



**Jodhpur, (GNS):** 60 to 80 of the world's most dangerous fighter jets will fly together in the 8-nation Tarang Shakti exercise in Jodhpur. The French Embassy in India shared this information.

On Tuesday, the fourth day of the exercise, the Sukhoi led the Rafale fighter jets.

France's Airbus A-400M and Airbus A-330 Multi Role Tanker Transport (MRTT) also participated in the exercise. At an altitude of 40,000 feet, the A-400 practiced refueling the Rafale fighter jet mid-air.

## Jodhpur—World's Most Dangerous 80 Fighter Jets to Fly Together

### Practice Fuel Refueling at 40,000 Feet

The Air Force war games, running until October 12, feature US F-35 jets, India's Tejas fighter jets, as well as transport aircraft.

**Delegations from 28 Nations Visit Indian Defense Companies:** Observers from countries participating in Exercise Tarang Shakti 2026 visited India's leading defense companies in Bengaluru, witnessing the strength of 'Make in India' up close. Over 28 observers from friendly nations, including



Indonesia, Thailand, Brazil, Peru, Algeria, Nigeria, Ivory Coast, and the Maldives, were part of the visit.

Foreign Team Reaches Major Defense Establishments  
The delegation visited Hindustan Aeronautics Limited

## Sukhoi Leads Rafale

**Why This Visit Matters:**

According to defense experts, the objective of this industrial visit goes beyond the war exercise; it serves to demonstrate the capabilities of Indian weapons and defense equipment to friendly nations. This will provide fresh momentum to exports of Indian defense products and foreign cooperation in the coming days.

(HAL), Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL), and National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL). During the visit, they gained an in-depth understanding of India's indigenous aerospace, defense, and advanced technological capabilities.

## Claim:Pilot Attempted to Crash Dubai-Tel Aviv Flight

Thwarted by Co-Pilot and Passengers; Landing After Hijack Alert; 180 Passengers Onboard



**Riyadh, (GNS):** A claim has emerged that a pilot attempted to crash a flydubai flight traveling from Dubai to Tel Aviv.

According to a Times of Israel journalist, the co-pilot and several passengers physically intervened to stop him. Subsequently, a hijack alert was transmitted from the aircraft, prompting Israel to scramble fighter jets. The aircraft diverted and landed at Tabuk Airport in Saudi Arabia.

The claim regarding the pilot attempting to crash the plane remains unconfirmed. However, Israeli officials have confirmed an altercation between pilots onboard the aircraft.

First Sent Emergency Code, Then Hijack Signal

According to Flightradar, the aircraft initially transmitted code 7700, signaling a general emergency. This was followed by code 7500, used in instances of hijacking or unlawful interference.

Upon receiving the alert, Israeli security agencies began monitoring the aircraft. According to Hebrew media, the Prime Minister and Defense Minister held emergency consultations regarding the incident.

Aircraft Dropped Over 17,000 Feet in Two Minutes  
Flight-tracking data shows the aircraft diverted from its scheduled route after reaching Saudi airspace, dropping rapidly in altitude during this time.

The aircraft descended from 34,000 feet to 16,600 feet in approximately two minutes. About 12 minutes later, an emergency signal was broadcast from the plane. For a period, tracking data for the aircraft temporarily vanished from flight-tracking websites.

## Yogi Says—Saints Maintained Unity of Hindu Society

**Paid Tributes to Guru in Gorakhpur; Addressed Problems of 150 People at Janata Darshan**

**Gorakhpur, (GNS):** CM Yogi attended the memorial service for Mahant Avedyanath on his third day in Gorakhpur on Wednesday. Yogi stated—Saints have maintained the unity of Hindu society.

He remarked—While Mahant Digvijaynath was in favor of advancing the fierce momentum of Hindu unity, Mahant Avedyanath Ji Maharaj made tireless efforts to create an atmosphere of social equality to reunite fragmented Hindu forces to drive that momentum forward. Prior to this, he offered special prayers at the Gorakhnath Temple and fed jaggery and roti to



cows. Later, during the Janata Darshan at the temple, the CM listened to the grievances of 150 people and assured them of solutions. He told the gathering—Do not worry, the government will resolve every individual's problem.

The CM instructed officials to ensure with full promptness and sensitivity that justice is served to everyone without discrimination, benefits of welfare schemes reach all eligible individuals, proper medical treatment is arranged for those in need, and strict action is taken against land mafias and bullies attempting illegal land seizures.

and assured them of solutions. He told the gathering—Do not worry, the government will resolve every individual's problem.

## 5 New Indian Sites Added to UNESCO World Heritage Tentative List

**Includes MP's Udayagiri Caves, Ginnorgarh, Bateshwar Temple; Total Country Sites Reach 78**

**New Delhi, (GNS):** Five new sites from India have been added to the UNESCO World Heritage Tentative List. Among these are four sites from Vidisha, Dhar, Morena, and Raisen districts of Madhya Pradesh. The fifth entry is the 'Sites of Satyagraha' connected to India and South Africa.

The Udayagiri Caves in Vidisha district, Bagh Cave paintings in Dhar district, the temple cluster of Chambal Valley in Morena district, and Ginnorgarh Fort in Raisen have been included. With this, the UNESCO Tentative List now features 78 sites from India.

A location is first included in UNESCO's Tentative List. Only after this is it considered for official World



Heritage Site status. Therefore, these five sites have not yet received final UNESCO World Heritage Site status. 5th Site - 'Sites of Satyagraha' The fifth entry is 'Sites of Satyagraha'. This is a collection of 9 historical places across India and South Africa. Its purpose is to showcase the development and journey of Mahatma Gandhi's Satyagraha.

Satyagraha originated in South Africa and later became the foundation of

major non-violent movements in India. These 9 places include Pietermaritzburg station and Phoenix Settlement in South Africa, as well as Champaran, Sabarmati Ashram, Mani Bhavan, Harijan Sevaka Sangh, Sevagram Ashram, Aga Khan Palace, and Gandhi Smriti in India.

The story of the beginning, experimentation, and evolution of Gandhi's Satyagraha is linked to these places.

## Supreme Court May Have 3 Women Judges

**Recommendation Sent for Gujarat High Court Chief Justice Sunita Agarwal; Currently Only Two**

**New Delhi, (GNS):** The number of women judges in the Supreme Court may soon rise to three. The Supreme Court Collegium has recommended Gujarat High Court Chief Justice Sunita Agarwal for appointment as a Supreme Court judge.

