



Fire At Hotel In Bengal's Birbhum, 8 Killed, 9 Injured

● Short Circuit In AC Caused Fire, Devotees Had Come To Tarapith Temple On Sawan Monday

Birbhum,(GNS): A fire broke out at a hotel in West Bengal's Birbhum district on Monday morning. Eight people were killed and nine others were seriously injured in the incident. The fire was caused by a short circuit in the AC.

According to information, a large number of devotees had

reached Tarapith Temple on account of Sawan Monday. Many people were staying at the Bidishini Hotel. At around 4:30 am, when people were sleeping, a fire broke out on the first floor of the hotel. As the rear door of the hotel was closed, people could not immediately get out.



The fire brigade team reached the spot after receiving information and brought the fire under control. The injured were sent to Rampurhat Government Medical College. A

woman from Kolkata who survived the incident said the entire hotel suddenly filled with smoke. They could not breathe and it was difficult to find a way to escape.

One Woman And Two Children Missing: Another woman said she had come from South 24 Parganas on Sunday afternoon to offer prayers. Her mother and children were with her. Her mother was in Room No. 1. Her mother and two children are now missing.

VHP National General Secretary Says- Murderers, Rapists Were In CJP Movement No 'Gen-Z' At Jantar Mantar; Poor Sikhs Being Converted Through Foreign Funding In Punjab

Pathankot,(GNS): Vishva Hindu Parishad national organising general secretary Milind Parande has reacted sharply to the Cockroach Janata Party (CJP) movement at Jantar Mantar in Delhi. Parande said around 2,800 history-sheeters, 60 murderers and more than 100 rapists were part of the



movement. He said it was not correct to describe a movement

involving such people as a movement of students or 'Gen-Z'. He said poor Sikhs in Punjab were being converted through foreign funding. He alleged that attempts were being made to convert them to Christianity. He was in Pathankot on Sunday night, where he spoke to the media.

History-Sheeters

Participated In Jantar Mantar Protest

Speaking to journalists, Parande said around 2,800 history-sheeters, 60 murderers and more than 100 rapists were part of the Jantar Mantar movement. He said such a gathering of criminals could not be described as representing students or 'Gen-Z'.

7 Children Drown To Death In Bihar

● 7 Sisters Drown In Ganga In Patna, 2 Bodies Found-3 Rescued ● 3 Boys Die In Katihar

Patna,(GNS): Seven children died by drowning in Patna and Katihar on the third Monday of Sawan.

They included four girls and three boys. The bodies of three girls have been recovered, while one is still missing. Seven girls who had gone to bathe in the Ganga drowned in Patna on Monday morning.

The bodies of three sisters have been recovered. Three were rescued by local residents. The incident occurred near Ranisarai village under Bakhtiyarpur police station in Barh subdivision.



All of them had gone to bathe at around 5 am on the occasion of Sawan Monday. Meanwhile, three children died after drowning in the Kamla River in Katihar.

The incident occurred when the three children went into the river to take a dip. Four children were safely rescued.

How The Accident Happened: According to information, seven girls from Ranisarai village had reached the riverbank to bathe in the Ganga on Sawan Monday. During bathing, one of them went into deep water and began drowning. The other girls moved forward to save her.

Cauvery Water Dispute: Supreme Court Adjourns Hearing By One Week

Tamil Nadu Had Filed Petition, Sought Release Of Water By Karnataka

New Delhi,(GNS): The Supreme Court on Monday adjourned the hearing on the Cauvery water dispute by one week. The petition had been filed by the Tamil Nadu government. The petition seeks directions to the Karnataka government to immediately release Tamil Nadu's share of Cauvery water. Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Vijay had approached the Supreme Court on August 3. Following this, the Supreme Court had said on August 12 that petitions filed by the Tamil Nadu government and other parties would be heard on August 17. The next hearing will now take place on August 24.

However, according to the Tamil Nadu government, between July 29 and August 2, the water flow at Biligundulu remained between only 158 and 550 cusecs.

