



Modi said, "I ate Jhalmuri, the opposition is feeling the heat"

He said, "Change will come on May 4th"

Kolkata(GNS): PM Narendra Modi held election rallies in Mathurapur and Krishnanagar in Bengal on Thursday. He said, "The people have decided that May 4th will bring change, not results. The TMC will lose, and the BJP will win." Modi said that Bengal worships Goddess Durga, but the TMC voted against women's reservation. Under the TMC government, thugs and rapists enjoy open protection. The daughters of Bengal will never forget these atrocities.

On eating Jhalmuri during the election campaign, he said, "I ate Jhalmuri, but the opposition is feeling the heat. This time, voting is breaking all previous records. I see a storm of change here."

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee is holding a roadshow in Bhawanipur, West Bengal, where she is a Member of Parliament. Voting is scheduled for the second phase on April 29th.



► **PM said- TMC is concerned about its own interests:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that the ruthless government of Bengal is only concerned with its own interests and has nothing to do with your well-being. An example of this is the Bhang Fair in Mathurapur... The Bhang Fair did not receive the support it deserved from the state government.

► **Said – all parties are anti-women:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that the anti-women stance of the TMC and all these parties has once again been exposed. You saw what happened in Parliament a few days ago. The BJP government came to Parliament with a proposal for 33% reservation for women by the 2029 Lok Sabha elections, but the TMC voted against it.

Mirzapur accident: 11 dead 9 burned alive in Bolero:

Family returning after son's tonsure, no one survived; bodies difficult to identify

Mirzapur(GNS): Even people were killed in a road accident in Mirzapur, Uttar Pradesh, on Wednesday night. Nine people travelling in a Bolero were burned alive. The accident occurred at 9:30 pm on the Mirzapur-Rewa National Highway.

According to police, a speeding truck suddenly lost control due to brake failure. It struck a Bolero and a Swift car in front of it. Both vehicles collided with a trolley ahead of them.

Due to the high speed, the Bolero was thrown apart after the collision. It burst into flames with a loud explosion. Meanwhile, the Swift car was trapped between the truck and trailer.

The fire was so intense that the nine



people in the Bolero didn't have a chance to get out. Eight members of the same family and a driver were inside. The Bolero burned for about two and a half hours. There was screaming and crying at the scene. People from the vicinity came to help, but due to the intensity of the fire, no one could get close.

People remained trapped inside. The fire was later brought under control with the help of

the police and fire brigade. The bodies were so badly burned that they were beyond recognition. The family was returning from Maihar after having their 8-year-old son's head shaved.

The driver of the Swift car and the trolley cleaner also died. The accident occurred in the Drumdganj police station area. Superintendent of Police Aparna Rajat Kaushik said:

Amit Shah reviews BJP's organizational activities amid Bengal elections

Kolkata(GNS): Amid the first phase of voting in the West Bengal Assembly elections, Union Home Minister Amit Shah visited the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) state office in Salt Lake, Kolkata, on Thursday morning. He arrived at the office around 10 a.m. and remained there until 2:30 p.m., reviewing organizational and election-related activities.



According to sources, Amit Shah visited various departments in the office and reviewed election management, booth-level preparations, and organizational functioning. During this period, he met with party officials, workers, and members of various

units to review their work.

It is reported that Shah also directly monitored the voting process for the first phase of the elections. He reviewed information from various assembly constituencies, including voter turnout, ground conditions, and voter participation. He also

communicated with officials associated with the party's war room and provided necessary strategic guidance.

During the tour, Amit Shah personally met with party workers and encouraged them. He emphasized the importance of discipline, coordination, and voter contact during the

election period. He stated that a strong organization at the booth level and active workers are the keys to electoral success.

BJP sources say that the party's top leadership is continuously monitoring election activities with the goal of securing a decisive mandate in West Bengal. Amit Shah's visit is considered part of that strategy.

Significantly, voting took place on Thursday in the first phase of the West Bengal Assembly elections, covering 152 seats across 16 districts. At this time, the central leadership's activism is considered crucial to the BJP's election campaign.

If the DNA test fails to prove the father, the child will not receive any alimony

New Delhi(GNS): The Supreme Court has issued a significant ruling in a case involving alimony. The court stated that if a DNA test proves that a man is not the biological father of a child, he cannot be ordered to pay alimony, even if the child was born during the marriage. The court dismissed the woman's appeal. According to the report, a bench of Justices Sanjay Karol and N. Kotiswar Singh was hearing a woman's appeal, challenging a Delhi High Court order granting maintenance to her daughter. The court discussed the relationship between modern tests and the identification of the father. The court cited the 2023 decision in Aparna Ajinkya Firodia vs. Ajinkya Arun Firodia, in which the court stated that DNA testing should not be ordered routinely. It also cited the 2025 decision in Ivan Rathinam vs. Milan Joseph. Notably, the bench held that DNA testing orders should be issued with caution. The bench stated that a common thread in all these previous decisions is that judges have always shown caution and hesitation in ordering or approving DNA tests.

Bikaji CMD Shivratan Agarwal dies of heart attack; breathed his last in Chennai

Had accompanied his family for his wife's operation

New Delhi(GNS): Bikaji CMD Shivratan Agarwal (74) died in Chennai on Thursday morning. He was there for his wife's surgery.

He was taken to a private hospital on Thursday morning after his health suddenly deteriorated, where he breathed his last. According to reports, his wife had recently undergone a heart bypass operation.

Doctors had advised him to rest. For this reason, Shivratan Agarwal and his family were staying at a hotel there. Shivratan, a resident of Sardulganj, Bikaner, had traveled to Chennai with his family 10 days ago.

Shivratan Agarwal felt unwell around 7:30 a.m. on Thursday. When his condition worsened, he was taken to a private hospital, where he passed away.

Family members living across the country, including Delhi, will arrive in Bikaner this evening. The final journey will take place on Friday morning.