Along with her, the names of Delhi High Court Chief Justice Devendra Kumar Upadhyaya and Telangana High Court Chief Justice Aparesk Kumar Singh have also been forwarded.

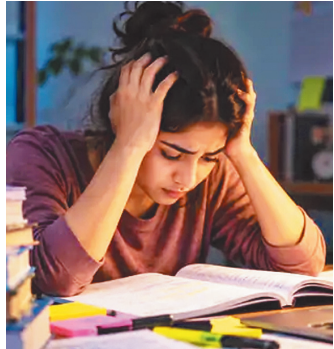
The Collegium recommended the three names on September 28. If all three are appointed, the total strength of judges in the Supreme Court will increase from 34 to 37.

## Report—9% of Students in Country Contemplate Suicide

**34% Feel Like Outsiders on Campus; Suicide Cases Up 62% in 10 Years**

**New Delhi, (GNS):** 9% of students studying in higher educational institutions across the country often have suicidal thoughts. Meanwhile, 34% of students feel like outsiders on their own campuses. This was revealed in a nationwide survey; mandatory psychological autopsies are needed to understand these factors. Survey conducted by the Supreme Court-appointed National Task Force (NTF).

In the survey, around 15% of students stated that during the last 6 months, there were times when they experienced extreme stress or anxiety lasting for several weeks.



However, 56% of students in the survey expressed trust in the administration causes; mandatory psychological autopsies are needed to understand these factors. to handle serious issues impartially.

The NTF survey includes

responses from over 2.43 lakh students, 67% of whom belonged to SC, ST, and OBC categories. The Task Force report is expected to be submitted to the Supreme Court by October 31.

The NTF was constituted by the Supreme Court in March 2025 to investigate the rising cases of student suicides and issues related to mental health and well-being in higher educational institutions. The task force is headed by Justice S. Ravindra Bhat.

Psychologists Say: Crucial to Identify Suicidal Tendencies Early  
According to Psychologist

Dr. J.P. Agarwal, identifying warning signs early is essential to prevent student suicides. For this, teachers, counselors, and hostel wardens should be trained through Gatekeeper Training Programs in educational institutions. Students can also be included in this.

They should be taught to recognize early signs of stress, depression, and suicide risk. Students must be informed about the 'Tele-MANAS' helpline and the 'Manahit' app. Additionally, suicide can stem from multiple causes; mandatory psychological autopsies are needed to understand these factors.

## Embankment Built on Gandak Breaks in Bihar's Saran

**Floods in 6 Districts, 1.59 Lakh Affected; Boats Ply in UP Streets, Fog in Andhra Pradesh**

**New Delhi, (GNS):** Following heavy rains in Nepal, rivers in North Bihar, including the Gandak, are in spate. Flood conditions prevail in 6 districts, affecting 1.59 lakh people. After embankments broke at 4 locations in Bagaha-Bettiah, a dam/embankment broke in Saran on Wednesday morning as well. Water is rapidly filling

low-lying areas. A flood alert has been issued in 17 districts of the state.

The withdrawal of the monsoon has begun from Uttar Pradesh. The monsoon has retreated from parts of Western UP, including Muzaffarnagar and Aligarh. Due to this, rainfall has decreased in the state. In Unnao, rising water through the streets.

**INAUGURATION CEREMONY OF "SARVODAYA VAN"**

- Hon'ble Chief Minister **Shri Bhupendrabhai Patel** launched the "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam 3.0" campaign by planting a Peepal tree.
- Chhatri Dhandh Wetland in Kachchh District declared Gujarat's 5th Ramsar Site – a Wetland of International Importance.
- A chick of the endangered 'Great Indian Bustard' was successfully hatched using the 'jump-start' method.
- During Karuna Abhiyan 2026, 14,690 out of 16,380 injured birds were successfully treated and rescued.
- Plantation of saplings over 20,455 hectares of forest area across the State.
- To commemorate the 150th Birth Anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, 131 Sardar Smriti Vans are being developed across 33 districts, with 73,622 saplings being planted.
- During 2026-27, grass plantation is being undertaken across 11,400 hectares to ensure fodder availability at relief rates during drought conditions.
- 11.80 crore saplings are being distributed across Gujarat under Van Mahotsav Programme this year.
- Under the Social Forestry Programme, plantation over 30,782 hectares outside forest areas is planned across the State.
- Under the Hariyali Lok Sabha Campaign, 60 lakh saplings are being planted across approximately 540 hectares in the Gandhinagar Parliamentary Constituency to develop 82 Van Kavach.

"Gujarat's growth is measured not only by progress, but by the nature that grows alongside it."  
- **Harsh Sanghavi**, Deputy Chief Minister, Gujarat

Date

01<sup>st</sup> October, 2026  
Thursday

Time

03:30 PM

Venue

**Odadar**  
Parbhatnagar-Somnath  
National Highway (NH-51)  
Village: Odadar, Taluka: B. District: Parbhatnagar

Scan the QR code to obtain saplings.

For More Information  
1926 | 83 2000 2000

Scan the QR code for the Location.

Forest & Environment Department, Govt. of Gujarat

# Kerala Chief Minister to be selected in 10 days

Sanat Jain

Following the assembly election results in five states, the most debated issue wasn't limited to victory or defeat, but also the functioning and leadership capabilities of the Congress organization. In Kerala, in particular, despite the Congress-led United Democratic Front (UDF) securing a clear majority, the ten-day delay in selecting a Chief Minister became a topic of discussion and criticism in political circles. It's worth noting that the election results were declared on May 4th, and the Congress had sufficient numbers to form a government. Despite this, the party

was unable to quickly decide on a Chief Minister. Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge had already been given the authority to select the legislative party leader. He held discussions with MLAs and senior leaders, but a consensus was not reached. Ultimately, the party had to send senior leaders like Jairam Ramesh, Mukul Wasnik, Deepa Dasmunsi, and Ajay Makhan to Kerala. After two days of deliberations, consensus was reached on the name of V.D. Satheesan, paving the way for him to become Chief Minister. This situation is certainly a cause for concern for a party that was once the