Karnataka Dams Had 77.537 Thousand Million Cubic Feet Of Water

According to a press release issued by the Tamil Nadu government, a total of 77.537 thousand million cubic feet (TMC) of water was stored in Karnataka's Kabini, Harangi and Hemavathi dams as of August 3. The government said Karnataka should have no difficulty releasing Tamil Nadu's fixed share according to the prescribed ratio.

Tamil Nadu Not Getting Its Fixed Share Of Water:

In its petition, the Tamil Nadu government claimed that both the quantity of water fixed for the state by the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee and the water released by Karnataka were considerably lower. At the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee meeting held on July 28, Karnataka was directed to release 3,500 cusecs of water daily for 15 days from July 29.



Stampede-Like Situation At Mahakal Complex, 13 People Fall Ill

SP Says- 40,000 People Were In Queue



Ujjain,(GNS): A stampede-like situation arose at the Mahakaleshwar Temple complex in Ujjain on Monday. It is being reported that a rumour of an electric current spreading had triggered panic. People fell over one another. Thirteen people were injured as the pressure increased. After primary treatment, all except three have been discharged.

According to police, around 40,000 devotees are standing in queues for darshan of Lord Nagchandreshwar. So far, around 5.50 lakh devotees have had darshan of Nagchandreshwar. The temple is located on the third floor of the Mahakal Temple and is opened only on the occasion of Nag Panchami.

Stampede In Bihar's Lakhisarai, 7 Women Killed

● Thousands Of Devotees Gathered For Jalabhishek At Temple, Rumour Of Electric Current Triggered Panic



Lakhisarai, (GNS): A stampede broke out in Bihar's Lakhisarai on Monday. Seven women were killed in the incident. More than 23 people are reported to have been injured, with three in critical condition. The death toll is feared to rise. The incident occurred on the road leading from Ashokdham station to the temple.

Lakhisarai DM Shailendra Kumar said a pole fell on the side of the men's queue. After this, a rumour spread that

a live electricity wire had fallen on people, whereas it was only a cable wire for dish/internet services. The pressure of the crowd from the men's side

fell on the women's queue, causing them to fall over one another. A devotee standing in the queue for darshan said, "There was a huge crowd. Suddenly, news spread that a pole had fallen and people had suffered electric shocks."

Flood In Prayagraj, 3 Feet Water Enters Homes: Cars-Bikes Submerged, Boats In Streets

312 Students Trapped In Odisha School For Two Days



Bhopal/Jaipur/Lucknow/Patna, (GNS): Several cities in Uttar Pradesh are facing flood-like conditions due to continuous rainfall. In colonies of Prayagraj, 3 to 4 feet of water has accumulated,



submerging cars and bikes. Ground floors of several houses have been flooded, forcing people to stay on the first floor. Police and rescue teams are

rescuing people using boats. Meanwhile, 312 students and 10 teachers have been trapped in a school in Kendrapara, Odisha, for

two days. The ground floor of the government residential Ashram School in Kulsahi village has been submerged in the waters of the Brahmani River. The school is surrounded by nearly 10 feet of water on all sides, and rescue teams have so far been unable to reach the site due to the strong current. Meanwhile, 187 people have died in Himachal Pradesh during this monsoon.

Rain Causes Wall Collapse In Odisha, Grandmother And Grandson Killed: In Odisha's Balasore district, a grandmother and her grandson were killed after a wall of a neighbouring house collapsed amid continuous rain. The incident occurred on Sunday night in Kapasuda village of Jaleswar block.

President And Prime Minister Express Grief Over Devotees' Deaths In Bihar Temple Stampede

New Delhi,(GNS): President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed grief over the deaths of seven devotees in the stampede at Ashokdham Shiv Temple in Bihar's Lakhisarai district on the third Monday of Sawan. The President posted on X expressing deep sorrow over the incident. She said the news of devotees dying in the stampede in Bihar's Lakhisarai district was extremely painful. She expressed deep condolences to the bereaved families and prayed for the speedy recovery of the injured.



