



Maharashtra minister's helicopter lands in car park

Pilot mistakenly lands 1km away from helipad; Bhujbal had arrived in Pune



Pune, Agency: Maharashtra Minister Chhagan Bhujbal's helicopter landed in a parking area in Pune's Purandar area on Saturday morning, a kilometre away from the designated helipad, violating security protocols.

According to media reports, the incident occurred when Bhujbal was in Pune to attend the 200th birth anniversary celebrations of Jyotiba Phule. He had chartered the helicopter. There have been no reports of any injuries or other damage.

A video of the helicopter landing has also surfaced, showing several cars lined up in the parking area. The helicopter landed right in front of the cars. A large cloud of dust was seen rising during the landing.

According to media reports, Bhujbal said of the incident, "The pilot landed in the wrong place in the parking area. We are all safe." There has been no statement from the pilot, crew, or the company operating the helicopter.

Meanwhile, a Pune Rural Police official said that they will report the matter to the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) and action will be taken against the pilot.

Four killed as pickup vehicle catches fire after road accident in Maharashtra's Nashik

Mumbai(GNS): Four people were killed when a pickup truck caught fire after a head-on collision with a truck on the Panchale-Shaha Road in Sinnar tehsil of Nashik district, Maharashtra, early Saturday morning. The deceased include two women and two men. Two injured are being treated at the Sinnar District Sub-Hospital. The accident is being investigated by a team from the MIDC Police Station.

The police officer investigating the accident stated that some people from Panchale village in Nashik had traveled to Gondal for a Jagran. While returning from there, their pickup vehicle was hit by a truck early this morning, causing the pickup to catch fire. The pickup driver and one other person died on the spot, while four others were injured. Upon receiving information about the incident, a team from the MIDC police station and fire brigade personnel arrived at the scene and admitted the four injured to the Sinnar District Sub-Hospital for treatment. However, both died during treatment this morning.

Mild earthquake felt in three Maharashtra districts, no casualties reported

Mumbai(GNS): Mild tremors were felt in three districts of Maharashtra: Hingoli, Nanded, and Parbhani on Saturday at around 8 am. The National Center for Seismology measured the earthquake's magnitude at 4.7. The epicenter was located 10 kilometers below the ground in Shirli village of Wasmat tehsil in Hingoli district. The administration in these three districts is currently assessing the damage caused by the earthquake.

A Nanded district administrative official stated that the tremor was also felt in Ardhapur, Hadgaon, and Himayat Nagar tehsils of neighboring Nanded district, and in some parts of Parbhani district. While there have been no reports of injuries in the affected districts so far, there have been reports of minor damage to buildings. Citizens have been urged to remain calm and follow safety rules. The official also said that as a precaution, emergency response teams have been put on standby in all

three districts. Hingoli District Magistrate Rahul Gupta told the media that some images of cracks in houses and community halls have been received in Pangra Shinde village in his district. The district administration is assessing the situation. Gupta urged people not to pay attention to rumors. The Nanded district administration said that if further tremors are felt or any strange sounds are heard, people should immediately move to an open area and call

the emergency helpline to inform the administration. Local sources said that the first tremor was felt in Hingoli district at 8:45 am, while a minute later, at 8:46 am, the earthquake was also felt in Parbhani and Nanded districts. When windows and household utensils suddenly rattled, people assumed an earthquake had struck and safely evacuated their homes. Since the intensity of the earthquake was mild, there are no reports of major damage anywhere.

First round of Iran-US ceasefire talks ends

Meeting lasts 2 hours, Iran demands immediate halt to attacks on Lebanon

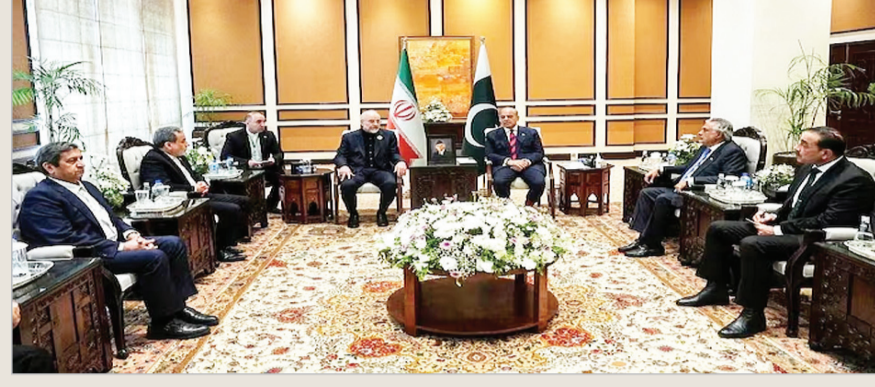
Islamabad(GNS): The first round of ceasefire talks between Iran and the US in Pakistan's capital, Islamabad, lasted two hours. According to media reports, Iran demanded an immediate halt to Israeli attacks on Lebanon.

The meeting, attended by experts, covered issues related to security, politics, the military, the economy, and law. Vice

President JD Vance led the US side, while Iranian Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf led the side.

This is the first time since Iran's Islamic Revolution in 1979, 47 years ago, that the leaders of the two countries have held face-to-face talks on such a large scale.

Earlier, Iran had stated that if the ongoing talks in Islamabad



fail to reach a conclusion, Israel cannot be solely blamed. Israel and the US are linked in their decisions, so if the talks fail, the US will also be held accountable.

First round of Iran-US ceasefire talks ends: The first round of ceasefire talks between Iran and the US in Pakistan's capital, Islamabad, lasted two hours.

Vrindavan tragedy: 11 devotees dead, 4 missing



Elderly father breaks down after son's body is recovered from Yamuna; 250 divers engaged in rescue operation

Mathura(GNS): Eleven devotees have died in a boat accident in Vrindavan, Mathura. So far, 22 people have been rescued, while four remain missing. The rescue operation continued for the second day on Saturday. A team of 250 people, including the army, is involved in the operation. The search for the missing is underway within a 14-kilometer radius. A body was recovered near Deoraha Baba Ghat. The elderly father wept upon seeing his son's body. His family consoled him. Why haven't the other missing people been found yet? Responding to this question, the rescue officer explained that the Yamuna's current is strong, so people

could be swept away. Bodies may be buried in the river's silt and sand. The bodies could swell and surface after 24 hours.