Bikaner Vyapar Mandal President Jugal Rathi said – The city market will remain closed till 2 pm on Friday.

Stopped production and supply in the factory

Shivratan Agarwal founded the Bikaji brand in Bikaner in 1993. What started as a small business has now grown into a major food brand. Following the death of Shivratan



Agarwal, production at the factories in Bikaner's Karni and Bichhwal industrial areas has been halted. Supplies have also been stopped.

This factory in Bikaner produces 800 tons of rice daily. Bhujia accounts for over 150 tons of this. The rest is sweets, chips, papad, and bakery items.

It started in the year 1986 from Bikaner.

After the business split, Shivratan Agarwal decided to separate from his family business, Haldi Ram, and start his own business. Determined to establish his own identity, Shivratan Agarwal moved to Bikaner.

IRS officer's daughter raped and murdered in Delhi

Man enters home using duplicate key; rape also reported in Alwar 12 hours earlier



New Delhi(GNS):

The 22-year-old daughter of a senior Income Tax Department official was murdered in Delhi's posh Kailash Hills neighborhood on Wednesday morning after a man entered her home. The accused raped her and then strangled her to death with a mobile phone charging cable.

She was home alone at the time of the incident. Her parents had gone to the gym. Police have arrested Rahul Meena, a 19-year-old domestic helper, who had been fired six weeks ago over financial irregularities. Police investigations have revealed that earlier on Tuesday night, around 10:30 pm, in Alwar, the accused, Rahul Meena, entered his neighbor's home and assaulted and raped the woman. He is also accused of suffocating the victim, strangling her, and throwing her to the floor. Police said Rahul was well aware of the family's daily routine. He knew that the victim's parents went to the gym in the morning. He also knew where the duplicate keys were hidden outside the house for the servants.

Pickup falls into 300-meter ravine in Uttarakhand, 8 killed

SDRF rescues 2 people as they return from Haridwar after cremation

Tehri Garhwal(GNS): A pickup truck carrying 10 people fell into a ditch in Tehri Garhwal, killing 8 people, confirmed Tehri District Magistrate Nitika Khandelwal.

The deceased were returning from a family funeral in Haridwar. Their vehicle suddenly lost control and plunged into a 300-meter (984 ft) deep ravine. Two people were seriously injured in the accident.

Upon receiving the information, police, SDRF, and fire service teams immediately rushed to the scene. Despite the difficult terrain, rescue operations began swiftly, and the injured were pulled from the ditch using



ropes and taken to the district hospital.

SDM said – all are residents of nearby villages Sub-District Magistrate

Alkesh Nautiyal said that the men left their homes around 6 a.m. There were 11 people in the vehicle, including the driver. They had lunch on the way back from Haridwar around 3 p.m. The vehicle then met with an accident near Nael village.

He said that all the victims were residents of Mahal Jami Patti and surrounding villages in the Ghansali area. One of the injured has a fractured arm, while the other is currently undergoing treatment. The bodies of the deceased have been sent to the district hospital for postmortems, and an administration team is present at the scene.

The politics of delimitation, the rise of identity, and the shifting electoral winds: A battle for new strategies from Bengal to Tamil Nadu

Kantilal Mandot

In Indian politics, elections are not simply a matter of vote arithmetic, but a complex mix of emotions, identities, strategies, and ever-changing narratives. Recent developments, including the defeat of the Constitutional Amendment Bill on women's reservations in Parliament and the failure to introduce the Delimitation Bill, have been two turning points that have altered both the direction and language of electoral politics. This shift is particularly evident in states like West Bengal and Tamil Nadu, where ruling and opposition parties are crafting new issues and repurposing old narratives.

The rapidity with which

Mamata Banerjee has shifted her electoral strategy in West Bengal reflects her political acumen and ability to grasp the pulse of the times. Following the defeat of the Women's Reservation Bill, she has launched a new, aggressive campaign centering on delimitation. While previously issues like SIR were linked to Bengal's identity, now delimitation is being presented as a "conspiracy to break the country." This shift is not just linguistic, but will change the entire political direction.

North Bengal, where the BJP performed strongly last time, has now become the center of this new narrative. The Trinamool Congress has launched a door-to-door campaign to reach out to the

millions of tea garden workers. Issues like employment, wages, and land rights are now being replaced by an atmosphere of fear and insecurity surrounding delimitation. Mamata Banerjee is trying to convey the message that if delimitation were implemented, many districts would lose their identity. This is an emotional argument that directly raises questions of identity in the public's mind.

On the other hand, leaders like Abhishek Banerjee are portraying this issue as a weakness for the BJP at the national level. They say that what happened in Parliament is just the beginning and its impact will be felt in the states as well. This statement not only reflects

confidence but also attempts to energize the party workers.

The situation in Tamil Nadu is even more interesting. Here, the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam has quickly turned the electoral tide in its favor. Until three days ago, the delimitation bill was the biggest issue, but now "Tamil identity" has become the central theme of the election. M.K. Stalin is being presented as the victor in this entire development, as if he has won a major battle against the central government.

DMK workers are going from village to village, distributing pamphlets promoting "Dravidian pride," conveying the message that this is not merely a political battle but a question of protecting Tamil

identity. The effect of this strategy has completely transformed the electoral discourse. It is no longer merely an issue of seat-sharing, but rather a question of cultural and regional identity.

This situation has become challenging for the BJP. K. Annamalai has consistently maintained that delimitation will not harm Tamil Nadu, but his message is not reaching the public effectively. In contrast, the DMK's message is more organized and emotionally connected, making it more effective.

The AIADMK, an NDA ally, is in a dilemma. It is unable to openly oppose the delimitation bill or fully oppose the DMK on the issue of Tamil identity.