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 Dasmuni, 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 openly 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

Testing troubles: On the National Testing Agency, NEET-UG 2026

Once bitten, twice shy: this saying surely does not apply to the National Testing Agency (NTA). Given the number of times that the Agency has run into trouble in the conduct of common entrance exams, it would have been logical to expect those at the helm to have learnt their lessons. However, this week's cancellation of the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET)-UG affecting over 22 lakh students is a serious blow to the agency's reputation. The NTA, on May 12, 2026, announced the cancellation of the exam held on May 3, amid allegations of paper leak, as the government tasked the CBI with carrying out a comprehensive inquiry. The decision followed investigations revealing that a 'guess paper' — a collection of predicted, high-importance questions created to help students prepare — matched numerous questions in chemistry and biology. Media reports said that this material had reached coaching hubs in Rajasthan nearly a month ahead, and had been sold to aspirants for huge sums. This led to investigations by the Rajasthan Police Special Operations Group and 15 people were arrested. In the face of such obvious fraud, the NTA maintained the line that the decision to cancel the exam was taken "in the interest of students and in recognition of the trust on which the national examination system rests". The question though, is: does the NTA still enjoy that trust? NEET has been dogged by controversy right from the start, with several States opposing the format. But even after it was rolled out across the country, the NTA, as the agency conducting the exam, has suffered several dents to its credibility, with various charges and controversies coming up with depressing regularity. This includes the 2019 impersonation scam in Tamil Nadu where students used proxies to write the exam; the 2022 controversy of frisking girl examinees in Kerala, and the 2024 paper leak and grace marks controversy. The K. Radhakrishnan committee, which was constituted to recommend reforms in the examination process, recommended a restructuring of the NTA, and creating strong institutional linkages with State and district authorities in order to produce a secure test administration apparatus.

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. Suwendu 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. Suwendu 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-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 Suwendu 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 Suwendu Adhikari, of serious corruption. But when the same Suwendu 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.

BRIF NEWS

Who runs Delhi? Where responsibility is shared but not accountability

New Delhi,(GNS): Delhi has one of the country's most complex-administrative structures, where responsibility for a singlepublic issue is often fragmented across multiple authorities. The result: You, the citizen, suffers, but the buck stops nowhere.

Too many cooks A road getting dug up soon after it was constructed is not an unusual site in the city. Unlike any other Indian city, governance in Delhi is divided among the Centre, Delhi govt, Municipal Corporation of Delhi, Delhi Development Authority, New Delhi Municipal Council, Delhi Cantonment Board and several other agencies, with most of these often lacking coordination. This results not only in delays, but also wasteful expenditure of public money. In many cases, even neighbouring states, such as Uttar Pradesh and Haryana, control key infrastructure that directly affects the city's functioning. What a waste. The lack of coordination among multiple agencies often results in avoidable duplication of work and also serious inconvenience to the general public. "One agency spends weeks building or resurfacing a road, only for another agency to arrive soon to dig it up for laying a water pipeline, underground power cables, sewer lines or some other underground utility network. Such instances are not a rare sight in Delhi and lead to delays, unwise spending of public money, traffic congestion and inconvenience to residents," said an official who didn't want to be named. Some examples where Delhi finds its hands tied. Monsoon woes In 2023, when parts of the capital were flooded, Delhi faced a major coordination challenge with Haryana, which controls the ITO barrage. Differences over the barrage's maintenance, funding and operation had persisted for years, exposing gaps in coordination between the two govts. Delhi govt has since initiated the process to take over the barrage's operation. Haryana has given in-principle approval, but the transfer is yet to be completed.

Another key barrage, Okhla Barrage, located on the Delhi-Uttar Pradesh border, is operated by the Uttar Pradesh irrigation department. Any decision on its operation requires coordination between Delhi and Uttar Pradesh. Officials said coordination tends to become challenging when different political parties govern Delhi, UP and Haryana.

Drainage Stormwater drains across Delhi are maintained by MCD, PWD, the irrigation and flood control department, DDA and NHAI. During every monsoon season, waterlogging at a single location can involve several agencies because each is responsible only for a particular stretch of the drainage network. Coordination failures often delay remedial action even when the problem is evident.