The accident occurred at 3 pm on Friday at the KC Ghat, where a boat carrying 37 pilgrims capsized. The ghat is about 2 km from the Banke Bihari Temple. The deceased included seven members of the same family, including a mother and son, an uncle and an aunt and an uncle.

The water at the site of the accident is 25 feet deep. Initial investigations revealed that the boat had a capacity of 40 pilgrims. The boatman did not provide life jackets to any of the pilgrims. People repairing the pontoon bridge and other boatmen rescued some of the people. Later, administration teams arrived at the scene and began the rescue operation.

Bengal Elections 2026: PM Modi promises to implement CAA and stop infiltration at Katwa rally



Kolkata(GNS): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday addressed election rallies in Katwa in West Bengal's Purba Bardhaman district and Jangipur in Murshidabad. In Purba Bardhaman, the PM said, "Bengal is ready for change. Modi guarantees to replace the TMC government's ruthless reign of fear with trust."

In Murshidabad, Modi said, "Since independence, the arrogance of anyone who dared to challenge Bengal has been shattered. First the British, then the Congress, and finally the Left. Now the people of Bengal will shatter the

arrogance of the TMC." Meanwhile, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, while addressing an election rally in Jhargram, targeted the BJP. She said, "The BJP is anti-Bengal and against outsiders. Don't let them enter your homes."

"The PM said - the people of Bengal will shatter the arrogance of TMC: PM Modi said," Since independence, the arrogance of everyone who dared to challenge Bengal has been shattered. First, the arrogance of the British, then the Congress, and finally the arrogance of the leftists. Now, the people of Bengal will shatter the arrogance of the TMC."

If BJP forms government, we will end 'syndicate raj', drive out infiltrators: Amit Shah

Kolkata(GNS): Senior Bharatiya Janata Party leader and Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah, while addressing an election rally in the Onda-Bishnupur area of Bankura district, West Bengal, attacked the Mamata Banerjee government in the state. He prominently raised issues of "syndicate raj," corruption, and infiltration, claiming that these problems would be permanently resolved if the BJP forms government.

Addressing the gathering, Amit Shah said that syndicates have influence at every level in the state, be it construction work or everyday needs. He alleged that this is causing immense hardship to the common people. Appealing to the public to vote for the lotus symbol on April 23, he said, "End the BJP with a thumping majority. We will drive out the syndicate from Bengal." We will end the rule."

Amit Shah also criticized the state government regarding the development of the Bankura region. He said that the area has been neglected for the last 15 years, forcing youth to migrate in search of employment. He also assured that if the BJP forms the government, an industrial zone will be established in Vishnupur and regional development will be accelerated.

Tharoor said : Do not make the Women's Reservation Act a political weapon

Rushing the delimitation process along with the bill will upset the democratic balance of the states

New Delhi(GNS): Congress leader Shashi Tharoor said the amendment to the Women's Reservation Act should not be used as a political weapon so as not to weaken federalism and undermine the dignity of Parliament. Ahead of the special session of Parliament starting April 16, Tharoor alleged that the government was using the three-day session to gain political mileage ahead of state elections and prepare for delimitation before the 2029 Lok Sabha elections. Tharoor wrote on X that Congress has always been a supporter of 33% reservation for women. It was Congress that introduced and passed this bill in the Rajya Sabha in 2013, but the current government's attitude is worrying.



6.08 crore names deleted from SIRs of 9 states and 3 union territories

New Delhi(GNS): The Election Commission released the final voter list in Uttar Pradesh on Friday under the second phase of SIR. After its completion, a total of 6.08 crore names have been deleted from the voter list of 9 states and 3 union territories. Before the SIR process started on October 27 last year, the total number of voters in 12 states

and union territories was around 51 crore. After the release of the final list, this number came down to 44.92 crore. According to media reports, in the second phase of the SIR, the final voter list has been released for Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan, Kerala, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Puducherry, Andaman-Nicobar, and Lakshadweep. In Uttar Pradesh, the number of voters in the final SIR list released on Friday has decreased by 13 percent to 13.39 crore, meaning the names of 2.04 crore people have been deleted. Meanwhile, in West Bengal, the names of approximately 91 lakh voters have been omitted from the final list.

Social Media: When Humans Became Products

Deepak Dwivedi

It was once said that man was a social animal. His life moved to the rhythm of nature. He was made of the five elements: earth, water, fire, air, and sky, and he possessed the humility to return to them. His joys and sorrows came and went like the seasons, and his relationships flowed like the waters of a river—natural, vibrant, and full of touch. Back then, a person's existence was defined by their relationships, not their profile. They found their identity in their father's voice, their mother's touch, a friend's hand on their shoulder, and the village square.

But gradually, times changed. The Industrial Revolution arrived, capitalism emerged, and human worth began to be measured by

their labor. They became more economic than social beings. Their time became marketable, their labor became commodified, and their labor became profitable.

Today, in the digital age, the transformation is even more profound. Not only human labor, but also their very identities, their emotions, their relationships, their stories, have become part of the market.

Invisible mining of the digital world

Today, the moment a person wakes up, they look at their phone. They think they're connecting with the world. But the truth is, their mining begins from that very moment. Every digital company is tracking their every move: their photo, their age, their clothing, their smiles and sadness, their friends,

their conversations, their likes and habits. All this isn't just information; it's raw material extracted from a digital mine. People think they're using these platforms, but in reality, they themselves have become a product. Just as coal or diamonds are extracted from a mine, so too are people's identities and behaviors being extracted from the digital world.

Lonely man among the crowd

Today, if a person shares their joys or sorrows on social media, thousands of people like, comment, and express condolences. But is there a hand placed on their shoulder? Is there an eye that looks into their eyes and says, "I'm with you?" In the digital world, they have thousands of people around them, but in real life, they are often alone. Their digital world is beautiful, bright,

colorful, and attractive, but within them lies an emptiness, a silence that no algorithm can understand.