country's strongest political force. Even in a state like Kerala, where Congress MPs and Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi, have direct political connections, such a prolonged impasse over leadership selection exposes the Congress's internal state. Ironically, the Indian Union Muslim League (IUML) and several UDF allies had already expressed support for V.D. Satheesan. Satheesan has long been active in the Congress organization and is considered a grassroots leader. Despite this, power imbalances and factionalism within the Congress have been so

strong that it has taken the party leadership considerable time to make decisions. In fact, the Congress's greatest strength appears to be its weakness today. Due to the democratic environment within the party, every leader openly expresses his views and strives to pursue his own interests. If his views are not heeded, he often leaves the party, forming a regional party, or joining the BJP. This trend has intensified since the Congress lost power at the center. Even in states where Congress appears strong today, internal conflicts remain a challenge. Karnataka is a prime example of this. Even after forming a government, dis-

putes over the Chief Minister's post periodically arise. The Congress party spends a significant amount of time balancing its own leaders rather than fighting the opposition. In contrast, the Bharatiya Janata Party has made its organization more centralized and disciplined over the past decade. However, a significant portion of the BJP's political strength also rests on leaders who came from the Congress party. In many states, the BJP has formed governments by aligning influential Congress leaders with its own. Both the Congress and the BJP are well aware of this fact. It is also true that the Congress party still enjoys a

broad support base across the country. Despite being in power at the center, the BJP has not been able to achieve the social acceptance in every state that the Congress has enjoyed for decades. However, personal ambitions and factional conflicts within the Congress party have become its biggest weaknesses. The argument of Congress leaders that the balance of power at the center favors the BJP puts the Congress under constant pressure cannot be completely dismissed. The Congress is facing a struggle for survival amid the disparity in investigative agencies, political campaigns, and resources.

## Editorial on the Samarkand Chess Olympiad

When the Indian men finish as the runner-up and the women secure third place in one of the world's biggest sporting events, it calls for celebration. But, when the fact is that those performances did not quite live up to the expectations, it says a lot about the reputation India enjoys as a chess giant. The Indians' show at the Chess Olympiad, which concluded at Samarkand on Sunday, is no doubt commendable, as they retained the Gaprindashvili Trophy, awarded to the best country overall, and claimed six individual medals as well. In a tournament in which more than 200 countries took part, that is no small feat. Still, for a nation that had won both the open and women's titles two years ago in Budapest, the failure to defend even one is a bit of a disappointment. The Indian men were seeded second, while the women had the top billing. So, the men played according to their ranking, as the host Uzbekistan, the only country that could challenge India when it comes to the depth of young chess talent, emerged as the champion. The clash between the two teams was the most anticipated one at the tournament, and it was always going to be crucial. So it proved. women secure third place in one of the world's biggest sporting events, it calls for celebration. But, when the fact is that those performances did not quite live up to the expectations, it says a lot about the reputation India enjoys as a chess giant. The Indians' show at the Chess Olympiad, which concluded at Samarkand on Sunday, is no doubt commendable, as they retained the Gaprindashvili Trophy, awarded to the best country overall, and claimed six individual medals as well. In a tournament in which more than 200 countries took part, that is no small feat. Still, for a nation that had won both the open and women's titles two years ago in Budapest, the failure to defend even one is a bit of a disappointment. The Indian men were seeded second, while the women had the top billing. So, the men played according to their ranking, as the host Uzbekistan, the only country that could challenge of young chess talent, emerged as the champion.

## Politics is no longer just a game of ideological commitment, but has become a highly complex model of electoral management, regional influence, social equations and strategic expansion

Kishan Sanmukhdas Bhavani

Globally, in Indian politics, ideology, organization, and mass support have always been considered the greatest strengths of any party. For a long time, the belief persisted that only those leaders who fought for years, fought for the party's ideological battles, and strengthened the organization on the ground ultimately reached the highest positions of power. However, in the past decade, the face of Indian politics has rapidly changed. Politics is no longer merely a game of ideological commitment; it has become a highly complex model of electoral management, regional influence, social alignment, and strategic expansion. In this changing political era, a new trend has rapidly emerged: establishing dominance over regional politics by giving top positions such as Chief Minister or Deputy Chief Minister to leaders from other parties. Suvendu Adhikari's rise to Chief Minister in West Bengal, including Bihar and Arunachal Pradesh, and Himanta Biswa Sarma's continued rise to power in Assam are not mere individual political successes, but rather part of a broader strategic strategy that the BJP has systematically developed over the past decade. I, Advocate Kishan Sanmukhdas Bhavani, Gondia, Maharashtra, believe that this strategy is not limited to winning elections, but rather aims to build a lasting political base in states where the party's support base was once considered weak. The BJP has realized that regional strongholds cannot be conquered through organizational expansion alone; rather, by aligning influential regional figures with its party, political equations can be altered. In fact, defection is not a new phenomenon in Indian politics. The "come-and-go" politics has been a part of Indian democracy for decades. However, in the past, defection was often limited to personal ambition or immediate

political gain. Today, the situation is different. Political parties are now using defection as a strategic investment. Leaders coming from other parties are not only being inducted into the party, but by giving them the highest positions of power, the message is being conveyed that election-winning ability, regional influence, and support base have become more important than organizational seniority.

Friends, if we consider West Bengal, this is a prime example. For a long time, Bengal was considered a difficult political terrain for the BJP. The Trinamool Congress dominated here, and Mamata Banerjee's support base was extremely strong. Instead of fighting based solely on ideological politics, the BJP adopted a strategy of identifying discontent and ambitions within the Trinamool Congress. Suvendu Adhikari, once considered one of Mamata Banerjee's most trusted leaders, became the face of the BJP that gave the party an aggressive political identity in Bengal. Ultimately, his becoming Chief Minister after the BJP's victory demonstrates that the party is no longer hesitant to elevate leaders from other parties to the top, provided they possess the potential to deliver electoral success. Similarly, the political journey of Himanta Biswa Sarma in Assam is a significant story of the changing dynamics of Indian politics. When Himanta Sarma, once considered a Congress strategist, joined the BJP, few could have imagined that he would become the BJP's most influential figure in the Northeast. The BJP not only accepted him, but also made him a central figure in Northeast politics by appointing him Chief Minister of Assam. Today, Himanta Biswa Sarma is largely credited with the BJP's expansion in Northeast India. This reflects the BJP's political acumen, aligning regional leaders with the party's national strategy.