Priyanshu Modi launches debut poetry book in Delhi

New Delhi,(GNS): After The Pill, an award-winning short film, Priyanshu Modi marked a personal milestone with a special book reading held in Delhi on August 14, launching his debut poetry book with close industry friends and family coming together to uncover some of his deepest thoughts and emotions.

Talking about the night, Priyanshu Modi, filmmaker, writer and creator, said, "This was a dream of mine for 13 long years, and having my friends and family attend my book reading made this book launch one of my core memories. The exchange of ideas, thoughts and perspectives on life was exactly how I had imagined the night to be. It was raw, honest, and yet something



that stays with you for life. My book, Poems For Cigarettes, is all about empathy, intimacy, and everything personal - and so was this night. As a film-

maker, I have always observed people, understood their emotions, and found stories in the most personal of moments. With this book, I found another way to explore that same instinct through words.

In many ways, the launch felt like a coming together of these two worlds - storytelling through film and storytelling through poetry."

Influencers and artists including Ahsan Vazir, Tanya Bedi, Tanishka Bahl, Aashi Sahni, Hardik Arora, Ruchika Methwani and Arshan Ahmed came out in support of the young filmmaker. Priyanshu invited everyone into a world where poetry becomes a space for introspection, emotional honesty and connection, bringing together his

sensibilities as a filmmaker and writer to explore the deeply personal experiences that shape human relationships and emotions.

The book presents an honest and deeply personal collection of poems written across different phases of his life. His writing blends contemporary experiences with raw emotion, exploring themes such as loneliness, relationships, mental health, dreams, and hope. Rather than following conventional poetic forms, his work captures fleeting moments and everyday experiences with sincerity and vulnerability. His debut collection invites readers to connect with the emotions behind the words, encouraging them to find their own meanings in each poem.

Illegal floors, substandard material led to Saket building collapse

New Delhi,(GNS): Illegal construction of additional floors, use of substandard material and disregard for building safety norms led to the collapse of a five-storey building in south Delhi's Said-ul-Ajaib that killed six people - the Delhi Police has stated in its nearly 300-page chargesheet close to three months after the May 30 incident.

Supplementary chargesheets will be filed to examine alleged negligence of civic authorities, police said.

The accused, building owner Karamvir Singh, and builders Manish Khatri and Avinash Gupta, carried out construction in blatant violation of building norms, the chargesheet said.

Poor-quality construction material knowingly used, says chargesheet.

According to the chargesheet, filed before

Saket court on Aug 13, the three accused have been charged under Sections 105 (culpable homicide not amounting to murder), 290 (negligent conduct during construction of a building), 125(a) and 125(b) (causing hurt and grievous hurt by rash or negligent acts endangering human life), and Section 3(5) (common intention) of BNS.

Investigators have alleged that no building plan was ever sanctioned for the structure and that no mandatory construction norms were followed during its development.

The investigation further found that two additional floors were illegally added to the building. Police said that before constructing extra floors, it is mandatory to obtain a structural stability assessment from qualified experts to determine whether the existing struc-

ture can safely bear the additional load.

However, no such structural test or certification was obtained in this case.

What happened A police probe had revealed that builders Manish and Avinash were verbally contracted to construct two large halls for around Rs 1.8 crore and began work in Jan. During this time no architect was engaged for the project and the accused were instructed to connect new pillars to the existing weak structure despite the absence of structural approvals. The chargesheet also states that poor-quality construction material was knowingly used throughout the building. Investigators have stated that the accused were fully aware that the material being used was substandard and that the construction violated safety requirements.

Why there's a strong case for more openness in Indian courts

New Delhi,(GNS): Trust in public institutions depends on how transparent and understandable their processes and decisions are. The same principle applies to the judiciary. But what are the minimum standards of transparency courts should meet, and how well do Indian courts currently measure up?

The Judicial Transparency Index, developed by the Justice Access and Lowering Delays in India (JALDI) initiative at the Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy, assesses court disclosures against recognised national and international standards. It found that no court in India currently ensures full transparency across all areas of its function-



ing.