Editorial

Constitutional questions on the judiciary vs. legislature conflict

The recent controversy surrounding Justice Swaran Kanta Sharma versus former Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal in Delhi politics raises a major constitutional question—is this case truly a conflict between the judiciary and the legislature, or is it part of the normal process of balance and accountability between institutions? This controversy came to light when the court's comments and political reactions heated up public discourse. The court questioned certain decisions and procedures of governance, while the political parties saw this as judicial interference. It would be an exaggeration to describe the Justice Swaran Kanta Sharma versus Kejriwal controversy as a direct conflict between the judiciary and the legislature. This is a natural process within a democracy, in which institutions maintain checks and balances on one another. The real challenge is not avoiding conflict, but maintaining constitutional balance and dignity—for a strong democracy is one where institutions are both independent and accountable. The Indian Constitution clearly establishes three pillars—the legislature, the executive, and the judiciary—with distinct roles. The judiciary's responsibility: to interpret the law and ensure that the government operates within constitutional limits. The legislature's authority: to make laws and formulate policies. Therefore, when a court questions a government decision, it is not a matter of confrontation, but rather a matter of constitutional scrutiny. Ultimately, what is the true root of the dispute? The core issue in this case is one of demarcation. If the judiciary interferes too deeply in policy-making, the legislature may feel encroached. Meanwhile, if the government ignores judicial orders or observations, it could undermine the rule of law. Thus, the problem is not one of conflict, but of maintaining balance. What does this mean for democracy? This controversy offers some important signals for a healthy democracy.

The fight against intellectual pollution and drug addiction is not just the responsibility of the police, it is a social war

Kishan Sanmukhdas Bhavani



Globally, the 21st century is taking human civilization to unprecedented heights in technology, science, health, environment, and education. However, parallel to this progress, the world is grappling with two invisible and growing challenges whose impact is far more widespread, profound, and long-term on the youth who are building the future: intellectual pollution and drug addiction, against which society has become collectively responsible. Global systems, laws, science, and technology are continuously improving to address environmental pollution. Policies, research, institutions, and resources exist to control air, water, plastic, waste, industrial emissions, and carbon footprints, but social responsibility against intellectual pollution and drug addiction is not being achieved with the same speed and precision. I, Advocate Kishan Sanmukhdas Bhavani,



Gondia, Maharashtra, believe that when it comes to the pollution of human consciousness, thoughts, values, and mindset, the solution is no longer traditional, but rather based on ethical, intellectual, educational, and cultural interventions. This is why intellectual pollution has become the most dangerous invisible smog that weakens any civilization from within, unparalleled by any physical pollution. Similarly, drug addiction today is not just a health crisis, but has become a multifaceted crisis involving the economy, security, population, family, education, crime, human resources, and national development. Thinking that preventing drug abuse is solely the responsibility of the police, law, or penal system is a mistaken and limited perspective. According to the World Health Organization, 70 percent of the rising cases of drug addiction are rooted in social behavior, environment, family, cultural influences, and mental stress, while the law intervenes only in the final stages. Therefore, the fight against drug addiction is truly a joint war between society, the family, the education system, health institutions, the media, religious-cultural communities, and the governance system.

Friends, if we are to understand that intellectual pollution is an invisible threat and a global crisis, then intellectual pollution, if defined simply, is a situation when a person's thinking, understanding, discretion, decision-making, and moral consciousness are affected by false, confused, biased, extreme, violent, false, or distorted ideas. This pollution is invisible, like factory smoke or vehicle exhaust, but its harm can be greater than any air pollution, as it entangles a person in a web of ideas, perceptions, and information, destroying their logical capacity and social consciousness. Fake news, hate propaganda, extreme nationalism, extremism, racial divisions, conspiracies, religious fanaticism, digital manipulation, misinformation, propaganda,

hate speech, and confusion spread through social media algorithms have become the main sources of intellectual pollution in countries around the world. As technology and the availability of knowledge have increased rapidly, so has the burden of uncontrolled information on the human mind's receptivity. The internet has democratized information, but it has also institutionalized ignorance. Distinguishing truth from falsehood has become more difficult than ever for the average citizen. This intellectual fog not only affects individual conscience but also undermines democracy, social harmony, education, scientific thinking, and human values. History bears witness that civilizations crumble less from external attacks than from internal confusion, division, false ideology, and mental pollution. This is why intellectual pollution has emerged as a silent global pandemic for humanity.

Friends, if we consider whether a solution to intellectual pollution is possible, the solutions to physical pollution are obvious: filters, recycling bans, technology, law, and clean energy. However, the solution to intellectual pollution lies not in science, but in consciousness, education, ethics, dialogue, media responsibility, and reform of social structures. This pollution flourishes when society adopts blind imitation over logic, when education becomes based on numbers rather than knowledge, when the media sells sensationalism rather than information, and when technology promotes illusions over truth. Therefore, the solution must be multi-layered, encompassing education based on critical thinking, digital literacy, a scientific perspective, fact-based dialogue, media transparency, social dialogue, youth leadership, and a culture of multicultural respect. Intellectual pollution cannot be controlled by any single institution, law, or government, as it is a psychological and cultural challenge. This solution is possible only when the global society embraces truth as a value, places dialogue above conflict, and views

education not as a job but as a means of consciousness-building. Every family, every school, every university, and every nation must recognize that purity of thought is essential to the survival of civilization. If the mind is polluted, progress becomes destruction, and if thoughts are pure, humanity can find solutions to every crisis. Friends, if we understand that the fight against drug addiction is not just the responsibility of the police, but a social war. Addiction is not a problem of any one country, society, religion, class, or age group, but a global epidemic. Drugs, alcohol, tobacco, synthetic narcotics, prescription drug abuse, gaming, and digital addiction are all widespread forms of modern addiction. According to the United Nations, more than 30 million people worldwide are directly affected by drug addiction each year, and millions more die from related illnesses and crimes. Addiction is not just a health problem, but also gives rise to widespread crises such as crime, cross-border smuggling, terrorism, human trafficking, domestic violence, road accidents, suicide, school dropouts, unemployment, and economic loss. To assume that the police, law, and penal system alone will solve this problem is a grave mistake. Police can only prevent crime, not habit; law can only punish, not change mentality; and punishment can only create fear, not a solution. The roots of addiction lie in mental stress, social pressure, family breakdown, unemployment, loneliness, violence, despair, inequality, and bad company. Therefore, addiction is a psychological, social, and cultural crisis, the solution to which lies not in punishment but in rehabilitation, dialogue, education, community support, and social responsibility. Families must learn early identification, schools must provide preventive education, the media must assume moral responsibility, health institutions must prioritize treatment and counseling, and society must understand the addict as a patient, not a criminal, and strive to rebuild them.