The PM and Home Minister duo have elevated electoral strategy to a new level in Indian politics. Both leaders realized that in many states, the BJP possesses ideological cadres, but lacks influential figures capable of influencing local social equations. In such a situation, bringing disgruntled or ambitious leaders from opposition parties into their fold and entrusting them with leadership could prove to be a more practical political strategy. This is why leaders who join the BJP now receive not only political asylum but also decisive roles in both governance and organization. Samrat Chaudhary's election as Chief Minister in Bihar is being seen as a new example of this political experiment. He had previously been a member of the Rashtriya Janata Dal and the Janata Dal United. However, the rapid rise in his political stature after joining the BJP has made it clear that the party has moved beyond the old-vs-new debate. The most important leader for the party is one who can manage social equations, weaken the opposition, and ensure electoral victory. This trend is evident in states like Tripura, Arunachal Pradesh, and Manipur. The rapid rise of Manik Saha in Tripura, Pema Khandu's transition from the Congress to the BJP in Arunachal Pradesh, and N. Biren Singh's departure from the Congress to the BJP in Manipur demonstrate the BJP's mastery of reshaping regional leadership. The events in Arunachal Pradesh will be counted among the most interesting chapters in Indian politics, where Pema Khandu, a former Congress Chief Minister, first defected along with the entire government and then joined the BJP. This was not merely a defection, but an example of a complete restructuring of the power structure.

Friends, an important aspect of this entire strategy is the idea of ??a double-engine government. The BJP has consistently promot-

ed the message that development work progresses faster when the same party is in power at the center and in the state. However, to make this model successful, strong regional leaders were needed in the states. This is why the party promoted leaders who had a strong personal hold in their respective regions. This provided the BJP with a dual benefit: on the one hand, the opposition was weakened, and on the other, the party gained acceptance at the local level. However, this strategy has led to electoral success for the BJP.

Friends, but this is also accompanied by numerous controversies and criticisms. The most prominent allegation is that the BJP operates like a washing machine. The opposition claims that the leaders the BJP accuses of corruption while in opposition are declared clean as soon as they join the BJP. The Suvendu Adhikari case has brought this debate back to the forefront. The BJP used the Narada sting operation against the Trinamool Congress for years. At that time, BJP leaders accused several Trinamool leaders, including Suvendu Adhikari, of serious corruption. But when the same Suvendu Adhikari joined the BJP and eventually became Chief Minister, the opposition accused the BJP of abandoning political ethics. Many opposition leaders, including the Shiv Sena (UBT) leader, said that the BJP is not fighting corruption but is instead changing its standards to suit political gain. In fact, this debate is not limited to the BJP. Almost all major parties in Indian politics have used defectors in their respective eras. The Congress, too, for a long time, increased its power by engaging regional leaders. Many regional parties have also expanded their power by inducting opposition leaders. The only difference is that the BJP has implemented this strategy in a more aggressive and organized manner.

## Paper Leak – Side Effects of Poor Justice Process

Dr. Yogendra Srivastava

The NEET UG exam has been cancelled once again. This is the fourth time in the last ten years that a paper leak has occurred in one of the country's most important examinations, NEET UG. Besides NEET, nearly a hundred competitive examinations have been cancelled in the last ten years. This is a deeply shameful incident for a country that claims to be a world leader. Competitive exams not only destroy the hard work and ambition of

candidates, but also shatter the dreams of their families, and all their sacrifices and support go to waste. Furthermore, the country's resources are wasted and students' precious time is lost. In an era of advanced technology, if a country fails to develop a secure and reliable examination system, it is a grave failure of the system. In addition to wasting time and resources, such incidents also damage the country's reputation.

The question is, why does this happen? There are many factors behind

this, such as the ambition of students and, more importantly, their families, cutthroat competition, racketeering among coaching institutes, and black money. In fact, any competitive exam related to education or employment becomes a lucrative opportunity for the education system's agents and the masterminds of coaching racketeering. Paper leaks are just the first step; after that, evaluation irregularities, merit list manipulation, and allocation manipulation, all of which are controlled by the educa-

tion mafia. If a mistake is made, there's an outcry, otherwise, these scams continue unabated.

But the biggest factor is our poor judicial process! The rising crime rate in every sphere of society is actually a side effect of a weak judicial process. For example, papers have been leaked dozens of times, or recruitment processes have been canceled, yet our governments seem to be unlearning. People will surely remember the much-discussed and infamous Vyapam scam

in Madhya Pradesh in 2013, in which many ineligible candidates were granted admission to medical colleges and jobs in various other departments. But no one remembers that despite nearly 3,000 people being named in the police charge sheet, barely 100 were convicted, and that too after lengthy trials, bail applications, and appeals. This is the case with almost every scam: media uproar upon detection, assurances of strict action against the accused, investigations, and then a lengthy legal process.

Sometimes, the charge sheet is presented in court years later. Taking advantage of this delay, clever criminals released on bail complicate the case in a maze of evidence and witnesses. Ultimately, the case is closed by punishing a few individuals. In this entire process, high-ranking officials in the system are left scot-free because there is no record of their unwritten orders. This spectacle isn't limited to paper leaks and exam management, but is evident in all forms of corruption. Whether it's the ED, Income Tax, Anti-

Corruption Bureau, GST, or any other agency, the end result is generally the same. Even in serious crimes like robbery, rape, and murder, the weaknesses and delays in the judicial process ultimately benefit the criminals. The public often forgets past cases in the excitement of new scandals that are constantly exposed. The criminals' morale is so high that even being released on bail is celebrated. Clearly, being released on bail is considered a success for the criminal, as the trial is bound to drag on for years.

## BRIFF NEWS

**Delhi high court stays FSSAI order asking Red Bull to remove 'energy drinks' tag**



**New Delhi, (GNS):** Delhi HC on Tuesday stayed an order of Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) that had directed Red Bull India Private Ltd to stop using the words "energy drink" on its product.

Justice Amit Mahajan faulted FSSAI for not following "principles of natural justice", noting that it passed the June 30 direction to Red Bull without giving any opportunity to the company to file a reply or give any explanation.

However, the HC allowed FSSAI to take a fresh decision in the matter after following due process by issuing a show-cause notice to Red Bull and granting it an opportunity of hearing. FSSAI informed the court that no separate show-cause notice was served and that the June 30 letter itself was a notice.