The 25 high courts scored an average of 42 out of 91 points, while the Supreme Court scored 53 out of 88, indicating moderate levels of openness. Among the high courts, Himachal Pradesh and Tripura made the most information available, according to the index.

While the judiciary has repeatedly emphasised transparency and accountability through judgments and public statements by judges, the report found that progress remains

uneven across courts and areas of functioning.

Access to proceedings

The open courts principle requires courts to facilitate public access to proceedings and decisions. While courts routinely publish cause lists and judgments, detailed guidelines on how non-litigants can access and observe proceedings are often missing.

For instance, the citizen charters of the Punjab and Haryana and Delhi high courts state that entry passes are issued only to litigants whose cases are listed for the day, creating uncertainty for members of the public.

This makes virtual access to hearings particularly important.

However, live-streaming remains inconsistent, with only half of the high courts currently streaming proceedings. Among them, only four - Chhattisgarh, Gauhati, Gujarat and Telangana - covered more than 75% of courtrooms on a particular day.

The Chhattisgarh High Court has since restricted live-streaming to PILs and cases involving substantial questions of law, showing how gains in transparency can also be reversed.

Case allocation and recusals

The public should also be able to understand how cases are allocated to judges and when, and on what grounds, a judge should recuse themselves.

Delhi auto union holds protest over welfare board, transport issues



New Delhi,(GNS):The Delhi Auto Rickshaw Sangh is set to hold a protest at Jantar Mantar on Monday, demanding the setting up of a welfare board and raising other transport-related issues.

The Sangh, under the umbrella of the Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh, will hold the agitation against the central and state governments. I appeal to all auto-taxi drivers to reach Jantar Mantar tomorrow and present their demands to the government. Our demand is that the Delhi government should immediately constitute the 'Auto-Taxi Drivers' Welfare Board' and withdraw the increased vehicle fitness fees immediately," Rajendra Soni, general secretary, Delhi Auto Rickshaw Sangh had said on Sunday.

The transport ministry had raised the fitness test fee for all motor vehicles older than 20 years in November 2025 to discourage people from keeping old vehicles.

The union has also demanded working time limits, accountability for officials of the Delhi transport department and an immediate ban on bike taxis with private number plates, Soni added.

67 repeated questions, misspelt names, factual mistakes': Why NTA scrapped 3 UGC-NET papers

New Delhi,(GNS): The National Testing Agency (NTA) on Sunday ordered fresh examinations for UGC-NET papers in English, Commerce and Sociology after a review committee found widespread factual, typographical and translation errors, along with a significant number of repeated questions.

The re-examinations will be held on September 9 and 10. The English paper will be conducted from 9am to noon on September 9, followed by Commerce from 3pm to 6pm. The Sociology paper will be held from 9am to noon on September 10. Candidates will not have to pay any additional examination fee.



The decision came shortly after NTA released provisional answer keys for 84 of the 87 subjects in the June UGC-NET examination. The answer keys for English, Commerce and

Sociology were withheld pending a review of complaints received about the papers.

Why were the three papers scrapped NTA said a committee constituted to examine the com-

plaints found several errors that affected the quality and reliability of the three question papers. These included factual and typographical errors, problems with translations, misspelt names of prominent scholars, incorrectly printed book titles, grammatical and punctuation mistakes, wrongly worded questions and the use of non-standard terminology for established concepts.

The committee also found that a "significant number" of questions had been repeated from earlier examinations.

NTA said the problems were too extensive to be resolved by simply deleting individual questions after the answer-key chal-

lenge process.

The agency concluded that the affected papers did not meet the required standards of a fair and error-free examination and decided to conduct them afresh. Sociology paper drew complaints. The Sociology paper had come under scrutiny soon after the June 30 examination. MEDIA had reported on July 1 that candidates had flagged several errors in the paper, including spelling and grammatical mistakes, distorted names of prominent thinkers, poor Hindi translations and questions that they alleged were outside the prescribed syllabus.