Why are NIT students committing suicide?

Manoj Kumar Agarwal

A second year student of the prestigious National Institute of Technology (NIT) Kurukshetra was found dead in her hostel room, making it the fourth case of suspicious student death on the campus in the last two months. Another student commits suicide at NIT Kurukshetra! This is not just an incident, but a sign of a serious failure of the system. To get admission in NIT, students study hard and clear the entrance exam, only a few students get the opportunity to fulfill their dream of pursuing technical education, but when such bright students embrace death, it raises a

question mark on the environment of this institute.

Such incidents happening continuously show that the mental pressure on students, institutional insensitivity and lack of support system have now reached dangerous levels. When will the government and administration wake up?

On Thursday, April 16, 2026, when Diksha Dubey didn't answer her friends' calls, they went to her room and found it locked from inside. Upon receiving the information, police and forensic teams arrived at the scene around 3 p.m. and broke down the door, where she was found dead," he said. The body has been sent to LNJP Civil Hospital

for a post-mortem examination.

The exact cause of the incident is not yet known. Further action will depend on the investigation findings and statements from the family. This is the fourth case registered at NIT Kurukshetra since February.

Angod Shiva (19), a resident of Telangana, was found dead in his dorm room on February 16. Shiva, a first-semester student, was pursuing a Computer Science and Engineering (CSE) degree at the institute. Another student from Nuh committed suicide at NIT Kurukshetra on March 31.

The third suspicious death was reported on April 8, when Priyanshu Sharma, a resident of

Sirsa, Haryana, was found dead in his dorm room. He was a third-year B.Tech student in the Civil Engineering Department. The committee was formed after Diksha Dubey, a 19-year-old B.Tech student from Bihar, allegedly committed suicide on Thursday, April 16.

The student's death sparked protests on campus. Diksha Dubey's death was the fourth such incident on campus in the past two months.

Not only this, on Saturday, April 18th, at around 12:00 a.m., a student attempted suicide in Kalpana Dormitory, but other students present at the scene rescued her in time. It is reported that the student wrote in a message, "My life has no mean-

ing." This incident further increased tension on campus.

National Institute of Technology Kurukshetra acting director Brahmjeet said that the administration has accepted many of the demands raised by the students.

These suspicious deaths have sparked protests on the campus, with a large number of students gathering at the main gate late at night to protest.

The protesters alleged that the behavior of some hostel staff and officials was unsatisfactory and expressed concern about the handling of the situation. They also questioned the response time after the incident came to light.

CM inaugurates water ATMs in Shalimar Bagh

New Delhi, (GNS): Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Wednesday inaugurated several water ATMs in the Shalimar Bagh constituency, saying the government is committed to ensuring access to clean drinking water for every household in the Capital.

The water ATMs, equipped with five-stage RO systems, have been installed at AU Block (Ekta Camp, Pitampura), Som Bazar Road in Haiderpur, AA Seva Basti near Fortis Hospital and CA Block Seva Basti. Each unit can supply up to 2,000 litres of potable water per hour, aimed at benefiting residents in densely populated areas.

"Clean drinking water for every household is our commitment. These water ATMs are a step towards providing affordable and accessible safe water, especially in high-den-



sity localities," Gupta said, while also distributing smart cards to residents for easy access to the facilities.

Highlighting infrastructure efforts, the Chief Minister

said nearly Rs 9,000 crore had been earmarked to upgrade Delhi's water network, including laying new pipelines and replacing ageing systems. She also

reviewed ongoing civic works on Som Bazar Road in Haiderpur and directed officials to expedite projects while maintaining quality standards and minimising

inconvenience to residents.

During the visit, Gupta inspected works being carried out by the Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board and other agencies, stressing the need for cleanliness at construction sites, proper traffic management and adherence to safety protocols.

Later, the Chief Minister visited the Munak Canal area in CA Block to review cleaning operations and inspected the construction of a Chhath ghat. She instructed officials to complete both projects within stipulated timelines to ensure smooth arrangements for devotees during upcoming festivals.

Reiterating the government's focus on improving basic services, Gupta said the administration was working to build a clean, green and well-equipped city with better infrastructure and enhanced quality of life for citizens.

Two new flyovers on cards to decongest Dwarka Expressway



New Delhi, (GNS): In a major push to tackle mounting traffic congestion along the Dwarka Expressway corridor, the Gurugram Metropolitan Development Authority (GMDA) is set to construct two new flyovers, including a key structure at Shaheed Rao Ranjit Singh Chowk in Sector 84.

The move is aimed at streamlining traffic flow between Dwarka Expressway and IMT Manesar, a stretch that routinely witnesses heavy vehicular pressure. Officials said the flyover near Dadi Sati Chowk has already received approval, while another is being actively planned at Shaheed Rao Ranjit Singh Chowk, located barely 1.5 km away.

According to GMDA officials, the proposed flyovers will be three-lane structures designed to significantly reduce congestion at two of the busiest intersections on the stretch between Elan Mall and IMT Manesar.