When identity became data

There was a time when a person was defined by their personality. Today, their identity has become an algorithmic profile. Their purchases, their credit score, what they watch, what they eat, where they go—all of this combine to create a digital human being. If they download a fitness app, they think they're taking care of their health, but at the same time, their sleep schedule, their location, their habits—all are being recorded. Privacy is no longer the walls of a closed room; it has become a transparent glass, through which everything is visible.

Stories: New Business

Today, any event, no matter how personal, can reach the entire world

in a matter of minutes. Every story has a price. Today, stories are the new business. It could be called the story economy. The more visibility you gain, the more your digital value increases. You gradually become more of a data package than a person.

The blurring line between man and machine

Artificial intelligence has now entered this story. Today, AI-based systems like ChatGPT, GPT, and other digital assistants can talk to you, understand you, and offer advice. With the advent of cloud computing, humans may no longer be required to do anything. Identity is now determined not just by birth, but by performance. Social media has established a new truth: visibility is existence.

Editorial

Justice Verma's resignation raises questions

Justice Yashwant Verma resigned from his post amid the controversy and investigation into the cash scam. The matter has been making headlines since a fire broke out at his Delhi residence in March 2025 and bundles of burnt currency notes were found. In recent developments, Justice Yashwant Verma's resignation to President Draupadi Murmu has once again sparked a debate in the country about the complex relationship between the judiciary and politics. Notably, his resignation came while an impeachment motion against him was pending in Parliament. This situation raises several constitutional and ethical questions. Did Justice Yashwant Verma resign to avoid the impeachment process? Yashwant Verma did not provide any reason for his resignation. He stated that it was a personal decision. The Indian Constitution provides for a very stringent and rare process for the removal of judges from the High Court and Supreme Court through impeachment. Impeachment is a serious parliamentary process that requires an investigation into the allegations against the judge and a special majority in both houses. In such a situation, if a judge resigns before impeachment, the process automatically ends. Yashwant Verma's resignation has raised questions about his transparency and accountability. His situation will now reveal the veracity of the allegations and the truth behind the burnt currency recovered from his home. When the impeachment motion was presented in the Rajya Sabha, the then Vice President and Chairman of the Rajya Sabha had to resign overnight. The government was suspicious. Former Vice President Jaideep Dhanekar's actions in this matter, without informing the government, angered the government, leading to his resignation. Justice Verma's resignation is also being viewed in the same context. Although the circumstances and constitutional situation were different in his case, the manner in which he resigned from the post of Vice President, citing health reasons, was not true. Justice Verma's resignation has proven this. The Vice President's resignation was under government pressure.



Historic zero tolerance action against corruption in India - 18 Patwaris in one tehsil of one district implicated in corruption - Tehsildar already in jail - A decisive message for the administrative structure - Comprehensive analysis

In India, it is the need of the hour for honest officers to courageously break the potential collusion channel from the Patwari level to the higher officer level.



Corruption is a more dangerous disease than the Covid pandemic or cancer, because it slowly hollows out the entire system from within

Advocate Kishan Sanmukhdas Bhavani

In a large democratic country like India, the most important foundation for the credibility of governance and administration is public trust. When this trust weakens, not only the system but also the very soul of democracy is harmed. Against this backdrop, the Public Trust (Amendment Provisions) Act, 2026, recently passed by both houses of Parliament, represents a historic and structural reform. This is not merely a legislative change but also a symbol of a shift in governance thinking, moving away from punishment-based control to trust-based compliance. However, perhaps for the first time in my 45 years of media experience and 15 years of legal experience, the recent flood relief scam in Sheopur district of Madhya Pradesh was a serious blow to this trust. More importantly, the rigorous and comprehensive administrative action taken in this case has awakened new hope across the country. This incident is not merely the story of a single scam, but rather marks a turning point from which a genuine and effective fight against corruption in India can begin. I, Advocate Kishan Sanmukhdas Bhavanani, Gondia, Maharashtra, believe that the District Collector played the most commendable role in this entire matter, particularly his strong will. The Collector not only conducted a thorough investigation into the scam but also, by approving prosecution of 18 Patwaris, sent a clear message that corruption would be tolerated with no leniency. This decision was not merely an administrative action, but a moral declaration that honesty would now be prioritized in the system. The order for a departmental inquiry and the recommendation for dismissal ensured that the guilty would be held accountable at every level. Considering the numerous government employees across India, with a few exceptions, there is also a social aspect that needs to be addressed. It is often observed that government employees' lifestyles far exceed their official salaries, raising suspicions about their sources of additional income. If regular monitoring and property audits are conducted, corruption can be curbed. The Sheopur incident is a clear indication that superficial reforms will no longer suffice; rather, a deeper sys-

tem change will be required. This article is based on media reports.

Friends, if we consider this historic incident of action against corruption, in 2021, a devastating flood in Sheopur district of Madhya Pradesh affected thousands of farmers and villagers. Following the natural disaster, the state government approved relief funds worth crores of rupees. This relief package covered four major categories: crop loss, house damage, livestock loss, and other general assistance. This amount was a lifeline for those whose livelihoods were completely destroyed. Unfortunately, within this very sensitive system, a web of corruption was woven, which not only deprived the victims of their rights but also seriously questioned the credibility of the administrative system. The investigation revealed that out of the relief funds approved for approximately 960 farmers, 794 actual beneficiaries were bypassed and the money was instead transferred to 127 bank accounts of 87 ineligible individuals. This entire scam amounted to approximately 5 crore rupees. This organized corruption clearly revealed the involvement of employees from the lowest level to the highest officials. The then-tehsildar, Amita Singh Tomar, played a crucial role in this case. She is accused of approving fake beneficiaries without proper investigation. As a result, she was suspended and later jailed. Friends, if we consider the Collector's courage and shocking action, perhaps the first in the entire country, the most shocking aspect of this case came to light when it became clear that 18 Patwaris had a direct role in preparing the list of fake beneficiaries. This type of fraud by Patwaris, who are considered the backbone of rural administration and have direct contact with farmers, shook the very foundations of the entire system. These Patwaris not only prepared fake surveys but also transferred government funds to the accounts of their relatives and acquaintances. This was not just corruption, but a blatant violation of social morality and government responsibility. Friends, if we consider the reverberations of this incident not only across India but globally, the impact of this action was not limited to Madhya Pradesh alone, but it created a stir in the administrative system of the entire country. This was