BRIFF NEWS

Delhi Govt extends 100 pc late payment surcharge waiver on water bills till March 31

New Delhi,(GNS): The Delhi Government has extended the 100 per cent waiver on late payment surcharge (LPSC) for outstanding water bills till March 31, 2027, giving domestic and non-domestic consumers a final opportunity to clear their old water dues by paying only the principal amount.

The scheme covers 14.09 lakh domestic consumers and 70,312 commercial consumers across Delhi.

Water Minister Parvesh Sahib Singh said the extension reflects the government's approach of combining financial discipline with sensitivity towards ordinary consumers.

For a family, an old water bill can remain a worry for years. When the LPSC keeps getting added, the amount can become difficult to clear. We wanted to give people a genuine opportunity - pay the principal amount and leave the burden of LPSC behind," he said.

He said the government has deliberately kept the relief simple and transparent. "We are not asking people to pay more. We are asking people to pay what they actually owe. If the principal amount is paid, 100 per cent LPSC will be waived. This is real relief for consumers and, at the same time, a responsible way of strengthening the Jal Board's finances," he said.

The minister also clarified that the extension should not be treated as an open-ended relaxation. As per the Jal Board's order, the waiver will remain available only until March 31, 2027, with no further extension.

This is the final opportunity. There will be no further extension. So I appeal to every consumer who has old water dues to use this window, clear the principal amount and close the matter once and for all," said the minister.

The Delhi Jal Board has directed its field offices to widely publicise the final settlement scheme and inform consumers about the LPSC waiver available on payment of the principal amount.

Delhi plans e-Cabinet for faster decision-making

New Delhi, Agency: Delhi chief minister Rekha Gupta has held a meeting with National Informatics Centre (NIC) experts to discuss the rollout of an e-Cabinet system that will make the cabinet functioning largely paperless, with ministers and senior officials able to access confidential Cabinet documents securely on tablets. The platform provides secure, role-based access to the documents and allows digital tracking of decisions. Several states, including Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Tripura, and Uttar Pradesh, have adopted such systems. The effective use of technology in governance and administration is the need of the hour. Delhi govt aims to develop a system that simplifies govt processes, enables faster decision-making of their implementation.

Mistaken for colleague, sanitation worker stabbed to death in Delhi's Kalyanpuri

New Delhi,(GNS): A 28-year-old sanitation worker was allegedly stabbed to death while on duty in east Delhi's Kalyanpuri on Sunday morning. Police suspect that the victim may have been mistaken for a colleague due to a resemblance between the two. The accused, who fled, is yet to be traced.

The deceased, identified as Anil Kumar, worked as a helper on a Municipal Corporation tipper truck through a contractor. According to police, he was attacked around 7.30 am



while Anil and the truck driver, Gulshan, were collecting garbage in the 20 Block area of Kalyanpuri. Police said the assailant attacked Anil with a

large knife and inflicted multiple stab wounds. Passersby rushed the injured man to Lal Bahadur Shastri Hospital, where he succumbed to injuries during treatment. The incident was captured on a nearby CCTV camera, which showed the accused repeatedly attacking Anil while bystanders looked on. Police have identified the suspect from the footage and launched a search. Preliminary investigation suggests the murder stemmed from the attacker's suspicion that Gulshan, the driver of

the tipper truck, was in contact with his wife. Police said Anil and Gulshan bore a close physical resemblance, leading police to suspect that Anil may have been killed as he was mistaken for Gulshan. Anil lived in Kala Enclave, Khoda Colony, Ghaziabad, with his family. His father works as a mason. Sanitation workers held a protest outside LBS Hospital, demanding the immediate arrest of the murderer, adequate compensation to Anil's family and a govt job for his elder brother.

Over half of DDA's Narela flats sold on opening day

New Delhi,(GNS): More than half of the 1,218 flats offered under Delhi Development Authority's (DDA) Karmajeevi Awaas Yojana 2026 were booked on the opening day, with 661 units sold, reflecting strong demand for affordable, ready-to-move homes in Narela, officials said. Police said an illegal country-made pistol and a live cartridge were recovered from his possession. A separate case under the Arms Act was registered at K N Katju Marg police station. Investigators also found that Ali has been involved in around 10 criminal cases in the past.