CBI nabs Delhi cop for accepting Rs 2 lakh bribe

New Delhi, (GNS):

The Central Bureau of Investigation has arrested a Delhi Police head constable posted with the anti-narcotics cell, Dwarka, for allegedly accepting a bribe of Rs 2 lakh from a complainant in exchange for not falsely implicating her in a case, officials said on Wednesday.

According to the CBI, a case was registered on Tuesday against the head constable and other unidentified persons following a complaint alleging a demand of Rs 15 lakh.

The agency said during searches at the office premises (Dwarka anti-narcotics cell), cash amounting to Rs 48.87 lakh was recovered and seized.

"It was alleged that the accused head constable and others demanded a bribe of Rs 15 lakh for not falsely implicating the woman in a case," a CBI spokesperson said in a statement, adding that the accused had directed the complainant to deliver a part payment of Rs 5 lakh by Tuesday.

Acting on the complaint, the agency laid a trap the same day and caught the accused red-handed while accepting Rs 2 lakh as part payment out of the total bribe of Rs 15 lakh, the statement said. The accused head constable had been arrested, it said.

The CBI has urged people to report any instances of corruption or bribery by government officials. Complaints can be submitted at the CBI office on the first floor, CBI Building, CGO Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi. CPGO can also call 011-24367887 or 9650394847 to report such cases or share relevant information.

Indian pharma sector immune to short-term supply disruptions, says Centre



New Delhi, (GNS): Amid global concerns over the impact of tensions in West Asia on medical supply chains, the Central Government on Wednesday asserted that India's pharmaceutical sector remains insulated, citing adequate domestic availability of key petrochemical feedstock.

The response came after Japan recently warned of potential disruptions to medical supplies due to constraints in petrochemical inputs such as naphtha. When asked if similar risks could affect India, the Central Government said the country produced more naphtha than it consumes and expressed confidence that the pharma industry would largely not be impacted by supply disruptions. "India is confident about its pharmaceutical sector and it is not going to be affected," said Sujata Sharma, Joint Secretary of the Petroleum Ministry, pointing to domestic production strength. Citing data from last year, she said the nation produced around 18 MMT naphtha, of which only 11 MMT was consumed.

"Supply is not a constraint at this point, the challenge is more on the pricing side due to prevailing global conditions," she added. Naphtha is a critical starting point, medicines depend on a broader chain of petrochemical derivatives, including solvents and intermediates, which are often part of globally linked supply networks. Disruptions in crude supplies, shipping routes such as the Strait of Hormuz, or rising input costs can still influence this ecosystem. India's pharmaceutical manufacturers typically maintain an inventory buffer of active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs) for about three to six months, allowing for short-term stability in production.

Govt set to revive real-time study of city pollution sources

New Delhi, (GNS): Delhi govt is set to revive its real-time source apportionment study. To be led by IIT-Delhi, the proposed study spanning five years will mainly focus on identifying and quantifying pollution sources impacting the level of particulate matter (PM) 10 in Delhi's air.

Delhi environment minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa, who chaired a high-level meeting on Wednesday, has directed officials to expedite the process for approval to ensure that the study - a high-resolution air quality monitoring method - is launched at the earliest. "It will help us understand factors driving



pollution in the city, the sources, and the interventions that are delivering results on the ground," he said.

In 2023, Delhi govt had roped in IIT-Kanpur, which conducted a real-time source apportionment study called

'R-aasman', focusing on PM2.5. However, this study was discontinued. "The proposals were pending for a long time under the previous govt and then shelved," said a govt official on Wednesday.

Currently, Delhi has a lone source apportionment system, known as Decision Support System, run by Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune, which estimates various local and regional sources impacting the city's PM2.5 levels. However, the system is operational only during winter.

While IITM is already working on PM2.5 monitoring, there was a prior commitment under the action plan to also

take up a study of PM10 in a focused manner, the official said. In line with this, a decision to move forward with the study was taken at Wednesday's meeting, which was attended by officials of the environment department, Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) and IIT-Delhi.

"The proposed study, spanning five years, aims to move beyond episodic and retrospective pollution assessments by introducing continuous, real-time source apportionment of airborne pollutants, especially PM10. This will empower policymakers with actionable insights during peak-pollution episodes

and enable long-term evaluation of interventions," said Sirsa. An important feature of the project is the reoperationalisation of the DPCC supersite (main laboratory for the study), supported by advanced instrumentation and integrated with mobile monitoring units for hotspot management. The supersite will have advanced instrumentation, including ceilometers, GHG analysers and multi-channel samplers, to distinguish meteorological effects from local emissions.

It will conduct comparative assessments using IIT-Delhi's Sonapat site and the Delhi supersite to understand regional pollution dynamics.

Delhi to organise quarterly job fairs, boost skill training for workers: Kapil Mishra

New Delhi, (GNS): Delhi Labour and Employment Minister Kapil Mishra on Wednesday directed officials to expedite plans for quarterly job fairs and launch skill training programmes for construction workers, stressing that employment generation and income enhancement remain key priorities of the government.

Chairing a review meeting with officials of the Labour Department and the Delhi Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board, Mishra said preparations for organising job fairs should be completed at the earliest to provide maximum employment opportunities to youth. He emphasised that



participation from companies, startups and employers should be ensured to offer diverse job avenues.

Highlighting worker welfare, Mishra directed that skill training programmes for registered construction workers be aligned with industry requirements to improve employability and income levels. He said the initiative would also enhance productivity and quality in the construction sector. The minister reviewed the progress of implementation of the four labour codes - Code on Wages, Industrial Relations Code, Social Security Code and Occupational Safety, Health

and Working Conditions Code, and asked officials to be ready to notify Delhi's rules promptly once the Centre issues notifications.

He also instructed authorities to identify eligible workers who may have missed pollution allowance benefits during GRAP-III and GRAP-IV periods and ensure timely disbursement. Additionally, he called for speedy disposal of pending labour cases through Lok Adalats and wider awareness of ease-of-doing-business provisions among industries and traders.