Red Bull had moved HC, challenging the FSSAI order, submitting that it had been using the "energy drink" descriptor for its beverage products in India since 2002 and that FSSAI had previously recognised its use for the relevant category of caffeinated beverages.

## City records coolest Sept morning for second time



**New Delhi, (GNS):** The city experienced its coolest morning for the second time this month, with the minimum temperature dropping to 21 degrees Celsius, two notches below normal, at its base station Safdarjung Tuesday.

Ridge observatory in north Delhi was cooler, recording Delhi's lowest minimum at 16.9°C, six notches below normal.

The mercury in Safdarjung had dropped to 21°C Sunday as well, making it the lowest minimum temperature recorded in Sept in the city in the past 18 years and the second lowest since 2001. "The lowest on record so far is 20.8°C on Sept 6, 2008," said an IMD official.

The minimum is forecast to hover between 20°C and 22°C over the next two days. The mean minimum temperature this Sept was 25.5°C, up from 24.8°C last Sept.

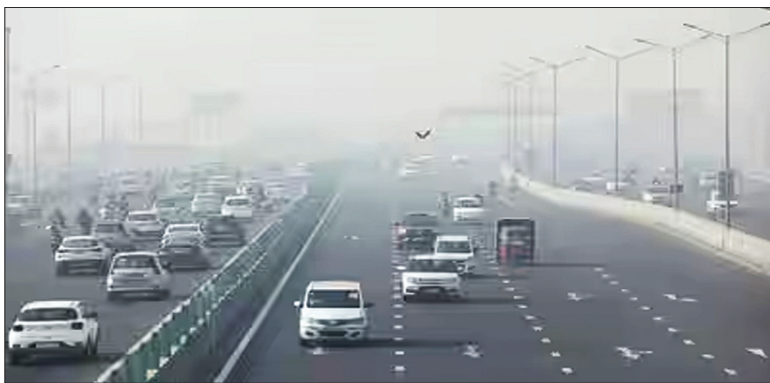
The maximum Tuesday was 32.4°C, over two degrees below normal, up from 28.7°C a day earlier. It is likely to stay between 32 and 34°C Wednesday. The mean maximum temperature this Sept was 34°C, compared with 34.8°C last Sept.

Delhi received 79.7 mm of rainfall this month, the lowest recorded in a Sept since 2020, when the city had got just 20.9 mm. This Sept ended with a rainfall deficit of 35.5%, against the entire month's normal of 123.5 mm. Though there were six rainy days this Sept, only light to moderate showers were logged. There was no 'heavy rainfall day' this month.

# 50% WFH, no PUCC-no Fuel rule, staggered office hours: How Delhi plans to fight winter pollution

**New Delhi, (GNS):** With winter approaching, the Delhi government has stepped up preparations to tackle air pollution, announcing a series of preventive measures under its Winter Action Plan for 2026-27.

Environment minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa said the government is shifting from a reactive approach to preventive action, with departments assigned clear targets and timelines. The plan focuses on key pollution sources, including vehicular emissions, road dust, construction activities,



industrial emissions, open burning and traffic hotspots.

The government will strengthen the "No PUCC-No Fuel" campaign across 500 fuel stations and step up

action against End-of-Life vehicles.

Delhi's public transport network will also be strengthened, with the government aiming to raise

average daily Metro ridership from 65 lakh to 72 lakh and DTC ridership from 37 lakh to 42 lakh.

To reduce peak-hour traffic, the government has also planned staggered office timings and a 50% work-from-home arrangement during the winter pollution period.

MCD offices will operate from 8:30 am to 5 pm, while Government of the National Capital Territory of Delhi (GNCTD) offices will function from 10 am to 6:30 pm. According to news agency media, the government has also announced

stricter curbs on construction-related activities. Dust-generating demolition and outdoor civil construction will be prohibited from November 1 to January 31, while a complete ban on construction and demolition activities will be enforced from December 10 to January 20.

To improve monitoring, Delhi plans to increase its Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Stations from 47 to 60 and deploy 334 enforcement teams.

An AI-enabled Command and Control Centre, along with cameras

and geo-tagged monitoring, will be used to track pollution and violations more closely.

Sirsa said tackling Delhi's air pollution would require coordinated action across the NCR, as pollution does not remain confined to administrative boundaries.

He also urged residents to use public transport, keep their Pollution Under Control (PUC) certificates valid, avoid open burning and report pollution-related violations through the 311 helpline or the Green Delhi App.

## Delhi's Barapullah Phase-III opens after decade-long delay

**New Delhi, (GNS):** For thousands of commuters travelling from East Delhi and Ghaziabad towards AIIMS and South Delhi, the opening of Barapullah Phase-III on Tuesday is not merely another flyover entering Delhi's road network. It changes where a substantial chunk of that traffic can travel, taking vehicles away from the congested Sarai Kale Khan stretch of Ring Road and onto a signal-free corridor.

The Rs 1,635-crore project, approved in 2014 and started in 2015, was originally meant to be completed in 2017. Repeated delays pushed the project back by nearly a decade. It was finally inaugurated by Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday.

The Phase-III stretch links Mayur Vihar Phase-I with Sarai



Kale Khan, joining the existing Barapullah network towards AIIMS and South Delhi. The combined corridor is about 9-km long. The flyover reduces travel time between East Delhi and AIIMS to 15 minutes.

This creates a new choice for motorists coming from East Delhi, Ghaziabad and Noida. Instead of entering the heavily used Ring Road section outside Sarai Kale Khan, vehicles travelling towards

South Delhi can use the elevated route and continue towards the existing Barapullah corridor.

For commuters heading towards Ashram, a connection near Kalindi Colony also allows traffic to exit before the most congested portion of Ring Road.

PWD officials and transport experts expect a significant redistribution of traffic, although the department has cautioned that the actual reduction in congestion can only be established after traffic patterns settle following the opening.

The bigger civic question is therefore no longer whether Barapullah-III will open, but whether Delhi's traffic will actually be redistributed rather than merely shifted from one bottleneck to another.

## Drones Worth R1 Cr Seized at IGI Airport

**New Delhi, (GNS):** Three Indian passengers have been charged for attempting to smuggle drones and their parts worth Rs 1 crore. These passengers had arrived at IGI Airport on Sept 25 from Hong Kong via Vietnam.