The scheme, launched under lieutenant governor TS Sandhu's guidance, opened for bookings on Aug 15 on a first-come, first-served (FCFS) basis. Demand was strongest for 1-BHK flats, all of which were

booked on day one.

"The strong sales come amid rising demand for DDA housing in Narela. In the first quarter of the current financial year, DDA sold 1,284 flats, generating over Rs 1,020 crore in revenue. Narela accounted for 1,153 flats, nearly 90% of total sales," said an official.

Under the scheme, DDA is offering 1,218 ready-to-move flats in pocket 11, sector A1-A4, Narela, at a flat 25% discount. The inventory includes 1-BHK, 2-BHK and 3-BHK units. Prices after discount start at Rs 33.4 lakh for 1-BHK flats, Rs 75.5 lakh for 2-BHK units and Rs 1 crore for 3-BHK flats.

The scheme targets serving and retired govt employees, besides professionals from other sectors.

According to officials, the response reinforces Narela's emergence as a residential

hub. The sub-city is being developed as a residential, educational, institutional and sports centre, supported by investments in infrastructure and connectivity.

The housing complex is about 1.2 km from the upcoming Metro station, 1.9 km from the proposed RRTS station, 2 km from Narela Sports Complex and 5 km from the upcoming education hub. Police said an illegal country-made pistol and a live cartridge were recovered from his possession. A separate case under the Arms Act was registered at K N Katju Marg police station. Investigators also found that Ali has been involved in around 10 criminal cases in the past.

The booking process is fully online. Remaining flats can be booked on an FCFS basis through DDA Awaas Portal.

Man held 2 months after wife's murder in northwest Delhi

New Delhi,(GNS): Two months after a woman was found murdered in northwest Delhi's Bhalswa Dairy, police have arrested her absconding husband in connection with the case.

The victim, Ujma, was allegedly killed by her husband, Sharvar Ali (40). The couple is survived by three children. Police said Ali had been evading arrest since the incident, and proceedings to declare him a proclaimed offender were under way.

According to police, the case dates back to June 6, when Ujma was found murdered. The crime scene was examined by a crime team and forensic science laboratory (FSL) personnel. A case was registered under Section 103 (murder) of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) at Bhalswa Dairy police station, and multiple teams were formed to trace the accused.

"Using technical surveillance and manual inputs, Ali was traced to the K N Katju Marg area, from where he was arrested on Friday," said DCP (Rohini) Shashank Jaiswal.

Police said Ali suspected his wife of being involved in extramarital relationships. Frequent disputes between the couple over his unemployment had also strained their relationship, a senior officer said. Investigators suspect these issues may have contributed to the crime.

Following the murder, Ali allegedly fled and remained untraceable for nearly two months. His arrest came after police received information about his presence in the K N Katju Marg area.

Police said an illegal country-made pistol and a live cartridge were recovered from his possession. A separate case under the Arms Act was registered at K N Katju Marg police station. Investigators also found that Ali has been involved in around 10 criminal cases in the past.

Red Fort's Luv Kush Ramlila returns with bigger sets, AI-powered visuals

New Delhi,(GNS): The annual Delhi tradition of the Luv Kush Ramlila at Red Fort is gearing up for another grand edition, well ahead of the festive season. The star-studded production remains one of the highlights of Dussehra celebrations, bringing together television actors for a 10-day showcase of the country's biggest Ramlila.

Actors reflect on their roles

Giving audiences a glimpse of the performance, actor Devesh Sharma, who plays Lord Ram, recited a few lines from an interaction between Ram and Lakshman. He later reflected on the values he has drawn from portraying the character, saying that Ram's greatest lesson lies in respectful dialogue



despite differences. "Today, every household has different generations living together, so disagreements are natural. Having different opinions is not wrong, but expressing them with respect is what truly matters. Young people, including me, can confidently put forward our views, but they should always be rooted in respect," he said.