Mishra said the government, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, was working towards building a "self-reliant and developed Delhi" with a focus on inclusive growth and worker welfare.

Delhi may reel under heatwave conditions on April 24-25 as temperature rises above 40°C

New Delhi, (GNS): The mercury surpassed the 40-degree mark on Wednesday, with the maximum temperature at 40.7 degrees Celsius. India Meteorological Department has revised its heatwave alert, with heatwave conditions now likely on Friday and Saturday.

The maximum temperature was 40.7 degrees Celsius, three degrees above normal, at base station Safdarjung. It was 38.8 degrees Celsius a day earlier. At 42.1 degrees Celsius, the Ridge station in north Delhi was the hottest, followed by Ayanagar in southwest Delhi at 41.4 degrees Celsius. "A gradual rise by 2-3 degrees is likely in the maximum temperature during the next three days and no large change thereafter. The maximum temperatures are likely to be above normal to appreciably above normal during the next five days," said a Met official.

IMD has predicted that the



day temperature is likely to be 41-43 degrees Celsius on Thursday and 42-44 degrees Celsius on Friday and Saturday. A yellow alert is in place for heatwave in isolated areas.

IMD considers a heatwave day when the maximum is at least 40 degrees Celsius and 4.5 degrees Celsius or more above the normal temperature. A heatwave is also declared if the maximum touches 45 degrees Celsius. No heatwave day has been recorded this April so far in 2024 and 2023, three such days were witnessed in the second week of April in 2025. In 2022, the city had 11 such days in April.

Daughter of senior official raped, killed at South Delhi home by former help; fired 6 weeks ago

New Delhi, (GNS): The 22-year-old daughter of a senior bureaucrat was sexually assaulted and murdered at her south Delhi home on Wednesday. Her head was smashed with a heavy object and she was strangled with a mobile phone charging cable, the police said. Police arrested a 23-year-old man from a hotel in Dwarka within 12 hours of the crime. The suspect is a former domestic worker who had been fired six weeks ago for "financial misconduct". He had returned to steal, police said.

The suspect ransacked the victim's house and fled with Rs 2.5 lakh in cash and some valuables. Joint CP (south) Vijay Kumar said the suspect has been booked for rape, murder and robbery. Police said he was not verified. The incident took place around 6.40am. The woman's parents were away for their morning workout at the time of crime. "Her parents had gone for their gym session. A spare key was left outside the flat for the house help, who



would usually come around 6.30-7am," joint CP Kumar said. The suspect was aware of the family's routine as well as the location of the key. "He entered the house and attacked the woman while she was studying. After demanding the passcode to the almirah, he bludgeoned her with a blunt object and subsequently strangled her with a cable," said an officer. The family told police that they found their daughter in a pool of blood once they returned home around 8am. She was bleeding excessively so they rushed her to Fortis Hospital. Police were alerted

subsequently from the hospital by the family. The suspect stayed inside the house for about 40 minutes, with the CCTV recording his entry at 6.39am. He ransacked the almirahs and safes and filled the cash in a bag.

He changed clothes after the crime and was captured on CCTV leaving the house and walking calmly on the road with a backpack around 7.22am. A security guard in the colony said that another domestic help, who was cleaning a car at the time, saw the suspect coming out of the victim's house and stopped him.

Man nabbed for killing 45-year-old woman, dumping body in drain

New Delhi, (GNS): A 45-year-old woman, whose naked body was found in a drain in the fields of Mahola village in Faridabad, was murdered by her young lover, said the police, adding that the accused was hidden by his father after the murder. The police arrested the accused and his father and both have confessed to the crime.

According to the police, the accused were identified as Brahmjeet (22) and his father Jagvinder (49), both residents of Kabulpur village. "Anita pressured Brahmjeet to meet her after he got married.

When she started blackmailing him, he hatched a plan to eliminate her. After the murder, Brahmjeet's father helped him hide," said Varun Dahiya, ACP (Crime),



Faridabad. Deceased Anita Devi, a resident of Kabulpur village, had left home on April 15 to pay her electricity bill but never returned. The family filed a missing persons report at the Sector-58 police station. While the family members were searching near the forest of Mahola village, they spotted a sari. Anita's son recognised the sari belonging to his mother. After searching the surrounding area, they found Anita's naked body in a dirty drain and informed the police.

'Explain in 24 hours':

EC notice to Congress leader Mallikarjun Kharge for calling PM Narendra Modi 'terrorist'

New Delhi , (GNS): The Election Commission on Wednesday issued a show-cause notice to Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge for referring to Prime Minister Narendra Modi as a "terrorist". EC said the remark prima facie violated the model code of conduct (MCC) and the commission's instructions on maintaining decency in campaign discourse.

EC has asked Kharge to explain his stand within the next 24 hours, failing which, it said, it would take appropriate action in the matter. This is the first notice issued by EC for violation of MCC in the current round of assembly elections.

EC has said the "use of



intemperate, highly objectionable and dehumanising choice of words by a seasoned politician against a Constitutional functionary appears to be not only inconsistent with the standards of public discourse but also undermines the digni-

ty of democratic institutions". EC highlighted the MCC provision requiring parties and candidates to avoid criticism of other parties and their leaders/workers based on unverified allegations or distortion. It added that Kharge's

remark also went against EC's March 1, 2024 advisory to parties and their candidates, particularly star campaigners, to observe utmost restraint and decency in election campaign and engage in "issue-based debate".

A BJP delegation comprising Union ministers Nirmala Sitharaman, Arjun Ram Meghwal and Kiren Rijiju which met EC on Wednesday sought stern action against Kharge "so that nobody ever dares to make a similar comment". sence of a shelter or shade. "The condition is far worse in urban villages and peri-urban areas that have faced systematic neglect for decades," he added.