the first time that such a large-scale action was taken simultaneously against Patwaris in a single tehsil. This incident is also an inspiration for millions of honest government employees who want to reform the system but often remain silent due to pressure and fear. If corruption is considered a disease, it would not be an exaggeration to say that it is more dangerous than the Covid pandemic or cancer, as it slowly corrodes the entire system from within. The biggest cause of this disease is not just individual greed, but collective collusion, which creates a chain from the lowest level to the highest officials. The Sheopur case highlights the fact that effective control of corruption is impossible unless this entire chain is broken.

Friends, if we consider the priority given to such action by collectors across India, taking suo motu cognizance, it becomes essential for all states to learn from this case and take similar strict action in their respective areas. The first step should be towards digital verification. The use of Aadhaar-linked bank accounts should be made mandatory in the distribution of relief funds and other government schemes, and the list of beneficiaries should be made available on a public portal. This will increase transparency and reduce the possibility of fraud. Another important measure is third-party audits by independent agencies. Unless the investigation is conducted by a completely impartial and external agency, it will be difficult to uncover the truth due to internal collusion. In the Sheopur case, the scam was exposed only after an audit. The third and most important aspect is strict accountability.

Merely suspension or transfer does not stop corruption; strict legal action is necessary. The manner in which prosecution was sanctioned and arrests initiated in Sheopur is a perfect example. This sends the message that those involved in corruption will face not only administrative penalties but also legal consequences. Additionally, verifying the beneficiary list through Gram Sabhas can be an effective measure. Involving people at the local level increases transparency and makes it easier to identify erroneous beneficiaries. This is also in keeping with the spirit of decentralization of democracy.

Commercialization of Faith: A Serious Question on VIP Darshan and Neglect of Common Devotees

Dr. Satyavan Saurabh

In a country like India, where religion and faith are not merely a matter of personal belief but an integral part of social and cultural life, temples and pilgrimage sites have played a vital role. For centuries, these places have been considered symbols of equality, peace, and spiritual balance. "All are equal in God's court"—this statement is not just an ideal but a deeply held belief in Indian society. However, in recent years, this belief has been questioned.

Many major temples and pilgrimage sites across the country charge hefty fees for VIP darshan, special pujas, abhishekam, and aarti. In exchange for these services, devotees are promised relief from long queues, reduced darshan

time, and a more convenient experience. At first glance, this system appears to be an alternative, but when it impacts the experience of ordinary devotees, it becomes a serious social problem.

Today, the situation is such that on one hand, there are those who, by paying extra money, can easily have darshan in a few minutes, while on the other, large numbers of ordinary people stand in queues for hours, sometimes even entire days. During this time, they face crowds, jostling, rude behavior, and sometimes even physical violence. This experience is not only uncomfortable but also humiliating—especially when one has come there with faith and devotion.

It's natural to question whether faith itself is becoming a "premium service"? Should there be discrimi-

nation based on economic status even for the sake of seeing God? This situation isn't limited to religious sites, but rather reflects the growing inequality in our society. From ration shops to gas cylinder lines, and now even temples—the middle class and common people often face chaos and struggle.

The argument in favor of VIP culture is that it provides additional revenue to temples, which can be used to improve their facilities and services. This argument is somewhat valid. Large temples receive millions of devotees daily, making it difficult to manage them. Therefore, if some people pay an additional fee and demand special arrangements, the proceeds could be used for public amenities.

But problems arise when this system becomes unbalanced. When

VIP privileges become so abundant that the resources and time available to ordinary devotees begin to fall short, it becomes a form of injustice. It has often been observed that general queues are blocked for VIP darshan, further prolonging the wait for ordinary people. This naturally leads to dissatisfaction and resentment.

Furthermore, the behavior of temple staff and security personnel is also a significant issue. In many cases, ordinary devotees are treated rudely and disrespectfully, while VIPs are treated with extreme courtesy. This duality further deepens the existing class divide in society.

This is also negatively impacting the very spirit of religious sites. Temples are not just places of worship, but also centers of mental

peace and spiritual balance. When visitors encounter chaos, crowds, and discrimination, their spiritual experience is affected. This experience can leave them feeling disappointed and frustrated.

The solution to this problem is not easy, but it is not impossible. First, temple administrations should ensure that the number and impact of VIP services are limited. These services should only be intended to provide additional convenience, not to curtail the rights of ordinary devotees.

Second, modern technologies can be used for crowd management. Measures such as online booking, time slot systems, and digital queue management can better manage crowds, ensuring an orderly and respectful experience for all devotees.

56 arrested as wage protest turns violent at IMT Manesar

New Delhi, (GNS): The Gurugram police arrested 56 people on charges of rioting during a strike on Thursday at IMT Manesar. All the accused were produced in a city court today and sent to judicial custody. The police said that most of the arrested people are from Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.

On the other hand, Prabina P (Prabina Premachandran), DCP, Manesar on Friday held an important meeting with company owners/representatives and their contractors regarding the ongoing workers' strike at various companies in the IMT Manesar area. The main objective of the meeting was to resolve workers' problems and maintain law and order in the



area. During the meeting, clear instructions were given to the owners/representatives and

contractors of the companies to ensure payment to all the workers as per the honorarium/salary fixed by the govern-

ment. "Display government-prescribed salary information on notice boards outside your establishments, so that workers have access to transparent information. No worker should be subjected to any kind of ill-treatment and no employee should be harassed personally," Prabina said.