During Customs proceedings, the passengers were subjected to a baggage search, which resulted in the recovery of 10 autel robotics mdx-1 drones, 11 remote controllers of autel robotics mdx-1 drones, 10 adaptors, 10 USB chargers, 20 data cables, 40 remote controller joysticks and other parts. They also

recovered one iPhone 18 Pro Max 512 GB.

"Chartered engineer informed Customs officers that these are professional-grade drones with thermal imaging and laser range-finder and are military/defence grade UAV. They also require mandatory DGCA registration for each drone. The total market value was assessed at Rs 1 crore," said a Customs official.

The passengers told officials that the drones and their parts were brought from Hong Kong for a friend who owns them.

## DTC strike: Esma invoked, 500 DTC drivers to help private operators

**New Delhi, (GNS):** Amid the ongoing strike by DTC's contractual drivers, Delhi govt has invoked Essential Services Maintenance Act (Esma), prohibiting agitations by employees associated with Delhi Transport Corporation for six months. Govt also transferred 500 DTC drivers Tuesday to help private concessionaires, which operate a large number of the corporation's buses.

DTC services have been disrupted in several parts of Delhi since Sept 16 after drivers employed on contract through private agencies went on strike, demanding higher wages and medical and social security benefits. The general secretary of

DTC Karamchari Ekta Union, Manoj Sharma, said none of the demands had been met yet.

Transport minister Pankaj Mishra confirmed both moves. Many permanent DTC drivers deployed on non-driving duties, including pollution checks with the transport department and official work at depots, have been sent to operate buses run by private players to overcome the manpower shortage, said union president Lalit Chaudhary.

The Esma notification, issued on Sept 25, states repeated disruption of DTC services had caused inconvenience and hardship to the public, prompting govt to take the step.

## DU graduate from Assam, 20 days into Delhi internship, killed as DTC bus hits her Uber bike taxi

**New Delhi, (GNS):** A 22-year-old sociology student of IGNOU, who had joined an internship programme around 20 days ago, died after the Uber bike taxi she was travelling on was allegedly hit by a DTC bus near Ashram Flyover on Monday.

The deceased was identified as Hrishita Lahon, a graduate of Maitreyi College, University of Delhi. She was pursuing a master's degree in sociology from IGNOU and had moved to Delhi for her higher studies and internship.

Lahon was travelling from Lajpat Nagar towards Noida when the accident took place around 10am. Police said no PCR call was received from the spot and they first learnt about the accident through a medico-legal case (MLC) received from a hospital around 12.58pm.

According to police, the MLC stated that Lahon had suffered injuries in a road accident involving a DTC bus near Ashram Flyover. She was later shifted to another hospital in Sarita Vihar as her condition was critical. She succumbed to her injuries around 2.05pm. Her statement could not be recorded.



The bike taxi was being ridden by Darab Singh, who was also injured in the crash. During preliminary inquiry, Singh told police that a bus had allegedly hit the motorcycle from behind. He received treatment at a hospital but left before his statement could be formally recorded and later travelled to Haryana for further treatment.

Police searched the area around Ashram Flyover and tried to identify eyewitnesses but could not find anyone who had seen the accident. The motorcycle is also being examined as part of the investigation.

A case has been registered at Sunlight Colony police station under Sections 281 (rash driving), 106(1) (causing death by negligence) and 125(A) (act endangering life or personal safety of others) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita.

## Theatre review: Ham MacLear's life, reimagined through Shakespeare's words

**New Delhi, (GNS):** Amid the dim lighting, actor Mantra Mugdh, playing Busker, enters the stage wearing a mask of Shakespeare. He sits down on a wooden box and begins to play an instrument shaped like a regular household utensil. The image is colourful yet ominous, like witnessing the start of something dangerous but human. A tragicomedy, if you will.

And right on cue, a character named Chorus appears, whose chirpy voice and tap



dancing shift the atmosphere, making it considerably lighter. Together, they narrate the tale of Ham, an old man whose love for both Shakespeare and theatre has brought them together.

The narrative technique of theatre within a theatre is a clever hat

tip to Shakespeare's Hamlet, but the device here also allows the play to blur the line between the story being performed and the tragedy unfolding within Ham's life.

The Tragedy of Ham MacLear is the account of an ailing man who attempts to rediscover his love for the timeless plays of the Bard with the help of his friends. Tightly placed at 65 minutes, the drama demands your unwavering attention as it moves seamlessly from the present to the onset

of Ham's dementia on stage, when he begins performing a scene from Hamlet in the middle of The Merchant of Venice.

This is where director and lead actor Akash Khurana sparkles. His confident demeanour of a man who knows his play inside-out transforms in mere seconds into a confused performer who cannot comprehend why his loving audience is suddenly booing at him and his crew.

## NIFT students bring home medals from WorldSkills Shanghai

**New Delhi, (GNS):** Fashion, technology and retail converged on the global skills stage in Shanghai, where four National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) participants represented India across emerging creative disciplines, returning with two silver medals and a Medal for Excellence at the WorldSkills



Competition 2026. At the competition, held from September 23 to 26, Kovid Ajay Gangrade of

NIFT Mumbai won silver in Digital Interactive Media Design, while Saniya Joshi of NIFT Panchkula secured silver in Retail Sales. Vidhi Niravkumar Suthar, a Fashion Design graduate from NIFT Gandhinagar, received a Medal for Excellence in Fashion Technology.

## Jamia suspends PhD scholar for 5 days over protest against hostel evictions

**New Delhi, (GNS):** Jamia Millia Islamia has suspended a PhD scholar for five days for allegedly participating in a protest gathering on Monday against the alleged "retaliatory" eviction notices served to several women hostellers who had staged a prolonged agitation over bugs found in mess food. The scholar has been barred from entering the campus during the suspension period.

The show-cause notice, issued by the office of the chief proce-



tor on Sept 28, said an unauthorised gathering was held at the central canteen at 5pm that day, disrupting the university's routine functioning and affecting teaching, learning and research activities in nearby departments, laborato-

ries and libraries. It accused the scholar of delivering a speech and "giving publicity to misleading accounts and rumours", thereby inciting other students to breach discipline.