Three Bandar-Bhalu gang members paraded with shaven heads in Faridabad colony

New Delhi , (GNS): Taking strict action against criminals to send a message against lawlessness, the Faridabad police shaved the heads of three members of the 'Bandar-Bhalu' gang and paraded them through a colony on Wednesday.

A senior police officer said the purpose of the action was to remove the fear of criminals from the hearts of the people and to convey a strong message against lawlessness. The accused were produced in a city court on Wednesday and sent to two-day police remand.

On April 17, Praveen, who lived in Ballabhgarh's Bhudatt Colony was attacked near his home by four or five miscreants. The accused repeatedly attacked him with hammers and sticks, seriously injuring him and breaking both his legs. Following the incident, the police registered a case and launched an investigation, which revealed that the 'Bandar-Bhalu' gang was behind the attack. The attackers were identified as Vijender, alias Bandar, Balraj, alias Bhalu, and their nephews Harsh, Sevin and Aryan.



A Crime Branch team took action and arrested three members of the gang. The arrested accused were identified as Aryan (20), a resident of Badraula Tigaon village, and Harsh Thakur (24) and Sevin (20), both residents of Bheemak Colony.

Following their arrest, the accused were taken to the crime scene to identify it. The police then shaved their heads and paraded them through the area where the crime was occurred. During interrogation, it was revealed that Balraj and victim Praveen had a long-standing land dispute.

On April 17, Balraj called Praveen to discuss the land in question. When Praveen approached Balraj, Balraj, along with his associates, attacked Praveen with a rod.

NDMC rolls out 20 'gobbler' machines to cut manual sweeping

New Delhi , (GNS):

The New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) on Friday rolled out 20 litter-picking machines as part of its ongoing drive to transition towards mechanised sanitation and reduce dependence on manual sweeping across key public spaces.



Flagging off the battery-operated machines, referred to as 'gobblers', NDMC chairman Keshav Chandra said the move is aimed at improving efficiency while ensuring safer working conditions for sanitation workers. The machines will be deployed in markets and other high-footfall areas where waste generation is frequent and requires regular intervention. The gobbler machines are designed to enable faster, low-noise and eco-friendly cleaning. By reducing direct human contact with waste, the initiative is expected to improve hygiene standards while addressing occupational risks faced by sanitation staff. The development comes as part of a wider mechanised cleaning framework already operational in the NDMC areas. Currently, seven mechanised road sweepers cover around 350 to 400 kms daily. These are supported by 10 high-pressure jetting machines used for intensive cleaning and dust suppression. According to the civic body, the cleaning system functions in multiple stages. Mechanised sweepers undertake primary cleaning of roads, followed by litter-picking machines for final waste collection. High-pressure jetting machines are then used to manage residual dust and ensure thorough cleaning. Deep cleaning of public areas, including markets, corridors, plazas, footpaths and kerb-side spaces, is carried out every 15 days on a cyclical basis.

For daily upkeep, 27 wet mopping trolleys have been deployed in market areas to maintain cleanliness. Despite the push for mechanisation, manual cleaning continues in areas where machines cannot reach. As per officials, 29 sweepers remain deployed in residential colonies and other constrained spaces. The NDMC has also introduced four ride-on sweepers to maintain regular cleanliness of footpaths, further strengthening its sanitation network.

NGT cracks down on Dwarka sports arena over illegal construction, tree felling

New Delhi , (GNS):

National Green Tribunal (NGT) has found that no environmental clearance was granted for the proposed Integrated multi-sports arena project in Dwarka's Sector 19B and has ordered action against illegal construction and unauthorised felling of trees. This sports infrastructure project has been undertaken by the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) under a Public Private Partnership (PPP) basis with a real estate developer (Omace). The project proponent is Worldstreet Sports Center Limited, a subsidiary of Omace Ltd.

A plea was filed in the tribunal in 2025 claiming that the



project proponent has indulged in a massive illegal tree felling and construction activities without requisite permission in violation of environmental norms.

The bench of Justice Prakash Shrivastava and expert member A Senthil Vel in an order dated April 22 noted that no environmental clearance had been issued for the project. The tribunal

recorded that the ministry of environment, forest and climate change (MoEF&CC) had stated the project status on the PARIVESH portal remained "ADS Raised", meaning additional documents sought by the ministry were still pending. It also noted that the project proponent also undertook unauthorised construction beyond permissible temporary activities.

The tribunal rejected the project proponent's argument of "deemed environmental clearance" under Clause 8(iii) of the EIA Notification, 2006. NGT held that such a benefit can only be claimed when the application is complete in all respects; all procedural

requirements are fulfilled, and there is a clear and unconditional recommendation by the Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC).

In this case, the tribunal noted that no prior permission was granted under the Delhi Preservation of Trees Act, 1994 for felling trees. Photographs and satellite imagery placed on record showed illegal tree felling. "The subsequent approval granted by the Central Empowered Committee (CEC) on Feb 17 is of no consequence, as the alleged tree felling had occurred much earlier," said the order.

NGT observed that the EAC recommendation was condi-

tional, particularly requiring prior permission for cutting trees as the site has nearly 2,000 trees. However, the tribunal observed that no such permission was obtained before tree felling.

"The tree officer concerned is directed to carry out the spot inspection immediately and ascertain the number of trees which were illegally felled by the project proponent before CEC approval dated Feb 17... and take remedial and punitive action within eight weeks," said the bench. It directed the Delhi Pollution Control Committee to inspect the site, assess violations of environmental norms and take action.

NGT orders action on illegal tree felling in Dwarka project

New Delhi, (GNS): The National Green Tribunal (NGT) on Wednesday rejected the claim of "deemed environmental clearance" made by the project proponent for the proposed Integrated Multi-Sports Arena in Dwarka, New Delhi, and has directed strict action for violations of environmental norms.

The Tribunal observed that the project has not been granted environmental clearance (EC) by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), and the status on the PARIVESH portal remains "ADS Raised," indicating that required information/documents are still pending.