On Thursday, workers were on strike in Manesar to press for their demands. The district administration had imposed Section 163. When the police asked the workers to leave, a clash broke out. When the police chased them away, the protesters became enraged and created a ruckus. They vandalised a police vehicle and set a police bike on fire. They also caused significant damage by pelting stones.

Three new roads to reduce traffic congestion in South Delhi: Parvesh

New Delhi, (GNS): In a bid to address persistent traffic congestion in South Delhi, Delhi PWD and Water Minister Parvesh Verma has directed officials to expedite the construction of three key road projects. The decision was taken during a meeting at the Delhi Secretariat in the presence of South Delhi MP Ramvir Singh Bidhuri and other officials. According to Bidhuri, the proposed road projects are expected to significantly ease traffic pressure in key Assembly segments, including Deoli, Sangam Vihar, Chhatarpur and Tughlakabad, which frequently face congestion due to rapid urbanisation and inadequate road infrastructure.

The projects include the construction of a Master Plan Road connecting IGNOU to the Tughlakabad Shooting Range via Neb Sarai, Sainik Farms and Deoli Bandh Road. An elevated corridor has also been proposed along the 100-Foota Road in Chhatarpur to streamline traffic



movement. In addition, a one-km road beneath the Metro corridor from Harkesh Nagar to Maa Anandmayee Marg is planned to improve connectivity and reduce bottlenecks.

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Birthday outing ends in tragedy as truck rams car near Murthal; two Delhi-based sisters killed:

New Delhi, (GNS): What began as a birthday outing for a child ended in tragedy when a speeding truck rammed into an SUV near Murthal in Haryana's Sonapat district, killing two women and injuring three others early on Thursday.

The women, Mandeep Kaur and her sister Manpreet Kaur, residents of Uttam Nagar in southwest Delhi, were travelling with family members to Murthal's popular dhabas to celebrate the birthday. The accident occurred around 2 am on National Highway-44 near the Golden Hut Dhaba. Police said the family briefly stopped their SUV on the roadside to purchase supplies when a truck approaching from behind crashed into the stationary vehicle at high speed. The impact crushed the rear portion of the SUV beyond recognition. The truck reportedly halted only after ploughing through roadside safety railings. Both women died on the spot, while three other women travelling in the vehicle suffered critical injuries. They were rushed to a nearby private hospital after police reached the scene. The truck driver fled the spot, abandoning the vehicle. Police have seized the truck and launched a manhunt to trace the accused. The bodies have been sent to the Civil Hospital in Sonapat for post-mortem. Further investigation is under way, police said. In a separate incident, two engineers from Delhi were killed in a road accident on the Delhi-Dehradun Expressway in Uttar Pradesh's Baghpat district late Tuesday night while travelling to Haridwar to take a holy dip in the Ganga.

Double-decker flyover on Pink Line likely to be ready by year-end

New Delhi, (GNS): Delhi's first double-decker viaduct, between Bhajanpura and Yamuna Vihar on the Pink Line, is likely to be completed by the end of the year. The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) has floated a tender to construct ramps on both sides of the structure for road traffic, work that had been delayed earlier due to pending tree-felling permissions. However, metro trains have already begun running on the upper deck of the flyover after the Majlis Park-Maujpur-Babarpur corridor was inaugurated on March 8. Anuj Dayal, principal executive director, corporate communications, DMRC, said, "DMRC has started the process of completing the work of the double-decker flyover at Bhajanpura on the Majlis Park - Maujpur corridor. Two important tenders-one for construction of the flyover ramps at Yamuna Vihar and Bhajanpura, and another for launching three spans-have been floated. The work will start once the tenders are finalised and is expected to be completed by the end of the year." According to the tender document, the Rs 11.7-crore contract includes balance work related to reinforced earth and retaining structures, along with construction of ramps on both sides of the flyover. The work is to be completed within six months of the contract being awarded.

The 1.4-km-long double-decker viaduct is one of three such structures being built in the city. While vehicles will ply on the lower deck, Metro trains will operate on the upper deck. The second double-decker viaduct, a 2.2-km stretch between Azadpur and Ashok Vihar stations, is coming up on the Janakpuri West-RK Ashram Marg corridor, an extension of the Magenta Line, and is also expected to be ready this year.

The longest of the three will be the 2.4-km viaduct between Sangam Vihar and Ambedkar Nagar stations. It will form part of the 23.622-km Tughlakabad-Aerocity corridor, also known as the upcoming Golden Line.

'Rs 15,000 is hardly anything these days'

Supreme Court to 54-year-old man seeking divorce from estranged wife, who has been paying maintenance for 16 years

New Delhi, (GNS): The Supreme Court on Friday refused to grant divorce to a 54-year-old man who has been paying Rs 15,000 per month as maintenance to his estranged wife for the past 16 years, and asked him instead to consider a reasonable proposal for permanent alimony, according to a report by Bar and Bench. A Bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta told the petitioner that if he wanted his plea for divorce to be considered, he should first indicate what he was willing to offer as permanent alimony.

The man argued that even Rs 15,000 was a heavy burden on his monthly income of Rs 65,000. "Rs 15,000 is



hardly anything these days...If you came up with an offer for permanent alimony we could have still considered (granting divorce)...(Else) Shaanti se baitho, dete raho 15,000, khush raho", as quoted by

Bar and Bench.

The Court was hearing the man's challenge to a high court order that had earlier dismissed his divorce plea.

During the proceedings, the Bench also questioned why the couple could not

continue living together.

"Keep your wife with you. What is the problem?" the Court queried, as quoted by Bar and Bench. The man's counsel submitted that the couple had been living separately for nearly 16 years and that repeated attempts at mediation had failed due to ongoing differences.

However, the Court noted that the only ground of cruelty cited by the petitioner was his wife's insistence on accompanying him wherever he was posted.

The wife's counsel, meanwhile, told the Court that she was not seeking permanent alimony and, in fact, was willing to resume living with her husband.

