised care, research and public awareness on liver health. He also referred to initiatives like 'dawat-e-jigar' for promoting dietary awareness, adding that sustained awareness and small behavioural changes can contribute to better public health outcomes.



Later, addressing the inaugural session of the Harit Manthan National Hackathon 2026, organised by Delhi Development Authority in collaboration with the Udhmodya Foundation, the LG said the initiative reflects an effort to connect ideas with implementation in urban ecology. He noted that the hackathon brings together researchers, scholars, young innovators and stakeholders to develop practical, innovation-driven solutions to real-world challenges. Emphasising the role of technology in urban environmental management, Sandhu said tools such as data analytics, remote sensing and digital monitoring systems can improve the tracking and management of ecological assets. In a city like Delhi,

with a significant ecological footprint, managing over 16,000 acres of parks, biodiversity zones and urban forests presents both opportunities and challenges, he noted.

The LG stressed that effective management at such scale requires the integration of technology, policy innovation and community participation. He added that the real challenge lies not merely in innovation, but in its integration into governance frameworks, highlighting the need to bridge the gap between available technologies and their deployment at scale.

Underlining that urban sustainability is not only a technical concern but also involves behavioural and institutional dimensions, he urged stakeholders to continue contributing towards strengthening Delhi's ecological landscape.

Driver hurt as speeding SUV rams stationary taxi

New Delhi, (GNS) : A road accident in West Delhi's Rajouri Garden late last night has left a 33-year-old taxi driver critically injured, with the police suspecting drunk driving by the accused, officials said on Saturday.

The incident was reported around 3:29 am on Saturday near ICICI Bank on Najafgarh Road, close to Pillar No. 408. After a PCR call, officials from the Rajouri Garden police station reached the spot and found two damaged vehicles - a Tata Harrier SUV and a Swift Dzire taxi.

According to an eyewitness, the taxi was parked on the extreme left side of the road when it was hit from behind by the SUV, allegedly being driven at a high speed from the Raja Garden side.

The injured taxi driver,



identified as Narender Kumar (33), sustained serious head injuries. He was initially taken to Guru Gobind Singh Hospital by the Harrier driver and later referred to Safdarjung Hospital, where he is admitted to the ICU.

The police said the SUV driver, Vikas Rathore (30), underwent a medical examination which revealed a high blood alcohol content, indicating he was driving under the influence of alcohol at the time of the accident. Further legal action is being taken.

How PWD is planning to decongest key stretches in Delhi

New Delhi, (GNS) : A network of 46km of flyovers and underpasses forms part of nearly 150km of road infrastructure projects planned by the public works department to decongest some of the city's busiest stretches, including ITO, Ring Road, Deshbandhu Gupta Road near Paharganj to Ajmeri Gate, Shadipur Depot and the NSG intersection near Terminal 1 of IGI Airport.

The plan also covers elevated corridors from Nanaksar Gurudwara T-point to the Delhi-UP border (Tronica City) and along Shivaji Marg from Zakhira to Karampura, a railway overbridge at Kirari over the Delhi-Rohtak line, and a 20km corridor from Phirni Road in Najafgarh to NH-48 near Kapashera.

Long plagued by daily traffic snarls, these stretches see thousands of vehicles crawling, especially during peak hours, often triggering ripple effects on connected roads. The projects aim to streamline traffic flow, ease congestion, cut travel time and improve average commuting speeds.



They will also streamline connectivity towards Haryana and Uttar Pradesh.

"Our focus is on fixing Delhi's worst traffic choke points through a mix of road infrastructure projects, including new elevated corridors, flyovers, underpasses and corridor redevelopment plans that together will have a combined length of 150km across the city," PWD minister Parvish Verma said. "Most of these points witness heavy traffic congestion and there have been growing demands from the public to ease the situation." The projects will also

improve connectivity to key entry points and reduce travel time for lakhs of daily commuters, he added. Among the proposed projects, 46km will be covered by flyovers and underpasses. "We are pushing to finalise them soon so that work can begin at the earliest," Verma assured.

An official said feasibility studies were underway for key projects. One of the largest studies is a 55km plan along Mahatma Gandhi Marg (Ring Road), for which the preliminary project report has already been prepared, focusing on systemic interventions to address congestion.

PWD is also examining targeted flyover projects at several choke points, including a 3km flyover on 100 Futa Road/SSN Marg (Anuvrat Marg to DLF Cut), a 10.7km elevated corridor from Kanjhawala Chowk to Mangolpuri, and a 17.5km stretch from Keshopur Depot to Haiderpur along Outer Ring Road. While tenders have been invited for some projects, others, such as the Keshopur-Haiderpur one, have recently been awarded.

Feasibility studies are also ongoing for a 4.3km flyover from Sagarpur to Mayapuri Chowk, a 1.3km elevated structure along Pankha Road in Janakpuri, and a flyover over Trunk Drain-1. Plans to decongest Mukarba Chowk are under process with UTTIPEC, with some clearances secured and others awaited, while decongestion works in Bawana are in the pipeline with tenders invited. An official said the emphasis was on scientific traffic studies and integrated corridor planning rather than piecemeal interventions.

Rain surprise makes this Delhi's wettest April since 2010

New Delhi, (GNS) : Intense rain that caught the city off guard has given Delhi its wettest April since 2010, even as maximum temperatures continued to hover above normal on Saturday, offering only temporary and limited relief from the heat. According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), there is unlikely to be any major change in maximum temperatures over the next three days, followed by a rise of 2-3 degrees Celsius thereafter. With 12.4 mm of rainfall recorded over the past 24 hours, Delhi's cumulative rainfall for April has reached 28.2 mm - 147% above the normal of 16.3 mm for the month so far. This is the highest April rainfall recorded since 2010. As per IMD data, the second-highest April rainfall was 27.7 mm, recorded in 2015.

On Saturday, the city's maximum temperature stood at 39.5 degrees Celsius, three notches above normal, but lower than Friday's season's highest of 41 degrees Celsius. The Ridge area recorded the highest temperature of the day at 41.3 degrees Celsius. The minimum temperature dropped to 19.8 degrees Celsius, two notches below normal, compared



with 24 degrees Celsius a day earlier, reflecting the cooling impact of the rain.

IMD said maximum temperatures are expected to hover between 39 and 41 degrees Celsius on Sunday and 38 to 40 degrees Celsius on Monday. "No large change in maximum temperatures is expected during the next three days, with a rise of 2-3°C thereafter," the department said.

The rain also brought temporary relief to air quality. The Air Quality Index (AQI) improved to 152, or 'moderate', on Saturday, from 263 ('poor') a day earlier. According to the Early Warning System, air quality is likely to remain in the moderate category on April 19 and 20, slip back to poor on April 21.