For Kaveri Priyam, who essays the role of

Sita, the production marks her first mythological project. Speaking about stepping into the iconic role, she said she sees it as both a challenge and a learning experience. "I've played a diverse range of characters, but this is my first mythological role. I'm grateful for this opportunity and platform. I know it won't be easy and that it will challenge me, but I'm looking forward to learning from my fellow

actors. I hope I can do justice to the image of Maa Sita that people hold in their hearts," she said.

Pankaj Kamad, who portrays Hanuman, described the role as the fulfilment of a childhood dream and recalled working with Sharma on an earlier television show. "I've wanted to play Hanuman since childhood. Earlier, I portrayed him in a television serial where Devesh played Lakshman. But I always looked at him through Hanuman's eyes, as Ram. We developed a great bond during that show," he said.

Alongside the performances, organisers are introducing new technology to make the spectacle more immersive.

CISF officer suspended after woman alleges photo misconduct on Delhi Metro



New Delhi,(GNS): An inquiry has been ordered after a ruckus took place inside a Delhi Metro coach after a woman claimed that a CISF man took her pictures on his mobile phone. The incident happened Saturday night on Yellow Line.

A video shared on social media shows a few passengers repeatedly asking a CISF officer to delete the pictures. The woman in the video is checking his phone's gallery. During the altercation, some passengers reportedly tried to snatch his mobile phone. The CISF man allegedly tried to leave the coach, leading to a scuffle. A CISF official said, "The matter will be investigated if the pictures were taken. Prima facie, the officer has been suspended."

A senior police officer said the complainant did not respond to phone calls at night. "In the morning, she informed us that she is presently out of Delhi and does not want any action to be taken regarding the incident. As per her version, she and another woman were together when the matter originated at Saket Metro station.

Delhi extends waiver on LPSC till next March

New Delhi,(GNS): Delhi govt has extended the 100% waiver on late payment surcharge (LPSC) on outstanding water bills for domestic and non-domestic consumers till March 31, 2027, giving consumers the last opportunity to clear their dues without paying the accumulated penalty.

The waiver was to end on Aug 15. The extension comes after more than 5.2 lakh consumers had availed themselves of the scheme under which Delhi Jal Board (DJB) waived LPSC worth Rs 3,261 crore. DJB has recovered Rs 815.84

crore as the principal amount from consumers who opted to settle their dues.

The LPSC waiver was introduced by DJB to encourage consumers with long-pending water bills to clear their outstanding principal dues. Over the years, unpaid bills accumulate substantial late payment surcharges, significantly increasing the settlement amount. Under the scheme, consumers can get the entire LPSC component waived by paying the principal amount. This allows DJB to recover its dues while helping consumers

relief from accumulated penalties. The incident was captured on a nearby CCTV camera, which showed the accused repeatedly attacking Anil while bystanders looked on. Police have identified the suspect from the footage and launched a search. Preliminary investigation suggests the murder stemmed from the attacker's suspicion that Gulshan, the driver of the tipper truck, was in contact with his wife. Police said Anil and Gulshan bore a close physical resemblance, leading police to suspect that Anil may have been killed as he

was mistaken for Gulshan. Anil lived in Kala Enclave, Khoda Colony, Ghaziabad, with his family. His father works as a mason. Sanitation workers held a protest outside LBS Hospital, demanding the immediate arrest of the murderer, adequate compensation to Anil's family and a govt job

The scheme covers 14.09 lakh domestic and 70,312 commercial consumers.

Water minister Parvesh Verma said the extension was aimed at providing consumers with a final opportunity to settle their dues while helping

DJB recover its legitimate revenue. "For a family, an old water bill can remain a worry for years. When LPSC keeps getting added, the amount can become difficult to clear. We wanted to give people a genuine opportunity - pay the principal amount and leave the burden of LPSC behind," he said. We are not asking people to pay more. We are asking people to pay what they actually owe. If the principal amount is paid, 100% LPSC will be waived," the minister said, adding that this was the last extension.