In pitiful Delhi, deaths don't change a thing



New Delhi, (GNS): Unprotected trenches, poor safety measures and ongoing sewer line construction continue to endanger commuters along Shooting Range Road in Sangam Vihar, forcing motorists and pedestrians to navigate risky, uneven paths. The situation raises serious concerns in light of the recent Janakpuri pit death case, where a 25-year-old biker lost his life after falling into an open, unguarded excavation.

Open day at DU's Venkateswara college school students get taste of campus life

New Delhi, (GNS): Sri Venkateswara College (SVC), Delhi University, hosted an open day on Friday for Class XI and XII students from 24 govt and private schools across the capital, offering them a first-hand look at university life and higher education choices.

The programme was organised as part of the college's ongoing multidisciplinary international conference, SVC Spark: Scholarly Promotion of Academic Research and Knowledge, which concludes on April 11.

Around 450 students participated, moving across departments and engaging with exhibitions and interactive stalls set up by various faculties. College students introduced visitors to different disciplines through models, live demonstrations and hands-on activities, while also answering



questions on undergraduate courses, career options and campus life. College principal Vajala Ravi also interacted with the visiting students during the event.

Designed as an experiential platform, the open day aimed to familiarise school students

with the academic environment of a university. From understanding undergraduate programmes to getting a glimpse of research work and campus culture, participants were given an overview of the opportunities available after school.

Delhi varsity renames department

New Delhi, (GNS): The University of Delhi has notified an amendment to its statutory provisions, introducing a key change in the nomenclature of one of its academic departments. The amendment, approved by the Executive Council with the consent of the Visitor, has been issued under the provisions of Section 29 of the Delhi University Act, 1922.

As per the notification, the amendment will be known as the Delhi University (Amendment) Statutes, 2025, and will come into force from the date of its publication in the official gazette. The key change pertains to Statute 9-B, which lists the academic departments of the university. Under the revised provision, the name of the "Department of Modern Indian Languages and Literary Studies" has been changed to the "Department



of Indian Languages and Literary Studies."

This modification effectively removes the term "Modern" from the department's title, reflecting a broader and more inclusive academic scope for the study of Indian languages and literary traditions.

The rest of the departments listed under Statute 9-B remain unchanged.

The Mahakumbh of the medical world, leading pathologists from across the country gathered in Bhagalpur

New Delhi, (GNS): A two-day workshop and CME was inaugurated on Saturday at the district's Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College. The workshop was inaugurated with the lighting of a lamp. Key speakers, including Dr. Asitabha Mandal, Dr. Swaminathan, Dr. Rupesh Gundwar, and Dr. Manoj Kahar, demonstrated in detail by projecting slides on the screen. The meeting was moderated by Dr. Preeti and Dr. Kumar Sunit. Postgraduate students from various medical colleges in Bihar participated in the workshop, with some female students from RIMS, Ranchi. After lunch, the stu-

dents presented their research work through papers and posters. It is noteworthy that cancer is increasing

WESTERN RAILWAY SAFETY IMPROVEMENT IN RAILWAY QUARTERS
Sr.DEE/P/BCT invites Tender Notice No: EL-81-940-WA-1 dt.08.04.2026. Work and Location: Mumbai Division - Safety improvement in railway quarters by electrical rewiring, meter room wiring and main cable replacement. Approx. Cost of Work: ₹ 3,97,42,831.00 EMD: ₹ 7,94,900.00 Date & Time of Submission: till 04.05.2026, 15.00 hrs. Date & Time of Opening: on 04.05.2026 at 15.30 hrs. For further details please visit our website www.treps.gov.in

WESTERN RAILWAY VARIOUS WORK
Divisional Railway Manager (WA), Western Railway, 6th floor, Engg. Deptt., Mumbai Central, Mumbai - 400 008 invites Tender Notice No. BCT/26-27/8 Date: 09.04.2026. Work and Location: Virar - Joravasani section: Construction of a new waiting hall and booking office in connection with the development of a second entry on the east side of Vapi station, along with provision of an RPF barrack at Vapi station (composite tender including Electrical (P) works). Approx. Cost of Work: ₹ 8,12,25,241.09/- EMD: ₹ 16,24,600/- Date & Time of Submission: till 08.05.2026, 15.00 hrs. Date & Time of Opening: on 08.05.2026 at 15.30 hrs. For further details please visit our website www.treps.gov.in

WESTERN RAILWAY TURNKEY CONTRACT FOR TRANSPORTATION
Sr.DME(Co)/BCT invites Tender Notice No: M-137-STJDN-BL-TTRANS25, Dtd: 08/04/2026. Name of Work: Turnkey Contract for Transportation of Assembled Railway Trolleys/Bogies (with wheels) and assembled Wheelsets from or to Coaching depot, Surat/Udhna & Coaching Depot Valsad to or from Carriage Workshop, Lower Parel, Pratap Nagar Workshop, Dahod Workshop or any other Destination and vice versa for 03 years. Approx. Cost of Work: ₹ 5,24,85,007.43 (All inclusive) Bid Security: ₹ 10,49,700.00 Tender Submission Closing Date & Time: till 07.05.2026 at 15.00 hrs. For further details please visit our website www.treps.gov.in

at all ages these days, leading to new research being conducted every day. In this vein, today, all the morphologic varieties of soft tissue cancers were discussed in detail. Dr. Swaminathan stated, "I have accumulated a wealth of complex slides over the past 30 years as a medical educator. I am presenting them to you today." Dr. Asitabha Model elaborated on Ewing's sarcoma, a soft tissue cancer in children, and inter-

acted with graduate students. The variety of some cancers can create confusion for new pathologists regarding diagnosis. Dr. Rupesh Gundwar taught this topic through a slide show. Dr. Manoj Kahar shed light on the geographically diverse soft tissue cancers in Gujarat and Rajasthan. Finally, Dr. Mukesh Prasad Sah delivered the vote of thanks. Pathologists from various regions of Bihar included Dr. Bipin Kumar, Head of the Department of Pathology at IGM, and Dr. A.K. Sinha from Purnia. Scientific sessions will be held throughout the day tomorrow, Sunday.