Rejecting the plea of the deemed EC under Clause 8(iii) of the EIA Notification, 2006, the Tribunal held that such a benefit can only be claimed



when the application is complete in all respects, all procedural requirements are fulfilled and there is a clear and unconditional recommendation by the Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC).

In the present case, the Tribunal noted that the EAC recommendation was conditional, particularly requiring prior permission for cutting nearly 2,000 trees. No such permission was obtained before tree felling, but evi-

dence, including satellite imagery, indicates illegal cutting of trees at the project site.

The project proponent also undertook unauthorised construction beyond permissible temporary activities.

The Tribunal emphasised that 'deemed clearance' cannot be used to bypass environmental laws or justify violations. Prior environmental clearance is mandatory before commencing any construction activity, the Tribunal noted.

ASK the EXPERT: Frequent eating of junk food can worsen PCOD symptoms

New Delhi , (GNS): My daughter (14) was diagnosed with PCOD. She is very fond of doughnuts and regularly eats them. Will junk food worsen her hormonal issues and acne? What is the connection between diet, and conditions like acne or PCOS? - Monica Singla, Mukerian

Frequent consumption of junk food like doughnuts can worsen Polycystic Ovary Syndrome symptoms and acne. Foods high in sugar and unhealthy fats spike insulin levels and increase inflammation - key drivers of hormonal imbalance. Elevated insulin can raise androgen levels, leading to acne and irregular cycles. A diet rich in whole grains, fruits, vegetables, healthy fats, and protein helps reduce inflammation, improve insulin sensitivity, and help manage PCOS and



acne. - Susmita, Nutritionist, Bengaluru

I am 35 and I recently got married. We are planning a baby. Are there any tests that can help guide reproductive planning for women after 35? Please guide. - Arunima Singh (35), Noida AMH (Anti-Müllerian Hormone) testing can help guide reproductive planning for women after 35 by giving an estimate of ovarian reserve, or the number of remaining eggs. While it does not predict the ability to conceive, it helps doctors understand fertility potential and discuss timely options.

Even basic facilities missing at city bus stops: Citizens' audit

New Delhi, (GNS): As the city has been reeling under scorching heat, an ongoing citizen-led audit of bus stops has found that one in six surveyed bus stops in Delhi lacks designated shelter.

Out of the 5,000 bus stops in Delhi, 231 were audited. Overall, 83% of the stops have some form of shelters, but northeast Delhi stands out starkly at just 31%. The bus stops in central and New Delhi have 100% shelters.

This citizen-led audit, supported by Public Transport Forum and Greenpeace India, is being conducted since 2024 by volunteers using a structured survey instrument. At each bus stop, surveyors observed and recorded the presence or absence of 18 facilities, including overhead roof, seating, route map, digital display, lighting, CCTV, drinking water, dustbin, toilet and pedestrian crossing.



The audit found that drinking water was available at fewer than 2% of the stops, making even short waits uncomfortable, particularly during extreme heat. "Several of these deficiencies are systemic rather than district-specific. Essential facilities such as CCTV cameras (3% coverage), dustbins (7%) and drink-

ing water (2%) are almost entirely absent across all districts. This points to a broader, citywide policy and implementation failure rather than isolated gaps in specific areas," it stated.

The audit also revealed gaps in commuter information and safety infrastructure. Only about half of the surveyed stops have route maps, limiting basic navigation for passengers. "More concerning is the near absence of real-time and safety features: just 3% of the stops are equipped with digital ETA boards and fewer than 4% have panic buttons. This leaves most commuters without reliable information or emergency support, forcing them to travel without visibility or security assurances."

The findings contradict the benchmark for bus shelters mentioned in the heat action plan and by Indian Road Congress. According to the

Delhi heat action plan 2024-25, the transport department should ensure availability of shades or shelters, drinking water, ORS packets, etc., at bus stands, auto stands, etc. India Meteorological Department has issued a yellow alert for heatwave conditions for Friday and Saturday.

Indian Road Congress 2022 had stated that bus stops should be well-lit and well-shaded, and passenger information system in terms of static and real-time data should be available. Dustbins and drinking water may be provided, it added "Heat in Delhi is not just an environmental issue anymore, it is a mobility crisis," said Aakiz Farooq, campaigner at Greenpeace India. "For lakhs of daily commuters, especially those who rely on buses, the journey begins with standing under the open sun, often without shade, water or basic protection.

Sexually assaulted, strangled with phone charger, IRS officer's daughter found dead at her Delhi house

New Delhi, (GNS): A young woman, 22 years old, identified as the daughter of a senior Indian Revenue Service (IRS) official, was found dead at her residence in the Amar Colony area of southeast Delhi, the police said on Wednesday.

The victim was discovered by her family members inside the house under suspicious circumstances.

A police team rushed to the spot. Preliminary investigation suggests that the victim was sexually assaulted before being murdered. Police suspect that a mobile phone charging wire was used to strangle her.

Police suspect the involvement of a domestic help who used to work at the house before being fired over a month ago. The Delhi Police has apprehended the accused, an official said on Wednesday. We have apprehended the accused. Further details about the incident will be shared," a senior police officer said.

The woman was allegedly raped and murdered at her residence by their former house help in southeast Delhi's upscale East of Kailash locality on Wednesday morning, hours after he sexually assaulted another



woman in Rajasthan's Alwar.

The house help is believed to have entered the residence and strangled the woman. Police found out that the man was recently removed from his job. The woman's body has been sent for the postmortem examination.

A police officer who spoke to Hindustan Times also said that sexual assault cannot be ruled out in the case. Authorities are waiting for the autopsy report to determine the exact sequence of events. A police team has been dispatched to trace and apprehend the suspect, and officers are examining CCTV footage from the colony. "The role of a former servant is being examined. Teams have been formed to trace him," a senior officer said.