The notice said his actions amounted to "gross misconduct" under various clauses of the university's students' discipline ordinance. He has been directed to explain by Oct 5 why a higher punishment should not be imposed.

Speaking to media, the student said the

protest was organised by women hostel residents against a recent alleged forced eviction, which they believed was retaliatory following their protests over food safety in the mess.

Earlier, hostellers had alleged eviction notices were served on them for participating in protests against the mess food. The administration, however, had said the students did not meet the eligibility criteria and that hostel renewal was carried out every year on the basis of merit.

## BRIEF NEWS

## Delhi Cabinet okays 30 EV road sweepers



**New Delhi, Agency:** The Delhi Cabinet on Tuesday approved the deployment of 30 electric vehicle-based mechanical road sweeping machines on smaller roads and a five-year collaboration with the IIT-Delhi for continuous, real-time identification of PM2.5 and PM10 pollution sources.

The decisions, taken at a Cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, are aimed at strengthening the ground-level measures under the Delhi Government's Winter Action Plan 2026-27.

Under the road-cleaning initiative, mechanised sweeping will be extended to roads with a right of way of less than 10 metres. The government has identified 854 roads covering around 609 km across 250 wards for the initiative.

The Delhi Government will provide a grant to the Municipal Corporation to procure the 30 EV-based mechanical road sweeping machines, which will be operated and deployed by the civic body. The project is estimated to cost around Rs 393.73 crore over 10 years.

The Cabinet also approved continuous, real-time source apportionment of PM2.5 and PM10 in collaboration with the IIT-Delhi.

## CBSE clarifies registration, LOCs process for 2027 board exams



**New Delhi, Agency:** With preparations for the 2027 board examinations under way, the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) held a live interaction with school principals and educators on Tuesday to address queries over the submission of student data and the List of Candidates (LOCs).

The session, conducted at the CBSE Integrated Office in Dwarka, came as schools are in the process of submitting LOC details for students appearing for the Class X and XII board examinations next year. The Board is also set to begin the registration process for students of Classes IX and XI shortly.

A major focus of the interaction was the accuracy of information being submitted by schools. CBSE officials discussed issues concerning student particulars, subject choices and changes, verification of LOC data, examination fees and provisions applicable to Children with Special Needs (CWSN).

During the question and answer session, principals and teachers raised queries on the registration and LOC procedures, which were addressed by senior CBSE officials. The Controller of Examinations also explained key aspects of the process to participating schools.

The Board has asked schools to carefully check student details and subject combinations before final submission and ensure that any discrepancies are addressed within the prescribed timelines.

# MCD House approves 70 mechanical sweepers, 1,000 litter-picker machines

**New Delhi, Agency:** The Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) General House on Tuesday approved proposals to procure 70 mechanical road sweepers and 1,000 vacuum-based battery-operated litter-picker machines, besides clearing the urbanisation of 48 Delhi villages under Section 506(A) of the Delhi Municipal Corporation Act.

Deputy Mayor Monika Pant said the new mechanical sweepers would strengthen road cleaning and dust-control measures,



while the litter-picker machines would improve sanitation on roads and public places. The procurement of 70 mechanical

road sweepers and 1,000 battery-operated litter-picker machines is also reflected in the MCD's ongoing procurement

processes.

Pant said councillors discussed pollution, unauthorised construction and other civic issues during the meeting, with representatives raising matters concerning sanitation, roads, basic infrastructure and facilities in their respective wards. She alleged that AAP councillors did not participate in discussions on these issues at the beginning of the meeting and arrived nearly two hours late. Pant said elected representatives should participate in House pro-

ceedings and raise issues concerning residents irrespective of political differences. Leader of the House Jai Bhagwan Yadav also alleged that AAP Leader of Opposition Ankush Narang and other AAP councillors misbehaved with security personnel while entering the Municipal House. According to Yadav, the councillors were asked to use the designated entry gate, following which an argument and alleged pushing and shoving took place.

Yadav said security per-

sonnel were responsible for enforcing House security protocols and alleged that the incident amounted to an attempt to disrupt proceedings. The AAP, however, disputed the allegations. Narang alleged that MCD security personnel tried to prevent AAP councillors from entering the House and claimed that proceedings were adjourned after the party sought to raise the issue of Delhi PWD Minister Parvesh Verma and alleged illegal paying guest (PG) accommodation.

## DU college sets up panel to probe poll 'malpractices'

**New Delhi, Agency:** Aditi Mahavidyalaya, a DU college, has formed a committee to investigate allegations of irregularities in its college-level elections after two candidates alleged discrepancies in counting, EVM handling and said that non-students, including a BJP functionary, were near a booth on the polling day.

All the candidates who won the election on Sept 18 were backed by ABVP.

On Sept 21, Diya Chhabra, who contested for president, and Prachi Wadhwa, who contested for secretary, sent a representation to the college, alleging election malpractice. The college informed them on Sept 24 that it had formed a probe committee.

According to a result sheet that Chhabra and Wadhwa have submit-



ted, 568 votes were cast across the two booths - 315 in booth 1 and 253 in booth 2. However, the number of votes recorded for the posts varied. For president, the total was 563 -- 314 in booth 1 and 249 in 2. For secretary, the votes cast were 539 -- 311 in booth 1 and 228 in booth 2. For the joint secretary post, 542 votes were cast -- the booth-wise break-up was 311 and 231.

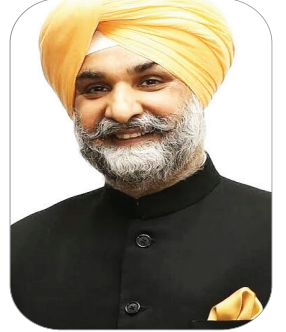
The duo said that while the

shortfall was between one and four votes for president, the shortfall was 25 votes for secretary and 22 for joint secretary in booth 2. The two have asked how many NOTA votes were cast and asked for the unedited CCTV footage of polling day too. They also alleged that an observer in booth 1 was not allowed to stay inside the polling area and that EVMs were opened before voting without a verification by the candidates. A non-student, that too a man, was allowed on the women's college campus during the campaign and the polling and was seen near a booth on Sept 18 between 11.30am and 1pm with BJP MLA Ravinder Indraj Singh, they wrote.

When Singh was asked about this, he said that as a "public representative" he had gone to the campus.