'Constitution guarantees dignity and rights':

Bhim Jyoti Utsav turns Kartavya Path into festival of equality

New Delhi, (GNS): As twilight fell over Kartavya Path on Friday, thousands of flickering lamps spelling out 'Jai Bhim' illuminated the capital, marking the opening of the 'Bhim Jyoti Utsav-2026'. The five-day festival, inaugurated by Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on the birth anniversary of B R Ambedkar, blends remembrance with public engagement, turning the iconic boulevard into a space of dialogue, history and cultural expression.

Lighting the ceremonial 'Bhim Jyoti', Gupta paid tribute to Ambedkar's legacy, stating that the Constitution is "not merely a legal document, but a guarantee of dignity and rights for those standing at the very margins of society." She described the festi-



val as a people's movement aimed at embedding constitutional values into everyday life, especially among the youth.

At the heart of the event is the 'Constitution Fair', where an interactive digital timeline traces Ambedkar's journey, from his early life to his role in shaping

India's constitutional framework. A curated gallery showcasing 299 eminent personalities places his contributions within a wider intellectual and social context. Over 50 departmental stalls line the venue, presenting information on welfare schemes, scholarships, pensions and skill

development initiatives. Officials said the effort is aimed at improving awareness and accessibility, particularly for marginalised communities. Cabinet Minister Ravindra Indraj Singh said the initiative reflects the government's focus on ensuring that development schemes reach every section of society, including Dalit settlements, while reinforcing Ambedkar's vision of an egalitarian society.

Cultural programming has emerged as a major draw. While the opening day featured music and folk performances, the coming days will see qawwalis, street plays and Ambedkarite folk songs performed at the India Gate lawns, using art to communicate messages of social justice and inclusion.

Cyber fraudster held in old coin selling scam

New Delhi, (GNS): The Nuh police arrested a cyber-fraudster who defrauded people in the name of selling old coins and his network was spread across several states. A mobile phone including SIM card has been recovered from his possession. According to the police, the accused was identified as Mohammad Saad, a resident of Tigra village under the Ferozpur Sadar police station in Nuh district. An FIR was registered against him at the cyber police station, Nuh.

A spokesperson of the Nuh police said that the accused posted ads on the social media platform Facebook offering to buy old coins, luring people with the promise of large sums of money in exchange for their old coins. When people fell for his deception, he would extort money from them under various pretexts and then flee. He defrauded many people in this manner. Inspection of his recov-



ered mobile phone revealed several suspicious transactions. Two complaints have also been filed against the accused on a cyber security portal.

"The investigation also revealed that the accused defrauded a man from Tamil Nadu of around Rs 108,000 and a man from Punjab of Rs 31,000. More revelations are likely in this case, and information about other victims is being gathered," added a spokesperson.

Delhi EV Policy 2026:

Rs 3,954 crore push for electric vehicles, major incentives and mandatory shift planned

New Delhi, (GNS): The Delhi government has proposed an ambitious Draft Delhi EV Policy 2026, earmarking Rs 3,954.25 crore to accelerate the adoption of electric vehicles (EVs), expand charging infrastructure, and transition the capital towards cleaner, sustainable transport system. Announcing the proposal, Chief Minister Rekha Gupta said the policy, set to remain in force till March 31, 2030, focuses on financial incentives, tax exemptions, and mandatory electrification targets to reduce vehicular pollution.

Under the policy, purchase incentives will be provided through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) to individuals and entities registered in Delhi. Electric two-wheelers



priced up to Rs 2.25 lakh will receive incentives ranging from Rs 10,000 per kWh (up to Rs 30,000 in the first year) to Rs 3,300 per kWh (up to Rs 10,000 in the third year).

Electric three-wheelers (L5M category) will get incentives of Rs 50,000 in the first year, Rs 40,000 in the second, and Rs 30,000 in the third

year. For electric four-wheeler goods vehicles (N1 category), incentives will range from Rs 1 lakh to Rs 50,000 over three years.

To eliminate polluting vehicles, the policy offers scrapping incentives of Rs 10,000 for two-wheelers, Rs 25,000 for three-wheelers, Rs 1 lakh for electric cars, and Rs

50,000 for goods vehicles. These benefits will apply to BS-IV and older vehicles, provided a new EV is purchased within six months of scrapping. The policy proposes 100% exemption on road tax and registration fees for all EVs registered in Delhi during the policy period. Electric cars priced up to Rs 30 lakh will receive full exemption, while strong hybrid vehicles will get 50% relief.

In a major shift, only electric three-wheelers will be allowed for new registrations from January 1, 2027, and only electric two-wheelers from April 1, 2028.

To support EV growth, Delhi Transco Limited will act as the nodal agency for planning and implementing charging and battery-swapping

infrastructure. A dedicated digital portal will streamline approvals and monitoring, with coordination across multiple government departments. The policy mandates phased electrification of school buses, with 30% to be electric by 2030. All new vehicles hired by the Delhi government will be electric, except in special cases. Additionally, new inter-state buses under the Delhi Transport Corporation will also be electric. Of the total Rs 3,954.25 crore outlay, Rs 1,236.25 crore is allocated for purchase incentives, Rs 1,718 crore for scrapping incentives, and Rs 1,000 crore for charging infrastructure. An EV Fund will be created, supported by budgetary allocations, environmental charges, and central schemes.



Fake degree, certificate racket busted in Delhi; 7 held

New Delhi, (GNS): The Delhi Police claimed to have busted a fake degree and certificate racket operating from southeast Delhi and arrested seven persons, an official said on Friday.

The accused have been identified as Sanjeev Kumar Maurya (25), Janak Neupane (25), Kishan Kumar (26), Vicky Kumar Jha (26), Ashish Thapliyal (35), Akash Kumar (21) and Sanjay Arya (29), all residents of Delhi, the officer said. The operation was carried out following a tip-off about a gang allegedly running an organised network to issue forged educational documents, he said.

According to the police, the accused were operating from a premises in Govindpuri in southeast Delhi, where they had set up a full-fledged system to produce fake degrees, mark sheets and other certificates.