## Delhi: Develop tech solutions for civic issues, says L-G Taranjit Singh Sandhu

**New Delhi, Agency:** Delhi Lt Governor (L-G) Taranjit Singh Sandhu on Tuesday directed Netaji Subhas University of Technology (NSUT) to develop technology-based solutions for the city's civic challenges, including sanitation, traffic management, road



wide department-specific technological solutions to the MCD, NDMC, Delhi Police, Health Department, PWD and Transport Department.

Emphasising the need for future-ready education, the L-G said artificial intelligence education should be strengthened through global collaborations, with particular focus on transformative applications such as AI-enabled healthcare in government hospitals.

Sandhu chaired the sixth Court Meeting of NSUT at Lok Niwas and asked the technical university to work with expert agencies and pro-

vide department-specific technological solutions to the MCD, NDMC, Delhi Police, Health Department, PWD and Transport Department.

## Tourism Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat felicitates 20 Award-Winning Artists at 65th National Exhibition of Art in New Delhi

**New Delhi, Agency:** Union Culture and Tourism Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat felicitated 20 Award-Winning Artists at the 65th National Exhibition of Art in New Delhi yesterday. The Lalit Kala Akademi organised the exhibition. Addressing the gathering, Mr Shekhawat highlighted the significance of bringing together creativity and sustainability.

He said the Seva Hi Sanskriti initiative, organised on the occasion of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's birthday, demonstrates how creativity and the spirit of service can come together meaningfully. He appreciated the Lalit

### onal Exhibition o



Kala Akademi's efforts across its various verticals, including the Waste to Wonder initiative, which gives discarded materials a new artistic expression and highlights the role of art in promoting sustainability.

## High student classroom ratio in Delhi Govt schools flagged

**New Delhi, Agency:** A lawyer has flagged the "excessively high" student classroom ratio (SCR) in several Delhi Government schools, particularly in East Delhi, claiming that overcrowded classrooms are forcing students to stay away from school due to the lack of adequate space.

In a letter addressed to the Secretary (Education), Government of NCT of Delhi, lawyer Ashok Agarwal said the situation had become particularly serious in senior



secondary classes, where the number of students in some sections is reportedly as high as 70-80 and, in certain cases, nearly 90.

Citing the situation in an East Delhi government school, Agarwal said one class has around 90 students, with nearly

45 students reportedly not attending classes because of the shortage of space. He also pointed to a shortage of subject teachers, particularly for senior secondary subjects such as Physics, Chemistry and Biology.

"The non-creation of additional sections

despite such a high SCR is seriously affecting the education of students," Agarwal said in the letter.

He said the overcrowding was resulting in inadequate classroom space and seating arrangements, thereby affecting students' regular attendance as well as their learning environment. According to him, students cannot meaningfully exercise their Right to Education when schools do not have adequate classroom space and other basic facilities required for learning.

## DNA implicates driver, conductor who raped teen on Delhi bus

### chargesheet names 50 witnesses

**New Delhi, Agency:** DNA evidence, including semen and hair strands, found on clothes and bus seats turned out to be a major clue that helped cops link the bus driver and conductor to the gang rape of a 16-year-old girl inside a private sleeper bus on Aug 4.

Delhi Police filed a chargesheet against bus driver Kuldeep (39) and conductor Sandeep (26), both from Kanpur, under PoCSO Act, including Section 6, and relevant provisions of BNS relating to wrongful confinement and kidnapping.

The 398-page chargesheet was filed on Sept 18, and a city court took cognisance of the case on Sept 24, sources said. The chargesheet names 50 witnesses and was filed within 48 days of the incident.

The investigation also found that the bus had 11 pending traffic challans. Its CCTV camera was non-functional, while heavy curtains covered the windows, potentially restricting visibility inside the vehicle.

According to the prosecution, the two men had been



hired to work on the bus without proper verification. These findings emerged as part of the investigation.

Bus gang rape: Accused diverted vehicle, dropped girl on Ring Road

The DNA samples of the accused matched the samples collected during the forensic examination, making it one of the major pieces of evidence linking them to the crime. The sample was also found in her body," a source said.

The Class XI student from Mainpuri district in UP had left home on the night of Aug 4. She then set out for Noida to meet her cousin. According to the chargesheet, she was waiting for a bus when the accused spotted her and allegedly told her that they were also headed to Noida.

## Councillors ask MCD to act tough over pollution

**New Delhi, Agency:** Councillors across parties Tuesday questioned Municipal Corporation of Delhi's (MCD) moves to tackle pollution, raising concerns over construction activities, crematoriums and waste management in the city.

During a house meeting, BJP councillors said the civic body

needed to take action against construction and building material shops that allegedly operate without adequate checks or penalties. Merely issuing challans to construction sites will not address the recurring problem, they emphasised.

Rajpal Singh, BJP councillor from Srinivasapuri, demanded

that the use of wood at crematoriums be stopped to help reduce air pollution and cleaner alternatives be promoted as has been done at four crematoriums.

He said MCD should also assess the requirement for sanitation staff, vehicles for lifting garbage, etc., in 48 villages being urbanised.

## Flyover spruce-up grounded: Cows, encroachers and garbage rule

**New Delhi, Agency:** Delhi govt's plan to reclaim and beautify the spaces below flyovers isn't flying too high. A peep under Janakpuri's Lajwanti Chowk flyover will show how far, and filthy, the road to beautification is.

Before the Lajwanti Chowk flyover comes into view, a smell greets the commuter. On the way to Tihar Jail, 15-16 cows are sprawled on the road. Their dung is scattered around, and flies have arrived to feast on it.



A garbage dump sits a little further ahead and a market is nearby too. Pedestrians cover their mouths and noses as they walk past the area.

"It has been like this for years now. People have started feeding the cows. No one cares. They

talk about beautifying these spaces, but I think this area is not one of them," Vijay, a resident, said. Residents have raised the issue on the CM's portal and with PWD and MCD. But the cows have remained, along with their dung and

the pile of garbage.

Delhi govt plans to beautify spaces beneath its flyovers, but what is visible on the ground seems quite the opposite. Under the JLN Stadium flyover, there are no cows or garbage piles. But the space has other occupants. A mattress is on the ground and bed-sheets are spread out beside it. Children are seen playing beneath the concrete structure. Personal belongings have taken up the available space.