"During the raid, seven people were apprehended while 28 others were bound down as part of the preventive action," a senior police officer said. The police said the gang lured unsuspecting victims across the country by posing as representatives of a fake institution named "Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Management Science & Technology". "They would offer back-dated degrees, migration certificates and mark sheets in exchange for money," read the statement.

The syndicate had a well-organised set-up. Telecallers contacted potential targets using data sourced from third-party providers and convinced them to purchase fake academic documents for employment or career advancement. The group used digital tools, including shared online spreadsheets, to maintain records of clients and coordinate operations among members. Chats recovered from seized mobile phones showed that forged documents were being shared with customers digitally, police said. The accused had also recruited telecallers through online job platforms to expand their operations, the police said, adding that the racket had a structured hierarchy with specific roles assigned to each member.

Locked up for 'Viksit Bharat' event, claim DU students

New Delhi, (GNS): Several students of Indraprastha College for Women, University of Delhi, have alleged they were locked up inside the campus for over an hour and prevented from leaving, forcing them to attend a programme by the administration on the Centre's flagship 'Viksit Bharat' initiative on April 8. They alleged that while the event was on at the college auditorium, security personnel shut the main gate, redirecting those trying to leave to the event venue.

The programme was organised by the department of political science. The incident took place around noon. Posters on campus show the programme was an international conference on 'Viksit Bharat @2047 and World Order', with dignitaries from



outside invited.

Videos circulating online show students gathered at the gate, arguing with guards. Some of them are heard saying they had "family emergencies" and needed to leave, while a guard is heard replying that the gate was locked on the "instructions of the principal" and that students had to join the event in the auditorium. In the clip, one is heard telling the guard that her par-

enters were calling her up and asking why she was unable to leave. The students alleged that the gates were opened only after a large group assembled at the entrance and raised objections.

According to them, multiple events were scheduled on the campus that day, including a certificate course session on menstrual health and hygiene organised in collaboration with Unesco at a different venue. They claimed that they were being pushed to attend the programmes to ensure adequate turnout.

They said that making attendance a prerequisite for such events is a common practice at the college. They alleged that they are often required to attend events and are marked present for their classes only at the venue.

SC refuses to hear plea against denial of extension of convict's parole

New Delhi, (GNS): The Supreme Court on Friday refused to hear a plea challenging the denial of extension of parole granted to convict Santosh Kumar Singh in the 1996 Priyadarshini Mattoo murder case.

A Bench of Justices B V Nagarathna and Prashant Kumar Mishra noted that the main matter related to remission is already pending before the Delhi High Court and coming up for hearing on May 18. The Bench granted liberty to Singh to seek advancement of his hearing on the plea before the high court and expeditious disposal. "It is needless to say that if such a request is made, the High Court shall consider it, having regard to the facts of the case that the incident occurred on January 23, 1996, and the



petitioner has been in jail for 31 years, including remission," the Bench said.

The top court requested the High Court to dispose of the matter at the earliest in accordance with law.

The counsel for Singh contended that the High Court has passed a very drastic order, directing him to surrender and his client has been serving his sentence in an 'open jail', which allows him to exit the jail complex daily between 8 am and 8 pm for gainful employment.

Covers off, dredging on to clear legacy silt that waterlogged central Delhi

New Delhi, (GNS): Waterlogging hotspots around central Delhi such as the stretch near ITO, Daryaganj, Kashmir Gate and surrounding areas are likely to see major relief this monsoon as the Delhi Gate drain, covered for nearly 40 years, is being opened for the first time to allow deep cleaning and to restore flow capacity.

These areas had witnessed major flooding in 2023.

"We are fixing long-pending bottlenecks to ensure places like ITO do not face the same flooding this year," said irrigation and flood control minister Parvesh Verma, adding that work is being closely monitored.

"The Delhi Gate drain, which had remained covered with slabs for nearly 40 years, is now being



opened up for thorough cleaning," he said.

For decades, the structure had severely restricted proper desilting, contributing to repeated waterlogging in nearby areas, he said. "For the first time in four decades, the slabs are being dis-

mantled to allow complete access to the drain, enabling deep cleaning and restoration of its carrying capacity." The drain, which originates in Daryaganj and runs for about 2.5 km before meeting the Yamuna, is a critical channel catering to a dense, flood-prone

stretch of central Delhi. For decades, a nearly 400-metre portion of the drain passing through Samta Sthal park remained covered with concrete slabs, supported by columns and beams, making proper desilting nearly impossible, said a senior official. This led to the accumulation of large volumes of silt, severely restricting the drain's carrying capacity and contributing to frequent waterlogging in the adjoining areas.

This year, the authorities have begun dismantling the slabs to access the choked stretch. Heavy machinery has been deployed to excavate the silt that has piled up for decades.

According to the irrigation and flood control (IFC) department, desilting of the Delhi Gate drain has already crossed 70%, and over

21,000 metric tonnes of silt has been removed. Work is also under way on the remaining stretches, including areas near Gandhi Darshan and downstream under a flyover.

Officials said restoring the carrying capacity of this drain is crucial for preventing water accumulation at ITO, Feroz Shah Road, Jama Masjid, near Supreme Court and nearby localities, which routinely face traffic disruption during heavy rain.

In the July 2023 floods, the Yamuna rose to a historic 208.66 metres, breaching embankments and inundating large parts of the city. Areas such as ITO, Supreme Court, Kashmir Gate, Civil Lines and Mayur Vihar were among the worst affected. More than 23,000 people were evacuated as floodwa-

ters entered homes and commercial zones.

Officials said out that while river flooding was the primary trigger, inadequate drainage worsens the situation. "When key outfall drains like Delhi Gate are choked, stormwater has nowhere to go, leading to severe waterlogging even with moderate rainfall," an official said.

Alongside Delhi Gate, desilting of the Barapulla drain is also progressing rapidly, with nearly 78% of the work completed and over 31,000 metric tonnes of silt cleared, said the department.

Across Delhi, nearly half of the 77 identified IFC drains have been desilted so far, and over 14 lakh metric tonnes of silt removed against a target of 28 lakh metric tonnes.